



# OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

## DEBATES

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF THE

## DOMINION OF CANADA

---

FOURTH SESSION—EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

---

62-63 VICTORIA, 1899

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VOL. XLVIII.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE SIXTEENTH DAY OF MARCH TO THE  
SEVENTEENTH DAY OF MAY INCLUSIVE

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OTTAWA

PRINTED BY S. E. DAWSON, PRINTER TO THE QUEEN'S MOST  
EXCELLENT MAJESTY

1899



# MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT

OF THE

## RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR WILFRID LAURIER,

P.C., G.C.M.G., Q.C., D.C.L. (*Oxon.*)

AT THE OPENING OF THE

### FOURTH SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

1899

(CABINET FORMED 13TH JULY, 1896)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| President of the Privy Council (Premier) . . . . . | Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER, P.C., G.C.M.G.,<br>Q.C., D.C.L. ( <i>Oxon.</i> ) |
| Minister of Trade and Commerce . . . . .           | Hon. Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT, G.C.M.G.   |
| Secretary of State . . . . .                       | Hon. R. W. SCOTT, Q.C., LL.D.  |
| Minister of Justice . . . . .                      | Hon. DAVID MILLS, Q.C.   |
| Minister of Marine and Fisheries . . . . .         | Hon. Sir L. H. DAVIES, K.C.M.G., Q.C.  |
| Minister of Militia and Defence . . . . .          | Hon. F. W. BORDEN, B.A., M.D.  |
| Postmaster General . . . . .                       | Hon. W. MULOCK, Q.C., M.A., LL.D.  |
| Minister of Agriculture . . . . .                  | Hon. S. A. FISHER, B.A.  |
| Minister of Public Works . . . . .                 | Hon. J. I. TARTE.  |
| Without Portfolio . . . . .                        | Hon. R. R. DOBELL.   |
| Minister of Finance . . . . .                      | Hon. W. S. FIELDING.   |
| Minister of Railways and Canals . . . . .          | Hon. A. G. BLAIR.  |
| Without Portfolio . . . . .                        | *Hon. C. A. GEOFFRION, Q.C., D.C.L.  |
| Minister of the Interior . . . . .                 | Hon. CLIFFORD SIFTON, Q.C.   |
| Minister of Customs . . . . .                      | Hon. WILLIAM PATERSON.   |
| Minister of Inland Revenue . . . . .               | Hon. Sir H. G. JOLY DE LOTBINIÈRE, K.C.M.G.                                      |

[*The above form the Cabinet.*]

Solicitor General . . . . . Hon. CHARLES FITZPATRICK, Q.C.

*Clerk of the Privy Council* . . . . . JOHN J. MCGEE, Esq.

### OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS :

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| †Hon. Sir JAMES DAVID EDGAR, K.C.M.G. . . . . | <i>Speaker.</i>            |
| ‡Hon. THOMAS BAIN . . . . .                   | <i>Speaker.</i>            |
| LOUIS PHILIPPE BRODEUR, M.P. . . . .          | <i>Deputy Speaker.</i>     |
| Sir JOHN G. BOURINOT, K.C.M.G. . . . .        | <i>Clerk of the House.</i> |
| LAPLANTE, Mr. J. B. R. . . . .                | <i>Clerk Assistant.</i>    |
| Lieut.-Col. HENRY ROBERT SMITH . . . . .      | <i>Serjeant-at-Arms.</i>   |

### OFFICIAL REPORTERS :

|                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ALBERT HORTON . . . . .       | Chief Reporter.                |
| STEPHEN A. ABBOTT . . . . .   | } Reporters.                   |
| E. JOSEPH DUGAN . . . . .     |                                |
| J. O. MARCEAU . . . . .       |                                |
| THOS. P. OWENS . . . . .      |                                |
| ALPHONSE DESJARDINS . . . . . |                                |
| A. C. CAMPBELL . . . . .      |                                |
| GEORGE SIMPSON . . . . .      | } Assistant to Chief Reporter. |
| C. W. BOYCE . . . . .         |                                |

\*Died 18th July, 1899.

†Died 31st July, 1899.

‡Elected Speaker 1st August, 1899.



# ALPHABETICAL LIST

OF THE

## CONSTITUENCIES AND MEMBERS

OF THE

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

FOURTH SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA

1899.

- ADDINGTON**—John W. Bell.  
**ALBERT**—William J. Lewis.  
**ALBERTA**—Frank Oliver.  
**ALGOMA**—Albert Edward Dymont.  
**ANNAPOLIS**—John B. Mills.  
**ANTIGONISH**—Colin F. McIsaac.  
**ARGENTEUIL**—Thomas Christie.  
**ASSINIBOIA, East**—James Moffat Douglas.  
**ASSINIBOIA, West**—Nicholas Flood Davin.
- BAGOT**—Joseph Edmond Marcil.  
**BEAUCE**—Joseph Godbout.  
**BEAUHARNOIS**—Joseph Gédéon Horace Bergeron.  
**BELLECHASSE**—Onésiphore Ernest Talbot.  
**BERTHIER**—Cléophas Beausoleil.  
**BONAVENTURE**—Jean François Guité.  
**BOTHWELL**—James Clancy.  
**BRANDON**—Hon. Clifford Sifton.  
**BRANT, S. Riding**—Charles Bernhard Heyd.  
**BROCKVILLE**— { \*Hon. J. Fisher Wood.  
                           { William Henry Comstock.  
**BROME**—Hon. Sidney Arthur Fisher.  
**BUCK, E. Riding**—Henry Cargill.  
**BRUCE, N. Riding**—Alexander McNeill.  
**BRUCE, W. Riding**—John Tolmie.  
**BURBARD**—George Ritchie Maxwell.
- CAPE BRETON**— { Hector F. McDougall.  
                           { Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart.  
**CADWELL**—William Stubbs.  
**CARLETON (N.B.)**—Frederic Harding Hale.  
**CARLETON (O.)**—William T. Hodgins.  
**CHAMBLY AND VERCHÈRES**—Hon. C. A. Geoffrion.  
**CHAMPLAIN**—François Arthur Marcotte.  
**CHARLEVOIX**—Louis Charles A. Angers.  
**CHARLOTTE**—Gilbert W. Ganong.  
**CHATEAUGUAY**—James Pollock Brown.  
**CHICOUTIMI AND SAGUENAY**—Paul V. Savard.  
**COLCHESTER**—Firman McClure.  
**COMPTON**—Rufus Henry Pope.  
**CORNWALL AND STORMONT**—John Goodall Snetsinger.  
**CUMBERLAND**—Hance J. Logan.
- DIGBY**—Albert J. S. Copp.  
**DORCHESTER**—Jean Baptiste Morin.  
**DRUMMOND AND ARTHABASKA**—Louis Lavergne.  
**DUNDAS**—Andrew Broder.  
**DURHAM, E. Riding**—Thomas Dixon Craig.  
**DURHAM, W. Riding**—Robert Beith.
- ELGIN, E. Riding**—Andrew B. Ingram.  
**ELGIN, W. Riding**—George Elliott Casey.  
**ESSEX, N. Riding**—William McGregor.  
**ESSEX, S. Riding**—Mahlon K. Cowan.
- FRONTENAC**—David Dickson Rogers.
- GASPÉ**—Rodolphe Lemieux.  
**GLENGARRY**—Roderick R. McLennan.  
**GLOUCESTER**—Théotime Blanchard.  
**GRENVILLE, S. Riding**—John Dowsley Reid.  
**GREY, E. Riding**—Thomas S. Sproule.  
**GREY, N. Riding**—Hon. Wm. Paterson.  
**GREY, S. Riding**—George Landerkin.  
**GUYSBOROUGH**—Duncan C. Fraser.
- HALDIMAND AND MONCK**—Hon. Walter H. Montague  
**HALIFAX**— { Robert L. Borden.  
                   { Benjamin Russell.  
**HALTON**—David Henderson.  
**HAMILTON**— { Thomas Henry MacPherson.  
                   { Andrew Trew Wood.  
**HANTS**—Allen Haley.  
**HASTINGS, E. Riding**—Jeremiah M. Hurley.  
**HASTINGS, N. Riding**—Alexander W. Carscallen.  
**HASTINGS, W. Riding**—Henry Corby.  
**HOCHELAGA**—J. Alexandre Camille Madore.  
**HUNTINGDON**—Julius Scriver.  
**HURON, E. Riding**—Peter Macdonald.  
**HURON, S. Riding**—John McMillan.  
**HURON, W. Riding**—Robert Holmes.
- INVERNESS**—Angus McLennan.  
**JACQUES CARTIER**—Frederick D. Monk.

\* Died, March, 1899.

- JOLIETTE—Charles Bazinet.
- KAMOURASKA**—Henry George Carroll.
- KENT (N.B.)**—George V. McInerney.
- KENT (O.)**—Archibald Campbell.
- KING'S (N.B.)**—James Domville.
- KING'S (N.S.)**—Hon. Frederick W. Borden.
- KING'S (P.E.I.)**—Augustine Colin Macdonald.
- KINGSTON**—Byron Moffat Britton.
- LABELLE**—J. Henri N. Bourassa.
- LAMBTON, E. Riding**—John Fraser.
- LAMBTON, W. Riding**—Thomas George Johnston.
- LANARK, N. Riding**—Bennett Rosamond.
- LANARK, S. Riding**—Hon. John Graham Haggart.
- LAPRAIRIE AND NAPIERVILLE**—Dominique Monet.
- L'ASSOMPTION**—Joseph Gauthier.
- LAVAL**—Thomas Fortin.
- LEEDS AND GRENVILLE, N. Riding**—Francis Theodore Frost.
- LEEDS, S. Riding**—George Taylor.
- LENNOX**—Uriah Wilson.
- LÉVIS**—Louis Julien Demers.
- LINCOLN AND NIAGARA**—William Gibson.
- LISGAR**—Robert Lorne Richardson.
- L'ISLET**—Arthur Miville Dechêne.
- LONDON**—Thomas Beattie.
- LOTBINIÈRE**—Côme Isaïe Rinfret.
- LUNENBURG**—Charles Edwin Kaulbach.
- MACDONALD**—John Gunion Rutherford.
- MAISONNEUVE**—Raymond Préfontaine.
- MARQUETTE**—William James Roche.
- MASKINONGÉ**—Joseph Hornisdas Legris.
- MÉGANTIC**—George Turcot.
- MIDDLESEX, E. Riding**—James Gilmour.
- MIDDLESEX, N. Riding**—Valentine Ratz.
- MIDDLESEX, S. Riding**—Malcolm McGugan.
- MIDDLESEX, W. Riding**—William Samuel Calvert.
- MISSISSQUOI**—Daniel Bishop Meigs.
- MONTCALM**—Louis E. Dugas.
- MONTMAGNY**—Pierre Raymond Martineau.
- MONTMORENCY**—Thomas Chase Casgrain.
- MONTREAL, St. Anne**—Michael Joseph Francis Quinn.
- MONTREAL, St. Antoine**—Thomas G. Roddick.
- MONTREAL, St. James**—Odilon Desmarais.
- MONTREAL, St. Lawrence**—Edward Goff Penny.
- MONTREAL, St. Mary**—Hercule Dupré.
- MUSKOKA**—George McCormick.
- NEW WESTMINSTER**—Aulay Morrison.
- NICOLET**—Joseph Hector Leduc.
- NIPISSING**—James B. Klock.
- NORFOLK, N. Riding**—John Charlton.
- NORFOLK, S. Riding**—Hon. David Tisdale.
- NORTHUMBERLAND (N.B.)**—James Robinson.
- NORTHUMBERLAND (O.) E. R.**—Edward Cochrane.
- NORTHUMBERLAND (O.) W. R.**—George Guillet.
- ONTARIO, N. Riding**—Duncan Graham.
- ONTARIO, S. Riding**—Leonard Burnett.
- ONTARIO, W. Riding**—Hon. Sir James David Edgar, K.C.M.G.
- OTTAWA (City)**—(Napoléon A. Belcourt.  
William Hutchison.
- OXFORD, N. Riding**—James Sutherland.
- OXFORD, S. Riding**—Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright, G.C.M.G.
- PEEL**—John Featherston.
- PERTH, N. Riding**—Alexander Ferguson MacLaren.
- PERTH, S. Riding**—Dilman Kinsey Erb.
- PETERBOROUGH, E. Riding**—John Lang.
- PETERBOROUGH, W. Riding**—James Kendry,
- PICTOU**—(Hon. Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, K.C.  
M.G.  
Adam Carr Bell.
- PONTIAC**—William Joseph Poupore.
- PORTNEUF**—Hon. Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière, K.C.M.G.
- PRESCOTT**—Isidore Proulx.
- PRINCE, East (P.E.I.)**—John Howatt Bell.
- PRINCE, West (P.E.I.)**—Bernard Donald McLellan.
- PRINCE EDWARD**—William Varney Pettet.
- PROVENCHER**—Alphonse A. C. LaRivière.
- QUEBEC, Centre**—Albert Maloin.
- QUEBEC, East**—Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, P.C., G.C.M.G.
- QUEBEC, West**—Hon. Richard Reid Dobell.
- QUEBEC (County)**—Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick.
- QUEEN'S, East (P.E.I.)**—Alexander Martin.
- QUEEN'S, West (P.E.I.)**—Hon. Sir Louis Henry Davies, K.C.M.G.
- RENFREW, N. Riding**—Thomas Mackie.
- RENFREW, S. Riding**—John Ferguson.
- RESTIGOUCHE**—John McAlister.
- RICHELIEU**—Arthur Aimé Bruneau.
- RICHMOND (N.S.)**—Joseph A. Gillies.
- RICHMOND AND WOLFE (Q.)**—Michael Thomas Stenson.
- RIMOUSKI**—Jean Auguste Ross.
- ROUVILLE**—Louis Philippe Brodeur.
- RUSSELL**—William Cameron Edwards.
- ST. HYACINTHE**—Michel E. Bernier.
- ST. JOHN (N.B.) City**—John Valentine Ellis.
- ST. JOHN (N.B.) City and Co.**—Joseph John Tucker.
- ST. JOHN AND IBERVILLE**—Hon. Joseph Israel Tarte.
- SASKATCHEWAN**—Thomas Osborne Davis.
- SELKIRK**—John Alexander Macdonell.
- SHEFFORD**—Charles Henry Parmalee.
- SHELBURNE AND QUEEN'S**—Hon. William Stevens Fielding.
- SHERBROOKE**—Hon. Wm. Bullock Ives.
- SIMCOE, E. Riding**—William H. Bennett.
- SIMCOE, N. Riding**—Leighton Goldie McCarthy.
- SIMCOE, S. Riding**—Richard Tyrwhitt.
- SOULANGES**—Augustin Bourbonnais.
- STANSTEAD**—Alvin Head Moore.
- SUNBURY AND QUEEN'S (N.B.)**—Hon. A. G. Blair.
- TÉMISCOUATA**—Charles Auguste Gauvreau.
- TERREBONNE**—Léon Adolphe Chauvin.
- THREE RIVERS AND ST. MAURICE**—Hon. Sir Adolphe Caron, K.C.M.G.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| TORONTO, Centre—George Hope Bertram.                                 | WELLINGTON, C. Riding—Andrew Semple.             |
| TORONTO, East—John Ross Robertson.                                   | WELLINGTON, N. Riding—James McMullen.            |
| TORONTO, West—<br>{ Edward Frederick Clarke.<br>{ Edmund Boyd Osler. | WELLINGTON, S. Riding—Christian Kloefer.         |
| TWO MOUNTAINS—Joseph Arthur C. Ethier.                               | WESTWORTH AND BRANT, N. Riding—James Somerville. |
| VANCOUVER—William Wallace Burns McInnes.                             | WESTWORTH, S. Riding—Thomas Bain.                |
| VAUDREUIL—Henry Stanislaus Harwood.                                  | WESTMORELAND—Henry A. Powell.                    |
| VICTORIA (B.C.)—<br>{ Thomas Earle.<br>{ Hon. Edward Gawler Prior.   | WINNIPEG—  |
| VICTORIA (N.B.)—Hon. John Costigan.                                  | WRIGHT—Louis N. Champagne.                       |
| VICTORIA (N.S.)—John L. Bethune.                                     | YALE AND CARIBOU—Hewitt Bostock.                 |
| VICTORIA (O.) N. Riding—Samuel Hughes.                               | YAMASKA—Roch Moise Samuel Mignault.              |
| VICTORIA (O.) S. Riding—George McHugh.                               | YARMOUTH—Thomas Barnard Flint.                   |
| WATERLOO, N. Riding—Joseph E. Seagram.                               | YORK (N.B.)—Hon. George Eulas Foster.            |
| WATERLOO, S. Riding—James Livingston.                                | YORK (O.) E. Riding—William Findlay Maclean.     |
| WELLAND—William McCleary.  | YORK (O.) N. Riding—Hon. William Mulock.         |
|  | YORK (O.) W. Riding—N. Clarke Wallace.           |

SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO SUPERVISE THE PUBLICATION OF THE  
OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE DEBATES OF THE HOUSE.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| BEAUSOLEIL, Mr. Cléophas ( <i>Berthier</i> ).      | HALEY, Mr. Allen ( <i>Hants, N.S.</i> )             |
| BERGERON, Mr. Joseph G. H. ( <i>Beauharnois</i> ). | LARIVIÈRE, Mr. A. A. C. ( <i>Provencher</i> ).      |
| CHAMPAGNE, Mr. L. N. ( <i>Wright</i> ).            | MONET, Mr. D. ( <i>Laprairie and Napierville</i> ). |
| CHARLTON, Mr. John ( <i>N. Norfolk</i> ).          | RICHARDSON, Mr. R. L. ( <i>Lisgar</i> ).            |
| CRAIG, Mr. T. D. ( <i>E. Durham</i> ).             | SCRIVER, Mr. Julius ( <i>Huntingdon</i> ).          |
| DAVIN, Mr. N. F. ( <i>W. Assiniboit</i> ).         | SOMERVILLE, Mr. James ( <i>N. Wentworth</i> ).      |
| EARLE, Mr. Thos. ( <i>Victoria, B.C.</i> )         | TAYLOR, Mr. Geo. ( <i>S. Leeds</i> ).               |
| ELLIS, Mr. John V. ( <i>St. John City, N.B.</i> )  |   |

Chairman:—  
  { Mr. CLEOPHAS BEAUSOLEIL (*Berthier*).  
  { Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (*Lisgar*).

# House of Commons Debates.

## FOURTH SESSION—EIGHTH PARLIAMENT.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 16th March, 1899.

The Parliament which had been prorogued from time to time, was now commanded to assemble on the 16th day of March, 1899, for the despatch of business.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

#### PRAYERS.

A Message was delivered by René Edouard Kimber, Esquire, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod :

Mr. SPEAKER,—

His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this Honourable House in the Senate Chamber.

Accordingly, the House went up to the Senate Chamber.

And the House being returned,

#### CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that during the recess I received from the Hon. Mr. Justice Mathieu, one of the judges selected for the trial of election petitions, pursuant to "the Dominion Controverted Elections Act," a certificate relating to the election petition for the electoral district of St. Anne's Division of Montreal, by which the said petition was dismissed and the sitting member declared duly elected.

I have also the honour to inform the House that during the recess I received from the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Canada a certified copy of the judgment and decision of the said court in the matter of the election appeal for the electoral district of Nicolet, by which the said appeal was allowed and the judgment of the judge of the lower court on the preliminary objections reversed and set aside, and the record of the said appeal transmitted to the proper officer of the lower court in order that the said cause might be proceeded with according to law.

I have further the honour to inform the House that during the recess I received from two of the judges selected for the trial of election petitions, pursuant to "the Dominion Controverted Elections Act," a certificate and report relating to the election for the electoral district of Nicolet, by which the election petition was dismissed and the sitting member declared duly elected.

#### VACANCIES.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have also the honour to inform the House that during the recess I received communications from several members notifying me that the following vacancies had occurred in the representation, viz. :—

Of James Frederick Lister, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of the West Riding of the County of Lambton, by the acceptance of an office of emolument under the Crown (a judgeship) ;

Of Philippe Auguste Choquette, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Montmagny, by the acceptance of an office of emolument under the Crown (a judgeship) ;

Of John Yeo, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of the East Riding of the County of Prince, P.E.I., by being summoned to the Senate ; and

Of Pierre Malcolm Guay, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Lévis, by decease.

I accordingly issued my several warrants to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to make out new writs of election for the said electoral districts respectively.

#### CERTIFICATES OF ELECTIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have further the honour to inform the House that during the recess the Clerk of the House received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, certificates of the election and return of the following members, viz. :—

Of Pierre Raymond Leonard Martineau, Esq., for the Electoral District of Montmagny ;

Of Leighton Goldie McCarthy, Esq., for the Electoral District of the North Riding of the County of Simcoe ;

Of Thomas George Johnston, Esq., for the Electoral District of the West Riding of the County of Lambton ;

Of Joseph Edmond Marcell, Esq., for the Electoral District of Bagot ;

Of John Howatt Bell, Esq., for the Electoral District of Prince East, P.E.I. ; and

Of Robert Holmes, Esq., for the Electoral District of the West Riding of the County of Huron.

#### RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have also the honour to inform the House that during the month of December last the hon. member for Bonaventure forwarded to me, and I duly received a form of resignation of his seat as member for the said electoral district. The resignation was in the words and figures, and in the form following :—

(Translation.)

Dominion of Canada,

Electoral District of Bonaventure.

I, the undersigned, Jean François Guité, Member of Parliament for the Electoral District of Bonaventure, declare that it is my intention to resign my seat and to cease to represent the said Electoral District in the House of Commons of Canada.

In testimony whereof I have signed at Maria, in the Electoral District of Bonaventure, this fifteenth day of December, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight.

J. F. GUITÉ.

Signed by the said Jean François Guité, in presence of Louis Thibodeau and Edmond Thibodeau, farmers, residing at Maria.

LOUIS THIBODEAU.  
EDMOND THIBODEAU.

As such regulation was not executed under the seal of the member in strict compliance with subsection 2 of section 5, chapter 13, of the Revised Statutes of Canada, I determined not to issue my warrant for a new writ of election without first receiving the instructions of your honourable House.

This conclusion I communicated to the hon. member by letter dated 29th December, 1898.

#### DEATH OF MR. GLADSTONE—REPLY TO RESOLUTION.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that in compliance with the Order of the House of the 26th May last, I communicated the resolution of condolence on the death of the Right Hon. William Ewart Gladstone to Mrs. Gladstone, to which I received an acknowledgment in the following words :—

Hawarden Castle,  
Chester, June 16, 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of June 2nd enclosing the resolution which was passed by the Canadian House of Commons on May 26th.

I am deeply touched by this memorable tribute to the life and work of my husband. Testimony such as this is indeed an alleviation of my great sorrow, and I beg you will convey to

Mr. SPEAKER.

the House my lasting sense of gratitude for their resolution and for the generous speeches by which it was supported.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your faithful servant,  
CATHERINE GLADSTONE.

The Hon. the Speaker,  
Commons of Canada.

#### MEMBERS INTRODUCED.

Robert Holmes, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of the West Riding of the County of Huron, introduced by the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and Mr. Paterson.

Pierre Raymond Leonard Martineau, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Montmagny, introduced by the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and Mr. Tarte.

Thomas George Johnston, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of the West Riding of the County of Lambton, introduced by Mr. Mulock and Mr. Fraser.

Leighton Goldie McCarthy, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of the North Riding of the County of Simcoe, introduced by Mr. Stubbs and Mr. Douglas.

John Howatt Bell, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of East Prince, introduced by Sir Louis Davies and Mr. McLellan (P.E.I.).

Joseph Edmond Marcell, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Bagot, introduced by the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and Mr. Tarte.

#### FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 1) respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)

#### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform this House that when the House attended His Excellency the Governor General this day, in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, and, to prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy of the Speech which is as follows :—

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

In meeting you for the first time since entering upon my duties, as the representative of Her Majesty in this Dominion, it affords me great pleasure to be able to congratulate you on the large degree of prosperity which the people of Canada at present enjoy, as evidenced by the expansion of trade and commerce, the flourishing condition of the public revenues and the increased number of immigrants who have become permanent settlers amongst us. To these evidences may be added another which is even more gratifying—the almost total cessation of the considerable exodus of our population which at one time was a regrettable feature of our affairs.

The negotiations which were set on foot during the recess between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States in reference to the settlement of certain questions in dispute between Canada and the latter country were, I grieve to say, greatly delayed by the illness and subsequent death of two of the most eminent members of the commission appointed for that purpose. Considerable progress had been made on several of the subjects submitted, but a serious disagreement arose between Her Majesty's Commissioners and the Commissioners of the United States on the question of the delimitation of the boundary between Canada and Alaska; the question was referred by the commissioners to their respective Governments, the commission being adjourned to the 2nd day of August next, in the hope that, in the meantime, the difficulty might be overcome.

In compliance with the Act passed last session a plebiscite was held on the question of prohibition; the official figures of the vote will be placed before you.

I observe with pleasure that the mother country, Canada and other British possessions have recently adopted a penny postage letter rate. The satisfaction with which this action has been received by the Canadian people is a further proof of the general desire existing amongst our people for closer relations with the mother country and the rest of the Empire.

I am also glad to be able to state that the satisfactory condition of the finances of the country permitted a reduction, on the 1st of January last, of the Canadian domestic letter rate, from three to two cents and although such reduction involves a temporary loss of revenue, it is nevertheless confidently expected that the cheapened rate will prove of such service in the promotion of trade and in the general interchange of correspondence that, within a reasonable time, the revenue of the Post Office Department will be restored to its former figure.

Much information has been obtained since you last met relative to the extent and value of the deposits of gold and valuable minerals in the Yukon and other parts of Canada. The returns from the Yukon have so far proved sufficient to meet the heavy expenditure it was found necessary to incur for the purpose of preserving law and order, and it has been thought expedient in the public interest to authorize the construction of a line of telegraph for the purpose of maintaining speedy communication with the people of those distant territories.

A measure will be submitted to you for the better arrangement of the electoral districts throughout the Dominion, as also several enactments of less importance.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The public accounts will be laid before you, and also the estimates for the coming year.

They have been prepared with a due regard to efficiency and economy, and the responsibilities arising from the rapid progress of the country.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I am confident that the important subjects I have mentioned to you will receive your serious consideration, and that it will be your earnest endeavour to promote the public interest and prosperity of Canada.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved:

That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses of Parliament be taken into consideration on Monday next.

Motion agreed to.

#### SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved:

That Select Standing Committees of this House for the present session be appointed for the following purposes:—1. On Privileges and Elections.—2. On Expiring Laws.—3. On Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines.—4. On Miscellaneous Private Bills.—5. On Standing Orders.—6. On Printing.—7. On Public Accounts.—8. On Banking and Commerce.—9. On Agriculture and Colonization,—which said committees shall severally be empowered to examine and inquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House; and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon; with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Motion agreed to.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved:

That a Select Committee be appointed to supervise the official report of the debates of this House during the present session, with power to report from time to time, to be composed of Messrs. Beausoleil, Bergeron, Charlton, Champagne, Craig, Davin, Earle, Ellis, Haley, La-Rivière, Monet, Richardson, Sriver, Somerville and Taylor.

He said: This is the same committee as last year, with the exception only of Mr. Champagne, who takes the place of Mr. Choquette.

Motion agreed to.

#### REPORT.

Report of the Joint Librarians of Parliament.—(Mr. Speaker.)

#### ADJOURNMENT—DECEASED MEMBERS.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I beg leave to move, seconded by Sir Charles Tupper:

That when this House adjourns it shall stand adjourned until Monday next at three o'clock in the afternoon.

I need not give any reason for making this motion, the House will understand it by looking at the wreath which we see upon the desk on the other side.

Almost within the last few hours death has removed from among us one of the most respected and influential members of this House in the person of Mr. Wood, the late member for Brockville. Mr. Wood occupied a prominent position in this House, as everybody knows. He had been an important member of the late Administration, and after a conference with my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition, we think that it would only be paying a fitting tribute to that gentleman, a tribute in which every member of this House will concur, that we should not commence immediately our work, but that the House should stand adjourned for a day or two before undertaking the more serious labours of the session. I need not say, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Wood occupied such a position in this House as makes his loss a personal one to all of us. He was very much respected by his opponents, and he was dearly beloved, I know, by his friends. His judicial mind, his temper, his character, were such that every one of us feels a sense of bereavement at his loss. I am sure also that the sentiments which I have just expressed will be shared by both sides of the House in reference to the loss of another gentleman, lately a member of this House, Dr. Guay of Lévis. Dr. Guay endeared himself to all who knew him, and for those who had the privilege of his intimate friendship, feel a sense of bereavement which it is hard to express. It is perhaps a fruit of the better part of our nature, engaged as we are in daily and sometimes heated conflicts, that unconsciously there arises in our hearts a sense of affection for those even whom it is our duty to oppose every day; and when death removes one of those friends, we feel a personal loss. Perhaps also we may draw the lesson from these circumstances that our respect and our affection for those friends should find expression at an earlier period, and that we should not wait until we have to content ourselves with the expression of vain regrets. I must also associate the name of Mr. Jameson, the late member for Winnipeg, with those already mentioned, whose loss we now have to deplore.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I desire in the first place to thank the right hon. leader of the House for the very courteous manner in which he met the suggestion that this House should adjourn in consequence of the death of one of my fellow colleagues in the Government of Canada, a gentleman who, as he has properly said, occupied a very high position in this House in the estimation of members upon both sides. As an able lawyer, as a gentleman who brought a profound

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

knowledge of the profession to which he belonged to the consideration of the various questions which came before us, as a member of this House prompt in his attention to public business and to the discharge of his duties, not only to his party but to the country, by giving his most careful and candid consideration to every question that came before us, Mr. Wood, the late member for Brockville, undoubtedly obtained the respect and confidence of hon. gentlemen, whether sitting to the right or to the left of Mr. Speaker. The loss is one which we all deplore, and we deplore it the more because we are just entering upon the duties of a session, and those duties, we feel, will be not so efficiently and so well discharged, certainly from this side of the House, in consequence of his absence from it. I associate myself with every word that the leader of the House has so kindly and warmly uttered in reference to the memory of a gentleman who has occupied, not only a position in the Government of this country, but who has occupied the position of Deputy Speaker of this House, and in both positions he has obtained the confidence and friendship. I may say, of gentlemen sitting on both sides of the House. I also have no hesitation in associating myself with all that the right hon. leader of the House has said with reference to the death of another gentleman, Dr. Guay. Every person who knew that gentleman respected him as one of the most conscientious members that adorned the Parliament of this country. I must also add that there will be but one sentiment in appreciation of the loss which has been sustained by the House owing to the untimely and sudden death of the late member for Winnipeg. Mr. Jameson was an English gentleman who came to this country after occupying a high social position in his own country, bringing to the discharge of his duties in Parliament a highly cultivated mind, and discharging those duties not only with fidelity, but in such a manner as to endear him to the members on both sides. I am certain that I am only expressing the unanimous sentiment of this House when I say that every man desires to extend to the families, and to the relations and near friends of these gentlemen of whom the hand of death has so recently deprived us, the most cordial and sincere sympathy. I feel strongly what the leader of the House has said as to these occurrences being for us grave reminders of how slight and slender is the tenure by which we hold our positions here. I trust that in the deliberations of this House we shall all bring such a conscientious regard to the discharge of the high duties and functions devolving upon us, as will enable us to meet that dread summons when it comes with the conviction that we have at all events endeavoured to do our duty.

Motion agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 4.10 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 20th March, 1899.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved :

That the Order for the consideration of the motion for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General, in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session, have precedence over all other business except the introduction of Bills until disposed of.

Motion agreed to.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency's speech.

**Mr. JOHN H. BELL** (Prince East, P.E.I.)  
Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of moving the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne. I am sensible of the honour that has been conferred upon me and upon the constituency I have the honour to represent in that I have been chosen for the purpose of performing this important duty. But at the same time, I cannot help the thought that a person to perform this duty properly would require a certain degree of parliamentary experience—that it should be performed by some one who has given at least a small portion of his lifetime to the consideration and study of federal politics. However, Mr. Speaker, I will ask the indulgence of this honourable House—not as a mere matter of form—while I proceed as best I can to execute the task assigned to me, while I venture, as it were, upon an untried and unknown sea.

The first part of my duty is very simple. No man can plead ignorance of the present state of the prosperity of Canada. No one is ignorant of it but the man who wilfully closes his eyes to the light. The first evidence of that prosperity referred to in the Speech from the Throne is in the statement regarding the increasing volume of our trade. By the reports of the year 1896, the volume of our trade is represented by \$239,000,000; I look at the returns for the year

1898, and I find it represented by \$304,000,000. That is to say, in two short years, we have increased the volume of the trade of Canada to the extent of \$65,000,000 annually. And, if comparisons at this stage of the discussion are not altogether odious, I would like to point out that in 1878 the volume of our trade was represented by \$172,000,000, while in 1896, as I have said, it was represented by \$239,000,000, an increase of \$67,000,000 in eighteen years. Hence it is manifest that the Liberal party of Canada have increased the volume of our trade in two years to the same extent substantially that our friends the Conservatives have taken eighteen long years to accomplish. That is a condition of things of which the Liberal party of Canada may well be proud. But that is not all. We have the returns of the last eight months before us, and these indicate that not only have we kept pace with the extraordinary development of the trade of last year, but we have this year, in addition, increased the volume of that trade during the eight months by twelve million dollars more. At the close of the present financial year, therefore, we shall undoubtedly find that the increase in our annual trade at the end of the three years will be represented not by \$65,000,000, but by \$80,000,000.

Let me, Mr. Speaker, make another comparison. Let me contrast our record with that of the United States. Looking over the trade returns of the United States, I find that during the last ten years the increase in the volume of their trade has been about 30 per cent, while during the same period the increase in Canadian trade has been about 51 per cent. But I wish to point to a more astonishing circumstance still. If we glance at the trade returns of the United States, we find that they increased their trade by \$33,000,000 during the fiscal year ending the first of July last. But during the same period our increase of trade is measured by \$47,000,000. Supposing that we stood upon the same footing as they, supposing we had equal population and wealth, that showing would be a highly creditable one for Canada. When we come, however, to consider that we have but a fourteenth part of the population of the United States and probably an equal proportion in wealth, then we may begin to realize the tremendous strides in the volume of trade that we have taken during this last year. Then will begin to dawn upon us this great truth, that in so far as the volume of trade is an indication of the prosperity of a country, Canada, during the past year, has enjoyed a commercial prosperity more than twenty times as great as that of the United States. It would be well for us to bear in mind—at least those of us who entertain the impression and hug the delusion that Canada is dependent on the trade of the United States for her prosperity—to ask ourselves the question, how it could be possible, under present conditions, for the United States to communicate to us a

much greater degree of prosperity than that which we now enjoy, or the further question: How is it possible for the United States of America to communicate to us a degree of prosperity which they themselves do not possess?

Now, let me refer to the question of revenue. We all know that in the past years we have had deficits. In 1894, the deficit was \$1,200,000; in 1895, it was \$4,100,000; in 1896, it was \$330,000, and in 1897, \$519,000. I am aware that, as regards the deficit for 1897, our Liberal friends disclaim responsibility. They claim the deficit of that year was due to the fact that they were compelled to pay off liabilities left to them as a legacy by their predecessors. But, as regards the year 1898, there can be no question of responsibility, nor any question as to which party is entitled to credit. What do we find? Why, that, for the year 1898, my hon. friend the Minister of Finance comes down to this House and presents us—not with a deficit, such as characterized the preceding years—but with a respectable—perhaps I should rather call it a magnificent—surplus of \$1,722,000. And, it is only fair that we should bear in mind the circumstances under which this surplus was created. It is easy to create a surplus under some circumstances, as easy, to use a common expression—as rolling off a log. It is easy to create a surplus by increasing the customs duties, by increasing the burden of taxation; but it is not at all an easy task to create a surplus and at the same time effect a substantial reduction in the taxation. What does the record show? It shows that the Liberal party have made a reduction in the burden of taxation, first, by placing such goods as corn and binder twine and barbed wire on the free list; then by making substantial reduction in the duties on articles such as edged tools and farm implements and machinery; but mainly by putting into operation a reduction of 12½ per cent of the duties on all goods imported from the old country. What does the sum total of these reductions amount to? My hon. friend the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) has made a calculation, which I have not seen contradicted, and which shows that, had the old tariff remained in force until 1897, it would have resulted in an increase of revenue to the extent of \$1,900,000. I am justified therefore in making the statement that, if my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) had had the old tariff in operation during the past year, if the old condition of things had been allowed to continue, he would have been able to present us with a surplus, not of \$1,722,000, but of at least double that amount. That is not all. The returns indicate that for the last eight months we have a surplus—an assured surplus, a surplus in hand—of two and a half millions of dollars; and if matters go on to the close of the financial year as they have

Mr. BELL (Prince East, P.E.I.)

begun, that surplus will amount to at least three and a quarter millions. Now, Sir, I think it is but fair while we give credit for the creation of that surplus, to bear in mind the circumstances under which it was created. We find that not only have we continued in effect the reduction of taxes made in 1897, but there have been further reductions in the year 1898. I refer, in the first place, to the other 12½ per cent reduction that went into force on the 1st of July last; I refer to the fact that we have reduced the domestic letter rate from 3c. to 2c.; I refer to the fact that we have reduced the rate of postage on letters going to the mother country from 5c. to 2c.—These considerations establish what I contend for, viz., that whatever credit there may be in the creation of a surplus of two and a half millions of dollars or of a prospective surplus of three and a quarter millions, that credit is enhanced when we come to consider the circumstances under which that result has been accomplished. I might here refer to other matters that are not mentioned in the speech, but which are legitimate subjects for consideration. A short time ago statements used to be made by our hon. friends on the other side with regard to the Liberal party: You are a sort of cannibals; you love to feast and fatten upon and to rejoice over the decay of our national industries; there is nothing that pleases you better than to see a vacant workshop or an idle factory, or one of these “tall chimneys” lying prone and broken upon the earth. Now, in view of the present condition of affairs with respect to our manufactures, in view of the prosperity which obtains among them, I think that the ideas of our Conservative friends must recently have undergone a change tantamount to a revolution. Why what is the story that we hear from all quarters? It is that the mills and factories of this country are all in active operation, some of them running night and day, many of them working overtime. In the effort to fill orders that are coming in fast upon them. I read, only the other day, concerning the Nova Scotia Steel Company, which employs some 700 workmen, that an important order came in from the Intercolonial Railway. They were obliged to say: We cannot fill it. Another order came in and they said: We have more work on hand than we can possibly get through in three months. I have read recently that the Massey Manufacturing Company of Toronto, employing no less than 2,200 workmen, has done such a prosperous business in the last year that they found themselves in a position to give, and did voluntarily of their own motion, give their workmen an increase of 10 per cent in their wages. I may be wrong, Mr. Speaker, but I cannot remember any circumstance of that kind during the eighteen years of

the "glorious National Policy." Then, there are other indications of prosperity. We have more money in the savings banks, as well as a large amount deposited in the ordinary banks of the country; larger amounts of money seeking investment, and seeking it at a lower rate of interest. Our investment companies have done a prosperous business this last year, and their reports show that, so far as the lands that were in their hands are concerned they have been able to make ready sales—a proof of the rise in the values of property in Canada. We have also a satisfactory condition of affairs in our retail and wholesale trade; the labouring classes are better circumstanced, failures in this country are less than they were before, both in percentage and in amount; the business of our railways has increased. Why, Sir, since I came to Ottawa there has been placed upon my desk a report of the Canadian Pacific Railway from which I find that the net earnings of the road, which two years ago amounted to about eight millions, during last year amounted to ten and a half millions, an increase of two and a half millions in two years. The same story would be told by the reports of other railways in Canada. In Prince Edward Island there has been a substantial increase in the earnings of the railway during the past year. All these facts show that the prosperity of Canada is not confined to one locality or to one province, but extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

There is one other reference in the Speech from the Throne that demands more than mere passing attention. I refer to our immigration. I was pleased to notice in a report recently issued by the Imperial authorities that during the past year while the emigration to all other countries but Canada had decreased by from 1 to 10 per cent, so far as Canada was concerned the volume of that emigration from Great Britain had been 20 per cent greater than in the previous year. These figures speak volumes. During the past year accounts have appeared in the press showing considerable accretions to our population from the United States. This is notably the case in the province of Quebec, where whole families, you may say settlements, are moving back from the United States. Instead of the exodus, repatriation has set in. The same story is told with respect to certain portions of the North-west Territories. I am glad to notice that the Canadian Pacific Railway returns of sales of land show that in the past year the sales to actual settlers have been two or three times greater than in the previous year. A similar record is shown by the Government figures with regard to homesteads taken up. Then, with respect to British Columbia, we find that there is an immense immigration into that province.

Villages and towns are springing up in the mining districts and along the lines of rail-

way recently constructed. I have not the least doubt that in the year 1901 when the next census returns are received, we will find that British Columbia has changed her relationship to the other provinces of the Dominion, and that she has taken her place next after the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. We shall then find that she will occupy the third place in the galaxy of the provinces, the third in population and in wealth. There is another matter also that I was pleased to notice. During the past year we have had not an export as has characterized the administration of former years, but an import of \$2,225,000 of settlers' effects into Canada. These figures speak more forcibly and more eloquently than any words I could utter to indicate that immigration is now setting into this country in full force. During the days of the National Policy, we used to have to complain of an exodus. Why, Sir, we used to spend millions of money to bring people into this country. After we got them here we found that they made of Canada only a temporary resting place, and then, like the Arabs they folded their tents and silently stole away. They went somewhere else, usually to the United States of America. Such was the deplorable condition of affairs at that time. We found after the census returns came in—those cold, unfeeling and heartless census returns—that at the end of the ten years we had lost not only all the immigrants that came into Canada, but one-half of the increase of our population besides. I am glad, Mr. Speaker, to be able to say, and to rejoice with the people of Canada, that the exodus from this country to the United States has ceased, and, I trust has ceased for ever. There was a time when the prosperity of North America was likened unto a great stream flowing majestically onward. The United States—so they boasted—were in the centre of the stream where the current was deepest, and strongest, and swiftest. Canada occupied a position in an eddy of the current, riding around at anchor, or perchance moving slowly along the shore. I am glad that to-day the position of this country has changed. Canada does not now occupy a position in the eddy of the current, or creeping tardily along the shore; her place is in the centre of the stream where the current is strongest, and deepest and swiftest. She is now moving proudly onward upon the wave of an ever-increasing prosperity. What part of the credit of all this is due to the Liberal party of Canada, I shall not attempt to analyse. I am aware that some portion of our prosperity is due to the discovery, perhaps, accidental discovery, of gold in the Yukon. Certainly some portion of it is due to that beneficent Providence that has given us a favourable springtime and an abundant harvest. But for the rest, I take my stand with the ordinary elector of Canada, of average intelligence, who says, who thinks and who is confident that some portion of

this credit—a substantial measure of this credit—is due to the wise policy and to the economical and efficient administration of my right hon. friend who leads the Government.

The next paragraph in the Speech refers to the International Commission. Before dealing with that, let me say a word with respect to two of the more prominent members of that Commission who were stricken by the hand of death before their labours were consummated, I refer to Senator Dingley and to Lord Herschell. When Senator Dingley died, we could not but notice that the sorrow for his death was as widespread and just as heartfelt in England and in Canada as in the United States. And when Lord Herschell died we could not but notice, also, that the sorrow and sympathy expressed in the United States were even greater and deeper than for their own illustrious statesman. That shows that the dividing line between us all is a narrow one; in fact, may hardly be said to exist. It shows that we are all members of one brotherhood, of one common Anglo-Saxon family. Let me make another remark. It was said of the late lamented Sir John A. Macdonald that before he died he expressed the wish that he might die at the post of duty. I believe that wish was gratified. And, so far as Lord Herschell is concerned, it may be said of him also that he died in harness—died in the performance of a labour of love that he had undertaken on behalf of the people of Canada—died in the performance of a duty that he owed to the Sovereign and to the Empire—died, too, in performing or in the attempt to perform, one of the noblest tasks that can be undertaken by mortality, the task, in the first place, of smoothing away the differences and of settling permanently the disputes between Canada and the United States, and the still higher and nobler task of endeavouring to bring into greater harmony and co-operation the two great branches of the Anglo-Saxon race.

We have to regret, Mr. Speaker, that we are not in possession of all the facts which would enable us to fairly judge of the work and result of the commission. We have to remember that the mouths of the commissioners are sealed, and that the door of the commission chamber was closed. But, Sir, there are some things of which we may say we are fairly cognizant. We know that the commission sat for six months, or nearly so, and that our commissioners made an honest and earnest, and, I may add, a persistent effort to settle the various causes of differences existing between the two nations. In making that effort, they have met with the approbation of our whole people without regard to party. Another statement I may fairly make is, that our commissioners laid down the policy that we want to settle all the existing differences, that we want, for the purpose of settlement, to pool these differences. That I think was a wise course to pursue, because to leave one subject unsettled, or one cause of irritation

unremoved, would be nearly as bad as to leave all outstanding questions in their present condition. I think I am justified in drawing this further conclusion. When the commissioners adjourned, they stated that there was one cause of difference between them, namely, that with regard to the Alaska boundary. It is a fair inference to draw, that upon all the questions under consideration, there was either an agreement, or there was such an interchange of views between the different members of that commission, as that they knew they could come to an ultimate agreement—a fair compromise—that they could settle for instance, the question of the North-east Atlantic fisheries, the question of the Alien Labour Law, the question of the Alaska seal fishery, and also that they could arrive at a reasonable reciprocity treaty between the two countries. Before we can either give credit or impute blame, it is necessary that we should know exactly where the disagreement between the American and Canadian commissioners arose. The statement made by them to the public was—and we are bound to assume it correct—that they differed on the question of the Alaska boundary, that they could not come to any understanding regarding the terms of the old treaty between England and Russia, that they could not agree upon the commencement of the line of delimitation, or upon its location. Especially, they could not agree as to whether that line of delimitation ran across the Lynn Canal or round the head of it. Then the question of arbitration arose. The United States commissioners consented to submit the matter to arbitration but only upon terms which it was impossible for the British and Canadian commissioners to agree to. The first divergence was this: The Americans said: We will submit this matter to arbitration; but, so far as Dyea and Skagway are concerned, as well as the territories now occupied therewith, whatever the result of the arbitration—whether it shall be ascertained that these towns are within British territory or not—nevertheless, they shall be deemed to be American territory. That was on the principle of "Tails I win; heads you lose." That was a proposition that could not possibly be accepted, in reason, by the Canadian commissioners, our representatives could not withdraw from the arbitration, what seems to me to be the very essence of the dispute. Our commissioners were not willing to give up, and they refused to give up, any portion of British territory or British territorial right, and, in taking that stand, they vindicated the honour and independence of Canada.

There was another cause of difference, and that was, that the American commissioners proposed that there should be three arbitrators on each side, but no umpire. Our commissioners took the grounds that this was virtually no arbitration at all, as it did not provide for a finality. The probability would be that the Canadian representatives would

take one side and the United States representatives another; then the matter would be left ultimately worse than before. Under these conditions, our commissioners refused to accept the arbitration. There seems however, to have been a suggestion on the part of the Americans to agree to an umpire, provided that umpire came from certain countries of Central or South America. The British and Canadian commissioners said: We cannot agree to a proposition of that kind, because, under your Monroe doctrine, all the countries of Central and South America are under the protection and, consequently under the influence of the United States; so that no arbitrator chosen from these countries could possibly have the requisite independence and impartiality to commend him for acceptance to England or Canada. Therefore, when we realize the position taken by our commissioners, we must come to the conclusion that they properly and fairly represented the sentiments of our people, especially when they refused to give up territorial rights, and repudiated a dishonourable arbitration.

I am aware that there are some—some even in this House—who entertain different views. There are some who say, with reference to the conduct of the Canadian commissioners: "You have tarried too long at the wine; you should have come home sooner, and when you did come, you ought to have taken up your hats in high dudgeon and slammed the door in the faces of the American commissioners."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think conduct like that would neither have been consistent with the dignity of the Canadian representatives, nor would it have had any effect whatever in promoting those objects that we all desire so much to see accomplished. So far as the American people are concerned, I am aware that it is said of them, and, perhaps, with truth, that they are a selfish and a grasping people, and drive a hard bargain. Nevertheless, they are an honourable and a proud nation. The way to reach them is not by attempting, as it were, to bulldoze them. The way to reach them is by appealing to the honour, and pride, and gratitude of the nation which lie behind that selfishness, and which will ultimately bring it under control. I believe the commission will ultimately be successful in settling all differences. I base my belief upon the fact that the Government of the United States is just as anxious as we to have these differences finally and permanently settled. I base my opinion upon the fact that the press of the United States to-day recognize, and, in most cases approve of, the honourable and straightforward conduct of our Canadian commissioners. I base my opinion upon Senator Fairbanks's letter, wherein he says, in substance, to the press of the United States and Canada, "I warn you not to publish anything with regard to the failure of the International Commission—it has not failed." I base my hope upon the fact that

we have now better relations with the United States than ever before. To-day America has her schemes of commercial conquest in the far east. She requires the assistance of England more than England does the assistance of America. I know, too, that the Americans are proud. They have been placed recently under a debt of obligation to England—a debt which I am satisfied no people would lie under without attempting at the earliest moment to repay. This is the first opportunity they have had of expressing their appreciation of the magnanimity of Great Britain—the first opportunity they have had of repaying, to a certain extent, their debt of gratitude. I am, therefore, confident that when the people of the United States come to themselves, when the higher and better elements of their nature assert the mastery, they will then meet us half way, in an honourable and determined effort to smooth away all difficulties that exist between the two nationalities.

The next matter referred to in the Speech is that with respect to postal reform. As I glance over the Public Accounts, I find that in the year 1896 there was a deficit in the Post Office Department of \$781,000, and that in the year 1898 that deficit had been reduced to \$47,000—almost wiped out of existence. I point to this for the purpose of indicating that if it had not been for good management of the Post Office Department the reforms in the postal service referred to in the Speech from the Throne could never possibly have been carried into effect. If, for instance, the deficit in the year 1896, of \$781,000 had remained until now, I am satisfied that it would have been impossible to have made the reduction from 3 cents to 2 cents in the domestic rate, or to have brought into effect the Imperial penny postage. I know that these changes involve a present loss of revenue; but from the increased business that will result, it will be found that the deficit in the Post Office Department will not in the future be one-half of what it was under the former Administration. In the next few years, even that deficit will be wiped out of existence. With respect to the two-cent domestic rate of postage, that is a matter with which we are all familiar, and it does not require at my hands any extended remarks. It was a reform that was carried into effect on the 1st of January. It was an appropriate New Year's gift to the people of Canada. It was a substantial lightening of the burdens of the people. It was a gift to almost every man, woman and child in this Dominion. It was such a gift as the people of Canada duly appreciate, and will not soon forget. With reference to the reduction of the rate of Imperial postage, that was a matter which was a dream for many years, ever since the days of Rowland Hill. And it remained a dream until the Canadian Government took the matter up in a practical way, and ultimately succeeded in forcing its adoption. With regard to the part

Canada had in that reform, I am not sufficiently conversant with all the details to speak with authority; but I am justified in saying that it was a part of the predetermined policy of the Liberal party in Canada to bring about better social, political and sentimental relations with the Empire. As I understand the matter, it was announced by the Canadian Government to the Imperial authorities that it was their fixed intention to carry into effect at once a reduction in the domestic rate of postage from 3 cents to 2 cents, and that it was also their fixed intention to reduce the rate of postage upon letters sent across the Atlantic; but that they would wait the action of the Imperial authorities in calling a convention to take this matter into consideration, and, if possible, arrange a penny postage throughout the Empire. That convention met in London in June last, considered the whole question, and carried a motion, moved by my hon. friend the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) for the adoption of Imperial penny postage. Thus the dream of an Imperial penny postage became a reality. I need not say much with regard to its material benefits. If we reflect that in Canada to-day one out of every ten of the population has been born in the mother country and has relatives and friends across the Atlantic, we will begin to understand what a potent factor this increased facility of communication will be in swelling the tide of immigration now happily setting in towards this country. I saw a few days ago a statement that some of our merchants and manufacturers had recently established agencies in England for the purpose of extending their business. Such a movement would have been rendered impossible if the old five-cent rate had continued in force. It is chiefly, however, along another line that a great change has been effected by this reform. By means of the free interchange of letters between the different parts of the British Empire and the different colonies, there will of course be a much greater interchange of thought and sentiment. What more natural result than that there should arise out of this free interchange of thought and patriotic sentiment the loftier idea that the colonies and the mother country—not separated but joined by the seas—compose one empire, and that our duty and aim and ultimate destiny is to weld into a harmonious whole the varied elements of that great Empire.

Last year I read with pleasure the efforts of this Government in the direction of giving the people of England a preference in our markets. That preference was given to the extent of a rebate of 25 per cent in the customs duties on goods brought into Canada from the mother country. I refer to this, not for the purpose of showing the effect it had upon the material prosperity of either country, but for the purpose of indicating the change of sentiment it brought about. Some would call this a free

Mr. BELL (Prince East, P.E.I.)

gift on the part of the people of Canada. It was rather an expression of the love and devotion which Canadians have for the mother land. It was rather an expression of the gratitude that Canadians feel for the protection we have received from the mother country ever since we became a colony. Whatever it was, it seemed to have gone straight home to the heart of the English people and to have taken them by storm. The effect of the penny postage will be along the same line. Both these measures will have the anticipated effect of bringing about closer relations, both in sentiment and in reality, between Canada and the rest of the Empire.

As a Canadian, Mr. Speaker, I rejoice in the change of sentiment that I see being manifested on both sides of the Atlantic. At one time the impression of the English people, as regards the colonies, was that the colonies were as the fruit of the tree. When the fruit ripened, it naturally separated from the parent stem. When the colony matured it was bound to fall away and become independent. There was a time when, in the opinion of the people of England, the colonies were a source of weakness and expense to the Empire. Let the colonies go. That opinion, I am glad to say, no longer exists. I rejoice to see the colonizing and Imperial spirit of England again predominant—that spirit which has been manifesting itself of late in carrying the flag into the heart of darkest Africa and planting it in triumph where it floats to the breeze to-day above the fortress of Omdurman. I rejoice also to see a change of sentiment on this side of the Atlantic. There was a time in this country when a number of our people favoured annexation to the United States. But where will you find any indication of that sentiment to-day? There was a time (and my hon. friends opposite will doubtless agree with me) when there was a desire for commercial union with the United States. Where will you find any such feeling to-day? There was a time when with many of us the impression prevailed that the hour had come for us to cut loose from the leading strings of the mother country, that we were old enough and rich enough and strong enough to become independent. These sentiments, I am thankful to say, have been relegated to the past, never again, I hope, to be resurrected. We are proud of Canada and of being Canadians—we shall never cease to be that—but our sentiments are rapidly taking a wider range and a loftier flight. We are prouder still of being citizens of an Empire—the freest, the strongest and the greatest upon which the sun shines to-day. It is because the 25 per cent reduction on the duty on British goods and the establishment and operation of the Imperial penny postage create and foster sentiments like these that all Canadians irrespective of party give to these measures their unqualified approval.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I find that the time

I had intended to occupy has gone by. I shall therefore not refer to the other matters mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. I must apologize to this House for having taken up so much of its valuable time, and shall conclude by simply making the usual motion for the adoption of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. P. R. L. MARTINEAU (Montmagny). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, when asked by the leader of the House to second the motion which my hon. friend from East Prince (Mr. Bell) has just introduced in such able and eloquent terms, I felt that a compliment was being paid to my constituency, and at the same time that I was also entitled to crave the indulgence and the kind attention which all members on both sides of the House are wont to bestow on a new member speaking under such circumstances.

Although merely a representative of the French-speaking minority, still I stand here to-day as the mouth-piece of the majority of the electorate of this country, whose feelings and political creed I am voicing; while at the same time, I am justly proud to be the mouth-piece of a province wherein loyalty to the British Crown displays itself in deeds still more than in words. And although the most humble of the members of this House be a French Canadian, I cannot forget that one of the most illustrious members of Parliament, the leader of this House, claims the same origin, and notwithstanding that, his name, throughout the length and breadth of the land, and among all classes of the community, is a rallying-word and but another name for victory. In him are to be found the distinguishing characteristics of his race, and of his people who are justly proud of him. And he is a living illustration of this fact, namely, that if the rights of the French Canadians are now recognized and respected in this country, it is owing to their having known how to use them in the public interest with firmness, tempered with discretion and tact, for the greatest good of the state. We contribute, Sir, our own quota of labour; we contribute our own share of energy towards the wealth and welfare of the country in the spheres of trade, of industry, of agriculture, as also in the realm of the fine arts; but also, I am glad to say, nobody ever bargains with us about our share of credit. Therefore, Sir, I confidently, on behalf of the French-speaking minority, offer these few remarks in seconding the address in reply to the Speech from the representative of our Gracious Sovereign.

Let me say, at the outset, that within the year that has just passed, two very important events have transpired: we have parted with one representative of Her Majesty and have received the nobleman who recently arrived amongst us as the representative of Her Majesty in the Dominion. It is no flattery, but the sober truth to say that the Imperial Government, in the pre-

sent incumbent of this high office could not have made a more judicious selection, and one best calculated to attenuate the universal regret experienced by our population at the departure of Lord Aberdeen. In this fortunate selection the mother country could not give us a more tactful illustration of the watchful interest she ever takes in our welfare. From the very first moment of their arrival in our midst, it was our privilege to admire the graceful urbanity displayed by their Excellencies in the discharge of their august role as representatives of Her Imperial Majesty in this wide Dominion. Still, we cannot pass under silence the fact that it was under the high administration of Lord Aberdeen and also during the beneficent sojourn of Lady Aberdeen in our midst that Canada did, thanks to the enlightened policy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and of his colleagues, enter upon a new era of progress and unheard of prosperity. But, on the other hand, the return of Lord Minto has been hailed with enthusiasm by the Canadian people, so much the more as he has brought back a just appreciation of the advantages and resources of Canada already acquired in his previous sojourn in this Dominion, and an accurate knowledge of the needs of our country, which is a token of still greater success and perhaps also the happy omen of the ratification of a new Washington treaty.

As this is the first time that I address this House, I avail myself of the opportunity to loudly proclaim in the name of my constituents the confidence which we repose in the men who now preside over the destinies of this Dominion.

Already, in the course of the previous sessions of this Parliament, since the electorate of this country has endorsed the Liberal policy, the present Administration have through their conciliating methods, achieved truly astonishing results. Scarcely does one remember now that but a few years ago the school question was threatening to kindle a creed and racial war. What costly law suits and imprudent appeals to religious and national prejudices failed to accomplish for years, this Administration achieved at the end of a few months through conciliation and by appeals to the sense of justice, without provincial autonomy being in the least sacrificed. It is also within the recollection of this House that a tariff war, carried to its extreme limits, was threatening our national prosperity and overburdening our people. Here again progressive reforms and clever negotiations with the mother country have given a new impetus to our trade and our industry and are stimulating business to an un hoped for degree. One of the most happy results of that policy has been to put a stop to the exodus which, in years past, had proved the curse of our country and to induce our immigrants to settle down in our midst, instead of finding their way over the border to strengthen our rivals.

Such are the results achieved by the far-sighted and truly national policy inaugurated by the present Administration and its leader. And this accounts for the fact that the electorate of this country who see the hon. leader of the Government redeeming all the pledges given them while in the Opposition, show him their gratitude at each by-election, by an uninterrupted series of signal victories. And as a fit climax to the work accomplished by the devoted and skilful men who are now at the head of our affairs, the fertile soil of Canada has yielded to us one of the most bountiful harvests the country has ever been blessed with, while, on the other hand, the hardy pioneers of the Klondike have been extracting from the bosom of the icy gold fields of the Arctic circle a golden harvest which seems almost inexhaustible. Sir, we do not pretend to say that this bountiful harvest and the discovery of these gold-bearing fields are to be ascribed merely to the Liberal policy inaugurated by the Government; but we hold that the Government may justly claim credit for having adopted the measures best calculated to secure the development of our gold fields and to foster our agricultural interests.

Never before had the Department of Agriculture done so much to second the efforts of our farming community, to facilitate the handling and the transporting of our agricultural products and their selling off on the foreign markets. In this connection, allow me, Sir, as a representative of a rural constituency, to offer my thanks to the Government, on behalf of the farming community. With reference to our gold fields, I may say that the Government have taken the necessary steps towards the civil and judicial organization of those territories, wherein civilisation had heretofore hardly penetrated; they have, through their police regulations, secured the reign of peace and order among the natives and the prospectors, while affording protection to our missionaries as also to the life and property of the miners. And all those gratifying results have been achieved in such a way that the Yukon has been made to pay for the expenses of the Yukon, without otherwise burdening the country with the necessary expenditure. It is also most satisfactory to find in the Speech from the Throne that the Government have thought it expedient in the public interest to authorize the construction of a line of telegraph in the Yukon district for the purpose of maintaining speedy communication with the people of those distant territories. For my part, speaking as a representative of a constituency from which already nearly one hundred miners have gone forth to the northern gold fields, I feel it my duty to convey to the Government the expression of the gratitude of those families which, after a cruel separation, were forced to remain for months and months a prey to anxiety and alarm, because they could not get any news from their relatives, not know-

Mr. MARTINEAU.

ing whether they ought to mourn their loss or rejoice over their good fortune. As hon. gentlemen know, the lack of railway facilities in the Yukon cannot be laid at the door of the Government, who, although well equipped to overcome all the natural obstacles in that country, found themselves unable to cope with certain constitutional difficulties which prevented the passage of their legislation, constitutionally, if you like, but still in such a way as to show us once more that, as all human institutions, our constitution is still open to improvement. Far be it from my thought, Sir, to question the wisdom of the fathers of our constitution, who having such a difficult task to discharge proved truly equal to the duty they were called upon to perform; and now that most of those nation-builders have been gathered to the majority, it is but simple justice to their memory to record here on the floor of the House that they did their duty. As to those framers of our constitution who are still in our midst, let me add that the presence to-day on the floor of this House of the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) shows the wonderful vitality and the indomitable energy which those champions of old were endowed with. If I may be allowed to say so, Providence, it seems, wishes him to remain at his post as a striking illustration of what a lion-hearted man endowed with an indomitable will can do. To him I would willingly apply the words of Horace: 'Justum et tenacem propositi virum.' As the righteous man referred to by the latin poet, he stands to-day unshaken amidst the ruins of the past. 'Imparvidum ferient ruinæ.' Every time that the electorate was appealed to and asked to give a verdict on the policy of the Government, the people taking into consideration the fact that the Government had restored peace and harmony everywhere, brought back the equilibrium into our finances, and provoked such an expansion in our trade and industry as to exceed the most sanguine anticipations of the optimists, the people, I say, have invariably sanctioned and ratified the vote given on that memorable date, the 23rd of June, 1896, by ever increasing majorities. And yet, hon. gentlemen opposite and their illustrious leader will not yield to evidence. If we are to believe them, a reaction is taking place, and they believe that they are drawing closer to the ministerial benches, a phenomenon which can only be accounted for by an optical illusion on their part.

On these several points as also on that most legitimate reform, the readjustment of the electoral divisions of Ontario, we must agree to disagree with our friends opposite. There is, however, a matter upon which there cannot be but a perfect consensus of opinion, and, upon a recent occasion, at a time when a disagreement broke out between Her Majesty's Commissioners and those of the United States concerning the delimita-

tion of the boundary between Canada and Alaska, it was most satisfactory to see the hon. leader of the Opposition, relying on a precedent set up by Lord Roseberry, holding out a helping hand to the hon. the leader of the Government, in order to safeguard our national honour. True, at the very time when this generous assistance was being proffered, the honourable commissioners representing Canada at the international conference had honourably discharged their duty. Still, this delicate tribute paid to the policy of the Government, this wholesale endorsement given to the noble attitude taken by our commissioners by no less exalted a personage than the leader of the loyal Opposition of Her Majesty, such tribute, I say, is none the less creditable to the latter, although the methods of action suggested by him seem to savour a little too much of the ages of chivalry. At the outset of this international conference, we could not help experiencing a feeling of national pride when we saw the hon. leader of the Government selecting the historic city of Quebec, the former capital of the old French provinces in America, as the seat of that conference, which was called upon to usher in a new era of peace and harmony. As in the days of Augustus, the doors of the temple of Janus seemed to be closed and the hon. leader of the Opposition himself announced his determination not to break a truce so necessary to the safeguard of the dearest interests of Canada. But later on, when the seat of the conference was removed to Washington, while the hon. leader of the Government, aided by his honourable colleagues, under the presidency of the venerable and regretted Lord Herschell, was peacefully but energetically coping with the American diplomats, securing the settlement of several points in dispute, thus preventing a rupture which the conflicting interests of both countries made more and threatening at every moment, then it was, I say, that hostile newspapers realizing as well as we did that the pressure brought to bear by public opinion in the United States was handicapping and jeopardizing the labours of the commission, did not hesitate to give expression to their untimely rejoicing and to say that the conference was a failure. Fortunately, such was not the case. The representatives of Canada, true to the end to their mission of peace, were at the very same time displaying an energy which called forth a tribute of praise and admiration from all parties. No, Sir, this conference was not a failure. It will not be said that it was to no purpose that great minds shall have conferred together for months and months and assumed the responsibility of finding a common-sense solution of pending differences. It will not be recorded in history that it was to no purpose that among those arbiters, representatives of human justice and equity, two shall have, before the termination of their labours, been summoned before the high

tribunal of their Sovereign Maker. The work thus commenced and momentarily interrupted is not lost. "In God we trust" say the Americans. "Dieu et mon droit" shall we say, in our turn, borrowing the words from the motto of the English Crown, and I may remark, in passing, that we, French Canadians, are as proud as our English compatriots of this devise, coming as it does in straight line to us from Normandy, a country from which, we, in common with themselves, claim, for the most part our descent. I hope, Sir, that the hon. leader of the Opposition will not avail himself of this distant relationship to raise trouble for us after the fashion of our Norman ancestors who were remarkable for their love of chicanery, but on the contrary, we hope the Government will often find him willing to proffer a generous co-operation. Such is the wish I dare express for the adoption of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne of which I have the honour to second the motion.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Mr. Speaker, it now becomes my pleasing duty to offer my hearty congratulations to the hon. member for East Prince (Mr. Bell) upon the able speech with which he has just favoured the House, in presenting the motion which has been placed in your hands. The ability that that hon. gentleman brings to the discharge of his duties in this House will cause him to be regarded, I am sure, by every hon. gentleman as a great accession to the debating strength of the House. No person is more gratified than I am to find gentlemen who are elected to sit upon that side bringing to the discharge of their public duties such ability and talent as the hon. member has exhibited to-day. I venture, however, to believe that, with the great intelligence which the hon. gentleman has shown on the present occasion, before he has been here for a very long period, his views will be materially modified, at least with regard to the cause of the great prosperity which, we are all glad to recognize, Canada is enjoying to-day. I listened with especial pleasure to one declaration on the part of the hon. gentleman, a declaration in which, I trust, he expressed the feeling of every member on that side of the House, as I am sure he did of every gentleman on this side, that we shall best discharge our duty to Canada by recognizing that we occupy no dependent position upon our great neighbour to the south of us, but, with the enormous natural advantages with which Providence has favoured this country, we are able to mark out for ourselves an independent course which will command the respect, and even the approval of our neighbours. I regard with great satisfaction the statement made by the hon. mover of the resolution, that he considers the proposition made by the representatives of the United States on

the joint high commission in regard to Alaska as a dishonourable proposition, as a proposition that no independent man of any party could recognize as other than an invasion of those principles of international law and justice that every country has a right to expect from another. The hon. gentleman placed before the House in clear and distinct terms his belief that when the representatives of the United States took the ground that they would not agree to arbitration unless the representatives of Her Majesty's Government and of Canada would agree that, whatever the finding was, the United States should remain in possession of that which the arbitration might find belonged to the Dominion of Canada, they took an attitude which no British subject, whether on this side of the Atlantic or on the other, with a single spark of independence would submit to. In that, I trust, the hon. gentleman has with him the hearty and unanimous assent of the members of this House. The hon. gentleman said that, in the arbitration proposed by the representatives in the United States, by which three members should be selected on each side, and there should be no umpire, it was only too clear that this was only a postponement of the consideration of the question—it was not the adoption of any measure or means by which a satisfactory solution of the difficulty could be arrived at. In that, I am satisfied, the hon. gentleman has expressed the sentiment of every gentleman within the sound of my voice.

But I shall be compelled to differ with the hon. gentleman as to the cause of the prosperity Canada now enjoys. We shall not differ in our hearty congratulations to the country upon the great prosperity with which Canada is blessed at the present moment. It is a cardinal principle with the Liberal-Conservative party that, whoever may be in power, they are bound, not only in justice in the interests of their own party, but in justice to that which is higher and above party, to recognize that prosperity and to give credit for it to whom credit is due. But I believe I shall be able to show the hon. gentleman—for, with the great intelligence he has exhibited here to-day, I feel satisfied that he is open to conviction—that the great party to which I have the honour to belong, may justly claim the credit for the great prosperity which Canada enjoys to-day.

I listened, though not with the same satisfaction to myself, owing to my inability to follow him as closely as I would like, yet with great pleasure, to the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. Martineau). I should have been glad to follow more closely the beautiful language in which he addressed the House, but I was able to gather enough from what he said to know that the right hon. leader of the House may congratulate himself of having secured in the hon. gentleman a very devoted and a very credulous fol-

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

lower in this House. When the hon. gentleman ventured to say that the leader of the Government and the Government had redeemed all their promises, I fear that, while he shows a disposition to give unbounded credit to his leader, he also shows that he has not given that careful attention to the subject which alone would enable him to speak with authority. Instead of such an extravagant claim being well founded, the hon. gentleman will find that, when challenged to put his finger upon a single promise made to the electorate that has been fulfilled by the Government and its leader, he will be unable to do so. While speaking of the pleasure with which I have listened to these hon. gentlemen, I must not forget the very kind and complimentary references that were made to myself by the seconder of this Address. I should be glad to think that I was entitled to even half the commendation which he was good enough to bestow upon me. I will, however, endeavour, as we become better acquainted, to convince the hon. gentleman that, whether right or wrong, in discharging the high and important duties that devolve upon me, I seek, at all times, to take such a course as will convince him that, though we may not see eye to eye, I am moved only by what I believe I owe to the House and to the country.

My satisfaction in listening to the hon. gentlemen is all the greater because of the fact that I believe that, had they framed their speeches with a single eye to give credit to the great party that I have the honour to lead, they could not have made their remarks more conclusive or more pertinent to the subject. In view of the attempt by these gentlemen to convince their hearers that the advantages that Canada now enjoys have been due to the course taken by the Government of the day, the House will permit me, I am sure, a slight retrospective view of our affairs. From 1867 down to 1873 this country enjoyed a very gratifying degree of prosperity, so great as to enable the Government of the day to complete the great work of confederation by bringing in every portion of this great continent lying north of the boundary line and belonging to Great Britain, except only the Island of Newfoundland. When we retired from office in 1873, we handed over to our successors the government of a country in a highly prosperous and satisfactory condition.

What was the result of the five years' administration of hon. gentlemen opposite? Why, Sir, no person requires to be told that that five years of Liberal administration in Canada was marked by a period of the most intense depression, a period of the greatest commercial and financial difficulty with which any country was ever called upon to struggle. I do not charge hon. gentlemen opposite, or their policy, as necessarily involving that result. The fact is that during the first five years of confederation Canada

enjoyed a marked degree of prosperity arising from the protection which, under a very low tariff, we enjoy owing to the internecine war that existed in the great republic to the south of us. That happily passed away, peace was restored, and these gentlemen were called upon to administer the public affairs of the country, but instead of adopting such a policy as was demanded by the occasion, they persisted in nailing what they called their free trade colours to the mast, and refusing to adopt any policy for the protection of Canadian industries such as was absolutely demanded. Sir, I need not remind the House that we on this side, in the discharge of our duties then as we are endeavouring to discharge them now, did not hesitate to point out to the hon. gentlemen opposite the course that, in our judgment, they were bound to adopt in order to rescue Canada from the most deplorable poverty and depression that this country has ever seen since the beginning of confederation down to the present hour. Well, Sir, the hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), in a moment of weakness, I suppose, made a frank confession to the House—I think it was during the last session, or the session preceding it—in which he said, that they had really made up their minds as to the line they should take in the interest of the country, and he, as Finance Minister, had prepared a tariff, but just as he was about to bring it down, a brigade of free traders from the province of Nova Scotia made their appearance in Ottawa, and threatened the hon. gentleman that if he persisted in doing that, they would go into opposition and he would go out of office. Well, Sir, the hon. gentleman concluded that office was of more importance to him than the prosperity of Canada, and he abandoned his tariff which he had prepared, giving a considerable amount of protection to Canadian industries; he abandoned that policy, and pursued that course of free trade folly which landed him and his Government in the slough of despond. And what was the result? The result was that the intelligent electorate of Canada rose in its might on the first opportunity that offered, and swept out of power the hon. gentleman who had admitted that he was only a fly on the wheel and could not do anything in the interests of the country—swept him and his colleagues out of power by one of the most overwhelming majorities that was ever witnessed in this or any other country. I only mention this as a prelude to what occurred. The party opposed to him, the Liberal-Conservative party on this side of the House, declared that if they obtained power they would immediately adopt the policy of giving efficient protection to every Canadian industry that could be carried on properly in this country. Hon. gentlemen opposite will not say that we did not keep our word, they do us the justice to say that when we came into power we fulfilled the promises that we had

made to the people of this country, and we brought down a protective tariff largely increasing the duties on the various products that the people of Canada were able to manufacture. The result was that the country was changed in a marvellously short period of time from a condition of the most abject and deplorable depression into a condition of activity and industry. Under their policy, Boston and New York were made the commercial capitals of Canada; under their policy, money went out of Canada to a foreign country for the products that our people required; under their policy, people finding no employment in this country, were obliged to follow the money, and population was depleted, poverty was rife, and the only industry that these gentlemen were reluctantly compelled to recognize was that of soup kitchens for the poor. Now, Sir, what changed all that? What was it that lifted our country out of that deplorable condition into which Liberal misrule had dragged it? Why, it was that National Policy which, from that hour to this, has created a progress and a prosperity in our country such as we have never witnessed before. What did these gentlemen do? Did they do as we are doing now, hold up both hands for everything that was proposed by the party opposite that was calculated to benefit our country? Not at all. These gentlemen obstructed us with all the power at their command. The English language is not strong enough to furnish them with the terms of obloquy and contempt to pour upon this accursed policy of protection that they pledged themselves solemnly in the face of the country they would scatter to the winds the moment they reached power. Did they do it? Sir, the country is prosperous, but it is not from anything that these hon. gentlemen have done. I stand here to-day in the presence of this intelligent House, I stand here to-day in the presence of a people as intelligent as any to be found on the face of the globe, and I challenge these gentlemen here and now to put their finger on a single act of theirs that has contributed one jot or tittle to the progress of the country. But what have they done? They have done something to make it less prosperous than it otherwise would have been, as I shall be able to show; but when they say that they have contributed aught in any respect to the progress and prosperity of the country, I deny it, and challenge them to the proof. Why, Sir, we have evidence to the contrary out of the mouths of their own supporters, their strongest supporters, that the policy of Canada to-day, whether it be wise or unwise, is the policy of the great Liberal-Conservative party that made Canada what it is, and that has produced every jot and tittle of the prosperity that exists down to this hour. Now, I may say that we did have a wave of prosperity coming over the country, for these things usually go in cycles. What did we do? We not only provided for that

which they were unable to provide for, the means of carrying on the Government of the country without rolling up a huge debt by deficits, but we were able to complete this gigantic work of confederation by establishing a great international highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, in order to carry on the trade and business of the country, and to give the means of intercommunication to our own people. Not only were we able to do that, but at the same time we expended no less than \$36,500,000, from 1878 to 1896, in deepening the canals so as to obtain a 14-foot navigation, thus affording increased facilities for trade and commerce between the people of the several provinces. Having given evidence all over the country in the erection of important public works as to what could be done for Canada under such a policy as ours, the time came when a wave of deep depression swept over Europe, paralyzed the commerce of Australia, paralyzed the commerce of the United States, and consequently affected Canada, as Canada must always be affected by the condition of commerce in the republic to the south of us. During this wave of depression in the United States, when 600 financial and banking institutions went to the wall, when millions of people were thrown out of employment, and when poverty stalked throughout that great country, Canada, thanks to the National Policy, inaugurated by the Conservative party, maintained a healthy financial and commercial position. I shall read to the House what I consider one of the highest tributes as to what the National Policy did for Canada during that period of depression, commencing in 1893. The late Hon. Mr. Wells, one of the most able and independent statisticians in America, wrote in the "Forum" in the early part of 1894, when everything was at its worst in the United States:

In the Dominion of Canada, separated from us on the north by an imaginary line, there has been no panic, no unusual demand for money, no stoppage of industries, no restriction of trade, no increased rate of interest; in short, nothing beyond the ordinary course of events, except so far as these events may have been influenced by contiguity to what may be termed a financial cyclone whose pathway of destruction was contiguous to, but not within, Canadian territory.

That, Mr. Speaker, is high testimony indeed as to what the National Policy did for Canada. I claim, Sir, and I am prepared to substantiate my claim in the face of any hon. gentleman opposite, that all the prosperity, all the increased trade, all the increased revenue which hon. gentlemen opposite now so loudly claim credit for; all is due to the great Liberal Conservative party which laid the foundation of the National Policy, and laid them so solid that the winds of Liberalism and all the efforts of Liberals to destroy could not prevail. Take the statistics from 1868 to 1898 and you will have further and even greater

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proof of what the National Policy did for Canada. Here they are:

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>TOTAL TRADE.</b>                      |               |
| 1868 .....                               | \$131,027,532 |
| 1898 .....                               | 304,091,720   |
| <b>POPULATION.</b>                       |               |
| 1868 .....                               | 3,371,594     |
| 1898 .....                               | 5,500,000     |
| <b>EXPORTS, ALL KINDS.</b>               |               |
| 1868 .....                               | \$ 57,567,888 |
| 1898 .....                               | 163,785,770   |
| <b>IMPORTS, ALL KINDS.</b>               |               |
| 1868 .....                               | \$ 73,459,644 |
| 1898 .....                               | 140,305,950   |
| <b>TOTAL DEPOSITS IN BANKS.</b>          |               |
| 1868 .....                               | \$ 52,299,050 |
| 1898 .....                               | 212,014,635   |
| <b>SAVINGS BANKS.</b>                    |               |
| 1868 .....                               | \$ 5,057,607  |
| 1898 .....                               | 63,056,606    |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE.</b>                    |               |
| 1868 .....                               | \$ 13,687,928 |
| 1898 .....                               | 40,555,238    |
| <b>REVENUE FROM POST OFFICE.</b>         |               |
| 1868 .....                               | \$ 616,802    |
| 1898 .....                               | 4,686,650     |
| <b>MILES OF RAILWAY.</b>                 |               |
| 1868 .....                               | 2,278         |
| 1893 .....                               | 16,718        |
| <b>RAILWAY EARNINGS.</b>                 |               |
| 1868 .....                               | \$12,116,716  |
| 1893 .....                               | 59,715,105    |
| <b>REVENUE FROM RAILWAYS AND CANALS.</b> |               |
| 1868 .....                               | \$ 581,503    |
| 1893 .....                               | 3,117,670     |

I do not hesitate to say, Sir, that these figures give clear evidence of the unquestioned value of the National Policy to the country, for they show the greatness and the prosperity that Canada has achieved under the National Policy. To whom is this prosperity due? Is it due to hon. gentlemen opposite? Is it due to the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), who when he was threatened with the loss of office was willing to sacrifice the best interests of Canada so as to cling to office, although the people starved. No, Sir, it is due, and no one knows it better than hon. gentlemen opposite, it is due to that great party which elevated Canada out of the position in which she had been placed by the maladministration of the Liberals, and raised it on a pinnacle of such grandeur that these gentlemen opposite, when charged with the duty and responsibility of government, quailed before the thought of attempting to strike down with their unholy hands this policy which had done so much good for Canada. Sir, we have the greatest tribute to the benefits conferred

upon Canada by the National Policy in the very fact that the gentlemen now in power—who for eighteen long years engaged in fierce and bitter denunciation of it, who pledged themselves solemnly that they would uproot and destroy it—declare in the face of the whole world that the National Policy is one that they dare not attempt to change. Sir, the National Policy so commends itself to the intelligent approval of the great mass of the electorate of Canada that these gentlemen, if they attempt to interfere with it, would be swept from office. And how did they obtain power? Not upon the issue of the National Policy, nor upon any other issue. Sir, these gentlemen opposite sit there representing no policy and no principle. I challenge any man in this country to point to one single particle of policy or one single principle that they avowed before the people, which they have since attempted to carry into effect. They obtained power by inducing the people of one section of the country to believe one thing, and by inducing the people of another section of the country to believe the opposite. They obtained power by delusive promises which they have never carried out. I am prepared to show any hon. gentleman opposite that there is not one single question of public policy to which the Liberal party in opposition was committed which they have attempted to accomplish since they came into power. I say that without any qualification whatever. A large number of the hon. members of this House are perfectly familiar with these matters, and they know that what I am stating is absolutely correct, but less my hon. friends from East Prince (Mr. Bell) and Montmagny (Mr. Martineau), who have not had the same opportunity to inform themselves, might think me mistaken, I will give them a little evidence of what I am saying. I will show these hon. gentlemen whose policy it was has made Canada the cynosure of all eyes, whose policy has enabled the Government of Canada to put in the Speech, as they have properly done, this glowing account of the magnificent position our country occupies to-day. Any speeches that emanate from my right hon. friend, who with so much ability leads this House, I have always read with great interest, but not always exactly with approval. I am not always able to agree exactly with the view in which he clothes in those delightful and eloquent sentences for which he is so famous. I have begun to think, Sir, when I read the speeches of my right hon. friend, that one of the most essential features of oratory is to be able to say whatever the occasion may require without any reference to the facts. I will give my right hon. friend the evidence on which I make that statement. In a very memorable speech, one which I am quite sure will become historical, for it was one of the most import-

ant he had ever delivered, when all its consequences are regarded—a speech which he made on January 4th, 1899, as reported in the Montreal "Herald," he said:

If we are now purchasing more from England, England is purchasing more from us, and that is what we want. We want a market for our produce, and we find it in England. Thanks to our policy.

Now, Sir, what was his policy? What policy did the hon. gentleman carry out? In the first place, the hon. gentleman is entirely mistaken in supposing that those two things have any necessary relation to each other at all. The hon. gentleman knows that our purchases from England have been relatively insignificant for many long years, long before he had anything to do with formulating a policy. The hon. gentleman knows that our purchases from England have been infinitesimally smaller than our exports to England. But that is not all, Sir. What is the result of this policy, this magnificent policy which the hon. gentleman claims has made Canada what it is to-day? Why, Sir, in 1897, the first year for which the hon. gentleman says he was responsible, England took over \$500,000 less from us than she did before his policy was dreamed of. That does not look as if what we sent to England had any relation to the policy of the hon. gentleman. And while that was the case, there was an enormous, a gigantic increase in our exports to the mother country. Therefore, the hon. gentleman will see that the one statement has no relation to the other. The hon. gentleman is aware, I suppose, that his policy, while professedly a pro-British policy, was an anti-British policy; for under it, while England sent us in that year \$500,000 less than she had done before, the United States of America sent us \$19,000,000 more than they had done before. Was it because we had sent more to the United States? The hon. gentleman knows that it was the very reverse. I take the last six months, and what has this wonderful policy done—this policy that the hon. gentleman lives upon, and for which he attained an amount of kudos in Great Britain that we were all delighted to see him obtain if it had only been done on a sound basis? What was this wonderful boon that the right hon. gentleman said he conferred upon England? The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain was asked in the House of Commons the other day by Sir Howard Vincent: "What is the increase of trade sent from England to Canada during the six months ending the 31st day of January?" Why did he say the 31st day of January? Simply because, as was admitted very frankly by the hon. Minister of Finance when at Sheffield, the treaties were not denounced, and the policy did not come into operation until the 1st day of August: so that the first six months of

the policy ended on the 31st day of January. What was the answer? What does the House suppose the increase amounts to, as the result of this magnificent policy that was going to secure for us the trade of England as a grateful response? Why, Sir, it amounts to 1 per cent for the six months. Some papers have got the statement that it is 6 per cent, which is an entire delusion. Mr. Chamberlain said: If you include July, which you cannot include, because it is outside of the question altogether, and before the preferential rate came into operation, it would be 6 per cent, but for the first months it was 1 per cent. And this is the policy on which the hon. gentleman prides himself.

But now, Sir, I intend to give an evidence from the Treasury benches with regard to this question upon whose policy the present great prosperity of this country depends. The hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), at Perth last month, had occasion to make a very important speech, and a very important speech it was. He said:

The tariff was a question that was settled, and was now a dead issue.

No more talk in this House about a tariff; we are done with that, he said. What more does he say?

Because the Liberals had succeeded in solving this great question, and the tariff was one their opponents, if they got a chance, would not change much.

Why would they not change it? Because it is their tariff. The hon. gentleman may say, and there is something in that. But suppose we had carried out our pledges, where would the prosperity have been? I agree with him; it would have been non-existent, and it was because they knew that they had either been deceiving and misleading the people of this country for eighteen long years, or having grown older, they had, as may be charitably supposed, grown wiser, and had come to the conclusion that other people know something about these matters as well as themselves. Well, it appears that the Minister of Interior has been taken severely to task by a number of people from Winnipeg who thought they were Free Traders. The Liberal party there had a meeting, at which they challenged this statement made by the hon. Minister of the Interior for the purpose of condemning it. The ground taken by the mover and seconder of the resolution condemning it was that if that was so, they had been grossly deluded—that if that were so they had been deceived by the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), who had been one of the strongest supporters of a free trade policy, into giving a support to a different policy altogether. A good many of the friends of the hon. Minister of the Interior said there must be some mistake. Although it appeared in the "Globe" and all the other Liberal newspapers, they said there must be some great

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mistake; it was impossible that a member of a free trade Government could have made such a statement, and they proposed to defer judgment until they had ascertained definitely whether the Minister could have made such a statement. Mr. Jas Porter, however,—I do not know who he is, but he is evidently a very intelligent man—said he believed that Mr. Sifton did make this statement, but did not condemn him for doing so because he thought the tariff was about nearly as perfect as it could be made. His opinion was—I commend this to the Minister of Finance—that the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) saw he had made a mistake, and that Mr. Sifton was sent out to declare the real policy of the party and that the party should stand by his declaration. Now, I want to know how these two kings of Brentford stand—whether the hon. Minister of Finance who declares that only the thin end of the wedge has been entered and that the Government are going to keep on reducing the tariff until some point is reached which he has not particularly indicated, is to prevail, or the hon. Minister of the Interior who declares that the present tariff is a finality. I go with the Minister of the Interior. I think that every man who has had an opportunity of studying this question will stand by the policy he has propounded, namely, that the tariff is settled and that that permanency of tariff, which my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) discussed at Montreal a year or two ago and declared to be most essential to attain, has been accomplished. It will be found that my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior is right and that my hon. friend the Minister of Finance, having found he had made a mistake, sent his colleague to proclaim to the world that he was all wrong. But what does one of the hon. gentleman's supporters sitting behind him say on this subject? These hon. gentlemen who are new in the House may suppose that I am drawing upon my imagination, but they will find that I can produce the evidence of hon. gentlemen opposite to prove that the matter is as I have stated it. What does the Winnipeg "Tribune" of March 9th of this year say upon this subject? It says:

There is something almost pathetic in the unconscious irony of Mr. Sifton's assertion that the present tariff is "one that their opponents, if they got the chance, would not change much." Certainly not. Why should the "opponents" change the tariff if they got the chance? It is very largely the tariff which was in force when these "opponents" ceased to have the chance.

Thus speaks the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson):

Does the reduction of one cent per gallon on coal oil, the reduction of 12½ cents duty on binder twine, the removal of the duty from barbed wire, and a preference on British goods to the extent of one-fourth of the scheduled duties, constitute the difference between the Tory protective tariff and "free trade as it is in Eng-

land"—the avowed fiscal goal of Sir Wilfrid Laurier?

I do not require to dilate more on this point to show that whatever has been the policy of the present Government with regard to this matter, they owe that policy to the Liberal-Conservative party, and it is by following out the policy of that party that they are able to boast, as they do, of the happy position Canada has attained. That policy, whether discussed by the Minister of the Interior or by the hon. member for Lisgar is one, I am satisfied, the maintenance of which the people of Canada will demand in all its integrity, so as to give to Canadian industries that advantage to which they are entitled.

But what have these changes in that policy which the editor of the "Tribune" pointed out done for Canada? What has the taking off the duty on binder twine done for us? It has closed down the binder twine industry and nearly doubled the cost. What has the reduction in duty on barbed wire done except to destroy the Canadian industry and substitute for it the American? What has the reduction of one cent per gallon on coal oil accomplished? It has led to the transfer of a great and important national industry of Canada into the hands of an American combine and trust that wants to render extinct everything in the shape of a coal oil industry in Canada.

I want to give to my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), who no doubt is quite sincere in thinking that it is his policy that makes the sun rise in the east and set in the west, a little evidence that Canada was just emerging into the sunshine of renewed trade and vigour when he assumed office. It is an old saying that it is better to be lucky than rich, and certainly hon. gentlemen opposite may plume themselves on being exceptionally lucky. They came into power at a time when we were just passing out of a condition of depression into a condition of unwonted prosperity, and I shall give the evidence. I find in the report just published for the year 1898 by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company the statement:

A much larger amount of grain from the North-western crops remains to be removed than ever before at this time of the year, and this, together with the most satisfactory agricultural and industrial conditions now prevailing in Canada, which are due in a great measure—

To the accession to office of the Liberal Government? Not at all.

—to good crops and good prices, and to successful mining, gives promise to a large spring and summer traffic.

If any person be so partisan as to be able to shut his eyes to the fact that we were not only just emerging from a condition of great depression into one of prosperity—that in Canada, in Europe, in England, Australasia and the United States, every-

where this was evident—but that we had besides the good fortune to have exceptionally good crops and instead of the farmer being compelled to take a poorer price for his produce the price was doubled, so that he was practically made rich and the whole country benefited. I give to him these facts, which we cannot suppose the people are ignorant of, nor the fact that the great mineral discoveries in Nova Scotia, Lake of the Woods district, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Yukon—these enormous gold discoveries poured millions of capital into our country within the past two years. When I heard the eulogium pronounced by the mover of the Address upon British Columbia, my mind was carried back to the time when, standing on the other side of the House, as Minister of Railways, I was fighting to carry the contract for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway that would give us communication from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and I was opposed by a very able and distinguished gentleman, standing where I now stand—Mr. Blake—who demanded: What object is there in saddling this country with an enormous expense for the purpose of making a railway to British Columbia, which is only a sea of mountains? It was a sea of mountains; but it turns out that that sea of mountains, as the hon. mover of this motion has declared, bids fair not only to rival, but to surpass, many of the most important provinces in this Dominion by reason of the splendid mineral wealth which is now being developed there.

But, Sir, I give the right hon. gentleman another evidence, if anything more be wanted. In 1892, the gross earnings of the Canadian Pacific Railway were almost \$21,500,000, and in 1894 they had dropped to about \$18,750,000. Was that drop due to legislation or to any action of the Government? The right hon. gentleman knows that these things had nothing whatever to do with it. He knows that it was a question of crops, a question of commercial depression in 1894, and that, whoever had been in power in that year, the result would have been the same. In 1895 the gross revenue of that road was \$18,941,036, and the net revenue about \$7,480,950. In 1896, before the right hon. gentleman's policy could have had any effect, the gross revenue rose to \$20,681,596, and the net revenue to \$8,107,581. In 1897, with the good crops and the greater mining development and the increased capital brought into the country, in fact, with the wave of prosperity that was passing over this country, as it passed over the neighbouring republic, the gross receipts went up to \$24,049,334, and the net revenue to about \$10,303,775. In 1898 there was a further increase to \$26,138,977 in the gross revenue, and \$10,475,371. I am sure the right hon. gentleman will not claim that he put all this money into the pockets of the shareholders of the Canadian Pacific Railway. If he does not,

then I say to him that the statement he ventured to make—it was in an after-dinner speech, and, no doubt, some allowance must be made, particularly as the enthusiasm of his followers had, perhaps, carried him away a little—that this was due to his policy, is not well founded.

I turn to another evidence, which, I think, the right hon. gentleman will admit is conclusive on this point. Let me read from the report of Mr. Gage, the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States :

The foreign commerce of the fiscal year 1898 in many respects has been phenomenal. The exportation of the products of both field and factory exceeded in value those of any preceding year, and the grand total of exports was the largest ever recorded. For the first time in the history of our foreign commerce the year's exportation averaged more than \$100,000,000 a month, the total being \$1,231,482,330, against \$1,050,993,556 in 1897, and \$1,030,278,148 in 1892, no other year having reached the billion dollar line.

Was this due to the policy of the hon. gentleman? Is it to this Government that the United States owe this that they declare to be a phenomenal condition of progress and prosperity? No, Sir; it is due to those causes to which I have adverted: it is a question of crops—yes, and of prices. The crops may not have exceeded by so very much those of previous years, but when you come to send a hundred millions to Great Britain alone, as the United States did, and at double prices to the farmer that they have been able to obtain before, the hon. gentleman will see that the causes of the prosperity are entirely beyond anything that he has been able to do. But I am wrong, perhaps, in saying that the hon. gentlemen had nothing to do with this prosperity. They had, a little. They ran up the imports into Canada of the products of the United States some nineteen or twenty millions beyond what they had been before, and to that extent their policy may be fairly claimed to have contributed to the increase of the United States exports to which Secretary Gage refers.

Now, let me give my right hon. friend another evidence to show that this idea that it is in proportion to what you receive from a country that you send to that country, is an entire delusion. I have already shown that, while we were increasing by millions the exports of Canada's products to Great Britain, we were actually taking half a million dollars less from Great Britain than had been taken before. And what about the United States? Why, Sir, the United States took from the United Kingdom, in 1889, \$179,566,373 worth, and in 1898 only \$111,361,617, a decrease of \$68,204,758. Now, if there was anything in the hon. gentleman's theory, how could these figures arise? In 1889 the United States exported to the United Kingdom \$650,616,283 worth, and in 1893, having taken \$68,000,000 worth less

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from England than they did before, they exported \$981,134,110 to England, or an increase of \$331,517,827. That, I trust, will prevent my right hon. friend from on any occasion venturing again to claim that the question of how much the products of Canada may be sent to any country depends upon what is received from that country. Now, Sir, I approach the subject that was so fully and so very ably dealt with by the hon. gentleman who moved the Address, and that is the Anglo-American rapprochement, as it was termed. The question is one of the greatest possible gravity, there can be no doubt about that; and I think I may venture to claim at the hands of hon. gentlemen opposite that I fully appreciated that gravity in the course I felt it my duty to take in regard to that matter. I felt that if there was anything in the shape of gratitude in the heart of man, it was simply impossible that the United States of America could fail to recognize the deep obligation under which they stood to Great Britain. When all the leading powers of Europe approached Great Britain at the time of the Spanish war with a proposal to intervene on the ground that there was no sufficient cause for war between the United States and Spain, no intelligent person in this or any other country requires to be told that if England had adopted that policy, if she had joined the other powers of Europe in interfering between the United States and Spain, it was impossible that the arms of the former could have accomplished what they did, or that the results could have been what they were. There is no doubt that in the press and among public men in a great many quarters of the United States there was a warm and strong expression of gratitude for England's course in that matter. I confess that although I had had some reason to take a somewhat contrary view, from observations I had an opportunity of making, I was greatly impressed with the opportunity that was thus presented for a closer rapprochement between the members of the great English-speaking family. My right hon. friend will remember that I was obliged to treat a proposal of one of my friends behind me with a little discourtesy, advising him not to persist at this time in urging action on the part of this House that would be calculated to interfere in the slightest degree with what I looked upon as a very great and important movement.

An hon. MEMBER. And you were wrong.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It really looks as though I had been. But as I say, I felt that there never had been such an opportunity for Canada to obtain a fair and just settlement of the various questions in dispute that existed between the United States of America and our own country: and so strongly impressed was I with that

view. that when I came out from England and learned that a conference was about to take place between representatives of Great Britain, composed for the most part of members of the Canadian Government, along with another very able member of this House, I felt at once that I must alter the lines I had proposed to take, of carrying on a somewhat active agitation in the province of Quebec. My hon. friend the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), I know, regards with great contempt any effort in opposition to this Government that anybody can make in that province, which he assumes to be entirely his own special charge and care. But I must say that I do not place so low an estimate upon the intelligence of the people of that great province as to doubt that if they were properly informed of the position that this Government occupies in regard to many questions vitally affecting that province, at all events, the relative proportions of hon. gentlemen sitting on the two sides of this House might be very materially changed. That is my opinion, and in that view of the case I had promised to carry on a somewhat active agitation in that province during the past summer. But when I learned that this conference was about to assemble, I felt that I must reconsider the position, and whether hon. gentlemen opposite may attach any importance to it or not, I acted under a sense of what I believed to be a public duty in deciding that while that commission was sitting I must refrain from dealing, at all events, with questions which were under its consideration, and which I felt were more likely to be prejudiced than otherwise by such a public discussion of the position of the Government as otherwise I would have been called upon to undertake. Well, Sir, I met with some little opposition. Some of my friends said: But suppose they accomplish something, they may go to the country, and they may carry the country without our having an opportunity of putting our views before it at all. Well, I answered, I want you to understand that so long as I am entrusted with the responsibility of the leadership of the Liberal-Conservative party, my policy will be the traditional policy that has always governed the actions of that great party, namely, to put the country before party. I said that if I were quite sure the conference would result in accomplishing some great good for Canada, I should be quite willing to continue to sit on the Opposition benches, if that was necessary, in order that Canada might enjoy that advantage. But we have now reached the point where we have to look at this matter from a different standpoint. I feel that everything that we could possibly do has been done by hon. gentlemen opposite, led by that great and distinguished nobleman whose death we all so sincerely deplore. I may say here that in my judgment Her Ma-

esty's Government could have made no happier appointment to the position of leader of the British delegation than that of the late lamented Lord Herschell. I have had the pleasure of a long and somewhat intimate acquaintance with that right hon. gentleman. We were both members of the Royal Commission appointed by the Queen for the purpose of organizing the Imperial Institute, and after the Imperial Institute was organized, Lord Herschell discharged the very important duties of chairman of the executive council, of which I was a member; so that during a number of years I had an opportunity of seeing a great deal of that distinguished man. I need not say to this House that he was not only one of the ablest lawyers, but one of the most able peers that sat in the House of Lords in England; and his appointment by a Government to which he was opposed was the best evidence of how far the British Government are disposed to go in considering the fitness of persons for the discharge of the particular duties which devolve upon them. I felt that it was a great advantage to Canada to have on the commission a gentleman so distinguished as Lord Herschell; and I may say that during my acquaintance with him, and in the opportunities I had of seeing him preside over large bodies of men, nothing struck me more forcibly than the wonderful tact that he always displayed in discharging those duties. I may add that on several occasions it became my duty to approach His Lordship in his position as Lord Chancellor, in regard to several matters, notably two important matters, one connected with the representation of Canada on the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and another relating to the admission of colonial government securities for investment in trust funds; and on every occasion I found Lord Herschell not only extremely able and extremely courteous, but disposed to do everything he possibly could to promote the interests of the colonies. I feel it right that, under these circumstances, I should utter my humble tribute to the memory of that great man, and express my deep regret and appreciation of the loss which both the Empire and Canada have sustained by his untimely death.

Now, Sir, the mover of the Address has told us that for six months we have waited patiently for the result of the International Commission, but I am afraid I will have to qualify that word, for I believe that I am expressing the opinion of gentlemen on both sides of the House, as well as the sentiments of the overwhelming majority of the people of Canada when I say, that we have waited the result of that conference with deep impatience. So far as we can judge, from the statement in the press, which is the only means of communication on the matter open to us, for six long months the people of Canada have been placed in the most unfortunate

position of being humble suppliants at the feet of the people of the United States. Our representatives requesting as a favour that which we ought to demand as a right. And, Sir, demanding our right, we had the right to receive a prompt and considerate answer from the United States. I do not believe, Sir, that the interests of Great Britain and of the United States are ever likely to resume their former conditions; not, that having experience of the past six months we have anything to hope for or anything to expect in the nature of frank and generous treatment from the United States, but I believe that now that the people of the United States have made such a new departure in their system of government, that the interests of Great Britain and of the United States will very often run on parallel lines, and will draw those two countries together in a manner that probably no other circumstance could have done. But I must say, so far as I am concerned, that notwithstanding the course which Great Britain has pursued in a most eventful period of the career of that great republic, I entirely despair of their being influenced by that to give any more favourable consideration to the people of Canada than they have given in the past.

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

### After Recess.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, I regret the absence of the Prime Minister.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). The Prime Minister will be here in a moment, I have sent for him.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I regret his absence, because I have now reached a part of my remarks that make it very desirable that he should be present. I have referred to the failure of the negotiations and the fact that at the end of six months waiting impatiently for the result, we learned that an adjournment of the commission had taken place until the 2nd day of August next. I cannot but express my deep regret that there should have been such an adjournment. I think it was due to Canada, and I think it was due to the great interests with which the representatives of Canada on that occasion were charged by Her Majesty, that they should have declined to make any adjournment. Of course we are bound to accept the official statement made by the head of the commission representing the United States, and by the Prime Minister of Canada for Lord Herschell who was unfortunately prevented by illness from being present; but when the reasons were disclosed, when the position was stated to the country, as it was officially stated in that state paper authorized by Mr. Fairbanks on the one side and Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the other, I could not but feel that a serious mistake had been

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made on the part of the representatives of the Crown. In view of the fact that the United States of America adopted a course which the hon. the mover of the Address has to-day on the floor of Parliament, as the mouthpiece of the Executive of this country, stated, was a dishonourable course, a course not justified by the comity of nations; it is my opinion that the interests of Canada required, not that there should be an adjournment until the 2nd day of August, but that there should be a suspension of these negotiations. I regret that any such course became necessary, but when a great country like the United States of America took a position which demands from the mover of the Address the terms "dishonourable conduct," I cannot but say, that I regret very much that there should have been any question of an adjournment. I do not myself believe that there is any intention on the part of the representatives of Her Majesty; I do not believe that there is any intention to meet on the 2nd day of August. I do not believe that there is any expectation on the part of these hon. gentlemen that they will meet on the 2nd day of August next. Why should they? The statement is made—I do not know on what authority—by the hon. member for East Prince (Mr. Bell), that an arrangement was all but reached in regard to a number of questions touching the interests of Canada, but that the representatives of Canada took the ground that there should be no arrangement made of any kind on any of these questions unless they were all arranged. I do not hesitate to express the opinion that if the representatives of Canada took such a ground, it was most unfortunate. I do not see why it was necessary to take the position that every question must be settled. Suppose that a few questions interesting to Canada could be disposed of as was intimated, why should they not be disposed of without reference to any question on which it was not possible to come to a conclusion?

Now, Sir, my right hon. friend the leader of the Government will correct me, if I am wrong in saying that I understand the terms of that adjournment to be, that the commission will meet on the second day of August, provided that in the meantime, by diplomatic intercourse, the Governments of Great Britain and of the United States solve this question of the boundary of Alaska. I assume, from the terms in which the statement is made, that the adjournment is for the very purpose of enabling the respective governments to deal diplomatically with that subject; and I assume that it is not the intention to meet, if that question remains in the position that the United States practically say: Gentlemen, we do not intend to settle this question—for they might just as well say so in so many words, as to use the terms that they have used. What do they say? They say: We will not have any arbitration at all on the question of the boundary of Alaska, unless you agree, be-

fore we go into that question, that, provided the arbitrators decide that if we are in possession of Canadian territory, we shall not be required to give it up, but continue to hold it. That is point the first. Point the second is : We do not intend that there shall be any settlement of this Alaskan boundary question at all. Why, Sir, no person ever made so monstrous a proposition as that there should be an equal number on each side, and no umpire, to decide a question of that kind. The question of an international boundary is a question that is perfectly understood in the comity of nations. It is a question that depends on the construction of the treaty under which that boundary is fixed ; and when two governments are unable to agree as to the significance of the terms of that treaty in such a way as to settle the boundary, then, according to all practice, such a question should be solved by a reference to an international tribunal, by calling in experts and by calling in an umpire of an international character to decide what shall be done. Why, Sir, what was done in the case of the north-western boundary of the United States ? Suppose that England, instead of doing what every nation does under such circumstances, had said : We will not have any arbitration ; we will not refer to any third party or to any international tribunal the question as to whether the Island of San Juan is in British or in American territory ; it is in our possession to-day ; we are occupying it, as we have done for many years, and we require, before going into any arbitration, that if the tribunal decides that that island is in United States territory, we shall not be obliged to abandon it, but will continue to hold it. Every person knows that so monstrous a proposition would have been rejected with scorn by the United States of America. That question was referred to an international tribunal, and that tribunal decided that the Island of San Juan was in American territory ; and although England was in possession of that island then, and had been for many years, it was handed over to the United States, and the channel on the Canadian side of the island was made the boundary line. Now, Sir, if the statement be true that has been given to us to-day by the mover of the Address—and we have no reason to doubt its truth—that the representatives of the Government of Canada determined that there should be no settlement of any question without that boundary question being settled, what position will you be in on the second day of August to meet at Quebec, unless in the meantime that question is settled by a diplomatic arrangement between the two countries ? I hold, therefore, that in the interests of Canada, and upon every principle of international law by which such questions are governed, it was the duty of the representatives of the Crown to take the stand there and then that there would be no further negotiations upon those questions, if

that question was not disposed of before the tribunal met ; and I assume that will be the case. Now, Sir, what has been done ? We have had six months' long negotiations, we have had the American press and the Canadian press teeming with what was being done, first at Quebec, and subsequently at Washington. Where are we now ? Why, Sir, everybody knows that there became a burning desire on the part of the people of Canada that those negotiations should be brought to a termination, and that the representatives of Canada should return to their own country ; that if it was found impossible to induce the United States to agree to a fair and just solution of these various questions, the matter should be terminated, and Canada should be left in a position to take such measures as, I do not hesitate to say, are absolutely essential to command that respect on the part of that great republic that lies at the very foundation of securing any just consideration for any Canadian question. We have tried the sunny ways, we have tried the plausible means of accomplishing these objects, too long, and we have tried them with such a thoroughly bootless result that the patience of the people of Canada is exhausted, and they say : Let us now—not retaliate ; no person talks of retaliation. No person raises the question of retaliation for a single moment ; but we say the time has come when it is absolutely due to Canadian interests that the world should know that we are not in the humiliating and dependent position of being obliged to crave as suppliants at the feet of the United States of America any consideration whatever. We say that Canada has attained that position, and she enjoys that position to-day. Consider her attitude in whatever light and from whatever standpoint you may, we say that Canada occupies a position in which she asks no favour from the United States of America or from any other foreign country. Canada is so magnificently endowed by nature with such rich and inexhaustible resources of every kind and character as to make it unnecessary for her ; and if it was necessary, no policy is more fatal to attain the object in view than to present ourselves in the position of suppliants. Now, Sir, those deliberations, in my judgment, should have been closed the moment the United States took so unreasonable a position as they did, according to the official report given out by the Hon. Senator Fairbanks and the Prime Minister of Canada, acting as the head of the commission. I say, the moment that point was reached, those negotiations should have been closed, and the representatives of Canada should have returned to their seats in this House of Commons of our country, in a position to take up those questions and deal with them, not in a spirit of retaliation, but in a spirit of adopting just such legislation as the interests of Canada demanded at their hands. A great deal of difficulty that has grown

out of this question has been the disastrous result of the policy pursued by the right hon. gentleman who leads this Government. I must say, and I say it with regret, that in my judgment, from the hour the Government was formed in 1896 until they went down to this international conference or meeting in Quebec two years later, if their sole object had been to render it impossible for Canada to obtain any fair and just and reasonable arrangements with the United States, they left nothing undone during these two long years, that could ensure the accomplishment of that result. That is a very strong statement, but I will show the House, as briefly as I can, the ground on which I base it. What was their first step? The first unfortunate step taken by the right hon. First Minister was the last which any man acquainted with diplomacy, or who had any knowledge of the subject of diplomatic arrangements, would have taken. That step was to unbosom himself to a Chicago reporter. In that interview he took the last ground which any man charged with the duty of leading the Government of Canada ought to take. He said that he and his associates were the only men in Canada who were friendly to the United States of America, the only men from whom the United States could expect to receive such treatment as would be satisfactory to them. Was that calculated to strengthen the hands of the right hon. gentleman? Just the reverse. His statement was not true. I do not intend for a moment to say that the hon. gentleman wilfully misstated the facts, but that his recollection entirely failed him. His recollection of the history of Canada, his knowledge of the Conservative party in Canada, entirely failed him when he made the untrue statement to a Chicago reporter that the Liberal-Conservative party in Canada was hostile to the United States of America.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think it is going rather too far to state that any hon. member of this House has made an untrue statement. There are a great many other ways by which the hon. gentleman can express his appreciation of what the right hon. gentleman said.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I do not intend for a single moment to insinuate that the right hon. Prime Minister made a deliberately false statement. I draw the distinction between that and an untrue statement. Any statement is untrue which is contradicted by the facts. I have made a great many statements to-night which hon. gentlemen opposite will challenge as untrue because they differ from me on questions of fact. But I do not at all wish to be implied that I am charging the right hon. gentleman with deliberately misstating any facts. I want that to be clearly understood. I would not use the word if I thought it were of a personally offensive character, but I am

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bound to say that, whether untrue or not, the statement of the right hon. gentleman is disproved by the whole history of Canada from the first hour of confederation down to the present. There never was a party in this House or country that recognized more than did the Liberal-Conservative party the great importance of having the most friendly relations, both socially and commercially, with the United States of America. I hold that as a cardinal principle, and I say that the Conservative party have acted upon that principle from the first hour of confederation down to the present, and shall prove directly, out of my right hon. friend's own mouth, that he was mistaken in bringing that charge against us. What are the facts? Every one remembers that in 1871, the Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald was sent to Washington, as a joint High Commissioner, to negotiate a treaty between Great Britain and the United States. What happened? He did negotiate a treaty. There is not a gentleman on the other side who will contradict me when I say that there never was so critical an hour in the relations between Great Britain and the United States. Every one knows that the seizures made by the "Alabama" during the civil war in the United States excited the most intensely bitter feeling on the part of the United States towards Great Britain—a feeling not confined to one, but shared by all parties. At that critical hour, the Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald was sent down to Washington, as one of a High Commission, to negotiate a treaty for the settlement of that "Alabama" question and certain other questions that were in controversy between the United States and Canada at that time. Well, Mr. Speaker, a treaty was negotiated and signed, and its adoption was moved on the floor of this House. I shall have occasion directly to draw the attention of the House to the attitude taken by the Conservatives on the one side and the Liberals on the other, as to what should be done with regard to that important treaty, but first let me refer to the remarks made by the Right Hon. First Minister to the Chicago reporter. He said:

The Liberal Government, which has just taken office, desires and intends to signalize its administration by a renewal—

A renewal, mark you, Mr. Speaker—

—of the neighbourly relations with our friends across the border. As you have suggested, the relations between Canada and the United States have not been as cordial for some time past as I hope they will be in the future. Some years ago, when considerable friction had been created by the North Atlantic fishery troubles, I took an opportunity to say that the question should be adjusted in a friendly manner, becoming an enlightened and friendly people, by the simple process of give and take, and I do not see now why an arrangement should not be made resembling that effected by the Treaty of Washington in 1871 and the treaty of 1854, whereby not only the ports but the inshore waters of both countries were thrown open to the fish-

ermen of both on equal terms, and the markets for the fish of the two countries made equally free.

I may just in passing refer to that unfortunate mistake of my right hon. friend in supposing that the treaty of 1871 contained any such provision. It was not a question of give and take. It was not a question of free markets for fish in return for free fishing, but a question of the fisheries of the two countries being mutually enjoyed by the fishermen of both and of an international tribunal ascertaining how much should be paid by the one country to the other—which entirely changed the whole complexion of that arrangement. That international tribunal met at Halifax, and by its award the United States were compelled to pay \$5,500,000 to Canada and Newfoundland for the use of their fisheries, over and above the value of their own, and the admission of our fish free during twelve years, or something like \$500,000 a year. Therefore the position taken by my hon. friend was entirely a mistaken one, and one that, I do not hesitate to say, met him at the threshold of this commission. When he had ascertained the true position and was asked by the United States: Do you adhere to your proposal which you stated to a Chicago reporter you were prepared to make, namely, a proposal of give and take, and give up your inshore fisheries in return for free admission of fish in the markets of the United States, my right hon. friend was obliged to say no.

You have to pay \$5,500,000 for the use of our fisheries, over and above the advantage of the free import of our fish into your country, and I cannot agree to anything of the kind—and that closed that question. And I am as satisfied that that took place as if I had heard the conversation between the right hon. gentleman and his colleagues. Well, Sir, that treaty was submitted, and I now come to the evidence upon which I stated, that while the great Liberal-Conservative party have always been in favour of the most friendly, cordial, social and commercial relations with the United States, and have proved it again and again, hon. gentlemen opposite are the men who, on the floor of this House, denounced in unmeasured terms efforts that were calculated to bring about that harmonious settlement of the questions at issue. The Hon. Mr. Mackenzie, then the leader of the Opposition, in 1872, when the treaty was considered, said:

We believed, however, that there was a limit beyond which we ought not to go. He did not believe that national health, national glory and national pride were always to be purchased by making sacrifices to what is justly called the peace-at-any-price party. It was manifest that if we on this continent, hemmed in as we are by the people of the United States, whose political policy had been singularly aggressive—

That was the language, Sir, of these gentle-

men, who are so devoted in their friendship to the United States.

—yielded up to so-called peace every advantage we possessed within our territory, it would soon become a question of how far it would be possible to pursue that policy and retain any trace of national life and public spirit.

I wish that the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie was on the floor of this Parliament to-day to stand up and maintain, in the face of hon. gentlemen opposite the position he took on that occasion. For, although the treaty was one which should have received the approval of this House, there is not a word in that quotation that does not come home to every gentleman in this House as one that a self-respecting people would be expected to support. Mr. Mackenzie again said:

He felt that on no consideration ought we to yield our honour at the shrine of mammon, that on no consideration ought we to have bartered away our heritage for this questionable equivalent of money.

I would like to ask the right hon. gentleman if he has not been engaged in these negotiations, the close consideration of what amount of money should be paid by the United States for bartering away one of the most sacred rights of British subjects? Enough has leaked out to let us know that it was a question whether one of our most important national assets, and one of the dearest rights a British subject can enjoy, the right of going about on the high seas, following a legitimate calling, should not be bartered away for money—putting a price, as the hon. Mr. Mackenzie said, upon one of the dearest rights of the people of this country. Now I wish to call attention to what the Hon. Mr. Blake said:

As to there being now a critical state of relations between the two countries, there would be the same then—the same hectoring, the same blustering, and bragging, if only for the purpose of retaining the fishing privileges.

I wonder if my right hon. friend and his associates have not been enduring of late a good deal of that hectoring, of that blustering and bragging which Mr. Blake describes here as the mode in which the statesmen of that great republic are apt to press their claims. Mr. Young, who was then a leading member of this House, and a member of the Opposition, representing an Ontario constituency, said:

The whole thing was a shameful sacrifice of Canada's interest, and this was generally admitted, and the member for West Durham had fully proved it. This was no reason why the treaty should be ratified. He had seldom heard more paltry reasons than those urged by the Government in pressing the acceptance of the treaty. Where would these sacrifices end? They would never end so far as the United States were concerned and as long as Canada was on the map.

These are the sentiments of that party who have boasted again and again, and

have dinned into the ears of the Americans until some of them have been foolish enough to believe it, that the Liberal party were alone willing to make a fair and friendly settlement of the questions between the two countries. I say that this is not, in my judgment, the way to succeed in a diplomatic struggle, such as the hon. gentleman has been engaged in. Mr. Mills, the present Minister of Justice, said :

We should feel entirely satisfied that, before the treaty was ratified, we did not make a mistake, and that by one fell swoop we should not destroy the hopes and blast the prospects of this country.

And, holding up the treaty in his hand, he said :

Here was the hole through which America would get possession of this country.

Mr. FOSTER. Is that our Mills ?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Our Mills—the present Minister of Justice. And this was how he spoke of the Treaty of Washington of 1871, and there is not a man in Canada to-day but would hold up both hands to have it enacted or to have had it remain in perpetuity as a settlement of the questions between the United States and Canada. That measure was received by the Liberal party with denunciation, though they now arrogate to themselves the credit for bringing about a renewal of friendly relations. When was there a rupture, with the Conservative party in power, of the friendly relation between the United States and Canada ? Mr. Mills continued :

He had not much confidence, judging by several previous treaties, in the ability of British statesmen, and the Oregon territory dispute would prevent him placing much reliance in the moderation and justice of American statesmen.

So much for the evidence I give as to the statement made by the right hon. gentleman, that it was necessary to bring the Liberal party into power in order to get fair and reasonable arrangements made with this country. Does the right hon. gentleman think I have not answered completely his statement and shown that, if there has been a strong attitude of hostility ever taken on the floor of Parliament toward the United States, it was taken when the Conservative Government were making a fair, friendly and excellent arrangement with the United States, and that arrangement was being denounced as a base surrender of the rights and interests of the people of Canada ?

Well, Sir, what happened then ? Why, Sir, we have the right hon. gentleman himself, notwithstanding all these fierce denunciations of the United States by his Liberal friends, by the leaders whom he followed, no sooner clothed with power than he rushes into the arms of a Chicago reporter, and unbosoms himself of the statement, that what he wants to do to prove his affection to the United States is to adopt this very treaty

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that had been denounced in unmeasured terms by his friends and colleagues. But I will give the hon. gentleman's own words to prove what he said. I won't say, after the gentle hint that the Speaker has been good enough to give me, that it was untrue, but perhaps he will allow me to say it was inaccurate—I will prove from the mouth of the right hon. gentleman himself that his statement was inaccurate. On July 1st, 1897, at a dinner given in London, the right hon. gentleman says :

I am sorry to say that there are still too many causes of friction remaining between Great Britain and the United States. When I say that the people and the Government of England were not blameless—

He was referring to the civil war, and on that I altogether differ with him.

—yet for all the troubles—

Mark this. This is the language of the same gentleman who says now that the Liberal party are the only party to whom the United States can look for fair and friendly arrangements. He says :

—yet for all the troubles which have arisen since the civil war, the blame, in my estimation, rests not with England, but with the United States.

There I am giving the very best evidence of the inaccuracy of the statement made by the right hon. gentleman. But there is another question. I am asked by the organ of the Liberal party if there are not two Tupper's. They are good enough to remind me of the statements which I made in this House when I was asking this House to accept the treaty of 1888, negotiated at Washington. Now, what was that treaty ? That was not a treaty in which we were at the feet of the United States asking for arrangements. That treaty grew out of a proposal made by Mr. Bayard, then Secretary of State for the United States, to myself, proposing that we should meet and discuss the question as to whether the Atlantic fisheries difficulty could not be disposed of. At that time, as the House knows, the relations between the United States of America and of Canada were in as serious and unpleasant a position as it was possible to imagine. Congress had passed a unanimous resolution, and the President had ratified it, authorizing a declaration of non-intercourse with Canada ; and there was not a paper on the Republican or the Democratic side of politics in the whole of the United States, so far as I am aware, that was not denouncing Canada from day to day for the most inhuman and unfriendly treatment of the fishermen of the United States. There was, however, no foundation for those denunciations, because the Government of the United States had itself abrogated the treaty of 1871, and we were then thrown back upon the treaty of 1818, which was then brought into operation, and

which had been suspended by the later treaty. In justice to Canadian rights we were compelled to seize their fishermen if they came into our waters and trespassed upon our fishing grounds. Well, at that time, as I say, the relations between the two countries were of the most unpleasant character, and Her Majesty's Government appointed three plenipotentiaries, of whom I had the honour to be one. The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain was the leader of Her Majesty's representatives. We went to Washington, and after some two months of negotiations we succeeded in making a treaty, a treaty so favourable that the Parliament of Canada—although at the first blush hon. gentlemen opposite denounced it as very wrong and improper, as they always do anything that comes from the Conservative party—the House of Commons unanimously adopted it. That treaty was sent down by Mr. Cleveland to the Senate of the United States, with the declaration that it was a fair, honourable and just statement of the whole question, and he urged the Senate to adopt it. That treaty may be studied by any hon. gentleman in this House, and he will find that every single contention on the part of Canada as to our rights under the treaty of 1818, is conceded in it; and I will give better evidence, directly, than that as to its value. As we had great reason to doubt whether it would receive a two-thirds vote of the Senate, we followed that up by a *modus vivendi*, to go into operation pending the ratification of the treaty, or until by proclamation it was cancelled. That *modus vivendi* is in operation to-day; that *modus vivendi* is one that both President Cleveland had sanctioned, and that Mr. Harrison, who succeeded him as the Republican President, also declared in his inaugural address had caused all the friction to cease between the two nations. I did not hesitate to urge the adoption of that treaty upon the House of Commons, and was fortunate enough to obtain the unanimous sanction of this House to that treaty. But I say more. I put it to my right hon. friend again—he will perhaps say he is not in a position to answer me—but I say that I believe that he offered substantially the re-enactment of that treaty to the United States of America on the present occasion as a settlement of the Atlantic fisheries question. I have reasons for making this statement, because, as hon. gentlemen are aware, despite all efforts to maintain secrecy, a great deal will leak out, and it is impossible to prevent the press and certain parties from getting a good deal of this information.

Now, I come to the next step taken. My right hon. friend sent down to Washington the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and the Minister of Trade and Commerce, to see if they could induce the United States to consider a reciprocal trade arrangement. Well, how did they come back? They

came back with the Dingley tariff, largely increasing the duties upon lumber, after the late Government had gone out of office, and with a more stringent alien labour law than existed before. I am not surprised that these gentlemen came back intensely disgusted with the reception they met with. Then, what was the next step in this drama? We then had the Minister of Finance coming to the front, and with a great shout of loyalty that was to echo and re-echo throughout the whole British Empire, he declared to this House, and to the people of Canada, that the Government of Canada had made up their minds, as the United States had given them the cold shoulder, and were not disposed to entertain any of their proposals—they had made up their minds to adopt the policy of giving a preference to British trade in their tariff. I won't go into all the history of that tariff, because it is too well known to require repetition. But we all know the very unfortunate blunders that the Minister of Finance and all his colleagues fell into on that occasion. Now, Sir, one of the very first elements of success in diplomacy is that the men who are negotiating with you should have some respect for you, that the people with whom you are called upon to negotiate these matters should believe that you know something of the subjects upon which you are talking. Well, when they found that the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister of Canada held up—and I explained before dinner that these gentlemen owed the National Policy to us, owed all the prosperity and progress that has taken place in Canada under their regime, to us who preceded them, more than that, I say they owe this loyalty cry to us, where would they have been if they could have carried out their policy of 1891? Would they have been in a position to pose as men determined to build up the British Empire if the Liberal-Conservative party of Canada had not been able to beat down their disloyal—I do not say intentionally disloyal—but I say their disloyal effort to break down British institutions in this country? What was that policy which the Liberal-Conservatives of Canada defeated at the polls? It was to adopt the tariff of the United States for Canada against the rest of the world, Britain included; it was that Canada should turn her back on England and discriminate against Great Britain. And when the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) was asked: Suppose this involves discrimination against England, his answer was: We cannot help that, we are determined to have unrestricted reciprocity and free trade on this continent of North America, let England say or do what she likes. Sir, I stand here to-night to say that this loyalty cry of the Liberals which has stood them in good stead, and which has covered their breasts with decorations, was only available to them because we

defeated their attempt to undermine British institutions on this continent. Have we not good evidence on this point? Look at the London "Times," the day after the general election of 1891, in which the Hon. Edward Blake puts on record for all time the declaration: That he had to leave their ranks because he would not fight under false colours, and because their policy was one that would lead to the commercial subjugation of Canada to the United States, which would involve ultimately the loss of British institutions.

When this tariff of the Liberal Government was brought down, the right hon. the Prime Minister was told from this side of the House, that he would not accomplish what he aimed at, that there were two treaties in the way fatal to his policy, and that there were several countries that under his resolution were entitled to the privilege given: when he was told that, he held up his right hand and I can see him standing there in all the majesty of his position and power declaring to this House and to the world: that he and his Government had studied this whole question and they had come to the conclusion that there was only one country in the world that could enjoy the advantages which the resolution offered. I need not detain the House longer than to say that he and his Government soon found they were wrong in that from top to bottom and that they had been trying their prentice hand upon a subject which they did not understand. At last down in Sheffield, at the great annual dinner there, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) had the manliness to say, and I give him credit for it: We have no preferential tariff, but we intend to have one next year. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) maintained that this first resolution of 1896 was open to all the world, and to a large extent he was right, but what about the resolution of 1897? Why, this Government that claims to be the friends of the United States of America, and to consider above and beyond all the importance of meeting the wishes of that country; this Government absolutely put upon the Statute-book a discrimination in favour of Great Britain of 25 per cent. Well, it was a sham preference. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) with that wonderful ingenuity of his—I do not like to call it by a harsher term—managed, before he took off the 12½ per cent to put that or a little more on, so that when he gave his 25 per cent reduction it was more like 12½ than 25, as he himself knows. I have shown already that this was comparatively worthless to England. It has no doubt embarrassed a few industries in this country, but so far as the trade of Great Britain is concerned, at the end of six months under this professed discrimination in favour of England, the trade returns show that Great Britain sent absolutely one per cent more of their products to Canada under this magnificent boon which was sup-

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posed to have been conferred upon them, than they sent before. I cannot imagine gentlemen, who had any idea of approaching the United States of America for a reciprocity treaty, stultifying themselves more completely than they did in this matter, even if they had been offered a premium for doing so. What they did in this respect was bad enough in all conscience, but they did worse. While filling the country with this great shout of loyalty to the mother land (to whom we owe so much and were so anxious to pay a portion of our debt) they turned round and gave to the United States of America everything they had to give and without any quid pro quo whatever. We on this side of the House told them in 1897: Your tariff is a delusion; you are pretending to make a British tariff while you are making a pro-American tariff, and, Sir, the result has been that at the end of the first year of this tariff, there were \$500,000 less imports into Canada from England, but \$20,000,000 more imports to Canada from the United States. What did the ablest man—I do not hesitate to say it although he is not in the House—that represented Canada on this Commission, Mr. John Charlton, the hon. member for North Norfolk—what did he say? Did any person ever hear before of a body of gentlemen engaged in an important diplomatic negotiation, sending one of their friends out on the stump in Washington and in Chicago, to lecture the people of the United States of America in reference to the subjects that were under consideration of the conference. It may be a new mode of diplomacy, but it is not likely to be a successful one. When they proposed in this House to make corn free, did not the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) tell them: If you contemplate any negotiations with the United States of America, you had better reserve something so as to give you a basis for negotiating. But the policy that prevailed on that occasion and that over-rode the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) and the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) was the policy of the right hon. gentleman who leads the House, who, when formulating that magnificent policy that was to startle the whole of British North America when it came to light, said ("Hansard," 1893):

The great trouble we have always had in our dealings with the American Republic has been simply this, that the Canadian Government has never been generous in their treatment of American citizens and the American Republic. If we have favours to give, if we have concessions to make, we should give them: and make them gracefully.

Well, Sir, he has tried that, and where does he find himself? He lowered the duties on iron, on wheat and on flour; he made corn free, and he increased the products sent from the United States into Canada by over \$20,000,000 per annum. That was carrying out his mode, and what did he get by it? Why, Sir, when he went down to

negotiate these trade arrangements at Quebec, his hands were empty. He had given away everything he could give, and he got nothing for it. He has not got thanks or recognition or anything that is valuable to a public man; and he has only succeeded in bringing his country into contempt. I say it advisedly: I say, the feeling throughout the whole of this country is that the position of Canada would be infinitely higher, stronger and better to-day, if that commission had never been heard of. We have been suing and imploring on the platform and in the closet and everywhere; we have been begging favours from the United States of America, when there is not a country on the face of the globe that is in a better position than this Dominion of Canada to present a bold front and to say that we are in a position of independence that will enable us to deal fairly and justly between man and man, but that we ask no favour and no affection from any person whatever. Well, Sir, my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) no doubt, was confronted with this little statement when he went down to engage in these negotiations. The hon. gentleman visited London in 1897, on which occasion he delivered himself of an address before a section of the London Chamber of Commerce; and what did he say? He said:

In 1895, the last year he had access to the tables, Great Britain took \$60,000,000 of Canada's products, while the United States took only \$40,000,000; Canada took from the United States \$60,000,000 of her products, and only \$30,000,000 from the mother country. When the Liberal party came into power in Canada, they thought something should be done to reverse that state of affairs. If it had been brought about by natural causes, those causes might well have been left to work out their own result; but when they saw that it had been produced by artificial means, they determined that all the obstacles in the way of the development of trade between Canada and the mother country should be removed.

Now, Sir, what did the hon. gentleman mean by that statement? He meant this—and it means nothing else—that the Conservative party in this country had been discriminating against the mother country and by unnatural means forcing the trade into United States channels. That is what it meant, and it meant nothing else. And now, Sir, we have the declaration that, when this hon. gentleman went to negotiate a reciprocal trade arrangement with the United States, they said: We thought you were altogether opposed to having any trade with the United States. Are you the same gentleman who held up to execration the late Government for having by unnatural means increased the trade of Canada with this country? If these are your views, what do you mean now? Do you mean to say that you do not intend to carry out the solemn pledge you gave on the platform in the city of London to the English people and the

English merchants, that you and your Government intended to change all that, and to see that Canada would not take more from the United States than from England, and give less? Now, Sir, what is the result? Why, Sir, instead of the hon. gentleman having accomplished that by this sham preference given to England, but a real preference to the United States, he brought about that discrimination in favour of the United States and against England that he had denounced, and here it is. In 1895 the imports from the United States were \$54,634,000; in 1898, under the policy of my hon. friend, the imports rose to no less than \$78,000,000, or \$23,360,000 more than had been brought from the United States under the tariff that he denounced, and that he pledged himself to the English people to remedy. What would such astute men as Senator Fairbanks and the late Mr. Dingley—whose death we very much deplore—think when they were asked to negotiate a reciprocity treaty with gentlemen who had shown, either that they did not know what they were talking about, that they did not understand the subject with which they were undertaking to deal, or that they were most unfriendly towards the United States of America and determined to have as little to do with them as possible? While our imports from the United States exceeded our imports from Great Britain by \$20,000,000 in 1895, our imports from the United States exceeded our imports from Great Britain by \$46,000,000 in 1898. The free list given by the tariff of the hon. gentlemen now sitting on the Treasury benches was 72½ per cent of the total free list given to the world, and the free list enjoyed by Great Britain was only 17 1-7 per cent. Was that brought about by natural causes? The hon. gentleman said this disparity in the figures was not the result of natural causes, and he and his Government were going to see that all that was changed. They have changed it, and changed it with a vengeance; and what is the result of all this? The result is that these astute gentlemen with whom they were negotiating, found that they were dealing with men who did not understand the subject with which they were charged, or, if they did, they had placed themselves in a most unfortunate position; and when they went to ask the United States to make a commercial arrangement with a Government that had put on the Statute-book of the country a preference for England, what was their position? Why, Sir, they were met at once: Gentlemen, are you the same men who, in 1891, made those speeches in which you declared that all that Canada required to make it the most splendid country in the world, all that Canadians required to make them rich and prosperous from one end of the country to the other, was to get unrestricted reciprocity with us? If you are the same men, if you have not changed your principles, we are ready to negotiate with you; but if you

have turned your backs upon yourselves, and if, instead of wanting unrestricted reciprocity with the United States of America and discrimination against England, which in 1891 you declared you were ready to adopt, you want to give a preference to Great Britain, then you are not the same men, and we have been deluded. We gave you, in the last general elections, from one end of the United States to the other, all the support and influence we could give you, in our press and in every other way, to bring you into power; and now, having got power, the men who told us they were heart and soul in favour of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States and discrimination against England, have put on the Statute-book discrimination against the United States. Yes, you say, that is quite true; but see what we did for you last session. We made corn free; we reduced the duties on iron, wheat, flour and all these other articles. Well, they replied, no doubt you did that in your own interest. We presume you were in such a miserable position in Canada, so dependent on the United States, that your own interests forced you to do that, and we do not intend to pay you for what your own interests compelled you to do.

In 1898 Canada took from the United States \$36,000,000 of domestic manufactures, exceeding the importation of these manufactures in Great Britain by at least \$6,000,000.

From England, the mistress of the industrious world, we imported \$6,000,000 worth of manufactured goods less than from the United States—not raw material required for our manufactures, but the manufactured goods themselves.

On August 1st, Consul General Bittenger, of Montreal, a gentleman who, like most of the Consuls General of the United States, is thoroughly alive to the interests of his own country, sent this report to his Government, and I ask my right hon. friend to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest his report on the position into which they have reduced this country, notwithstanding all their professions. The Consul General reports to his Government at Washington that:

Comparing the trade of last year with that of 1893, the United States producers have a far better position in our market than ever, and the British producers occupy a place not nearly so favourable as that which they formerly held.

Is it any wonder that associated with gentlemen who, as I have shown—and I have followed them, step by step, from the hour they got into power down to the hour they went to Quebec—is it any wonder that associated with these gentlemen who, during these two years, did everything that a Government could do to make it impossible to get any intelligent American to listen to their proposals at all, after having given

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everything available away and having nothing left to give, that great man who led the British Commission should, at the end of six months, have been forced to give utterance to that unhappy wail, which found expression in almost his last words: "It is too bad; here we have spent six months and have got nothing but a broken leg." That is the position, and I repeat that had this Government been formed with the object of making it impossible for us to ever obtain any favourable trade arrangements with the United States, they could not have worked harder or more successfully to accomplish that result than they did in their two years of labour before they went to negotiate this treaty at Washington. Well, I had occasion, when this treaty ended in this deplorable fiasco—for every person cannot but regard that as the position to-day—when it was found that on a question of great importance to Canada, the question of the delimitation of the boundaries between the United States and the Canadian North-west and British Columbia, when it was found that the only terms upon which the Americans were willing to have an arbitration at all were absolutely insulting to any man of intelligence engaged in negotiating such a question, to state that in my judgment the adjournment to the 2nd of August was a mistake from every possible point of view. If the negotiations had then been terminated—as terminated they should have been—with the question of the boundary, which they had shown themselves utterly incapable of dealing with, left unsolved, we had Great Britain to look to, which is bound by every principle of justice and right to Canada, and Canada is in a position to demand that Great Britain shall put that question in a position in which it must be solved. Canada has the right, with the interests she has imperilled, with the obstructions to her trade and the difficulties presented, to insist on that question being solved as all great international questions have to be solved. The United States, however powerful, must be brought to recognize the fact that they are dealing with a country as great and powerful as they, and therefore that question must be submitted to a fair and honourable international arbitration, just as England has, in every instance, submitted the rights and interests she has at stake on this continent and everywhere else to the adjustment of international arbitration. If they were not ready to do that, our Government should have said to them, then we shall adjourn this commission.

But the right hon. gentleman thought that he would have the advantage, and I do not envy him at all. He thought he would have the advantage of saying, when coming to the Parliament of this country, I am very sorry, but I am unable to disclose anything that has taken place, because these negotiations are not terminated. I

say that, in justice to Canada, he was bound to terminate the negotiations. When he found he was dealing with parties who were utterly impracticable, he was bound to take the stand of asking the mother country to deal with this question of international law, and have it settled as all such questions are bound to be settled, and he should then have come to the Parliament of Canada and said: All my sunny ways have failed; I hoped that I would have had to deal with a generous and magnanimous people who, when they found I was ready to give all that I had at their bidding, would make some slight return, but we have failed in obtaining an adjustment of any of these questions, and I must be in a position to legislate for Canadians, as they have a right to expect they should be legislated for.

The New York "Times" does not quite accept the version given by my right hon. friend and Mr. Fairbanks. The New York "Times," as quoted in the "Globe" on the 25th February, says that the Alaska boundary is not the real point of contention, but the McKinleyism of the American Commission, and I do not think that my right hon. friend would like very much to contradict that statement. The New York "Times" says:

The lumber duties, the coal duties and the arrangements for reciprocal trade are known to be subjects upon which the two commissions disagreed, and so far as the public is informed, their differences have never been adjusted.

My right hon. friend's colleague, the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) wrote on the 3rd of January a letter to a friend of his in Winnipeg, a member of the Corn Exchange, a letter which is published in the newspapers:

We, ourselves, at the present moment are in a state of uncertainty as to what the ultimate outcome will be.

And, no doubt, that was the position of matters when it was found that the Alaska boundary was about the best question they had to agree to disagree upon.

Having said so much, I feel it my duty to the right hon. gentleman and to the House to state frankly, for the benefit of hon. gentlemen opposite, the policy that we would propose, the policy that we would be prepared to sustain hon. gentlemen opposite in adopting, and the policy which, if they do not adopt it, we shall feel it our duty to press upon the people as the best calculated to advance the interests of the country. The cardinal principle of that policy is the principle of protection, principle that has been very largely acted upon by hon. gentlemen opposite. We go with the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) on that point. We want to retain such protection as is given to Canadian industries and to repair the errors—not very serious, perhaps, but still errors—made by hon. gentlemen opposite in this respect. Wherever they have departed

from our policy they have made a mistake. Let me advise hon. gentlemen opposite to cling to the life-buoy of the National Policy. It has held your heads above water; you would have been submerged long ago; you would have been driven from that part of the House if you had not clung with the tenacity of death to that life-buoy. That is the first principle—protection. Wherever there is a Canadian industry that fair and legitimate protection will enable to flourish, give it protection and we will support you. Then, there is the Fast Atlantic Service. I have already boldly challenged any gentleman on the other side to give a single instance in which this Government has done anything that has promoted the prosperity of Canada. I suggest the Fast Atlantic Service as one thing that they were compelled by the force of public opinion to profess to believe in and which they have, by their utter incapacity to deal with it in a business like manner, prevented from being carried into operation. Otherwise, to-day, we should have been in the enjoyment of it. When we went out of office we were in possession of a signed contract with Messrs. Allan, whose wealth and experience placed beyond doubt the excellent manner in which the service would be carried out; and when the late Governor General declined to sign the Order in Council which would enable us to close the contract, I wrote to my right hon. friend a letter so that, by getting that promptly done on his accession to office, he would save two years in securing that important service. Where are we to-day? Why, I am afraid we are further away from the Fast Atlantic Service than ever before. And why? The money was provided. Parliament had placed upon the Statute-books an Act granting \$750,000 a year for the Fast Atlantic Service, authorizing the Government to pay that sum to the contractors who would accomplish it. Finding, when I was on the other side of the water, holding the office of High Commissioner, that it was impossible to secure that service for the subsidy offered, I went to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and, after the fullest examination, the Right Hon. Mr. Chamberlain agreed to stand in with Canada in the matter. He so completely recognized the Imperial as well as the Colonial importance of this great work that he agreed, on behalf of the Imperial Government to bear one-third the cost. He agreed that if Canada had to pay £150,000 he would ask the Imperial Parliament to supplement it with £75,000. Thus, a little over a million dollars was provided to the hand of the leader of the present Canadian Government. And why has the work not been done? Because the right hon. gentleman refused, in the first place to accept the contract coming from the best possible source; and, in the second place, because he has been sending one of his colleagues, who is supposed to have the matter in hand, backwards and forwards—whether he wanted to keep him out of Canada I do not know; but

unless that hon. gentleman finds an unsinkable ship, which I believe he is now searching for, he will I fear disappear altogether. This gentleman who has been specially charged with the work of bringing about the completion of this great project is the same gentleman who, after he became a member of this Government, went before the Board of Trade of Quebec and denounced the Fast Atlantic Service. I do not think that is the way to accomplish this work. What did the Fast Service, as we had arranged it, provide? Not only would it have put us in most easy and rapid communication with the mother country, not only would it have enabled Canada to deliver the mails in the city of New York twenty hours earlier than they could be delivered by a direct line from Southampton to New York—this advantage being given us by our geographical position—but it would have brought a tide of travel and traffic through this country that would not otherwise come to it. More than that, the contractors were obliged to provide most ample cold storage at any time when demanded by the Government. What did that mean? It meant an increase in the value to the whole farming population of Canada of their meat, eggs, butter, fruit and all other perishable articles. A system of cold storage has enabled Australasia to triumph over tens of thousands of miles of distance, to triumph over an equatorial climate and to surpass Canada in the butter markets of Great Britain. The cold storage system has enabled the United States, which have established depots in various sections of the country, with cold storage cars and ample cold storage in their Atlantic steamers, to put on the tables of the people of England throughout Great Britain all these articles in prime condition and at the earliest possible moment. There is not a farmer, not a man engaged in agricultural pursuits of any kind but would have been greatly enriched by the adoption of that service. Where is it to-day? I was glad to see that the Board of Trade of Quebec had memorialized my right hon. friend and begged him to accept the proposition which the President of the Canadian Pacific Railway offered the other day. According to this memorial the President of the Canadian Pacific Railway—in his speech which was delivered before the Quebec Board of Trade and a large assemblage of people, declared that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company were anxious to see this work done. They were willing that any one should do it, willing to join any person in order to accomplish it, but, if there was nobody else, they were willing to take it up and put on a fast service of a complete and efficient character for the million dollars which, I say, was provided to the hand of the leader of the Government before we left office. Not an hour should be lost. Already we have lost two years in this most important matter, and I trust that no more time will be lost, but that the subject will be taken up and dealt with vigorously.

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Well, take another question. Those who have studied the question, are perfectly well aware that the policy to which the Minister of Finance obtained the unanimous approval of this House last year ought now to be put into operation. My hon. friend was good enough to consult me, as I would have consulted him under similar circumstances, as to how this side of the House would regard the imposition of an export duty upon logs, spruce, pulp-wood and nickle ore; and I stated to my hon. friend at once, that, so far as I was concerned—and I thought that would also be the opinion of the hon. gentlemen on this side of the House—we would be prepared to support that policy. He obtained the power; he has got it on the Statute-book to-day. Now, Sir, the "Globe" newspaper, the organ of the present Government, has declared that all these proposals to have fair and friendly relations with the United States have failed—not that they are hung up, but they use the word "vetoed"—now that they are vetoed, they call upon the Government to adopt a Canadian policy, and to put an export duty on these articles in the interests of Canada. What is our position? We are shut out of the United States by the imposition of enormous duties upon the pine lumber that they require, and that the interests of their people call for in the strongest manner? What is our position? Why, Sir, I do not believe that hon. gentlemen opposite have ever read the information contained in two octavo volumes published by the Senate of the United States in 1890. These two volumes are replete with evidence, mark you Mr. Speaker, the sworn testimony of many witnesses. The Senate of the United States appointed a commission, who, under oath, traversed the whole country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, all along the boundary, from Esquimalt, in British Columbia, and Vancouver to Prince Edward Island. They took the testimony of the best men and the ablest experts in that country. Sir, if any man who is proud of his country, wants to know what position Canada occupies, he has only to read that sworn testimony. What did they say on the Pacific coast? They said, at San Francisco, at Seattle, and all those places: Why, your proposal to have reciprocity with Canada would kill us. We have not a pound of bituminous coal on the Pacific coast: we are depending upon Nansimo. So superior is the lumber of the forests of British Columbia that free trade in lumber would close down every mill on the Pacific coast, because we cannot begin to compete with Canada. And so all along the line. They found that we had coal both on the Atlantic coast and on the Pacific coast. They found that we had forests far transcending in importance anything that the United States possessed. Every man who has studied this question, knows right well that within a comparatively few years the United States will be dependent for their lumber upon

these magnificent forests of Canada, covering such an enormous extent of country. Take the question of the fisheries. At the international tribunal held in Halifax in which the Minister of Marine and Fisheries took part, he is aware that, after all the sworn testimony that could be obtained from the highest experts in the United States, that commission declared that the value of the fisheries of Canada, over and above the right to enter all our fish free in the markets of the United States, was \$5,500,000 for twelve years of use. Then, take the question of agriculture, and look at the condition of things in the two countries. In the United States the population has almost overtaken the consumption, and will at no distant day overtake it. One of the highest authorities in the United States, who had been twenty years consul at Winnipeg, declared that north of the boundary line were three-fourths of the remaining uncultivated wheat fields of North America. Take the question of minerals. Why, with the boundless wealth of British Columbia, every one knows, that all we have to do to get fair consideration from the United States is to adopt their mining laws. That is not retaliation. There is no retaliation in one country adopting the legislation of another country. It is said that imitation is the sincerest flattery; and you simply say: We have such a high opinion of your wisdom in making laws that we will make a copy of your laws and apply them to yourselves, as you apply them to us. What would be the result? Why, Sir, we know that in these rich mining districts, the Rossland district, the Slocan district and the Boundary district, which are to-day attracting the attention of the civilized world, gigantic fortunes have been made by American citizens, just as they are now making them in the Canadian Yukon country. So I say that we occupy a position to-day that enables us to say to them: We will adopt your laws, and you must give to every Canadian in the United States precisely the same advantage that we give to Americans in Canada. If we did this, their laws would be swept from their statute-books in a month or as soon as they could pass the necessary legislation. I ventured to say here, a year ago, that our true policy was to adopt their mining laws; and what was the result? I pointed out, at the opening of the session last year, that their eagerness to take advantage of the Yukon gold fields afforded us a good opportunity to obtain from the United States fair and just consideration for our own people, and within one month after I made that statement upon the floor of this House—I do not know whether it was proper hoc or post hoc, but I merely state the fact, that within a month after that statement was made, a Bill was introduced into Congress giving Canadians on the other side of the boundary in Alaska the same privileges that Americans had on the Canadian side, in the Yukon country. And so, I say

that in the interest of Canada not an hour should be lost; in my judgment, with regard to the Alien Labour law, with regard to the mining laws, and with regard to everything that touches the comity of the two peoples, we should simply say to those gentlemen: We are anxious to make the most friendly, the most fair and just arrangement that can be made, but what you mete out to us you must expect to receive in return. We are bound to protect the interests of Canadian citizens on this side of the border, just as much as you are bound to protect the interests of American citizens on your side of the border.

Now, take the question of the iron policy of 1887. I have been occasionally taunted with the failure of that iron policy, but it is only by gentlemen who do not know anything about the subject. Where would be the iron trade of Canada but for the legislation of 1887? That policy would have accomplished everything that the most sanguine expected from it, had it not been for that which no man at that day could foresee, namely, that in a few years pig iron would fall to half its then value. I am glad to see that the Legislature of Nova Scotia is moving in this matter, for I believe there never was a time in the history of Canada when there was such a magnificent opportunity as there is at the present moment for the adoption of a comprehensive policy for the production of iron in this country, to give employment and to create, I may say, a world-wide industry. So important do I consider this matter that I ventured to approach the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Railways and the Minister of Customs, and put before them the evidence that if they would by Order in Council carry out the policy they had committed themselves to in regard to the extension of the bounty system on iron, capital could be obtained to set going at the earliest possible moment gigantic iron works in Canada that would revolutionize the whole of that industry. I am glad to say that the Nova Scotia legislature is approaching that subject, and I trust this Government will follow that up by such an extension of the policy to which not only the late Government, but the present Government are committed, as will build up a great iron industry in Canada.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to say a word upon the subject of inter-Imperial preferential trade. It is very well known that this is a matter upon which my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) has committed himself in the strongest possible way. I do not intend now to recriminate, I do not intend to refer to any question of violated pledges or anything of that kind, because I am sincerely anxious to promote a question that I believe lies at the very foundation of national progress in Canada, and which will give an impetus to our great agricultural community which cannot possibly be overrated. My right hon. friend and several

members on the other side of the House have said: Well, your inter-Imperial preferential trade is all very well, but it is impossible to obtain. I want to draw their attention to the fact that within a few weeks we have evidence of the most conclusive character that there never was a time in the history of our country when the Government had such an opportunity of securing a great boon in the interests of the people on that very question. I was laughed to scorn when I advocated the adoption of a small duty upon corn and upon other products, and I was told that England never would be induced for a single moment to do anything of the kind, so that I was expending my efforts in vain. I again appeal to my right hon. friend now, in view of the statement in the London "Times" a few days ago, urging the British Government of the present day to grapple at once practically with the great question of placing the taxation of the country upon a proper basis by the imposition of duties upon wheat and sugar. Therefore, on the very highest authority we have it, that the case is placed in such a position that all that is necessary is active and zealous co-operation on the part of the Canadian Government to accomplish, at no distant date, this great object. I dare say you will remember that it was only a short time ago that a very illustrious personage—I thought at the time a little out of order—gave his opinion to the public in the city of Toronto to the effect that it was quite impossible that countervailing duties on sugar in England could ever be entertained. But, Sir, we find now that Lord George Hamilton, the Secretary of State for India, says that the Government propose—and the Indian Government can do nothing without the sanction of the Imperial Government—propose to consent to an Order in Council passed by the legislative council in India, which imposes countervailing duties on all sugars that come into India in competition with their own. So the whole case is given up, and all we have to do is to stand shoulder to shoulder and to ask the British Government, which at an early date will impose duty upon corn and other products, to leave the colonies in the enjoyment of that advantage they now possess of having free ingress to the British markets, so that the duties, if applied, might extend only to foreign countries. I press that policy as one of great importance on the right hon. gentleman and his friends.

I intend now to say a word upon the question of the Pacific cable, and I would like to ask my right hon. friend in what position that question is to-day? When I attained office, one of my first acts was to appoint Sir Mackenzie Bowell and Sir Donald Smith, now Lord Strathcona, in conjunction with Mr. Fleming, now Sir Sanford Fleming, as an expert, to go to England to re-

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present Canada at the cable conference. That was caused by the fact that I went at the head of a deputation composed of all the agents general of the colonies to press upon Mr. Chamberlain the appointment of a commission upon the subject of a Pacific cable. Mr. Chamberlain, who is known to be a man of great financial ability and commercial experience, on that occasion stated that having examined the subject thoroughly, he had come to the conclusion that it involved no responsibility whatever, because he believed that the cable would pay for itself, and that in fact, at no distant date, instead of it being a charge upon the public revenue, it would be a source of income. I consequently had no hesitation in authorizing the commissioners representing Canada to agree if they could not get better terms, to be responsible for one-third of the cost of establishing the Pacific cable. This cable would make Canada a great highway, not only with China and Japan and all the east, but also with Australia, and in that way would immensely promote trade. As a matter of Imperial importance, as a matter of strengthening the defences of the Empire, it is impossible to overrate it, and when we satisfied ourselves that practically no monetary responsibility would be involved, I did not hesitate to give the Canadian commissioners the authority I have referred to. Well, this matter has hung fire. The right hon. gentleman will correct me if he has been misrepresented, but in the "Standard" newspaper, which is one of the most reliable organs of the British Government, I find it stated that when the Pacific cable was proposed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the gentleman who took exception to it was my right hon. friend the Premier of Canada. It was stated that he (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) declared that he altogether failed to give his confidence to the calculations that had been made in reference to the scheme by the promoter, and that could refer to no person, I take it, except Sir Sanford Fleming. Sir Sanford Fleming has given years of his life to the study of this important question, and when his views were subjected to the most crucial test any expert's views could be subjected to, tenders being asked from eminent cable constructors for the laying and maintenance of the cable it was found that Sir Sanford Fleming had overrated the cost. Therefore I read with astonishment the cold water that was thrown on this project by my right hon. friend when he stated that he altogether distrusted these calculations as far as they have gone. I hope he has had an opportunity of revising this opinion, and that that important work will at no distant date be undertaken.

Now, Sir, I want to refer to another subject which at this moment is attracting a good deal of attention, and which, unfortunately, by the mover and seconder of the

Address, so far as I was able to follow them, appears to have been entirely overlooked, and that is the plebiscite. I am not very much surprised that those hon. gentlemen should have given the go-by to that very delicate subject; but my right hon. friend will remember that a year ago, when this plebiscite was proposed, I ventured to ask him what he intended to do in case a plebiscite was taken. I ventured to express the opinion that the leader of the House and of the Government, before committing the people of this country to an expenditure of a quarter of a million of money—I may overstate the cost, but we will assume that it will be something like that—should have given some indication of the course he intended to pursue. I do not intend at this time to go into the question whether that is an un-English mode of taking public opinion or not; but I say that when the right hon. leader of the House refused to give the slightest indication of what course in any event he would pursue, he struck a deadly blow at the interests of the temperance party in Canada; and I will show you my grounds for making that statement. Every person knows that no party, however powerful and influential, can roll up a great vote on any question without the expenditure of a vast amount of labour and a very considerable amount of money. The necessary expenditure connected with agitating the country upon a question of that kind is very great. I did not ask my right hon. friend to say what he would do if there was a bare majority; but I said, suppose there is a great majority, a two-thirds majority, what will you do? My right hon. friend simply said: "After the plebiscite is taken I will then say what I will do." A position more unfair to the temperance people of this country could not have been taken than that. What is the result? Why, Sir, take an enthusiastic supporter of temperance—a man who believed it was his duty to do everything he could to accomplish the object in view. When he was approached to spend his time and money to promote the object in view, what did he say? "What is the good? The Prime Minister has virtually told us, as he told the deputation who went to see him on the subject, that it would entail an immense amount of direct taxation, and it is quite evident there will be no result." These gentlemen were utterly disheartened. But not only did the Prime Minister refuse to give this House and the people of this country the slightest indication of what he would do in any event, but when, in addition to that, I found the leading members of his Government spreading themselves over the country in the province of Quebec to denounce the plebiscite, and to induce the people to vote it down and prevent it having an effect, I came to the conclusion that it was a shameless imposition upon the temperance people of Canada to lead them to hope that anything could result from this plebiscite except the disappointment that is now stir-

ring the hearts of that great and most important section of this community from one end of the country to the other.

Now, Sir, I want to refer for a few moments to another subject that is introduced in the Address, and that is the Imperial penny postage. I do not intend to go into any very elaborate discussion of that question; but I say this in the outset, that there is no man in Canada who is prouder than I am to be able to claim anything for Canada that it has accomplished. There is no man in Canada more ready than I am to give the most ample meed of praise to any man, I care not on what side of politics he is or what position he occupies in this House, for anything he accomplishes in the interest of Canada. But, I confess, I do deplore and feel humiliated when I find gentlemen in this House and their friends undertaking to put forward claims for them that have no solid foundation in fact. When I find claims made by hon. gentlemen that they have accomplished this or that or the other, which they know right well is the work of other men, and that they are endeavouring to reap where other men have sown, I have no respect for a course of that kind. Now, Sir, I notice in this celebrated speech of my right hon. friend in Montreal to which I have already alluded, this clause:

There is another reform: we have diminished the postal tariff, and the rate has now been reduced to two cents. This is a small thing in itself, yet it represents hundreds of thousands of dollars in the pockets of the people of Canada. We have established that rate for the whole British Empire.

Why, Sir, what does the hon. gentleman mean? We—the Government of Canada—establish the postal rate for the whole British Empire? Why, Sir, it is as unfounded in fact as the statement that "we" got the treaties denounced. And what does he mean by saying that this represents hundreds of thousands of dollars in the pockets of the people of Canada? Hundreds of thousands of dollars in the people's pockets? Is not the postal service to be paid for to-day as it was paid for yesterday? Does anybody suppose that because you transfer the cost, you can make anything free? You could remove the whole postal charge altogether, yet everybody knows that the postal revenue did not then and does not now pay the cost of the service. Everybody knows that that service is a heavy charge on the people of Canada, as it was under the three-cent rate; and to say under these circumstances that it represents hundreds of thousands of dollars in the pockets of the people is to make a statement which I think my right hon. friend will find it very difficult to sustain. But, Sir, what does "we" mean? Do the Government expect to extend the rate to the whole Empire? Does the whole Empire get it now? The hon. gentleman knows that the whole continent of Australasia, including New Zealand, as well as South Africa

have not got it to-day ; and yet " we " have given it to the whole Empire. I am doing my right hon. friend the greatest service when I am calling his attention to these extravagances of language that cannot be sustained.

If the Imperial postage is a matter of great Imperial concern, its inauguration is not due to my hon. friend nor any of the " We's " about him. The hon. gentleman ought to know that Mr. Henniker-Heaton, the member for Canterbury, in England, spent twelve years of his life, night and day, fighting for this question of Imperial penny postage throughout the Empire. And for this little " We " to step in and wipe out Mr. Henniker-Heaton is an outrageous piece of presumption in contradiction with all the facts. Mr. Henniker-Heaton, after fighting all the officials of the Post Office Department with a vigour and determination that few men in any parliament have ever exhibited in any country of the world, succeeded, after long years, in convincing one of the ablest men in the United Kingdom that he was right. That man was the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, a gentleman who, when he becomes convinced, does not take very long to give expression to his convictions. What did Mr. Chamberlain say to my right hon. friend and the other premiers, when assembled in London during the Jubilee ? He said :

I should also mention the desire which is widely felt, and which I share, for an improved postal communication with the colonies. I believe the matter entirely rests with the colonies themselves, and they have revenue difficulties in the matter which have hitherto prevented our coming to any conclusion ; but I confess that I think one of the first things to bind together the sister nations is to have the readiest and easiest possible communication between the several units, and as far as this country is concerned, I believe we are quite ready to make any sacrifice that may be required in order to secure a universal penny post throughout the Empire.

What did my right hon. friend say to that proposal ? Not a word. Did he second it ? Did he say that Canada must prepare to adopt it ? Not at all. He gave no support to the proposition whatever. But his friend the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), when he found these other gentlemen, his colleagues, coming back bedizined with all kinds of decorations, began to think it was time for him to look out for himself. Then " I. William Mulock " issued the very wonderful despatch which will not soon be forgotten. The revenue of New South Wales is \$45,993,523 a year ; but that colony was too poor to do what we had done, and declined distinctly to do it. That great colony, New South Wales, with nearly \$46,000,000 revenue, was not rich enough to adopt this Imperial penny postage. The colony of Victoria, with a revenue of over \$30,000,000, was too poor to adopt it. The colony of New Zealand, with a revenue of \$26,250,000, was

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too poor, and declined distinctly, on the ground that it could not afford this luxury of an Imperial penny postage. The colony of the Cape of Good Hope, with a revenue of \$35,750,000 per annum, was also too poor ; and although that colony seconded the resolution, it refused to carry out the scheme unless England would bear a part of the expense. That is the position taken by these colonies.

Now, what has happened ? I have been mortified, in the last degree, to find Canadians so wanting in intelligence as to put forward a claim on the part of the Postmaster General of Canada (Mr. Mulock), that he it was who accomplished this scheme of Imperial penny postage. I do not hesitate to say, that if any public man in the Government of England had done what the Postmaster General of Canada did, he would have ceased to be a member of the Government the next day, and would never have been heard of again in connection with the post office or anything else. To find this man deified and held up as the one who has accomplished this Imperial penny postage for the whole British Empire is a reproach to the intelligence of Canadians. What did our Postmaster General do ? He published, it appears, without the authority of an Order in Council—I see a smile pervading the countenances of his colleagues at my exempting them from the mortification of having been guilty of knowing what their colleague was doing—his ukase, " I, William Mulock," by which he proclaimed to the world that, from such a day, every letter of an ounce weight should go to any part of the British Empire with a three-cent postage stamp on it. As soon as Her Majesty's Government became aware of that proclamation, our Postmaster General was told that he did not know what he was doing. He was told that he had no such power, that the thing was altogether beyond the control of the Government of Canada, and that he could not do anything of the sort. Thereupon, out came another proclamation, cancelling the first one until further orders, and declaring that all letters would require five cents per ounce postage instead of three cents per ounce. What was the result ? The Postmaster General found himself in this position, that every man who received one of these letters bearing a three-cent stamp, had to pay a fine of fourteen cents. He had to pay seven cents additional postage to bring it up to ten cents per ounce, and then, as short postage was punished by a fine, every man had to pay fourteen cents. Then, to extricate himself from this difficulty, the Postmaster General sent out instructions to his officials all through Canada, to do what they had no right to do—to put their hands into the consolidated revenue and make good the difference out of that fund. To tell me that the Postmaster General of Canada has got the postal revenue of this country to make ducks and drakes of as he pleases—the thing

is monstrous. In violation of law and every principle of parliamentary government, he instructed his officials to do that which, if they did it without instructions, would be petty larceny, and nothing else. What is his reply to that? He said, the other day, that the British Government had done the same thing. But how the British Government could have done the same thing, when they never committed themselves to any such folly, is beyond comprehension. But, he added, they told me to do that. That is worse still. In this year of our Lord, is it possible that a Canadian Minister shall be instructed by the British Government when to take money out of the consolidated revenue and spend it without authority? It is one of the most monstrous propositions I have ever heard. Then, he had another excuse, and it is one which had been made before on a very interesting occasion—the excuse that it was a very little one; it was only \$91.50. And this is the kind of man that is held up to the world as the founder of the Imperial penny postage system, to the utter obliteration of Sir Henniker-Heaton and the other men who have devoted years of efforts to this object long before our Postmaster General ever thought of it. But the proposition itself did not come from "I, William Mullock," at all. I was in London at the time, and you will find in the "Daily Chronicle," the organ of the Liberal party in London, the statement, that at the first meeting Sir David Tennant made the proposition for penny postage. The proposal of the hon. Postmaster General of Canada was not that at all. His proposal was, to send for three cents an ounce letters to every part of the British Empire. But no such thing exists to-day. No such proposal was heard of on that occasion. But Sir David Tennant's proposal at the first meeting was, that Imperial penny postage should be adopted, and he represented the Cape of Good Hope. Then our Postmaster General, not willing to lose the opportunity, gave notice that he would move that at the next meeting, and did so. The suggestion, however, was not his, but that of Sir David Tennant. And it was adopted. As to the challenge I have made of the accuracy of the statement with regard to the British Government, I am willing to make an apology if the Postmaster General will lay on the Table of this House any evidence that the British Government did anything of the kind he suggests, or that in the course he took he acted under the instructions of the British Government. He did act under their instructions in cancelling his absurd proclamation, but that is all. I do not now discuss the question whether, for the sake of a United Empire, this reduction might not be made, but I say it was not done by Canada. We did not move in it originally nor did my right hon. friend second it when it was brought before him by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It was an afterthought, and when the figures

are analysed it will be found that, instead of hundreds of thousands being in the pockets of the people, a million dollars per annum will be taken out of the pockets of the people to cover the deficit. When so rich a colony as New South Wales with a revenue of about \$46,000,000, says it is too expensive for them to bear it, we may be rich enough to bear these things and so cover ourselves with glory; but I doubt if the people of Canada will be grateful when they find the heavy tax imposed for this service. I would call the attention of the Postmaster General to one of the gravest scandals of the present day, and that is the postal communication with the Yukon. While he has thus reduced the revenue of the post office, the people of that country have been suffering the greatest hardships and the most cruel injustice because of the scandalous and disgraceful state of the postal arrangements. A correspondent in the Victoria "Colonist" says, March, 1899, he has not had a letter in four months, while his father, to whom the letter is written, says, that he has posted him letters at intervals of two weeks ever since his son has been absent. Then the "Globe's" special correspondent says:

The incoming mail service continues to be marked by its infrequency. With the exception of a small batch of letters, chiefly delayed summer mail, which arrived here on December 6th, and a bag of purely official matter which came in on January 1st, no mail has reached Dawson from the outside since September last. \* \* \* This winter there are hundreds of people anxiously looking for business letters, letters that might save fortunes.

And yet this is the distinguished Postmaster General who has made Canada ridiculous in the eyes of the world by declaring that "We hold a vaster Empire than has been." Why, if Great Britain herself had said that, she would have made herself the butt of endless ridicule. For Canada to say it—"we hold"—by the way, that word "we" seems to be completely turning the heads of gentlemen on the other side. When did Canada "hold a vaster Empire than has been." We are all proud to know that Canada is the brightest gem in the Imperial diadem, we are glad to know that there is no section of this great Empire that commands more consideration than Canada does to-day. But why should we make ourselves ridiculous? I will not say as Goldwin Smith in his "Bystander" letters says that it is a "painted lie," but I protest against it. I ask as a personal favour, I ask as a matter due to the feelings of the people of Canada, that this ridiculous post office stamp be done away with. "Punch" had a most ludicrous comment upon it. It gave half a dozen emblems, together with mottoes suitable for England and other countries. They thought it appropriate that England should say "We have the tallest policeman in the world." I shall not attempt to say what France was supposed to say—my right hon. friend could do it better justice than I. The

motto for United States emblem was "We can lick all creation." I can only say that the hon. Postmaster General has made all Canadians, unless they have a brush and water handy, lick the back of all creation in order to get a stamp stuck on a letter.

I have just a word or two to say with reference to a statement in the press that the Government are about to provide a telegraph service to the Yukon country. I am glad to see the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) in his place, because I happened, when in London, to see one or two letters written over the hon. gentleman's signature bearing on this subject, which letters appears to me to conflict with the statement that we were about to undertake the construction of a telegraph line. I found in the "Financial Times" of December 14th, 1898, a letter signed "A. G. Blair," which I will not read in extenso, though it is very interesting, but only that which is immediately pertinent to the question. The "Financial Times" says: "This was made clear by the following letter, addressed last October by Mr. Blair, the Canadian Minister of Railways and Telegraphs, to the gentleman who was arranging the Northern Commercial Telegraph Company." The letter is dated 6th October, 1898, and says, in part:

I told this gentleman very frankly that my department had an understanding with you, and that we were giving you the preference, at least until we were satisfied that you were delaying in pushing the work unduly, and I said that upon that point we would be in no position to form an opinion till next spring.

Then there is another letter also dated 6th October, 1898:

I am very much pleased indeed to learn that it is your intention, representing the Northern Commercial Telegraph Company (Limited), to proceed without unnecessary delay with the construction of the telegraph line from the coast into Dawson City, to be followed thereafter with reasonable despatch by the laying of a cable or cables from Vancouver to the point of connection with the land line.

I draw attention to these letters because I cannot understand, how, as there are two companys, both, I believe, floated in London for the express purpose of carrying out this work, and the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals had declared that he was ready to give the preference to one company, the Government could undertake the construction without other authority.

I now come to a subject that I should fail in my duty to this House and to the country if I did not draw attention to, and that is something that does not appear in the Speech. I can hardly say that it does not appear in the Speech, because there is a clause that has such a close relation to it that I suppose it may be held to be inclusive. But I draw the attention of the House to the fact that the only proposition that is made to this House is for a re-arrangement of the electoral districts. Now,

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I want to ask my right hon. friend where he gets the authority for a re-arrangement of the electoral districts. Canada has existed for some thirty-two years, and I believe I am correct in saying that in that period it has been regarded as a part of the constitution of Canada that a general arrangement of the electoral districts can only take place at a stated period, and that is after a decennial census. Now, I would like to know from my right hon. friend where he finds authority for this fresh innovation of the constitution of Canada—for I regard it as nothing else. I say it is without precedent that this House, called at this late period of the year, at a period most inconvenient for hon. gentlemen to remain here at any great length of time, should be placed in a position to have to deal with such a measure as this, a measure that must keep us here for a very long period. What is the object? what is the necessity? I have stated that the constitution provides for a re-arrangement of the electoral districts only after a decennial census; and since Canada was confederated there has never been anything but a temporary re-adjustment of some particular locality owing to some circumstances which had occurred, as an exception to that rule. Therefore, I challenge the right of the hon. gentleman to adopt such a course. What is the meaning of it? We went to the country in 1896, and the right hon. gentleman, by means to which I have already alluded, secured a majority. Is he afraid to go back to that constituency? He boasts of carrying the by-elections. It is too late to-night to go into the question of by-elections, for I think I could enlighten the House a little as to the way by-elections are carried. I see my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works with his hands over his face, enjoying the idea of the mode in which by-elections are carried. He has much experience in that manner. Sir, I am afraid that these things indicate that the right hon. gentleman, having obtained improperly a majority in this House, having obtained by means that cannot be repeated, a majority in this House, wants to escape a verdict of that electorate that he represents to-day. Last session we had this precious electoral law, which means handing over to the most unscrupulous and most dishonest manipulation the electoral lists in the various provinces, with the control of the franchise of this independent House of Commons of Canada. It meant that a fair and open contest in the presence of the electorate as it exists to-day and existed in 1896, would fail to give the hon. gentleman a similar success. But it appears that is not enough. Where are you with your electoral law? Why, Sir, the hon. gentleman says that he has kept one pledge, at all events, made to the people of this country, and that was that he would pass a new electoral law. He never kept his pledge. He promised

that he would accept the law, pure and simple, as it existed in the various provinces for the Dominion elections, but he made twenty alterations of the most important character, and entirely changed the Act from that which he had led the House to expect he would pass. To-day the hon. gentleman has discovered that owing to the utter incapacity—I say it boldly—of this Government to do anything in a business-like and statesmanlike manner, they find themselves in a hole, and they are trying to find some way out of it. I defy the hon. gentleman to hold a general election in Canada to-day. He has torn the former election law to pieces, but has substituted nothing practical to take its place; and to-day he finds the law is either violated, or is a dead letter throughout the whole of Canada, or else is utterly wanting in all those provisions that are necessary to carry out an election. But it appears that it is not enough to change the franchise to suit him, it is not enough to get the local legislatures to do his work in the various provinces, and now we are to have a redistribution in violation of the constitution, contrary to the principle that the constituencies shall only be adjusted after each decennial census. Why is this proposal interjected now? Here we are in the beginning of the spring, at a time when every member wants a short session, so that he can return to his home, and here is flung down before us this proposal to readjust the boundary of the constituencies. Is the hon. gentleman afraid of the constituencies that sent him here? Is he afraid to repeat the means by which he got here last time? It looks as if the hon. gentleman could only fight a battle with the great Conservative party of Canada with loaded dice, as if he was afraid to challenge the people on that great issue. Sir, we are ready to meet him in the presence of the great electorate of Canada at any hour. If he brings forward this measure there will be a long story before it passes through the House and becomes law. But what is the first step that the hon. gentleman takes in regard to this measure, this gross and palpable violation of the constitution of our country? Why, Sir, he breaks away from all those important negotiations in Washington, and he hies himself up to Montreal to attend a banquet, to proclaim to the people of this country the policy of the Government of Canada upon one of the most vital and important questions that ever was propounded, and that is the destruction of the Canadian constitution in regard to the security that the Senate affords. Now, Sir, what is the hon. gentleman's proposal? A more mad, a more silly, I do not hesitate to say, a more absurd proposal never emanated from the mouth of man. You may search the civilized world to-day where liberal institutions exist, and I defy you to find a single case in which so monstrous, so absurd, so utterly and so

absolutely untenable a proposal was ever made as this proposal to which the hon. gentleman has committed himself in Montreal. He says:

The reform we propose is this: When there is a conflict between the Senate and the popular House, then there should be a general vote and the majority should carry. That, gentlemen, is the reform which we have to propose to the people of Canada.

Sir, what does that mean? It means to tear up from the very foundation the confederation of Canada. It means to take out the key-stone of the arch upon which that confederation was built, and to let the whole thing topple down. I see that the Minister of Marine (Sir Louis Davies) is amused; but let me draw his attention to what has happened. What was the position of Old Canada when George Brown, the great leader of the Liberal party—a man who would suffer martyrdom before he would commit himself to such a monstrous proposition as this—when George Brown, the great leader of the Liberal party, joined hands with Sir John Macdonald to raise Canada from the desperate position she then occupied. As everybody knows, under the then constitution of Canada, Upper Canada and Lower Canada were represented in the Parliament of Canada by an equal number of members. That constitution was formed in 1841, and went into operation in 1842, and Lower Canada had then a much larger population than Upper Canada, and they bitterly complained that they should be forced into a union with Upper Canada and have no more representatives in the legislature than a province with a much smaller population. What happened? A few years afterwards, by reason of immigration, the tables were turned, and Upper Canada had a much larger population than Lower Canada. Then George Brown, the leader of the Liberal party, led a fierce onslaught on the constitution of the country, demanding a change by which they would have representation by population. Lower Canada replied: You denied that principle to us when we were in the majority, and why should you force it upon us now that we are in the minority? Under that condition of things, so closely were the parties balanced, so impossible had government become, neither party having a majority to govern the country, that five new administrations appeared in two years. The country was ruined financially and commercially; no legislation could pass, except as a matter of compromise, and the position of the country was deplorable. What then? In 1864 a conference assembled at Charlottetown for the purpose of forming a legislative union between Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and the Governor General of Old Canada wrote to the governors of the three provinces, asking for the admission of the representatives of the coalition Government of Canada, which had

been formed upon the principle of obtaining either the confederation of British North America, or, failing that, to separate Upper and Lower Canada and unite them federally. We received that deputation with open arms; we heard their statements, and when they pointed out to us the deplorable condition in which Canada was, that her 6-per-cent bond securities were forced down to 71, and that the business of the country was paralyzed, we listened sympathetically to their statements. As a result, we adjourned to the city of Quebec, and in October, 1864, there met there thirty-three gentlemen, representing, not one party nor one province, but representing both parties in Upper Canada, Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Both parties were represented from every province except Newfoundland, which does not come into the question, as it does not form a part of the confederation. At the Quebec Conference we came to the conclusion, after long and careful consideration, that it was our duty, as citizens of British North America, as men who wanted to preserve intact the glorious British institutions we possess, to consider this question of the union of British North America. And, Sir, what was the very key-stone of that union? I will read the statement of the great leader of the Liberal party of that day, and I believe it will be accepted here as absolute evidence that without that principle being embodied into the confederation of Canada, no union could be accomplished. He said:

The very essence of our compact is that the union shall be federal and not legislative. Our Lower Canada friends have agreed to give us representation by population in the Lower House on the express condition that they shall have equality in the Upper House. On no other condition could we have advanced a step; and, for my part, I am quite willing they should have it. In maintaining the existing sectional boundaries, and handing over the control of local matters, to local bodies, we recognize, to a certain extent, a diversity of interests, and it is quite natural that the protection for those interests, by equality in the Upper Chamber, should be demanded by the less numerous provinces.

Mr. Speaker, to-day I speak, not only in the presence of this House, but of the country, when I say that no union, no confederation could have been achieved except upon the principle that representation by population in the House of Commons should be safeguarded by an independent Senate, whose members were nominated by the Crown for life, and in which Quebec would have twenty-four members, the same as Ontario, whose population was much larger, and Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island should have twenty-four Senators also, although their population was much smaller than even that of Quebec. What is this proposal which is now made? It is a proposal to strike at the very foundation of this principle of confederation. I brand every man in the great province of Ontario who

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would support such a proposition, as guilty—not of treason to his country, because it may suit Ontario—but I brand him as guilty of the worst description of bad faith in going back upon the pledge under which the province of Quebec and the smaller provinces were induced to enter into this confederation. I am not surprised that the First Minister was obliged, in company with his friend the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), to hie himself away to Quebec to dragoon the leader of that province into giving support to such a proposition. They found, after all their communications had failed, that the Legislature of Quebec was about to rise without giving them support in this matter. And why? Because there is not an intelligent man in the province of Quebec—and I say it fearlessly—who knows what he is doing, who recognizes what this project would be, that does not know that by supporting it he is cutting the throat of his province.

I feel, Sir, that now, in the last years—I might almost say in the last months, or hours—of my life, I would be only too glad to be exempt from the labour and difficulty which such work involves; but I feel that I would be faithless to the Crown, faithless to Canada, faithless to this great Empire to which we belong, if I did not consecrate every hour of my life to meeting on the threshold this dire attempt to subvert the very foundations of this Canadian Confederation. I have not a knowledge of the French language; but, Sir, I will make it my business to visit every part of the province of Quebec, and, with the assistance of my able friends and compatriots on this side of the House, I shall be prepared to meet the Minister of Public Works or the Prime Minister of this Government, and let it be fairly debated in the presence of intelligent men, whether Sir George E. Cartier, Sir Etienne Taché, Sir Hector Langevin, would not have burned their hands off in the fire before they would have assented to a confederation on any such principle. I do not hesitate to say that no power could have induced either Nova Scotia, New Brunswick or Prince Edward Island to have any lot or part in this Confederation if they had supposed that any party which obtained power as this party has obtained power, could, without the due sanction of the people of this country, lay their unholy hands on the ark of confederation itself, and endeavour to destroy that work which I need not say to this House has made of this Dominion of Canada a country of which every Canadian can be proud.

Now, Sir, what is the reason that is not in the Speech? Will the right hon. gentleman tell us why, having come fresh from Washington to announce that this was the policy of his party, he has been prevented from putting it in the Speech, and submitting it as a subject for this House to deal with? The right hon. gentleman knows that before

he can take one step towards the subversion of the constitution of Canada in this regard he has to have not only the authority of this House, but the authority of the Senate of Canada. There is not a man sitting in that House who does not hold his position for life under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament; and the Imperial Parliament never was known in its history to go back upon its solemn pledges and declarations as a legislative body. What more? Why, Sir, the unanimous vote of this House and of the Senate of Canada would not accomplish the object unless every province in this Dominion from the Atlantic to the Pacific that is a constituent part of this confederation, on due notice and after an election, ratified it as well. In 1893 you spoke of a reform of the Senate. Some suggested that the members should be elected by the people and some that they should be elected by the legislatures. You now propose that the relative proportions should be changed, because when the Senate and the House of Commons disagree you propose to turn in the House of Commons to swamp the Senate and to entirely ignore the very basis of security upon which the confederation of this country was built. Well, Sir, what is your excuse? The "Globe" newspaper tells us that the first crime for which the Senate of Canada ought to be beheaded is that it ratified the Canadian Pacific Railway contract. Why, Sir, can anybody imagine a man with the hardihood to say, in the face of the people of this country, that that which has made a nation of Canada—for we were a paper nation without it—that gigantic work which has given us communication from end to end, which has made a great country of Canada, and without which we would be comparatively helpless to-day, was a wrong to Canada? The charge is that too much was given. Let me meet that charge here and now. It is not true—I may say that, Mr. Speaker, when I am talking of the "Globe" at all events. What is the fact? The fact is that when all the subsidies were given—and I give to the right hon. gentleman the testimony of a man whose word he will take as soon as that of any man living, and that is Lord Strathcona—that after all the resources of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, with all their subsidies, were exhausted, and the work was likely to break down and collapse in 1884, it was saved in that critical hour by Lord Strathcona pledging every dollar of his private resources to raise money to carry the enterprise through. And then it would have broken down and failed—I do not hesitate to say, because I happen to be in a position to know—had I not been able to come down to this House in the session of 1884 and induce it to make a loan of \$30,000,000 over and above everything else that was given. What more? Why, Sir, the "Globe" says that Mr. Blake made a great speech in opposition to this contract. So he did; but he made another great speech out on the coast of Brit-

ish Columbia, when he had the manliness to say that when he had opposed the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, he had no conception of what that great western country was.

Now, Sir, I do not intend to follow this subject further than to say that the grounds which the right hon. gentleman gives to the people of Canada for this attempt to subvert one of the most important institutions of the country is the crime the Senate committed in rejecting the Drummond County Railway contract and the Yukon Bill. Let me turn his attention for one moment to these two questions. I do not intend at this hour to go into them at any length; but I will say this, that the statement that is put forward by the "Globe," and also, I think, by the right hon. gentleman, that something of this kind was contemplated in the proposed constitution of Australia, is entirely incorrect. No such proposal as this has ever been dreamed of in any part of the civilized world before. The hon. gentleman, if it is original with him, may have the satisfaction of knowing that no great mind has ever jumped to the same conclusion as he did. But supposing it was the case in Australia; the position there is entirely different. In Australia the legislative councils are now elected by manhood suffrage, the same as the houses of assembly, and it is proposed that the Senate of Australia shall also be elected by manhood suffrage. But is it proposed that when the two Houses differ they shall be turned in to vote together? Not at all. What is proposed in the constitution of Australia is that if there is a deadlock between the Senate and the House of Commons, both Houses shall be dissolved, and after they have come back from the election they will then vote in a common chamber and decide the question. There is no necessity, therefore, for this proposed machinery.

The hon. gentleman knows right well that when the Senate, in the exercise of an imperative duty, rejected the Government railway scheme, all he had to do to make that scheme law was to dissolve the House of Commons and get a majority returned which would pass that bill over again, and thus remove the difficulty, because in that case the British constitution comes into play. Under that constitution, whenever the House of Lords rejects a Bill from the House of Commons, they do it because they do not believe that the promoters of the Bill represent the country. It is then the duty of the Government of the day, if they still insist on the Bill, to dissolve the House, appeal to the country, and get a new House of Commons to pass the same Bill *ipsissima verba*, and the House of Lords will then accept it without the slightest hesitation. Therefore, as there is to be a dissolution in Australasia and an appeal to the country before a vote is taken, how can any man say that there is any parallel or example to be found in Australia for what is here proposed. That proposal is to take away all

the security which the present constitution of Canada gives to the smaller provinces.

I do not intend to detain the House further than to show what are the facts with regard to the Drummond County Railway Bill. Does the right hon. gentleman not know that he has himself confessed that he and his Government were all wrong in that measure, and that the Senate were right? Does he not know that the public records of this country prove that by the rejection of that Bill the Senate of Canada saved something like a million dollars to our people. That is the position, and the right hon. gentleman finds himself hoisted by his own petard. That which he assumes as a ground of complaint against the Senate of Canada is one of the highest claims they have to-day to the confidence of the mass of the people. Sir, what about the Yukon Bill? On that Bill, as the right hon. gentleman knows right well, his Government stands equally condemned by what has subsequently taken place. What has taken place since the House last met? I shall not go into the whole story, because the hour is too late, but he knows that the Minister of Public Works sent one of his ablest officers, Mr. Coste, over that Stikeen route and over the Bennett Lake and White Pass, and what has been the result? Why, his own officer has condemned the Stikeen River route altogether, and declared that under existing circumstances, Dawson City can be reached from Victoria in a few days. Therefore, so far as these measures are concerned, the Senate of Canada enjoys the proud position of knowing that at a most important time, when millions of public property, untold millions almost of public property were at stake, they stepped into the breach and protected the people of this country against measures that are denounced by the Government's own officers, and against a Government which, if it dared to dissolve the House and appeal to the country on these iniquitous measures, would have been wiped out of existence. Yet the rejection of these measures is the ground now taken for attacking the Senate of Canada.

I must apologize to the House and my right hon. friend opposite for having occupied their time at such length, but I must throw the responsibility on these gentlemen, who have so mismanaged the public affairs of this country as to demand this too lengthy criticism at my hands.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I can assure my hon. friend that I have no fault to find with him, if he has deemed it his duty to occupy the time of this House at such length. Even if our patience has been somewhat taxed, this is a free country, and we can bear with him. At all events, I think it is preferable, at this late hour, to move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

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

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 11.05.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, 21st March, 1899.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell, of East Prince, for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Though life is short, Mr. Speaker, though time precious, though this session, from unavoidable causes has been called at this somewhat tardy season, though there was every inducement to the hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition to come to the point and accelerate, so far as he could, the business for which Parliament has been summoned, yet he took not less than the best part of five hours in offering his comments to the House on the speech of His Excellency at its opening. In this, however, the hon. gentleman was within his rights. He was within his rights, even if prolix and diffuse. There is no rule of this House, no law of man, to prevent redundancy and verbosity. Human nature can only suffer in silence; but if it be true that a day must come some time, when every man has to account for every vain, idle and useless word spoken by him, I pity the fate of the hon. gentleman. The hon. gentleman spoke at great length, but I do not mean that he said much. On the contrary—and in so saying I place myself in the judgment of every man of this House—I aver that in that deluge of words there were more adjective than ideas, more scolding than argument; and if I were to characterize the speech of the hon. gentleman, I think I would not be too severe in saying it was nothing but the vapourings of a much disappointed man seeking wide and far in order, if possible, to find a weak point in the armour of his opponents where he could plant a deadly blow. Looking at my hon. friend yesterday and listening to him, I could not but be reminded of the old blind king of Bohemia on the battlefield of Crecy. He was vallant, no doubt, but he was blind; he rushed about striking right and left, but doing no harm to anybody except to himself.

Sir, notwithstanding my hon. friend's efforts to be vicious, I may be permitted to pay him a compliment. There are many things to admire in him. I admire his juvenile ardour; I admire his quixotic valour, but I cannot admire his logic, discretion or judgment. And so long as his words are not directed by sound judgment, they cannot be more effective here than they were in West Huron. As my hon. friend went on, he refuted himself most completely. When he made a point, or thought he had made one, he most effectively destroyed it in his efforts to make another. Thus he said again and again that what prosperity we are enjoying was due to the tariff of the late Administration, the good old Conservative policy, or as hon. gentlemen opposite like to term it, the National Policy. Yet despite this, he scolded us most vehemently because we had not destroyed the National Policy altogether, the very next moment he approved and applauded us—most sarcastically I must say—for having kept something of it. He told us that there had been depression from 1873 to 1879, but that prosperity had been restored, not, however, by natural causes, but by the action of the policy of the Conservative Administration which had then come into office. And then he stated that there had been depression in a following period, from 1893 to 1896, and then prosperity had been restored—but by natural causes, and not by the policy of this Administration though we had a moment ago claimed the whole merit for the continuance in this Government of the Conservative policy. And so on and so on to the end of the chapter, blowing hot and cold, dry and damp, in the vain effort to make a point against his opponents somehow and somewhere. Now, my hon. friend devoted the best part of the afternoon to prove, not that the country was not prosperous, but that if it was prosperous, the fact was due to the policy of the late Administration. He could not deny that there was prosperity, and to do him justice, that is about the only thing he did not deny. But while admitting that the country was prosperous, more prosperous, perhaps, than it had ever been before, he claimed all the credit for his Administration. My hon. friend is like the Bourbons—he has learned nothing and he has forgotten nothing. Certainly, he has not forgotten his old speeches because the speech of yesterday I have heard, to my certain knowledge, three or four, if not five, times already, even to the quotation from Mr. David A. Wells. But, Sir, what is the use of discussing all that? What is the use of trying to show the cause of prosperity? The prosperity is here. We can claim some share of it, at all events. If the hon. gentleman were in office he would claim the whole of it. Whether the policy was inaugurated at one time or at another, certainly the policy which exists to-day must be held in some measure to account for the present condition of affairs. But, in any

case, these are issues that have been passed upon, the people pronounced upon them in 1896; and it is simply idling away the time of serious men to talk about such questions at such length as the hon. gentleman did yesterday. I do not discuss this point with the hon. gentleman, but I accept at once the challenge he threw down yesterday. He defied us, in stentorian tones, to say what we had done for the country. That question he put in every shape possible. He affirmed it, re-affirmed it and re-affirmed it once more, tortured it into almost as many shapes as there are amongst the gerrymandered constituencies of Ontario. Still the end was the same, to declare that we had done nothing at all for the country, but that the whole credit of Canada's present position was due to the hon. gentleman and his policy. Well, Sir, if he had been content to put this question and to indulge in his idle boasts, I would not have much to say, but he added to this challenge language to which we have not been accustomed in this House. Speaking of the Administration, he said we had done nothing whatever, and that in everything we had done we had shown utter and complete incapacity. Well, Sir, I accept the hon. gentleman's challenge, but I will be more courteous to him than he was to us. I will not—at this moment at least—charge him with utter and complete incapacity; I will say, on the contrary, that the hon. gentleman is an extraordinary man, a most marvellous man, a most unique man for conceit. For bragging and loud talking, for waving his oratorical sword, for pulverizing his opponents, the hon. gentleman never had his equal since the days of Ancient Pistol, and I do not believe that even Pistol himself would do better than hold second place to him. It is evident the hon. gentleman does not look at things from the common level of ordinary mortals, he does not look at things from the level of simple reason, but from the mighty altitude to which he has upraised his gigantic but childish vanity. From that altitude he once proclaimed to the world that he had made Canada. Why, there are men on the other side of the House who believe that Sir John Macdonald had something to do with making Canada, who believe that George Brown also contributed his share, who believe that George Etienne Cartier was also instrumental in this great work. But the hon. gentleman dismisses them all with a wave of his hand, and from the altitude he has assumed, he says: I made Canada. And from the same altitude he says: These gentlemen on the other side are incapable. And there is as much truth in the one statement as in the other; and people smile at the one as they smile at the other. I am not in the habit—I think I can claim that, at all events, if nothing else—of blowing my own trumpet, or of sounding my own praises. I aver my total incapacity for this, but I aver that in that regard the capacity of the hon. gentleman is greater than he himself proclaims it, and

that is saving a great deal. I have simply this to say; if in the discharge of the duties entrusted to us as advisers to the Crown, as trustees of the people, as administrators of the affairs of this country we had shown as little capacity as was shown by the hon. gentleman when he was in office, I would go and hide myself for very vexation and shame. I accept the challenge of the hon. gentleman. He asks us to say what we have done for the good of the country. I will try to tell him. In doing so I shall be obliged to tell the blunders that he has made—well, no, not all the blunders he has made, but only some of them; for, if I were to undertake to tell all the blunders made by my hon. friend in his official life, I should be obliged to speak at least as long as he spoke yesterday, which—God forbid—I do not intend to do. When the hon. gentleman came back from England to take charge of his party, which had not been led as it should have been led, according to his opinion, when he came back to lead his party to victory, as he hoped, and give them new life, there was a question that had been long before the country, a most dangerous question, which had brought this country almost to the very throes of civil strife. He tried to solve this question by a measure very much after the manner of one whom I will not name, a measure “loud in tone void in reality,” a measure, at the same time violent and weak, a measure in which there was enough of violence to vex, irritate and madden the majority, in which there was not enough of substance to aid the minority. And this is the gentleman who speaking of his opponents dares utter the word incapacity. We dealt with that question. We removed it from the federal arena to the provincial arena, where it belongs, and where it should have been left, there to be dealt with by the citizens of the province in a spirit of mutually honourable concession. I will not show here the character of the hon. gentleman's blunder in this case. It is there before his eyes. He sees it night and day, and he regrets it night and day. There was another question in the settlement of which the hon. gentleman tried his hand when in office in Ottawa, as he had tried it in London, a question to which he referred yesterday, that of preferential trade within the Empire. The hon. gentleman tried once, twice, several times to do something towards establishing preferential trade within the Empire. But he did not succeed in doing anything, because there were two treaties standing against the idea, the treaty with Belgium and the treaty with Germany. So long as those treaties were in existence, the hon. gentleman could not do anything, for the reason that any preference that we gave to the mother land would have to be given to Belgium and Germany also.

Although Canada was ready and anxious to give a preference to the goods and merchandise of the mother land, she was not anxious or ready to extend the same favour

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to Belgium or to Germany—there were the treaties. Well, Sir, we came into office, and as he said yesterday, we tried our prentice hand, at the job, and in four months our prentice hand did what his master hand could not do with years of labour. Where, Sir, let me show the blunder that he made on the floor of this House at the time we introduced our policy, a blunder which he persisted in up to the very day that the treaties were denounced. He said we never could succeed, that our efforts were vain, that our policy was a mistaken one from the first. Well, the evidence showed he was wrong again there, and even yesterday he would not acknowledge the results which have been accomplished by our preferential tariff. He told us yesterday that our preference of 25 per cent given to Great Britain had during the six months subsequent to the month of August, 1898, only increased our imports from Great Britain by one per cent. That is what he said. True, he averred, some other parties have stated that the increase had really been 6 per cent; but, he went on to say that he admitted, because in that case the last six months of 1898 would have to include the month of July, and the month of July must not be included in the aggregate amount, because the preference was not in operation in the month of July, 1898. But the hon. gentleman ought to know better, and if I were to talk in the way he does, I would make use of some vigorous language to show his ignorance. He knows that the preference was in operation in the month of July, 1898, it was in operation from the 23rd of April, 1897. True, it is, the preference was not then to Great Britain alone, it was also shared by the other nations which had the benefit of the treaties, but it was there all the same, and according to the statement made by the hon. gentleman then, the preference during the last six months of 1898 increased by 6 per cent the goods sold by Great Britain to Canada. Now, Sir, that is something. I grant it is not as much as I would like myself, probably, it will never reach the figure which I would like to see. But we know how difficult it is to change the channels of trade, how difficult it is to bring people to go into new operations. Sir, at all events, I say that a door has been opened, and that trade at this moment is flowing into it. The hon. gentleman minimizes the efforts which we made in that direction. Allow me to quote to him an authority which perhaps he will recognize as valuable, the authority of a man who has done as much for preferential trade as my hon. friend himself, let me quote Colonel Howard Vincent. On the 1st of August last, Colonel Howard Vincent wired to me from the House of Commons, at one minute after midnight, a.m.

Premier of Canada,  
Ottawa.

United Empire Trade League in Mother Land,  
Australia, Africa, India and Oceania, affection-

ately salutes Greater Britain in Canada, and confidently expresses the undying gratitude of the British race of to-day and for ever to their brothers throughout the vast Dominion, for their patriotic and filial inauguration of the preferential trade between British kith and kin, in this the first minute of freedom from restraining treaties. May this preferential trade grow and grow into the complete commercial federation of British Peoples and Possessions the whole world over, to the honour of our Sovereign, the glory of the English name, and the increasing welfare of all in Britain and Greater Britain.

I will only add one word in this connection, and it is a word which perhaps the hon. gentleman should have remembered more often during his career. The door is open. Does it follow that everything has been done? No, far from it. There still remains a great deal to be done. But the mistake made by my hon. friend at all previous has been that he wanted to do everything at the same time. Sir, in this matter, as in everything else, you must take time, you must move slowly and victory is sure at the end.

Now, Sir, there is another thing we have done, we have established penny postage throughout the British Empire. I need not tell you how great a reform this is, it has made the Empire more compact than it was. The seas are there as of yore, the valleys and the mountains are there, but everybody realizes that hearts are nearer than they were before. Sir, this reform has accomplished this much, it has brought every part of the British Empire to the next door of every home within it. But I will not dilate upon that subject. The hon. gentleman has only one fault to find with it, and that is that he did not accomplish it himself. If he had done it himself, he would have spoken of it yesterday in very different language from the language which he used, he would not have minimized it as he did, nor have attempted to ridicule it. Why, Sir, if he had done it I can imagine the pæans of victory that he would have sung on the floor of this House in favour of the hon. gentleman himself—and, perhaps, of his colleagues also. The hon. gentleman says that neither myself nor my hon. friend the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) are entitled to any credit for it. I claim no credit for it at all: all the credit is due to my hon. friend the Postmaster General. The hon. gentleman stated yesterday that when I was in England, I refused to second a motion in favour of penny postage. That is quite true, I did refuse to do so, and I may put it stronger and say that I refused several times. On different occasions during my visit in England I refused to have anything to do with penny postage, and I will give you the reason. It was not that I was hostile to it, far from that, as the records will show. But we had not been long enough in the saddle to know where we were, we had not been long enough in the saddle to know what we could accomplish in reforming the Post Office Department. I did not know where we

stood in the matter of finances, and until I could be satisfied as a member of the Privy Council of Canada, that such reforms could be accomplished in the Post Office Department as would wipe out, to a large extent, the deficits which had been accumulating during the previous administration of that department, I would not touch the question of penny postage. But, Sir, the day came when, under the administration of my hon. friend the Postmaster General, a deficit of \$781,000 was reduced to less than \$50,000. The hon. gentleman said yesterday that he could not believe it, that it was not true. There would be a deficit of one million dollars at least, he says. Sir, of course the hon. gentleman having described us as a lot of incompetents, cannot believe that my hon. friend the Postmaster General has done what he did. It is inconceivable to him that the Post Office Department can be administered to-day with almost an equilibrium between revenue and expenditure. The hon. gentleman was not in favour of penny postage, he is not now, because he says we have not the financial strength to carry it through. But let him possess his soul in patience. The reform has been undertaken, it is subject to his criticism. To-day there is almost equilibrium, the deficit was less than \$50,000 last year. Though the revenue has been decreased by one-third, still the deficit this year will be such that we will be able to give to the people not only penny postage, but domestic postage as well, at one-third the cost, and with a deficit one-half less than the deficit in the old times. The hon. gentleman stated yesterday that he took exception to a statement I made in Montreal that "we had given penny postage to the Empire."

He took exception to the word "We." I understand the exception, coming from him, for, had he been in my place, it would have been the word "I," instead of the word "We." Sir, I maintain the position that I took at Montreal, and here on the floor of this House I reassert that "we did give penny postage to the Empire." Of course, I do not claim that we gave it by legislative authority, nor even by administrative authority. We had not the legislative authority, and we had not the administrative authority. But what we did do was to remove the inertia that existed somewhere, and induce those who had the authority to come forward and to do the act: and it is done, and I claim the credit for it, not for myself, but for the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock). The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) would not give any credit to my hon. friend the Postmaster General. He claimed the credit for Mr. Henneker Heaton. I agree that Mr. Henneker Heaton is entitled to all praise in that respect, and the first man to proclaim it was my friend the Postmaster General himself, and the second man to proclaim it, if I may be excused for giving my own opinion, was my humble self. But, Sir, the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) knows very well that Mr. Henneker Heaton was the

very first man to acknowledge the great credit which is due to my friend the Postmaster General in this respect. And if his memory—which is very keen upon some subjects, but which is very dull upon some others—is so dull in this instance as not to have remembered certain correspondence which was exchanged last summer, let me be permitted to refresh it. On the 23rd of July last Mr. Henneker Heaton did me the honour of writing to me, and, after speaking generally of the penny postage, he went on to say :

The negotiations, the discussions, the arguments, on either side, were long and wearisome. Official disinertia was finally overcome in a surprising way, and the victory is won. It is the opinion of those possessing any acquaintance with the history of this affair, that to this victory, the courage, the energy, the determination, the moral stamina, and last, but not least, the discreet reserve of Mr. Mulock largely contributed. He cannot report as much to his colleagues. Permit me to supplement this formal notification of the result.

To this letter I answered as follows to Mr. Henneker Heaton :—

I am much honoured by your favour of the 23rd of July, and I very greatly appreciate it for the recognition which it conveys to me of the great abilities of my colleague the Postmaster General of Canada. I expected much from him, but the great success which has crowned his last effort was almost unexpected. Permit me to add, however, that whatever may be the merits of Mr. Mulock in this latter development of Imperial unity, he would be the first to admit that the credit of it primarily belongs to you.

Sir, these are the sentiments which are entertained with reference to this question on this side of the House. We have done something in this respect, and notwithstanding all the clamour the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) wants to raise against this great reform, the Canadian people will endorse it, not only because it is a matter of domestic policy, but also because it has a wider range for good than anything which has hitherto been achieved by any Canadian Government.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) wants to know what more have we done. Well, it would take me too long to review in detail everything we have done. I must be brief, for I do not want to follow a bad example ; but I may give summarily what we have done for the people of Canada. First, let me tell the hon. gentleman, we have reformed the tariff, and we have reformed that tariff to the great satisfaction of the majority both of the producers and consumers. When the hon. gentleman spoke yesterday of our tariff reform, he did so in such a way that I was not sure whether he was approving or attacking it ; he was not sure himself. However, he spoke of cordage, and there was a sting in his words to blame us for what we have done in respect to that matter. But yet the cord-

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age business never was so prosperous as last year, though we made cordage free.

We have established a complete system of cold storage for the transportation of perishable goods, and in this alone we have rendered to the people of Canada a most singular service. The trade with Great Britain last year in eggs alone reached almost the sum of \$2,000,000, and it is yet only in its infancy.

We have extended the Intercolonial Railway to the great centre of trade in the great city of Montreal. I do not know yet whether we can say that we have done it permanently or not, but there is the attempt, there is the policy, and the Senate will have an occasion to pass upon it by and by. Whether it passes affirmatively or negatively, whether the Intercolonial Railway is to remain with its terminus in field or come to the great city of Montreal, is not a matter of our own responsibility now but will rest upon other shoulders than ours.

Then, Sir, we have obtained another most material reform. We have obtained from the Canadian Pacific Railway a reduction of their freight rates, and in so doing we have given the greatest boon to the producers in the prairies of the North-west. We have obtained a reduction of 3 cents per 100 lbs. on wheat ; we have obtained a reduction on a specified list of articles of merchandise, a reduction varying from 10 to 33 per cent, and I understand that in these matters alone we have given to the people of the North-west Territories an advantage of at least \$600,000 a year.

Sir, this is something of practical statesmanship. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) does not give us any credit for it, and in the face of all this he has the audacity to speak of incapacity. He speaks as if we did not know anything of the history of Canada. Well, we do know something of the history of Canada, and as the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper), in one of those moments of candid modesty for which he is famous, has told us that the history of Canada is his history, we know something of his own history, too. I do not mean to depreciate the abilities of the hon. gentleman at all. I told him a moment ago that there are many things in him which I admire. I admire his industry ; I admire his tenacity ; I do not know that I do not even admire that sublime egotism of his which makes him see the whole world through his own personality. I will say more. I have no hesitation to say to my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) that he has done some good service for his party, nay, for his country, when he was doing the thinking of anybody else than himself ; that is, when he was serving not leading. But I must also say that whenever he has been left to do his own thinking and carry out his own plans, he has been the arch-blunderer of modern times. My hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) was something in Nova Scotia at

the time he was serving under the Hon. William Johnstone, if I remember right, but when the time came that the Hon. William Johnstone was removed to the Bench, and the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) had the direction of his own party, he scattered his party in less than three years. Then came the period of confederation, and I must say that my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) was clever enough to attach himself to the skirts of Sir John A. Macdonald, and between Sir John Macdonald and himself they sailed the ship of state pretty successfully. The work, however, was divided. Sir John Macdonald was at the helm and supplied the brains; my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) supplied the wind—his blowing swelled the sails. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) came back after a while to resume the leadership of his party, and there was the same result as in Nova Scotia—in three months he destroyed it, and put it in the position where it is now.

In the speech of my hon. friend, there is one thing, however, in which I can agree with him. I can agree with him in what he said of the mover and seconder of the Address. My hon. friend for once during his whole speech was fair and generous, and I give him the fullest credit for the way in which he spoke of my hon. friend from Prince (Mr. Bell) and my hon. friend from Montmagny (Mr. Martineau); and the tribute he paid to them was well deserved. My hon. friend from Prince showed that he was already an old hand in parliamentary debate, and that he will be a valuable accession not only to the ranks of his party, but to Parliament generally; and I may say the same thing of my hon. friend from Montmagny.

But having said that much, my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition became himself again, and resumed his scolding tone. He was quite himself again when he reached the plebiscite. No, I am in error: there he abandoned the scolding tone and adopted the compassionate tone, and shed a tear in the bosoms of those prohibitionists who have been looking for legislation from this Government. He told us how dissatisfied they were, and what good reason they had for being dissatisfied. He told them: "Come to me—not that I may give you prohibition legislation, but that you and I may condole together on the wickedness of the party on the other side who will not give you prohibition." This was the position taken by my hon. friend yesterday. He gave them a barren consolation; he did not give them anything substantial at all. He told them the Government were blamable for not having done something in the matter of prohibition; but he did not tell them that he was ready to help them in any way. The hon. gentleman took the attitude, however, that we had been deceiving the prohibitionists, that we had not been carrying out our pledge to them.

Mr. N. F. DAVIN (West Assiniboia). Hear, hear.

The PRIME MINISTER. I recognize that echo; it is a very natural one to what has been said. The hon. gentleman is quite astray, however. The Government have broken no pledge to the prohibitionists, because the prohibitionists themselves never made any demand. What is the history of the plebiscite? We did not make a pledge to the prohibitionists as a class, as a body, as an association. We made a pledge to the Liberal party. We made that pledge in 1893 at the time of the convention which was held in the city of Ottawa. That convention, which was a most successful one, as everybody knows, determined what should be the policy of the Liberal party. It was attended by men from all parts of the Dominion, from Prince Edward Island almost to Vancouver Island. It was attended by men of all classes, all creeds and religions, by Liberals of every shade. Of course, it was attended by Liberals who were prohibitionists as it was by Liberals who were not prohibitionists. Sir, what is a political party? A political party is an association of men who believe identically on certain subjects, but have honest differences of opinion on other subjects; and it was quite natural, when there was a gathering of the Liberal party to determine what should be the policy of the party, that the prohibitionists in the convention should strive to obtain, if possible, the adoption of their policy by the party to which they belonged. It was quite natural that the prohibitionists who attended the convention in 1893 should use their best endeavours to convince their friends who did not share their views that they ought, as a duty to their party and to their country, to make prohibition one of the planks in the platform of the party. On the other hand, it was quite natural that those who did not share their views should resist the attempt to place any such plank in the platform of the party. There was a discussion. The prohibitionists represented to us that intemperance was one of the great evils, as we know, and that we ought to struggle with it at once by making prohibition a plank in the party platform; declaring that the people were with them, and that if the people themselves had an opportunity to pronounce upon the question they would emphatically pronounce in favour of such a policy. The opposite view was also put forward; and the result was that a resolution was introduced and inserted in the platform, by which the party pledged themselves that if they came into office they would have a plebiscite on the question of prohibition, so as to obtain the honest, unbiased opinion of the people on that great question. Let me say this: When we put that plank into our platform, there was an implied agreement between the members of the party who believed in prohibition and those who did not believe in prohibition. The implied agree-

ment on the part of those who did not believe in prohibition was that if the voice of the people spoke unmistakably, if it should be shown that the great majority of the electorate were in favour of prohibition, then those who did not believe in it, would surrender their views to those of their brothers, and would work honestly for the success of that policy. On the other hand, there was an engagement on the part of those who believed in prohibition, that if the voice of the people on the subject should not be of sufficient strength to warrant the adoption by the party of the policy of prohibition, they also would square their views to those of their brothers, and we would hear no more of that question in the ranks of the party. That was the policy we adopted, that was the policy we carried out, and what is the result? You know the figures; I need not give them to the House. Less than 23 per cent of the electorate pronounced in favour of having a prohibitory law in this country. Should the party under such circumstances make that policy its own? Should the Government under such circumstances introduce a prohibitory law? That is the problem now before us; and I do not hesitate to say, Mr. Speaker, speaking here with the authority which I hold from my position, and as I hope with the confidence of my party behind me, that the voice of the electorate which has been pronounced in favour of prohibition is not such as to warrant the Government in introducing a prohibitory measure. Moreover, there was not a man living who expected, at the time the plebiscite was taken, that the duty would be imposed on the Government of introducing a prohibitory measure unless at least one-half of the electorate recorded their votes in favour of that policy. Sir, was there any other view expressed? Was the view expressed, before the plebiscite was taken, that the question should be decided upon a comparison of the votes recorded on one side with those recorded on the other? If such a view was expressed, I never heard it, and I do not believe it was expressed. Moreover, I can give to my hon. friends on the other side who appear for the moment to be so much in favour of prohibition, the view of a friend of their own. The hon. member for East Durham (Mr. Craig), who took the opportunity of speaking on this question, not once, but on many occasions, and who had the manliness to express himself clearly and distinctly upon it, last session said this:

The question is, will this plebiscite vote settle the question of a prohibitory law? I answer that this depends to a very considerable extent on the largeness of the vote and the majority given. A couple of weeks ago I asked the First Minister what he would consider a majority, whether it would have to be a majority of the votes cast or a majority of the total votes on the list.

Of course I did not get an answer, and I did not expect an answer; but I gave the hon. gen-

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tleman a chance to make a reply. The right hon. gentleman asked me about the point, as I said I held an opinion, and I gave my views very frankly and fully. I said I believed that if any Government endeavoured to pass a prohibitory law it should be with a majority of the voters on the list in its favour.

Now, after the vote was taken sometime later, several gentlemen well known and identified with the cause of prohibition gave their views—views which correspond exactly with those expressed by my hon. friend from East Durham (Mr. Craig). The Rev. Dr. Potts, in an interview published in the Toronto "Globe," spoke as follows:—

He said that in his opinion the vote polled for prohibition was not large enough to warrant a demand for the enactment of a prohibitory law. This is in accord with Dr. Potts' utterances during the campaign. His declarations during the campaign were to the effect that a substantial majority of the electors of the Dominion must declare themselves for prohibition before a prohibition law could be enforced. "Prohibition is still our goal," said Dr. Potts, "but the transgression of a liquor law is not looked upon by the general community as a kind, and the consequence is that a substantial majority of the members of the community would be required for the enforcement of a prohibitory measure."

Mr. J. S. Robertson, Secretary of the Canadian Temperance League, said:

I do not think, in view of the smallness of the majority, that the Government would be justified in legislating on the lines of prohibition. Considering the condition of the confederation of the provinces, such legislation at the present time would not be justifiable. Much as I would like to see prohibition, the vote has shown that prohibition at the present time is impossible, especially with a large majority from one of the provinces against it. I doubt whether the Government, even if it attempted to make a prohibitory law, could pass it. Looking at the matter from a Dominion standpoint, and as a citizen, I certainly think that the Government should not attempt a prohibitory law.

Rev. William Patterson said:

I do not think the Government should enact a prohibitory law under the circumstances, the majority in Quebec and the cities being so great that it would be hard to enforce it.

These are some opinions which, I claim, are entitled to some respect. I know that there are some people who believe that notwithstanding all this, there should be a prohibitory law, but upon that question we have taken our ground and it is well known. The hon. gentleman yesterday did not dare to criticise it. It is open to him still to do so, but I doubt if he will agree with prohibitionists on prohibition as a Government measure or if we will give them anything else than mere barren sympathy.

The hon. gentleman yesterday also spoke at length upon the Senate, and because he did not see the reform of the Senate promised in the Speech from the Throne, he saw in that omission some sinister motive and act on the part of the Government. Let

him keep his soul in peace again. There was no sinister motive in this omission. The only reason why we did not include the reform of the Senate in the Speech from the Throne, is, as he well knows, because, whatever we can do here, we cannot legislate on this question. The only thing we can do is to petition the Imperial Parliament. But let me add further, that not only have we the intention of asking this House to express its views upon this question, but certainly we intend as well to have our resolution for the improvement of the Senate submitted to the Senate itself. The Senate is a constituent part of this country; it is part of the institutions of our country. Whether it approves or disapproves—and I am rather inclined to think it will disapprove—at all events, I for one shall always treat it with the respect to which it is entitled. We may differ from the Senate and the Senate may differ from us, but at all events we do not intend to proceed in this matter by any revolutionary methods. On the contrary, the Senate itself will be asked to perfect the work of confederation, not to destroy that work, as my hon. friend has said, but to perfect it, because human institutions—the Senate amongst the rest—are essentially perfectible. The hon. gentleman said yesterday that the Senate was created for the protection of the minority. He called it the corner stone of the Canadian confederation. Sir, woe be the day when the corner stone of confederation would be the Senate of Canada, as now composed. I do not mean to speak disrespectfully of that body. I agree with the hon. gentleman in many things he said yesterday, though he spoke beside the question. He spoke as if we intended to destroy the Senate. Well, we do not intend doing anything of the kind. I believe as firmly as he does in a second chamber. I believe in a Canadian Senate for the Canadian confederation; but whilst I hold that view, I hold the other view also, that the Senate, constituted as it is to-day, perfectly irresponsible, responsible neither to the Crown nor the people, is an anomaly in our institutions which we must blot out. The hon. gentleman said again that our plan was obsolete, not only obsolete but absurd. He said that no such plan had ever been proposed by man before, and that if there was any merit in it we were entitled to the full credit. The hon. gentleman spoke very positively, but I have known him too long not to know that when he speaks most positively it is when he is most in the wrong, and that explains why he is so often in the wrong. The hon. gentleman said we had no such example elsewhere of any similar proposition. He said that nowhere else was the proposition ever submitted that wherever there shall be diversity of opinion between the two chambers, there should be a joint sitting to settle the question. Sir, if there is any fault to be found with this reform which we have proposed, it is perhaps that it is not radical enough, that it does not go far enough;

but we have adopted it for one reason of creating the least possible disturbance in the institutions of our country. I love these institutions, I do not want to disturb them unless when absolutely necessary, and as long as I have a seat in this chamber, these institutions will not be touched with my consent, except when absolutely necessary, and then only to give the necessary reform and no more. But let me again draw attention to the statement of the hon. gentleman that such a reform does not exist in any other country. Well, I shall have great pleasure in quoting to my hon. friend the authority of a gentleman whose opinions, I must say, I do not always share, but who, on questions of fact, is generally accurate. I refer to the opinion of Sir John Bourinot. Sir John Bourinot published a paper at the commencement of this year, 1899, and I invite the attention of my hon. friend to what he said. This is his language for a second Chamber:

The second, or popular Chamber, however, is the most powerful. All elected or second assemblies have the initiation of money votes and taxation. The Senate of the United States is probably the sole instance of a legislative body which is not inferior in legislative importance to the lower house, and possesses special functions—the approval or rejection of important appointments and the confirmation of treaties—not enjoyed by any similar body in the world. In the Spanish Cortes, however, either house may take the initiative in all cases of legislation. In the Netherlands, the upper house cannot amend the bills of the lower branch, but must accept or reject them in their entirety. The British House of Lords cannot initiate or amend a money bill; neither can the Canadian Senate, nor the upper house of any of the British dependencies. The Senate of the United States, however, may amend, while it cannot originate a revenue or money bill. The upper house of the Prussian Landtag cannot amend the budget. In some countries there is a union of the two houses to consider and pass bills on which one or the other disagrees.

And this is the system which, the hon. gentleman told us, had never existed in any country. Sir, what would the hon. gentleman say, if I had made such a statement? What floods of eloquence would he have poured out in his comments upon my ignorance of history—comments such as I abstain from making.

The hon. gentleman stated a moment ago, and yesterday also, that he proposed to stump the province of Quebec against our proposal to reform the Senate, and to appeal to the people there upon the language of Sir George Etienne Cartier. Sir, I have read the confederation debates at least as accurately, I believe, as the hon. gentleman. I do not believe that Sir George Cartier said very much upon the question of the Senate. But there was another gentleman, as great as Cartier, whose fame has been growing ever since his death—Mr. Dorion—who spoke upon that question. I place myself in the judgment of the House, when I say that of all the speeches that were made on that occasion, the most statesmanlike, the most

far-seeing in its appreciation of the future, was the speech of Mr. Dorion, and Mr. Dorion depicted to the letter what would be the evils of an irresponsible Senate. So, if the hon. gentleman goes to the province of Quebec in order to appeal to the people upon the language of Cartier, I do not believe he will derive much comfort from the result.

The hon. gentleman passed from that to our plan of redistribution. He does not know yet what our plan of redistribution will be—

Mr. GEO. LANDERKIN (South Grey). That does not make any difference.

The PRIME MINISTER. No, that does not make any difference. He condemns it in advance, because to him, I regret to say, and to his party, the word redistribution means gerrymander; there is a sinister import in the very word. Again I say to my hon. friend that he may possess his soul in patience. He said we wanted to play with loaded dice. No, our effort is to unload the dice. Who loaded the dice, I want to know? Who loaded the dice with the infamous Franchise Act? Who loaded the dice with the still more infamous Redistribution Bill? Who carved the province of Ontario into 92 monuments of shapeless deformity—monuments of deformity to the eye and of even greater deformity to every instinct of right and justice? Sir, the hon. gentleman asked me yesterday, where was our constitutional power to pass the Act we propose. I answer, the constitutional power of the House of Commons to undo every wrong and to give justice to those who have suffered wrong. We do not propose, assuredly, to increase the number of members of the House, but it is our aim and purpose to undo the great wrong, the supreme injustice which was done against the liberties of the people in 1882. Let me say to the hon. gentleman, that I should be ashamed of myself, if we were to follow in the path trodden by himself and his friends. We do not want any loaded dice; what we want is to have fair-play for them as well as for us. We are here in the consciousness of our strength and, so help us God, I think we shall have that strength in the hearts of the people, but never by such methods as were resorted to by the party who were gully of the Gerrymander Act of 1882.

Then, Sir, the hon. gentleman passed to another subject, and one of a more peaceable character, when he spoke of the fast Atlantic service. I have to say to him that this is a matter which we intend to take up at some time, and sooner rather than later. He reproached us last night because we had not adopted the Allan contract, when we came into office. We did not adopt that contract for the reason that we believed that the late Government had arranged to pay too dear for the service we were to get from the Allans. We have been attempting to arrange another service. We have not been

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as successful as we had hoped: the contract we made has not been implemented; but we have not waited for the fast service in order to get all that the hon. gentleman suggested that contract would give us. He said that contract provided for cold storage. We did not carry out that contract, but the cold storage system is now in existence.

The hon. gentleman wanted also to have my opinion upon the Pacific cable. I have only to say to him, that we found that in a position which we could not accept. The hon. gentleman had agreed that Canada should contribute one-third of the amount for that service. We thought that one-third was too much, and we have negotiated to obtain a reduction, and I think we shall succeed. The hon. gentleman stated that I had been, perhaps not suspicious, but not satisfied as to the figures of the estimate of the cost to this country. It is true, I was not satisfied. Not that I meant any disparagement of Sir Sandford Fleming on that question. But did the hon. gentleman expect me, with the responsibility that rested upon me, to accept without verification the figures of any man, however eminent or respectable? I took an opportunity to have those figures checked, and I am bound to say, and I say to the hon. gentleman with great satisfaction, that the information which I have fully confirms the figures of Sir Sandford Fleming. This is not a time to make pronouncements or to give anything away, but I am glad to be able to say that before long I hope to be in a position to make an announcement to the hon. gentleman and to the House on this subject.

The hon. gentleman devoted the greater part of his speech to the negotiations which took place at Quebec and Washington. He devoted no less than three hours, I think, to that subject, and whatever conclusions he came to, I am yet at a loss to understand, except on one point, and that was, that when we adjourned, we should not have adjourned, but should have broken off the negotiations altogether. I shall come to that presently; but let me follow the hon. gentleman as he proceeded upon this question. He told us—and claimed great credit for it—that he had intended to have a campaign in the province of Quebec, to put before the people in that province the true situation, because he believed—to use his own words, which I took down—"that if the true condition of things were properly represented to the people of that province, the condition of public opinion would be different from what it is to-day." And this I hear re-echoed by my hon. friends from Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) and Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron). What have these hon. gentlemen been doing? Have not they been doing their level best to properly represent the condition of things to the people of Quebec? And my hon. friends from Sherbrooke (Mr. Ives), and Compton (Mr. Pope), and Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk)—have they not been properly representing

the state of affairs to the people of Quebec? But the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) tells us that he refrained from carrying on this campaign, so I must be thankful to him, not for what he has done, but for his good intentions. Then he complained of the length of the sittings of the commission. True, though there were adjournments during the sittings, the commission sat from the latter part of August to a little beyond the middle of February, let us say six months. Is that very extraordinary, in view of the results of some commissions upon which the hon. gentleman sat himself? He told us yesterday—he could not forget to tell us that—that he had been sitting with Mr. Chamberlain in Washington to settle the question of the North Atlantic fisheries. He said that that commission had sat for two months, I think it sat for more than two months; it had only one subject, and it sat for two months. We had ten or twelve subjects to deal with; we had the Atlantic fisheries for one, the Behring Sea fisheries for another, the Alaska boundary for another, the bonding privilege for another, the reciprocity question for another, the Alien Labour Law for another, the interior water fisheries for another, and two or three more which I forget at this moment. Having to deliberate upon all of these subjects within six months, it seems to me that we had not any too much time. But that is not all. We were much delayed by various circumstances, for instance, the untimely sickness and death of Mr. Dingley. Now, Sir, I am bound to say of Mr. Dingley that he was a man not well known in this country. He was known, for one thing, for being a prohibitionist, like my hon. friend. He was not a free trader, as my hon. friend knows, but he was a protectionist, as ardent a protectionist as my hon. friend himself. He was a man of strong convictions, and my colleagues and myself who knew him well, are but doing that justice to his memory which he deserves when we say that a fairer man never lived. He was a man of strong convictions, but always ready to argue and always ready to be convinced. For my part I deplore most sincerely his untimely death. I am sure that had he remained a member of the commission he would have been able to solve, by his authority with his party, many of the difficulties we had to contend with. He was replaced by another eminent gentleman, Mr. Payne. But unfortunately for the time our negotiations were delayed. Then there was the unfortunate accident and the most deplorable death of Lord Herschell. My hon. friend spoke eloquently yesterday of Lord Herschell, he could not have said enough of him. He was not only a great judge, he was not only a great statesman, he was not only a clever diplomat, but he was as true a friend of Canada as ever crossed the Atlantic. I was grieved when I saw in some Canadian newspapers last fall the statement that Lord Herschell was trying to settle some of the

questions at issue by a sacrifice of Canadian interests. Sir, there never was a more false statement made in the press, and I hope the Canadian newspapers will at once endeavour to repair the evil which they have done in this respect, and to proclaim, as I have a right to do, speaking from knowledge of Lord Herschell, that he fought for Canada, not only with enthusiasm, but with conviction and devotion. However, all these circumstances led us to the period which we reached at last and which the public knows. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman assumes that in all these negotiations we have been begging for reciprocity; he assumes that in all these negotiations that took place at Quebec and in Washington we were not dealing with the Behring Sea question, that we were not dealing with the Atlantic fisheries question, and with the other questions, but that we were seeking to modify the American commissioners in order to obtain some trade concessions. Let me tell the hon. gentleman that in this matter, as in all others, and especially in this one, he is mistaken. I have no right to speak of what took place in the commission, but I have a right to refer to what is now in the minds of the Canadian people; and if we know the hearts and minds of our people at present, I think I am not making too wide a statement when I say that the general feeling in Canada to-day is not in favour of reciprocity. There was a time when Canadians, beginning with the hon. gentleman himself, would have given many things to obtain the American market; there was a time not long ago when the market of the great cities of the union was the only market we had for any of our products. But thank heaven! those days are past and over now. We are not dependent upon the American market as we were at one time. Our system of cold storage has given us a market in England which we had not before. Some few years ago we had no market except the cities of the union. Those days are over, and I recognize that fact; though I admit without any hesitation that there are yet quite a number of articles concerning which the American market would be of great advantage to Canada.

Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman stated yesterday that it was our attitude on the question of unrestricted reciprocity which led—I quote his own words—"to failure" in our negotiations on the other side. Unrestricted reciprocity—how many times has the hon. gentleman uttered this word as a reproach towards ourselves! Sir, if unrestricted reciprocity was a crime, the first criminal was the hon. gentleman himself. If there was merit in it, he is entitled first of all to the merit, because he is the man, the only Canadian so far as I know, who, in negotiations with the Americans, actually offered to barter away certain privileges on the basis of unrestricted reciprocity.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I beg to make to the hon. gentleman's statement a positive and emphatic denial.

The PRIME MINISTER. Mr. Speaker, I expected as much, and I provided myself for it. I expected the hon. gentleman would attempt to deny it. But deny it he cannot, though he may try to equivocate, and quibble, and pettifog upon the subject. The hon. gentleman will not deny that he was once in Washington negotiating a treaty, he was once in Washington to solve the question of the Atlantic fisheries, and he offered to settle the point upon the basis of what he called unrestricted reciprocity.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no.

The PRIME MINISTER. Let the hon. gentleman be quiet for a moment. I do not want to take any advantage of the hon. gentleman. The hon. gentleman will tell me that he did not make an offer of unrestricted reciprocity, but that he made an unrestricted offer of reciprocity. The hon. gentleman will not deny that he made an unrestricted offer of reciprocity.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I say this, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. gentleman, if he will permit me to make the observation. An offer of unrestricted reciprocity and an unrestricted offer of reciprocity are two things as dissimilar as night and day. The term "unrestricted reciprocity" covers what it states, but an offer of reciprocity that was not restricted, is as different from it as night is from day.

The PRIME MINISTER. We have it now. An offer of unrestricted reciprocity covers what it meant. What did it mean? It meant reciprocity without restriction. Let us here examine what was included in unrestricted reciprocity. Everything was included; reciprocity in manufactured products, reciprocity in agricultural products, reciprocity in mining products, in the products of the farm, and reciprocity in products of the forests. That was what was meant by unrestricted reciprocity. What did an unrestricted offer of reciprocity mean? Did it include products of the farm? It did, it was not restricted. Did it include products of the mine? It did, it was not restricted. Did it include products of the sea? It did, it was not restricted. Did it include manufacturing products? It did, it was not restricted. It was tweedle dum and tweedle dee, or six of one and half dozen of the other. I want to know, when he made his offer of unrestricted reciprocity to the American authorities, what did he mean? Did he mean to have it accepted or not? Did he mean to deceive them? He would not say that he meant to have it refused. He could have offered it only to have it accepted, and if it had been accepted, the result would have been unrestricted reciprocity. But, Sir, the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) did as he did on another occasion; but before I pass to that I will quote to him one of his own organs, to show

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that I do him no injustice. He was well understood by his own party to have made an offer of unrestricted reciprocity. Three years later he went to Washington again, and on the 10th of April, 1891, the ablest and most respectable organ of the Conservative party, the Montreal "Gazette," made the following statement:—

Indeed, Mr. Blaine flatly objected to the appointment of a formal commission, until he learned upon what basis the Canadians proposed to treat, and it was to assure the American Secretary of State that the Canadian Government is willing to discuss the question on the broadest lines, even on the basis of unrestricted reciprocity, that Sir Charles Tupper returned to Washington with Sir John Thompson and the Hon. Mr. Foster.

Therefore, I do the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) no injustice. Here is the organ of his own party setting forth his own attitude. But, Sir, the hon. gentleman did then as he has done more than once, and as he did last year, when he found his party would not follow him—he tried to equivocate and pettifog, in order to get out of the hole in which he had placed himself. We remember what took place last year on the Yukon question. When our contract was made known the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) rushed to the office of a friendly newspaper to publish an interview and to endorse the contract. He wanted to guide public opinion; he was moved by patriotic motives. But when he came on the floor of this House he did not find his party behind him nor beside him. Why, he was assailed upon the very floor of this House by members of his own party, and in our presence, the hon. member for York (Mr. Maclean)—whom we all regret not to see in his seat to-day, but who I am glad to hear will be present by and by—the hon. gentleman from York (Mr. Maclean) simply took him by the throat and forced him to take another attitude. Then, there was the hon. gentleman from West York (Mr. Wallace), who slapped him on the other cheek, and forced him to take another attitude. Then there was the other member from York (Mr. Foster), and the rest of the party, without any qualification at all, who simply ignored him altogether, and they dragged him from the high position he assumed, and as they would not follow where he led, he followed where they grovelled.

The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) also said that we had been at Washington as humble suppliants at the feet of the American people. Humble suppliants at the feet of the American people! Sir, if ever there was a man who was an humble suppliant, if ever there was a man who disgraced and humiliated Canada at Washington, it was the hon. gentleman who had the audacity to make such a charge against us. Does the hon. gentleman believe that we do not know his history, and that we have lived all these years without knowing what he was doing. Let me recall to the mind

of the hon. gentleman what took place in these very negotiations to which the Montreal "Gazette" has referred. Mr. Speaker, once upon a time there was a general election in Canada; it was in the year 1891. The hon. gentleman was not a member of Parliament then; he was in England; he was the High Commissioner for Canada; he was the representative of the Canadian people, not of one party, but of all parties. His duty was to stay in London, and to discharge the functions of his office there, to stand by the rights of the Canadian people as a whole. He left his office, he came to Canada, he stumped Canada from one end to the other in favour and in behalf of the Conservative party, forgetting his position; but let that pass. He made a statement which was to say the least of it—remembering your ruling Mr. Speaker yesterday—a statement which was, to say the least of it, unfounded in fact. He made the statement that at the moment he was speaking the Canadian Government were in possession of an offer from the Secretary of State for the United States (Mr. Blaine) to negotiate a treaty of reciprocity. He stated, in so many words, in numerous addresses in all parts of Canada, that the initiation came from Mr. Blaine. This statement was not correct. This statement was not founded on fact, but it had its effect with the electorate, and the victory was won. He went to Washington after that. Sir Julian Pauncefote asked for him an interview from Mr. Blaine, but Mr. Blaine would not grant the interview until the statement by the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) had been rectified. In answer to the letter of Sir Julian Pauncefote, asking for this interview by the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper), Mr. Blaine wrote to Sir Julian Pauncefote as follows, on April 1st, 1891:—

In view of the fact that you had come to the State Department with the proposals, and that the subject was then for the first time mentioned between us, and in view of the further fact that I agreed to a private conference as explained in my minute, I confess that it was a surprise to me when several weeks later, during the Canadian canvass, Sir John Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper both stated before public assemblages that an informal discussion of a reciprocity treaty would take place at Washington after the 4th of March, by the initiation of the Secretary of State.

I detail these facts because I deem it important, since the matter has been for some weeks open to public remark, to have it settled that the conference was not "initiated" by me, but, on the contrary, that the private arrangement of which I spoke, was but a modification of your proposal, and in no sense an original suggestion from the Government of the United States.

With this explanation, it only remains for me to say that gentlemen representing the Dominion of Canada, and proposing to discuss the commercial relations of the two countries may be assured of a courteous and cordial reception in Washington by the Government of the United States.

Mr. Blaine would receive the hon. gentle-

man (Sir Charles Tupper), and would receive him cordially and courteously, but there was a question of fact to be settled between them. Mr. Blaine stated in so many words, that the initiation did not come from him, and he wanted that fact acknowledged before the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) was received. The following day the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) was in the office of Mr. Blaine, and he himself records the interview which took place in a letter to Sir John Macdonald. He first makes some preparatory remarks. For instance, he met some of the grantees of the land in Mr. Blaine's office, the German Ambassador was there; the Danish Ambassador was there also; he had to wait some time, but after he had waited until these great personages had withdrawn, he was admitted, and this is what he said took place:

I told Mr. Blaine that I wished, in the outset, to recognize the accuracy of the statement contained in his letter to Sir Julian Pauncefote, which I had seen, in reference to the initiation of the negotiations regarding reciprocal trade arrangements between the two countries.

He had to eat humble pie, and when he had eaten it, he was heard. This is the man who tells us that we are suppliants at the feet of the United States—the man who was forced to admit that before he could carry on negotiations, he had to correct statements that could not be maintained. Now, Sir, to come back to the negotiations. As I said, the negotiations did not take place on the question of reciprocity more than upon any other question. They took place on all the subjects, and finally, as is well known, we could not agree upon the question of the boundary between Alaska and Canada. My mouth is closed on this subject, and I cannot speak; but there has been a statement made officially by the Foreign Office, coming from the commission itself, which has given to the public the reasons why we could not agree. The American commissioners did not want to have an umpire. They wanted three commissioners on one side and three on the other side. To this we could not agree, because such an arrangement would not give us a definite settlement of the question. They also wanted it agreed, that if the establishment which they have made at the head of the Lynn canal were found to be in Canadian territory, they should continue to remain part of their own territory. We could not agree to that.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Hear, hear.

The PRIME MINISTER. I am glad to see that in this, at least, we have the approbation of the hon. gentleman. The hon. gentleman tells us that as soon as the American commissioners took that position, we should have refused to adjourn, we should have broken off the negotiations. He told us that the Canadian commissioners should have come back to attend to the new situation

thus created. The Canadian commissioners, Mr. Speaker,—why did he not speak also of the British commissioner? If the Canadian commissioners should have come back, what was the British commissioner to do, I want to know? The hon. gentleman wanted us to know? The hon. gentleman wanted us to break off the negotiations in a fit of petulance, and incur all the consequences of such a break. We thought it more wise, more dignified, and more in the interests of Canada to give to the Imperial Government and the American Government the opportunity of having some generous talk on this question, with a view of arriving at some settlement. Is there a man here but the hon. gentleman who would blame us for that? The hon. gentleman spoke of the rapprochement between the two nations, and approved of it. What would have become of that rapprochement if, at the very outset, because we could not agree on a question like the one to which I have referred, we had followed the course proposed by the hon. gentleman, because the propositions of the American commissioners were not acceptable? We thought they were not acceptable, and we did not accept them; but because we did not accept them, we thought it the part of honourable men and of true British subjects to give a last opportunity to have that question settled amicably, and I believe the majority of the Canadian people will support us in this, as in other matters. The hon. gentleman said: You should have come back and initiated a policy of retaliation.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No.

The PRIME MINISTER. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. The hon. gentleman said: Do not have a policy of retaliation in name, but have it in fact all the same. He told us the other day, in a speech he delivered, and more or less repeated yesterday, that we should have a policy of retaliation in the Yukon, because Canadian miners in the American Yukon have not all the rights which are given to American miners—that we should have the same policy in Canada for American miners.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No, the hon. gentleman has misunderstood me. On the contrary, I stated that in the Yukon the United States had given Canadian subjects on the American side of the boundary the same privileges that we give to Americans, and they did that by an Act of Congress passed since the meeting of this House last year.

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend does not do himself justice: he makes a statement which is not accurate. The Bill which was introduced last year was to give to the Canadian miners in the Yukon the same rights as were given to American miners in the Yukon; but, Sir, this is a barren

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right, and the hon. gentleman ought to know it. What we give to-day in the Yukon to American miners is the same privileges that we give to our own miners. We do not sell, but license, in the Yukon; they do not license, they sell, and because we do not sell, but license, the Americans will not sell or license to Canadian miners. That is the position. I have read my hon. friend's speeches recently with great attention, and I believe, that my memory is better than his; and he said, in so many words, that we should have the same policy towards American miners in the Yukon as are given to Canadian miners in the Yukon.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No, throughout Canada.

The PRIME MINISTER. Very well; what does he mean? We should have the same policy in the Yukon? That might be possible, Sir; but the hon. gentleman should not forget that it would be very dangerous to introduce any such policy in the Yukon. He knows that we have no access to the Yukon gold fields except through territory held by the Americans, whether we go in by the Yukon River or by the Pacific Ocean. Would it be very judicious, under such circumstances, to adopt a policy of retaliation? Ah, if our Yukon Railway Bill had been passed last year,—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

The PRIME MINISTER—the result would have been different. But, Sir, that Bill was defeated; and the greatest crime, I do not hesitate to say—and my words will become truer and truer as time goes on—the greatest crime that was ever committed against Canadian interests was the rejection of that Bill. The hon. gentleman also spoke of retaliation in fact, not in name, upon spruce wood, pine logs and nickel. I have only this to say to my hon. friend, that, whatever may be the policy which shall be followed by this Government, it shall not have reference to any policy followed by the United States. The inspiration of our policy shall be the consideration of the best interests of the Canadian people. The inspiration of our policy shall come from within Canada, and not from outside of Canada.

Now, Sir, I have nothing more to do at present. I have done; but before I close, I must express my gratitude to the hon. gentleman that in this last speech which he has delivered he has shown himself once more, and perhaps more than ever, as he is—reckless, extravagant, unreliable, ever ready to pander to passion and prejudice, ever ready to gamble away the most sacred interests of this country for the chance of a party advantage. As to us, we have now been in office less than three years; upon our record, such as it is, I claim we can appeal with some degree of confidence, not only to the impartial judgment of history, but to the fair verdict of men now

living ; I do not claim that we have been free from imperfections, or infirmities, but I do claim that we have done some lasting service to this country—service which will live in the hearts and minds of the people, and which will still bear fruit a long time after the last of us has been laid in his grave. Sir, I claim this, and I claim it with some degree of confidence. We have closed an era painful and dangerous in the history of our country ; we have healed some burning sores which were fast eating into the very heart of our people ; we have brought harmony and peace where discord had long reigned ; we have reconciled men long estranged by bitter strife ; we have taught them to have confidence in themselves and in one another, and above all things, we have taught them to have faith in the institutions under which it is our privilege to live. This further I claim : we have opened a new era in the history of the trade relations of the Empire. We have removed from our limbs the shackles which were impediments to the freer trade within the broad domains of our Empire ; and the policy which we have thus introduced we shall pursue with care and prudence, and without undue haste, but with an ever vigilant eye and determination and courage to move and to act at the proper time and the proper season.

Mr. FOSTER. After the rather exciting interlude, Mr. Speaker, between the end of my hon. friend's speech and the moment of my rising, I shall endeavour, as briefly as I can, and with a proper fear of the somewhat unnecessary criticism and fault-finding of the right hon. leader of the Opposition, to follow out some of the questions which have been raised in the present debate ; and if I should exceed the length of the time which the right hon. Prime Minister thinks members of the Opposition should confine themselves in the presence of his high mightiness I shall have to bear calmly his criticisms and scoldings, and trust myself to the larger and less excited and I think more generous sentiments of the electorate outside of this House, and of my own friends on this side. One thing is certainly apparent to the members of this House, and will no doubt be equally apparent to the country, when the speech that has just been delivered comes to be read, although I grant you, Mr. Speaker, that a great deal of the pique and anger and churlishness which showed itself in that speech from the very beginning cannot possibly appear in cold print. I think it will be apparent to this House and the country that my right hon. friend met the questions which were raised last night in this debate in a spirit quite different from that in which they were raised by the leader of the Opposition. I have had some experience in parliamentary life, and there are others on both sides of the House who have been here longer than myself, and I venture to state the opinion that I have never heard in this House, between leaders of opposing

parties, on the great questions of policy which divide them, a speech made by the leader of the Opposition in which there was greater moderation and a more persistent effort evident to place the matters in controversy fairly before the House, and in which there was less personal pique or personal rancour than in the presentment made by my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition last night. And if a criticism may be allowed to myself, an humble member of the Opposition, I venture to say that my right hon. friend would have consulted the dignity of his position and that of his party better if he had replied to that speech in the spirit in which it was made. I am sorry to say that, in my opinion, he did not. My right hon. friend seems to think that his first duty to the House and the country was to indulge in personal flagellation. In that he was quite mistaken. The issue was not a personal one in this House, and neither was the personal issue raised last night. Quite the reverse. The issues raised were those between the parties, the issues on broad questions of policy and administration, and those issues were placed calmly and forcibly and at no greater length than they deserved by my hon. friend. As raised by him, they had their point and their force, and my right hon. friend felt their point and their force, and endeavoured to parry them as well as he could by indulging in what may, without exaggeration, be denominated a tirade of personal abuse of my hon. friend who spoke last night. He may have succeeded in leading away the minds of the hon. gentlemen who sit behind him. They may consider that in this sort of personal encounter there is balm for broken pledges, for unwise policies and wretched administration ; but my hon. friend mistakes the temper and the intelligence of the people if he thinks that fireworks of that kind will avail in the country against lapses and faults such as I have alluded to. My hon. friend's defence is for the moment, but not one which will stand the test of time and reflection and fair thought, and it will receive time and reflection and fair thought by the electorate of this country, or I am much deceived in that electorate. He found fault with the leader of the Opposition for the length of time he took in presenting his views last night. Five hours is a considerable length of time, but not by any means sufficient to properly go over and expose to public view the follies of the hon. gentlemen who sit on the Treasury benches, and who play with principles just as easily and thoughtlessly as they play on public credulity. Five hours is but a small portion of time to devote to the gross inconsistencies of hon. gentlemen opposite as public men, and from which they propose to escape by a torrent of personal abuse. Five hours is a very small proportion of time to be devoted to the broken pledges of hon. gentlemen opposite—pledges which they made and made for their party profit, pledges by which they obtained party profit,

pledges by means of which they reached the seats which they occupy in this House, pledges which to-day they cynically repudiate—no, not repudiate; they have passed beyond that stage. This has been a matter of stages, of phases of development with hon. gentlemen opposite. When they first came back from the country with their broken pledges trailing behind them, they were apologetic and somewhat shamefaced. They protested that, though they pledged in sincerity and meant to carry out their pledges, they found great obstacles, which were hard to be surmounted. But, give us time, they said to their followers behind them; give us time, they said to the country that was watching them, and you will find that every pledge will be redeemed. That was phase No. 1. Phase No. 2 left the ground of protest and took the ground of apology. But last year they got beyond the ground of apology and took the ground of open repudiation. They have advanced a stage further this year, if we are to judge by what has been said by the right hon. gentleman who has just spoken. Now they will neither protest nor apologize nor repudiate; they will simply ignore the whole thing, as though they had no past and as though history were a thing unknown in this country. Well, Sir, we do not intend to let these hon. gentlemen ignore the past. We intend to put their past before them and to keep it before them and to keep it before the country as well. The right hon. gentleman had a good deal of fault to find, a good deal of fun to make with my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) beside me. Amongst other things he spoke of what he called that hon. gentleman's redundancy and prolixity. He said that human nature, in such cases could only endure. He declared that my hon. friend had nothing but words to offer, idle words, and that some day he would be brought to account for all these idle words which he had spoken. Mr. Speaker, there are some words which are worse than idle words, namely, false words. My hon. friends opposite may criticise idle words or those which they call idle, but they had better do a little introspection and find out what penalties in the present and in the future are laid up against men who speak false words, men who gain advantage by pledges they do not keep, by promises they repudiate. The right hon. gentleman said that adjectives were a large part of the vocabulary of the leader of the Opposition, that he had more adjectives than ideas. That is the fault of most of us—that we have fewer ideas than words; but heaven help us if we have no ideas at all. My right hon. friend must not criticise too harshly the only stock in trade he has. He gives us to understand that he regards the five hours' speech last night as the vaporings of a disappointed man. Well, Sir, he is welcome to that opinion. But I would rather be in the position of one who talks and is disappointed

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—even granting that for the sake of argument—than to talk a little less long but to occupy the place of a man who, though not disappointed, had disappointed every elector who had trusted to his promises. He declared that my hon. friend took these whole five hours to seek out the weak spots in the armour of the Government. Oh, no; it requires no diligent search to find these weak spots in the armour of hon. gentlemen opposite. Their whole armour is a tissue of weaknesses; it is open at every joint, so that even the most inexperienced criticism can easily find openings and dull darts can very easily pierce them. He said that the leader of the Opposition went into Huron, that he had been found to be a man of idle words and weak deeds as shown by the results in that county. If the leader of the Government is satisfied with the result in Huron, gentlemen on this side of the House certainly have no reason to complain. In a by-election, with two Governments, the most partisan, the most shamelessly partisan that Canada has ever seen in Dominion and in provincial politics—with one exception in regard to provincial politics, which I may deal with later on—with the patronage of these two Governments used openly, shamelessly, persistently, notwithstanding the high pretensions, aye, even under cover of the vaunted innocence and purity of the leader of the Government, and the no less vaunted purity of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Tarte) who sits behind him—with all this, the result was that the majority which the Government enjoyed in that constituency was brought down from 317 in the general election to 117 in the by-election. If the leader of the Government is satisfied with that as an indication of public opinion in the Dominion, I think we on this side may be satisfied as well. The hon. gentleman assumes too much. No man, however sudden his rise, however high he may be, is exempt from criticism in this country. Then my right hon. friend, belauded though he has been, bedizened—democrat though he is—until scarcely an inch of his democratic clothing can be discerned for the high and aristocratic ornaments he bears, must not think that all this singles him out in Canada as above criticism and beyond the exercise of the judgment and intelligence of this country. Particularly when he makes as many blunders as he has, he must expect to be criticised, and he might as well look pleasant about it instead of getting angry. He took the leader of the Opposition to task because, as he said—he did not prove it nor did he hope to prove it, he simply declared it—my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) took credit for having created Canada. Now, while that is entirely without proof on the part of the right hon. gentleman, one thing can be proved, that at a certain time in a certain city many miles from this, my right hon. friend declared that he went to bed one evening when Canada was only a blotch

upon the map and when he woke up in the morning, behold Canada was a nation, and he was the man who had wrought that miracle.

My hon. friend is scarcely in a position to criticise what he calls egotism, under such circumstances as that. Well, after indulging in this by-play, he proceeds to the serious work of his speech. What was the serious work the hon. gentleman undertook? He undertook to answer the challenge of my hon. friend, as to what he had done for the country. And how long did he take to do it? He did it, in about fifteen minutes. What has my hon. friend, according to his own statement, done for the country? He says, in the first place, that when he came into power, he found this country rent and torn over a question which included in it elements of race and creed, with all the dangers that apply to questions of that kind, and that he remedied it—remedied it by relegating it to the province. He told us, in another place, that a political party was a party in which the men composing it believed alike in fundamental matters, and disagreed in others. And so a cabinet or a government would have to be composed of men who agreed in all points of public policy, or else they could not keep together. Where is the agreement in this case? My hon. friend says that he has settled this question. The Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) declares, and has declared within very recent times, that the question is not settled; and the Solicitor General and my hon. friend are members of the same Cabinet and Government, which is supposed to have solidarity! The less my hon. friend says about his shifty methods in trying to settle that question, whether it is ultimately settled or not, the better for his reputation in this country. I do not propose to go into that: I will leave that question for hon. gentlemen who understand it better than I do, and who will take up that point at the proper time.

He declares that he has brought about preferential trade—a real preferential trade. Why, when my hon. friend came down to this House with his first resolutions upon the tariff—I have it from the mouth of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, who sits beside him—they had no intention, and it was not the policy of the Government to have preferential trade with Great Britain at all. Preferential trade, if it means anything for a country, is trade which gives to that country advantages which are given to no other country. Preferential trade does not mean most-favoured-nation treatment. But what the Minister of Trade and Commerce said—and I have it, I think, in a paper before me—was, that it was not their intention at all to propose a policy of that kind. Here is what he said:

I say with respect to that offer we now make, that it is not a preferential offer at all in the true and legal sense of the word. That offer is

open to all the world. The Americans may avail themselves of it, so may the Germans and the Belgians. The whole world are welcome to avail themselves of it on the same terms and conditions on which England may take advantage of it.

And he said later:

If the Americans were willing to give us full and fair reciprocal advantages, I would recommend trading with them for the benefit of Canada and the Empire, too; and I think Mr. Foster will find out before he is many years older that very probably, although I admit it is a little roundabout way, this is not a bad way to get at it. We have to-day offered better terms to those countries who will trade with us fairly, but that offer has been made to the United States just as it is to any other country, even to Great Britain herself.

Now, Sir, that was the intention with which the hon. gentlemen framed their policy and brought it to this House. Why have we preferential trade with Great Britain to-day, and for Great Britain and some of her colonies alone? Because hon. gentlemen blundered into it, and for no other reason whatever. When they sat down together, we will suppose, with their wits about them, and laid out their line of policy, their line of policy was not for preferential trade to Great Britain alone, was not preferential trade to Great Britain at all. Their line of policy was in the line of what my hon. friend indicated, I think, in Toronto, when he said that now the policy of this Government was to be, not Canada for the Canadians, but all the world for the Canadians, to trade with all the world and to all those countries that would give to us favouring tariffs, we would give favouring tariffs and favoured treatment. That was the policy which they laid down in their cool moments, knowing what they desired to accomplish. My hon. friend has said something, too, with reference to their getting the treaties denounced. He said, I think, to-day, that a preferential treatment to Great Britain, as everybody knew, would have to be given to Belgium and to Germany also. Everybody knows it now, but everybody did not know it when that policy was first propounded. I put the question to my hon. friend myself, as to whether, under that resolution on that item, Belgium and Germany would have a right to that treatment as well as Great Britain. My hon. friend got up, in the plenitude of his power and his knowledge, and declared:

I have no hesitation in answering my hon. friend. I say emphatically that neither Belgium nor Germany can have any right to that preferential treatment.

Now he says everybody knew that when Great Britain received that treatment, it must be accorded equally to Belgium and to Germany, because these had the favoured-nation treatment. My hon. friend simply blundered into what he calls preferential trade with Great Britain. His policy, as laid down and as explained by himself, as

explained by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and by the Minister of Finance, was a policy of favourable treatment to every country which would favourably treat us, and so to make our trade bounds as wide as possible. My hon. friend next took credit for having abrogated the treaties with Belgium and with Germany. I think he arrogates too much to himself. As I read the history of those negotiations, and the history which preceded those negotiations which resulted in the denunciation of the treaties, the working up to that result had been a matter of many years. It is always the case that abuses which are and have been long established, require time in order to disestablish or to abrogate them. There always must be a period, longer or shorter, of agitation, of preparation of public sentiment, and of conveying that public sentiment to the authorities that may be, and of the dispositions which must take place between the contracting parties in order that changes may be made. That process had been going on with reference to these treaties for twenty years, started long ago and persistently held to by the Government of Canada, whilst my hon. friend was in opposition, and adhered to by the government of every British colony, who, by their representatives, with Sir Charles Tupper, when he was High Commissioner in London, pressed again and again upon the British Government the idea that these treaties stood in the way of desirable legislation, and that they ought to be abrogated. These led up to their final result, and that final result was brought about by the co-operation of all the colonies, as is distinctly shown in the records—aided very largely by the feelings which were aroused on the occasion of the Jubilee of Her Gracious Majesty. These all in their years of work led up to the final abrogation; but, Sir, it is quite too much for my hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) to take for himself or for the Canadian Government the sole credit of having abrogated these treaties. The treaties were abrogated by a process which is common in removing abuses, or in making amendments, or in getting changes which are for the public benefit, whether they be in the higher range of international politics or in the somewhat lower plane of local or provincial politics.

The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) cites an instance as to why the results of preferential trade must be beneficial to this country. Let me remind him that it is only partial preferential trade; that is, we have given a preference to Great Britain, but Great Britain has given no preference to us. My right hon. friend well knows that before the elections of 1896, in various places in this Dominion, he declared for a mutual preference as between Canada and Great Britain. Taking up the cue Sir Charles Tupper had taken years before and laboured assiduously upon, namely, that of a mutual preferential arrangement between

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this country and Great Britain; taking up the cue which had been laid down at the Intercolonial Conference which met here in 1894, where a resolution was passed favouring that project, and the report of which was sympathetically placed before the British Government, and had its due force; my hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), in the heat of the election, was anxious to put himself before the electorate as being in favour of a preference which should be mutual between Canada and Great Britain, and he so declared himself upon platform after platform throughout the Dominion. After having made that pledge and promise, to the country, why was my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) led to repudiate that promise when he went over to Great Britain, and why at Liverpool and in London and everywhere, did he go back upon the pledge which he made to the people of this country in favour of a mutual preferential trade? His preferential trade has not been successful in two things. It has not been successful in diverting the current of trade between Canada and the United States—for which those gentlemen opposite found fault with the late Government. It has not been successful in developing beyond natural causes to an appreciable extent the trade between Great Britain and this country. As far as our export trade is concerned, it has had no appreciable effect. My hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) would lead this House and the country to suppose that the door was shut against the exports of Canada to Great Britain until he became the leader of this Government, and then it was suddenly opened. He knows that for the last eight or ten years before he came into office that current of trade had been widening and deepening and broadening in this country towards Great Britain, and that it was growing in satisfactory and increasing volume every year. And, Sir, if you take away the impetus of heightened prices, and take away the impetus of natural increase of production, which is continually going on in this country, then the increase which has taken place since he came into power, owing to the preferential advantage which he has given Great Britain, I beg leave to say is inappreciable in any degree. More than that, everything which draws attention to a country, which makes knowledge more common between the people of different countries helps in matters of trade if there be the natural basis for trade, and the Jubilee year, with all its accompanying conditions of goodwill and of intelligent appreciation by one part of the Empire of every other part of the Empire, had its influence in promoting trade between Great Britain and Canada. But, Sir, the preferential part of it has so far, to say the least, not been brilliantly successful. The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) says it must be successful, because Sir Howard Vincent, on the very eve of the abrogation of the Belgian and German treaties, and before there could be the least indica-

tion of what would be the results of the arrangement, wired him a congratulatory telegram, an Imperial telegram, so to speak. If my right hon. friend will read that telegram closely, he will find that the note which was chiefly struck by Sir Howard Vincent was a note of joy upon the abrogation of the Belgian and German treaties, and Sir Howard Vincent could have nothing of knowledge, and consequently nothing of importance to state with reference to the actual results in improvement of trade between that country and this.

Ah, well, the right hon. gentleman says: We have established a penny postage throughout the Empire. I am quite willing to let the presentation of that case by my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) stand before the country along with the presentation which was made by the right hon. gentleman this afternoon. By reading his own letter, he effectually disproved the position he had taken in the city of Montreal, for what he said to-day was that the two things done were: the removing of the inertia which had long blocked the way of penny postage, and the admirable and long-continued efforts of Mr. Henneker Heaton in that respect. My hon. friend the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) is entitled to all the credit that fairly belongs to him. I would not take away one iota of it, but what my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) was speaking against, and what we have the right to speak against, is that the Prime Minister should take the whole credit of this for the Postmaster General alone, when it is really due to long and persistent efforts, culminating at this time, and aided by the Postmaster General. I am quite willing to give him all the credit that is due him, but to say that "we" or "he" has brought about the boon of penny postage in the Empire, is not, I think, true in fact, and is not a position which the right hon. gentleman is warranted in taking. The Prime Minister declares that he was not in favour and would not move a resolution for penny postage at a certain time, because he was not aware of the condition of things financial and otherwise in the Post Office Department; but that when the Postmaster General showed him that \$781,000 of a deficit had been reduced to a deficit of only \$50,000 in a single year, then the right hon. gentleman became a convert to the penny postage, and he was quite in favour of it. Now, Sir, I beg leave to say this: That by no system of proper accounting can the Postmaster General or any other man show that a legitimate deficit for any one year of \$781,000 was turned into a deficit of only \$50,000. To do it you have to juggle with accounts, and the accounts have been juggled with in order to bring that about, which will be properly shown in due course of time. But my hon. friend had nothing to say with regard to another most notable decrease in the postal burdens of this country, made by the Government which preceded his own, and by my hon. friend who sits near me, when,

by an enactment in Parliament, and without blowing his own trumpet to any large extent that I know of, he actually gave to the people of this country the right to send one ounce at the same rate at which they had formerly sent half an ounce, and thereby cut into half, for the benefit of the whole people of the country, the postal rate they had formerly to pay. That was a notable achievement, but it was done by a gentleman in pursuance of his duty and without getting up in a metropolitan city and declaring: "I have cut off half the postage impost on the people of Canada." The penny postage, so far as the Postmaster General is concerned, is also the result of a blunder. Just as they blundered into preferential trade, so my hon. friend blundered into Imperial penny postage; because the first idea of my hon. friend was to have a three-cent rate. That was the basis on which he started and on which his colleagues, if he consulted them, proceeded. Blunder succeeded to blunder, and at last my hon. friend blundered into the two-cent instead of the three-cent rate. As regards the great advantages of this penny postage, there may be differences of opinion. For my own part, I have no doubt at all that it is a grateful thing to a good many people in this country, but it is not a boon to the great mass of the people in any sense of the term.

Mr. DAVIN. It is no boon to the farmer.

Mr. FOSTER. It is a boon to certain classes; and to relieve these of a burden, which their business might very well have carried, the poorer classes of this country have to face the deficit that results, and pay it out of their taxes. I acknowledge that there is something of sentiment in it, but the sentiment in this case does not put anything into the pockets of the mass of the people who have to pay the deficit in order that certain classes may benefit. So far as it contributes to an Imperial sentiment between the colonies and Great Britain, it is an advantage.

The next thing my hon. friend says they did was to reform the tariff, and to reform it to the great satisfaction of the people of this country, to a great majority of them at least. But is my hon. friend explicit enough in contending that the only duty he had, consistent with his promises, was to reform the tariff in the way in which he has done it? Of late it has been customary for some of the Ministers and some of the party press to take the bold ground that the Government have carried out in its entirety their whole pledge to the people with reference to the tariff and fiscal policy. The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) and the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) have taken that ground in speeches which they have made very lately. They have declared openly to the people that the Government have performed everything which they led the electors of this country before 1896 to believe they would perform. Sir, this is a question which

cannot be left just in that condition. It is a matter which involves the good faith of public men; it is a matter which involves truth and honesty in high places; it is a matter which involves the demoralization or the ennobling of the public life of Canada; and I lay it to the charge of my right hon. friend and the gentlemen who sit with him that they have been guilty in this respect of setting into operation in this country a malignant influence in the highest circles of public life which is eating out and destroying honest and straightforward principle in all its ranks. With what holy horror my hon. friend would draw his skirts away from a man who would be so base and dishonest as to take a couple of dollars for his vote. My hon. friend, to believe him, even though he associated with the Merciers and the Pa-cauds, would draw away in holy horror from a man who would be so abandoned politically as to take a two dollar bill out of his pocket and offer it to a poor man for his vote. But my hon. friend sits in his high position, holds his head aloft, and looks as innocent as a cherub, notwithstanding the fact that as the leader of his party, he formerly went from one end of this country to the other saying: "Gentlemen, the Government of the present day bases its tariff policy upon the principle of protection, which is a robbery and a fraud; put them out and put us in, and we will base our tariff upon a policy which has every vestige of protection taken out of it." And when the honest electorate of this country took him at his word and elected him and his fellow-members and they became a Government, they utterly repudiated that policy and snapped their fingers in the faces of the honest electors who believed them then, but who will not believe them again. Sir, the crime of corruption by the dollar bill is a venial, a trivial thing, in comparison with the baleful corruption of public men who will make such pledges as that, and will utterly flout and scorn them after getting into office. My hon. friend poses as a man who would not—what did he say? Why, he said he would to God that he might never get power by means such as he charged against hon. gentlemen on this side of the House. My hon. friend has posed in that halo of purity for a great many years. To what lower depth of degradation can a public man sink than to make his solemn and honourable promises to the people at large, win their confidence and get their votes, and then snap his fingers in their faces and refuse to carry out those pledges? Would to God that he might never have power if he had to get it by dishonourable means? My hon. friend sits there to-day, and his followers sit with him, because they got votes, got money, got influence, in the most dishonourable way, and used these to their own profit and their own advantage. They have fulfilled all their promises, said the Minister of the Interior. They have not fulfilled their pro-

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mises at all on the tariff question, and they will not deceive the people by rising with brazen faces and declaring, against the full light of the people's knowledge, that they have kept promises which they have not kept. What were the pledges made by my hon. friends—the pledges of their conventions, the pledges of their leaders? I am going to give you some of them. But first let me have a word with my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), who is nothing, if not subtle and darkly ingenious. My hon. friend cogitated, in the course of the interim between last session and this, on this question of getting out of pledges, and in the end he hit upon a very ingenious method. He said to himself, in the silent watches of the night; Laurier is not my leader. He and these men who sit around him—their pledges count for nothing. Blake is my leader, and I go back to 1887 and 1891, and I find what Blake was going to do, and I find that we have done just exactly what Blake was going to do. Therefore we have fulfilled all party pledges. That is ingenious but it is hardly frank, and I do not think it will hold before the intelligence of the people. Why, Mr. Blake—my hon. friend knows it—broke with his party on that very question. If the party had stood by Mr. Blake and fulfilled those promises, if they had obtained power with Mr. Blake as leader, they would have been right with the people, for Mr. Blake, before he went to the people, said: I take back certain things which I held before; free trade may be all right in theory but it is utterly impracticable now in this country, and all I can do—and I speak after having consulted with the members of my party, between whom and myself there is a virtual agreement—under present circumstances is to promise that the duty on flour, corn, coal and one or two other commodities may be lowered, but that other duties will have to be kept at the same range as now. That was an honest announcement, made by an honest man, before the election, when he had to go to the people, and he took the consequences of it. And one of these consequences was that my hon. friends repudiated him, and another consequence that grew out of that was that Mr. Blake, at a certain time in February, 1891, had to jump off from the ship that was being so badly navigated and swim for the shore and make his own salvation sure, whatever might happen the others. Since that time, the ship has been going over the seas without any standard chart, a real derelict on the political seas, simply waiting the favouring gale. My hon. friend cannot go back then to Mr. Blake as leader. His leader sits there in that seat. His leader's pledge is what he is bound by, and it is as to what was the pledge of his leader that I beg now to have a few words to say. It must not be forgotten that there were other leaders besides my hon. friend, and I shall take the opportunity of reading the opinions

of a few of them from the report of the Dominion Liberal Convention, an authoritative party publication. What was the opinion of Sir Oliver Mowat. He was brought in as the good man with my hon. friend from Lotbinière (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière), to season the other more wicked members of the Government and make an average reputable Administration. Sir Oliver Mowat hoped that:—

After the next general election it may be truly said by the whole country that it was at the Liberal Convention held at Ottawa in June, 1893, that protection and bad government, and consequent political unrest amongst our people, received their death blow.

In the very heart of that great convention of Liberals, when the opinion of that convention was known and canvassed, when its pronouncements were decided upon, Sir Oliver Mowat declared that this convention, when it resulted in ultimate success at the polls, was to do what? Strike a death blow at the principle and practice of protection. Well, what did the present Prime Minister say at that convention. He declared this:

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I submit to your judgment that the servile copy of the American system which has been brought amongst us by the leaders of the Conservatives, is, like its prototype, a fraud and a robbery, and I call upon you, one and all, to pronounce at once and give your emphatic support to the proposition that we shall never rest until we have wiped away from our system that fraud and robbery under which Canadians suffer.

On another page of this publication, my hon. friend followed that out. He said that he objected to the Government and their policy.

They want to reform the tariff and still retain the principle of protection. I submit to you that the ideal of fiscal systems is the British system of free trade. I submit to you that not a cent should be extracted from the pockets of the people, except every cent goes into the treasury of the people and not into the pockets of anybody else. I submit to you that no duties should be levied for protection's sake, but levied altogether and only for the purpose of filling the treasury to the limits required. I submit to you that every cent that is levied should be levied first and foremost upon the luxuries of the people. I submit to you, therefore, that the system of protection which is maintained by the Government, that is to say, of levying tribute upon the people, not for the legitimate expenses of the Government, but for a private and privileged class, should be condemned without qualification. Let it be well understood that from this moment we have a distinct issue with the party in power. Their ideal is protection, our ideal is free trade. Their immediate object is protection, ours a tariff for revenue only. Upon this issue we engage the battle from this moment forward, and I ask you once more never do desist until we have achieved a victory, until we have freed this country from the incubus which has been weighing it down for fifteen long years.

I do not want to multiply instances of that kind of assertion. Stronger, infinitely stronger than that were the statements made by my right hon. friend the leader of

the Government on the different platforms of this country from one end to the other. No one who has heard the hon. gentleman speak, no one who has read the proceedings of that convention, no one who followed the discussions before 1896 had any other than the strongest and most fixed idea that what the hon. gentleman pledged himself to do in the way of tariff reform was to eliminate the principle of protection and base his tariff upon the exact opposite, the revenue principle, and put in practice the free trade system of Great Britain, his ideal system, as rapidly and to the very largest extent possible.

Now, there is no use elaborating this further. That was the pledge given, that was the contract made with the electors of this country. Has he carried it out? Has he to-day a tariff that is based upon free trade according to the English ideal? My hon. friend knows that he has not. Has he a tariff based upon principles of bringing in revenue, with no vestige of protection for protection's sake, a tariff that levies no tax except that which goes directly into the Treasury? Can he say that not a fraction of a cent goes into the pockets of what these gentlemen formerly used to call the monopolists and robbers, and men who were despoiling the country? He knows that this tariff is based upon the principle and involves the practice of protection, and that the so-called reform that he has made has simply been the increase of duties in some cases and the lowering of them in some others, and on the whole, with the very slightest reduction in the taxation of the country. Now, will my right hon. friend listen to the facts of the case, as gleaned from the public records of the trade of the country? In 1893, the percentage of duties upon imports for home consumption was 30.28 per cent; in 1894 it was 30.87 per cent; in 1895 it was 30.87 per cent; in 1896 it was 30.07 per cent. Now, in 1897, the first year of the present Administration, but before their tariff had come into operation, it was 30.04 per cent. That is to say, in 1897 there was an alleviation in the duties upon imports for home consumption of exactly 3-100ths of 1 per cent. The year 1898 came, and the rate was 29.43 per cent. Seven months of the year 1899 have passed, and in those seven months the dutiable rate has been 28.89 per cent. Now, Sir, what are the gains? The year 1897 show a reduction over 1896 of 3-100ths of 1 per cent; 1898 shows a reduction over 1896 of 64-100ths of 1 per cent; the seven months of 1899 show a gain over 1896 of 1 and 18-100ths per cent. But what is happening now? January, 1899, has passed, and the reduction shown over 1896 drops back again to 31-100ths of 1 per cent. February also has passed, and it drops back to 47-100ths of 1 per cent. So if you take the later developments of trade in this country, you have still less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1 per cent reduction in the imposts on dutiable goods. But my hon. friend the

Minister of Customs will say : You have not taken into account the free goods that have been brought in. Very well ; let us include the free goods and ascertain the state of things. In 1893 the duty on free and dutiable goods together imported for consumption was 17·38 per cent ; in 1894 it was 17·13 per cent ; in 1895, 16·99 per cent ; in 1896, 18·28 per cent ; in 1897, 17·87 per cent, and in 1898, 16·95 per cent. Thus there is a gain in 1897 over 1896 of 41-100ths of 1 per cent ; a gain in 1898 over 1896 of 1 and 33-100ths of 1 per cent. But what about the gain in January, 1899, and in February of the same year, Mr. Speaker ? Why, it is a gain on the wrong side. In January, 1899, the rate on dutiable and free goods entered for home consumption was 18·07 per cent, and in February, 1899, it was 18·70 ; that is to say, in the latest month the imposts on dutiable and free goods together were higher by almost  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1 per cent than in 1896. And yet hon. gentlemen opposite will go before the people and declare that they have reformed the tariff, that they have done away with protection, that they have fulfilled their pledges, and that the people of the country are satisfied. But it seems quite clear that all the people in the country are not quite satisfied. Even some of the gentlemen who sit on that side are not satisfied with the reduction that has taken place. For instance, there is the Winnipeg "Tribune," and there is also the Edmonton "Bulletin," which, I believe, are edited by staunch friends of hon. gentlemen opposite. I cannot see that these are quite satisfied that the Government has redeemed its promises. In a late issue of the Winnipeg "Tribune," Mr. George H. Bertram, the hon. member for Centre Toronto is held up to the western consumers at least in no very enviable light, as being a protectionist in disguise—no, not in disguise, but as being an undisguised protectionist in the Liberal ranks—and the Government is warned against being guided by the opinions of Mr. Bertram. Says the "Tribune" :

Mr. Bertram spoke as a Conservative and a protectionist, while professing to be a Liberal and a free trader. It was north by south, and that was why, every now and then, some Liberal in the audience, with a remembrance of George Brown in his head, would nervously and suddenly run his fingers through his thinning locks to try and ascertain where he was at.

The hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), who is the editor of the "Tribune," has been trying to find out where they are at on this tariff question for the last three or four months. At a meeting of the Liberals held in Regina, not long ago, there was a resolution passed, and that resolution reads as follows :—

Be it further resolved that the people of the West, and especially the farmers, are looking anxiously, expectantly and confidentially, for such a revision of the tariff as will conform with the pledges of the Liberal party as contained

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in the Ottawa platform, and as recently foreshadowed in the Budget speech of Mr. Fielding.

But, Sir, Regina is not the only town in which the Liberals are on the move. There was a meeting, the other night, of a Liberal club in the city of Winnipeg. The city of Winnipeg is roused, so far as the Liberals are concerned, with reference to a statement lately made by the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) at Perth, in which he had declared :

The tariff was a question that was settled, and was now a dead issue, because the Liberals had succeeded in solving this great question, and the tariff was one their opponents, if they got a chance, would not change much.

And so the following resolution was introduced into the association, and, I believe, is to be voted upon. It lays down the resolution which was adopted by the Liberal party in 1893 :—

We denounce the principle of protection as radically unsound and unjust to the mass of the people, and we declare our conviction that any tariff changes based on that principle must fail to afford any substantial relief from the burden under which the country labours. This issue we unhesitatingly accept, and upon it we await with fullest confidence the verdict of the electors.

And goes on as follows :—

And whereas, the now Premier of the Dominion, the Hon. Mr. Laurier, when speaking in support of the said resolution at said convention, declared :

"I submit to you that the ideal fiscal system is the British system of free trade. Let it be well understood, then, that we have a distinct issue with the party in power. Their idea was protection : our idea is free trade ; their immediate object is protection : ours a tariff for revenue and for revenue only. Upon this issue we engage in battle."

And whereas, the Hon. Mr. Fielding, Minister of Finance, in his speech delivered on the 5th of April, 1898, as the same is reported in "Hansard," stated :

"We wish to guard against frequent changes in the tariff, against tariff tinkering ; but let us be careful how we convey the impression to the public, because we do not mean it that we regard the tariff as final. Let it not be supposed that the tariff is settled for ten years, or even for five years. So long as there are high duties there must be demand for tariff changes. Nothing is settled until it is settled in accordance with right, and so long as there are high duties we may expect agitation for reduction. I am afraid there is no rest for the protected manufacturer."

"I am inclined to think, Sir, that he will find eternal vigilance to be the price of his protection. He must be on guard all the time against the attack that he knows must always come. We will say, therefore, to the manufacturer that if he desires permanency in the tariff, he must never expect permanency until the tariff gets down to a moderate point ; and to-day there are duties in the tariff so high that I am sure the Government are not prepared to treat them as part of a permanent tariff."

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that this association desire to place on record a declaration of

its continued support of the platform of the Liberal party as laid down at the above-mentioned convention, and its approval of the statements made by the Honourable Premier (Mr. Laurier), in support thereof, and the position of the Hon. Mr. Fielding in regard thereto, as above indicated, that the tariff is not a question that is settled, and is not a dead issue.

That stands before the Liberal Club in Winnipeg, because some gentleman asked that it should be postponed until it was found whether the Minister of the Interior had made the statement. But, whether he has made it or not, that is an expression of opinion by Liberals belonging to that club an important section of them at least, that the pledges made by the Prime Minister and other Ministers previous to the election have not been carried out, and they call upon them to carry them out.

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

### After Recess.

**Mr. FOSTER.** I have said that the Liberal clubs of Regina and of Winnipeg have called for the carrying out of the pledges which they alleged had not been done, and which, it is also alleged, are now being thwarted. Some of those pledges I have read, the pledges made by the right hon. gentleman who leads the Government. It may not be out of place to read the pledges made by one or two others. I find one made by the present Minister of Trade and Commerce, in this wise :

I say our protective system was a huge mistake, in so far as it was honest at all, and in so far as it was not honest, it was a huge scheme of robbery.

Again :

I stand by the declaration I have made, that protection is nothing more nor less than a deliberate, legalized and organized robbery ; and, more than that, if you do not stamp it out it is the very high road to political slavery first, and industrial slavery afterwards.

I find still later the same voice raised in this wise :

Our policy from first to last has been to destroy the villainous system of protection by free trade, a revenue tariff, or continental free trade.

I find that the leader of the Government himself declared at Newmarket, in 1893 :

I will not be satisfied until the last vestige of protection has been removed from the soil of Canada. Our great reform is to put away from the soil of Canada the last vestige of protection.

A voice from the maritime provinces, to wit, that of the present Minister of Marine and Fisheries, declared :

We have been attacking this policy year by year. This is an accursed system, a system accursed of God and man.

In the city of Toronto, I find the leader of the Government declared :

Call it protection, call it feudalism, call it slavery, I care not, it is the same thing. It differs only in degree, it is bondage.

Now, Sir, I think that with declarations of that kind, the innocent and deceived members of the Liberal party in Regina and in Winnipeg, and in every other portion of the Dominion of Canada may well stand aghast, and may well make their voices heard, in asking that the men who presume to be their leaders and who make these pledges, should not now call a halt, but should conform to those pledges or tell the reason why. But we find that at this stage of the game the Ministers themselves disagree with each other, and that is indeed the reason for the present resolutions which I have had the duty of reading here to-night. For instance, we find that the Minister of Railways and Canals—who has taken, by the way, no very strong interest in questions outside of his own peculiar sphere—did, in the province of New Brunswick, and in the city of Woodstock, in that province, according to the editor of the "Transcript," declare for continued change :

In a remarkably able defence of the Liberal Government's general policy, he especially dwelt upon the evils of the protective tariff system, and pointing out that the Government had made important reductions in the tariff, plainly intimated there would be in the near future important changes in the tariff along the line of freer trade and the elimination of the protective idea system.

With Mr. Blair's views in this matter, which are thoroughly representative of the dominant sentiment of the Liberal party, and in accord with the best interests of the people of Canada generally, and the permanent prosperity of its industries, every true Liberal will be in hearty accord. It is one of the strongest and most effective statements made by any Cabinet Minister since the change of Government. \* \* \* "It is seldom that any speech by any political leader so thoroughly voices the views of his political party as did the speech by Mr. Blair at Woodstock a few days ago, to which our contemporary takes demagogic exception."

About the same time that Mr. Blair was holding forth at Woodstock to the delight of the editor of the "Transcript" and all true Liberals ; an industrious opponent—I beg pardon, an industrious colleague of his—the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) was holding forth in the historic village of Valleyfield. He had gone there to chant the praises and to participate in the glories of the opening of a cotton mill ; a new one I think which was being opened in that village. And Mr. Tarte—as the newspaper speaks of him—in his speech at Valleyfield, after making many other allusions, referred to the cotton industry, in which Valleyfield is so intimately concerned, and is reported as follows :—

At the time when the Government had the question of the tariff under advisement, and were holding investigations throughout the country, Mr. Gault had come to him at Ottawa, and urged that the cotton duties be not lowered. He (Mr.

Tarte) had taken Mr. Gault by the hand and said to him, "Fear not, you can count on me; all I ask is that you should increase the capacity of your mills, especially those at Valleyfield."

Taking up the general question of the tariff at large, Mr. Tarte said that while the present Government had found itself obliged to make many changes for the sake of a removal of anomalies, and for other reasons, they had taken care that the tariff wall should remain sufficiently high to afford ample protection to Canadian industries. Looking now about him, he was satisfied that this policy had been a policy of prudence and of success. The iron, pulp, cotton, in fact all the larger industries of the country were in a better condition at the present time than they had ever been under Conservative rule.

"We do not," said Mr. Tarte, "claim that at our first attempt we have made a perfect tariff instrument, but we do claim that we have done much, and that many industries which were languishing are now prosperous. And I say that the grand principle of the tariff as it exists to-day will remain unchanged. We shall make slight alterations as it may seem to us that they are needed, but the tariff as a whole will stay as it is at present."

What was the grand principle of the tariff that shall remain, according to Mr. Tarte: he mentioned it above:

The Government had taken care that the tariff walls should remain sufficiently high to afford ample protection to Canadian industries.

There, Mr. Speaker, you have them—Mr. Blair at Woodstock, Mr. Tarte at Valleyfield, almost on the same night poles asunder upon the subject of the tariff. But, Sir, later on comes the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), who in Perth, according to the Perth "Courier," a Liberal newspaper of sixty years standing, which heads it: "Hon. Mr. Sifton on the Tariff." "He tells the people of the east that it is settled and now a dead issue." "The tariff," he says, "is such that their opponents would not likely change much," is declared to have said:

The tariff was a question that was settled and was now a dead issue, because the Liberals had succeeded in solving this great question, and the tariff was one that their opponents, if they got the chance, would not change much.

And last but not least, to-day in this House, the leader of the Government who had gone from one end of this country to the other and on almost every platform had denounced the principle and practice of protection in all its moods and tenses, who had declared that free trade was the ideal; free trade such as they have it in Great Britain; had declared that they would sweep away every vestige of protection out of the tariff, make it a revenue tariff at once with the idea of modelling it as nearly as possible upon the British free trade tariff—to-day the right hon. gentleman stood up in this House and declared that they had settled the tariff to the satisfaction of the people of this country.

Now, Sir, can you wonder, that under all these provocative circumstances, the member

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for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) should raise his voice, and address these words to his chief:

You probably know, Sir Wilfrid, that the agriculturists of Canada, and particularly of Manitoba and the North-west were not fully satisfied with the measure of tariff reform granted them in your 1897 revision of the tariff.

You doubtless know that they were justified in expecting great things in this direction from the speeches which you and your lieutenants made throughout the country on the subject during the time you were in opposition. \* \* \* But, all the same, public expectation has not been satisfied, and the settlers of the west especially, would like to see some further reductions, in fact they would rejoice to see the duty swept away altogether from many of the prime necessities. \* \* \*

Do you wish to utterly efface and obliterate every vestige of disappointment that may linger because of the non-gratification of certain expectations?

Then, Sir Wilfrid, you must hitch your chariot to a star; you must efface all recollections of the past two years of official life; you must think that you are plain Mr. Laurier, leader of the old Liberal party in opposition, with your soul fired with righteousness, and your heart touched with the burdens of the agriculturist, and forgetting all consideration but that of a determination to strike the shackles from off your countrymen, go in for reciprocity and such reciprocity as will bring joy to the people of this land.

Remember, Sir Wilfrid, your promises; remember the past, and strike blows for your country that will put old Tubal Cain to the blush.

Remember, Sir Wilfrid, that for every monopolist and manufacturer you may offend, you will win a thousand friends among the agriculturists of the Dominion.

What do the manufacturers care for you or your Government beyond the length they can go in using you?

Remember that the manufacturer and the monopolist was for years, and is yet, your natural enemy.

Don't overlook the fact that the agriculturist is your friend, and has always been, and if you are to continue in office it will be by his grace.

Then, don't forget him.

You now have it in your power to serve him as he never has been served before.

Then, Sir Wilfrid, pay no attention to the pigmies who would turn you aside from the good work; take no stock in the monopolist and the manufacturers, but strike for the masses of your country.

Strike for the settlers.

Strike for the agriculturists.

Strike down protection.

Give us free implements, free lumber, and every other necessity free.

Hitch your chariot to a star.

Strike.

Strike.

My hon. friends opposite surely cannot withstand the cogency of argument and the infinite plaintiveness of appeal which is couched in the article which I have just read, and which is the heartfelt utterance of the present member for Lisgar, who is fighting the battle of the agriculturists against the monopolists and the manufacturers and the fiscal traitors in the Liberal camp.

Sir, what have we? Three years and a half have passed. The Government which

came in on these pledges has had full time to perfect their plans and to put them into operation. They have perfected their plans so far as the tariff is concerned. They have put them into operation; they declare the tariff is settled. Have we free trade as it is in Great Britain? Every one knows we have not.

Is protection annihilated? To the extent of one-half of one per cent. This robbery, this delusion, this fraud, this incubus upon the country, this worse than slavery and bondage, has been annihilated to the extent of from 3-100ths of 1 per cent to a shade over 1 per cent. That is the extent to which it is done. For the whole tariff of my hon. friend, as the gentleman sitting directly behind him says, is modelled upon the principle that there shall be ample protection to the industries of this country. Have we a revenue tariff? My hon. friend knows we have not. The revenue tariff which my hon. friend advocated, and the only true revenue tariff is a tariff which puts on duties and taxation for the sole purpose of getting the revenue and putting it into the treasury, and which places the taxes where the most revenue can be got out of them. The true revenue tariff takes tea and coffee and all such articles of general use as are not raised in the country, and it taxes them all they will bear, and gives no protection of any kind. Protection and a purely revenue tariff are the opposites of each other. A revenue tariff, then, takes the luxuries of the country, which the richer people are supposed to buy, and it taxes them all they will bear; and then, on the general line of imports such as may be produced in the country, it puts what is sufficient to raise the largest amount of revenue, carefully grading it down to the line where it does not allow the productions and manufactures of the country to stop the supply of revenue, which comes from the impost of customs taxes on what is imported into the country. And the true tariff for revenue only will offset this import duty by an internal revenue tax sufficient to prevent any incidental protection. What my hon. friend always denounced in the protective tariff was that although you got money out of it for the treasury, you put more money by it into the pockets of the protected interests. Now, scan your tariff; look over its various items, and from the first item to the last of the dutiable list there is scarcely one item which is not modelled and based on the principle of protection instead of on the principle of either free trade or a revenue tariff only.

Has the abomination of specific duties been taken away from the tariff? How eloquent they grew upon that monstrosity, which consisted in part of a specific duty, in part of a specific duty joined to an ad valorem duty, and was so a mixed tax. They have reformed their tariff. They have had their time of denunciation. They have now taken their period of action; they have settled the tariff, and to-day how does it stand?

The items in the old tariff were 486 in number. Great simplification was to be carried out in the new tariff. The number of items is reduced to 452, a reduction of 34 items. That is simply mechanical. The items of specific duties in the old tariff were 175 in number, taking the sub-headings as items; in the new tariff they are 147, a reduction of 28. The items of ad valorem duties were 311 in the old tariff; they are 305 to-day, a reduction of six. The percentage of specific items in the old tariff was 36 per cent; in the new tariff it is now 33 per cent, a beggarly reduction of 3 per cent. The ad valorem items were 64 per cent of the whole; they are now 67 per cent, an increase of 3 per cent. So that even that abomination of specific duties which in the country was more dwelt upon than almost anything else, has scarcely been touched by these hon. gentlemen in this reform of their tariff.

Well, Sir, what about the rate of the customs tax? Has that been diminished or has it not? I have read the figures to the House this afternoon. What about the amount of the customs tax? for after all, you must take into account the amount of money taken out of the people by a tax as well as the rate. I have shown the House that the rate is not appreciably less; I will now show that the amount is very appreciably greater. The customs taxation raised in 1896, the last year of the Liberal-Conservative Government, was \$19,800,000. In 1897 it was a little less. In 1898, however, when the new tariff had got into operation, it came up to \$22,000,000 odd, an increase of \$2,300,000 over the amount raised in 1896. But, Sir, the Minister of Public Works on a certain occasion said before his admiring auditors, "Wait till you see us next year." Next year has come and is rapidly passing; eight months of it have passed, and in the eight months of 1899 \$2,500,000 more have been raised in customs taxation than was raised in the corresponding eight months of 1898. So that, comparing the eight months of 1899 with the year 1896, there has been so far \$4,800,000 more of customs taxation raised than was raised in those months of 1896. Provided he same rate holds through the four months to come that has held during the eight months just past there will be considerably over \$6,000,000 of taxation increase in 1899 over 1896. The customs rate has inappreciably decreased; the customs tax has increased at a tremendous rate.

Well, Sir, has the trade with Great Britain relatively to our trade with the United States increased? The House will recollect that it was a great item in the indictment of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) and of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), that in the tariff of the Liberal-Conservative Government the duties were so arranged that we not only threw the trade into United States channels rather than into British channels, but that in the imposition of taxation we imposed a larger percentage of duty

upon what came from Great Britain than upon what came from the United States. I will deal with only one point of that question to-night. That was a strong indictment against the preceding Government. It was to be the glory of the incoming Government that they should change all that sort of thing. Have they changed it in either one particular or the other? Let us ask the figures.

In 1897-98, comparing that year with 1895-96, what is shown? As stated yesterday, it was shown that we have imported \$500,000 less in value of goods from Great Britain in the former year than in the year 1895-96. On the other hand, it is shown that we imported \$20,000,000 more from the United States in 1897-98 than in 1895-96. Never was there so great a disparity. Take next the free goods, for these are free and dutiable imports. In free goods we imported \$1,300,000 more from Great Britain and \$11,000,000 from the United States. Putting the two together, the figures show that these hon. gentlemen, who attacked the preceding Government for discriminating against British trade, and who promised that they would remedy that sort of thing, have done what Sir, by the provisions of their tariff? They have effected this, that in comparing the two years 1897-98 and 1895-96, the total British trade with Canada has decreased by one half a million, while the total increase in the United States trade has been \$20,000,000. That is the result which these hon. gentlemen have attained in that part of their programme which was to change the trend of trade from the United States to Great Britain by changing the discriminating tariffs which were the cause of that wrong trend of trade, as they declared it to be.

But what else have they accomplished? The export of trade of Canada to other countries has been hampered by their tariff. We have practically shut ourselves out from the trade with Germany which was a growing and most promising trade. I have not the figures at hand, but any gentleman who will choose to look up the figures of the exports of the United States will find that one of the best markets, as regards the export trade in American staples, after Great Britain, is the empire of Germany, and these are all staples of the very same kind that Canada raises for export. Under the operations of this tariff, whatever you gain, you have lost the promising opening which was being made for trade in these staples from Canada to Germany, because Germany now levies what are practically prohibitory duties against Canada. You have given our cousins in the West India Islands advantages by our tariff, and in return they have raised their tariff against you, so that you have gained nothing in that quarter. There is not a country in the wide world to which you can point to-day where you have gained one single opening for the exports of this

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country by any tariff or fiscal favours that they have given you or any alleviation that you have prevailed upon them to make. My hon. friend, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) who modelled the policy, who determined with his colleagues that the policy of the Government was to be such that they would be able to give favoured terms to any nations that would reciprocate, finds that at last he has stumbled into a place where he is obliged to shut the door on every other country because of the preference he has given to Great Britain. Consequently that wideness and freedom of trade that good Liberals always stood for, and especially our hon. friends on the other side, has been completely blocked by the operations of their tariff and fiscal policy.

They have taken greater powers than any other Government ever asked Parliament to give them—powers to impose by Order in Council export duties which, with one single stroke of the pen, would change the course of the smelting and production of ores in the great province of British Columbia, so rich in resources and so boundless almost in its promises for future development. But the hon. gentlemen, after taking this power, under the plea of urgency and haste, trembled on the brink, and have done nothing to alleviate by changing the smelting conditions in the mining sections.

They took great powers and got legislation with reference to alien labour laws. They made a temporary show of energy by appointing some prosecutors, but latterly called them off, and their alien labour laws have been simply a dead letter on the statute, void of spirit and life.

They took tremendous powers to smash combines, yet under their very noses the octopus from the United States, the tremendous Standard Oil Company, has fastened upon the very vitals of this country, and is rapidly absorbing and assimilating to itself the whole coal oil industry in the province of Ontario and Quebec.

Yet these hon. gentlemen who are such business men, exigent men who wanted such powers given to them, and who got their credulous followers to give them the powers they asked for, sit there and do nothing while all these things are going on.

To-day there is a cry from one end of this country to the other, that if the United States will not give us fair entry to our lumber into their country we shall prevent them—no, Sir, I shall put it differently because that probably offends the sensitive ear of my hon. friend the Premier that we should look to the conservation of our own forest resources and our own industries dependent upon them and impose export duties on foreign lumber to protect our own people in their resources and industries. But nothing of this is done. These hon. gentlemen blunder in what they undertake and make fatal errors in what they do not undertake, and

in every case have failed to give the country the advantage which might be gained by their exercising the powers they asked for and obtained.

Under the operations of their tariff, some industries have been annihilated and some crippled, but not a single one has been created. The industries that were annihilated and those that are somewhere crippled cannot force their voices on the attention of the public while times are good and the flow is prosperous and onward, but all the same the weakening effects are being felt, and by and by, in the stress and storm, when the real testing time of a tariff and fiscal policy comes, the country will wake up to find out what are the deficiencies and the real weaknesses of the tariff these hon. gentlemen have given us. Sir, there was no stronger test of the power and efficiency of a tariff policy than that test which, from 1892 to 1895, was applied to this Dominion under its National Policy, when, as was described here yesterday, while industries were being closed down and great factories shut up and banks closed and destitution and want of labour and lack of earnings were shown in the great republic to the south of us to a tremendous extent, here in the Dominion was felt the protective balancing power of our tariff which kept our industries for our own people, which enabled our artisans to earn their wages and kept their families from destitution and retained prosperity within the bounds of our country. When a testing time like that comes to the tariff of hon. gentlemen opposite, if they tinker much more with it, its deficiencies will be found out and its weaknesses shown. But, in his enumeration of the great things this Government had done for the country, the hon. gentleman declared that they had inaugurated cold storage. He should cultivate a little modesty; but if he cannot do that, he should, at least, manifest some tendency to make his statements square with the facts. If he has any knowledge of the history of administration in this country—and if he has not, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) will have that knowledge—he knows perfectly well, or he ought to know, that the system of cold storage found its initiation in the ably and well-conducted branch of the Department of Agriculture which is devoted to farming and the dairy industry, that the gentlemen whom the late Government appointed, and whom this Government have retained in that department, have been untiring, in co-operation with the Committee on Agriculture of this House, in devising ways and means for increasing, saving and marketing the raw products of this country. It was with these gentlemen that the idea of cold storage originated; it was from them that the recommendations came; it was to our then Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Montague, they came, and it was by myself that the votes to carry them

out were brought to the Council and carried through this House. And if their recommendations, and the recommendations of the Government, and the votes recommended to the House as a basis for these operations, had been carried through, as they were not, in the session of 1896, owing to the obstinate obstruction of the then Opposition, a greater impetus would have been given to the marketing of the raw products of this country than was given. In the absence of Dr. Montague, the Minister of Agriculture, I myself, as the temporary head of the department, signed the first contracts that were made for cold storage with the steamship companies, and all preparations were made by Professor Robertson previous to the late Government going out of office. Under these circumstances, is it fair that hon. gentlemen opposite should pose before the country as originators of this scheme, and even if they thus pose before the country, is it seemly that they should pose before this House, which knows the circumstances and is fully seized of what has taken place? All that hon. gentlemen opposite have done with reference to cold storage is to carry out, and, I hope, to expand, the idea with which we commenced, to expand it by giving more money, the motive power in such cases, the idea being there in its fulness and entirety.

But the hon. gentleman says that the Government had the Intercolonial Railway extended to Montreal. Well, it was not the question in this House whether the Intercolonial Railway should go to Montreal or should stop at Lévis. There were differences of opinion on that question; but the discussion which arose did not take place upon the question whether the Intercolonial Railway should seek Montreal as a terminus, or should remain at Lévis, but upon the outrageously extravagant and partisan bargain that was made by the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), aided by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte). One would think that this would be the last thing that hon. gentlemen opposite would refer to. What does he think of the intelligence of this House, at what does he rate the intelligence of the country? Does he not know that it was only because the Senate held its strong hand upon that scheme that an interval was allowed during which his own Minister of Railways and Canals revised the bargain that he had made, and saved the country the sum of \$550,000 in the case of the Drummond Road alone, and hundreds of thousands in addition in the case of the contract with the Grand Trunk Railway? And yet my hon. friend seeks to make it a reproach upon the Senate and upon the Liberal-Conservative party, that time was given to his extravagant, inefficient Ministers to revise the bargain, a revision by which more than three-quarters of a million dollars was left in the public Treasury, which otherwise would have been taken out.

My hon. friend says also that the Govern-

ment have reduced the Canadian Pacific Railway freights. Yes, and before they gave an extra \$2,000,000 to the Canadian Pacific Railway Crow's Nest Pass Road, the Canadian Pacific Railway had reduced freights, and in the course of trade would have done it again—must necessarily have done it, and, as a matter of fact, did in this case reduce them before the contract terms called upon them to do so. The hon gentleman had full power to say that the Governor in Council should fix the rates on the Crow's Nest Pass Road. But, more than that, what he did that we find fault with was that he gave the Canadian Pacific Railway two million more than the Canadian Pacific Railway Company were willing to construct the road for. And what some of his own friends behind him find fault with him for, and notably the hon. member from Nanaimo (Mr. McInnes), is that, in doing this, in carrying out the bargain, they allowed a present to be made of very many millions of tons of fine coal in great coal areas, at present valued at millions of dollars, to a company composed mainly of strong friends and political backers of the leader of the Government. That is very well known, and if any one does not know it, I invite him to apply at once to the eloquent and formerly enthusiastic member from Nanaimo. Whether he will remain equally enthusiastic in his denunciation of that deal, I do not know.

The leader of the Government said that they were at work upon the fast line. They are in motion, but whether they are making any progress or not is another thing. The travelling Minister is pretty diligently on his route, going and coming on the surface of the vasty deep, searching now for a new bottle-necked steamer and anon manifesting an intense desire to secure a water-proof and water-tight and unsinkable vessel. When he finds either one or the other, and gets it at a sufficiently low rate, I suppose we shall have progress then as well as motion. Some of the hon. gentleman's friends and colleagues have been a little previous in this matter. I am not sure but my hon. friend himself was. I am not sure but that he was led astray by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), who declared in this House that there was no doubt at all but that the Petersens were perfectly able to carry through their contract, and would do it, though they were nothing but ship brokers, and by an enthusiastic telegram from the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), who, bubbling over with jubilee zeal, at a very opportune time sent a telegram to the Prime Minister which, I believe, inured to the benefit of the member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram). Being read in the course of the contest, it nerved the sturdy electors of Centre Toronto, in view of the successful accomplishment of a fast Atlantic service, to vote for a supporter of a Government that claimed to have brought it about.

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I believe that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries took occasion to tell an audience—or was it the general public in an interview in London—that all arrangements were made and that in two years' time these vessels would be carrying freights and passengers over the waves of the Atlantic. Well, nothing has been done but this: The hon. gentleman tore up a certainty, and he embarked on a quest for an uncertainty. He went on a quest of getting something for nothing, and if he keeps on that same line, there will be no fast service for many a year for the Dominion of Canada. He has, however, been successful in giving a contract to a firm which were unable to accomplish their object after having hawked it about for nearly two years—successful in more than that, in bringing the period up to a time when the dockyards are so full in Great Britain, when Government and other orders are so far ahead, and when the labouring power is so thoroughly occupied that it will be with very much greater cost, at this moment and for two years to come, that these vessels can be provided, if indeed it is possible to provide them at all. The golden opportunity was lost. We might to-day have had these first-class vessels crossing the Atlantic. We are now about entering a period of time when their cost will be enhanced, and the time when they will be running is indefinitely postponed. That is what my hon. friends have done on the fast line, nothing and worse than nothing.

But that is not all. They have been down to Washington, and have been engaged on certain negotiations. I listened with—I was going to say surprise, and I think I may use that word—I listened with utter surprise to the declaration made by the First Minister, made in cold-blood, in this House, that he had made a discovery; that discovery was that there was not any desire in the country now for reciprocity. How long since? Three years ago every one of those hon. gentlemen was mounted on his hobby horse of reciprocity, careering through this country for all he was worth. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries said the old reciprocity was the making of the maritime provinces, and Prince Edward Island particularly longed for the flesh pots of Egypt, on which, from 1854 to 1864, she had fattened and battered. The hon. gentleman, in the plenitude of his knowledge and experience, as no callow politician, but as a public man of years of standing and of ripe experience, as a man of gray hairs, which is supposed to indicate wisdom—he declared up to within six or eight months ago that reciprocity was not only possible, but it was the one boon which, for his own province, for the maritime provinces and for the whole country, was necessary, and was very intensely desired. But there were others. The Minister of Trade and Commerce is no youth either. He has been studying the political conditions of this country for nigh on fifty years. He inherited traits of political saga-

city and the training that comes from study ; and for this half century he has been going to and fro in this country, meeting with its people, cultivating all sides of human nature, and becoming a perfect adept in reading the feelings and wishes of the body politic. And here translated, translated in all that tender gush which for a period was so characteristic of my hon. friend he has given the results of his ripe experience :

But what is even of more immediate consequence, we propose to obtain for you the power to trade freely with the rest of this continent ; to have leave to make the best use you can of your great natural advantages, which can only be done by full, free and unrestricted reciprocity with our kinsmen in the United States. The fact is plain, and clear, and simple, the best market for the articles you produce—not by the decree of men, but by the decree of the Almighty—

I wonder if my hon. friend has read that German-English skit which appeared in one of our papers this morning—Meinself und Gott—where the Emperor William connects the Almighty with himself and his different enterprises. I would advise my hon. friend to read it. Next to the serial of the Bytown Coons, which is now passing through the press, that will impress him with a great home truth, and with a certain amount of humour.

—not by the decree of men, but by the decree of the Almighty—lies in the country which extends to the south of you, separated generally by a merely imaginary line along the 3,000 miles of our southern border, reaching from that line almost to the equator. There is your market, there is the only market you can hope to hold, there is the market you have the natural advantages to enable you to compete for. I deliberately tell you—

From the wealth of my experience and of my wisdom—this is interpolated.

—I deliberately tell you that the market of the United States is absolutely—

Mark the definiteness.

—is absolutely and exactly worth all the rest of the world to us, situated as we now are.

In 1895, he said to the Liberal convention at Sarnia, after the Conservative Government had been trying to exploit, and had successfully tried to exploit the British market, and had been trying to open up markets in Australia and in other countries :

We must find you a better market, and we do not propose to look for that by preference at the antipodes. We do propose free trade with all the world as our ultimate goal.

Now they are taking a rest.

But we will be very glad to secure for you free trade with the rest of this continent as an exceedingly comfortable instalment on the highway thither.

A sort of half-way house, something like those imaginary shelters which the Minister of the Interior was to have along the route of the Teslin Railway last winter. But he

was not satisfied to preach merely to unbelievers in Canada. He wanted a larger audience and a higher pulpit, so he installed himself in Great Britain, and delivered himself in this wise :

Free trade with the United States is vastly more valuable to Canada than free trade with all the rest of the world would be with the United States left out.

So much for the present Minister of Trade and Commerce ; not when he was a boy, not half a century ago, not twenty-five years ago, but in 1895 and since. He was willing for that even with the penalty of discrimination added, for he says :

When asked does the Liberal party favour discrimination against Great Britain by admitting American manufactures free and taxing the manufacture of Great Britain ?

His answer was :

Certainly we do.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) declared in this House :

One gentleman opposite says that this will discriminate against Great Britain.

What will discriminate ? This free trade with the United States :

Necessarily it must to some extent, but we cannot help that ; in fact, we have the right to discriminate.

That, from my ultra-loyal friend from Prince Edward Island. Again, he says :

I acknowledge that the proposition has on one face of it an element of discrimination.

And the leader of the Government declared :

This involves that we should offer to the American nation what is denied to the rest of the world. So it does, and it is a cause of bitter reproach to us by the Conservative party, who charge us with disloyalty to England.

And the present Speaker of the House (Sir J. D. Edgar)—now happily delivered from my utterance by your relieving him in the Chair, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I trust that you will carry my words to him—the present Speaker of this House was so sure that unrestricted reciprocity was within grasp that in 1893 he wrote a letter to his constituents in West Ontario in which he said :

Events are moving rapidly, and I wish to say to the farmers of West Ontario that there is no longer any doubt that we can obtain unrestricted reciprocity by a treaty with the United States of America.

That was the belief of hon. gentlemen opposite as late as 1895 ; that belief was carried by them into their Government, that belief was preached by them in this House. Since they have been members of the Government, that belief actuated them and impelled them to the commission which has been sitting for the last six months in Quebec and Washington. My right hon. friend now comes back and having declared over and over again in this House that the only

obstacle to an unrestricted reciprocity treaty with the United States that Canada did not have a Liberal Government to go and ask for it; that right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) who said that they would go for it and that they would get it—he now comes back with the astonishing discovery he has made, that after the people of this country do not want a reciprocity treaty with the United States, and that he himself has changed his mind. Why has he changed his mind? What was the awful and impelling cause which rooted out from him this last half century of firm convictions which underlay his belief that reciprocity with the United States was necessary and essential to this country. What was the dire force that in a few short weeks rooted out that old and settled opinion and substituted an entirely new one in its stead? Cold storage did it—cold storage. That is the right hon. gentleman's explanation of it. Cold storage operated so powerfully on his mental constitution that it froze out the settled opinion of twenty-five years in the space of at least six months. Cold storage and British markets—and the right hon. gentleman sits there and stands there, and faces intelligent men and asks them to take that down as a reason why he has changed his opinion, his reason being that British markets have opened up within six months and cold storage is just now getting in its work. Why, Sir, British markets have been opening up for the last 12 or 15 years; gradually at first, by leaps and bounds afterwards. Let me tell my right hon. friend that the door of the British market went wide open, when after the refusals of 1891 to make a treaty upon fair grounds with the Dominion of Canada, and after the McKinley high tariff, the people of this country set their faces towards Great Britain and Great Britain took their goods and our people sent their goods there in larger proportion. And, Sir, the late Government bent its energies, and successfully, to the introduction of our goods into that market, and our goods have gone there in increasing quantities ever since. If cold storage changed him, cold storage and the opening of the British market ought to have had some effect on my right hon. friend many years ago, but it seems to have got in its deadly work only within the last few weeks.

What does my right hon. friend now do? He turns round, and with the most vigorous denunciation, he points to Sir Charles Tupper as being the only Canadian who was willing to barter the interests of Canadians for unrestricted reciprocity with the United States. My right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) who staked his own fortunes and that of his party on unrestricted reciprocity and discrimination against Great Britain, who went to Boston and New York, and coddled the people there with his theories, who sowed the seeds the plants of which met

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him at Washington when he was there recently—the theories of what Canada should do, and what the Liberal party would do when they came into power—my right hon. friend turns around and with that species of reasoning, which does more credit to his ingenuity than it does to his spirit of fairness or his reasoning powers; he tries to thrust all the lapses and errors of himself and his party during the last ten years on to Sir Charles Tupper as being the man who wanted to barter all the interests of this country to the United States for an unrestricted offer of reciprocity. The right hon. gentleman read an article or an excerpt from the Montreal "Gazette" which stated, as far as I could gather it, that Mr. Blaine was anxious that some gentlemen from Canada should meet him in Washington in order that they might talk over the basis of negotiation for a treaty of reciprocity. Well, if the right hon. gentleman will listen he will find how that question was solved; he will find the answer that was given, and the answer that was conveyed to Parliament. The delegates at that time did go to Washington and they met Mr. Blaine, and my right hon. friend has before him the results of that conference. The representatives of the Liberal-Conservative Government talked over the basis of a reciprocity treaty with Mr. Blaine, and they and Mr. Blaine fell apart from each other when Mr. Blaine made a demand for two things: one, for a uniformity of tariff between Canada and the United States, and the other that their manufactured goods should come into this country, and that we should discriminate against Great Britain. The answer was very soon given by the representatives of the Liberal-Conservative Government, and it was a decided negative.

These gentlemen of the Liberal Government went down to Washington with their record of years pledging them to unrestricted reciprocity with discrimination against Great Britain. Thus they prepared themselves measurably well to conduct the negotiation with the people of the United States, in the interest of the United States, but they did not find themselves so free as a Government as when they occupied an irresponsible position, and consequently their previous training rather told against them than in their favour. I could quite understand the United States commissioners, when these gentlemen were introduced one by one. "Sir Wilfrid Laurier! Oh, yes, we would like to negotiate with him. We have seen him in Boston; we have heard him speak; we have read his utterances; we know that he was pro-American through and through; we know that he is on record over and over again as declaring that our market is absolutely necessary for Canada. We would like to have him as one of our commissioners; invite him in."

Mr. DAVIN. He preferred the Yankee dollar to the British shilling.

Mr. FOSTER. "And Sir Richard Cartwright. Certainly, he is not unknown to fame. We have read his utterances, in which he declared that the market of the United States was worth more to Canada than those of the rest of the world put together; we would be glad to negotiate with him. Sir Louis Davies! Under another and more democratic name we have known him, and he has been an ardent advocate of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States. And plain John Charlton—we know him. Oh, yes, bring your commissioners here, and we will squeeze them." What position were the hon. gentlemen in, with that record, to meet with astute, well-read, keen business men, and negotiate with them for a treaty that would be fair to this country? They knew the men, they had their history before them, and they would hold them to their previous utterances, and they did hold them. But we see another statement from the Napoleon of the North-west, who, by-the-by, seems to have been laying down the law very dogmatically lately. He has declared, in the very face and eyes of the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) that the tariff is settled satisfactorily. In speaking at Stratford he declared that there was no chance for a reciprocity treaty with the people of the United States. What did he say?

We knew that at present it was useless to work for any large measure of reciprocity with the United States, whatever might happen in the future.

When was that spoken? Some time about the 10th of March. These were the gentlemen who went to Washington with the training that they had had. But that was not enough to handicap them. They thought they must handicap themselves a little more. Their pledge before 1896 was to go down and negotiate with the United States. They knew that they had made this pledge. They went down to the United States, but before they went they brought in a tariff measure in which they gave the United States free binding twine and free corn, and lowered the duties on coal oil and on coal, and in many other items of their tariff they gave to the United States what was worth millions to them in trade, and what they are taking great advantage of at the present time. They gave them these advantages in that spirit of generosity which so characterizes my hon. friend when he deals with other people's goods, when he deals with the country's resources and the country's money, as he did with the \$250,000 for the sham plebiscite. He generously gave over to the United States the make-weights in the treaty before he went, and so doubly handicapped himself. He then went down to Washington, and as a result of six months hard labour he comes back and says, 'My mouth is closed; there is not any chance to-day for reciprocity, and the country does not want it anyway, and all that is left is a question that the commissioners cannot settle, but

that must be settled by the two Governments or it cannot be settled at all.' Then he throws himself upon the mercy of the people, and asks them to call him the successful and great negotiator. Why, Sir, these gentlemen went through the length and breadth of the country to make the simple-minded, honest farmers believe, as in the late election in Bagot, they made the farmers think that they were going to get their hay and other products sent over to the United States free of duty, and consequently that these products would be worth just so much more to them, and that all that kind of produce close to the border which finds an easy transit to the other side of the line would be heightened in value to the farmers of the country. Up to the very latest hour they not only advocated that as a principle, but they advocated it practically to the people of the country, and now they come back and declare: "We have made a discovery: there is no use in the American market for us, and the people of this country do not want reciprocity anyway." I am afraid my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries happened on an unlucky fate. If it had only happened that he could have gone down there whilst Mr. Blaine was in the flesh, he would no doubt have been much more successful, if any reliance can be placed in what I find going the rounds of the papers:

Mr. Davies, the Liberal leader in the east, tells the following story:—"When in the States last year, I called on Mr. Blaine, and was received most cordially. In the course of a long and friendly conversation on continental affairs, he slapped me familiarly on the shoulder and remarked: 'Davies, you Canadians, at least those of you I've met, are mighty clever fellows—how on earth is it that you have in your Government such a confounded lot of asses while such splendid material is at hand?'"

It is a thousand pities that an unkind Providence should have called Mr. Blaine away to his everlasting rest before this mighty clever fellow from the maritime provinces had a chance to grasp the hand of the great statesman, and in turn slap him familiarly on the shoulder and say: "You, too, are a very clever fellow."

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). When did you write that?

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend the First Minister, although he declares that his memory is good, found it convenient to utterly forget one thing. What was that? It was the hon. gentleman's pledge of economy—a reduction of the expenditures of the country. Do I need to read his pledge again, made in Toronto, made in different other places in Ontario, given to the faithful broadcast, in which he said that extravagance had marked the expenditures for many years under the late Government, but that if they came into power they would reduce the annual expenditure one, two, three, and Mr. Mills said five million dollars

per year? The hon. gentleman owes to that more than anything else his place in this House to-day. There is a feeling outside of contractors, and outside of the men who hang on to contractors, and outside of the politicians who bleed contractors for election purposes, and outside of that set of men who hang on to every party maybe, but to none more thickly than to the present party, who are wishing to make something out of the Government. All that class of people want extravagant expenditures, and that is the class of people who swear by the Minister of Public Works, and by whom the Minister of Public Works swears. He is seized with the idea that the people of this country want lavish expenditure, and he is the man who is going to give them lavish expenditure. Wait until you see us next year, he says. Four million dollars will then have been added, but at the end of the next year he will arise again in his might and say: Wait again until the next year, and another \$4,000,000 will be added, and the man he leads, and who sits ahead of him (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), forgets his pledge to the country and the people whose confidence and faith he has outraged, and allows the expenditure to be increased by millions, though he pledged himself that it would be reduced by millions. How does that matter stand? It stands in this way. The Consolidated Fund expenditure in 1896 was \$36,900,000, in round numbers. In 1897 it was \$38,349,000. In 1898 it was \$38,832,000. Now we have come to that famous year which the Minister of Public Works wished us to wait for and look at him. Eight months of it have passed, and, comparing the eight months of 1899 with the eight months of 1898, the expenditure is just two millions and a little greater in the first than in the second period. That is, there has been an increase in the eight months of this year over the same period of last year of over \$2,000,000 in our Consolidated Fund expenditure. In capital expenditure he has done still better. In the eight months of 1898 it was \$3,455,627, but in the eight months of 1899 it was increased to \$6,634,729, or a net increase of \$3,179,102. The total expenditures out of Consolidated Fund and capital account in 1896 were \$40,700,000; in 1897, \$41,800,000; in 1898, \$42,900,000, and in the eight months of this year, as compared with the eight months of last year, there is an increase of \$5,000,000 and a little more, which will make, at the same rate, the capital and Consolidated Fund expenditures for the current year well up to \$49,000,000, as against \$40,000,000 in 1895. But to parry that to some extent, the Minister of Railways and Canals says this: Do you not see that we have a great work put upon us? We found the canals totally inadequate, not sufficient depth of water on their sills, the Government sleeping, and nothing done, and we had to do all this tremendous work on the canals. But the facts show, I am safe in

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saying, that pretty nearly three-quarters of the work on the canals was finished when these hon. gentlemen took the helm. The Sault Ste. Marie Canal, which cost over \$3,000,000, was finished at 20 feet depth. The Welland Canal, which has the regulation depth, was finished entirely, and the other canals which had to be constructed or deepened, were more than three-quarters finished, and the balance under contract; yet these hon. gentlemen go through the country and say: Yes, we are increasing the expenditure, but we must have canals, and we have been putting them through. It was "we" who enlarged the canals, just as it was "we" who gave the Imperial penny postage, and "we" found a blotch on the map to represent Canada, and made it a nation.

My hon. friend touched the plebiscite, and I use the word "touched" advisedly; but, characteristically again, just as he accused Sir Charles Tupper of being that heartless and abandoned wretch that was in Canada the sole representative who would barter his country's interest for unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, he attempted to obscure his own dealings on the plebiscite question by throwing the blame on Sir Charles Tupper, because he only dropped a tear into the bosom of the prohibitionists, and did not say he would do anything more. My hon. friend, if he had dropped any tear of repentance for his devious course of action on this and other matters, would be nearer making his peace with the power above than he is at present. But, says my hon. friend, we have broken no pledge. Casuistry of the first water, and simply that. What more does he say? The prohibitionists, he says, made no demand. That will be news to some of the gentlemen behind him, because his friends behind him, who conducted the elections in 1896 and the campaign before that, went to the prohibitionists everywhere and said: Do you not see what Laurier has promised you? Do you not see what he is going to give you? The Tories never promised you anything like that. Vote for Laurier and the Liberals. They are the men that will give you what you want. My right hon. friend knows that he profited by such statements, the gentlemen sitting behind him know that they profited by them; yet the hon. gentleman has the assurance to say here, that he made no pledge. It is a mere casuist's plea, and nothing else. The prohibitionists, he says, made no demand. Then, let those hon. gentlemen now retrace their steps and take back their words and say, as does the Prime Minister, that the prohibitionists made no demand, that they did not want the plebiscite, and, therefore, were not beholden to the Liberal party for the promise of a plebiscite. But, says my hon. friend, yes, we made a pledge, but we only made it to the party. Now, I consider that very ingenious. If there ever was any medal higher than that blessed Cobden medal, I would have it

struck and put on the other breast of my right hon. friend, to commemorate that most ingenious of all ideas, that in convention when the party made a public pledge and put it in their platform, they did not make it to the people, but the party just got together among themselves and made a sort of mutual pledge to one another, subject to a private agreement and mutual understanding.

Was that plank in the platform, the reform of the tariff by taking the principle of protection out of it, a pledge simply made to the party, with an implied condition? I believe it now. The implied condition was well understood by the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram). It was well understood by the manufacturers who were approached by the hon. gentleman's heelers and friends, saying: Let us shout against protection, they said; but hist! do you be quiet; it will not hurt you men at all; we will do what the Minister of Public Works afterwards comes up and says he has done—see that ample protection is kept for the manufacturers of this country. Do not interfere with our little plan. It is a very fine one. We will shout to the free-trader that we are in favour of a revenue tariff, that we are against these bloated monopolists, but we give you the tip in your ear to be quiet now; let us get in, and we will keep up the wall of protection around you. Then we have had the manufacturer coming to the Minister saying: We want to increase our manufactories; do not take the duty off. Then we have had the members of the Government grasping them with the warm right hand and saying: Fear ye not, we are with you, and we will keep in this tariff an ample limit of protection; go on and build more factories. And the pledge of economy moved by Mr. Gibbons and enthusiastically acclaimed by the thousand and one representatives on that hot June day in the city of Ottawa was not a pledge to the country, it was a pledge to the party with an implied condition. That implied condition I suppose was: We must say something to catch votes, and we will talk economy, but you promoters, you hangers-on, you that want to fatten at the public crib, keep quiet that we may have a chance to get in, and "wait until you see us next year." Was the plan which declared for purity of administration and politics a pledge to the people or simply a pledge to the party with an implied condition? The implied condition has been well understood by some of your Ministers and it has been acted upon to the utter debauchery and corruption of sections of this country. All these things were not pledges to the people, they were pledges to the party with an implied condition and the condition will be carried out whether the pledges are or not. What was the implied condition in this case? Where is the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) and was he aware of this implied condition? The leader of the Government has now told us

what the implied condition was, but from 1893 until to-day he did not open his mouth about it in public, and except to those to whom he may have told it in private nobody was aware that the dice were loaded in that way. Talk about loaded dice! Imagine a man who pretends to be the leader of a great party making an agreement with interested members of his own party about a great matter of public policy, but keeping it silent and secret from the public who were asked to vote upon it. Think of him taking \$250,000 of the people's money, and \$750,000 more from the earnest men and women who were most interested in this election campaign, and putting all this machinery in operation and doing it without telling these people the conditions under which the contest was to be decided. Knowing well that these conditions were utterly impossible of fulfilment. Why, if a man were to put up two contestants in the prize ring without giving the conditions of the contest he would be tabooed by decent pugilists for ever afterwards. And the man, Sir, I do not care how many decorations he may have on his breast, who goes to the churches and to unions of earnest men and women of his country and forces them into a contest of this kind simply to delude them, allows them to go into such a contest without giving them the conditions under which it is to be decided—what opinion can we have of him? And now he thinks he is absolved when he can read a statement from three or four gentlemen that a 23 per cent vote of the electorate is not quite enough and there ought to be more. The hon. gentleman, with that odd obliquity which characterises him in matters of principle has missed the point of the question entirely. The question to-day is not as to the majority but as to the honour of a man or a body of men who would make a secret agreement with an implied condition to deceive the electorate and put this country to the trouble and turmoil of a great national contest without making public the conditions upon which that contest was to be decided. I must disagree with my hon. friend, I must disagree with his ethics and his peculiar political morality. If the prohibition plank of the platform was not a pledge to the people of the country then, Sir, there was no pledge given in that whole series of resolutions passed at that convention. What need had he to give a pledge to his party? His party was with him. He was looking for votes from the country, and when a party meets together what immense silliness for a man to say that they can make public declarations and pledges themselves, and that it is only for the party and not for the country. And what sublime disdain for the intelligence of common humanity is shown by the man who will rise and declare to an intelligent people that such a course would be honourable in a party or in a man. Who put that plank in the platform?

An hon. MEMBER. Landerkin.

Mr. FOSTER. Perhaps my hon. friend had some method in his madness and may have meant that plebiscite arrangement for some of his own followers. Who introduced that resolution in the convention? It was introduced by S. A. Fisher, ex-M.P. for Brome. I have read the report of the convention from end to end and I cannot find any intimation that there was any implied condition in regard to any of these resolutions. If it is to be found there, let the hon. gentleman show it. Nor can I find that in the discussions in that convention mention was ever made that they gave this plebiscite plank simply on an implied condition, as the hon. gentleman says, that there should be at least half the votes on the list in favour of it or it should not be enacted into law. It is the hon. gentleman's own statement, but it is not, so far as I know, backed up by anything in the records or by anything that transpired at the convention, nor do I find any mention made of an engagement on the part of the party prohibitionists that in case the vote should not be half of the total list, they should agree to drop prohibition for ever after. I believe that Mr. F. S. Spence, the Secretary of the Dominion Alliance, was a member of that convention, that he spoke in the convention, that he was there not only as a Liberal but as the guardian of the interests of the temperance people in the Dominion. If he was not there in that capacity he had no business to be there at all, holding the position that he did as Secretary of the Alliance. May I ask my hon. friend if the implied condition and the solemn engagement were acceded to by Mr. Spence, who was a member of the convention? My hon. friend does not answer. If it was known to Mr. Spence, then Mr. Spence has put himself in the position of betraying the temperance people in this country. He went through that campaign from beginning to end telling the people to vote for the plebiscite and if they voted for it in the majority they would get the enactment. Or if it was not made known to Mr. Spence, does the hon. gentleman think he treated his own followers rightly if he had implied conditions with his party and did not tell that implied condition to that member of his party as well as to the others? There was an implied pledge and an engagement? Did the hon. gentleman inform the present Minister of Agriculture of that engagement and condition? If he did, he put the present Minister of Agriculture in the position of standing before his first audience in the city of Ottawa, on the same platform as myself, when we spoke earnest and I hope true words to the people, urging them under all the difficulties to come out and vote, for their future depended on the vote that they would give. I took it for granted that the old constitutional laws, which keeps up our administration, which puts governments here, was good enough, if it was good for anything, to govern in this case also. The Minister of Agriculture, on that platform, in

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my presence, in the course of his address and of his exhortation, declared to the earnest people before him: Now, if you want prohibition, vote for this plebiscite. He put in no 50 per cent condition. Did my hon. friend impart that knowledge to the Minister of Agriculture, or did he allow him to go into the fight without the knowledge of that implied condition? If he did the former, I have no hesitation at all in saying that the Minister of Agriculture did not deal fairly by me or any other friend of temperance, in urging us to go into that contest and spend our money and our time on an utter impossibility. After this assertion made by the Prime Minister to-day, the Minister of Agriculture must explain either his betrayal of the temperance people, or the refusal of his leader to entrust a colleague with such vital information. And the hon. gentleman sits there to-day in his position of strength and mightiness, sits there to-day upon a 28 per cent vote of the electoral list of this country, gained in 1896. He makes laws, and he negotiates treaties, and he would lay down the fiat to both Houses of Parliament, if he could.

An hon. MEMBER. He did not negotiate a treaty.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, he tried to do it. If he did not negotiate a treaty, he negotiated himself, because he found out enough at Washington in six weeks to upset every idea and belief that he and the youthful Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and the even more youthful (in appearance) Minister of Trade and Commerce, had for the last twenty-five and thirty years had pounded into them by their experience and by their political study. He went down there imbued with the idea that it was absolutely necessary we should have the market of the United States; he came back unsuccessful and now says that the people of this country do not want it at all. He made discovery, changed a long-held opinion on this matter, an opinion which he and his conferees ran their election upon, and on which they got a great many votes. Then my hon. friend will not tell me whether that 50 per cent condition was known to the Minister of Agriculture, who headed the temperance forces. The right hon. gentleman sitting there was on the platform of the Methodist Church in this city when the women of Canada presented him with that world's petition, and the Minister of Agriculture was with him. The Minister of Agriculture, in his speech, declared that that day had marked an epoch in the onward progress of prohibition and temperance in this country, as he, a member of a Government, had that day introduced a Bill for a plebiscite upon which the people could vote for prohibition in this country. But what irony, what cruelty, what immaculate meanness, if there could be such an aggregation of terms, in the knightly and courtly leader of this Government, to sit there in the presence of those earnest women and

allow them to be misled with the idea that they were going into a fair contest where the people's will should rule. when all the time he had made a 50 per cent condition. Sir, what did Mr. Fisher say at the convention in 1893? He said:

I propose to read the resolution which will bring about this result,—

What result? A prohibitory law, that is what he was speaking about.

—and which pledges the Liberal party, if returned to power, to give the people of Canada an opportunity to express their views upon this question, and the Government in power must necessarily carry out the expressed will of the people. There is no doubt that that is what the Liberal party would do. We know their pledges can be trusted.

He goes on to say:

I am glad, therefore, that the great party to which I belong, and with which I have worked, is prepared to take a stand upon the temperance question, and to declare in its platform in favour of a step in the right direction upon this subject.

These are the pledges of Mr. Fisher, now Minister of Agriculture. But more than the Minister of Agriculture have spoken on this question. In October, 1895, the Prime Minister, then plain Mr. Laurier, then in Opposition, in reply to the Rev. Mr. Huxtable, whom I know very well, and who is a most earnest and, I believe, sincere Methodist minister, said this:

The Liberal party has pledged itself in convention at Ottawa that whenever in power they would take a plebiscite on the liquor question, as to whether the people want a prohibitory liquor law or not. The answer is not in my hands, it is in the hands of the people, and, according to their answer, such legislation they will have at the hands of the Government.

Does not the Prime Minister think that, as an honest man, he should have told Mr. Huxtable, in addition to what he did tell him, have told him frankly: Mr. Huxtable, I must tell you and your temperance friends that you must get a 50 per cent vote, for there is an implied condition set by the party that unless you get that, nothing can be done. At Stratford, before an audience of 4,000, on the 9th of June, plain Mr. Laurier that was, is thus reported to have spoken:

Mr. Laurier's attention was given to prohibition. He said: Up to this moment the question of prohibition has never been approached by electors free from other considerations. We deem it wiser to separate it from all other considerations, and to test the public feeling on the matter, we shall do so when we come into office, as I believe we shall. Then I am asked what is to be done? The answer is plain. I am by nature a democrat. I believe in democratic government, and above all in a constitutional government, and the only way to act under a democratic and constitutional government is that the people must govern, and their command must be obeyed. As the people shall speak so shall be the duty of the Government, if that government be in the hands of the Liberal party. This

explanation of the Liberal policy on the prohibition question was apparently satisfactory from the applause with which it was received.

And the editor adds:

Laurier is now where his noble democratic spirit can reveal its true greatness.

At Listowel, the question of prohibition was under discussion, and in reply to an interrogation, he said:

We deem it wiser to separate it from all other considerations, and to test the public feeling on the matter, we shall do so when we come into office, as I believe we shall. Then I am asked what is to be done. The answer is plain. I am by nature a democrat; I believe in democratic government, and above all in constitutional government, and the only way to act under a democratic and constitutional government is that the people must govern, and their command must be obeyed. As the people shall speak, so shall be the duty of the Government, if that Government be in the hands of the Liberal party.

That shows that it was well thought out and stereotyped, for it was the same answer he had given at other places. In Winnipeg he made a vigorous speech to the people against taxation, against increased expenditure, in favour of free implements, and against the bloated monopolists and manufacturers. Then they asked him what about prohibition, and he declared that:

He would pledge his honour that as soon as the Liberals came into power in Ottawa they would take a plebiscite of the Dominion by which the party would stand, and the will of the people would be carried out, even were it to cost power for ever to the Liberal party.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). Did he really say that?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes, he said that. But, Sir, we had the right hon. gentleman, in this House, when the Plebiscite Bill passed, when he was pressed by myself and Sir Charles Tupper to give some definite information to the people of the country, both prohibitionists and the liquor men, both largely interested—both would spend money, both would spend time, both would go into a contest of some weeks duration, heated and expensive, and a hard campaign—the right hon. gentleman was asked to say honestly and frankly if he would enact any new condition, or if the old-fashioned British rule of government by majority should hold. The right hon. gentleman, when asked:

If an affirmative vote would be followed by a Bill, and what would be considered a sufficient vote?

Said:

I have often said, and I can only repeat here, that when the will of the people has been affirmed, as it will be affirmed, one way or the other, then the Government must be prepared to abide by the consequences.

When asked, further, what this explicitly meant, he said:

It means that the Government, when they have the will of the people before them, will have to

take such steps as will give effect to the will of the people.

That was the latest utterance of my right hon. friend in Parliament. But, Sir, there is another utterance which acts as a gloss to all these—the utterance that he gave to that Liberal Convention of 1893, on a steaming summer day in Otiawa, and which was heralded from the faithful there to the faithful all over the country as the dictum of this great coming leader of the Government of the country. What did he say, written down in the book :

We must be governed by the majority. I do not say that the majority is always right, but until we have something better we must be governed by the rule that the majority must govern.

Now, Sir, if anything could be clearer than that reasoning and that conclusion, I do not know what logic and sound reasoning mean. The right hon. gentleman, whatever were his implied and secret conditions, led the people of this country to believe everywhere, that he was honest and frank with them, and that when the will of the people—such a will of the people as put him where he is, 28 per cent of the total electorate, the will of the people that has put men behind him with 20 per cent of the vote of the electorate to make criminal and civil laws which shall be binding on every section of this country, to sustain an Administration which shall administer millions of dollars and untold millions of the resources of this country, to give the power that belongs to all legislation and all administration as well—the right hon. gentleman led the people of this country to believe—whatever he may have whispered to his interested friends—that if they voted and obtained a majority vote, it would be followed by their will being carried out, and his Government would carry out their will. Sir, it is not necessary for me to read the vote ; it is not necessary for me to take the voters' list of every member who sits behind my right hon. friend, with the percentage of the vote which he got, and to show him that it sums up to about 28 per cent of the total votes on the list. This plebiscite vote is 23 per cent ; but oh ! the cruelty of it, and the unmanliness of it, and the lack of anything like public frankness of it, to bring the two sections of the people of this country together in a heated contest over a great principle, and to keep secret from one section the ultimatum which he knew would dash down irreparably every hope they had of carrying that which they believed to be good for this country. You, Sir, may be an anti-prohibitionist, and I may be a prohibitionist, and we both may be honest in our beliefs. Neither of us would impugn the honesty of the other ; and neither of us, if he had a spark of manliness within him, would think it was proper or manly to gain an advantage by entering upon the decisive struggle under secret and implied conditions which utterly handicapped one of us and gave the victory without a

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shadow of doubt to the other before one blow of the battel was struck. Such, Sir, is unfair in the rules of the ring ; such is equally unfair and unmanly in public politics ; but it is characteristic of my right hon. friend. It is characteristic of his Government: they seem to have lost any feeling of honourable men that they are bound by their pledges, and bound to be frank and manly with the people, bound to do what they said they would do, when they were seeking for power, and for place, and for position.

The churches, and the unions, and the earnest men and women of this country demanded that this manly and frank treatment should have been given to them ; they have not had it. My own opinion is, that they will think about this matter, and think about it very seriously, and, above all, will hold this in view ; that the question at this present moment is not as to what should constitute a requisite majority, but the question is, as to the policy and the treatment which led earnest men and women on for years with heightened hopes and then plunged them into the final contest where, as I have said, they were hopelessly handicapped by a secret engagement and a condition which effectually barred all possibility of success to them and just as effectually delivered them over to certain defeat.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). Mr. Speaker, there is, I believe, an old and excellent proverb which prevails in the province of Quebec, whereby defeated suitors are allowed a period of two days wherein to curse their opponents and the judge who has decided against them. My hon. friends opposite have enjoyed, according to parliamentary usage, their two days, and very much good may it do them. For myself, I am bound to admit that I feel considerable sympathy with these gentlemen. My hon. friend the leader of the Opposition may be excused, smarting from his defeat in West Huron, for feeling a little sore at the response which was made to his somewhat pathetic appeal to the electors of that part of Canada. Whether, as the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) ingeniously observed, he was beaten on that occasion by 118 stripes, or, as on the former occasion, with 300 stripes—in the contest in which my late lamented friend (Mr. Cameron) took a part—does not materially affect the result. As for his hon. friend beside him (Mr. Foster), he also had a somewhat bitter experience a very few weeks before, when, in the plenitude of his conceit, he thought fit to challenge my hon. friend the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) to decide before the electorate of their native province which of the two best deserved the support of the great province of New Brunswick. He may possibly condole with his brother in affliction who sits beside him ; because, if I remember aright, on the occasion of a similar appeal to the electorate of the province of Nova Scotia, my

hon. friend the leader of the Opposition returned rejoicing, with three members out of thirty.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). Three out of thirty-eight.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE**. I thought it was three out of thirty, and I had a reason for thinking, I might almost say hoping so, because, if I remember aright, my hon. friend from York (Mr. Foster) went down conquering and to conquer, and he returned with four out of forty.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). Four out of forty-six.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE**. Then the parallel is almost complete—let them embrace each other. And my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition may derive a crumb of comfort from the reflection that if things peradventure had gone otherwise, his tenure of his present place might not have been as secure as it is at present.

Sir, I do hope that we are not to take the speeches made by my hon. friends, the leader and his first lieutenant, as a sample of the speeches wherewith this House is to be regaled during the remainder of the session. I do trust that my hon. friend will recollect that we are not living in the days of Methuselah, but in the last hours of the 19th century. I do hope they will recollect that the wishes of the people of the country, and I think the wishes of the members of this House, are no longer in favour of yard-long essays, but that they would prefer something shorter, something pithier and more direct than our hon. friends have been pleased to give us. I do trust that they will remember for the future that verbosity is not necessarily eloquence, and that loud talking does not necessarily involve logic.

Sir, I was surprised to hear the hon. gentleman who last spoke, if anything could have surprised me, after my somewhat long experience of public life—although I do not muster, I beg to say, the 50 years with which my hon. friend was pleased to endow me—I was surprised to hear him denouncing my hon. friend—for what? For trifling with the great question of prohibition. Sir, I did think there was an hon. gentleman not unknown to fame in this House who had climbed to power and place in this country by his fervent advocacy on all occasions of the principle of prohibition. I did think, Sir, there was a gentleman whom I heard with my own ears in this House speak of the liquor traffic as a traffic in liquid damnation, but who, during the many years he held office—with the exception, I am bound to give him justice, of issuing a commission to certain friends of his own at a cost of \$100,000 for the purpose of accumulating evidence touching the condition of the liquor traffic—does not appear to me, during his period of office,

to have taken one step or to have raised his little finger to put down this traffic in liquid damnation which he denounced so vigorously in earlier days. Surely, Sir, it was in a moment of weakness that he reproached my hon. friend with coquetting with the liquor question. He coquet with the liquor question? Surely not. That is the privilege, the perquisite, the absolute monopoly of my hon. friend opposite. Sir, my hon. friend beside me has been poaching upon his chosen preserve if he has presumed to coquet with the liquor question. But, Sir, when my hon. friend from York talks of truth, of loyalty, of a fine sense of honour, when he intimates that my hon. friend—I took down his words—"ought to be tabooed from decent pugilistic society" by reason of the part he has taken, my hon. friend must credit us all with fearfully short memories when we recollect the part that hon. gentleman and six others like himself took three years ago in this House on the occasion of their desertion and betrayal of the leader whom they had sworn to support. Perhaps my hon. friend will pardon me for quoting a little stanza that my memory recalls on this occasion.

Mr. FOSTER. Is it from the Bytown Coons?

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE**. It is somewhat in that sense. My hon. friend talks of trust, of faith, of loyalty, of honour.

Foster's faith and Foster's trust—  
Write the characters in dust :  
Stamp them in the running streams,  
Print them in the moon's clear beams,  
And each evanescent letter  
Shall be firmer, clearer, better,  
And more permanent, I ween,  
Than the thing those letters mean.

Mr. FOSTER. We will have to make you the poet-laureate.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE**. My hon. friend from York states, perhaps not incorrectly, that things are discussed by my hon. friend beside me in a spirit quite different from that which prevailed on the other side; and in particular he was struck by the marvellous self-command and self-control and abstinence from the strong language which distinguished the honourable baronet who leads the Opposition? Well, I do recollect that the honourable baronet talked of my hon. friend beside me as silly, absurd, incompetent, described his policy as monstrous and untrue, and hinted at the humiliation which Canada had sustained at the hands of my hon. friend. We will have a word or two to say as to that presently. The hon. gentleman advised us to ignore the past. Sir, does not the hon. gentleman wish that he could ignore his past and that his friends could ignore their past and all those shameful incidents which blotted and marred the history of Canada in the beginning of 1873? I cannot accuse them all individually so far back; but if there ever

has been a party at whose hands the people of Canada are entitled to demand a stern reckoning for stains on the public honour, stains that must remain as long as the history of Canada endures, it is the men who held office in Canada in the early part of 1873 and those who held office in 1891. I am not going to-night to rake up all these matters of the past. Were I to do so I would require not merely three hours and a half, as the hon. member for York consumed, not merely five hours, as the hon. gentleman beside him consumed; but I would require ten times three and ten times five hours before I could come to an end of their list of iniquities. The hon. gentleman went on to say that we had broken our pledges, that we had failed to give effect to our policy. He went on to declare that in everything we had undertaken we could only exhibit a record of misfortune and disaster. Sir, the records of the public accounts do not show that; the records of our trade and commerce do not show that. The statements of men far better qualified to judge of what pertains to the honour of Canada than the hon. gentleman is, do not bear out his statement in the smallest degree. The hon. gentleman pretends that the abrogation of the German and Belgian treaties was due to his efforts and the efforts of his friends. Sir, the efforts of himself and his friends were utterly powerless for ten or twenty years to move the English Government one jot. It remained for the Government of my hon. friend, by the introduction of preferential trade, or by the introduction, at any rate, of a tariff which enabled the English people, to all intents and purposes, to obtain preferential trade with Canada, at one stroke to induce or compel—let him call it as he will—the English Government to immediately denounce these treaties.

Now, he says that our policy does not help us in getting trade with England. He very greatly mistakes the facts and the temper of the people of England. Every man in this House and country, who within the last two years has paid a visit to England, knows that the temper of the English merchants and consumers and the people at large has undergone an extraordinary change in favour of Canada since the day my hon. friend rode behind Her Majesty in the Jubilee procession. They know that to-day in England the fact that an article is of Canadian make is a recommendation to the English consumer. They know that the English people are willing to give us a preference if we show we are worthy of such preference by giving them such an article as they have a right to expect at our hands.

He pretends that our exports grew quite as fast under his management and that of his predecessors as under the management of my hon. friend beside me. It is well that the House should have the facts presented to it briefly and simply on this question. I find that in 1892 our exports to England amounted to \$64,000,000. In 1893 they also

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amounted to \$64,000,000. In 1894, they were \$68,000,000; in 1895 \$61,000,000, and in 1896 \$66,000,000. For a period of five or six years they made scarcely any increase whatever. The Liberal party then came into power, and between 1896 and 1897 our exports rose to \$77,000,000, an increase of \$11,000,000 in one year, and in 1898 they reached the figures of \$104,998,000. Sir, the increase in our exports to England in the two years of Liberal rule between 1896 and 1898 amounted to close upon \$40,000,000, while the increase from 1873 to 1896, a period of something like 23 years, amounted to only \$28,000,000 all told. In other words, we have not quite doubled, but very nearly doubled, in two years the total amount of increase that took place in the preceding 23 years.

Sir, the hon. gentleman gave us a number of what I must say were very unnecessary statistics with respect to the percentage of duties. Now, I have to tell the hon. gentleman that that mode of argument is wholly and absolutely inaccurate. If the hon. gentleman will reflect, he would know this, that it is utterly absurd to compare the effects of one tariff with another on the principle of the mere percentage of duties collected, and for this very obvious reason. It is perfectly easy for any man who understands it to draw a tariff which should at one and the same time be prohibitory to a very high degree, and yet, on the articles admitted into the country, levy comparatively a low percentage; and when he speaks of the effect of the reduction of 25 per cent on English manufactured goods, he forgets entirely that over and above the actual amount of money saved, as shown on the customs returns, you must, if you want to ascertain the amount of relief to the people, if you want to ascertain the whole amount saved to the people of Canada, take into account the necessary reduction made by the home and foreign manufacturers who come into competition with the English importers. Put those together, and you will find that the amount of duties which has been saved to Canada by our policy must be measured by many millions more than the mere amount shown in the customs returns.

My hon. friend makes it a charge against us that in the eight months of this year we have collected \$2,500,000 more customs duties than were collected under his tariff in a similar period. That is, he makes it a reproach against us that we have very considerably reduced the burdens of the people of Canada and at the same time put a great deal more money into the treasury. Why, that is the very thing which a Finance Minister ought to try to do, and which my hon. friend did succeed in doing; and although I am not going to anticipate the discussion on the Budget, although I think it is entirely out of place at this stage to introduce a lengthy discussion on this subject, I cannot refrain from calling attention to one or two brief facts of the kind.

When he calls attention to the reduction

of the specific duties and claims that these are insignificant, he wholly ignores the fact that the great majority of the specific duties retained in our tariff are specific duties on articles of food, which neither he nor I nor any other Finance Minister ever dreamt of proposing to tax ad valorem. Strike out the articles of food in question, and you will find that the proportion of specific duties which have been reduced by us is very considerably larger than the hon. gentleman is pleased to give us credit for.

Mr hon. friend reproached us with the fact that, under the pretense of a money subsidy to the Canadian Pacific Railway in the matter of the Crow's Nest Pass, we had granted large areas of valuable coal lands to certain supporters of this Government. Sir, this Government never had an acre of coal lands to give away. These coal areas belong to another company which existed long before this Government had anything to do with the Crow's Nest Pass, and which my hon. friend beside me tells me was then composed exclusively of Conservatives, and these coal areas were acquired in ordinary trade and bargain by the gentlemen to whom he referred. But the Government did do something worthy of notice on that occasion. We did make it a condition that a large section of coal areas which we did not previously own should be deeded to us in trust for the benefit of the people, so that these areas might not be used to the injury and detriment of our people.

It is not my intention to-night to go into the moot question of reciprocity further than this. I say, as the hon. gentleman and his leader has said, and as the late Sir John Macdonald has said, that reciprocity with the United States, if it can be obtained on proper terms, would be a very great boon to a very great number of the people of Canada. But I agree with my hon. friend that while reciprocity is desirable to-day, it is much less important to the people of Canada, and is probably less desired by the people to-day than it was a matter of a dozen years ago. So far we are in accord, and I defy the hon. gentleman, in his calmer and more reasonable moments, to get up in this House, and to tell this House and country that trade with the United States can ever be anything but a matter of great importance and value to the people of Canada.

The hon. gentleman was pleased to enlarge at considerable extent on the fact that our commission went to Washington and returned without accomplishing anything in the way of a treaty as yet. On that I shall have something more to say presently. For the moment allow me to remind the hon. gentleman that the Liberal-Conservative Government did send a commission to Washington. Aye, Sir, they sent a commission twice. Which particular visit does my hon. friend refer to—that visit when they went in the morning and returned in the afternoon, for reasons best known to themselves, or that rather more lengthy visit when the hon.

gentleman immortalized himself by demanding that Mr. Blaine should draw up a scheme of taxation and explain to him (Mr. Foster) how a revenue was to be raised from the people of Canada in case they engaged in a reciprocity treaty.

My hon. friend beside me (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) suggests that I should move the adjournment of the debate. Perhaps, out of compassion to my fellow-members, I should accept the suggestion. I move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

#### MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY— INTERNAL ECONOMY.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) presented a Message from His Excellency the Governor General.

Mr. SPEAKER read the Message, as follows:—

#### MINTO.

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons, an approved Minute of Council, appointing the Honourable Sir Richard Cartwright, G.C.M.G., Minister of Trade and Commerce; the Honourable Sir Louis Henry Davies, K.C.M.G., Minister of Marine and Fisheries; the Honourable William Stevens Fielding, Minister of Finance, and the Honourable Joseph Israel Tarte, Minister of Public Works, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons, as Commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of the 13th Chapter of the Revised Statutes of Canada, intitled: "An Act respecting the House of Commons."

Government House,  
Ottawa, 18th March, 1899.

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

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 10.50 p.m.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 22nd March, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

#### SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved:

That a special committee of five members be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose the select standing committees ordered by the House on Thursday, the 16th March instant, to be composed of Sir Charles Tupper, Sir Richard Cartwright, Sir Louis Davies, Mr. Casgrain and the mover.

Motion agreed to.

## REPORT.

Report of the Postmaster General for the year ending 30th June, 1898.—(Mr. Mulock.)

## ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell (P.E.I.) for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). Mr. Speaker, there are one or two facts to which I would like to direct the attention of the House, and more particularly to direct the attention of the hon. leaders of the Opposition. The first of these is, that, by to-morrow a full week will have elapsed since we were placed, through you, in possession of His Excellency's Speech from the Throne. The other is, that, owing to circumstances altogether beyond our control, and more particularly to the lamented death of Mr. Dingley, the meeting of this House has been delayed as everybody knows, to a period far beyond the ordinary and regular time. Now, Sir, under these circumstances, I hope hon. gentlemen will not take it amiss from me if I suggest that, if, as I understand from the language used by the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), and the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster), they have no intention of implementing their attacks upon the Government by a motion, peradventure it would be as well that we should bring this discussion to a tolerably early close and proceed with the regular business of the session.

Sir, it is probably that it would be more amusing than edifying, on the whole, were we to engage in any fine calculations as to whether the hon. member for York or the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) who sits beside him is the worse beaten man in the recent elections in their own provinces. It is rather a fine point to decide whether a man who succeeded in electing three out of 38, or the man who succeeded in electing four out of 46 is, on the whole, the more hopelessly defeated. It would also be more amusing than edifying, did I feel warranted in wasting the time of the House on the subject, to dissect the past lives and conversations of these hon. gentlemen with a view to ascertaining in whose case the professions were the loftiest and practice the lowest.

Sir, far be it from me to interfere with any arrangements which the hon. leader of the Opposition may have thought fit to make for the purpose of enlightening the inhabitants of the benighted province of Quebec: but I have just received a telegram which would seem to show that the task before him is likely to be a somewhat arduous one. As the House is aware, an election was lately in progress in the district of Lévis, and

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

I find that in that district where the hon. gentleman proposes to do missionary work, so benighted were the inhabitants that the candidate of the Government was elected without opposition about sixty minutes ago. Now, Sir, I do not want to deprecate discussion by any manner of means, but I do submit to the consideration of hon. gentlemen opposite, who I suppose desire to get down to the actual business and work of the House, that if they have any attack to make on the trade or fiscal policy of this Government they will have an ample opportunity, with far fuller information, with far better means of attack, in the course of the debate which will shortly be initiated on the Budget. If it be their pleasure to condemn our conduct with respect to the Senate, when resolutions proposing a certain amendment to the constitution of that body are submitted to the House, then will come, I submit, their proper opportunity. If they desire to call in question the conduct of my hon. friend in the matter of the plebiscite, they have it in their power to bring forward a motion in which they could state to this House and to this country what they themselves would propose to do under the circumstances as they now find them to exist. Should they have any objection to our proposal to rearrange the boundaries of the several constituencies, I would recommend them to wait until the Bill is in their hands before they attack us any further on that subject.

Sir, I do not say that I have not some sympathy with those hon. gentlemen. You and I, Mr. Speaker, in our day, have known something of the difficulties of fighting by-elections during a parliamentary term against the Government of the day. We had our full share at that period, of moral victories and electoral defeats, and if hon. gentlemen take no comfort in the uniform ill-success that has attended them since the commencement of this Parliament, they have my sympathy. It is the fate of war, and I would say to them that I think they would do better to accept the situation, and for one thing, at any rate, not to bring forward charges of corruption here which they are unable to substantiate in the courts. It is very easy to make a charge of corruption, as the hon. gentleman did the other night. If he has ground for that, the courts are open to him, let him implead those who are guilty, and he will do it before judges, for the most part appointed by himself, or by his predecessors and colleagues, and he is certain of having full, fair and complete justice at their hands.

Mr. FOSTER. It all depends on what sort of a law you have got.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Well, Sir, the law is at present substantially and in almost all respects with very trifling alterations, if any, the law which substituted between 1898 and 1896. But, Sir, I am sorry to see that the hon.

leader of the Opposition is not in his place, because it was to him that I desired more particularly to address myself on the present occasion. That hon. gentleman occupies a very responsible position in this House, as he is fond of telling his supporters and the people of this country at large. He knows something of the difficulties, he knows something of the dangers, which attend negotiations between this country and the neighbouring republic. He has enlarged upon them often. He has spoken of them well and feelingly when he occupied the position I now occupy on this side of the House. I think that hon. gentleman should have recalled to mind his own past utterances on these questions; and perhaps the very best answer that I can give to some of the philippics in which he lately indulged is to read to this House a few extracts from a speech which he himself delivered under somewhat similar circumstances, a matter of ten or eleven years ago. Sir, I would appeal from that hon. gentleman desperate and out of office, to that hon. gentleman sane and clothed and in his right mind and responsible for the proper conduct of the affairs of Canada. I have always believed, I have always contended that perhaps the best evidence that hon. gentleman ever gave that he did possess some of the elements, at any rate, of statesmanship, was to be found in the tone and attitude which he took, as I well know, to a certain extent, in opposition to many of his colleagues at that time, and the occasion when he was called upon to stand up here and advocate the adoption of the treaty of 1887 in this House. Now, I desire both sides of the House to listen, because for once I am able, to a very great extent, to concur with every word that that hon. gentleman used; I desire the House to listen to it as an answer to the attack made by him from the other side of the floor; I desire the House to listen to the words which were used by that hon. gentleman when he was responsible for the good conduct and the government of this country. On April 10th, 1888, I find the hon. gentleman, in the course of recommending the treaty which he had then succeeded in procuring from the United States to the consideration of the House, using these words:

I thus call attention for a moment in passing to the language I then used in order to show that I was not guilty of the supreme folly that I would have been guilty of if I had spoken of non-intercourse between 60,000,000 of people of the United States of America and the 5,000,000 on this side of the line as anything but what every intelligent Canadian would deplore, as I think every intelligent American ought to deplore it.

Good sound sense, good sound truth, patriotic and sensible words the hon. gentleman made use of then. Then a page or two further on, resuming consideration of that same phase of the question, I find the hon. gentleman reported, as follows:—

And, Sir, under those circumstances, denied, as we were, the free consideration of the question, of which fact I have given you abundant

evidence, we turned our attention to the only means by which we could avert what everybody would feel would be the greatest disaster that could befall this country.

“The greatest disaster,” you will observe, that could befall this country. That greatest disaster eleven years ago in the judgment of Sir Charles Tupper, would have been the passage of an non-intercourse Bill such as the President was then empowered to sanction between Canada and the United States. Later on, at page 686 of the same speech, the hon. gentleman went on to deal with the question at large. He says:

So that I have no hesitation in saying that, dealing with this great question in that spirit, dealing with a question that is of vital importance to the Government of Great Britain, who were constantly threatened with embarrassment and serious difficulties and collision with the great country to the south of us, a question too, of great magnitude to the United States of America, a question of still greater magnitude, in my judgment, to the people of Canada, one on which we had more at stake and more to lose in a great struggle of that kind than any of the great countries to which I have referred—I say, looking at the question in that broad and national spirit, looking at it with a desire to remove the possibility of what I consider would be the greatest misfortune that could happen to the civilized world—a collision between the two great English-speaking nations—looking at it from that broad standpoint, it would have been criminal on my part, and on the part of those who represented Her Majesty’s Government and the interests of the people of Canada, if they had not endeavoured, by making fair and reasonable concessions—

He was not truckling to Washington then.

—by making fair and reasonable concessions to find a common ground that would present a solution of those important and serious questions that might enable a treaty to be formulated and accepted as a just and equitable settlement upon both sides.

I might go on multiplying quotations ad infinitum, but I think these samples, and this one with which I will conclude are amply sufficient. On page 691 of “Hansard” he says:

Under these circumstances, it behoved the Government of Canada to adopt any means in its power to avert such a disaster, which, great as it would have been to Canada, would have been but still greater to the United States; but—

And I call the special attention of the House to this last sentence:

—but it would be very poor compensation for the injury which we would sustain, to know that we had a companion in misfortune suffering more than we suffered ourselves.

Sir, these are words of truth, these are words of sanity, these are words which, I will say, do honour to the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) who delivered them. They are in themselves the best answer that could be given to the attack which that hon. gentleman—I was sorry to hear him—thought fit to make upon the acts and conduct of the present Government of Canada with respect to these negotiations at Washington.

I am not going, on the present occasion—because I wish, as far as it is possible, to have this matter considered on both sides of the House with some regard to the enormously important interests that are involved—I am not going to refer to that painful episode to which my right hon. friend alluded, which took place between Sir Charles Tupper and Sir Julian Pauncefote and Mr. Blaine, further than to say this: That it ill-becomes the man who figured in that transaction to talk to us of truckling or humiliating ourselves to the Government at Washington.

Sir, I think this Government understands its position and understands its duty—understands its position and understands its duty, not merely to the people of Canada, but to the people of the Empire, of whom on that occasion we were the accredited representatives. England trusted us greatly. For the first time in Canadian history—and it is a special honour to my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), and a special honour to Canada, too—for the first time in the history of Canada, for the first time in English history, that I know of, an important diplomatic conference between two of the greatest nations of the world, if not the two greatest nations of the world, was conducted mainly by commissioners chosen and appointed by the Government of Canada. Never before, that I know of, in English history, was the Dominion of Canada empowered to appoint four of the representatives out of five in any conference held with the United States.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). They do not seem to have accomplished much.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. My hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) would do well to remember the proverb that children and certain other people should not judge of half-done work. Sir, it is not possible always in an afternoon, or in a month, or in several months, to undo the effect of many years of folly, misrepresentation and misunderstanding, and though I do not want to pursue that theme at present, yet if the hon. gentlemen opposite desire it, I could give them ample proof of the extent to which this Government, and to which the people of Canada have been handicapped in their transactions with the United States by reason of the ill-advised conduct of our predecessors on many occasions.

When we were greatly trusted, we were bound by every sense of honour to act worthily to that trust. We were bound to exhaust all honourable means before we allowed our mission to expire. I agree with the gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) whose words I have just quoted, that it would be an act of supreme folly on our part, or on the part of any men, to say, that the good-will and friendship of seventy millions of English-speaking people, extending over 3,000 miles along our border, could be anything but a matter of the greatest moment, both politi-

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cally and commercially to the people of this Dominion. I am not in a position, and the House knows it well, to go into any details whatever in regard to the negotiations which are still pending. The matter is sub judice; our mouths are closed as to the details, but I think I may, without impropriety, call the attention of the House to certain difficulties, not perhaps immediately apparent, which beset the path of any one who desires to make such a treaty as we were called upon to make. Hon. gentlemen may dispute the proposition if they please, but I say at least what I believe and what I have good reason to believe: that if the Government of the United States possessed a government similar to ours, I have no doubt whatever that my right hon. friend and his colleagues on that occasion could have arranged with ease a thoroughly satisfactory treaty with the President and Cabinet of the United States. I will go further. I believe that, if this had been a matter with reference to which it had been possible to reach the great bulk of the people of the United States, a treaty could very easily have been arranged with them. But, as every man who has had anything to do with affairs at Washington, knows, any negotiator who attempts to make a treaty with the United States, finds himself handicapped almost from the start, by that very peculiar provision of the American constitution which renders it necessary to obtain a two-thirds majority of the Senate, before any treaty can be ratified. It is not for strangers to criticise the constitution of the United States. They, I dare say, had excellent reason for what they have done; but it is as a simple statement of fact, and not as a criticism, that I say, that not merely does this two-thirds majority provision place enormous difficulty in the way of negotiators, but I may add, that the extraordinary constitution of the Senate, apart from the two-thirds requirement, adds still further to the great difficulties that beset them. As this is a matter which our people are not entirely familiar with, I will take the liberty of submitting a few facts to the House—not in the way of criticism, be it remembered, but simply as a statement of the facts as they exist. I find, on looking over the last United States census, that the population of the several states was distributed in the following way:—

POPULATION—1890.

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| New York .....     | 5,997,853         |
| Pennsylvania ..... | 5,258,014         |
| Illinois .....     | 3,826,351         |
| Ohio .....         | 3,672,316         |
| Missouri .....     | 2,679,184         |
| Texas .....        | 2,235,532         |
| Indiana .....      | 2,192,404         |
| Michigan .....     | 2,093,889         |
| Iowa .....         | 1,911,896         |
|                    | <u>32,106,382</u> |
| Nevada .....       | 45,761            |
| Wyoming .....      | 60,705            |
| Idaho .....        | 84,385            |

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| North Dakota .....  | 182,719   |
| Delaware .....      | 168,493   |
| Montana .....       | 132,159   |
| Utah .....          | 207,905   |
| Oregon .....        | 313,767   |
| South Dakota .....  | 328,808   |
| Vermont .....       | 332,422   |
|                     | <hr/>     |
|                     | 1,857,124 |
| <br>                |           |
| Rhode Island .....  | 345,506   |
| Washington .....    | 349,390   |
| New Hampshire ..... | 376,530   |
| Florida .....       | 391,422   |
| Colorado .....      | 412,198   |
|                     | <hr/>     |
|                     | 1,875,046 |

At present, and according to the last census, ten states of the union, possessing a population of 32,106,000 souls, more than half the population of the union at that date, had just one-fifth part of the representation of the Senate; while, on the other hand, the ten states, Nevada, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Utah, Delaware, Oregon, South Dakota and Vermont, with a population of 1,857,000, possessed an equal number of votes in the Senate; and if you add to these the population of Rhode Island, Washington, New Hampshire, Florida and Colorado, amounting to 1,875,000 more, you have this rather remarkable result, that under the present constitution of the United States, fifteen states, with a total population of 3,732,000, less than one-fifteenth part of the people of the United States, would have an absolute veto on the legislation of the Senate, and would far outweigh the votes recorded in the Senate by ten great states possessing more than one-half the total population.

Now, I need not point out to any hon. gentleman who has sat in this House, even for a few years, what enormous difficulties such a state of things presents to the negotiation of a treaty. It is not merely that we must overcome the inherent difficulty of obtaining a two-thirds majority—and let me remind this House that the strongest Government that ever sat in Canada has hardly ever, except in the first years after confederation, possessed a majority of two-thirds of this Chamber—but we must besides be in a position to overcome the inevitable tendency of these various small states to regard their own individual interests without much consideration for the general good. I repeat, Sir, it is not for us to criticise; and, for the matter of that, I am bound to admit that the constitution of our own Senate, theoretically considered, is far worse than that of the United States. But, Sir, I do say that it is a very different and a very much easier thing to negotiate with one state than to negotiate, as we virtually had to do, with forty-five. Add to that, Sir, the whole of the difficulties which have surrounded the relations between Canada and the United States from the time Canada became a state down to the present time, or rather from the time Upper Canada was settled down to the present time, were all grouped together and all required to be disposed of at our hands

in the course of a few weeks. As if that was not sufficient, we had our difficulties further complicated by the fact that one important member of the commission was removed at an early date to take part in the peace negotiations with Spain, and that two very important members of the commission on the American side were disabled by illness, resulting, as you know, in the death of one. I say nothing of the lamented death of Lord Herschell, inasmuch as that occurred at a somewhat late period of the negotiations. But I do say that if you compare the magnitude, the importance and the delicacy of the tasks which were imposed upon us with those imposed upon former commissions empowered to treat with the United States, you will see that there is very little cause for condemning us because in a period of about four months, which was all the time occupied in the negotiations, during a large part of which several members of the commission were disabled by illness, we failed to settle questions which required at least an equal space of time to settle as was consumed by commissions previously appointed, though those commissions had to deal with one subject, while we were required to deal with ten or twelve. Sir, I think the best answer to the accusation that the Canadian commissioners were prepared to concede anything for the sake of obtaining some sort of settlement with the United States, is to be found in the fact that the Canadian commissioners during all that time made no concession whatever, and that when a demand was made by the United States which they thought could not be yielded consistently with the honour of Canada or of England, they at once refused to accede to that demand. Again, I say, I simply state facts. I do not wish unnecessarily to aggravate the feelings of hon. gentlemen opposite, but I will add that, more particularly with respect to the difficulty which was the cause of the present termination of our negotiations, that is to say, the Alaskan frontier, we found ourselves hampered to the most extreme degree by the extraordinary apathy and indifference which the Government of Canada for a period of 18 years, from 1878 to 1896, had manifested in regard to this question. If the Americans have settled on the Lynn Canal, and have obtained possessory right there, if they are in a position to say that they have been allowed undisturbed possession, whose fault is it but that of the men who from 1878 to 1896 stood with folded arms, and took no steps whatever even to remonstrate against that occupation by the United States? Sir, there was a second cause, and I will tell the House, as my hon. friend has told them, what that second cause was, which added to our difficulties in dealing with that question. That was the most unwise, and I will add the most unpatriotic opposition to the proposal of the Government to construct an interior railway from Glenora to Teslin Lake last year. Had that railway been in oper-

ation to-day, we would not only, in all probability, have been controlling a great trade, but would have been very much less likely to encounter the violent opposition in the settlement of that question, of the rival states and cities which desire to possess themselves of that trade. What are we to say of the conduct of the hon. leader of the Opposition under these circumstances? That hon. gentleman knows that we cannot at this moment reveal the details of the negotiations. He knows right well—I have his own words for it, as strong as even I myself could use—the enormous importance of avoiding conflict between Canada and the United States. He knows, and he has laid down in emphatic terms, how vital it is to Imperial interests of the highest moment that the two great English-speaking nations should be kept from collision. He knows more: he knows that the action of his own colleagues, if not of himself, had to a great extent handicapped us and imperilled the interests of Canada in the matter of this very negotiation. The hon. gentleman under these circumstances, I think, looking to the length of time he has spent in the service of the state, and looking to what he has said before, might have done some good service, or at least might have been consistent with his own previous statements. But he prefers, for reasons best known to himself, the role of a mischievous demagogue in a matter which is still sub judice, which is still under negotiation, forgetful of his own duty and still more of his own words under similar circumstances.

Mr. SPEAKER. I wish to call the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that I think the expression he has applied to the leader of the Opposition, "the role of a mischievous demagogue," is going rather far.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Then I will say the role of a man who has forgotten the duties he was sworn to perform when he assumed the office of a Privy Councillor of this Dominion. I will substitute that if you prefer it. I decline to follow the hon. gentleman further afield. I purposely confine my remarks on the present occasion to that one vital subject; but I will say this to him, that as regards the relations of Canada towards England and towards the United States, I for my part stand where I always did. Sir, I have returned from these negotiations more impressed than ever before with two things: first, with the enormous importance of maintaining by all honourable means a good understanding and friendly relations with the United States; and second, with which probably the hon. gentleman will not dissent so very much, I have likewise returned very greatly impressed with the superiority of our form of government, our constitution, barring one blot upon it, to that of the kindred republic.

Now, as to the question of reciprocity, which also these hon. gentlemen raised, let the hon. gentlemen wait in patience. Up to

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the present time. I am bound to say, that without in the least intending it, the United States have been, on the whole, unconscious benefactors to the people of Canada. The policy they have adopted, in my judgment—and I know whereof I affirm—has done more, fairly considered, to raise the standard of farming throughout our provinces, to a high plane, higher than it has attained in the United States higher than a hundred agricultural colleges could have done. Sir, when the United States saw fit, some years ago, to utterly destroy the great trade in barley and coarse grains which existed between us, no doubt it may have appeared to some of us that a very serious injury was inflicted on Canadian farmers. But I find, with great satisfaction, that the result of their action was really largely and greatly to improve the character of Canadian farming. Instead of exhausting our soil and exporting our grain, our farmers have become competitors with the United States in a very considerable degree in a product which they had previously neglected. It is satisfactory to know that just as fast as our exports of coarse grain diminished to the United States, just so fast grew our exportation of fine bacons and hams to the mother country and other parts of the world. While some ten or twelve years ago we sent \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000 worth of coarse grains to the United States and exported something like \$80,000 or \$100,000 worth of bacon and hams to England and the rest of Europe, now we sell very little indeed of our coarse grains to the United States, but according to the last returns put into my hands, our exports of ham and bacon have risen from something like \$100,000 to something like \$8,500,000, with every prospect of a large increase.

Mr. N. F. DAVIN (East Assiniboia). That is due to our policy.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. You never had a policy. It was due to the intelligence and good sense of the farmers of Canada who, when they found themselves shut out from the United States markets, straightway betook themselves—and for the most part of them where this export has been going on they are good, sound Grits—to producing hams and bacon with great success. But that was not due to the policy of hon. gentlemen, for their policy only made it rather more expensive to our farmers to produce hams and bacon than it would otherwise have been. I might give many such illustrations, but one I think is sufficient on the present occasion, and I am bound to add that our American benefactors, if I may call them so, without their in the least intending it—have, I believe, greatly intensified the attachment of Canada to the mother country and aided materially in developing the self-reliance which exists among our people and is making them every day more and more formidable competitors in the markets open to both countries.

There are two truths which both countries

would do well to bear in mind. One is this, I think that no man, without being guilty of utter folly, can underate the importance of the trade of seventy millions of people. Although it may be quite true, as my hon. friend has said, that we are more independent of the United States than ever before and better able by far to do without their markets, no man will dispute that the markets of the United States would be of enormous value to us if we could obtain access to them on fair and reasonable terms. That is a truth which the people of Canada and the members of this House will do well to take to heart, and the other which the people of the United States on their side will do well to bear in mind, is this, that the people of Canada are perfectly able if compelled, to thrive and prosper wholly independent of the United States. For the rest, it remains as true as ever that each country is abundantly able to supply the other with many things better and cheaper than either can produce for their own selves. It remains as true as ever that at a great many points along our frontier, it would be an immense convenience and advantage to the people of Canada and the people of the United States if free interchange were permitted. It remains as true as ever that the possibilities of that trade are enormous, and that, were these customs barriers let down, great as our trade is to-day, it would expand by leaps and bounds, the like of which even the last two years have not seen. I am not going to enlarge on the difficulties that await on us on that matter. No doubt they are serious and great. They are found largely in what I must call the ignorant legislation on both sides of the border. They are found in the sinister interests that have sprung up under the fostering care of protection. And while I do not pretend to say that one is much worse than the other, I do say that the difference between a Canadian and a United States protectionist is small indeed.

The hon. gentleman, although he disclaimed the policy of retaliation, did nevertheless, while disclaiming it in name, advised us to have recourse to it in fact. Well, as to this policy of strike back, I have a word to say. If it becomes necessary to strike back let us do so, but in heaven's name let us do it like sensible men and not injure ourselves for the sake of injuring others. It would be the height of folly for us to refuse to allow our people to buy from the United States, to their manifest advantage, what they can obtain there cheaper and better than elsewhere. Why do we go to the United States at all? Does any business man suppose that we purchase from the United States for their profit and not for ours? Why do we buy their cotton, and coal, and iron? We do so for the best of all reasons, because we can obtain these things cheaper there than elsewhere. The true retaliation, in my judgment, is to use these advantages as far as we can. Let us meet the Americans and beat them in the markets which are open to both,

and use all the advantages which will enable us to meet and beat them. Let us show them that if they decline to trade with us, they are only putting the competition off a stage and not a very distant stage. Let us show them that so far from putting it off, they are creating a very serious competition in agricultural products, which, I am inclined to think, will soon drive them from the markets of England if not the world. It is a good lesson to point to the United States that immediately after the imposition of what must be admitted to have been a very hostile policy to Canada in the shape of the Dingley tariff, our trade expanded as it never did before. And it is worth noticing as I think it was observed by one of the hon. gentlemen who moved the Address, that per head the total trade of Canada, which now amounts to \$300,000,000 is probably double that of the United States which amounts to about \$2,000,000,000 during the last year. And even in the matter of exports, in which they have extended their trade to a very great degree, even there I am happy to say that Canada leads them to a very considerable extent if measured per capita.

Now, hon. gentlemen may ask, under these circumstances, what I advise. I will venture to tell them what I advise this House, what I advise the people of this country. I advise them, under any circumstances, to act with dignity and calmness; I advise them to see to it that they do not deal with questions of the first magnitude, involving not merely the welfare of Canada, but the welfare of the whole British Empire, in the temper of angry schoolboys. Sir, let them first see the issue of these negotiations—which are not concluded, which may come, and I hope will come, in spite of all the difficulties that beset them, to a prosperous and honourable issue. When these negotiations are closed, it will be time enough for us to decide on the course we should pursue. Sir, as this House well knows, from the day I first took a seat upon this floor, I have been one of those who have contended, and sometimes have contended almost alone on the floor of this House, for the right of Canada to a free hand and a very large measure of discretion in the management of her own affairs, in the management of everything pertaining to her relations with the United States especially. That is the policy which I have advocated, that is the policy which, I am glad to say, is now obtaining the sanction of the Imperial Government to a very great degree. But, Sir, while I claim for Canada these rights I admit, at the same time, that every right carries its correlative duty with it. Canada is under a grave responsibility, not merely to herself, but to the Empire of which she forms a part, and now is the time for Canada to choose whether she will deal with this responsibility in a way that befits statesmen or in a way that befits demagogues. I repeat that the Government of England has  
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trusted us greatly, and I would have the people and the Government of Canada show themselves worthy of the great trust that has been reposed in them. I will never be one to counsel an unworthy surrender of the rights of Canada, and I think I may say to this House that my hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), who sits beside me, and my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies), who sits beside him, and myself are just as likely to maintain the honour and dignity of the people of Canada as any three hon. gentlemen that can be selected from the other side of this House. But, while I will not consent to surrender the clear rights of Canada, while I will not be a party to anything that derogates from the honour of Canada or to the honour of England, neither will I be a party to any silly bluster or hectoring or any indiscrete attempt to terminate negotiations that have been entrusted to our hands. Now, I have to say to my hon. friends besides me, and I have to say to hon. gentlemen opposite, whom, on this occasion, I would gladly address as friends too, much, at this moment does undoubtedly depend on the action of Canada. I trust that not merely the Liberal party, but this House will act as becomes it under these circumstances. It is most true that Canada is rapidly growing in to a nation. It is most true that Canada is assuming the responsibilities and duties of a full grown nation. It is most true—and I am very glad to be able to state it, because in past times it was my painful duty to call attention to evidence of a directly contrary character—that the stagnation which long brooded over Canada is rapidly passing away. It is most true that the best proofs of the growth of a nation are being manifested every day, that the people who come here stay here, and the people who are born in this country are glad to remain. It is most true that wherever we look, from one end of this country to another, we see new and great developments calculated greatly to increase the national wealth, calculated largely to increase the number of people whom we can maintain within our borders. But, as I say, with these new advantages and with these new privileges, come new duties also; and perhaps one of the first and greatest duties which are called for at our hands is the duty, under all circumstances, of maintaining a reasonable self-control. Sir, hon. gentlemen on the opposite side either insinuate or allege that this country demands retaliation. If that statement is made as regards the bulk of the people of this country, I, for my part, wholly deny that the bulk of the people of Canada have any desire to engage in a trade war with the United States. But, Mr. Speaker, were that statement as true, as I believe it to be utterly unfounded in fact. Were it the case that at this moment, under the influence of misrepresentation, under the influence of competition, under the influence, perhaps, of natural resentment, a certain portion of our people are to be guilty, as the leader of the Opposition said, of the supreme

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folly of desiring to engage in a war of retaliation with the United States, my choice, for one, is soon made. I prefer to brave the anger of the people, to brave temporary unpopularity if necessary, rather than advise a course which would result in permanently injuring the people. When I took the oath of office, when I swore to advise Her Majesty for the interests of the people of Canada and not for my own private gain or advantage, I was prepared to do my duty, to carry out that oath, to discharge the obligations I incurred, to the best of my power, by advising the course I believe to be for the interest of the people; and, whatever the results may be, I trust I shall never be found recreant to that duty or false to that oath.

**Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York).**  
 Mr. Speaker. I should have hesitated to rise after such an experienced and distinguished statesman as the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat—one who, by his experience both in Government and in Opposition, and also by his close study of Canadian affairs, is one of the ablest men in our Canadian public life—but that, having listened yesterday and to-day to his remarks, as well as to the speech of the Prime Minister, I find that both these hon. gentlemen have utterly failed to meet the charges made by the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) and the ex-Minister of Finance. When we find charges of incompetency in the management of affairs entrusted to the Government, when we find charges of broken pledges, left unanswered, then, notwithstanding the ability that these gentlemen undoubtedly possess, I feel less hesitation in rising to address the House after them. Why, Sir, what has been the history of these gentlemen since they obtained power? As has been pointed out, they have failed to redeem a single pledge that they made when in Opposition. Their record is a record of broken promises, it is a record which should make and does make every Canadian blush to think that a great political party, a party powerful in the country and therefore all the more bound to represent the conscientious convictions of those who supported it in the country is led by gentlemen who ignore the policy they advocated when in Opposition and belie the promises to the people before they obtained power. Look, in the first instance, at their tariff policy. I contend that a political party should have a pronounced and definite policy on fiscal affairs. If they adopt a protective policy, let them become protectionists and formulate their tariff on a protection basis; if they are free traders let them commence with free trade, and, so far as they can, embody it in their fiscal system. But I challenge any hon. gentleman on that side of the House to tell on what basis the fiscal policy of the present Government has been built. Some gentlemen say: Oh, ours is a tariff for revenue. As was pointed out by the ex-Minister of Finance yesterday, there is no more palpable fraud in this country than any such pretension. If they had a tariff

for revenue they would tax those articles upon which a revenue could be most easily collected, such as teas, and sugars, and those other articles that are either free to-day or that bear a very low duty, and upon which a large revenue could be easily raised. But this is not a revenue tariff, and there cannot be a revenue tariff per se, and no country has adopted such a tariff, more especially Canada. I recall the case of the neighbouring republic. They have had there a state of affairs very nearly corresponding to what we have in the Dominion of Canada. A few years ago, as we all know, the Democratic party took the same ground in the United States as the Liberal party have taken here. They advocated free trade, and when they came into power what was the result? A result remarkably similar to the result in the Dominion of Canada. We are told that those men who were clamouring for free trade had a toll gate, and that those who found their industries threatened, by paying sufficiently large sums, could get protection. We found them believing the promises which they had made when in opposition. We found them in every respect very similar to the political party that holds the reins of power in Canada to-day. And so I was not very much surprised when the Minister of Trade and Commerce said that the difference between a United States protectionist and a Canadian protectionist was a very small one indeed. That probably is quite true, and I may retort that the difference between the Democratic party in the United States, with their juggling fiscal policy and their selling out to the protectionists, is very similar to the Liberal party in the Dominion of Canada. Therefore, I say that a Government cannot succeed with their policy unless they come down on some well known, clearly defined lines, either of free trade or of protection. The Minister of Trade and Commerce realized that fact, and a few years ago he was not slow in expressing his opinion of the course of events in the United States when the Democrats juggled with the principles which they professed when they were in opposition, and belied all their professions when they came into power. This is what the Minister of Trade and Commerce said :

Sir Richard declared that the defeat was a just verdict. This, he said, when pronouncing for free trade in Canada, is not a case for half measures, and you have in the fate of the Democratic party in the United States a warning and an example of the doom which must overtake any party which palter with its convictions, and having placed itself at the head of a great movement, will offer the people a stone instead of bread.

So I say that the Minister of Trade and Commerce and his colleagues, and those gentlemen who sit behind them, can apply to themselves this very statement with great aptitude. Sir, I say that those gentlemen made a tariff with no recognized line of principle. But I must qualify that: They

professed to give preferential trade to Great Britain as against all the world. But I see by the Report of Trade and Navigation that these gentlemen do not call it a preferential tariff, but they call it a reciprocal tariff. I would like to ask the Minister of Customs by what authority or by what use of words he calls our preferential tariff with Great Britain a reciprocal tariff. As I understand it, reciprocity, or reciprocal, means mutual concessions. But while we gave a concession to Great Britain I am not aware that they have in their tariff made any discrimination in favour of Canada, but we meet with the same terms there as all other nations, even the most hostile nations in the world to Great Britain. There is no reciprocal tariff, and I think the Minister has made a great error in placing that word on the top of the pages on the Trade and Navigation Returns. Now, while professing to have made a preferential tariff, they have adopted two ideas which run through the whole of their tariff. I shall not take up your time in pointing out all its peculiarities, although I might occupy a day or more in so doing; but I shall take the liberty to point out to this House some examples of the way the hon. gentlemen profess to give preferential trade to Great Britain while at the same time they are giving a preference to the United States instead. Take the article of oil to begin with. The duty on coal oil, which we get entirely from the United States, was 6 cents per gallon, and they have reduced it to 5. But they did more, as I shall presently show. The duty on linseed oil was ad valorem, it amounted to about 6½ cents per gallon. What did they do? They increased it,—if I may borrow an expression of the Minister of Customs—they increased the duty on linseed oil 25 per cent. Of the linseed oil that is brought into Canada, seven-eighths of it is from Great Britain, and one-eighth from other countries. They add 25 per cent to the duty on linseed oil, then they give Britain a preferential tariff, and take 25 per cent off. Was not that an admirable concession to Great Britain? I could mention hundreds of other items to the same effect, but I shall confine myself to a few important ones. Take iron or steel scrap. The old duty was \$4 per ton, the new duty was \$1. They have reduced the duty on that. There were \$75,000 of imports from Great Britain, and \$458,000 of imports from other countries. They have reduced the duty very largely, but not for the benefit of Great Britain, because she supplies less than one-seventh of what is imported into Canada. Then take the duty on pig iron. The old duty was \$4, the new duty is \$2.50. We imported from all other countries \$330,000 worth, and from Great Britain \$50,000 worth; that is, you have more than 6½ times as much from the other countries, chiefly from the United States—altogether I might say, and they give the United States the benefit of a reduction, if we use the figures

of the Minister of Customs, of 62½ cents in the duty. That is a great deal more than a 25 per cent preference to Great Britain. Then they make us pay it by a direct tax upon the people by increased bounty. Then take the article of rolled iron or steel angles, tees, beams and channels. I may say that the old duty on that was 35 per cent, or less than \$10 per ton. The new duty is specific, \$7 per ton, or a reduction, according to the Minister of Customs, of 42·6·7 per cent. The imports are \$11,452 from Great Britain and \$237,000 from other countries, principally the United States. So that in all these articles a direct and enormous preference is given to those that are imported largely from the United States and scarcely any to those that come from Great Britain. Take another item, rolled iron or steel sheets or plates. The imports are \$71,000 from the United States, and \$698 from Great Britain. The old duty was \$10; the new duty is \$7, or a preference for the United States of 42·6·7ths per cent. In the matter of railway fish-plates, the old duty was \$10 a ton; the new duty, \$8 a ton, and we imported \$11,000 from the United States, and \$9,684, from Great Britain, a reduction of 20 per cent. On cast-iron piping of every description the old duty was \$10, and the new duty is \$8, and from the United States we imported \$32,500 worth, and from Great Britain \$5,600, showing an enormous advantage to the United States and very little to Great Britain. On tubes of rolled steel, the old duty was 15 per cent and the new 10 per cent, a difference, according to the calculations I have referred to, of 33½ per cent reduction, and we imported from the United States \$118,000 worth, and from Great Britain \$9,000. In the case of iron and steel fittings, the old duty was 35 per cent; the new duty is 30 per cent, and the importations from the United States was \$84,600 worth, and from Great Britain, not \$1,000 worth, but \$809 only.

You will see from that, Mr. Speaker, that in those articles that we import from the United States, when this Government was making this tariff, they reduced—I won't say, in every instance, but in almost every instance—the duties on these articles which the United States were largely interested in furnishing us, and they correspondingly increased the duties on the articles that we are getting from Great Britain. I have referred to the decrease in duties on certain articles because they were United States products; but let us take some examples of the increase in duties on English goods. On damask of linen, diaper napkins and other articles of that description, we imported from all other countries \$16,000 worth, and we imported from Great Britain \$268,000 worth, or more than sixteen times as much as from all other countries combined; yet on these articles imported from Great Britain the old duty was 25 per cent, and the new duty 30. On handkerchiefs the old

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duty was 30 per cent, and the new duty 35 per cent, and we imported \$7,800 worth from all other countries, and \$104,000 worth from Great Britain. So that in this instance the Government actually increased the duties on British goods, while they told the people of Great Britain: Why, we are giving you a preference of 25 per cent over other nations. Take towels: the imports from all other countries were \$4,900 worth, and from Great Britain \$104,600 worth, and the duty was increased in that instance from 25 to 30 per cent. In the matter of linens, brown or bleached, we imported from all other countries \$982 worth, and from Great Britain \$96,000 worth. Yet this Government increased the duty in that instance fully 25 per cent, and then they have taken 25 per cent off in order to be able to tell the British people what they have done for the trade of Great Britain. On the item of braids, cords, fringes, tassels, and so forth, the old duty was 30 per cent, and the new duty is 35 per cent, and we imported from the United States \$95,000 worth, and from Great Britain \$224,000 worth. Of cotton fabrics, printed, dyed or coloured, there is a very large importation. From the United States we took \$645,000 worth, and from Great Britain \$1,735,000. The duty on these was increased from 30 to 35 per cent. I am reminded that here is a large Canadian industry also. I think a member of the Government boasted that he was the agent who got the increase of duty on those goods from 30 to 35 per cent, and I am further reminded that a member of the Liberal party, when sitting on the opposition side of this House, some years ago, made a long and very elaborate speech, in which he pointed out—and proved it to his satisfaction so admirably that he had his speech printed and distributed by thousands and tens of thousands throughout the country—that the duty of 30 per cent on these goods was a robbery of the Canadian people, that the manufacturers were robbers and millionaires, and were plundering the people of Canada. Indeed, Sir, the gentleman who made that speech and published that pamphlet is now the honoured Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada. But what are we to think, when that 30 per cent duty, which every member of the Liberal Opposition of that day endorsed as a robbery of the people of Canada, has been increased to 35 per cent by the Liberal Government, when they got into power? And who is the gentleman who had the honour of increasing that duty? Why, Sir, he is not hiding his light behind a bushel, because the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) has declared publicly more than once, that he was the man who got that increase of duty for the cotton manufacturers of Canada. Are we not again reminded that business is business, and are we not reminded of the fact also, that in the United States, under similar conditions and circum-

stances, those gentlemen who have the control of the affairs of that country, keep a toll-gate. We are suspicious, Mr. Speaker, and we are more than suspicious, that a toll-gate is kept also on this side of the line under the circumstances I have related.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). It looks like it.

Mr. WALLACE. It looks more than like it. Now, Mr. Speaker, I say that in all these instances I have referred to—and I could multiply them ten times over—the proof is given that the Finance Minister and the Government, while professing to give a preference to Great Britain, have actually given a preference to the United States, in a larger proportion of these imports to this country. More than that, what do we find? Corn, that had a duty of 7½ cents per bushel, has been made free, and we see by the Trade and Navigation Returns that there were entered for consumption 20,000,000 bushels, in round figures, at a cost of \$7,000,000. I call the attention of the Minister of Customs to what is undoubtedly an error. I do not say it was purposely made, but the error has the effect of swelling the imports and exports of Canada and increasing our apparent prosperity. I call his attention to this enormous error, which indicates that four-fifths of these imports of corn, to the extent of 15,000,000 of 16,000,000 bushels, were for the province of Quebec alone, and that only one-fifth went to the other provinces. That cannot be possible, but it has the effect of swelling the Trade and Navigation Returns and making our imports and exports appear to be four or five million dollars larger than they really are.

There is another item to which I wish to refer. These gentlemen opposite have reduced the duty on flour and wheat, and of course all our imports of these articles come from the United States, and none from Great Britain. They reduced the duty on flour from 75 to 60 cents a barrel, and the importation of 35,000 barrels, at a cost of \$148,000, and our imports of wheat, the duty on which they reduced from 15 to 12 cents, amounted to 58,000 bushels, valued at \$42,000. So that, in all those matters where they made charges of duty, this present Government has made them very largely in the interest of the people of the United States.

Perhaps, Sir, we should not hold gentlemen too closely to account for speeches which they make when they are out on the stump, but it has become the habit of these gentlemen to show the most utter disregard of the facts in their campaign speeches. One member of the Government, the hon. Postmaster General, speaking at the nomination in Goderich on the 11th of February, as reported in the Toronto "Globe," juggled with the customs tariff. He told the people there that the tariff had been modified in accordance with pledges made. Well, I think there will be a very wide difference of opinion with him on that point by any hon.

gentleman who makes himself acquainted with the facts. He said that out of 400 articles in the customs tariff 200 had been placed on the free list, and on 107 the tariff had been reduced so much in some cases as to almost wipe it out. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am quite certain that neither the hon. Minister of Customs nor the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce ever authorized such a statement as that to be made by the Postmaster General; and if the statements of that hon. gentleman with regard to his own department are no more accurate, I think we can hardly place much credence upon them. I have taken the trouble, Mr. Speaker, to go over the customs tariff of 1897, and what do I find? That there were 635 items, excluding the prohibited articles. Of these 448 are on the dutiable list and 187 on the free list. The hon. gentleman says, nearly 200 of these have been placed on the free list. Now, I have a list of those articles that have been placed on the free list by hon. gentlemen opposite, and they number, not 200, but just 13. There are 11 more items that were partly free before and they have added them to the free list; so that if you take these two sets of items together, you would have 24 items added to the free list, and most of them of a most inconsequential character. I will take up the time of the House to go over the 13 items they have added to the free list. They are: life-boats, &c., artificial limbs, duck for belting, hose, and canvass for bicycle tires, Indian corn, hare skins, &c., prepared steel for bicycle chains, steel for surgical trusses, steel axle bars, spiral steel for railways, galvanized iron wire, surgical and dental instruments, binder twine, and cream separators, a total of 13 items, and most of them, as I have said, of a very unimportant character. Then, those items which were partly free before, but in which some items have been added, are: 464, some books; 469, fashion plates; 471, donations of books; 526, rape seed and mushroom spawn; 553, sewing machine attachments; 595, furniture casters; 598, steel for augurs, knives, &c.; 602, barbed wire; 604, stereotypes for papers; 617, brass trimmings for bedsteads; 635, certain foreign packages. If you include these all together, you will find that instead of there being 200, there are just 24, which, with the exception of three or four items, are of very inconsiderable importance. But take up the tariff, and what do you find? That in the first 126 items, which include all food products, agricultural productions, animals, and so on, as well as liquors, there are changes in nine items of the tariff in which changes are made, of these five are reductions of duty and four increases of duty, and the increases outweigh the reductions many times over. Take the first item changed, No. 7, they have increased the duty anywhere from 50 to 100 per cent on the value of the article. They have increased it in three other cases. If you go over that tariff and analyse it, you will find in it the hand of some very cunning

individual indeed. I have referred to the increased duty on cotton goods. Look at every item of these, and you will find an increase; item 358 is increased from 22½ to 25 per cent; item 359 is increased from 22½ to 25 per cent; item 360 is increased from 30 to 35 per cent.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). Will my hon. friend permit me to ask him a question? Does he wish to imply that the duty on these articles which he has read, when imported from England, has been increased over the former rate? I am afraid he is giving that impression. Surely he knows that under the preferential tariff the duty on every one of these items is lower than it was before.

Mr. WALLACE. I think the hon. gentleman is the only man in the House who would get that impression. Take linseed oil. I say the Government have increased the duty on that item 25 per cent, and under the preferential arrangement have reduced the duty 25 per cent under the preferential tariff. Have not I made that statement about every one of these items? I say that while they were professing to give Great Britain a preference, they were largely killing that preference by adding to the duty in the first instance before taking it off; and I say still further, and I have proved it, that on those goods which are very largely or altogether imported from the United States, in very few instances indeed have they increased the duty, but on the contrary they have reduced it. Therefore, I say this tariff, which professes to give a great preference to Great Britain, does not carry out its professions, but is framed to deceive the English people and to deceive the Canadian people as well. To show still further that this tariff was framed largely in the interests of the people of the United States, let me quote a letter published in Toronto and Washington last December by one of the members of the British commission, the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton). He calls attention to a number of interesting facts, which he was enabled to do through having obtained advance sheets of the Trade and Navigation Returns of Canada. What does he say? That our export trade to the United States has dwindled away to such an extent that at present only \$2,000,000 of agricultural products in all have gone to the United States during the past year from Canada; that the United States have raised a barrier against everything we produce, and that the tariffs, as between the two countries, have had the effect of increasing our imports from the United States and decreasing our exports to that country. Twenty-eight per cent of our products went to the United States last year, 66 per cent to Great Britain, and about 6 per cent to all other countries. On the other hand, 72½ per cent of our imports we got from the United States. That is the result of the

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policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. That is the result of the preference they gave the mother country; and if any proof were needed that their tariff operates directly in favour of the United States and against Great Britain and other countries, this fact, that 72½ per cent of our imports come from the United States, 17.70 per cent from Great Britain, and less than 10 per cent from all other countries, is most convincing proof indeed. That bears out what I have proved in another way as to the effects of that tariff, that we are not studying the interests of Canada or of Great Britain, which these gentlemen in their new-found love for the mother country are so proud of extolling to-day, but that we have framed a tariff pro-American in its whole tendency and effect. I think it is time we adopted a policy that would be a little more Canadian. I remember very well that when these gentlemen were on this side of the House they were never done pointing out the fact that a large portion of our imports came from the United States. But look at the changed condition of affairs since they came into power. Look at the enormous increase of our imports from the United States, and the decrease of our imports from all other countries, and we cannot fail to see that these gentlemen are studying the interests of another country instead of looking after our own.

Another very important matter connected with this is the transportation problem. Our transportation problem may be divided into several parts—our canal system, our railway system, the fast Atlantic steam service which we should have, our Pacific cable and our cold storage, all intimately connected together. With regard to the canal system, the right hon. First Minister stated in Toronto a short time ago that when his Government came into power they found that the transportation question was the great problem, and immediately set themselves to work it out. We decided, he said, to have a fourteen-foot channel from Lake Superior to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and he promised that the next year it would be completed. But what are the facts? They are that nearly the whole of that work, as was pointed out by the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), was completed before they came into power. The Sault Ste. Marie Canal had been built at a cost of \$3,250,000, and the Welland Canal had been completed years before. Four-fifths of the St. Lawrence and Soulanges system of canals had been completed before these gentlemen came into power, and for the other fifth contracts were let. Practically all the contracts for these works were let by the late Government for a fourteen foot navigation except a couple on the Soulanges system, about which I shall have something to say a little later. Therefore, these gentlemen cannot claim credit to any degree with regard to the transportation problems, so far as the canals of Canada are concerned. They could not help but permit the work to be finished. They

are only carrying out the bargains and arrangements that were made for the final completion of the work, and besides are not fulfilling the predictions they made with regard to the time of completion.

As regards these canals, I notice that the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), within whose province lies the direction and carrying on of these works, apparently has very little to say about them. The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), who should have nothing to do with them as a Minister, whose duties are only connected with the terminal system—and I find he has more than he can attend to in that connection, if we can judge of his bungling work in the city of Montreal—seems to have assumed the functions of the Minister of Railways and Canals. I would like to ask the Minister of Railways and Canals, if he were present, whether he has abdicated in favour of the Minister of Public Works, because bad as the former may be, I would not desire to see the exchange made.

It is a fact that we have more mileage of railways for our population than any other country in the world. It is true that this Government has planned out new railways and new railway systems. What have they done in the matter of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway? They have added to the Dominion debt \$2,000,000 more than the leader of the Opposition had contracted for with the Canadian Pacific Railway, when he was leader of the Government. Without one particle of reason or common sense, they have added \$2,000,000 to the burdens of the people. We are told that there were privileges to be given the Government, that the Government was to have control of the tariff rates over the Crow's Nest Railway. Why, the Railway Act gives the Government that control completely to-day. They have ample control without any special arrangement being made. But they said, further: We are going to have cheaper transport of wheat from Manitoba and the North-west. And they made a contract with the Canadian Pacific Railway under which the rates were to be reduced a fraction of a cent per bushel. Why, since that time the company have reduced their freight rates from Manitoba and North-west points to Fort William by three times the amount they had agreed with the Government. They have done this of their own accord. It was pointed out from this side of the House that it would be in the interest of the company, as a business proposition, to do so; that in fact, they would find it necessary to reduce their rates, and they have done so. They have reduced their rates voluntarily far more than they were bound to do in consideration of the bonus to the Crow's Nest Pass road. But there is another point of still greater importance in connection with the construction of that road. They had acquired the British Columbia Southern Railway charter and franchise, including enormous wealth in coal, timber and land, particularly coal—

more than enough to build that road without any subsidy at all. So the company got about two millions of dollars in cash more than Sir Charles Tupper had agreed for from the Dominion Government, besides a sufficient subsidy from British Columbia alone to construct the road. It is true that others than the Canadian Pacific Railway have profited by this bonus from British Columbia. Gentlemen who were supporting the Government, who were the outside pillars of the Government, have made enormous fortunes by their connection with this scheme. These facts were known to the Government and to the Minister of Railways and Canals. Attention was called to them in the committee rooms upstairs, but in spite of that, the Government insisted upon granting this enormous subsidy.

Let us turn now to the question of steamships. As has been pointed out in this House more than once, under the able, energetic and business-like management of the present leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) a bargain was made three years ago with the Allans for a fast Atlantic service. Consider what advantage would have accrued to this country had that service been in operation during the war between United States and Spain. People were a little nervous and anxious at that time, and, if we had had the Fast Atlantic Service we could have commanded the entire trade of the Atlantic Ocean for passengers and fast freight. It was of the greatest importance that we should have facilities at that time. But the Government delayed. I will not say they bungled the arrangement, although, in view of the frequent trips of Mr. Dobell across the Atlantic I think it would be hardly too much to say that they had bungled this affair from start to finish. These are questions that should have been dealt with. We are told—these gentlemen themselves with their accustomed modesty tell us—that this is the best business Government that Canada has ever seen. I am unable to remember a single instance in which they have exhibited able management of our affairs. I think I am fair enough to give them credit when they deserve it, but I am bound to say that in the railway matters to which I have referred their action has not been in the interest of the people of Canada; they have not succeeded in doing what they undertook to do. There is another railway question beside that of the Crow's Nest Pass—there is the Drummond County deal—or steal. There were already two lines of railway running from Montreal to Quebec, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway. I suppose that one railway would be able to do all the work and still not be extra busy. But the Government must have a third line, not for the purpose of commerce, not for the purpose of improving trade or of benefiting the Intercolonial Railway, not for the purpose of benefiting the people of Canada, but for the benefit of a gang of men in the province of Quebec who had placed the Govern-

ment, or some members of it, under obligations to them. Why, Sir, the second proposal which has come down showing better terms to the amount of three-quarters of a million or a million proves that the Government must have made a stupid blundering bargain in the first place, even admitting that it was necessary or desirable to build or acquire that road. And now we are told that members of Parliament have the promise of the Prime Minister and the Government that a fourth line, the South Shore road, shall be built from Quebec to Montreal—four lines to divide the trade which is not sufficient for one. We shall see. We shall see, too, whether the rumours—or rather, not rumours but positive statements made by the Minister of Railways and Canals—that a certain road, the Canada Eastern in the province of New Brunswick, will be assumed by the Government, are true. The "Globe" newspaper has come out courageously and valiantly in opposition to that proposal. It is such a palpably corrupt proposal, such an unnecessary buying of patronage and power, that I am interested in watching to see whether it will come before this Parliament. If it does, the corruption connected with it which was made known to the public during the election campaign in the province of New Brunswick a short time ago, will cause such another exposure as we have had with regard to some other matters. But I have digressed from the question of the fast Atlantic service. In this matter, I believe, the Government has neglected its opportunities. If they thought that the price that was being given by the late Government was too large—and it did seem a pretty large sum—it was their duty to have made a hard and fast bargain.

They went into what was an experiment because ships of that class had not been built, had not been engaged in commerce at any rate on a large scale, and Canada could not afford to wait to test the experiment. It was a case of urgent necessity with us. We had the cold storage system, which is so intimately connected with the fast Atlantic service, because the two will necessarily go together. In building new steamers what do we find? That those colonies or dominions of Australia and Newfoundland, 17,000 miles from Great Britain are able to supply Great Britain largely with the articles of butter, that Canada has done so to a very limited extent, and that we require a system of cold storage of the most elaborate and complete description which we cannot fit up in an old vessel; you must adopt that system in a new ship. It was important, therefore, that we should have those new ships fitted up with a cold storage system, even more than prepared for a fast passenger service, because we must have new ships adapted for the purpose with all those scientific appliances which have made it possible for Australia to come 17,000 miles across the equator and land her products in England in prime condition. If they can

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do it with that distance, why should we lag behind in the Dominion of Canada? Why should we send only one-fourth or one-tenth as much butter to England as Australia is sending? I say that in that respect the Government is censurable, because they have neglected this fast Atlantic service, which is so closely connected with cold storage and those important industries of the farmers of Canada.

Then with regard to the Pacific cable. The course of the Government, so far as I know it, has been simply that of resting on their oars. Now, the Pacific cable has an intimate connection with our trade relations, both east and west. I am told—the Government, of course, have more accurate knowledge—that a guarantee would probably mean no expense, but simply a guarantee, that the Pacific cable would begin to earn revenue that would pay its way, so that it would cost nothing to the Dominion of Canada. But if it did cost us a small sum, why should we hesitate when such connection is so important to Canada and to Canada's business, but still more important from an Imperial point of view? So I say that the Government, if they have been merely resting on their oars and doing nothing, are censurable because they have not realized the full importance of this matter.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is another matter which I will deal with, but I hope not for a long time, that is the International Commission. Before I make any reference to the business of that commission, I must express my deep regret that the Prime Minister of Canada had not seen fit to make the statement months ago that he made in this House yesterday. He tells us, Mr. Speaker, that he read last fall in the newspapers, whether in Canada or in the United States I do not know, that Lord Herschell was censured because he was sacrificing the interests of Canada to the interests of Great Britain. Those statements were running through the press, I saw them myself, and I did not believe that there was any truth in them, but of course I could not give any authoritative denial, as the Prime Minister could. He saw these articles, he realized as he told us yesterday, that there was not a particle of truth in them. Then why did he not correct those newspapers which, I am sure—I will give them credit for that—were only anxious to tell the truth and give correct news, anxious to find out the views of men correctly so as to give a correct impression to the people of the country? Why did not the Prime Minister, when he knew that last fall, announce that these statements were injurious to Lord Herschell, and were hurtful to his feelings, as I am told? Now he says: I wish it to go throughout the length and breadth of the land that there was no truth in those statements. But, Sir, in justice to Lord Herschell, and in justice to the newspapers, he should have months ago made that statement to the press and to the people of Canada; and I

deeply regret, when poor Lord Herschell is dead and in his grave, that the Minister has only seen fit to make that statement now. I am sure he failed to do so, not from any improper feeling, but because he failed to realize the importance of the matter at that time. Now, with reference to the commission itself. In July, 1896, nearly three years ago, the Prime Minister of Canada, in an interview with the Chicago "Record," told the people of Canada and of the United States that he was going to make a treaty with the people of the United States which would settle up those many questions that were in dispute between the two countries, and which were causing at times acrimonious feelings, and were liable to cause conflicts; and also he was going to endeavour at the same time to secure a very large measure of reciprocity. Well, I wondered when I read that article, and I have been wondering since the new Government decided to make a new tariff. A new party had come into power in the United States, and the Government knew that the United States were going to make a new tariff. It appeared to me that before these two new tariffs were made, before their fiscal policies were settled, that was the time for the Prime Minister to go to the States to make those reciprocal arrangements and settle up those other questions—though those other questions, probably most of them, could be settled without reference to the tariff. But the tariff itself being the important matter, it appeared to me that these gentlemen lost two precious years. Instead of going in August, 1896, they went in August, 1898. Well, the two parties should have come together earlier to endeavour to arrange these matters. Our Government should have said: We are going to consider, in framing our tariff, what agricultural products we can send into the United States, because a market for agricultural products, as they told the farmers, was the great desideratum. But in August, 1898, when these gentlemen were going to the United States, the Republican party, the victorious party in the United States, published a text-book with the programme of the party. It was not a book published by some irresponsible person, but it was published by the Republican executive committee as the official document of the predominant political party in the United States. What did they say? In the first page of their book, the first paragraph and the first sentence of that paragraph reads thus:

The farmers of the United States have been protected from unreasonable and unjust importations of agricultural products from Canada, Mexico and other foreign countries.

Now, I would like to ask: What was the use of going to the United States when they proclaimed from the housetops that that was their policy? That had been their policy in the tariff which they had made years ago, as the hon. gentlemen know.

They declared their adherence to that policy.

Mr. McKinley, in a speech delivered at Boston, in February of this year, reiterated these sentiments and said:

We have quit discussing the tariff, and have turned our attention to getting trade wherever it can be found. It will be a long time before any change can be had or any change desired in our present fiscal policy, except to strengthen it. The differences on this question which existed have disappeared. We have turned from academic theories to trade conditions, and are seeking our share of the world's market.

In view of the fact that in August, 1898, and in February, 1899, when the proceedings of the commission were about to conclude, that the head of the Republican party which has a majority in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, made this declaration; Was it fair to the farmers of Canada that the Canadian Government should tell them they were going to Washington to negotiate a reciprocity treaty and to get a market for Canadian farm products. Was it fair that our Government should make this declaration, when here was the distinct pledge of the rulers of the United States that they could not give any such concession. There was no possibility then—and I do not see any possibility to-day because the conditions have not changed—of getting Canadian agricultural products into the United States free of duty, or at any reduction that would be a benefit to the Canadian farmer. I suppose these gentlemen know better than those who were not on the commission, for they had the experience of discussing the matter with the American commissioners; but in the face of the official declaration of the President of the United States and their official campaign document, I do not see how there could be any possibility of getting reciprocal trade relations. We read from time to time in the public press that the question of lumber was a matter of serious consideration at the conference, but let me tell these hon. gentlemen that there are three parties to be considered in connection with that industry, and I am afraid the Government has been considering only the lumberman, or the lumber king, without interesting themselves in the lumber workingman and in the people of Canada at large who are deeply interested. We hear that the lumbermen are making enormous fortunes, and indeed no man can live in Ottawa without being aware of that fact. In my opinion they are quite able to look after their own interests; indeed within the last few months the price of lumber has risen more than the \$2 duty imposed by the United States, and there is a demand for it everywhere. Hon. gentlemen opposite know that the lumber called North Carolina pine cannot, nor never will be a competitor with our beautiful Canadian pine for it is miserable stuff as compared with ours, so that we need not worry about getting a market for our lumber. What we should consider more seriously is the interests of the poor people who are working in the mills all summer,

who get \$1 a day for 11 hours work, and who for three or four months in the year are out of employment and unable to support themselves. I am told that there are hundreds of such men who are in destitution and want within a mile of where we are sitting to-day. Let us remember that this lumber industry is increasing the wealth of the masses of the people of Canada to a very inappreciable extent. For until you pay workmen sufficient for their subsistence you are not increasing the aggregate wealth of the country, although you may be making a few millionaires, and you are doing so. I do not blame the Government, but I do say that the system under which the lumber business has been operated has made a large number of very wealthy men without conferring any corresponding advantage on the great majority of our people. In the case of other industries where men get fair wages and constant employment they build up the wealth of the country, but in the lumber industry where the pay of the workman is very small, and where the proprietors make enormous profits, it is the duty of Government to look to the interests of the whole people rather than the interests of the few. I commend this thought to hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches. As to the pulp industry, I suppose we can hardly realize its enormous importance. I addressed a memorandum to the British Commissioners on this question and I will now take the opportunity of reading a portion of it :

The striking feature of it is the marvellous increase in its extent and operations in recent years. By the census of 1891 the capital invested was \$2,900,000 ; to-day the capital invested amounts to \$13,500,000, which does not include the value of the pulp-wood limits.

There are in Canada to-day thirty-five paper mills and thirty-nine pulp mills. Seventeen of these pulp mills are attached to the thirty-five paper mills. Of the thirty-five paper mills in Canada and the thirty-nine pulp mills, about fourteen are included which are now closed for several different reasons, namely, some have closed because they could not get a market for their pulp, and others because they had found that they were in the wrong location, it being expensive to bring pulp-wood to their mills, and others were closed because they had become old and out of date, and for these different reasons it was not profitable or possible to rebuild or furnish them with modern machinery at those places.

Capital now invested (not including limits).....\$13,500,000  
 In 1896—  
 Wages paid at mills—about \$1,700,000.  
 Employees (only those at the mills)—4,500.  
 Average yearly wages paid—\$370.  
 In 1896 the production was :                      Tons.  
 Chemical fibre ..... 27,000  
 Grounder mechanical pulp..... 124,000  
 Paper produced ..... 64,000

In 1898 the estimated production, and for which the mills erected and now completed will furnish ample capacity of chemical and mechanical fibre, 331,000 tons, and of paper 97,000 tons, or an increase of 180,000 tons of pulp and 33,000 tons of paper, which at prices estimated on present value, which are lower than in 1896, would give an output of \$11,500,000 in value.

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It is estimated that the cost of labour in and around the pulp mills is \$3.50 per ton ; and that the freight on Canadian railroads, averaged from all the mills, and reduced to a dry basis—about \$5 per ton ; cost of preparing and baling for shipment, which includes sisal, or wire or other material, also wear and tear of mill, 10 cents per 100 lbs., or \$2 per ton.

So that as a manufacturing industry it is beginning to take a front rank, and if the industry be safeguarded it will increase indefinitely. The increase in Canadian production and exportation have been very rapid. Up to and including the year 1889 no pulp was exported. Since that time the exportations have increased from year to year, but the supply of the home market with both pulp and paper was the first consideration. This market has been supplied, and if Canada is to become the source of supply for other countries, which it should be, the present conditions must be changed. A large portion of the supply for American pulp mills comes from our Canadian forests. It should be made into pulp and paper in Canada. This statement shows the rapidity of the growth of this industry, and a fair estimate of its present magnitude :

|                                | As per<br>Census of<br>1891. | Estimate<br>for<br>1896. | Estimate<br>for<br>1898. |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| —                              |                              |                          |                          |
|                                | \$                           | \$                       | \$                       |
| Capital employed....           | 2,900,000                    | .....                    | 13,500,000               |
| No. of employees ...           | 2,817                        | 4,500                    | 10,000                   |
| Wages paid per annum.....      | 948,501                      | 1,700,000                | 3,750,000                |
| Total value of production..... | 3,633,257                    | 6,750,000                | 11,500,000               |

Here is a Canadian industry which in a few years has quadrupled its proportions, an industry which is yet in its infancy and which deserves the most serious consideration of the Government of Canada. It is an industry which is of too great importance to be handed over in any way to the tender mercies of the United States.

When the commission sat at Washington there were repeated rumours that this and that question had been settled. I do not wish to discuss this matter because the Government say their mouths are closed ; but I must say that when the commissioners came back to Canada and when it was declared that no treaty was arranged a thrill of satisfaction went through the Liberal party in this country. They were afraid that something would be done that would not be in the interests of the people of Canada, and it was a great satisfaction to the Liberal party that nothing was done. I believe the Conservative party in Canada is patriotic enough not to wish any harm to a Government that to that extent at least was looking after the interests of the country, and the same thrill of satisfaction filled the minds of the Canadian Conservatives as well, because we are Canadians first and last and all the time. If the Government made a mistake which would be injurious to the interests of the people of Canada we Conservatives would all regret it. Among the other rumours that came from the conference chamber was that the Canadian representatives were to submit a list of manufactures that were to be sacrificed.

I do not know what grounds there were for it, but that was the impression prevailing through a large section of the country, and that feeling I believe was one of enormous importance. I do not believe the Canadian people are prepared to sacrifice any of their industries; they are too much wedded to the importance of maintaining every industry we have, because there are no industries in this country to-day that have not proved their right to live. We have all the qualities required to make up a manufacturing nation, and no country can become prosperous and great without manufacturing industries. We are increasing our manufactures very rapidly, and anything that any commission or any Government could do to disturb that state of affairs would cause wide alarm, not only to the industries interested, but to all other industries as well. Why, Sir, what is the magnitude and importance of these industries to-day? The last census tells us that there were in 1890 in this country 75,000 manufactories and 370,000 employees. If we have that progress which we all hope and desire, we can surely add 20 per cent to those figures to-day; so that we may reasonably say that we have more than 90,000 manufacturing establishments and at least 450,000 employees at the present time in the various industries in Canada. According to the last census, these industries had in capital, land and buildings, \$91,000,000; in tools and machinery, \$81,000,000; in working capital, \$181,000,000; in wages paid, \$100,000,000, which undoubtedly has increased to \$125,000,000; in raw material used in the manufactures, \$256,000,000, and in the value of the articles produced, \$476,000,000, which has undoubtedly increased to \$600,000,000 to-day. Anything that would disturb even a portion of these manufacturing industries would be viewed with alarm by all the manufacturing industries of the country, and by the farming industries as well, because there is no portion of the people of Canada who realize so thoroughly the importance of the manufacturing industries of our country as the farmers themselves.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I say that the Government of Canada, with all the circumstances in their favour, have not been able to make a treaty. They have come away without one. They have told the people of this country that the Conservative party, when in power, were not sincere, otherwise they would have concluded a treaty at any time. They have now had their opportunity, with all the circumstances in their favour, with a friendly feeling on the part of the people of the United States towards the people of Great Britain which has not existed in the history of that nation before, with a desire on the part of the Government and people of the United States to meet their wishes; yet, in spite of all these advantages in their favour, they have not been able to come to any arrangement, and any arrangement they could have come to, I am satisfied, would

not have been advantageous to the people of Canada. If after six months of negotiation and discussion they have found that they can make no treaty, my own opinion is that the commission will not meet again, at least to accomplish any useful purpose; but they did not want to come back here to Canada and say: We could not make a treaty, and so they called it a postponement rather than an ending of the convention. With all their advantages they have had to come back and say that not only has nothing been done, but that the proposals of the United States were humiliating to Canadians. Take the proposal of a commission to decide the Alaskan boundary. If that commission should disagree, nothing would be done. That would be playing the United States game, would it not? Then it was proposed that if that commission decided that some of the places occupied by the United States belonged to Canada, the United States should continue in possession of them. Well, Mr. Speaker, as I have said before, that was the time when our commissioners should have concluded the labours of the commission and have come back to Canada and said: "We have done our best, we have used every means that a commission could honourably use to accomplish the objects in view, and we have failed; we will come back to Canada and sit down and consider simply what are the best interests of Canada." If they had done that, if they would do that to-day, they would have the warmest support, I am sure, of every member on this side of the House. Suppose they say: "We have in Canada most of the pulp wood of the world; we are going to make our pulp wood and pulp into paper within the borders of our own country; we will put an export duty on pulp wood equal to the import duty our neighbours impose on the paper." That is the interest of Canada. Suppose they say: "We are going to put an export duty on saw-logs, and have them manufactured in Canada." Suppose they say: "We are going to do the same thing with the nickel, of which Canada appears to have control of the only profitable mines in the world." I have an article here from a Washington newspaper which I think shows the great importance of that question. It first calls attention to the fact that Canada has the world's supply of nickel, that she employs 500 men in the mines, and sends \$500,000 worth of nickel to New Jersey to be refined into nickel and copper billets. But this paper, "The Post," which is the most influential of the Washington papers, says this:

The "problem," as the attentive reader will have begun to suspect, has a good deal to do with the New Jersey link in the business. Why should it be necessary for Canada to share with the United States the advantage of her great and valuable deposits of metal that is coming more and more into use? Of course there is no objection on this side of the line to an indefinite continuance of the shipping of nickel in the rough to New Jersey to be refined. If Canadian business men find it necessary or expedient to furnish

work in that way for our citizens, we shall not cry out against it. But while doing their work, and taking their money for it, we shall be compelled to marvel that they don't do it at home, and thus save the cost of transporting the waste product, while keeping the wages among their own people.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). What paper is that?

Mr. WALLACE. The Washington "Post" of March 28, 1898. There is something further in the same line, but I do not want to take up the time of the House reading it. I say that is the true proposition with reference to nickel; that is the true proposition with reference to our lumber and our pulp. Let the Government sit down and simply legislate in our own interest. They say that is retaliation. Nothing of the kind. As the hon. leader of the Opposition pointed out, imitation is the sincerest flattery, and we would be simply adopting the measures of our neighbours. But I say further that if the Dominion of Canada is to-day afraid to legislate in what is palpably and clearly in her own interest, she had better go out of business. Why, Sir, what are we afraid of?

Retaliation—there is nothing they could do that they have not done over there, in looking after their own interests and disregarding ours. They know little of us, and care still less. Our Ministers who went there know that, and our duty now is simply to sit down and study out our own interests and legislate in their favour. But, unfortunately, when we here assembled in the Parliament of Canada and ready to-day to do anything that is in the interests of our people, we are told that those gentlemen have postponed the consideration of the business of the session until the 2nd of August next. What does that mean? It means that our hands, that the hands of the Government, at any rate, are tied. It is impossible for the Government to make a single line of legislation about lumber, pulpwood and nickel, without interfering with the negotiations. They have tied us up for a whole year. They have prevented our legislating in our own interests by this postponement the 2nd of August next. They have thus forgotten the interests of the people of Canada. The Minister of Trade and Commerce asked, why do we not set down to business. Why, by their own act in postponing that convention, they have prevented our doing that business which it is in our interests to do.

They say that we must not discuss reciprocity, but some newspapers, and, I think, the members of the commission, too, have said that they would like to have advice. They asked why the Conservative party does not advise them in such an important matter. Well, Mr. Speaker, I shall take the liberty of giving a little advice to our Canadian commissioners. In the first place, I would advise them not to give the right to the United States to send their war vessels up our canals and have control of our lakes,

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and to control, in the case of disturbance, the whole of the eastern portion of the Dominion, from the head of Lake Superior, out to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. That is what it would mean, and I would strongly advise our commissioners, if they are going to make a treaty, not to give that power to the Americans. The next advice I would give them is not to give up our rights on the Behring Sea. Why, Sir, I was amazed when the rumour came floating in the air, that arrangements were being made to buy out the old sealers and to prevent any in the future prosecuting that industry in the whole, or a large part, of the Pacific Ocean. We are too much restricted now around these Pribyloff Islands, but at any rate, I think the Canadian commissioners should not give up the right, not only to navigate the seas, but to prosecute an industry on the open sea which has always been the inalienable right of every British subject.

The First Minister said yesterday that one of the important matters before the commission was the bonding privileges. With due respect to our Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), I do not believe he quite understands the effect of those bonding privileges and the various intricacies of railway and water navigation. I know, moreover, that the railway companies do not want any interference, and I know, further, having somewhat studied the question, that if the United States were to end our bonding privileges to-morrow, we would gain more than we would lose, and that the railway companies of Canada are not in the slightest degree alarmed about it, so that the Canadian Government would act wisely in letting this matter alone. The agitation has come from those southern railways that want the whole business of the United States going their way. It is a fight between the southern railways of the United States and the northern ones, in which we are not particularly interested at all; so that, if the commissioners would leave that question severely alone, I am sure they would study the interest of the railways and transportation companies of Canada.

The next thing I would advise our Government not to do is, not to give away any of our rights in the North Atlantic fisheries. Newfoundland has been, from what I can learn, assiduously preserving her interests and freedom, both as against the interests of France and the United States. The Gloucester Massachusetts fishermen are a decaying lot. The prosperous fishing maritime constituencies are those of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick—all Canadian or British subjects at any rate. Any legislation that would tend to revive the prosperity of Gloucester fishermen, we are not particularly interested in. Let them look after their own interests and let us look after ours.

I would also advise the Government not to be afraid to preserve our placer mines

for British subjects. The United States have preserved their placer mines for their subjects. The British Columbia Government has made that the law in that province—at any rate for the Atlin Lake district—and it looks to me like this. We have the richest gold country in the world in the Yukon—the richest placer country. Foreigners from all nations are going up there. They are making their fortunes there, and going out of the country immediately afterwards. It is not like Colorado and Australia and those other countries, where the men who went in settled on the land after the gold mines were exhausted. Nobody would ever settle in the Yukon country after the gold is taken out. It will be deserted, when the gold disappears, just as it was ten, or twenty, or a hundred years ago. I would make it imperative that no man but a British subject should have permission to placer mine in the Yukon country. Let us look after our own interests, and in that we will be following the example of the United States. Supposing they do complain. It is our own property, and if we cannot do what we like with our own, we had better let somebody else have it. They say: Look at the great wealth of the Yukon. Well, why not keep it for British subjects, and British subjects alone, as regards the placer mines? As regards the quartz and other mining, which require machinery and capital, I think, in the United States they let others come in and spend their money in developing it, and we might do the same; but as regards placer mining in the Yukon country, we would never have a single inhabitant in the country but for the gold it produces, and when the gold is gone, the country will be deserted twenty-four hours later. We should keep that wealth for Canadians or any other British subjects who come to join them. There are tens of thousands of young Canadians who desire to go out on adventurous trips, who would take this in. People from all parts of the world are going in at present and crowding out Canadians. There is a large percentage of Canadians there, no doubt, but placer mining in the Yukon country should be exclusively kept for Canadian citizens or British subjects.

I was going to give some further advice to the Government, but they apparently do not require it. The Government, to my very great pleasure, say there is not such a great necessity for reciprocity as there appeared to be six or twelve months, or twelve years ago. I am very happy to hear them admit that. I do not believe we can get any reciprocity from the people of the United States that will be of benefit to the people of Canada, and would be greatly surprised if we could. They are looking for their own interests. They are producers and producers to a larger extent than their own consumption, of almost every article that we export. They are our rivals in business. If they take

our products at all, it is only to act as middlemen for the supply of the markets of the world, taking the profits of the middleman. We can do that business ourselves. Canadians are finding fresh markets for their lumber and other products. Through the cold storage system, which has been but recently established here, we are able to transport our perishable products to the market, thus immeasurably increasing the value of our perishable farm products and heightening the prosperity of the people of Canada. So, if the Government, in this international commission affair, had only concluded their labours instead of postponing them, it would have been much better. They would then have been free to come to Parliament and say: We have done our best to get a reciprocity treaty, and now we are going to do our best to consider in the future what we can do for the people of Canada by legislation here. I regret that they have not done so, but that for a year they will be estopped from proposing such legislation here. I must apologize for claiming so long the attention of the House.

Mr. GEO. E. CASEY (West Elgin). Mr. Speaker, we have heard from the three heads of the honest watch-dog Cerberus who guards the entrance to the regions of darkness on the other side of the House, and is supposed to keep an eye on the British constitution at the same time. The three heads all spoke with somewhat the same meaning, but there was a slight difference in the tone of voice. The first head has not forgotten his reputation and name, and he speaks with the voice of a war-horse. To be sure, the war-horse has come down from careering across the field of victory to turning one of those old-fashioned horse powers to run the party machine. He tramps around in the eternal beaten path without arriving anywhere or advancing further from the centre of his revolution, that single eye which he keeps upon the interests of the country. This head of Cerberus may be classed as the snorter. The next head speaks in a way that has become familiar to us all, and, without going further, we may call him the sneerer. The head that has just finished speaking addresses us in a fault-finding tone, and may be described as the snarler. Well, Sir, we have heard from the snorter, the sneerer and the snarler, and, perhaps, when we come to digest all that they have laid before us, we may derive some comfort from their remarks—in noting that they have proved their eminent capacity for the positions they now occupy at the head of the Opposition. Their criticism has been mere fault-finding; there has been nothing constructive or instructive about it, except the few words of candid advice given by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace), who has just taken his seat, which, no doubt, will be considered in the most leisurely manner by the commissioners between now and next August.

Before criticising the utterances of these gentlemen in any detail, I must make some reference to the Speech itself and to the hon. gentlemen who inaugurated this debate. The constituencies of East Prince and Montmagny seem to be remarkably favoured in having abundance of material out of which to make good representatives in this House. They have long been well represented, so well that the hon. gentlemen who now fill these seats will find it difficult to live up to the record; but I am glad to say, from what we have heard of them, it seems likely that they will be equal to the task. The hon. member for East Prince (Mr. Bell) gave us a speech unusually full of material for the mover of the Address. It is a great many years since I had the questionable pleasure of performing that duty. I know it is a rather thankless task, especially for a gentleman absolutely new to this House. But I have seldom heard it performed in a better manner, in all the years I have been in this House, than it was performed this session. The hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. Martineau) was extremely modest in the length of his speech, and I hope that ere long he will give us a further opportunity to judge of his oratorical powers.

Now, coming to the subjects of the Speech itself, I think we may conclude from all that is stated in that Speech, from all that we know of the condition of the country, that the phrase adopted by one of our leading newspapers is very fitting when it speaks of the present as the "growing time" of Canada. Our natural productions are growing, our exports are growing, our imports are growing, our revenue is growing, and, what is better than all, there is growing in Canada more and more rapidly every day a thoroughly national and Canadian spirit.

Mr. GEO. LANDERKIN (South Grey). Our majority is growing too.

Mr. CASEY. My hon. friend (Mr. Landerkin) suggests that majorities are growing also. That is the case, but as we are remarkably strong already, perhaps that does not require special notice. But we are beginning to feel more than we ever did that we are not only British subjects, but British citizens in this country; that not only do we belong to the greatest Empire of the world, but we have a real and effective voice in directing the destinies of that Empire. And I am happy and proud to say that it is under a Liberal Administration that we are beginning to recognize that fact. One of the very first acts of the Administration was to secure a modification of the foreign commercial policy of the Empire favourable to Canada and other colonies. The next manifestation of our influence in the affairs of the Empire was when, directly through our efforts and intervention, Imperial penny postage was secured. And now, Sir, during the past six months we have found all the influence, and one of the best minds, of the mother country

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(the late Lord Herschell) directed to secure for Canada the settlement of the points in dispute between us and our great neighbours to the south. I think that the record of Canadian influence in the councils of the Empire during the last two years and a half is worthy of pride. But I do not see why we should stop here. I think that the idea of Imperial unity should go on and grow, and that all schemes of Imperial interests should obtain our support—the Pacific cable scheme, or anything else that tends to the unity and progress of the Empire, and that we should try to impress upon the people at home, as well as to realize ourselves, that we are citizens, not subjects, of no mean Empire.

On this occasion I cannot help alluding to the chaff which was intended to be irritating, and which has been going round about the Imperial postage stamp and its motto. Why, Sir, I am proud of that postage stamp, I am proud of the motto on it. It is the cheapest map in the world, the only map of the world ever issued for two cents, the only map in the world ever issued for the purpose of showing what a large part of the world, and what an overwhelmingly large part of the British Empire, the Dominion of Canada is, a map which goes wherever the correspondence of the people goes, a map which has done more to attract attention to Canada than anything, perhaps, since the Jubilee celebration. Who could find fault with the motto? "We hold a vaster Empire than has been." Well, Mr. Speaker, do we not? Will any member of the Opposition say that the British Empire of to-day fails in comparison with the proudest Empire of the past? I hope not, I hope not even the pessimistic member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) will make any such assertion. As I said already, if anybody has a right to glory in the greatness of the Empire and to shout abroad their delight in it, I think it is the people of this Canada. Then, Sir, that reduction of Imperial postage has been followed, judiciously, followed just at the right time, by a reduction of the general rate in postage throughout Canada, which means throughout the continent of America, since our mail is carried without extra charge in the United States. I cannot pass away from that subject without complimenting the Postmaster General on the grand success of his two great enterprises. The hon. member for York, N.B., said yesterday, in referring to this, that the Postmaster General had blundered into Imperial penny postage, and that then he had blundered into the domestic reduction, he had gone from blunder to blunder. If this is so, Mr. Speaker, I need not dispute his words, we can pray heaven to give us more of such blunders and more of such blunderers. If the hon. gentlemen who now worthily fill the front seats on the Opposition benches had been inspired to such blunders as these some years ago, probably they would still be sitting on this side of the House. Then we come to the question of

the negotiations at Washington. These have been so exhaustively discussed already, that there is not room for me to say a great deal. I have never felt the slightest doubt of the ability of our commissioners worthily to represent Canada in those negotiations; I have never felt the least fear that they were going to sacrifice Canadian interests in any respect; and if anybody had any such fear or any such uneasiness, the bare official fact stated in the joint protocol of the commissioners on both sides, that these negotiations were interrupted because our commissioners were unwilling to agree to what seemed to them contrary to the interests of this country, is sufficient to wipe it all away. These gentlemen went there hoping to make a treaty, desiring to make a treaty, expecting to come back here with all the glory and honour of having a treaty. Do you think that they would have given up that honour and glory, and the profit for the country, for any small thing? I do not. I think these gentlemen were honestly ambitious, properly ambitious, to have the credit of making that treaty. If they have failed to make a treaty, if they have refused on the ground stated in this joint protocol, they have refused because they found they could not get a treaty without injury to the dignity and interests of this country. And for that, who is there in this House who will condemn them? What is the use of sneering and snarling at them because they did not get a treaty when we know they could not get it without doing something which we would all have condemned them for doing, if they had agreed to it? Able men could not be found than the Canadian commissioners, better diplomatists are not, than those who represented us, a better representative of Great Britain could not be found than he who represented her on that occasion.

To what, then, are we to attribute the failure on the part of the American commissioners to agree to what we consider reasonable? Are we to assume that the case is hopeless? I think by no means. I think we are not at all entitled to assume that the case is hopeless. Ripe consideration may change people's minds on any question. We must remember the influences which must have been constantly affecting the American commissioners during the sessions at Washington. This treaty, if it passed, must have gone before the Senate. The senators were there on hand, and it was absolutely impossible for the American commissioners to conceal from them altogether the nature of the questions discussed. These commissioners knew that if they accepted a treaty that would not pass the Senate, their time would be wasted. Naturally there was something in the way of consultation and caucusing going on all the time. As a matter of fact the Canadian commissioners, acting in strict silence and at a distance from their constituents, were negotiating with men who were harried at every turn by senators and

representatives who said: You must not do this, you must not do that, you must not consent to this or agree to that. It was extremely hard to get them to agree to anything definite under those circumstances. Had those negotiations been carried on while the senators were not present in full force representing different interests, it might have been possible to agree to a treaty that the Senate would have accepted under the influence of the leaders of the party now in power in the States. Those circumstances may occur when the commission next meet. If they do not meet, if the failure is final, still I claim no blame can attach to Canada or her commissioners for the failure. I shall not follow the example of my hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace) in giving advice to these commissioners as to what they shall do at that time. I think they know their own business in that respect pretty well already, and that whatever the result may be, nothing will be done to lower the standing of Canada or her respect in the eyes of her neighbours.

Now, Sir, something must be said about the redistribution Bill. My hon. friend from West York started out by saying that this party had broken all the promises we had made in opposition. He confined his attempt at proof to tariff questions. But here is a convincing evidence that this party does not break its promises when it gets into power. What did we promise the electors in 1896?

Mr. TAYLOR. Free trade.

Mr. CASEY. We promised them freer trade, and we have given them as free trade as they want, and are moving in the same direction. We have satisfied the people of Canada on the trade question. Let the hon. gentleman ask his own constituents, if we have not. When it comes to the question of redistribution, we promised them to undo the wrong that had been done. Speaking for the members supporting the Ministry, I venture to say that we shall do our best to undo that wrong. I am not one who suffered by the Conservative gerrymander; I gained by it. My constituency is one of those which was made into a Grit hive at that time, but I know this was done at the expense of others. I know it is an injustice to those constituencies surrounding West Elgin. For the sake of justice, I am willing, if necessary, to lose a district of good and faithful Grit electors, in order that my neighbours may receive that to which they are honestly entitled. I am pleased, Sir, that the Government, thus early in this Parliament, have decided to take this question in hand and to settle it, so far as this House is competent to do so. It has been said that such a measure is unconstitutional; but we know that the constitution does not anywhere say that we shall not make a redistribution at any time we please, although it does say that we must make one after each census, and that that is the only time we can change

the proportion of the number of members in each of the provinces. We do not propose to interfere with that principle of the constitution, but we propose to divide the representation within this province more fairly and equitably than it is now divided. Gentlemen on the other side may call it a gerrymander. We taught them that word pretty well a good many years ago, and it is sometimes, perhaps, not wise to teach your opponents a word of that kind, because it is possible they may misapply it. Sir, I am prepared to say that, if that Bill, when it comes down, bears the same earmarks as the gerrymander Bill of 1882; if it is evidently drawn for the purpose of party advantage, and not for the purpose of giving fair representation in this House, I will call it a gerrymander, and I will speak against it, and vote against it, as will many other members on this side of the House. But, Sir, if that Bill appears to be a fair attempt to rearrange the constituencies, so that the people of Ontario shall be represented according to their actual political opinions, the whole country must recognize that this is another Liberal pledge fulfilled, and must give us credit accordingly.

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

#### After Recess.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. Speaker, when the House rose at Six o'clock, I had concluded my remarks on the specific subjects dealt with in the Address. But, Sir, there is another question which has given rise to a lively debate during this discussion, and which no doubt may form a subject of controversy in the country. I do not know whether we shall have any other opportunity of discussing it in this House; we may, or we may not; and consequently I wish now to say a few words in reference to it. I refer to the question of the plebiscite and the effect which the vote taken should have upon the legislation of this country. My friend, the middle head of the watchdog Cerberus, to whom I referred this afternoon (Mr. Foster) known long for his self-assertive connection with the cause of prohibition, ventured to attack the Government in connection with this subject, or rather, he sneered at the Government for refusing to initiate prohibitive legislation on the basis of the vote polled when the plebiscite was taken. That compels us to consider on what basis the question was put before the electorate. The hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) said that the implied condition of requiring at least half of the electors of the country to vote for prohibition, was not published before the vote was taken, and that the vote was taken under the general impression on the part of the people, that if prohibition obtained a majority of those who voted at the polls, prohibitive legislation would be intro-

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duced in this House. I cannot credit the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) with such shortness of memory as would justify his misstatement in that respect, for I find that during the debate on the Plebiscite Bill last session, he was very keen in questioning the right hon. the Premier as to his intention in regard to this Bill. For instance, the following is reported in "Hansard":—

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend has a perfect right to state his own views, but he certainly is not stating mine as I stated them. All I ask is, that when the Government take the first step, which involves this expense and requires a contest, they will let the people know whether they will follow with the second step if the people will tell them to do so.

The Prime Minister answered:

The PRIME MINISTER. Well, I do not know whether I understood my hon. friend, or whether he is correct in his first statement or not. I do not care; I accept his present version. My hon. friend wants to have a declaration from the Government to this effect. I have often said, and I can only here repeat, that when the will of the people has been affirmed, as it will be affirmed one way or the other, then the Government—every Government—must be prepared to abide by the consequences.

A little later on in the same debate, I quote from the words of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster):

Mr. FOSTER. For the sake of clearness—we want to know just where we stand. The hon. gentleman has said that whatever the will of the people is, he will carry it out. That is one version. I want to ask my hon. friend if that means that if there is an affirmative vote for the principle, my hon. friend will straightway, at the next session of Parliament, we will say, introduce a Bill to carry out the will of the people. He asked the Premier a straight question on the subject, and the right hon. gentleman replied:

The PRIME MINISTER. It means nothing of the kind. It means that the Government, when they have the will of the people before them, will have to take such steps as will give effect to the will of the people. There is the question of revenue to be considered. There is also the question of compensation to be considered. There are different questions which will have to be considered.

Mr. FOSTER. The people consider them when they vote.

Again, the question arose of putting certain riders on the ballot paper. It was decided by this House, with the knowledge of all, that that should not be done, but that the question should be yes or no as to the desire of the people for prohibition; and on what ground? First, that the people would consider these questions before they voted; and, second, that this plebiscite was not a vote the result of which would be an enactment by this House, but was merely a means of ascertaining the will of the majority of the people of this country. Now, Sir, with these answers of the Premier before him, which went into the "Debates" and into the press of the country, how could any man honestly assert that when people

voted on the plebiscite they had the impression that if it were carried by a bare majority of those voting, the Government would be bound to introduce a Bill on that subject?

Not only did the Government not pledge themselves to do so, but the Premier said distinctly that he would not be bound to do so. The pledge was that when the will of the people was ascertained the Government must abide by it; and what is the will of the people? The will of the people is the will of a majority of the people, not the will of 22 or 23 or 24 per cent of the people. When the Premier answered the delegation on this subject the other day, he took his stand on that ground, that he was not satisfied by this vote that the people of Canada desired prohibition—nay, that he was satisfied by the vote that the people of Canada did not desire prohibition. And I ask the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) or any other hon. member of this House, if he does not come to the same conclusion from the figures of the votes polled on that occasion? The argument is used that a majority of those who vote carry parliamentary elections, and that therefore they should carry in this instance. There is no parallel between the two cases. In the case of a parliamentary election the question before the people is merely as to which of two sets of ordinary political principles shall be put into force—a question between protection and free trade, a question between one method of managing public works and another, and things of that kind. When the plebiscite was put to the vote, the question was whether we should introduce a total change into our whole social, fiscal and commercial system; and no reasonable man will say, with his whole heart and conscience, that such a thing should be initiated unless a majority, and a considerable and prevailing majority, of the people of this country want to have that change.

Now, those who ask for prohibition say that we do not know how the people who stayed at home would have voted. It seems to me quite certain that when you ask the people if they want a change of this kind, a total and revolutionary change, you may take for granted that those who stay at home do so because they do not want that change. You have no right to assume that any one of those who stay at home wants it. If he wanted it, he had an opportunity of saying so, and if he did not use that opportunity, that is his fault, and it will be his loss if the verdict is wrongly understood. Now, it is admitted on all hands that somewhere between one-fifth and one-fourth of the electors of Canada declared in favour of this change. Our Opposition friends say that is not a full expression of the prohibition strength. I should like to know why it is not. The friends of prohibition had months in which to conduct a campaign, and I heard of no campaign carried on by those who opposed it. They say many voted

against prohibition for fear the Government would be embarrassed if prohibition carried. There is no use of denying that that motive may have had its effect upon a number of Liberal voters. On the other hand, to my personal knowledge, many Conservatives voted for prohibition simply in the hope of embarrassing the Government. In my own county leading men in every sense of the word in the Conservative party openly stated that they were working to get votes for prohibition in order, as they expressed it, to put the Government in a hole—"to put a rotten Government in a hole"; I will give them the benefit of their whole expression.

Mr. BENNETT. How did you vote?

Mr. CASEY. As this was a vote by which the members of this House consulted their constituents as to what they wanted, I did not consider it my duty to vote at all, and I did not vote. I say it may be admitted that men for party reasons voted against prohibition or abstained from voting for it. On the other hand, men for party reasons voted for it or abstained from voting against it. There is no way of getting at the particulars of these cases; therefore, let us assume that such reasons worked equally on both sides, and then the percentage is not affected.

Then, again, an attempt has been made in the province of Ontario to make it appear that the sole obstacle to prohibition is the vote of the province of Quebec—that it would have been carried only for the heavy vote against it there; and certain politicians, taking advantage of the Premier's nationality, have begun talking about French domination preventing the passage of prohibitory legislation that was desired by the other provinces. I hold in my hand a little brochure remarkable in some of its statements, but possibly correct in some figures, issued by Mr. Spence and Mr. McLaren, of the prohibition committee, in which there is a statement of the votes and percentage of votes polled outside of the province of Quebec. We find that the percentage of votes polled outside of Quebec was only 44.6 per cent. Less than half the people outside of that province voted at all. The percentage voting for prohibition in all the provinces outside of Quebec was 28, a little over one-fourth of the people; and we are asked to say, with such a showing as that, that French domination is standing in the way of prohibitory legislation!

Now, Sir, I say without fear of contradiction, that the plebiscite has decided positively that the majority of the people of Canada at the present time do not want prohibitory legislation. I was a little afraid, I confess, of the results that would follow this experiment when it was tried. I do not think it is exactly the sort of experiment which our constitution contemplated; but I must admit one thing: it has settled, for a

considerable time at least, the question whether prohibition is a live issue in this country or not. There is no possibility of enforcing the will of a minority against the will of the majority, or against the inertia of the majority. We might possibly pass that legislation in this House; but you could not enforce it in the country by any means known to our law and constitution.

I say all these things with regard to prohibitory legislation without pronouncing any opinion as to the desirability of prohibition itself. The stage has long passed for the expression of individual opinions on that point. Whether you or I believe in prohibitory legislation as a useful thing or not, whether we wish to see that experiment tried or not, I say the pronouncement of the country has been decidedly against it, and I fail to see how any Government consulting the interests of the country, and careful of its morals, could either introduce or permit the passing of any legislation of that kind.

But my hon. friend from York (Mr. Foster), the ex-champion of prohibition, the gentleman who got his seat in this House by talking prohibition, who got his prominence in the country by it, who got into the late Government by it—where is he? He is sitting in his seat sneering at the Government for not doing anything. But what is he willing to do himself? What did he get done when a member of the late Government? He got a commission appointed, which sat several years, went all over the country, spent something like \$200,000, and reported that prohibition was not then practicable. And now what does he do? There was a meeting, called by circular, of the friends of prohibition in a committee room of this House to-day. I do not find the name of the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) amongst those present. Why was he the apostle of prohibition not there among his disciples, comforting them and helping them to devise legislation to be submitted to this House? No, Mr. Speaker, that was not politics. Was the leader of the Opposition there, (Sir Charles Tupper), a gentleman who is said to be in favour of prohibition, although he has not been an apostle of it like his colleague? He was not. Were any of the leaders of the party there? Was the party whip there?

Mr. DAVIN. Was the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) there?

Mr. CASEY. I did not see his name, but as a member of the Government which has declared that it does not see its way to introduce prohibitory legislation, I do not see how he could be present at a meeting to devise any such legislation. I am asking why those who claim to sympathise with the introduction of prohibitory legislation were not present. Why was not the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) there? If the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) wishes to do something for the cause of prohi-

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bition, why does he not take charge of legislation in this House on that subject? It is just as open to him to introduce such legislation as to a Cabinet Minister. Anybody can introduce a prohibitory Bill. Will he take charge of it and get the leader of the Opposition to support it and make it a party issue? No, Sir, they dare not do so; and for a man who would be the leader of his party, and who pretends to be the leader of prohibition sentiment in this party, to sit on a front bench sneering at gentlemen on this side on that subject while he will not do anything himself, is to take a position that will cover him with contempt from friends of prohibition. He is neither here nor there, neither for nor against it, but can only sit in the corner and sneer at those who are willing to take an active part on the one side or the other on this great question.

I do not know that I need say anything more about the speech of the hon. gentleman, whom I have called the sneerer (Mr. Foster) except to note "en passant"—

An hon. MEMBER. English.

Mr. CASEY. I use the word advisedly. I need say nothing more except to note "en passant" that the hon. gentleman ventured to sneer at the pronunciation by my right hon. friend the Premier of a certain English word. He sneered at him for some slight fault in pronunciation, for not pronouncing the word just as an Englishman would. And then we have my hon. friend who sees fit to sneer at the manner in which an educated French gentleman speaks English, and who could not, to save his life, make a speech in French that could be understood by anybody, turning round and murdering the Queen's English altogether, talking about "constitootions," and treating us throughout the whole of his remarks to an accent which is more displeasing to British citizens in this House than the French Canadian accent can possibly be. Most of us will admit that the French Canadian way of pronouncing English has something piquant and pleasing about it, but we do not at all enjoy the down-east twang of the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster).

The speech of the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) calls for much more lengthy remarks than I could possibly give it, because it offers opportunity for pitching in in almost every sentence. But time forbids. It is a long time, some twenty-five or twenty-six years ago, since I made use of a certain comparison in describing that hon. gentleman's style of oratory, and I may be justified, as the hon. gentleman himself is so fond of chestnuts, and dishes them up in all forms, in repeating that same comparison to-day. I said that a speech by him was like a natural phenomena, something you could not reason with, not stop, nor mitigate in any way—like a thunder storm or a hurricane or the rush of the springtide that flows up the beach of the Bay of Fundy. That

springtide has some other name, but I forget for the moment what it is.

Mr. FLINT (Yarmouth). The Bore.

Mr. CASEY. My hon. friend says it is called "the Bore." At all events, it is a curling, rushing flood which tears up the beach and sweeps away everything in front of it. All you can do, when you see that springtide coming along is to get into a safe place behind a rock and watch it until it comes to a head and curls over on the beach and smashes everything before it, and then come away and say "what a grand old-springtide that was!" That is about what a speech by the hon. gentleman is like. I have no objection to it. We are accustomed to see that tide rise and fall in this House for many years through much the same channel and do not mind it in the least.

There is only one objection that I find in the tone of the hon. gentleman's speech, and that is he seems determined to make it impossible for us to negotiate any treaty with the United States. He has done the best, in a vindictive spirit, to stir up bitter feeling between the two countries, and at the same time to persuade American statesmen that our Canadian commissioners are very easily deluded and got the better of. I doubt if he will succeed in this latter particular. The American commissioners have met these men and know what they are like, but he may possibly succeed in stirring up ill-feeling and in preventing the conclusion of a satisfactory agreement. It would be undoubtedly gratifying to the man who had to sign a certificate to his own incorrectness of statement—I suppose that is within the rules—before he could obtain an audience with Mr. Blaine on a former occasion. It would be consoling to him if he found that any remarks of his had placed insuperable difficulties in the way of the success of my right hon. friend the Premier. It is to be hoped that the froth and fury, the spume and foam of his recent tide, however, will not reach as far as Washington, or will make but little disturbance when they get there.

Now, a word or two with regard to a remark made by my hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace), the third head of the party. He said that we had broken our promise, as the tariff we had instituted was not a revenue tariff. It is a very peculiar thing that a tariff that is not a revenue tariff should produce such a tremendous amount of revenue. It seems to me that a tariff that even when reduced by about 25 per cent as regards a very large volume of our trade, should yield several millions a year more revenue than the old tariff did, is a fairly good revenue tariff. If it is not a revenue tariff, it remains for the hon. snarler of the party to explain—

Mr. DAVIN. Is a revenue tariff one that produces the largest amount of revenue?

Mr. CASEY. We have heard from the three heads of Cerberus; now we are hearing from the "wag" at the tail.

Mr. DAVIN. The tail of Cerberus is a very powerful weapon.

Mr. CASEY. The hon. member for West York said that we had not done the fair thing with England, because we had increased the duty on certain articles more than we had reduced them by the preference given to that country. I think he was somewhat incorrect in making that statement. I do not think there were any items of duty increased more than 25 per cent. But, even had the duties been increased quite as much as they had been reduced toward Great Britain by the preferential clause of the tariff, still Great Britain is given a preference of 25 per cent over other countries. As a matter of fact, very few of the duties were increased before they were reduced in Great Britain's favour. Nearly all articles of British goods come in cheaper than under the old tariff, and in all cases they come in at 25 per cent less than the products of other countries. The hon. gentleman told us that Great Britain got no preference, because we imported so much scrap-iron from the United States. I do not intend to follow the hon. gentleman in all his gropings in the junk-shop, but I desire to point out one thing. Our promise, when we came into power, was to reduce the duties on raw materials. We reduced them on iron, along with other things. We must get our raw materials where they are to be had. We get our scrap-iron from the United States, because we can get it there cheaper than elsewhere. Why does it not come from Great Britain, seeing that there is a preference of 25 per cent in favour of that country? I am informed by a gentleman who is well qualified to speak on matters concerning the hardware trade, that Great Britain is actually importing scrap-iron and pig-iron from the United States. Instead of having this material to sell us, she must look to outside markets for her own supply.

Now, having to some extent criticised the heads and other terminals of the party, I think I shall relieve the House from any further discussion on my part. I conclude by saying that I am sure the hon. leader of the House, when he was making his grand speech yesterday in reply to the leader of the Opposition, must have felt as the leader of a Liberal party has seldom felt before in Canada—that he had the party at his back, solid, united, enthusiastic, and ready for the fray.

Mr. BENNETT. Where were you on the Yukon?

Mr. CASEY. I was where my conscience led me, and I am as strong a supporter of the Government as I was before; and the

Government know that independent opinion counts for a good deal. The Liberal party is thoroughly united and solid behind the leader of the Government. The members of that party are proud of their leader, proud of the record of the Government, proud of the progress of the country, proud of the country and the people of the country, and perfectly confident as to the future.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (South Leeds). Mr. Speaker, I wish to engage the attention of the House for a short time while I address a few words to you, and through you to the hon. members on both sides, and through the press to the people of this country. In the first place, I wish to congratulate the hon. mover and seconder of the Address upon the very ingenuous manner in which they dealt with the Speech of His Excellency from the Throne. They certainly made the most they could out of a very bad case. I am sorry I cannot compliment the Government that prepared that Address for having placed such a Speech in the hands of the Governor General, particularly as it is his first Speech from the Throne. There were some things in that Address that certainly must have brought a blush to his face, considering that he had to refer, in the very beginning, to a violation of the constitution. There were many things that were not in the Address that the people of Canada, I am sure, would expect to hear from His Excellency in this, his first deliverance. Before I deal with the subjects touched on in the Speech, I wish to refer to one or two statements by my hon. friend from West Elgin (Mr. Casey). Among the first statements that he made was: "We, the Liberal party, are now loyal. Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives are now in opposition. Though I occupied the honourable position of Government Whip for several years before the late Conservative Government were defeated, I am glad as a Canadian, glad as a British subject, that the Conservative party are in opposition to-day. Their being in opposition has made—I will not say the Liberal party—but has made many of its leaders loyal. You remember, Sir, as the people of this country remember, that but a few years ago an appeal was made to the people of this country by the leaders of the Liberal party, then in opposition, on a cry of commercial union—unrestricted reciprocity—so that the Hon. Edward Blake deserted his party, and said: "If you carry out that policy, you will drive us into annexation. We heard many disloyal cries then, but to-day we do not hear disloyalty from any leading member of that party.

Therefore, I am glad the right hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition and those who sit behind him are on this side, and that we as Canadians and British subjects are in opposition, because it has made the leaders of the Liberal party in this country loyal. The next matter my hon. friend from West Elgin

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(Mr. Casey) referred to, one of the things he gloried in, was that now for a cent you could buy a map of Canada, a map of "the greater Empire that we hold." This must be another edition of the postage stamp that the Postmaster General has issued, for we on this side of the House have not yet seen a postage stamp that can be purchased for a cent, and that has a map on it. It may be an edition issued specially for the Postmaster General's friends, that he sells to members on that side of the House for a cent. But as I understand it, the two-cent stamp is the only one on which a map is displayed. My hon. friend also quoted the words that the Postmaster General had placed on that stamp, and he quoted them thus: "We hold a greater Empire than has been." I think the stamp, if I recollect it right, reads: "We hold a vaster Empire than has been." That is the edition we have seen, but the one-cent edition may have the word "greater." The hon. gentleman congratulated the hon. Postmaster General on the publication of that stamp which, in my opinion, has brought ridicule to the Government of this country. We find "Punch," the leading paper of England, taking up this question and suggesting to the British Government that it publish a stamp something like it, but in place of saying: "We hold a vaster Empire than has been," they should put on it some one of these statements: "We are richer than anybody"; "We are tremendous swells"; "The policeman outside of the Mansion House is the finest in the world"; "There are more faddists in England than in any other country"; "Our fleet can smash all the rest"; "Mind your eye"; "There are more omnibuses in London than anywhere"; "One of our journals has the largest circulation in the world"; "We have a Prime Minister who is bigger than any other"; "We had a leader of the Opposition of similar stature." There is what the leading paper of England says of this great production of the hon. the Postmaster General of this country, that is the ridicule that that paper throws upon Canada and its Government for having issued this stamp. Then the hon. gentleman congratulates the Government and the Postmaster General in particular for having inaugurated a domestic two-cent postage for Canada. When they were in Opposition the Postmaster General, my hon. friend from West Elgin and their friends, then sitting on this side of the House, charged the Conservative Government with always legislating to make the rich man richer and the poor man poorer. I want to ask my hon. friend the Postmaster General what the farmers of Canada are going to save by this two-cent postage? They know that this Government is run by the revenues received from the people of this country. The Minister of Public Works says: "We have made lots of money, and we are going to spend it. The Government of this country do not make money, they have no mint, they do not create money.

But judging from the remarks of the Minister of Public Works, the Government made all this money and they are spending it. Where do they get it? They have three or four sources of revenue. They collect by customs, they collect by excise, and they collect by postage. Who pays the greater portion of the taxes of this country? I say the farmers of this country do. I am a manufacturer, and having been among the manufacturers of this country, I know that many of them are saving a large amount of money yearly on account of the reduction of postage. Every banker in this country, every bank in this country, will save thousands and thousands of dollars annually by the reduction of postage. The large manufacturers of this country will save large sums of money, so will the large mercantile houses. What does the farmer save? Who pays the taxes to make up the deficiency? Last year we received from the sale of the three-cent postage stamp, perhaps, three million dollars, this year we will receive two. There is a million dollars deficit; who pays that million dollars? The farmers of this country pay three-fourths of the taxes of this country; therefore, the farmers of this country—for although I live in a town, I represent a large agricultural district—I say the farmers of this country pay three-fourths of that million dollars we lose in revenue by the reduction of domestic postage from three to two cents. What do the farmers save? I say that the farmers of this country, on the average, do not write ten letters a year each. Therefore, each farmer will save ten cents by the reduction of postage. And what do they pay to make it up? They will pay 75 cents to a dollar each to make up the deficiency. This is the boon which the Postmaster General has given to the farmers of this country by the reduction. The effect will be to make the bankers, the merchants, the manufacturers, the bloated monopolists—to make them richer and make the poor farmer poorer. Then my hon. friend from West Elgin, in speaking of the plebiscite, stated that as a member of this House he did not feel it to be his duty to go out and vote either for or against it. Now, if any hon. gentleman sitting on that side of the House could hit the Government a harder slap in the face than that, I ask him to do it. He says: We submitted this question to the people of this country, we wanted them to come out and give an honest expression of their opinion without any interference from members of this House, who should not vote. Let me point him to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), to the Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière), to the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), to the member for Verchères and Chambly (Mr. Geoffrion). What did these gentlemen do? Detailed by the Prime Minister of this country, I have no doubt, to go out and stump the province of Quebec, instead of being here and earning their salaries of \$7,000 a year that the people pay

them to transact the business of the country. They were detailed to go out and stump the province of Quebec, to tell the people that if the plebiscite carried, the hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier would have to go out of power. The member for West Elgin said that we wanted a fair and honest expression of opinion and, therefore, he would not vote. What has he to say of those members of the Government who went out and asked the people to vote against it? Then my hon. friend asked the question: Who was up in the meeting to-day of the Dominion Alliance? He wants to know if the whip was there—I presume he referred to me. I know the Government whip was there, and I think some gentleman present jumped on him pretty severely. But I was there, as I can inform the member for West Elgin, and I took a little part in the discussion. The Secretary of the Dominion Alliance quoted statistics, the Prime Minister quotes statistics, and says that only a certain percentage of the vote, about 23 per cent, was polled for the plebiscite. I obtained from the secretary to-day how the list was made by which they make up this percentage, and I can point to my hon. friend across the way who can produce it. The percentage was made up by the number of names on part 1 and part 3 of the Ontario list. Part 1 and part 3 are for the electors who can vote for Dominion or provincial purposes. My hon. friend from Kingston (Mr. Britton) appears on the list for Gananoque in two wards, and I have no doubt he appears in Kingston. In the statistics that have been made up, this 23 per cent can only vote once, yet a man may be on the list and count four, or five, or six.

In the province of Quebec a person can vote every time his name appears on the list, whereas in Ontario he can only vote in the polling subdivision where he resides. There are hundreds of names of voters on the lists of the front of Leeds and Lansdowne who live in the United States, they being owners of islands in the River St. Lawrence, but they cannot come to Canada and vote, and so they are included by the Prime Minister in his percentage against prohibition. We have also in Gananoque numbers of voters whose names are on the lists in the townships of Leeds and Lansdowne, but who can only vote in Gananoque, where they reside, and they also are counted in by the Prime Minister to make up his calculation of 23 per cent. I contend that the percentage of the votes given for prohibition in Ontario was nearly as large as the percentage of the vote given for either Dominion or provincial purposes.

I propose, Sir, to deal with some of the subjects treated of in the Address, but let me say first, that we have in Canada to-day the most honest, the most truthful, the most business-like, the most economical and the most industrious Government that has held power in Canada since confederation. I do not wonder, Mr. Speaker, that such a state-

ment brings a smile to your face, because you, Sir, know that I would not make a statement either in this House or outside of it that I did not believe to be true. In order, therefore, that you, Mr. Speaker, and that the people of the country may believe that statement I must qualify it, and I must add the prefix "dis" before the word "honest," the prefix "un" before the word "truthful," the prefix "un" before the word "business-like," and I must substitute the word "extravagant" for the word "economical," and for the word "industrious" I must substitute the word "careless." When this is done, my assertion will read so that you, Mr. Speaker, and the people of this country will agree with what I say, and we will therefore find that we have in power to-day in Canada the most dishonest, untruthful, unbusiness-like, extravagant, reckless, careless and corrupt Government that has been in power since confederation.

Now, Sir, the first paragraph of the Address deals with the large degree of prosperity that we Canadians now enjoy. The present Government lay claim to the credit for that, but all thoughtful men will give the credit to a kind Providence who for the last two or three years has blessed our country with a bountiful harvest, which blessing, combined with the scarcity existing in other countries, has caused a good demand and high prices for the products of Canada. Another reason is the adoption by the Conservative Government some years ago of the National Policy, a policy which preserved to the people of Canada to a very large extent, their markets for manufactures and for the products of the farm and the forest and the field. Little thanks is due hon. gentlemen now in power for the National Policy. They promised the people of this country that when they attained office the National Policy would be swept out of existence. They have swallowed that promise, it has not choked them, but, at all events, they have swallowed it, with every other promise they made to the electors of the country when they appealed to them for support. What act of the present Government has brought about this prosperity in Canada? Surely it has not been caused by the increased duty they have placed on sugar and tobacco, or by the reduction of the duty on coal oil from 6 to 5 cents a gallon—although they promised to give us coal oil free. These are the principal legislative acts of the Government, and I ask any intelligent man have these brought about that prosperity, a reference to which the Government was pleased to put in the mouth of His Excellency. Is this prosperity brought about by the act of the Government in making corn free of duty? Has the entrance into this country free of duty during the last twelve months of 19,770,630 bushels of corn (over and above that imported for distilling purposes), has that brought prosperity? Has that importation of free corn caused Canada to produce more cattle and

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more hogs? Surely the farmers of Canada grew corn and peas and oats and barley enough for their own wants. The Minister of Trade and Commerce pointed to the fact that in this country we are producing pork enough to feed the people of Canada, and also to export a large quantity of hams and bacon and pork to the mother country. Has any legislation of the Liberal Government brought about that state of affairs? No. I will tell the hon. gentlemen opposite what has brought that about. Some ten or twelve years ago I proved in this House by the Trade and Navigation Returns that for the year preceding we had sent \$12,000,000 to the United States to purchase beef and pork to feed the people of Canada. I argued that if the then Conservative Government would place a duty of 3 cents a pound on these products that within a few years we would not only have pork enough to feed our own people, but we would also produce a large quantity for export. The Conservative Government then placed a duty of 3 cents a pound on pork, and that is why to-day we produced such a large quantity for export. Has the right hon. the Prime Minister wiped away every vestige of protection as he promised to do? Is not 3 cents a pound duty on pork sufficient protection to keep the American pork out of Canada, and to enable us to grow enough for ourselves and a large quantity for export. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) takes credit for this, but I tell him that the credit is due to the late Conservative Government, although he tries to steal that good policy like everything else that was done by his predecessors. Neither can this Government claim that the prosperity has been brought about by their blundering legislation, which has closed the German markets against the Canadian farmers. On account of their blundering policy, Germany has shut out our rye, our pease and our wheat, and we cannot to-day sell a bushel of these commodities in that country.

Reference is also made in the Address to the expansion of trade and, Sir, that again is due to the bountiful harvest and the fairly good prices for the last two or three years.

Reference is also made in the Address to the increase of revenue. I hold in my hand a few statistics which I have gathered from the Trade and Navigation Returns which were laid on the Table of the House yesterday, showing the taxes paid on a number of articles during the last seven months; and I am glad to see my hon. friend from North Leeds (Mr. Frost) in the House. During the past season, I think in the month of June, I happened to stop at the Village of Stittsville, a station or two distant from my hon. friend's agricultural implement factory, and there on the station platform I saw 15 self-reapers and binders from Chicago, freighted all that distance and planted right down at the side of my hon. friend's factory. These

machines were sold to the people of Canada, our Canadian money went over to the United States to employ American labour, while our Canadian boys went idle in this country. These American implements are sold no cheaper, and they are no better, than the implements produced by my hon. friend from North Leeds. Here is a list from the Trade and Navigation Returns, showing the quantity and value of American goods imported during 1898 :

|   | No.    | Value.             |
|---|--------|--------------------|
| Cultivators .....                       | 1,680  | \$ 14,136          |
| Seed drills .....                       | 2,210  | 53,806             |
| Rollers .....                           | 5      | 108                |
| Forks, pronged....                      | 58,098 | 12,419             |
| Harrows .....                           | 3,561  | 36,155             |
| Harvesters, self-<br>binders .....      | 4,292  | 407,542            |
| Hay tedders.....                        | 1,793  | 801                |
| Hoes .....                              | 14,354 | 2,166              |
| Horse rakes.....                        | 1,978  | 31,578             |
| Hay knives .....                        | 343    | 128                |
| Lawn mowers ....                        | 1,556  | 4,770              |
| Mowing machines.                        | 5,518  | 189,924            |
| Ploughs .....                           | 8,822  | 159,718            |
| Post-hole diggers..                     | 231    | 138                |
| Potato diggers.....                     | 10     | 69                 |
| Rakes .....                             | 5,540  | 1,126              |
| Reapers .....                           | 462    | 12,142             |
| Scythes, suathes<br>and sickles.....    | 5,948  | 22,857             |
| Spades and shovels                      | 4,454  | 14,696             |
| Weeders .....                           | 88     | 127                |
| All other agricul-<br>tural implements. | ....   | 13,834             |
| All other, parts....                    | ....   | 43,349             |
| Springs and axles..                     | ....   | 28,481             |
| Butts and hinges..                      | ....   | 14,368             |
| Forgings of iron<br>and steel .....     | ....   | 34,844             |
| Hardware, buill-<br>ers', &c.....       | ....   | 424,116            |
| Windmills .....                         | ....   | 16,957             |
| Sewing machines .                       | ....   | 120,401            |
| Pumps .....                             | ....   | 93,594             |
| Washers, rivets,<br>bolts and nuts...   | ....   | 69,924             |
| <b>Total .....</b>                      |        | <b>\$1,824,274</b> |

Making a grand total in these few items of \$1,824,274 of the money of the people of Canada sent to employ labour in the United States, where the farmers of this country cannot send their produce to feed those workmen. There is not an article in that list but can be produced as cheap and cheaper, as good and better, by our Canadian labour, than can be done in the United States. These implements, when used for a few years, are worn out, and what have we left? Our money is over there and the machinery is played out. If that machinery had been made in this country, the money would be in the country when the machinery is worn out, and our Canadian men would have employment and our farmers would be feeding them. There is the tariff I would advocate for this country, so far as I am personally concerned: make in this country every article that can be produced by Canadian labour, and have the labourer fed by Can-

adian produce raised by Canadian farmers. The farmers pay three-fourths of the customs taxes. The customs taxes collected for the seven months ending the 30th of January, 1899, amounted to \$14,189,000; last year for the corresponding seven months they amounted to \$11,747,000, or an increase of \$2,441,000. What does that mean? It means that \$2,441,000 more was collected in taxes, and \$8,000,000 more was paid to the Americans to produce the goods on which that amount of taxation was collected.

Reference is also made in the Address to the increased number of our population. I do not know, but I feel quite satisfied, that it was the blue-ruin knight, the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) who inspired that clause, because that was his particular hobby when in opposition. It is true, we have received a large number of Galicians, a large number of Doukhobors and a large number of Italians. I hope they may turn out well, but they are a doubtful quantity, to say the least of them.

The Address goes further: it says that the exodus happily has ceased. The exodus was an imagination, an illusion of the hon. gentleman who ought to have been the Finance Minister of this Government, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, because when in Opposition it was his particular hobby to talk of the exodus and emigration. There are going from Canada to-day as many of our young men and young women as went at any time under the Conservative Government. The United States is a larger field, and our young boys and girls, some of them, occasionally, find their way over there; and as many are going to-day as ever went, except those who went in the imagination of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce.

The next paragraph of the Address makes reference to the treaty negotiations which have engaged the attention of the three knights of this Government—the Prime Minister, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and associated with them the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. John Charlton). If there is one thing more than another which these hon. gentlemen ought to be ashamed of, it is the time that has been wasted and the money that has been spent in trying to see what effect the Premier's sunny smile would have on that hard-faced, keen bargain-driver of a Yankee. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce quoted a few verses of poetry last evening. I will quote a few made by a Canadian poet which I think are particularly applicable just here. They have reference to that sunny smile of the hon. Prime Minister:

When Sir Wilfrid went down, there was never a  
frown  
On his face, which was bright and contented,  
But he wore all the while—just the sunniest  
smile  
That ever a Premier invented.

They travelled in style, both himself and his smile,  
Creating, of course, good impressions,  
His clothing was rich, in the pockets of which  
Were stacks upon stacks of concessions.

He was constantly wined, he was constantly dined,  
As oft as occasion demanded,  
He was fain to remain—in that land of champagne,  
And his smile in the meantime expanded.

And the times they were fine—mid the banquets and wine,  
So runneth the newspaper story,  
And they stood hand in hand, while the flag of our land  
Hung right along side of Old Glory.

And day after day, as he gambled away  
Concessions which should have been traded,  
Of rights that were dear to the commonwealth here,  
His smile it grew withered and faded.

And soon they were gone, his mission was done,  
And he said, though his voice was not hearty,  
“They have collared my pile—they have collared my smile,  
I'll go home to the Liberal party.

And the dear Mother ‘Globe’ will throw round me her robe  
Of charity, love and protection,  
And with Israel Tarte, I'll immediately start  
To plan for a general election.”

An hon. MEMBER. Who is the author?

Mr. TAYLOR. The author is a lady who lives in Oshawa, and wrote to the Oshawa “Vindicator.” I think, Mr. Speaker, in the interests of Canada, that it is a great pity that the Government, when a commission was to be appointed, did not appoint three sharp, shrewd, business men, with my hon. friend the member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), to go down and negotiate a treaty. And if these sharp, shrewd business men had been sent, they would either have had the basis of a treaty agreed upon within six days or have come home. They would have gone down with their propositions, and would have said to the American commissioners: Here is what we propose doing. What have you to say about it? These gentlemen would not have waited until the sunny smile was worn out; but if their propositions were not entertained, would have refused to do anything, and have come home.

The next paragraph of the Address refers to the plebiscite, and reads as follows:—

In compliance with the Act which passed last session, a plebiscite was held on the question of prohibition. The official figures of the vote will be placed before you.

It certainly was not the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) who framed that paragraph. I have heard Cabinet Ministers on the stump hold up the Minister of Agriculture as a representative of the farmers

Mr. TAYLOR.

of this country, as having been taken into the Cabinet because he was a practical farmer. Whoever heard before, when the members of the Government when in opposition, or since they have obtained office, any person say that the Minister of Agriculture is a practical farmer? I always understood that he was taken into the Cabinet as a representative of the temperance party. To show you what he knows about farming, let me tell the House that one day, as I was travelling on the train, I met a gentleman from the hon. Minister's own constituency, who said to me: Here is about what Mr. Fisher knows of farming. When he became Minister, a French farmer, living in Coaticook, who had a fine crop of tobacco, invited the Minister to come out and see it. The Minister went, and was shown a fine field of tobacco. The farmer pointed to a beautiful plant, and said: “Is not that a splendid plant of tobacco, Mr. Fisher: is not that a beautiful leaf?” “Yes,” replied the Minister, “but when is it going to plug out?” He actually thought that plugs of tobacco were going to grow on the plant. I certainly think that paragraph in the Address which I have just read, must have been framed by the hon. Minister without portfolio, the hon. member for Chambly and Verchères (Mr. Geoffrion), because, when the campaign was on, he said, in his stumping, that in a moment of weakness the Liberal party had committed themselves to this plank in their platform at the Ottawa Convention of 1893, but that, no matter how the vote would go, there would be no prohibition. I am quite sure the hon. gentleman then let out a Cabinet secret. He then let out what the right hon. Prime Minister told us a few days ago. Four Ministers were detailed to stump against prohibition, and, in view of what has occurred, I think the paragraph should have read as follows:—

That my responsible Ministers, when in opposition, called a convention at Ottawa in June, 1893, and passed a resolution pledging the Liberal party, when they came into power, to submit the question, and, if carried, to give effect to the will of the people.

That at the last session an Act was passed, and \$250,000 voted to pay the expenses of submitting the question, but in order to kill it in advance, if prohibition carried and went into effect, it was made a penal offence for any person to make apple cider or grape wine, hoping this would influence the electors, when they came to read the ballot, to vote against it.

That, although this objectionable feature was put in the Act and in the ballot, my responsible Ministers yet feared it might carry, so they sent word out privately to all their officials and followers whom they could trust to vote against it, for if it carried it would put the Government in a hole.

That is what the returning officer did in my county.

They also instructed the Government press to discourage the party from voting for it.

Just as my hon. friend from West Elgin (Mr. Casey) did not vote for it.

Fearing still that it might carry, the electors in the province of Quebec were given from one to ten votes each, while in all the other provinces one vote was allowed to each elector.—

An hon. MEMBER. They were put in three days after the polls were closed.

Mr. TAYLOR—

—That, even after all these precautions by my Ministers, it still carried by a large majority.

And, notwithstanding the pledges given by the hon. Minister of Agriculture, when he moved the resolutions at the convention—

This is the Minister of Agriculture's speech, when he introduced the motion. In addressing the convention in 1893, the Minister of Agriculture said :

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen : At this late hour the only thing that can justify me in asking your attention for a few moments is the importance of the question I am going to bring before the convention. It has been the proud boast of the Liberal party that its principles are those that make for good and right in the country. It is in consequence of this that we find in the ranks of the Liberal party the best elements of the moral, intelligent and religious people of the land. It is in consequence of this that the young men of the country who wish to do their duty manfully and well are flocked to the Liberal standard. Therefore, I am glad to say, I am going to ask this convention to pass a resolution which is in the direction of one of the greatest causes of good in the land—a resolution on the question of temperance. It is one of the greatest satisfactions of my political career that when, as a young man, I acquired the franchise in the Dominion of Canada, the first occasion which I was called upon to exercise it was when the question of prohibition or license was before the people, and that I cast my vote in favour of local option. At that time local option was the cry of the temperance people, and we had the Dunkin Act in force in this country. Afterwards, the hon. gentleman who has just spoken to you (Hon. Mr. Scott) introduced in the Senate the Act which bears his name, and which was the hope of the temperance people for many years. But the temperance sentiment now asks for something more than local option. I am glad, therefore, that the great party to which I belong,—

I wonder if he will resign.

—with which I have worked, is prepared to take a stand upon the temperance question, and to declare in its platform in favour of a step in the right direction on this subject. I understand that this is the first time a great political party in this country has ever faced this question in a fair and true spirit. I am not aware that any political party in this country has ever declared itself squarely upon this question. I was aware that the House of Commons itself passed a resolution to the effect that when the country was ripe Parliament should enact a prohibition law. It is some time since that was passed. The Tory party has been long in power, but has not taken any steps to obtain the vote of the country upon this question. It is true, as you know, that Finance Minister Foster—and when I speak his name I have to look back to the first years when he and I were in Parliament, when he was looked upon as a temperance cham-

— pion. I regret to say that that hon. gentleman, on the floor of Parliament, has told the country that he, one of the leaders of the Tory party, only advocated temperance "in a moment of weakness," and that when he came to his sober senses he went back on that record.

I wonder where his sober senses are after making that statement.

The Tory party has not done justice in favour of temperance, it has only appointed a Royal Commission to go about the country and find out something ; but, as Mr. Laurier said, we have all the information of the kind that a Royal Commission can collect. They have put off that question, they have shunted it, and have not taken steps to find out the attitude of the country upon this question. I am glad to be here to ask this Liberal convention to take a step which will bring about an opportunity for the people to express themselves upon this question. We know that in three of the provinces the Liberal governments of these provinces have brought about local or provincial plebiscites, thus giving the temperance people the opportunity to show what they believe to be the truth, that the temperance sentiment in this country is strong enough to enforce a prohibition law if it is given us. I propose to read a resolution which will bring about this result, and which pledges the Liberal party, if returned to power, to give the people of Canada an opportunity to express their views upon this question, and the Government in power must necessarily carry out the expressed will of the people.

There is no question of percentage there. The will of the people has been expressed. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), who made that speech, is in the Government to-day, although he said that, after the will of the people was expressed, it would be the duty of the Government to carry it out. Now, let them do it. Then he reads the resolution, and concludes his speech thus :

This will bring the question clearly before the people of Canada, and will enable the Government to know just what the sentiment of the country is, and I have enough confidence in the people to believe that the result will be so pronounced that the legislature and Government will be only too glad to meet the wishes of the people, and that we shall be able to get a law of total prohibition.

But there was more than that, there was a circular issued by the Dominion Alliance, signed by Mr. E. L. Bond, chairman of the plebiscite committee for the province of Quebec, and the fifth paragraph of that circular reads as follows :—

It is claimed that, even if the plebiscite be carried, the present Administration has no intention of giving effect to the vote by parliamentary action. It is difficult to conceive any greater insult to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Let us examine the facts.

The Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the Liberal party, who were then out of power, preparing for a general election, recognized among the electors an important body known as prohibitionists, and placed among the political measures upon which he was to appeal to the electors the following proposition :—

" Prohibition.—That, whereas public attention is at present directed to the consideration of the

admittedly great evils of intemperance, it is desirable that the mind of the people should be clearly ascertained on the question of prohibition by means of a Dominion plebiscite."

Furthermore, Sir Wilfrid Laurier has given, in connection with this proposed policy, repeated assurances, of which the following is the most notable. In reply to a deputation of Winnipeg prohibitionists, Mr. Laurier is reported to have said: "He would pledge his honour that, as soon as the Liberals came into power at Ottawa, they would take a plebiscite of the Dominion, by which the party would stand, and the will of the people would be carried out, even were it to cost power for ever to the Liberal party."

There is his pledge.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). That is what Mr. Bond said.

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, this is the circular issued to the electors just before the vote was taken. Then he quotes the Montreal "Gazette":

The Montreal "Gazette," in its edition of the 6th of September, 1894, published this statement with the following comment:—

"This declaration carries the Liberal party further than they have ever gone before. \* \* \* Mr. Laurier has now promised that if a majority can be obtained in support of prohibition all over the Dominion,—

Not 23 per cent.

—prohibition will be granted. This is one of the largest promises ever made by a political leader. To bring a country, nearly the size of Europe, under prohibition would be an achievement which would satisfy the most extreme of temperance enthusiasts."

The Liberal party was duly elected, and the Hon. Mr. Laurier made Premier. Up to the present he has literally fulfilled his promises, and the plebiscite unhampered is before the people. If the electors of Canada now show that they want prohibition, is it even decent to assert that this gentleman of untarnished reputation would stoop to the position of a pettyfogging politician, and virtually say:

"It is true I promised an Act, it is true I had an estimate of \$250,000 passed, and have expended the same on the plebiscite, but it was only to hoodwink you. I have changed my mind—I think we had better go on as we are."

Does any sane man think this possible of Sir Wilfrid Laurier? Does any one believe that, assuming such a position were possible, the Hon. Sydney Fisher would remain in the Cabinet one day after such a decision had been announced? This gentleman, in speaking to the resolution in the Liberal convention at Ottawa, said:

"I propose to read the resolution which will bring about this result, and which pledges the Liberal party, if returned to power, to give the people of Canada an opportunity to express their views upon this question, and the Government in power must necessarily carry out the expressed will of the people. There is no doubt that this is what the Liberal party would do.

No, an argument like this against the plebiscite is an insult to the integrity of the honourable gentlemen, as well as to the intelligence of the electors of Canada.

We desire a full, fair vote. If it is against us, that ends the question for many years to come. If for us, we look confidently for all the pledges of the Government to be fulfilled.

E. L. BOND,

Chairman of the Plebiscite Committee  
for the Province of Quebec.

Mr. TAYLOR.

Then we have the address of Mrs. Thornly, the president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, which I find summarized as follows:—

Mrs. Thornly, the provincial president, in her annual address at the W. C. T. U. convention, said that against most unconquerable odds the temperance party scored a victory for prohibition. "Let us thank God from our inmost hearts, for the battle was the Lord's. There were shameless desertions and unexpected treachery; but despite all, the Dominion of Canada had declared for the abolition of the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicants."

She proceeded to say that with the evidence of such political rascality and trickery it was a wonder that there was any majority, and scored the Government for the delay in introducing the Plebiscite Bill.

Mrs. Thornly said: "When the Bill was presented, we found it had a catch question on the ballot. It was not alcoholic, but intoxicating liquors of which we had asked the prohibition. One-half per cent of alcohol makes an alcoholic liquor; but it takes a good deal more than the double of that to make it intoxicating. The voter was directed to pronounce for or against alcoholic beverages. He was further requested to decide whether or no cider might be manufactured. Sweet cider is manufactured. Hard cider makes itself. Is it any wonder that our opponents found a bonanza at this point? Mr. Fisher's explanation was not embodied in the Bill, and the words of the ballot contradicted him, for while cider is not intoxicant for some time, it is alcoholic, under ordinary conditions, in forty-eight hours. The elector had to record himself against the manufacture of cider and the use of all alcoholic liquors, if he was to be counted in favour of national prohibition. One begins to realize the magnitude of the victory as they study out the unnecessary obstacles that had to be surmounted to reach it."

"The season for the campaign," she said, "was bad for the vote—the worst in the year; the polling booth arrangements were not good; the punishments for fraud were inadequate; intimidating was practised; prohibitionists in London were threatened with the boycott in business; and with all this, the wonder was that the majority was so large. By the 'Parliamentary Companion,'" she said, "Sir Wilfrid Laurier had a minority of 40,000 votes in the Dominion."

Mrs. Thornly asked that the mandate of the people be carried out, and prohibition granted, and concluded as follows:—"Now that a census of the people puts to flight the doubt of their desire for such legislation, let us have prohibition, and let the opening act of the coming House be such trenchant action concerning the Klondike as shall reassure the doubters and restore the hearty confidence of three years ago."

There is another pronouncement in the form of a letter which I would like to read, but I must not occupy the time of the House.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Read.

Mr. TAYLOR. I have no doubt that if it had been drawn to the attention of His Excellency, he would have given some such speech as I have mentioned. The letter is from Mr. J. T. Bulmer, of Halifax, and I may say he is one of the leading barristers in that province, a gentleman who contested the constituency of Cumberland with the hon. leader of the Opposition. He wrote

a most scathing letter that appeared in the Ottawa "Citizen" a few days ago, but it is too long to read.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Read.

Mr. TAYLOR. Well, if hon. gentlemen desire it, I will read it.

Mr. Bulmer heads his letter addressed to the "Citizen," with the following:—

"Ah! May God grant me life, and may Jesus pardon me, I will raise a gibbet a hundred yards high, I will take hammer and nails, and I will crucify this Beauharnais called Buonaparte, between this Leray called Saint-Arnaud and this Fialin called Persigny."

Editor Citizen,—The above was used by Victor Hugo in exile as a shout of defiance at the third Napoleon after the infamous December days of 1851, in which he had broken the pledges and by the coup d'état assassinated the French Republic. It is not only a description by the master of the man of the hour, but it is a description of one Frenchman by another, exactly applicable at this moment to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and probably represents the feelings of a hundred thousand voters in Canada. In his letter Sir Wilfrid Laurier has tested his party as an engineer tests a bridge; he has loaded it with infamies; will the party stand it? Even party honesty recoils with a sort of dread anxiety before the outrage on which they are entering, and a leading man of their party in the local legislature said to me yesterday, "This is too bad." Yes, it is too bad, and any one raising the cover a hundred years hence for the purpose of history will smell the stench. It is the most terrible attempt at a thrust backward which Canada has ever received, and the moral obliquity of the act surpasses a hundred fold all the questionable acts committed in the name of politics by both political parties since 1867.

That letter leaves everything in ruins, as complete as though the thunderbolt which rent had been answered by the earthquake which scattered. A party platform, the solemn promise of the leaders, the encouragement and support of the party press, the debates in Parliament, the pledges of hundreds of representatives elected since the adoption of the platform at Ottawa in 1893, all are now repudiated. We are told by the leader of the Liberal party, to-day in power and governing Canada, himself, by twenty-nine per cent of the whole vote of the Dominion, in effect that before we can have a solemn pledge carried out we must have above fifty per cent of the whole vote of the Dominion; in other words, a liquor vote of fifteen per cent shall govern Canada. Surely the impudence of this argument following the repudiation of the platform is only surpassed by the hypocrisy of the party pledge preceding it. The truth is, the party have been playing the game of government as a species of state swindling—a conjuring feat on a large scale, and the Conservative party can say to men like myself, who worked for the Liberal party at the last election, and went up and down the province for months assailing the Conservative party because of the Royal Commission, "What a joke they have played on those idiots." Yes, they have; but I have to remind the men composing the rank and file of the Liberal party in Canada, that there is a scene in Homer where Nemesis appears behind Thersites. National politics with such violations of principle as this is not politics at all—not even the depraved politics of the violent partisan, but a herd of provinces, through their representatives, hunting together for their food.

#### IN A POLITICAL CUL DE SAC.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has led his party into a place of annihilation, and made that terrible choice of a political battlefield without an outlet. To-day 2,000 pulpits, 5,000 societies, 100,000 voters are busy denouncing the Government and its supporters for this base betrayal, while the religious and independent press are sounding the tocsin of a free democracy from one end of Canada to another. Who is to stem this tide? Whose voice will the people hear? Can any one say anything for them, that the death roll will not appear through the whitewash? Never was Sedan more certainly a mortar into which the German army went pounding, then will be the ballot-box a retort for the destruction of the Liberal party. If I knew the day in June, 1893, that the plebiscite was adopted into their platform, and the day that the Dominion elections will be held, I should be able to show that that which was knitted together on those two days came apart the day of the election, that the party which began at the convention under the black flag of a lie, ended at the ballot-box under the white flag of disgrace, that the monstrous fabrication of the convention burst asunder the day of election.

Nothing that the Liberal party can do will from this day forward to election day divert public attention, not if they created for us a fresh Klondike every month, if they made every citizen as wise as Solomon, blameless as St. John and safe as an angel in the courts of Heaven; to vote for such a Government would still be a damnable crime, while its lever of power was the liquor traffic. It is too late to deliberate; the gauntlet is thrown down; we must take it up, as the "Wesleyan" says to-day "through the hundred and twenty constituencies in Canada giving majorities." This letter of the Premier is an infamous and insolent challenge to the democracy of this country, and it is true that for a time it kills us; but happily such deaths as these, like the deaths of the gods, are only for a time. When we are able, through county conventions, held in every county in Canada, by public meetings held in every centre of population and schoolhouse in the land, articles in every paper, and sermons and speeches from every pulpit and platform, to rouse the country as it never was before, then our masters at Ottawa will begin to see rising in the gloom behind them the enormous head of the people. Let us get ready for 1900 by giving the world an exhibition of a country "where the citizen is always the head and ideal, where outside authority enters always after the precedence of inside authority, where the populace rises at once against the never ending audacity and insolence of elected persons." My only object in writing this letter is to rally into one unique thought the courage of the country. On the body of Charpentier, who perished at the barricade at the Petit Carrew, in Paris, was found a note book with a single line, "Admonet et magna testatur voce per umbras." In that spirit I write this letter.

J. T. BULMER.

Halifax, 15th March.

But His Excellency would have gone on and said:

And, notwithstanding the pledge of my First Minister to temperance deputations, I, Lord Minto, Governor General of Canada, think it best that my responsible advisers should break their pledges, as I don't think they will lose many votes by so doing, as most of the leading temperance workers who are Grits will not mind it.

If a paragraph like this, dealing with this question, had been put in the Address for His Excellency to read, it would have been honest and truthful, but this Government do not understand the first principles of either.

The next paragraph in the Address says that the mother country and the British possessions have adopted a penny postage. We, in this country, thought it was "I, William Mulock," who made us a Christmas present of that postage. But now we find by the Speech of His Excellency, that it was due entirely to the conference called by the mother country with her possessions that penny postage was procured. Then, on New Year's Day another gift was made us, notwithstanding that the Postmaster General had stated in a speech, a few days before, that although an Act was passed, the revenues of the country would suffer to the extent of \$800,000, and he could not see his way clear to enforce the Act calling for a two-cent domestic rate. But on New Year's Day, seeing the position that he had placed himself in by his blunder, he issued another proclamation, calling into effect a two-cent domestic postage. The next paragraph in the Address deals with the Yukon country, and I think the hon. gentlemen opposite ought to have put into the hands of His Excellency a paragraph on this subject reading as follows:—

The people of Canada are deeply grateful to the Senate of Canada for at its last session having prevented my Government from giving all the gold lands in that country to Messrs. McKenzie & Mann, the friends of my advisers, for the building of 150 miles of tramway, which my Ministers said, if it was not done starvation would come to a lot of Her Majesty's subjects who had gone in there in search of the gold to be found there, and to prevent the Americans from wresting that country from us. Owing to the action of the Senate, this land, and all this gold has been preserved to the country, a railway is being built, not costing Canada a dollar. The country is full of provisions for man and beast, and there is no danger of the United States, Russia or any other country putting a finger on Canada while England stands behind her.

The next clause in the Address informs us that a better arrangement of the electoral districts throughout the Dominion will be made during the present session. Why not call a spade a spade? The hon. gentlemen, preparing that paragraph in the Address, ought to have made it read as follows:—

That my Government, when in opposition, always charged the Conservative Government, as the constitution provides for after each census, re-arranging the representation by population, with having gerrymandered the constituencies; and notwithstanding the fact that my Government attained power in 1896, with the constituencies as at present formed, and notwithstanding the fact that it is unconstitutional to interfere with them until after the next census in 1901, my Government have so mismanaged affairs, broken all their pledges, increased the na-

tional debt, increased the expenditure, increased taxation, that they are afraid to again face the electors with the constituencies as at present formed, but hope by legislation to so gerrymander them as to give the Conservatives and again snatch a verdict, assisted by a large campaign fund secured from the Standard Oil Company and other corporations for favours granted.

Had a paragraph like that been put into the Address, I think three-fourths of the electors of this country would have said: That is right; that is proper. The Yukon country has been saved to us by the action of the Senate, and nobody has been killed out there, and no British subject has starved to-death. The Government wanted to give for this 150 miles of tramway all the gold lands in that country, which have been estimated by the Minister of the Interior since at \$10 per acre, and he was giving nearly four million acres of land. Multiply that by \$10, and you will see what this Government were prepared to give to Mackenzie & Mann, to put in the pockets of friends of one of the gentlemen who sits on the Treasury benches. This, Mr. Speaker, is all the Address contained, except that stereotyped paragraph that is always put in, stating that the Estimates will be laid before the House of Commons, and that they will be prepared this year by the Minister of Public Works, giving us lots of money to spend next year. I propose now drawing the attention of the House to a few things that I think the Address ought to have contained, as thus far I have criticised what the Address did contain. I think the people of this country expected that, upon the arrival of a new Governor General, he would have delivered an Address dealing with some of the questions that now agitate the minds of the people of this country. There should have been a paragraph in the Address to this effect: My Advisers, when in opposition, stated that when they attained to power, they would reduce the number of Cabinet Ministers in this country. Have they done so? They have increased them by two. At confederation it was arranged that Ontario, having the largest population, should have the largest representation in the Cabinet. That has been lived up to by all Governments. Liberal and Conservatives, from confederation up to the time this Government obtained power. They came in on a pledge that they would reduce the number of Cabinet Ministers. When they got in, the Prime Minister of this country—or was it the hon. gentleman sitting behind him, who is the boss of the machine—said: No, we cannot reduce the number; we must increase it by two. We must put in two from the province of Quebec, so that Quebec shall have seven and Ontario five. That is the number of members of the Government. The Solicitor General has not a seat in the Cabinet, but he is a member of the Government all the same, and we have seven members from Quebec and five from

Ontario. Then, Sir, how does the province of Ontario stand with regard to the control of the great spending departments of the Government? Ontario has two tax collectors, the Minister of Customs and the Postmaster General. Ontario has also the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), who when he sat on this side of the House said there was no use for a portfolio of Trade and Commerce, and promised us that when the Liberals got in he would be Minister of Finance. But the boss of the machine would not allow a man of the stubborn will of Sir Richard Cartwright to handle the cash of the country. There was a little kicking of course, but the boss said: Oh, we will quiet him; we will take his boy from Kingston, we will lift him over the heads of all the militia officers at Ottawa and plant him there, and we will give him the portfolio of Trade and Commerce, and he will be satisfied.

My Ministers pledged themselves when in opposition, that when they obtained power they would abolish the superannuation business which they charged the Conservative Government with having abused. But, Sir, what do we find? On the 1st of July, 1896, when the Reform party came into power the amount paid for superannuation was \$288,235.42 per annum. Now, after two years of their Government, on the 1st of July, 1898, according to the Public Accounts the amount paid for superannuation was \$340,185, or an increase in two years of their rule, amounting to \$51,950.25. From 1870 to 1896 the annual increase in the superannuation fund amounted to \$10,675.70, and from 1896 to 1898 it amounted to over \$25,000 a year under Liberal rule as compared with \$10,000 per year under the Conservative Administration. That is the way my Ministers have abused the Superannuation Act. Let me take one case out of very many in which this Government abused the Superannuation Act, and I will refer to the city of Kingston from which my hon. friend (Mr. Britton) comes. We find in the Public Accounts, that Mr. Shannon, the late postmaster of Kingston, was superannuated and the reason given by these Ministers to His Excellency, in order to get him to sign the Order in Council was "advanced age," Mr. Shannon being 68 years of age. Mr. Shannon was superannuated and is at this moment drawing \$1,400 or \$1,500 a year, out of the hard-earned moneys of the people, in order that this Government might appoint as his successor, Mr. Gunn, who was two years older than Mr. Shannon. You cannot go around the streets of Ottawa without stumbling up against several young men thirty or forty years old who have been superannuated and are drawing annually a large allowance. Take the case of the late Deputy Postmaster General, Col. White, one of the ablest officers in this or any other Government. He is as able and as active a man as any member of the Government today, but he is drawing a pension of \$2,400

a year in order that the Government might make room for a henchman of the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), a man who knew nothing of post office affairs. That is the way this Government has abused the superannuation system which they were pledged to abolish.

My Ministers pledged themselves when they attained power that no member of Parliament would be elected to office during the term of the Parliament for which he was elected and until one year afterwards; and the Postmaster General introduced a Bill to that effect. Have these hon. gentlemen opposite carried out that pledge? They charged the Conservative party that they had men supporting them in the House with promises of place in their pockets, and they pledged themselves that that would be stopped when they got into power. What is the first thing that my Ministers have done? They first put away Mr. Devlin, a gentleman who sat in this House, one of the brightest minds in the House, a man who should have been taken into the Cabinet and who claimed a Cabinet position as a representative Irishman of Canada. The boss of the party would not have him. Mr. Devlin had to be quieted. He was going to speak against this Government, they had to buy him up and they appointed him an immigration agent and sent him over to Ireland at a large annual expense to the revenue of this country. Devlin claimed that he should be taken into the Government as the representative of the Irish people of this country, and so he should. I claim, Sir, for my part, that the Irish Roman Catholics of Canada have a grievance against this Government, for not giving them a representative in the Cabinet. They had an able man in Mr. Devlin, but the boss would not allow a man with Devlin's abilities to be in the Cabinet, and so they went over to the Senate and they took an old fossil from there and put him into the Cabinet as the representative of the Irish people. Well, he happens to be a Catholic, but at the same time he happens to be a Scotchman. Our friend Béchard had to be transferred from the House to the Senate, in order to make room for a Cabinet Minister, and my friend Dr. Fiset had to be transferred over there also. As to our friend Langelier, from Quebec, what became of him?

Mr. CASGRAIN. He kicked.

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, he was a kicker here and would not vote sometimes. He had in his pocket a letter from the Prime Minister of this country promising him office. Langelier was one of the men who had a right to a place in the Cabinet, but the boss of the machine would not allow a man like Langelier in. Then the Prime Minister sent Mr. Langelier a letter in which he said: I am sorry we cannot find a place for you in the Cabinet, but the Governorship of the province of Quebec is becoming vacant and

we will give you that, or failing that I will give you a judgeship ; stay quiet for a while.

Mr. W. H. BENNETT (East Simcoe). Was it in writing ?

Mr. TAYLOR. It was in writing and Mr. Langelier sat in this House with that letter in his pocket for a session, or more than a session. The time came when the term of Mr. Chapleau as Governor of Quebec expired. The boss thought Chapleau would be a dangerous man to let loose on the country, and it was rumoured that he was going to get a second term as Lieutenant-Governor in order to keep him tied up. Langelier heard this and he went to the Prime Minister and demanded his pound of flesh and he published the letter and so he had to be quieted, and he was elevated to a seat on the bench.

Mr. T. C. CASGRAIN (Montmorency). He makes a good judge, though.

Mr. TAYLOR. I believe he does, but he would make a better Cabinet Minister than many of the hon. gentlemen who are in that position to-day. Mr. Lavergne, the law partner of the Prime Minister, had to be provided for, and he was elevated to the bench, and a good judge he makes, but it was a flagrant violation of the pledge which the Liberals gave to the people of this country. The late Mr. M. C. Cameron was another kicker. He should have been in the Government also, but the boss would not allow him there, as he wanted men he could control, and so they sent Mr. Cameron out to the North-west as Lieutenant-Governor. Another by-election had to be brought on there. My hon. friend the late member for West Lambton—"fighting Jim," as we used to call him—was elevated to the bench because he was a kicker. He ought to have been in this Government, but they made a judge of him.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Come down to Choquette.

Mr. TAYLOR. I cannot say of Choquette what I said of my friends Lavergne and Langelier, because he was chairman of the Debates Committee, and we saw last session how he would weigh evidence. There he is on the bench, and we will say nothing disrespectful of the bench. Forbes, who was a member from Nova Scotia, had to resign to make place for the hon. Minister of Finance, and King was transferred to the Senate to make room for the Minister of Railways and Canals. These hon. gentlemen have been breaking their pledges and spending \$40,000 or \$50,000 of the people's money holding elections.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louls Davies). And winning them.

Mr. TAYLOR. You had them won before, but you broke your pledges, and did ten times worse than any Conservative Government has ever done in making such ap-

Mr. TAYLOR.

pointments. The Ministers have the brazen-facedness now to come forward, as the Postmaster General did the other day in Ottawa, when speaking at a public meeting he said, "We redeemed every pledge we made to the people of this country, except changing the Senate." They do not deny it ; they claim that they have redeemed their pledges ; but the people of this country know that they have not.

Have they abolished the National Policy ? My hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace) to-day gave figures that are invaluable to the people of this country, showing what they had done ; and I have in my hand a copy of the tariff, and I could show that in page after page of it no change has been made. There are only a few changes in the tariff from beginning to end. They have made a different classification, putting an item that was paying 30 per cent in a different classification where it is paying 35 per cent. This is what they call changing the tariff ; but they have not reduced the taxation one-half of 1 per cent in all the changes they have made. The hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries both got up in their places in Parliament and pledged this House that no civil servant would be dismissed without first having a fair trial ; but what happened in my own county during the last summer ? Mr. John R. Dargavel, one of the ablest men in that part of the country, a merchant of standing, whom Liberals as well as Conservatives respected, got a notice from the Postmaster General stating, "You are dismissed." That is all he knew about it, and the position was handed over to Mr. Brown, an offensive partisan. There was no trial or investigation—nothing but the notice. My friend Mr. Singleton, postmaster at Delta, was similarly dealt with. I have a copy of the notice that was sent to him, telling him that the post office was to be handed over to a Reform politician, and there was no investigation in his case either. Yet these gentlemen had the pledges of hon. gentlemen opposite, made in Parliament and recorded in "Hansard," that they would not be dismissed without a fair investigation. They dismissed a good many other men in the same way. In the North-west they dismissed men to make places for Mr. Lépine and Mr. Nolan, a gentleman who took part in the rebellion there, and was convicted and sent to prison.

These hon. gentlemen said that they would show good results in the operation of the Intercolonial Railway, which they charged had been run by the late Government in the interest of the Conservative party ; but what is the record ? My hon. friend the former Minister of Railways and Canals, in the last year of his management, showed a surplus in the operation of the Intercolonial Railway of \$56,000. How is it to-day ? Under the present Minister of Railways there was a deficit in his first year of \$59,940, and last year a deficit of \$139,978, according to

the public accounts. This is how they redeem their pledges. They promised to handle the railway in a business-like manner and make it pay. They pledged themselves to put coal oil on the free list. My hon. friend from West Assinibola (Mr. Davin) will, I am sure, deal with that question. They have reduced the duty from 6 cents to 5 cents. I made a statement in this House two or three years ago, I think in the first session of this Parliament, that I had received information that hon. gentlemen opposite had received a contribution of \$100,000 from the Standard Oil Company on condition that if they obtained power they would grant them concessions. I made that statement, it has never been contradicted in this House, and we have evidence to-day that the statement I made is true. They have got the legislation, more than \$100,000 worth—by granting tank vessels—deny it to-day if you can. Then, they talked a great deal about our late lamented leader Sir John Macdonald and his successors having a private car to ride about in. It is true Sir John had a private car. I would like to inquire how many the present Government have, because I read in the papers daily about the Minister of Railways going in his private car and the Minister of Public Works going in his. I think they have four private cars to-day. I just want to read a clipping from an American paper :

There was tremendous excitement in Washington the other day. A special train steamed into the station with a gorgeous palace car attached. The baggage was speedily unloaded and forwarded to the Shoreham. A large entourage of secretaries and officials disembarked and meekly awaited the great man who was soon to follow. Immense crowds gathered around the palace car to catch a glimpse of the celebrity, whoever he might be. A little man with a nervous twitch in his neck and a closely trimmed beard finally emerged and bowed to the assembled citizens. "Who is he?" asked the people, supposing that they had captured one of the crowned heads of Europe. It was Tarte, who had taken it into his head to run down and share in the spree part of the performance.

But they are not satisfied with private cars. The hon. Minister of Public Works wanted to go on a tour of inspection down around the lower provinces, and down to the Island of Anticosti, and he had a steamer fitted up in first-class style.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Belonging to the Connollys, too.

Mr. TAYLOR. No, the steamer was owned by the Government, I believe. He had a crew all newly dressed to dance attendance on him while he was going on this tour of inspection. He went down to the Island of Anticosti. I do not know that we own that island or want to make any improvements there, but I saw an interview, shortly after he returned to Anticosti, in which he said that no doubt this Government would have to confirm Mr. Menier in his title to that

island. It was just a few days after my hon. friend's interview that I read in one of the Quebec papers how a colony of Methodists, which had settled on that island some twenty-five years ago, came all the way to Quebec in an open boat and put their case before the Quebec Government. They said that they were going to be driven off that island. This deputation came to Quebec immediately after the visit of the Minister of Public Works. I have seen it stated that the Government of England have drawn the attention of the Government of this country to the present condition of the Island of Anticosti, and have represented that that island, which is down in the mouth of the St. Lawrence, cannot be owned by any person paying allegiance to a foreign country. I do not know if that be true or not, but I am going to give notice of a motion to have the correspondence laid on the Table so that we may know exactly how the matter stands. But the fact is undoubted that Mr. Menier claims to own the island. The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) said that this Government would have to confirm him in his title, and that these people whom I have mentioned would have to be removed, but they have not been moved away as yet. After the hon. gentleman came back from that trip, he made some speeches in the city of Montreal. There is a club in that city called Le Club Geoffrion, which is no doubt the club of the hon. member for Verchères and Chambly (Mr. Geoffrion). At a meeting of that club, the Minister of Public Works made a speech in which he said :

I knew Sir John Macdonald intimately, and I am prepared to say that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is a greater and more distinguished statesman than he.

That is what he said to the Geoffrion Club, but let me read now what he said of the same Sir Wilfrid Laurier a few years ago. He said :

Under a veneer of polish, he is mediocrity itself, and will never be true to principle, for that he does not possess.

Mr. M. J. F. QUINN (St. Ann's, Montreal). Who said that ?

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. Minister of Public Works said that of the right hon. Prime Minister three or four years ago. To-day, however, he says that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is a greater statesman than the late Sir John Macdonald ever was.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). You are mistaken in the date.

Mr. TAYLOR. But at this meeting of the Club Geoffrion, to which I have referred, Mr. Rodier said that Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speech at the Monument National did not cover some important question, and that Mr. Tarte should have talked politics instead of trying to lead the people to believe that he had the right to display the French flag in this country. What did the hon. Minister say in reply ? He said :

It has been made a crime on my part in certain quarters that I floated the French flag on my yacht.

Not the Government yacht.

—on my tour of inspection. Well, I did so, and I shall go out of the Government when I have not the liberty to float the dear old French flag. There is one of Her Majesty's Ministers travelling about on a boat owned by Her Majesty, ordering the crew to pull down the Union Jack and hoist the flag of France when going around the Island of Anticosti, and when brought to book for his conduct by his own people, he says in the face of the Prime Minister :

I shall leave this Government when I have not the liberty to float the dear French flag on my yacht—

If the hon. Minister of Public Works, who is receiving the pay of this country, owned a yacht of his own and went on his vacation, as every civil servant does, for a couple of weeks, and not for six months as he did, nobody would care whether he hoisted the French or the Yankee or any other flag on his own boat. But as he represented the Queen and Her Majesty's Government, he had no right to order Her flag to be hauled down and the flag of France to be hoisted in its stead.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I can tell the hon. gentleman that he is altogether mistaken. If he would be kind enough to quote all I said, he will find out that I said this, which I am prepared to repeat in the House, that being on a tour of inspection, I raised, where there were French groups, the French flag, while at the same time I had the English flag flying from the other mast of the boat. If in that I did anything wrong, I wish him to say so.

Mr. TAYLOR. I have quoted from "La Patrie." the hon. gentleman's own organ.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The hon. gentleman is altogether mistaken. He did not quote from "La Patrie."

Mr. TAYLOR. I have the floor, Mr. Speaker, I quote from his own paper "La Patrie."

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I say no.

Mr. TAYLOR. "La Patrie" has published what I am saying now—nothing more nor less.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I say no.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I have the floor. At the meeting of this Liberal club in Montreal East, the hon. gentleman said on Thursday night, as reported in "La Patrie."

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. No.

Mr. TAYLOR.

An hon. MEMBER. What is the date ?

Mr. TAYLOR. January 4th. He said :

I knew Sir John Macdonald intimately, and am prepared to say that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was a greater and more liberal statesman. I am devoted to the improvement of the harbours of Montreal. We shall spend millions on that harbour. In a couple of months the plans will be ready, and during the approaching session shall demand—

He does not say that he will come and ask Parliament, but that he will demand—

—the money necessary to make Montreal a rival of the ports of the great American cities.

He then said :

It has been made a crime on my part in certain quarters that I floated the French flag on my yacht when on my tour of inspection. Well, I did so, and I shall go out of the Government when I have not the liberty to float the dear flag of France.

Now he says that the Union Jack was floated at one end of the boat and the French flag at the other. That is the case. The French flag was floated from the mast, and the Union Jack from the stern of the boat.

An hon. MEMBER. That is the proper place.

Mr. TAYLOR. No, it is not. The mast head is the proper place. Then the right hon. Prime Minister told us, in the Speech from the Throne last year, that the Manitoba School question is settled. I want to show him what another member of his Government said the other day, and I do not know how these two men can remain in the Government when the one makes an important public statement contradicting that made by the other. The hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) up in Guelph the other day said, as reported :

The hon. gentleman also touched upon the Manitoba school question again, which, he said, though not settled entirely, is in a more satisfactory state than when the Reform party assumed power.

Mr. QUINN. Who said that ?

Mr. TAYLOR. The Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick). He there said that the school question is not settled, but the Prime Minister says it is. Whom are we to believe ?

There is one more matter to which I wish to refer. In Ontario we have laws—I am sorry the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) is not in the House—different from those in the province of Quebec, where the right hon. Prime Minister lives, which compel the youth of that province to hold sacred the Sabbath from 12 o'clock Saturday until 12 o'clock Sunday night. What sort of reading matter will the youth of that province have to read when they find reported in the newspapers the conduct of the First Minister—a gentleman who ought to have some respect for the religious beliefs

of others who consider the holding of a political meeting on Sunday a violation of the Sabbath—who, when down at Washington, had not time to call his Ministers to his side or come to visit them in this city, but called them to meet him at New York, and on the Sabbath day discussed with them political questions. They arrived there on Saturday at noon, they took carriages and went about to see the sights of the city, and on Sunday afternoon they held a Cabinet meeting in the city of New York. This is a lesson for the youth of this country surely. If a father corrects his boy for breaking the Sabbath, how does he know but that the boy will point to the fact as published in the papers that the Government holds Cabinet meetings on Sunday.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.  
Oh, oh.

Mr. TAYLOR. It may be all right in the province of Quebec, but we don't think it is all right in Ontario. Here is what the papers say, with great headlines:

SUNDAY CABINET COUNCIL—CANADIAN  
MINISTERS TALK OVER AFFAIRS OF  
STATE AT THE WALDORF-  
ASTORIA, NEW YORK.

New York, November 6.

The Canadian Cabinet held a session in this city on Sunday, at which official business of the Dominion was discussed. Sir Wilfrid Laurier presided, and almost the entire Ministry were present.

I think that credit is due to the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), who was a member of that commission, that his name did not figure among those who attended this Sunday meeting, after having, in this House, year after year, introduced the Bill to compel better observance of the Sabbath. The paper I quote is the Montreal "Star." It is a good paper—

Mr. T. O. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). Oh, oh.

Mr. TAYLOR. Will the hon. gentleman deny? Will he say that what this paper states is not true? The hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), in West Huron, when I quoted from the "Star," said I was quoting from a Tory paper. I would ask the Prime Minister or his colleagues to deny, if they can, that they went to New York, and on Sunday held a Cabinet Council there.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I have no hesitation in saying that there was no Cabinet meeting in New York.

Mr. TAYLOR. The Ministers went to New York, arriving there on Saturday and remaining over Sunday. The meeting they held there may not have been technically a Cabinet meeting, but it was a meeting to discuss the affairs that were under consideration at Washington.

Now, in conclusion, I will give my view of the record of this Government since they obtained power. They offered to give to friends of the Ministers 3,700,000 acres of gold lands for 150 miles of tramway; they have spent \$12,000,000 more of the people's money than did their predecessors in the same period; they have increased our national debt by \$7,000,000; they have increased the taxation by \$2,000,000; they have increased the duty on sugar and tobacco; they are allowing the poor man a lower rate of interest on his savings; owing to their policy, some of the manufacturers of this country have had to reduce the poor man's wages 10 per cent in order to hold the market; they have let contracts innumerable without tender. I have a question on the paper, to which I expect an answer in a few days, and I intend, at a later stage, to point to the contracts given without tender—one to my friend McGillicuddy, of Goderich—

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.  
Given under tender.

Mr. TAYLOR. Not public tender.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.  
Given under public tender, and the lowest tender accepted.

Mr. TAYLOR. This Government has given orders by the wholesale for the Toronto "Globe"; they have already made a confession in Parliament that the Drummond County Railway arrangement involved a loss of half a million dollars; they have given dredging jobs without competition to relatives of the Ministers—my hon. friend (Mr. Tarte) will not deny that—and these men draw profit, and do not do the work; and they attempted to raid the Manitoba school funds to distribute among their friends. These and other things of the kind constitute what they call redemption of their pledges; these acts and such as these, they say, brought prosperity to the country, and these things, they say, are the redemption of the pledges that they gave to the people. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and hon. members of the House for the attention with which you have heard me.

Mr. LEMIEUX (Gaspé). It is always with a deep emotion that I rise from my seat to address you, Mr. Speaker, in your own maternal language. Never have I been impressed more strongly than to-day with the obligation which is devolving upon me, as a French-Canadian member—that of speaking, if not classically, at least fluently, the English language—in order to take an efficient part in the debates of this House. Arduous as may be the task, I, for one, will accept it cheerfully, relying, as I do, upon the unvarying courtesy and indulgence of my fellow-members. Besides, I may add, that I am a believer in the law of compensations.

Every generous effort of the human mind brings its reward. Eloquence is indeed less captivating when foreign words and accents are its vehicle, but is it not more argumentative and more logical? Is not the thought clearer, the power of reasoning sounder, when one's imagination is, so to say, checked and bridled?

Before discussing any of the public questions which have been raised during this debate, I wish to state that my mind is not so biassed by party prejudices that I cannot express an honest, impartial opinion, without fear or favour. I am a Liberal, and I was elected as such in 1896. English Liberalism has always impressed me as being, above all other political creeds, consistent with our modern ideas of reform and progress. To use the language of Macaulay, I believe in that

Class of men sanguine in hope, bold in speculation, always pressing forward, quick to discern the imperfections of whatever exists, disposed to think lightly of the risks and inconveniences which attend improvements, and disposed to give every change credit for being an improvement.

Yet, Sir, Liberal as I am, I wish to rise into loftier spheres and speak in the course of this debate, not as a partisan, but as a Canadian. I claim, Mr. Speaker, that we can well afford to cease our party strifes, with all their bitterness, and take equal pride in the achievements of Canada.

Looking backwards over the three decades which have elapsed since confederation, I cannot refrain from saying, that the last thirty years have been years of progress on national and commercial lines.

The problem of self-government, which was declared impracticable in 1867, has been solved long ago. Religious and racial quarrels—thank God—have been obliterated and shall no longer arouse the passions of the electorate. This ordeal has of itself been a process of self-development—the greater the obstacles, the greater the gain in mastering them. The material progress of this country has been no less astonishing. The total volume of trade has increased from \$131,000,000 in 1867 to \$257,000,000 in 1897. The wheat fields yielded of late as much as 60,000,000 bushels; the mineral products aggregated in 1897 nearly thirty millions. Twenty millions are received annually from the fisheries, both sea-coast and inland. Fifty millions worth of agricultural products are now exported, and our forest wealth is becoming more and more invaluable. Moreover, when we come to realize that the people of this country have nearly fifty millions deposited in savings banks, and one hundred and ninety-three millions in chartered banks; that life assurance companies have four hundred and sixty millions of insurance in force, and that our railway companies have a capital of nearly one billion—should we not be proud of our standing, and should we despair of the future

Mr. LEMIEUX.

of this country? Mr. Speaker, if we were to believe the sad predictions made by some of my hon. friends opposite, this country of ours would soon be on the verge of ruin and desolation, if the present Reform Government remains in power for any longer period of time. I am, Sir, a student of English history, and from what I can gather in my readings, I can lay down as a principle, that Toryism in Great Britain or in Canada, nowadays or fifty years ago, bear a striking resemblance. It has been said that a Tory believes first in himself, that it is also part of his creed to believe that the good things of the world are made for a few, and that, of course, he is amongst the few, that his intense anger and distrust are excited if others, not of his own party, control national affairs. Taking as granted, Mr. Speaker, for the sake of argument, that the Tory party rules by divine right, is the situation, after three years of Liberal government so desperate? Is the outlook so gloomy, the prospects so discouraging? I beg to answer this question with a few facts and figures. Unless prosperity is a symptom of decay, I fail to see how the sinister predictions of my hon. friends will realize. We have before us the statistics of the last fiscal year, and I claim that we have concluded in June last a year unparalleled as yet in Canadian trade. Our exports aggregated \$158,726,801, and our imports entered for consumption, \$130,630,195, a total of \$289,356,996. This total, Mr. Speaker is \$44,059,852 greater than the figures for the previous year. The aggregate trade is a round fifty million dollars greater than in 1896, and is the greatest record in our history.

I find, also, that the financial operations of the Government for the year 1897-98 have resulted in a surplus of \$1,575,881, a cheering result indeed. Who knows better than the hon. leader of the Opposition that for years and years back there had been an uninterrupted succession of deficits. A deficit of \$1,210,333 in 1894; of \$4,153,876 in 1895; of \$330,551 in 1896, and of \$519,000 in 1897. During the electoral campaign of 1896 we were told by the Conservative press and on the platform that the accession of the Liberal party to power would mean the closing of the manufactures and would be a death-blow to the industries of Canada. Well, Sir, the Liberal policy has been given full sway during two years, and I claim that never before has there been such a wave of prosperity in the manufacturing districts, and this result has been reached in spite of a tangible reduction in the duties. In 1896 the exports from our manufactures amounted to \$9,365,384. In 1898 the exports from the same source reached \$10,639,227, an increase of \$1,273,843. Not only did our manufacturers face pluckily the reductions contained in the new tariff, but they competed advantageously with foreign industries on foreign markets. I can also point to an-

other strong indication of our steady commercial improvement: It is the record of failures as compared with previous years. The total number of failures in the Dominion in 1898, as reported by Bradstreet, number 1,427, against 1,907 a year ago, while the liabilities involved aggregate only \$9,644,000 this year, indicating a decrease of 24 per cent in number and 35 per cent in liabilities. I say that this decrease is gratifying, because the proportion of Canada's business failures last year to the whole number engaged in business was smaller than in any other year of her existence.

Every painting, Mr. Speaker, has its lights and its shades. In their description of the affairs of this country under the present Government, my hon. friends opposite have completely forgotten the light, but in return they have not spared the shades. I appeal to their artistical sense, and I beg them to give the last finish to their picture by adding a few rays, a few streaks of light. Surely, Sir, there still remain some bright colours on the pallet of my hon. friend from Beauharnois. Fair criticism, eloquently uttered, is indeed very attractive, but who will deny that the foundation of all that can be called eloquence is good sense, solid thought, and above all, veracity? Anything else is vain and declamatory. This is why, Mr. Speaker, the advice of Quintilian cannot be too often remembered even to the classical minds of the hon. gentlemen. 'Cura sit verborum; sollicitudo rerum.' "To your expression be attentive; but about your arguments be solicitous." Far from being at all gloomy, the prospects of this country have never been so brilliant, and with its record the Government is exceptionally strong in public confidence and esteem, and deservedly so. Let us not forget that under the constitution this confidence of the people is the luminary which shines in the darkness of political disputation. It is by its guiding light alone that the statesman can proceed. Beyond it all is vagueness, uncertainty and confusion. For lack of this unerring beacon light the great leader of the Conservative party drifted, in June, 1896, headlong, like an unskilled helmsman on the shoals of the Opposition.

I venture to say, Mr. Speaker, that the Government could appeal to-morrow to the electorate, and that their lease of power would be renewed, because every measure, every project that has been undertaken, has been carried out with energy and ability. I have read somewhere that gratitude is traced in sand, and ingratitude is engraved on brass. True as this saying may be, it will not apply to the electors of this country when, at a future date, they will be called upon to pronounce a judgment upon the respective policies of both parties. They will not forget that the ties which bind the Dominion to the Empire have been strengthened by a special change in our tariff, beneficial to both countries; that a wise and prudent tariff reform has afforded abundant relief to

the taxpayers. They will call to mind that a costly and unjust Franchise Act has been repealed, thus reducing an unnecessary expenditure, putting an end to electoral frauds, and sanctioning the principle of provincial autonomy in the preparation of electoral lists; that the Intercolonial Railway has been extended westward to Montreal with a view to putting it on a fair basis for competition; that the Crow's Nest Pass Railway is nearly completed under an agreement which assures running powers to competing lines, low freight rates, cheap fuel for the rich mining districts of British Columbia; that the deepening of our canals will soon be completed, thus making of our inland navigation the natural outlet of the immense wheat production of the western prairies, and solving the cheap transportation problem in this country.

They will remember that the penny postage has become an accomplished fact; thus binding the British Empire closer together. Again, they will remember that there has been for the last three years an influx of population such as will materially alter the figures of the next census returns; that the exodus of Canadians is a thing of the past; that an immensely rich heritage has been added to our Dominion by the gold discoveries in the Yukon basin; that this Government has carried on our public affairs without being assailed with specific charges of corruption and electoral debauchery which in the past had made of Canada a by-word and a reproach. Nay, more, they will not overlook the fact that the Liberal party has upheld a principle which is the corner-stone of British freedom, and the very essence and stability of the whole Imperial fabric—that Government is by the people, that it should aid in securing the greatest good to the greatest number; that there are no privileged classes, and that, above all, there is equality before the law. Mr. Speaker, the Government will not only secure the support of one province, but they will obtain that of all the provinces. There will be, as far as they are concerned, one platform and one issue.

It was stated after the election held lately in the county of Bagot, a county gallantly redeemed from our opponents for the first time since confederation, that the electors were asked to vote for the Liberal candidate because of the religion and nationality of its leader. As I took part in that contest, I wish to emphatically deny that such sentiments were ever uttered. We, in Quebec, may have our short-comings, but as the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) knows well, narrow-minded chauvinism is not one of them. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bergeron) knows that we belong to a race which for countries, and rightly so, has been looked upon as knight-errant of all that is chivalrous in mankind. Such appeals would be scorned as an insult to the intelligence of the electors of Quebec, who, throughout the whole constitutional history of Canada, from its inception, have given abundant proof of

their knowledge of public affairs and their competency to weigh them in the scales of common sense, and not those of prejudice. The mother province of confederation can confidently appeal to those of its representatives who are English-speaking, and who profess a creed foreign to that of the majority, to testify to her broad-mindedness, and to her unbiassed and unprejudiced conduct in public affairs. And what better evidence, Mr. Speaker, if such were needed, than her faithful support of such men as Sir John A. Macdonald, Alexander Mackenzie, Edward Blake, Luther Holton and Henri Joly de Lotbinière. On the other hand, Sir, we would not be true to ourselves if we had not the pride of our origin. Let us remember that each race has its peculiar temperament and tastes, which must not be overlooked in making up our judgment. That my native province is proud of the noble leader whose gifted speech has chained and fascinated not only his own countrymen, but also the cold and immobile Saxons themselves; that we admire the orator, who in 1896, when the national heart was heaving with anxiety, could control its pulsations and direct its energies, I readily confess. We admire in our homes, not only the orator, not only the statesman, but also the citizen, with his temper, generous, placable; with his genial courtesy, which has its seat in the heart and of which artificial politeness is only a faint and cold imitation. If this is a crime, Sir, from my seat in Parliament I plead guilty for the whole province of Quebec. Far from arousing passions or fomenting narrow ideas in our province, the name of the Prime Minister is synonymous of conciliation, of tolerance and of Canadianism, in the broadest sense of the word. His speeches and his acts as well, breathe that independent, tolerant and liberal spirit which pervades the whole French population. More than any other statesman of his time he has shaped public opinion in such a mould as to cause, by his uncompromising loyalty, the British institutions to be loved and cherished amongst his countrymen.

But, Sir, we are told that this Parliament will soon be dissolved and that the great issue fought between the two parties will be the proposed Senate reform. In a very recent interview, the hon. the leader of the Opposition stigmatized this proposed reform as being a destructive legislation and a bold attempt to break up the confederation of British North America. He concluded his interview by the following appeal:—

I call upon the loyal defenders of British interests in Canada, I call upon every man who is unwilling to be branded with bad faith to that great confederation that has made us what we are, to stand shoulder to shoulder, irrespective of party and politics, and repel this dastardly attempt to destroy the most important institutions of our country, just as in 1891 they stood shoulder to shoulder to repel the adoption of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States and discrimination against Great Britain.

Mr. LEMIEUX.

This impassioned appeal made by such an eminent gentleman as the hon. the leader of the Opposition would, I am sure, resound in this country; it would undoubtedly stir British hearts all over the Dominion—if, fortunately for us, we did not find on the British soil other statesmen of at least an equal standing as his, completely at variance, and differing 'toto cælo' with the views expressed by the hon. gentleman.

Was there ever, under the sun, Mr. Speaker, a better Englishman than the late John Bright? Was he not a patriot whose name is, and will be revered as long as a true Briton exists? Was he not at all times during his long parliamentary career a staunch friend of British institutions at home and abroad? Yet, Sir, if we were to accept the pessimistic views of the hon. the leader of the Opposition, John Bright, yes, John Bright himself, would have been a traitor. Speaking in the British House of Commons on February 28th, 1867, on the measure to effect Canadian confederation, John Bright, referring to the clause of the British North America Act concerning the Senate, expressed himself as follows:—

I have not the smallest objection to any people on the face of the earth following our institutions if they like them. Institutions which suit one country, as we all know, are not very likely to suit every other country.

And further—

I venture to say that the clause enabling the Governor General and his Cabinet to put seventy men in that council for life, inserts into the whole scheme the germ of a malady which will spread, and which before very long will require an alteration of this Act and of the constitution of this new confederation. \* \* \* I regret very much that they have not adopted another system with regard to their council or Senate, because I am satisfied—I have not a particle of doubt with regard to it—that we run a great danger of making this Act work ill almost from the beginning.

I have made this quotation from one of Mr. Bright's speeches, not to use it as an argument in favour of the proposed Senate reform. It will be time enough to discuss this important question when a resolution to that effect is introduced in the House. But it tends to establish how unwarranted are the apprehensions of the hon. gentleman, how exaggerated are his fears as to the future disruption of confederation, and how misguided we would be if we were to listen to his frantic appeals.

Rarely, however, has any abuse been removed without a similar wail. In the eyes of a Tory, a reform is necessarily a step in the wrong direction. Even when he is convinced by overpowering reasons that innovation would be beneficial, he will consent to it with many misgivings, and forebodings (Macaulay). Such was the case when the Reform Bill was passed in England, when Catholic emancipation was effected, when responsible government was

granted to this country, and when slavery was abolished in the neighbouring republic.

But, Sir, whether this Senate reform is accomplished or not, I will not lose faith in my country. There are notions, there are dreams which, as a Canadian, I love to recall.

Looking forward, I see this Dominion, like a young giant, sitting astride the great continent, commanding two oceans, into which his great railways that connect Pacific with Atlantic, pour the ever-increasing wealth that is being gathered from her teeming resources as yet but scarcely developed. It requires no prophet to foretell the dimensions to which our trade must swell with such unlimited capacity of production, of such varied and exhaustless wealth.

True it is, as we are reminded by our friends opposite, that the negotiations between Canada and the great American republic for better trade relations and the settlement of outstanding disputes, have given as yet no tangible result, but, Sir, even if the break was complete between the commissioners of both countries, which I do not admit, I would feel as if the Canadian commissioners had gone all honourable lengths in seeking for a fair basis of settlement, and to quote the words of a leading Canadian daily, "We shall go on our way with a sole regard to our interests, and the interests of the Empire to which we belong, holding always to a scrupulous good faith in all international obligations and relationships, and moving on to what the future may have in store for us, hopeful, serene and unafraid."

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). Mr. Speaker, I have listened with great interest to the remarkable essay which our hon. friend has favoured the House with this evening, and I may say that in much of what fell from his lips I recognize a great deal of profundity of thought. In his disquisition on the differences that existed formerly between the Whig party and the so-called Tory party of England, I recognize much of the fervour of Fox and of the brilliancy of Sheridan. But, Sir, there is one fault, I must immediately indicate, which I find with my hon. friend, and that is that he is so excessively British. He is British, not only to the core, but beyond the core. He confesses himself to be a British Liberal. He tells us—and I took down his words—that thanks to the action of the party to which he belongs, religious and racial quarrels have been completely obliterated, and many other things of that kind. The fact is that in listening to the hon. gentleman I wondered whether he was the same man whom I had met not so long ago on the hustings in the county of Bagot; for on that occasion, Sir, I can tell you and the members of this House, he had not in any degree the Britishism which we find him displaying this evening.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). His speech was not written.

Mr. MONK. On that occasion the hon. gentleman was speaking extempore, and I heard him appeal to the electors of that county and ask them—my hon. friend from Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) was there too—how they could hesitate between voting for a leader who was Catholic and French, and voting for one who was English and Protestant, and much more to the same effect.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I never said it.

Mr. MONK. I am aware, Sir, that in a controversy which arose in the papers since that date, the hon. gentleman denied that he had made such a statement.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I still deny it.

Mr. MONK. But while I am prepared to accept that denial, which the hon. gentleman has made again this evening, nothing has occurred to change the impression which I gathered, standing below him in the crowd, when he made that appeal. The hon. Prime Minister in the House yesterday asked us why we, the paltry few who represent the province of Quebec on this side of the House, were unable to enlighten the people of that province on the real political issues before this House. I will tell the right hon. gentleman that so long as among his followers there are to be found men who in the province of Quebec adopt the system of appeal which the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux) adopted on that occasion, and then come to this House and speak—

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman has denied it, and the hon. member should accept his denial.

Mr. BERGERON. He has not.

Some hon. MEMBERS. He has.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I understand the hon. gentleman to have denied it.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have listened with great attention to the statement of the hon. gentleman, and I desire to know, Mr. Speaker, on what grounds you called my hon. friend to order. In my judgment, he was quite within the bounds of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. No hon. gentleman has the right to discuss the ruling I have just made. A certain charge was made by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) concerning an appeal to prejudice which he declared were made during the Bagot election by the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux). The hon. member for Gaspé has denied that he made such an appeal.

Mr. BERGERON. He has not.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Yes, he has.

Mr. BERGERON. He did not rise in his place and deny it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. member for Gaspé, to my own knowledge, denied that he ever made such a statement, and I think we must accept his denial.

Mr. MONK. I bow, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to your decision at any rate. But on the occasion to which I have referred the hon. gentleman had not committed to writing the statements he made this evening, and I believe that if the hon. gentleman denies having made that statement on a public platform his recollection is not correct, for it was impossible for me, seated right below the platform, to have misunderstood that appeal which had so much significance and was so promptly taken up by the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron). But what is the use of making a particular point on what I contend was uttered on that occasion by the hon. member for Gaspé, for it was upon just such appeals that the by-elections were carried on in Quebec, all through the province, as far as I have been connected with them, and also in the general elections of 1896. I fully agree in what the hon. member for Gaspé has said to-night as regards the independence of my province, for the people there are fair-minded, but what I do say is that as long as in the province of Quebec political discussions are carried on by means of such appeals, it will be impossible for us to bring forcibly before the people of that province the real issues between the two parties. We have only to take the organ of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) to bear out what I say. We have only to read its articles and to follow carefully the harangues made in every election to find that these appeals are constantly made, and I do believe that if we are to establish in this country real Canadian citizenship, if we are to forget these racial and religious differences that my hon. friend has so properly spoken of to-night, we must, once for all, adopt another means of carrying on our political struggles in that province.

The hon. gentleman entertained us at great length upon the present prosperity of the country. Indeed, Sir, in the Speech from the Throne and in the Address which we are called upon to vote in answer to that Speech, an extended reference is made to that prosperity. I have followed with interest the addresses of the hon. gentlemen on the other side, and I fail to see in anything they have told us, how we can connect the present policy of the Government with the existence of these favourable conditions which prevail at present throughout the Dominion. The hon. gentleman seemed to say that we saw everything on black on this side. I do not believe he can point, in any one of the speeches made on this side upon the Address, to anything which did not indicate perfect unanimity on this side as regards the prosperity which exists in this country. But what we have endeavoured to show is that that prosperity could not be traced to any

Mr. MONK.

action of the present Administration, but that prosperity itself no one can or did deny. To what does the hon. gentleman ascribe that prosperity? He says that the tariff has been reformed. I would like him to point out in what way the changes made in the tariff have improved the commercial conditions in this country. There has not been an absolute change in the fiscal policy of the Government or any change whatever with which we can connect these altered and prosperous conditions. The fact is that the improvement in the general condition of this country exists all over the globe. It began at the time of the advent of power of this Government, and if, as I maintain is the case, we are continually told, at any rate in our province, these improved conditions are due solely to the fiscal policy of the Government and the changes they have made in the tariff, I warn these hon. gentlemen that when, in the usual course of events, this wave of prosperity will begin to recede, they will be the first to suffer from this argument which they are so prone to use when appealing to the people.

Is this prosperity due to our improved trade relations? What improved trade relations have we, since this Government is in power, established with other countries? I would like to ask the hon. gentleman in what way the present Government has improved these relations? We have made a certain concession in our tariff to the British trader. That, to a certain extent, but far less than anticipated, has increased British trade with this country, but where has been our benefit in that improvement? Take, for instance, the increase which has taken place in the importations from England under the present reduced tariff. In the month of February last our exports diminished by some \$246,966 compared with those of the corresponding month in the previous year. On the other hand our imports increased by \$832,948. The duties paid by Canadians on these imports amounted to \$63,498. I understand that under such conditions the English exporter has profited considerably, and this no doubt will satisfy, to some extent, the ardent criticism of my hon. friend, but where do we come in? That is what I would like some gentlemen on the other side to point out. Now, take the eight months during the year 1898-99, finishing on the 28th February last. The figures indicate an increase of \$11,691,441 in the total volume of our trade. Let us examine under what conditions. Our exports diminished by \$4,951,564 compared with the corresponding period of last year; but on the other hand our imports increased by \$16,592,005, upon which the Canadian people paid in customs duties an increased sum of \$2,277,013.

This is money taken out of our pockets to form the vaunted surplus which the Government is supposed to have in its coffers. But where is our profit? Can these hon. gentlemen point out what increased agricultural facilities have been afforded to our

people since their advent to power, which would explain the increase of prosperity? They have done nothing but carry out plans which were in execution when they came into power. So, while we are all agreed that business is better than it was, we would like to hear some explanation from the other side, showing a connection between the policy of the present Administration and this improvement in our affairs.

I am not desirous of detaining the House unduly, and therefore I will not refer to the proposed measure of redistribution. I will wait until that measure is before the House and we know exactly what is its purport. But some reference has been made to a matter of great importance to our province—I refer to the proposal regarding the Senate, and I wish to say a word or two on that subject. As the House is well aware, the bi-cameral system exists throughout the Anglo-Saxon world. They have it in England, and, in spite of the advanced democracy of the United States, it prevails throughout that republic; it exists in all great British dependencies. I would point out, that in that case the existence of a second chamber is of special significance. It is there as the result of a compact made at the time of confederation. At that time the constitution of a second chamber was regarded by the people of Quebec, I need hardly remind the House, as connected with the preservation of certain distinct rights, and more particularly of the rights interference with which at that time was greatly feared—the rights of the Quebec minority. It seems to me, that, under the circumstances that were connected with the establishment of our Federal Chamber, it is essential that the constitution of that chamber should be touched in no way except with the unanimous consent of all the parties to the original federal compact—not only of the more powerful provinces, not only of the provinces of Anglo-Saxon origin, but of the province of Quebec particularly. It seems to me, there would be extreme unfairness in proceeding even a single step with any reform, or any project of reform of that constitution before the province of Quebec, and, indeed, before all of the minor and less powerful provinces have had ample opportunity of considering the project and expressing their opinion freely upon it. As regards the province of Quebec, it seems to me essential, that that province should have the opportunity of weighing carefully the projected reform and of expressing its opinion with no uncertain sound upon the matter, because, as is well known in the province of Quebec, there are institutions dear to the people, dearer to them than their lives, for the preservation of which they have struggled greatly, and for the maintenance of which the Senate, as at present constituted, was provided at the time of

confederation. It is needless for me to point out how little applicable in the case of our own confederation is the still untried Australian plan. But, inapplicable as it might be, it is different from the crude project which has been publicly proclaimed as his project by the right hon. the Prime Minister. It is needless for me to point out how easy it would be, under that project, to swamp the Senate by the vote of this House. I consider that a measure simply bringing together the House and the Senate to vote upon a question on which there is a disagreement between the Houses, without a previous appeal to the people, would be extremely unfair to that House and to the several provinces of the confederation. If we need an example of what may happen, we have only to turn to the province of Manitoba. I remember reading in the able argument made by Mr. Ewart before the Government at the time of the discussion of the Manitoba School question, an account of the proceedings before the Legislature of Manitoba at the time the Legislative Council there was done away with. Parties representing at that time the minority in the province of Manitoba expressed a fear that the removal of that chamber might lead to invasions of the rights of the minority in that province. The language used in the report expresses most ably the fear the minority then entertained. They were assured, that if they would consent to that constitutional change, under no circumstances would the rights of the minority be interfered with. And those who represented the minority, who were imbued with the fear which I have just attempted to describe, thanked the people who desired the change, and expressed their confidence that, with such an excellent spirit animating the legislature, there was no fear that at any time would the rights of the minority be interfered with. Yet, what we do find. It was not extremely long after that constitutional change that the change in the school laws was made. It is, to my mind, probable, even certain, that if that change had not been made, one of the most painful questions that has agitated this country since confederation would not have arisen. Therefore, it behooves us, before we touch the Senate, to obtain that full and ample consideration and the adhesion of the parties who, at the time of confederation looked to the constitution of that assembly for the protection of their rights. Such great changes are surely not to be promoted by such means as those adopted by the Prime Minister, when he went down to Quebec at the time the legislature was about to adjourn, and called upon that legislature, by its accredited mouthpiece, to express their adherence to his plan. Surely, sir, the province of Quebec is entitled to far greater respect and regard than is manifested in

this off-hand way of proposing the sweeping away of institutions in which that province is particularly interested.

In this connection, leaving aside all questions of party, that I would appeal—because we are very few on this side of the House who represent the province of Quebec—I would appeal to my hon. friends who represent that province on the other side of the House, to give its people ample opportunity to study the proposed reform, and to express their opinion upon it. I believe that if that proposed reform were fully discussed before the people of the province of Quebec, and they had an opportunity of seeing to what it may lead, they would not approve of it. Now, I merely wish to say one or two words with regard to the Conference. There has been, I think, on the part of some of my hon. friends, judging from what fell from the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) a misapprehension as to our own position. We do not blame our representatives of that Conference for not having come back with any kind of a treaty; we do not think it was their duty to come back with something. That is not the position which, for my own part, I am prepared to take up. But where I find fault with them is that they have obtained nothing after making such extraordinary promises to the electorate of this country that, were they returned to power, they were sure to obtain a great deal. In my county, at several elections previous to my own, and especially so in my own election, we were told that if the gentlemen who were at the head of the Liberal party only had a chance of obtaining power, everything would undoubtedly be changed with regard to our relations with the American republic, and changed to our advantage. We were told that it was certain that the agricultural population in my county would receive a benefit immediately. There was no question then of opening negotiations and endeavouring to obtain something, everything was certain. It is therefore asking a great deal of human nature to ask us to come here, after the rather ignominious return of those gentlemen, and not remind them of that promise and of the repeated assurances they gave to the electorate that if any opportunity was given them they would unquestionably obtain for us the greatest advantages. I think their failure may reasonably be ascribed to a number of causes. In the first place, they gave away everything which we had to concede before they went down there. That is the main difficulty—their yielding to the Americans everything that they required, and in reality almost everything that they could yield before the Conference took place. Another reason was the preferential tariff which we have with England. We have given a preference to England and have obtained nothing in return; and having given that preference to England we cannot obtain much from the Americans. I do not believe that we shall. It may also be—we know the

Mr. MONK.

Americans are a very shrewd people—that they were aware of the opinions held by the public men who represented us on that Commission, they may have known what opinions these gentlemen had expressed before going down there, and so it is not surprising that they should not have met with better success.

Sir, one word in regard to the plebiscite. I am not a partisan of prohibition, I do not believe in it. I believe there is much progress to be made in legislation which will lessen the terrible evils of the liquor traffic. I think that progress is being made, and there is much to be made still. But what spectacle have we presented to us? We have the spectacle of a plebiscite in which earnest workers in the case of temperance have obtained a majority of the votes of the people, a majority very much the same as that which brought the present Government into power. We have heard the leader of the Government say that no effect would be given to that vote. It seems to me that the resort to a plebiscite was an extremely un-English method, and little in conformity with our parliamentary institutions. The strange position in which we find ourselves to-day is due to a resort to that singular mode of procedure. Although I am not a prohibitionist, I believe that the argument addressed to the Government, which I find in a pamphlet I have received, signed by Mr. Spence and by Mr. MacLaren, as President of the Dominion Alliance, as an argument founded upon the promises made by the Liberal party, is an unanswerable argument. Of course, in our own province we took very little interest in the question. The whole force of the Government there was brought to bear against a prohibition vote, and that is to my mind an explanation of the indifference which existed there upon the question, and the small vote which was given, a vote which I was surprised to find afterwards had grown so large. Now, as regards the broken pledges, we find fault with the Government for giving contracts without tenders. The Liberal party before they came into power complained that contracts were given without tenders and they pledged themselves that that custom would be dropped, but that pledge has been broken. There was a pledge given that the expenditure would be reduced, and it was not reduced. We were promised, particularly in my own county, that our own trade relations with the United States would certainly be vastly improved by a change of Administration, and that has not been done. We were told that a terrible abuse had existed in the past in erecting public buildings in favoured constituencies, and that that would cease, and it has not ceased. We were told that the members of the Government had travelled in private cars, but that they would never do so again. Well, Sir, we find that abuse has continued, and we have heard to-night for the first time that the Minister of Public Works has carried that abuse down as far as the city of

Washington, probably with the object of bringing back our commissioners as soon as possible. There was a pledge made, and a most solemn one, in regard to the constitutional rights of the Manitoba minority. I have said as little as possible on that question since I have sat in this House. It has been a burning question. It was desirable that that question should be removed from the arena of party politics, and I have endeavoured, as far as possible, to give effect to that desire. At the same time we cannot forget the circumstances under which that question arose, and the trouble which beset that minority. I deem it our duty to remind the Government that the promises they made in regard to the restitution of the rights of the minority have not been carried out, and we would like to know from the Government exactly what their intentions are in regard to the minority in the province of Manitoba. Sir, the hour is getting late; I perceive the right hon. the Prime Minister frowning upon me.

The PRIME MINISTER. Smiling sweetly.

Mr. T. C. CASGRAIN (Montmorency). What about his sunny ways?

Mr. MONK. I can only say for my own part, in regard to any measures which the Government may bring down in which there is a real spirit of justice, in which there is no desire to further political ends, and in which is shown an anxiety to maintain a proper equilibrium in the finances of the country, I shall be most desirous to give the Government my support.

Mr. M. T. STENSON (Richmond and Wolfe) moved the adjournment of the debate, and debate adjourned.

Motion agreed to.

The PRIME MINISTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and the House adjourned at 11.25 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 23rd March, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### REPORT.

Annual Report of the Department of Railways and Canals.—(Mr. Blair.)

### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell, of East Prince, for an Address to His Excellency the

Governor General, in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. M. T. STENSON (Richmond and Wolfe). Mr. Speaker, it is to a regrettable incident which occurred in this Chamber last evening that is to be attributed the share which I shall take in this debate. I had not intended to take any part in the debate, but to leave it entirely in the hands of the older and more experienced members. But when I see an injustice committed, or attempted to be committed, either upon friend or foe, I cannot be a mute or an impassive spectator. This I consider has been attempted towards my hon. friend the member for Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux). In the first place I remarked with pain that the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron), who is an old veteran in politics, and an ex-Deputy Speaker, objected several times to the hon. member for Gaspé referring to his notes or manuscript while he was speaking in a language foreign to him, and doing so out of courtesy to the majority of the members of this House. The hon. member for Gaspé requires no privileges when speaking in his own mother tongue; but when speaking for the first time before this House in the English language, I think it was an act of discourtesy on the part of an old veteran in politics to try to disturb him. But, Sir, I remarked with pride and with pleasure that not one English-speaking member of this House made a similar objection, neither did any other French-speaking member. This, I think, will be a sufficient lesson to the hon. member for Beauharnois not to interrupt in future when a young member particularly is speaking. But, Sir, a still more regrettable incident occurred when the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) accused my hon. friend from Gaspé of having used language which could not fairly be attributed to him. I was present at the meeting at which the hon. member for Gaspé spoke. I heard every word that he uttered, and I claim, without boasting, I think, to know and to understand the French language just as well as the hon. member for Jacques Cartier. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier accused my hon. friend for Gaspé of appealing to race and religious prejudices in favour of the Liberal candidate in Bagot County, "because the leader of the Liberal party was a French Canadian and a Catholic, while the leader of the Conservative party was an English Protestant." I do not accuse the hon. member for Jacques Cartier of wilfully misrepresenting my hon. friend's words. But, Sir, I can understand how he failed to grasp their meaning, for the ordeal was too great for him, it distorted his hearing to be face to face with defeat in that old Tory county of Bagot which had not for so many years returned a Liberal candidate. To that alone I attribute his misinterpretation of my hon. friend's words. That county had been represented for many years by our late regretted friend, Mr. Dupont.

and I can say without fear of mistake that had Mr. Dupont himself been present he would have put no such interpretation on the words of my hon. friend for Gaspé. I knew the late Mr. Dupont well, and I attended him during his last illness after the accident he met with. One thing I remarked, and remark with pain, that there was not a single Conservative member to attend his remains from the hospital to the depot when they were carried there. The only member of the House of Commons who was present on that occasion was your humble servant, who, although not belonging to the same party makes no distinction between parties in cases of personal friendship and sympathy. Sir, speeches were made in French at St. Liboire on nomination day, and the remarks of my hon. friend from Gaspé, which have been referred to, and which I heard, were these, in substance. I do not pretend to repeat his words exactly, for I did not take them down in writing, but I heard every word he said, and I will tell the House the interpretation I put upon them. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) had spoken at the meeting, and he had spoken in a manner of which I think he has no reason to be proud. He criticised the conduct of the international commissioners at Washington, and his criticisms were couched in such language that I thought they were entirely out of place. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) in his speech accused the Canadian commissioners, and the British commissioner of dining and winning at Canada's expense instead of attending to the business which called them there. His speech was in French and his language was even stronger than that, and in order to prove my statement that his words were out of place, I shall give the original words which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) used. He accused them "de festoyer et danser aux dépens du public du Canada, au lieu de surveiller les intérêts du pays." It was in reply to these remarks that my hon. friend from Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux) used the following language in substance:—

The hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), an Englishman elected by French Canadian votes (as I have been myself) would not dare to repeat before an English audience in Montreal his aspersions on the international commissioners, of whom Lord Herschell and the Premier of Canada formed a part, because the English-speaking people of Canada would hiss him for speaking disparagingly of these distinguished gentlemen, although the honoured Premier of this Dominion is a French Canadian and a Catholic.

These, Sir, were the remarks made by the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux), made in Bagot. I see my hon. friend (Mr. Bergeron) smiling.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON. Yes.

Mr. STENSON (Beauharnois). Yet he would not endorse the remarks made by  
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the hon. gentleman from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk).

Mr. BERGERON. Yes.

Mr. STENSON. Well, the hon. gentleman did not endorse the report in the "Gazette" although asked to do so.

Mr. BERGERON. I said the truth.

Mr. STENSON. I have here the Montreal "Gazette," in which the report of Mr. Lemieux's speech in Bagot was given, and in which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lemieux) was accused of making these appeals to national and religious prejudices. I find in the Montreal "Gazette" the denial which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lemieux) made the very day after that report appeared. Let me read that answer:

#### MR. LEMIEUX'S SPEECH.

Sir,—I have read the report of the nomination meeting in the county of Bagot, published in the "Gazette," and I beg to state that you have been misinformed as to the tenor of my speech on that occasion. I am represented as having spoken of "Sir Charles Tupper, a Protestant," and as having asked my hearers "if they would vote for him against Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a French Canadian, who had made so imposing a figure at the London Jubilee proceedings, and who was now at Washington, winning the admiration of all." I wish to emphatically deny the above statement, and say that I never used such language. Indeed, I would find myself unworthy of being a Canadian, if I were to arouse the passions and prejudices of my fellow-countrymen by holding such narrow views. On the contrary, I have always expressed the opinion that Sir Charles Tupper was a statesman with lofty ideas, and those who know me will never believe that I would allow myself to refer to his nationality and religious persuasion, or that of any public man, as a political disadvantage or disparagement. I have too much respect for my numerous English and Protestant friends, in Parliament and elsewhere, to resort to such a line of argument, and I feel sure that even without this denial, every one of them will understand that the information given to you was entirely wrong.

(Sgd.) RODOLPHE LEMIEUX.

Montreal, December 8, 1898.

In face of that denial, the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) insisted on stating last night that Mr. Lemieux did not deny it.

Mr. BERGERON. I heard him say so.

Mr. STENSON. There is the denial made the very day after the report appeared, and I believe every reasonable person will admit that the denial is sufficiently strong. The hon. member for St. Hyacinthe (Mr. Bernier) and the hon. member for Richelieu (Mr. Bruneau) and others, were present at that meeting, and they heard the words of the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux), and they can find no such meaning in them as was attributed to them by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier last night.

The hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) also spoke of the Manitoba schools,

and declared that he did not consider the question was settled in a satisfactory manner. I will not undertake to say whether the question is settled in a satisfactory manner or not, but I will say that if the settlement of the Manitoba school question is not satisfactory to the Manitoba Catholics, we have not heard from them of late, and I will say further that if that settlement is not satisfactory to them, the same settlement is satisfactory to the Catholics in my own constituency, where religion is taught only after half-past three o'clock in schools which are largely attended, indeed almost exclusively attended, by Catholic children. That is the custom in the municipality of Stoke, and it was the rule in the municipalities of Orford and Ascot. In the municipality of Stoke, which contains twelve schools, there are not over twenty Protestant children. In four of these schools some Protestant children attend, and in one school to my own knowledge, only two Protestants attend. I shall now read the by-laws laid down by the commissioners, and in case that my translation should be suspected I shall read them in the French language, in which I have received them, and then translate them for the benefit of my English friends. The following are the resolutions passed by the School Commissioners of Stoke in November, 1896 :

Proposé par le commissaire J. S. Tremblay, appuyé par le commissaire H. Deziel :—Que la résolution passée, il y a quelques années, stipulant qu'aucune religion ne devra être enseignée durant les heures de classe dans les écoles mixtes, soit maintenue, et que Mlle E. A. Horan soit avertie de ne pas enseigner aucune religion comme susdit ; cette décision doit être observée dans toutes les écoles mixtes de cette municipalité.—Adopté.

Proposé par le commissaire H. Déziel, appuyé par le commissaire J. S. Tremblay :—Qu'à l'avenir tel que pourvu par l'article 123 du Code scolaire, les heures de classe pour les écoles mixtes seront comme suit :—Elles commenceront à 9 heures et cinq minutes ; dix minutes de récréation à 10 heures et demie, et finiront à midi moins cinq minutes. Elles commenceront ensuite à 1 heure et cinq minutes ; dix minutes de récréation devront être données à 2 heures et demie ; les classes devront se terminer à trois heures et 35 minutes de l'après-midi. Il est de plus décidé que Mlle E. A. Horan soit notifiée de traiter tous les enfants également.—Adopté.

Proposed by Commissioner J. S. Tremblay, seconded by Commissioner H. Deziel, —

And you will remark that both of these are French-Canadians and, to my knowledge, they are Catholics also.

—That the resolution passed several years ago stipulating that no religion should be taught during the hours for classes in mixed schools, be continued, and that Miss E. A. Horan be notified not to teach any religion as aforesaid ; this decision to be observed in all the mixed schools of this municipality.—Adopted.

Proposed by Commissioner H. Deziel, seconded by Commissioner J. S. Tremblay, that in future, as provided by Article 123 of the school laws, the class hours for mixed schools shall be as fol-

lows :—They will begin at half-past nine o'clock ; there will be ten minutes for recreation at half-past ten ; they will close at five minutes to twelve ; they will begin again at five minutes past one ; there will be ten minutes for recreation at half-past two, and the classes will close at three thirty-five in the afternoon. It is furthermore decided that Miss E. A. Horan be notified to treat all the children alike.—Adopted.

Here, Sir, are resolutions passed in the Roman Catholic, French Canadian municipality of Stoke, within the shadow of the spire of the cathedral of the bishop of Sherbrooke, and passed with the knowledge and consent of that high ecclesiastical authority—why ? Because we desired not to have, in our Eastern Townships, at least, any collision or any difficulties between the different races and religions. There were but a few Protestants in that municipality, but they claimed that it was offensive to their children going to school to have the catechism taught in their hearing, and they requested that this practice be changed. It was radically changed in 1881 to the effect that no religion be taught during school hours, from 9 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon. It was afterwards modified, with the consent of those same Protestants, by the provision that those mixed schools should close at half-past three and it was understood with the teachers that they would teach the catechism after that hour. This was consented to by both the civil and the religious authorities in the diocese of Sherbrooke, and I do not see that what is good for the Catholics of the diocese of Sherbrooke is not equally good for the Catholics of Manitoba.

The hon. member for Jacques Cartier asks, what has been done for agriculture by the present Minister of Agriculture. That is a question that is very easily answered. To tell all that has been done would take a little too much of the time of this House, and besides, the House is perfectly aware of what has been done. I will mention merely one item, that of cold storage, to satisfy my hon. friend that a good deal has been done. In one industry, that of butter-making, we sent to the English market last year over \$2,000,000 worth of butter, where we sent none before ; and that is due to the cold-storage system initiated by the present Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. DAVIN (West Assinibolia). No, no.

Mr. STENSON. I will give hon. gentlemen opposite the credit of saying that they had thought of initiating it. They had done with that as they did with so many other things. There is a certain place known to be paved with good intentions, but they did not carry their intentions into effect. It did not take the present Minister of Agriculture long to carry them into effect after he took office, and he will keep on extending that system.

With regard to the dread of the hon. mem-

ber for Jacques Cartier that the rights of the minority in Quebec may be injured, if the Senate is touched, I think he may possess his soul in peace, for there is no intention of doing anything to injure the minority of Quebec. If the people of Quebec were asked their opinion on this matter, I think they would tell us unanimously that they want some change in the constitution of that body, so that it may protect them and assist in carrying out their desires a little better than it does to-day.

The hon. member, speaking of the international commission, said that he did not blame the Canadian commissioners for not obtaining, because he considered that they could not obtain, at least up to the present, but he blamed them for promising the great things they were to do. I do not think there is much logic in that position. He admits that they have done their best, and yet he does not know, nor do I, what is to be the result. Whether we are to obtain all our Government promised or only a part of it, time will tell. The hon. gentleman then contradicts himself. He says, in the same breath: I do not blame the Canadian commissioners for not obtaining what they wanted to obtain at Washington, but I do blame them for their ignominious return from Washington. Now, how will he reconcile those two statements? Sir, I believe their return was far from being an ignominious return. They returned to Canada with honour; they returned in such a way that no one can say that they sacrificed one iota of Canada's interest in that negotiation. Then, the hon. gentleman attributes their failure to the fact that they had given everything away, and that the Americans had nothing to accept from us, but in the same breath he again contradicts himself, for, after saying that, he mentions that the preferential tariff with the mother country was not given to the United States. I do not think there is much logic in that. The proof that we did not give everything away to the United States is the fact that Great Britain has that preferential tariff, and the United States have not, nor will they get it until they give us an adequate return for it. Then the hon. gentleman discussed prohibition. He declared, honestly, that he is not a prohibitionist, but nevertheless he wants this Government to bring in a Prohibition Bill. Is there anything logical about that? I would challenge the hon. gentleman himself to say, that if the Conservative Government were in power, they would bring in a Prohibition Bill under similar circumstances, and I think his answer would be, decidedly, no.

Let me just say a parting word to these two hon. gentlemen from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) and Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron). They accused the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux) of appealing to race and religious prejudices. The hon. gentleman denied that charge and I also deny it, for I

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heard every word of his speech. But what did these hon. gentlemen do? They were in the County of Bagot, where they had a perfect right to be, championing the Conservative cause in favour of their candidate, but not only were they in the county of Bagot, but they went over into the county of Missisquoi, where a local election was going on, and where the candidate of the Quebec Government was an English-speaking Protestant. These hon. members both went into that county, if I am rightly informed—and I think I am—and brought out a French Canadian Catholic in opposition to the English-speaking Protestant.

Mr. BERGERON. Do I understand the hon. gentleman to say that I was in the county of Missisquoi?

Mr. STENSON. I understand you were.

Mr. BERGERON. I was not there at all. I never put my foot in that county during that election, but was busy in Beauharnois.

Mr. STENSON. Of course I take the statement back on the hon. gentleman's denial, but I still maintain that if the hon. gentleman was not there his friends were, and his friends were carrying out these tactics. These hon. gentlemen who have attacked my hon. friend from Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux) went through several counties, and I have myself met with the hon. member for Beauharnois in the counties of Drummond and Arthabaska, and I challenge my hon. friend to state that at any time during that campaign any Liberal speaker in that county said a word about religious and national prejudices in favour of the Liberal candidate.

Mr. BERGERON. I did not hear my hon. friend say so, but I heard other French speakers say the very same thing in the counties of Drummond and Arthabaska and in every other county have I heard them.

Mr. STENSON. You must have gone astray.

Mr. LANDERKIN. You are playing your old game.

Mr. BERGERON. Prohibition is your game.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Yes, but I can play it and you cannot.

Mr. SPEAKER. I would remind hon. members that the hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Stenson) has the floor.

Mr. STENSON. The hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) is apt to forget some things and change his mind at times. I recollect quite vividly hearing him, when I was seated on my own verandah, denouncing in his stentorian tones the great Conservative party of which the late lamented and distinguished Sir John Macdonald was then the leader, for its many crimes, but he short-

ly afterwards changed his opinion and became Deputy Speaker of this House.

Mr. BERGERON. That is very dangerous talk for I may have the floor by and by, and I understand that there are some postmasterships to be given somewhere around your place.

Mr. STENSON. I shall just make one remark with regard to what I am told the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) said concerning the English pronunciation of the right hon. First Minister. I did not hear the hon. gentleman, but I am told his remark is in "Hansard," and I wish merely to say that if the hon. gentleman will come down to the province of Quebec and speak French he will not be criticised if his accent should be a little foreign; and then I would ask him what sort of a figure he would cut over at the Paris exhibition next year if he were to address the French people there in the French language. The hon. Premier, however, can go either to Paris or to London and speak both languages in a manner to do credit to himself and Canada.

Then the hon. gentleman wants a fast line and told us that we lost a golden opportunity. Perhaps we did, but if so we did not lose all the gold that he was willing to pay for that fast line, and which was altogether too much. He also told us that three-fourths of the taxes of this country are paid by the farmers; but if that be the case, I would like to ask him if three-fourths of the benefit of that fast line would accrue to the farmers. I do not believe it would.

The hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) told us that we had broken our pledges because we have not taxed tea and coffee. That was one of his great arguments. We should, he said, tax tea and coffee. Well, we have not taxed them and do not mean to do so as long as we can do without that taxation. But we have reduced the taxation on the other commodities of life.

The hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) prophesied that we are going to have a million dollars deficit in the Post Office Department at the end of the year. Well, I think that when the year is up, that prophecy will be proved as false as many of the other prophecies which these hon. gentlemen have so frequently indulged in. He was so accustomed to a million deficit under the Tory regime in that department that he cannot anticipate anything else, but that day has gone by and to-day we have reduced the carriage of letters one-third and we expect not to come within one-half of the deficit our predecessors used to saddle us with. I am confident that that will turn out a truer prophecy than the hon. gentleman's.

He also told us that free corn was of no use. I would like him to go down to our part of the country and tell our farmers, who

get it in by whole train loads that it is of no use to them. I think that the farmers of the eastern townships know their own business and interests too well to purchase an article that is useless to them. Then we were told that this treaty over which our commissioners worked for six months should have been completed in six days. We are told that by an hon. Conservative member who knows that it took his party two months to secure an agreement upon one item of international difference. He tells us also that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) was never known as a practical farmer until he came here to pose as one. Well, if he was not known as a practical farmer to the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor), it is because the hon. member for Leeds is not acquainted with the eastern townships of Quebec, for there is none of these townships in which the hon. Minister of Agriculture is not known, not only as a practical farmer, but as a successful farmer, and also as a successful Minister of Agriculture. We were also told that the Quebec voters gave from one to ten votes each on the plebiscite. Well, we will let that go for what it is worth, and its worth is stamped on the face of it. The Quebec voters had one vote each in every county in which they were qualified to vote. Thus one man might have a vote in more than one county, but in comparatively few cases could a man register two votes because of the distances between the polls where those votes must be cast. As to prohibition, I may say that I am not in favour of it, because I think it is impracticable, and because I think that the vote indicates that the people of Canada do not want it. There is another reason why a prohibition Bill should not be proposed in this House under existing circumstances and it is this: The Liberal party declared for no coercion in the case of Manitoba on the school question. Why then should they undertake to coerce the province of Quebec on this prohibition question? It is out of the question to attempt such thing. The people of Quebec have given their answer absolutely and formally that they do not want prohibition in that province. I claim from my personal and intimate knowledge of all that province, that there is no more sober province in the Dominion of Canada. They have local prohibition almost everywhere throughout the province and with that they are satisfied. Under their local prohibition they have shown themselves to be a sober, temperate and industrious people, and they will not try to impose by their votes a law upon any other province which that province does not wish. Now, Mr. Speaker, I will yield the floor to the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain), under whose threat of complete annihilation I slept very comfortably last night.

Mr. T. C. CASGRAIN (Montmorency). Mr. Speaker, it seems to me it was rather unkind for my hon. friend from Richmond and

Wolfe (Mr. Stenson) to allude to the fact that at one time the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) was a Nationalist, and to insinuate that he ceased to be a Nationalist to become Deputy Speaker of this House. It is not only unkind, but it is rather imprudent on the part of my hon. friend. That is not argument, any more than it would be argument if I were to say that the zeal of my hon. friend (Mr. Stenson) was probably due to the fact that he is an agricultural lecturer in the pay of the Government of the province of Quebec. Nor would it be argument to say that probably the zeal he displayed is due in part to the fact—if rumour be true—that he is about to be elevated from his low sphere to a higher one as postmaster of the city of Sherbrooke. I hope that is true. I hope that he will soon join that lucky band of Liberal ex-members who are now judges or Lieutenant-Governors, and thus remove to a pleasanter sphere of action. It is very amusing to me to hear the hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe disclaiming that the Liberal party in the province of Quebec have ever appealed to race prejudice and race passion. Of course, I am bound to accept the word of my hon. friend from Gaspè (Mr. Lemieux) when he says that he did not declare during the election in Bagot that the French Canadians were bound to vote for Sir Wilfrid Laurier because he was a Frenchman and a Catholic and against Sir Charles Tupper because he was an Englishman and a Protestant. I am bound to accept his statement, but I am surprised if he did not make such an appeal; I am much surprised that he did not do what a great many if not all his fellow members on the other side of the House have been constantly doing for the last five or six years in the province of Quebec. Sir, I have been in many a fight in that province, both in the district of Montreal and in the district of Quebec, I have met these gentlemen on many a platform, and I can declare that for the last five or six years I have not been on a public platform in the province of Quebec when such words were not used either by gentlemen who sit on the other side of the House or by their friends and supporters. I take it to be the duty of every public man when he goes before the people on the hustings to endeavour to instruct his audience, to say something about which they can think seriously and which will help them to cast an intelligent vote. But whenever we go before the public with arguments, whenever we try to reason with our fellow-citizens, we are met, not with argument, but with a statement: Our leader is a French Canadian Catholic, while your leader is a Protestant Englishman. Sir, I call the province of Quebec to witness that the statement I make is absolutely true from beginning to end. I heard my right hon. friend the leader of this House express himself in a different way. I am glad to say, and I am glad to do him the justice to declare it

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here. I have heard him say that his ambition and his desire is that we should be a united country, that the different races which inhabit the Dominion of Canada, English, French, Irish and Scotch should sink their differences as much as possible so that we may be a united people with one only object, that of making Canada prosperous. I concur in that sentiment, and I implore the right hon. gentleman to see to it that his supporters in the province of Quebec abandon the line they have followed until now. Sir, it is so true that they have made these declarations constantly, that I myself have warned these gentlemen; I have said to them: I will bring the blush of shame to your faces because I am going to repeat in the House of Commons the argument you use. To-day, I warn them again, that if they continue this line of conduct, on the next occasion we will, if possible, have stenographers to take down their words, so that there shall be no equivocating when they come to this House. There are other questions that we can discuss in the province of Quebec. I take it that our audiences in that province are composed of intelligent people capable of learning the political history of this country and desirous of being informed upon public questions. There are many questions upon which we can enlighten the inhabitants of the province of Quebec, and it is our duty as public men to enlighten them. I might quote here as evidence of what I have just been saying the former statements of our adversaries in relation to a question to which allusion is made in the Queen's Speech. The Government congratulates itself upon the fact that within the last year there has been a considerable increase of immigration into this country.

But, Sir, this fact, upon which the Government congratulate themselves, contrasts singularly with the statements which we had from the hon. gentlemen opposite in the election of 1896, when, from platform to platform, they went around saying that we had stocked Manitoba and the North-west with immigrants from the old country, hostile to our race and hostile to our religion. This statement was made a great argument against us. But what is the increased immigration which we have to-day, and upon which the Government congratulate themselves? Why, as the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) said yesterday, we have Gallians and Doukhobors. Of course, the doors of Canada should be open to immigration, if it is of the right sort, to fill up the land in the great North-west, and also some of the older provinces with thriving and industrious citizens. But if we are to have hordes of people coming in here who have to leave their own country because they would not submit to its laws, if it be true, for instance, that these Doukhobors are men who will not perform the duties of citizenship, I say, we have no use for them, and the Government

should not congratulate themselves upon bringing these people to our shores.

Now, Sir, my hon. friend from Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Stenson) said something about broken pledges. He did not say much: there is not much to say. We have heard some good speeches from the other side, but I fail to see that any argument has been given to this House, any reason has been given to this House, refuting the arguments which we use, when we say that the Government have broken almost every pledge, aye more, have broken every pledge they made to the electorate in 1896. Of course, such language is not very pleasant for hon. gentlemen opposite to hear. Whenever, on the hustings, or in the newspapers, or anywhere else, we bring up this question, they answer: Oh, that is an old story; you should not allude to that at all. But, Sir, we have to allude to it. We have to try to convince the electors of this country that they were deceived in 1896. We have to show that these gentlemen on the other side of the House have obtained the confidence of the electorate of Canada by false pretenses, and that they sit to-day upon the Government benches because they led the people of Canada into error, whether designedly or not. But there is no doubt that to-day, looking back at their past record, looking at the declarations that they made on the hustings, they have broken every one of their pledges. The Government have boasted upon the great prosperity which reigns in this country. We will not do as they did when they were in opposition. Whenever we showed that the country was prosperous, they denied it; they preached blue ruin. They said that the country was going to bankruptcy time and again. Sir, we admit that at the present time the country is prosperous, and we are glad of it, we are proud of it, and we hope that it will continue to be prosperous, even under the rule of my hon. friends on the other side. But I remember that, when we were on the other side of the House, we were constantly told: You have increased the revenue; you are taking in an enormous revenue, but by doing so you are taking out of the pockets of the people money which belongs to them. The customs dues and the dues which you collect from inland revenue, are nothing else than taxation. And who pays these taxes? The farmers of Canada. But, Mr. Speaker, what have we to-day? Let me give you a few figures only. Between 1892 and 1893, the average revenue from customs was, if I mistake not, \$19,800,000. To-day, if we take the returns published by my hon. friends opposite, we find that the revenue from customs amounts to \$21,000,000, one million more than the revenue that we derived from customs. Therefore, if the argument of my hon. friends was correct, and if this revenue represents taxation upon the country, is not this taxation greater than when we were

in power? Now, if you take the revenue from customs and excise both together, the average from 1892 to 1896, under Conservative rule, was \$27,710,000. But now, in 1898, it is \$29,000,000; and if the statement made in this House last year by my hon. friend the Minister of Finance, is correct—and I have no doubt it is—this year it will be \$29,500,000. Now, according to the argument of my hon. friends opposite, all this money comes out of the pockets of the taxpayers of this country: they are taxed to the extent of \$29,500,000. This is one of the pledges which they have broken. They said they would decrease taxation; but instead of doing so, they have increased it ten-fold. But they answer us: Not only is the country prosperous, but we have a great revenue. In the Speech from the Throne the Government congratulated themselves upon the fact of the flourishing condition of the revenue. Why did they not congratulate themselves upon the flourishing condition of the public expenditure? Hon. members will remember that not very long ago, at a banquet which was given to my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) in the town of Valleyfield, in the county of my hon. friend who sits near me (Mr. Bergeron), that hon. gentleman said: "Yes, it is true—he is honest in his statements generally, always, I hope—it is true we have spent a great deal of money. I will admit we have spent more than the Conservatives; but just wait till next year, and you will see how much we will spend then." Sir, I do not think that statement is at all in accord with the declarations and the pledges made by my hon. friends opposite when they were in opposition. I do not want to dwell too long upon the subject, but I cannot help making a comparison and quoting some figures, without at all desiring to weary the House. It is singular to read to-day the eighth resolution of that famous convention in 1893, where all the great leaders of the Liberal party were assembled in the city of Ottawa, trying to devise a programme for the elections which were to come on. It is amusing to read, in that resolution, how alarmed the Liberal party was at the enormous increase in the expenditure of the country. But what have we now? What have we, after the declaration of my right hon. friend the Premier, in Toronto and elsewhere, when he said that the expenditure of this country could be decreased by two millions, three millions, and even four millions a year? What have we now, in face of the declarations made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who said it was a shame, that it was a disgrace, that it was monstrous, that we should spend in this country forty million dollars? Why, in 1898-99, the first year for which these gentlemen are really responsible, we have an expenditure of \$39,282,000. For this current year, without the Supplementary Estimates, which, no doubt, will be brought down, we have an estimated ex-

penditure of over \$41,000,000. Compare this with the last year of Conservative rule, 1895-96, when they only spent \$36,949,000. Of course, hon. gentlemen opposite object to comparing 1895-96 with this year or with the first year during which they were in power. But I will go back a little further: I will go back to 1885-86, when we had the extraordinary expenditure occasioned by the rebellion, and what took place then? Sir, we spent \$38,011,000 in the year of the rebellion, against forty-one millions estimated expenditure for the current year. If you compare the first year for which these hon. gentlemen are responsible with our last year, you will find that they spent \$2,332,000 more than the Conservatives did. If you compare the last year of Conservative rule with the current year, you will find that they are spending over \$4,000,000 more than the Conservatives spent. They are spending \$1,396,000 more than the Conservatives spent in 1885-86, during the year of the rebellion. The Government have been warned, not only by the Conservatives, that this thing could not go on any longer, but they have been warned by their own friends, and most seriously warned on many occasions. Their press in the country and their friends who sit behind them, have told them that this condition of things could not last, that the Liberal party must keep its pledges, especially upon this particular subject, or that they could not face their electors again. I wonder, Sir, how the hon. gentleman who spoke against me in my own county can ever again go before his electors, in face of the enormously increased controllable expenditure which this Liberal Government is guilty of. It is sad to observe that this increase of expenditure is progressive. It was bad enough on the 30th July, 1898, but when we look at the returns of controllable expenditure in the last official "Gazette," we find that on the 28th February, 1899, the expenditure for the first eight months of this fiscal year was \$23,597,000, against \$21,595,000 for the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, making an increase of over \$2,000,000 for the first eight months of this year, as against the first eight months of last year. But the Ministers tell us, in answer to all this: Oh, it is true that we have swelled the controllable expenditure of Canada, it is true that we have broken our pledges in this matter, but you see we have increased the revenue enormously. Sir, when this promise of economy was made by the Liberals to the electors of Canada it was an unqualified promise. They did not tell the people: We will spend three or four million dollars less than the Conservatives, even if the revenue goes up, but they made the promise absolutely and without qualification, that they would spend three or four million dollars less than the Conservative Government did. I find that even if it be true that the revenue is increasing, the public debt is also increasing in a very alarm-

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ing manner. Let me ask hon. gentlemen opposite: How is it that if the revenue is increasing so rapidly the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) has to go to England every little while to borrow money, and how is it that the public debt advances month after month. On the 31st October, 1896, the net public debt was \$254,352,000, and on the 31st October, 1897, after these gentlemen had been in power little more than a year, the public debt had increased by \$1,886,000. Well, Sir, that is a pretty handsome sum in one year. But, they did not stop at that; they went on increasing the debt. On the 28th February, 1899, we find that the net public debt of the Dominion stood at \$264,287,000, being an increase in the three years for which the Liberals are responsible of \$9,834,000, and these are the gentlemen who pledged themselves solemnly to the electors of this country that they would decrease the public debt and decrease the expenditure, and that it was a crying shame that the Conservative party had been increasing the expenditure and the debt. Is it to be wondered at that the Liberal party outside of Parliament is becoming alarmed? When my right hon. friend the Prime Minister came down to Montreal on the 4th January last to make his great speech in which he announced to the world that he was going to reform the Senate—he had better begin by reforming his own party—he was waited upon by a delegation—not a delegation of Conservatives, but by a delegation of his own political friends from the counties of Huntingdon and Chateauguay. I will quote the words of this delegation to the Prime Minister, and I beg to remind the House that they are words used, not by Conservatives, but by Liberal supporters of the Prime Minister. After referring to the fact that the debt and expenditure was increasing, the petition of these Liberal farmers goes on to say:

That, being in this serious plight, your petitioners view with anxiety the continued increase of the public debt, which means to them additional taxation, and a heavier lien on their real estate;

That the necessity of raising a large revenue to meet the interest on the public debt ensures the continuance of protective duties, so that the farmer loses doubly, for he has not only to help to pay the interest, but to pay more for goods manufactured in Canada than he otherwise would;

That, instead of, as we fondly hoped would be the case, the debt being reduced, or at least kept at a standstill, under your Administration, it has risen from \$326,000,000 to \$340,000,000;

That, having regard to their own solvency, and the future of their children, your petitioners regard it as imperatively necessary that there be no more loans;

That, if it be urged putting an end to borrowing would stop the development of Canada, we would remind you that no interests can be of more importance to the welfare of the Dominion than those of its farmers, and that a suspension of subsidies to railways and the extension of public works would be less injurious to the general weal than the continued decay of the farming industry;

Therefore, we pray that no further additions be made to the debt of the Dominion, and that money needed for extraordinary expenditure be found by reducing the public establishment to a standard in keeping with the means of its labouring classes, of which the farmers form the most important part.

Can there be any better proof than this that the right hon. the Premier has broken the solemn pledges he made to the electors of Canada.

In connection with this matter of broken pledges, I shall refer to some pledges which the Liberal Ministers opposite have made to the people of the city and district of Quebec. If it be true that they have such an enormous surplus this year, now is the time for them to fulfil these pledges. Are they going to enlarge and improve the station grounds of the Intercolonial Railway at Lévis, as they have time and again promised to do. Whenever there is an election, either federal or local, in that county, the Minister of Public Works appears on the scene, and tells the people that he is going to extend the station and going to buy out the property around there. He promises again and again that he is going to spend the \$48,000 which were passed in the Estimates the very first year the Liberal Government was in power. Then, they promised to lengthen the graving dock at St. Joseph de Lévis. That is a question of long standing, and the promise has been made time and again by the Liberal Ministers to the electors of Lévis and Quebec, and to the commercial men of the district. Now that they have an increased revenue, it is time for them to fulfil this promise. How often have they not promised to build the Quebec bridge. My hon. friend the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell)—whom I regret not to see here and who I trust is crossing the ocean on an unsinkable ship—he told the people of Quebec that they were going to get \$1,000,000 for the Quebec bridge. I notice that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) looks a little alarmed, but he knows that this promise was made to the electors by the hon. gentleman from Quebec (Mr. Dobell). When is this promise going to be fulfilled, I ask? I see in the report of the directors of the Quebec Bridge Company a paragraph in which they say that they have petitioned the Government to give them 33½ per cent on the total cost of the bridge, and that they fully expect this Government will give them that amount. At a banquet which was tendered in February, 1898, to my hon. friend the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), he told his hearers that before the snow again covered the hills around Quebec they would see the pillars of the Quebec bridge rising above the waters of the St. Lawrence. Sir, these are promises which were made in the city and district of Quebec, and the city and district of Quebec will hold these gentlemen to their promises. If it is true that we have such a great surplus, that we have more money than we know what to do with.

now is the time to carry out these solemn pledges and keep faith with the city and district of Quebec.

There is another subject, Sir, on which I wish to say a few words, that is, the question of the plebiscite. Hon. gentlemen know how the work was done, in our section of the country at all events. I noticed yesterday my hon. friend from West Elgin (Mr. Casey) using a very strange argument. He said: "No, I did not vote on the plebiscite one way or the other, because I considered that the plebiscite was granted for the express purpose of the members of the House consulting their constituents as to what they wanted." Well, Sir, how does that argument accord with the position taken by some of the leading members of the Government in the fight over the prohibition question? How does that accord with the course of my hon. friend the Controller of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière), who went down to Quebec on purpose to tell the people not to vote for prohibition? How does it accord with the stand taken by the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), the stand taken by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), the stand taken by the hon. member for Verchères and Chambly (Mr. Geoffrion), who went so far as to say that this plank had been put into the Liberal platform in a moment of weakness, and that it was not the best thing the party had done. If the Government really wanted to know the wishes of the people on this question, why did they not let the people vote freely? But I have another word to say on this question, and it is this. What is the position in the province of Quebec? My hon. friend from Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Stenson) said something about it a short time ago, and my hon. friend the leader of the Government, when he answered the delegation that came here some time after the vote on the plebiscite was taken, took what seems to me to be the correct position. In the province of Quebec we have a perfect local option law. Whenever any municipal council wants prohibition within the municipality, it passes a prohibition by-law under which within the limits of that municipality no liquor can be sold. Out of 900 municipalities in the province of Quebec, about 700 have prohibition by-laws, and in these municipalities no liquor is sold. The hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe said a little while ago that the people of the province of Quebec were as moral and sober as the people of any other province in the Dominion of Canada. They are, Sir; I can bear witness to the truth of that statement, having had something to do with the administration of justice in that province. In Gaspé, in Rimouski, in Rivière du Loup, in Chicoutimi, in Murray Bay, in Arthabaska, in St. Johns, in St. Hyacinthe, in Beauharnois, there is hardly ever an inmate in the jails, which I take to be an evidence of the morality of the population of the province;

in fact, in almost all the rural district jails. Therefore, I say that the province of Quebec had no need of prohibition; it did not want prohibition; its laws were such that it was needless to propose prohibition for that province. My right hon. friend the leader of this House should have known that before he went to the people with the plebiscite. What has been the consequence? That the province of Quebec, because it voted, for the reasons I have stated, against prohibition, has been held up to the contempt of the other provinces of Canada. We have been told that we are illiterate, that we are ignorant, that we are governed by the passion for drink.

Mr. O. E. TALBOT (Bellechasse). The Tory papers said that.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I ask the hon. member for Bellechasse not to interrupt me; I will not take any interruptions from him. This was known before the vote was taken; my right hon. friend who leads the House knew it; and if the province of Quebec is to-day held up to obloquy and shame by the people of the other provinces, it is due to the action my right hon. friend took on this question.

Coming to Senate reform, I am not going to discuss that question at present. The time will come when we can discuss it. We need not discuss the question whether we should have an upper House or not, because I believe that is admitted by everybody to-day. Although one of the planks in the old Liberal platform was the abolition of the Senate, my right hon. friend the leader of the House said the other evening that he was in favour of an upper chamber. Sir, upper chambers are necessary in our constitution. But we must have an upper chamber on the same lines and with the same constitutional powers as the House of Lords in England; and if you take away from the Senate the power it has to-day, of vetoing or efficaciously opposing the legislation passed by this Chamber, you render it a useless institution, and entail a useless expenditure upon the electors of this country. Something has been said of the relation which the people of the province of Quebec bear to the Senate. I say that the people of the province of Quebec are to-day almost unanimously in favour of an upper House, but an upper House such as I have described. My hon. friend the Controller of Inland Revenue will remember the fight he put up against the Legislative Council in Quebec in 1879. That body threw out the Supply Bill, and thereupon my hon. friend, with his supporters, stumped the province from one end to the other, trying to work up an agitation against the Legislative Council, and subsequently the Liberal party in the province inserted as a plank in its platform the abolition of the Legislative Council? What has happened? The late Hon. Mr. Mercier was in power for five years, with an enormous majority at his

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back, and yet he never dared to propose the abolition of the Legislative Council, because he knew he would fail. To-day Mr. Marchand is in power in Quebec, with an enormous majority behind him, and he does not even dare to propose to change the Legislative Council, because he knows that if he did he would be defeated. The sentiment in the province of Quebec for an upper Chamber on the lines which I have set forth, is so strong for both the province and the Dominion that even those powerful Liberal governments, with enormous majorities behind them, dare not carry out this pledge which they made to the electors in 1879, and which still exists as a plank in the platform of the Liberal party. Sir, it seems to me strange that this question should now be discussed in the local legislatures. What has been the consequence? This question has been brought up, for instance, in the legislature of the province of Ontario, and we find the members of that body, instead of discussing their own family affairs, the affairs of the province of Ontario, discussing the Yukon Bill and the Drummond County Railway Bill. Is that what was contemplated when this confederation was founded? Is that what was contemplated when it was said that the local legislatures would act within a certain sphere, and the Federal Parliament would act within the limits of another sphere? Has it come to this to-day, that the local legislatures are going to pass judgment on the measures which are adopted in this House? Why, if the local legislatures take that course, we shall be equally competent to discuss provincial affairs in this House and to ask the First Minister of Ontario why he is increasing the taxes all round in that great and prosperous province, and to ask the Government of Quebec how it is they are going on, year after year, increasing the public expenditure so that to-day the province of Quebec is almost on the verge of bankruptcy. We will return the compliment and discuss those questions, but if we do so the constitution will be violated.

Another strange thing which struck me very much is this, that one of the most influential Liberals in the legislature of Quebec the other day, in discussing Senate reform, gave as one of the reasons why the Senate should be abolished that it made an investigation in 1891 into the Baie des Chaleurs scandal. Sir, did you ever hear such a reason given why the Senate should be reformed? Reformed, forsooth, because it ferretted out the nest of boodlers who were stealing money, hand over fist, from the Quebec treasury. If there is any reason why the Senate should not be abolished, which should convince the electors of this Dominion that it is a useful institution, it is surely because in 1891, it was the means of saving the province of Quebec from this band of thieves who were stealing the money out of the Quebec treasury. That is one of the principal reasons, one of the good reasons at any rate

why the Senate should be maintained as it is. It is also urged that the Senate committed a crime when it threw out the Yukon Bill. Well, Sir, it was persistently rumoured throughout this House, while the discussion on that Bill was going on, that several of our hon. friends opposite only voted in favour of the Yukon Bill because the Senate was sure to throw it out. And they were glad the Senate saved their party from this measure which these hon. gentlemen did not approve of. That act of the Senate was a crime, the right hon. gentleman says. If so, then several members on the other side who voted against that measure also committed the crime charged against the Senate by my right hon. friend the leader of this House. Then another reason given is that the Senate threw out the Drummond County Railway Bill. One knows not whether most to admire or to condemn the audacity which can urge such grounds for the abolition of the Senate. Why, the Senate rendered great service to the Dominion for throwing out that measure. Let me give you a few figures to show what service the Senate rendered, not only to Canada but to the Government itself, by its action. What was the proposition of the Government in 1897. It was that we were to pay \$64,000 a year for ninety-nine years to the Drummond County Railway which, at 2½ per cent, would amount to \$2,094,000 as the price of this road. Yet, in 1894, the road had been offered to Mr. Farwell for \$500,000, and Mr. Schreiber valued the road, if it were built according to the rules of engineering, at \$1,535,000. On account of the action of the Senate in throwing out the Government Bill in 1897, a new arrangement was made in 1898, empowering the Government to buy the road for \$1,600,000 and binding the company to spend \$100,000 on it. Therefore, by the Government's own showing, from their own books and mouths, we have proved beyond contention that the Senate saved the Dominion, in this instance at least, \$600,000. Could there be any better argument for the necessity of maintaining the constitution of the Senate as it is to-day? I spoke a few moments ago of the desire of the people of the province of Quebec to see this institution remain as it is, and I take my evidence from another source. Just a few days before the Quebec legislature adjourned, my hon. friend, Mr. Leblanc, got up in that House and asked Mr. Marchand whether he was going to bring down a resolution approving the policy of the leader of this Government upon the question of Senate reform. Mr. Marchand objected to the question being put without notice, knowing full well that notice could not be given because the House was to be prorogued the next day or the day following. Mr. Marchand was evidently not sure of his ground, he was not sure that he would have behind him the province of Quebec if he declared from his place in the legislature that he was in favour of Senate reform. But in the Government organ of Quebec, "Le Soleil,"

I find it reported that my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works took my right hon. friend the First Minister down to Quebec just before the end of the session, the 10th of March, I believe. They travelled down to the ancient city in the sumptuous palace car against which they used to speak so much when in Opposition. What did they do there? They held a conference with Mr. Marchand which lasted quite a long while. Of course I do not know what happened at the conference, but comparing the fact that the day before that meeting Mr. Marchand refused to answer the question at all, with the fact that the day after this conference he got up and answered a similar question put to him in the House as follows, and I shall read from his answer as published in the "Soleil," and which being within quotation points evidently gives his exact words, we can draw our own conclusions:

The Government have taken cognizance of the policy announced by the First Minister of the Government with regard to the reform of the Senate, and entirely approves of it, and is of the opinion that the interests of the province of Quebec would be better safeguarded in confederation if the constitution were amended—

How, Sir?—

—so as to render the Senate responsible.

Sir, the parrot did not quite understand; it did not quite catch the right words. What did Mr. Marchand say? Did he say that he approves of the reform of the Senate as proposed by the right hon. First Minister? No, but that he approved of making the Senate responsible. Does he want an elective Senate? Does he want a Senate responsible to some of the great bodies in the Dominion? He did not say so and he dared not endorse the policy of my right hon. friend. He dared not say that he is in favour of a Senate which would be only a fifth wheel to the coach, but he says he wants a responsible Senate. Therefore I take it that my hon. friends, although they are endeavouring to get an expression of opinion from the different provinces, cannot get one from the province of Quebec favourable to the reform which, they say, they are going to propose in this House. Is this the constitutional means of getting the opinion of the different provinces on this important question? I say not. The provincial legislatures have no mandate from the people or the constitution to pronounce upon this question. This is a question between the people of the different provinces and the Dominion legislature. If this question had been agitated in the local elections, there might be some excuse for their pronouncing upon it, but it was never mooted before it was mooted in the newspaper of my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works, "La Patrie" of Montreal, some few months ago, from whom I believe the right hon. gentleman got his inspiration on this question as he does on a great many others.

My right hon. friend said something about the school question. I was not going to mention the school question at all if it had not been for what fell from the lips of my right hon. friend. He said that they have opened up a new era, an era of harmony and union in the Dominion. I listened very attentively to hear whether my hon. friend would say that the school question had been definitely settled. My hon. friend the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), in a speech made at Guelph the other day, said that the question was not yet settled. Still, Sir, we have the organs of these hon. gentlemen in the province of Quebec, and we have the hon. gentlemen themselves on the stump and on the platform declaring that the question is settled. If it is settled, I want to know whether it is settled to the satisfaction of the minority in Manitoba; I want to know whether it is settled to the satisfaction of the authorities who can pronounce upon this question from a religious standpoint. I want to know whether it is settled in accordance with the written pledges given to the different bishops of the province of Quebec by a great many members on the other side of the House. I want to know if it is settled in accordance with the pledge given by my right hon. friend to his electors in St. Roch's in 1896. If it is settled, I say it is settled to the detriment of the Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba, as my right hon. friend well knows. What did he say? Let me recall his words, words that were endorsed by his supporters in the province of Quebec in 1896, and let me contrast the promise with the execution. Sir, the hon. members of this House will remember the solemn pledge given to the electors of the city of Quebec and the province of Quebec by the right hon. gentleman, when he said at St. Roch's that if he obtained power he would first try to settle this question by conciliation, that he would take six months to do it, that he would appoint a commission at the head of which he would place Sir Oliver Mowat, and if, in six months he did not succeed in settling the question by conciliation, he would employ all the means given him by the constitution to restore every tittle of the rights of the minority in Manitoba. Has he carried out that pledge? Is the settlement a satisfactory settlement? I am not bringing up this question to discuss it; I am not trying to elicit any expression of opinion from this House upon it. We may differ upon this question. But I am giving you another instance of the way in which the right hon. gentleman has carried out the solemn pledge which he gave to the electors of the province of Quebec, but for which pledge he would never have obtained the position he now occupies. My right hon. friend the other day talked about history, in alluding to the hon. leader of the Opposition. But what will history say of his action upon this question? It will say that he gave

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his pledge to the electors of the province of Quebec; it will say that a Government, a great majority of whose members were Protestants, passed a remedial order calling upon the Manitoba Government to restore to the Manitoba minority the rights they had enjoyed prior to 1890; it will say that this was carried to the highest tribunal of the Empire, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and that tribunal, composed exclusively of Protestants, declared that the minority had rights under the constitution and that those rights should be restored as they were in 1890, and that what prevented the constitution from being vindicated was the action of a Roman Catholic and French Canadian, the present Premier of the Dominion of Canada.

Sir, I cannot resume my seat without paying my respects to the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), the master of the Liberal party. Sir, you have seen the revolt which took place some time ago within the ranks of the Liberal party against the hon. Minister. I said a moment ago that the right hon. gentleman who leads the House took his inspiration from "La Patrie," the organ of the Minister of Public Works. The other day, when the right hon. Premier rose, about half-past ten, after the great speech made by the leader of the Opposition, he could not reply to that speech, but must move the adjournment and closet himself with the hon. Minister of Public Works to find out what he should say next day. We have read the resolutions of clubs in Montreal against the Minister of Public Works. We have seen that hon. gentleman—and I give him credit for his pluck—going around to banquets which had been got up for him from time to time in the province of Quebec, and deliberately saying that he was a Conservative. And we have had him, under pressure and under question, saying: Now, my friends, you know that in 1896 a great many Conservatives voted for Sir Wilfrid Laurier—I represent those Conservatives in the Cabinet, and I remain a Conservative. And, Sir, on account of these declarations on the part of the Minister of Public Works, he has been held up to the scorn of the Liberals of the province of Quebec, and clubs have passed resolutions against him, and we have had members on the other side of the House going around the streets talking against the hon. gentleman, and saying: Tarte will leave the Ministry, Tarte will go. But notwithstanding this, he is stronger than the combined forces of the Liberal party. As a Conservative, I am proud of him. I am proud that, although he has told these gentlemen, time and again, that he remains a Conservative, and though they have done their best to put him out, he still holds his place. It was when he was with us that he learned to be plucky, learned the virtue of perseverance; and he sits there in the Cabinet notwithstanding all the hon. gentlemen representing the province of Quebec on the

other side can do. It came to this point at one time, after deputations had called upon the Premier asking for the expulsion of the Minister of Public Works from the Cabinet: my right hon. friend the Premier wrote an encyclical letter, 'urbi et orbi,' to the Liberals of the province of Quebec saying: No, the Minister of Public Works will remain in the Cabinet. And there he sits to-day, notwithstanding the efforts of certain gentlemen whom I see before me who are continually talking against the hon. Minister, and in spite of whom he will remain in the Cabinet to the last day. I could not sit down without paying this compliment to my hon. friend.

Mr. O. E. TALBOT (Bellechasse.) I merely rise to correct the false impression which may be created in this House by one expression used by the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) when he spoke of the racial cry being raised in the province of Quebec during the campaign of 1896. I think that if such expressions as those the hon. gentleman referred to were used in that province during the last general election campaign, we were perfectly justified in saying that we had more confidence in the settlement of a question in which the Catholics were interested if that settlement was made through the efforts of a Catholic than we would have if made through the efforts of a Protestant. And what was the reason why we said that? The reason was that it was published throughout the press of Canada that the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), while in Winnipeg, addressing a Protestant audience, said in substance: Is there any man who can boast of having a level head upon his shoulders who will not think that, in the interests of Protestants, I cannot settle this question better than can one who is a Roman Catholic? We candidates in the province of Quebec, upholding the interests of the Liberal party, seeing these words published and not contradicted, were we not justified in saying that, as French Canadians and Catholics, we had more confidence in a settlement by Sir Wilfrid Laurier than we would have if the settlement were left in the hands of the leader of the Opposition?

Mr. A. A. C. LARIVIERE. Just one word.

Mr. TALBOT. Not only this, but the hon. member for Montmorency knows that some of his own friends—

Mr. LARIVIERE. I wish to say one word in explanation. I stood on the platform in Winnipeg, when Sir Charles Tupper spoke, and he never used any such expressions at all.

Mr. TALBOT. I am repeating what was published in several newspapers, and these words I have quoted were never contradicted; so I think we are perfectly justified in saying what we did say. My hon. friend from Montmorency knows very well that

other means were used in 1896 against the Liberal candidates throughout the province of Quebec. He knows very well that Senators and leaders of the Conservative party went from hustings to hustings, presenting a paper to the Liberal candidates for them to sign, and saying to them: If you sign this paper, we will give you an election by acclamation. There is a member who sits now in this House, the hon. member for Dorchester (Mr. Morin), who owes his election to a moment of weakness on the part of Dr. Vaillancourt. He was surrounded by these men, who were using all possible means to remain in power, and was told by them: Dr. Vaillancourt, if you sign this paper, we will guarantee that Sir A. P. Caron will withdraw, and we will give you an election by acclamation. In a moment of weakness, Dr. Vaillancourt signed the paper. What was the consequence? On nomination day, the present member for Dorchester was put in nomination, and was elected. Such things were done throughout the counties of the province. It was tried in my own county. I remember, in St. Raphael, when the present editor of the "Courrier du Canada" came there with the paper, backed up by Senator Landry, and asked us to sign that document. We did not sign it: we went into the battle, and won the day. The hon. member for Montmorency spoke about the band of thieves in connection with the Baie des Chaleurs Railway, who, he says, were discovered and routed out of power by the action of the Senate. The hon. member who just took his seat (Mr. Casgrain), has been Attorney General of the province of Quebec after 1892, when the Conservatives were returned to power. Why did he not, as Attorney General, when he had the power in his hands, put these thieves, as he calls them, in jail? When he ran in Montmorency against the Hon. Charles Langelier, he went so far before the electorate as to give the number of the cell in which he would put Mr. Langelier. Why did he not do it, when he was Attorney General? How can he stand up now before this House and tell us what he would have done, but which he did not do, when he was Attorney General of the province of Quebec? If they were thieves, why did he not prosecute them? I suppose he is alluding to Mr. Pacaud and to that \$100,000. This question is now being settled by the Supreme Court, and before long we will have a judgment which will prove whether that money was stolen by Mr. Pacaud or not. But what about Mr. Riopelle, a good Conservative, who got \$75,000 at the same time? Nothing was said about him.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (South Leeds). Was it stolen money?

Mr. TALBOT. The same money. Mr. Riopelle got \$75,000, and Mr. Pacaud got \$100,000. The hon. member for Montmorency also said that the population of Quebec had been called ignorant and illiterate because



when wheat is plentiful and the farmers obtaining a fair price for it and flour not quite so dear. Sir, the members on this side of the House rejoice equally with the members on the Government side at the present prosperity of Canada. There were years of depression from 1892 to 1896, depression not only in Canada but depression all over the world, and without fear of contradiction I state that because of the National Policy, Canada came through these years of depression with a better showing than any other country in the world. I shall give the Government credit when they deserve it. They do deserve some credit for our prosperity, and I will tell them why. They deserve credit because they have conduced to this prosperity by not altering the National Policy very much. They have shown by their course in this matter that they agree with me when I state, that if they had carried out their professions of free trade or freer trade, or whatever they choose to call it; if they had cut the tariff down as low as the people were afraid they would, then, Sir, we would not be able to congratulate ourselves on Canadian prosperity to-day. They had the good sense to know that they could not carry out these pledges which they made; they had the good sense to know that it was far better to break their pledges than to ruin the country, and I trust that good sense will remain with them so that they may long continue to recognize the fact. The Prime Minister in recounting what the Liberals had done stated that they had reformed the tariff. Well, they have in certain respects, but the right hon. gentleman was rather unfortunate in mentioning the item of cordage in this connection. He told us his Government had made binder twine free, and that last year the cordage business was more prosperous than it had ever been before. It was more prosperous with those who had laid in a stock of raw material, which increased three times in price on account of the war in the Philippines. These lucky ones made money, but the people who had not a stock of raw material on hand did not find the year so prosperous. As an illustration of what free binder twine has done, let me tell the hon. gentleman that the Consumers' Cordage Company, who were not fortunate enough to have a stock of raw material, had a factory in Port Hope and on account of the duty being removed, they have taken the machinery out of that factory and removed it to Montreal, because they are obliged to consolidate their business in Montreal. The consequence is that the town of Port Hope in my constituency has been injured very materially. I cannot agree with the free binder twine part of the Liberal tariff reform, because I believe it has done no good whatever in the country, and I know it has done a great wrong to my own constituents. The speech of His Excellency also refers to the exodus, on which we used to hear a great deal from

hon. gentlemen opposite but about which they talk very little now. The hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Talbot) very innocently told us that during the years of the National Policy he found many farmhouses in the country empty because the people were driven out of Canada on account of the National Policy, and he tells us that now all these houses are occupied. Well, I am glad the houses are filled and I am glad that my Liberal friends think the exodus has stopped, but we have the National Policy just the same at the present day as we had it when the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Talbot) says he found those houses empty. I am very glad indeed if there is no exodus in the country, but let me remind hon. gentlemen opposite that no small part of that exodus was due to the speeches made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), and by some other of his political friends when in opposition, who were constantly decrying this country, and constantly exalting the United States. I remember saying in those days in this House, that if I were a young man thinking of coming to Canada and I read the speeches of Sir Richard Cartwright, I would make up my mind that I would not emigrate to such a miserable country as he depicted, but I would go to that beautiful country of the United States which he pointed to in such glowing colours.

A word as to negotiations at Washington. We may, I believe, congratulate ourselves on the conduct of the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) with reference to these negotiations, for he tells us that although he intended to conduct a campaign in the lower provinces he postponed his intention because he did not wish to embarrass these negotiations. That, Sir, is conduct on the part of the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) which we must all admire. The Minister of Trade and Commerce told us that the great difficulty in the way of these negotiations was the United States Senate which must give a two-thirds majority in favour of a treaty. No one will deny that difficulty. But let me ask him, and let me ask his friends, did not the same difficulty exist when the Conservatives were in power and had not the United States Senate the same constitution then as now? Nevertheless the Liberals then told us: the Conservatives cannot make a treaty because they have alienated the friendship of the United States; we are friendly with that nation, put us in power, and there will be no trouble about getting a treaty. In view of such language have not these gentlemen opposite some reason to be ashamed of their want of success under the circumstances. I was rather surprised to hear the Prime Minister state, that Canada to-day does not want reciprocity. That announcement startles me. I know that ever since I have been in this House reciprocity was the main plank in the Liberal platform, and gentlemen oppo-

site have constantly been telling us: The United States is our only market; Great Britain is not a natural market on account of the distance it is from us; but, Sir, all that is changed now, and the Liberal Premier of this Dominion announces that Canada does not want reciprocity. It is rather a strong statement, and I do not believe his Liberal followers throughout the country will accept it. I know the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) did not accept it in its entirety, for he tried to modify it so as to make it not quite so positive and abrupt. He (Sir Richard Cartwright) told us that what was meant was that we are not dependent on the United States. Why, the Conservatives said that long ago. It is true the Conservatives did not say that we did not want reciprocity, but we did say that we did not want a reciprocity treaty unless we got a fair one. That was the Conservative position years ago, and that is the Conservative position to-day. We fully realize the trade possibilities with the United States, we are quite willing to trade with them if they will trade with us, and we are quite willing to make a treaty as long as it is a fair treaty.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that the responsibilities of office have taught the gentlemen on the Treasury benches what the Conservatives of Canada knew long ago, namely that this country is not dependent on the United States. It is well, Sir, that even at this late date they have learned that lesson. It is unfortunate they did not know it before, and that in their ignorance of the subject they led the people of the United States to believe that Canada was dependent on that country. It may be that such statements of the Liberals in the past have made it difficult to obtain a treaty even now, because the people of the United States have had that lesson impressed on their minds so strongly that it is difficult to teach them that in a commercial sense we are independent of them, and can get along without them whether they make a commercial treaty with us or not. Gentlemen on the other side persist in telling us that the leader of the Opposition is in favour of retaliation, although the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) told us he was not. But what does the Prime Minister say? The Premier says he will not frame a policy on the United States policy, but for the good of Canada. That is very nice, but what does it mean. It is a very indefinite statement, like a good many other statements that are made. We all believe in framing a policy for the good of Canada, but the point is, what do we think is good for Canada? That is the whole question. There is no doubt there is a feeling in this country to-day—we need not call it retaliation—a feeling not among Conservatives alone, but among Liberals as well, all over this country, that if the United States are not willing to make concessions, if they stand

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out for the pound of flesh, we should imitate their example, and protect our own industries. That is the feeling all over this country to-day. I suppose the Premier knows this, and that is one reason why he said that this country does not want a reciprocity treaty to-day. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) said: "I will not be one to surrender the rights of Canada." I was glad to hear that statement; we were all glad to hear it; because while the commissioners were at Washington there was a fear throughout this country that so anxious would they be to make a treaty with the United States and to settle all the controverted points at issue, that they would be willing to surrender some of the rights of Canada. The whole country was afraid of that. Liberals themselves were afraid of that.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no.

Mr. CRAIG. There may be some Liberals in this House who were not afraid; but I know Liberals spoke to me in Toronto who were. However, I for one am relieved to hear the Minister of Trade and Commerce make that statement. He goes on to say that a great honour has been conferred on this commission by England; and he adds, "I hope we shall be worthy of this trust." Well, Sir, I hope they will. I hope they will not forget that they represent England in this business; but I hope they will remember as well that they represent Canada, and are expected to protect the interest of Canada. That is the important point for us. The Minister of Trade and Commerce spoke of the difficulties which confronted the commissioners; and although I do not minimize them, I say they were just as great for the Conservative Government. But there is one advantage which the present commissioners have over any other commissioners, that is, the very cordial feeling existing in the United States towards England arising out of the conduct of England during the war with Spain. That is a great advantage, and I hope that advantage will conduce to the success of the commission. I hope they will succeed. I hope a treaty will be made, provided it is fair to Canada. I do not think we need bother considering whether it will be fair to the United States, for their commissioners are perfectly able to look after that part of the business. In almost every treaty which the United States have made they have got the best of the bargain. I hope they will not get the best of the bargain in this case. If a treaty is made—and I hope a treaty will be made, for it would be a great advantage to us to have all questions between the two countries settled—I hope it will be a perfectly fair treaty to Canada.

Now I come to a question which has been touched on by all the previous speakers, and on which, of course, I have to touch, that is, the plebiscite. I think the plebiscite

is rather a live question to-day. I am afraid that a good many members of the Liberal party, from the way they talk, would like it to be a dead question. The Premier says that no pledge was made to the prohibitionists, but that it was made to the Liberal party. Well, I think the pledge must have been made to the prohibitionists in the Liberal party. I am sure that the pledge was not made to the liquor men or to the men who did not bother their heads on this question. The Premier says the object was to obtain the honest and unbiassed opinion of the people on the question. Well, I do not think that object was attained. In some cases the unbiassed opinion of the people was not obtained. I think political considerations were allowed to creep in. The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) and the Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) used great pressure on the people of the province of Quebec so as to prevent them expressing an unbiassed opinion on the question. A great deal was made of the fact that this question would be placed before the people apart from any other question, and apart from political considerations, so that the people might pronounce yes or no on the question unhampered by any other considerations. I am satisfied that that was not done. We know it was not done in the province of Quebec. We know the great influence of the Minister of Public Works in that province, and he worked there to secure an adverse verdict from the people. He threw himself energetically into the fight, and did all he could to influence the people on political grounds not to vote for prohibition. I know that there were members of the Liberal party in the province of Ontario who would not vote, although in favour of prohibition, because they said they did not wish to get the Government into a hole on this question. I hold that, with the present state of public opinion in this country, and with political parties constituted as they are, it is impossible to obtain a verdict from the people on a question like this without taking politics into consideration; and that has been amply proved in this case. But I wish to call attention to a very important statement made by the Premier. He says this:

Moreover, there was not a man living who expected, at the time the plebiscite was taken, that the duty would be imposed on the Government of introducing a prohibitory measure unless at least one-half of the electorate recorded their votes in favour of that policy.

That is a pretty strong statement, and on that I take issue with the Premier. I do not agree with him that there was not a man living but thought that at least one-half the electorate should vote for prohibition before the Government would be justified in introducing a Bill. I thought that, but I found that I was a sort of anomaly. Nobody else seemed to think that at all.

Even temperance men on the other side of the House did not agree with me, and temperance men on this side did not agree with me. They thought I had made a fool of myself, and I am still told to-day by a good many that in making that statement I made a fool of myself; and I did not know, until I heard that statement of the Premier that there was not a man living who did not agree with me. I did not meet them in the country, and some of them do not act even to-day as if they agreed with me; some of them say even now that the vote is quite sufficient. Some of the members of the Dominion Alliance say that; and I suppose these men were alive then; they certainly seem to be alive now. I just call attention to that, because I think the statement is rather extreme and hardly correct. The Premier quoted my remarks of last year, and I am told that he thought they were of great assistance to him. He is welcome to whatever assistance he can get from them, because I think the same to-day. He quoted my opinion that if any Government endeavoured to pass a prohibitory law, it should be with a majority of the voters on the list in its favour. Let me contrast my conduct on that occasion with the conduct of the Premier and other members of the Government—with the conduct of the Minister of Agriculture, and other temperance men on that side of the House. Why did they not get up and say that they did not agree with that? But they would not say anything. They heard me make that statement; they heard me ask what majority would be required, and they said nothing. I made my statement, and I am prepared to stand by it. But it did not make much difference what I said; but it did make a difference what the Premier said. I think we should have known then what we know to-day. Why did the Premier not make the statement before the vote was taken that he has made now after it has been taken?

I think this is a question he ought to answer to those who want prohibition. Why did not the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), who introduced the Plebiscite Bill in this House, who introduced the plebiscite plank in the platform of that convention in 1893, get up and say: No, I do not think one-half the votes need be recorded in favour of prohibition. Why did not some of the other members who agreed with him on prohibition at that time say so? This is a fair criticism on the conduct of members on that side and a just complaint by those who are in favour of prohibition to-day. There is no doubt that the insertion of that plebiscite plank in the platform of the Liberal party helped them in the election of 1896. I was somewhat surprised when I read the remarks of Mr. Fisher, which he made at the convention in 1893, and which I had not read before. He said that the Liberal party was the party that was always on the side of reform and morality and virtue, and that the young men of the country

recognized that, and that these young men who believed in these qualities of morality and temperance and all that sort of thing, all naturally gravitated to the Liberal party. He went on to say that they were now showing how they felt on that question, and said: I introduce this plank in the platform on that account. If his remarks meant anything they meant that the Liberal party were going to give this question a fair chance.

An hon. MEMBER. So they did.

Mr. CRAIG. The prohibitionists do not think so. I have no doubt at all that this helped that party at the elections in 1896, because the people in favour of temperance said: See there is the plebiscite plank in the platform, they are going to grant us that, and that is a step in favour of prohibition. I am afraid that it has turned out to be a step in the other direction. Let me read still further what the right hon. First Minister said, and it is very interesting reading. He said:

When this plank was put into the Liberal platform, there was an implied agreement between the members of the party who believed in prohibition and those who did not believe in prohibition. The implied agreement on the part of those who did not believe in prohibition was that if the voice of the people spoke unmistakably, if it should be shown that the great majority of the electorate were in favour of prohibition, then those who did not believe in it would surrender their views to those of their brothers, and would work honestly for the success of that policy. On the other hand,—

This is a most important statement.

—there was an engagement—

He did not say whether it was an implied engagement or not.

—on the part of those who believed in prohibition, that if the voice of the people on the subject should not be of sufficient strength to warrant the adoption by the party of the policy of prohibition, they also would square their views to those of their brothers, and we would hear no more of that question in the ranks of the party.

I would like to ask this question of the right hon. Premier, who, I am sorry to say, has gone out, but I do not suppose he would answer it if he were here. Perhaps the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) will tell me, for he knows more about it, and took an active part in this campaign on the plebiscite.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). I never said a word, never made a speech about it.

Mr. CRAIG. What is meant by the word "implied"?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Take it back.

Mr. CRAIG. I take it back certainly if the Minister of Public Works says he took no part in it, but I again ask what did the right hon. Minister mean by an "implied agreement." I suppose he meant something.

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although sometimes he uses language that does not mean anything, and perhaps he will find it rather difficult to tell us what he means by this implied agreement. I say that his statement that there was an implied agreement on this question, should have been made on the introduction of the Plebiscite Bill. I think that Parliament was not treated with proper respect. If the Premier knew, as I have no doubt he did, since he says so, that there was an implied agreement, that there had to be an overwhelming majority in favour of prohibition before anything could be done, he should have told us so on the introduction of the Bill. I think he did not treat Parliament right when he introduced the Bill without letting us know that fact, and I think certainly that he did not treat the prohibitionists fairly, because they knew nothing at all about any such implied agreement until a day or two ago. But how does the right hon. Premier know there was such an implied agreement? I am very sorry the Minister of Agriculture is not here where he ought to be, but I have not seen him around lately.

An hon. MEMBER. He has gone to Europe.

Mr. CRAIG. I did not know he had gone away, and wish he were here. But perhaps somebody who can speak for him will say whether he knew of this implied agreement. It was he who introduced this plank into the Liberal platform at the convention. Did he then know of this implied agreement? He should have known it, but he did not say anything about it in that speech. He did not say there was any agreement, implied or not, that an overwhelming majority would be required before we could have a prohibitory law. This implied agreement was kept entirely in the dark. I would like to know who were the parties to it; and if it is in writing, I would like to see it. But the Premier went further. He said there was an arrangement that if the majority was not sufficient, then the prohibitionists in the party would drop the question for ever. Are the members of the Dominion Alliance, who belong to the Liberal party, agreed to drop the subject altogether? Evidently they are not judging by the remarks some of them made at the meeting upstairs yesterday, when they urged that we ought to go on and press this subject still. I am glad that there is one prohibitionist in the House who was a member of Parliament at that time. I refer to the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint). He it was who introduced prohibition legislation into this House session after session. I would like him to tell us whether he knew of this implied agreement and that an overwhelming majority would be required before the Government would introduce prohibition or of this engagement—not an implied engagement—that if the majority was not sufficient, the prohibitionists in the party would drop the subject for ever. Perhaps a little later on the hon. gen-

tleman will enlighten us on this question. Will he tell us now whether he knew of this implied agreement?

Mr. GEO. LANDERKIN (South Grey). You must not pry into family matters.

Mr. CRAIG. I am glad to hear another prohibitionist talking. I was about to ask this other question. What is the country going to say about the statement of the First Minister? That statement puts the Minister of Agriculture in a very strange position. It was he who introduced the plebiscite plank at the Liberal convention, and the right hon. First Minister says there was this engagement on the part of the prohibitionists.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. He did not say there was any engagement.

Mr. CRAIG. If the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) will read "Hansard" he will see that the Prime Minister said there was an engagement.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Implied engagement.

Mr. CRAIG. No, he said there was an engagement.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Read it.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Anything the Premier said is well worth reading.

Mr. CRAIG. I will agree with the hon. member for South Grey (Mr. Landerkin) that this is well worth reading; it is well worth attention; and I intend to try to impress it upon the members of this House and the people. I quote from page 104 of "Hansard."

On the other hand, there was an engagement on the part of those who believed in prohibition that if the voice of the people on the subject should not be of sufficient strength to warrant the adoption by the party of the policy of prohibition, they also would square their views to those of their brothers, and we would hear no more of that question in the ranks of the party.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The Prime Minister said clearly that it was an implied engagement.

Mr. CRAIG. He does not say so there.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Read the whole speech.

Mr. CRAIG. If the hon. gentleman for South Grey would read this speech instead of making one himself, it would be better. I repeat that the Premier said that there was an engagement.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Implied engagement.

Mr. CRAIG. He does not say so. I do not know whether the Minister of Railways and Canals would have made a better

speech, I am only quoting what the Premier said.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. He never suggested that there was an express understanding.

Mr. CRAIG. I do not know what he suggested. The people throughout the country can take the meaning out of it.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. (Mr. Tarte). It was an "implied agreement"—the words are there.

Mr. CRAIG. Read a little lower down. I said that.

Mr. FOSTER. There are two things the Premier said.

Mr. CRAIG. I said that, but unless the vote was overwhelming there would be no prohibition. I say, why did he not tell us that?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. It was simply an implied agreement. Every man has his own feeling about the matter.

Mr. J. SOMERVILLE (North Wentworth and Brant). That was the conclusion you came to.

Mr. CRAIG. We are not talking about last year, we are talking about when this was put in the platform, and the Premier says that there was an agreement. That must have meant something. It could not possibly have meant that one party to the agreement thought one thing and the other party to the agreement thought something else. That would not have been an agreement, but a disagreement. The Premier said that it was understood—that is, it was understood by the Prohibitionists in the party and by the non-Prohibitionists in the party—that unless there was an overwhelming vote in favour of prohibition there would be no prohibition and the Prohibitionists would drop the matter.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. That is what you thought too.

Mr. CRAIG. Perhaps the hon. gentleman (Mr. Somerville) will rise and tell us what he thought about it. I shall expect to hear from him; no doubt he could enlighten us. I am not trying to say what the Premier meant. I am reading what he said. The Prohibitionists throughout the country can read as well as we can, and can understand the meaning of these words as well as we can. The words are not mine. I only repeat them. I draw one conclusion from this utterance of the Premier, and that is that such gentlemen as the hon. Minister of Agriculture and the members of the Alliance who were members of the Liberal party understood this matter. If there was an implied understanding, there must have

been some parties to that understanding. This was an understanding between those who were prohibitionists and those who were not. The Minister of Agriculture was one who represented the Prohibitionists, and, if there is any force in the Premier's words, the Minister of Agriculture must have been one of the parties who understood the case. The hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) must have been a party to the understanding. He is the only gentleman I see here to whom I can refer, except the hon. member for East Huron (Mr. Macdonald). These gentlemen were Prohibitionists in the party, and, if there was this agreement, implied or otherwise they must have known of it. If they did not know of it, there could have been no agreement. Now, I make this further statement which I think cannot be repudiated in view of what the Premier has said—and I am not manufacturing that statement, I am basing my argument upon it—

Mr. LANDERKIN. Argument, is it?

Mr. CRAIG. The hon. member for South Grey might have a little politeness. I think I am discussing this question very fairly and very moderately. I have given the Government a good deal of comfort already by stating my views honestly and openly, which they would not do last year, and which some of them would not do to-day, I suppose. The argument I make is a fair and legitimate one. If I were misrepresenting the Premier or quoting something not in "Hansard," there might be reason for calling me to account; but we have the words before us, and I have quoted them as they are. It is the Premier who placed his friends in this position, not I. It seems to me that he has placed the Minister of Agriculture, and the members of this House at that time who were Liberals, and the members of the Dominion Alliance who belong to the Liberal party in an exceeding awkward position. If they deny that there was any such engagement as the Prime Minister says there was, how can they explain his utterance? I leave them to settle it with their leader. I intended to say a little on the subject of Redistribution, but I think it is not necessary to discuss that question now. I may say that I agree with what the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) said when he declared that if the Bill was not a fair Bill he would both vote and speak against it. I hope the Government will show that they can do what they profess they will do—bring down a Redistribution Bill which shall be fair and just. They say that the members of the Opposition are talking against the Bill in anticipation and calling it a gerrymander, a word which they repudiate. They say this is going to be a fair Bill to all parties. Well, if it is, I cannot say that I will object to it. But, if it is a Gerrymander Bill, the Gov-

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ernment will be doing what they have always condemned. If they say that their predecessors did wrong and that therefore they will do wrong, that is no excuse. I will reserve anything I have to say on that question until the Bill is brought down.

With reference to Senate reform, we have heard a good deal, and I agree with a good deal that has been said on that question on that side of the House. I was glad to hear the Premier make the magnanimous statement that they did not intend to destroy the Senate. Well, the Senate must have been very much relieved when he made that statement. I am not so sure that all the members of his party agree with him. I see, the Premier of Manitoba says he would like to wipe the Senate out completely. The Premier says that he believes in a second Chamber, but he says that one neither responsible to the Crown nor to the people is an anomaly. Well, I may say that I consider the remedy proposed by the Premier for reforming the Senate is an anomaly, too, that it is a worse anomaly than the Senate could possibly be; because, while professing not to destroy the Senate, and while professing to be in favour of a second Chamber, the plan proposed is the very plan which would destroy the Senate, or make it entirely useless. Whether it is so or not, there is an impression abroad in the country—and I do not think this impression is confined to members of the Conservative party—that if the Senate had not stopped the Yukon Railway Bill and the Drummond County Railway Bill, we would not have heard anything of Senate reform. I think it is a fact, that if the Senate had not stopped these two Bills, there would have been no talk of Senate reform. But the cry has gone out, that the Senate will stop all good legislation. Well, I hold that the people of the country are grateful to the Senate for throwing out these Bills; and I happen to know that there are some members on the other side of the House—I know one very prominent member on the other side—

An hon. MEMBER. Name.

Mr. CRAIG. It is not necessary to give his name. I do not intend to give his name; my statement is sufficient for that; it is for myself that I am making the statement; if the hon. member does not choose to accept my statement, I do not ask him to do so. But I know one very prominent member on the other side of the House who said that he took no stock in this talk about doing away with the Senate and all that sort of thing, because, he said, the Senate had done a great service to the country by throwing out the Yukon Bill. I think he expressed the sentiments of a good many Liberals all over this country. I think the Senate earned the gratitude of the people by throwing out that Bill. I heard a good argument, the other day, in favour of leaving the Senate as it is, because now is the

time that the Senate is useful. Hon. members on the other side say that when we were in power, the Senate was of no use, that it was simply an echo of the Government. I do not agree with that. On several occasions the Senate has thrown out Bills that were passed in this House by the Conservative party, when the Senate did not think they were in the interests of the country. But to-day the Senate can be useful, and the Senate has been useful. It may be said that the Senate ought to be reformed. Many people have an objection to the present constitution of the Senate; I am not discussing that. But I say a better way of reforming the Senate can be found than that suggested by the Premier, and I think we had better leave the Senate alone. This plan, I think, is about the worst that could be devised, because, under guise of keeping the Senate, it is really destroying all the influence of the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to talk about broken pledges. I am afraid, if I did, I would talk too long. There is one pledge which has been talked about before, and that is the pledge of economy. The Minister of Trade and Commerce—I remember the speeches he made, and how he used to inveigh against the extravagance of the Conservative party, how he used to say it was perfectly disgraceful the way they were squandering the money of this country; that Canada could not stand such a thing very long, and we had a doleful picture presented of what we were drifting to by the extravagant Government of that day. Well, I think the extravagance of the Government of that day pales into insignificance before the extravagance of the Government of the present day. Their pledges of economy have gone the way many other of their pledges have gone. If the people of the country, if the Liberals of the country, who put them in power, because of these pledges, are satisfied, if they are satisfied that, instead of being economical, they should be extravagant, that, instead of reducing the debt, as they promised to do, they should go on piling it up and increasing it faster and faster—I say, if the Liberals are satisfied, then of course I have nothing to say in the matter. But I believe the day will come when the Government will find that the people are not satisfied with a party who got into power by making certain pledges, and as soon as they got into power, threw these pledges away and tore them up. When our party was in power, we heard something about a reduction of the members of the Cabinet; we have not heard a word about it since the present Government have been in power. We heard something about wiping out every vestige of protection; we never hear anything about protection to-day. Protection to-day is sacred with them; we do not hear anything about doing away with protection. I do not blame them for that. I am glad they have broken that pledge,

although it is not much to their credit. It is not much to the credit of any party to break their pledges, but I am glad that they have found new light and that they have found that the policy inaugurated by the Conservative party, and maintained by the Conservative party against their assaults year after year, is the best policy for this country. I feel satisfied, the longer I live, that this country must have protection, that lying alongside a highly-protected country like the United States, we must have protection for our manufacturers. I am glad that in the Cabinet there are men who have the same idea, and that they have prevented the party from doing away with the National Policy, and have kept up protection for our manufacturers. I hope they will still continue to do this. But with all their pledges they have broken I have nothing more to do. I leave the people of the country to settle with them for those pledges, and I have no doubt that, when the time comes, they will do so.

Mr. A. BRODER (Dundas). Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to say right here, concerning this question of the plebiscite, that there is not the slightest doubt that the plank in favour of the plebiscite was put into the platform of the Liberal party for the express purpose of influencing the temperance people throughout this country in the then ensuing campaign on behalf of the hon. gentlemen opposite. I think the Premier and his colleagues are mistaking the temper of the temperance people of this country, if they imagine that their course on this question is going to satisfy the serious people with whom they have to deal. I want to say, that there never was a more unfair attempt, not only to deceive people who are serious and are in earnest, but to jeopardize an important interest in this country, by placing it in a doubtful position; I refer to the investments in the liquor traffic in this country. The fact is, that there was not a man throughout this country who had a dollar invested in a hotel or in the manufacture of liquor, but whose interests were endangered by the doubtful position in which the Government placed that business by their course on this prohibition question, and that without having any serious intention to take action. I say, that is a position that no class of people in this country should be put into by men clothed with the responsibility of carrying on the business of the country. I wish to say also that if the hon. gentlemen now proposing to do away with, or to make useless, the Senate of Canada, have the respect that they claim to have for the voice of the people of this country, then they have a right to take the voice of the people as expressed at a recent date.

In the power of his might the Premier of this country takes the voice of the people by the throat and stifles it. While he is talking of giving the people more liberty

by changing the constitution of the Senate of Canada so as to give freer expression to the will of the people, while, Sir, he says he is doing that, he proposes, at the same time, to stifle the lately expressed will of the people on the question of prohibition. Why does he do it? And what argument does he use in favour of his action? He says the vote is too small to justify the passing of a law. He should have told the people that when they were contending on the hustings over this question. Further than that, the press of this country, from one end of it to the other argued that a majority of votes was to decide the question one way or the other. Take the Canadian newspapers, Reform or Conservative, and you will find all of them arguing on the supposition that a majority vote, according to the British practice and principle, should decide that question, as it decides all others. Why was not the Premier of this country and the men who follow him honest enough to tell the people that that was not a proper argument, and that what he and they intended the people to understand was that they must poll at least 50 per cent of the vote before they could have a prohibition law. Did you hear the Prime Minister use the argument that the reason why Quebec cast a large vote against prohibition is because they have prohibition already in great part in that province? If there is any force in that argument at all, it justifies the right hon. gentleman in enacting a prohibitory law, because, according to his own statement, Quebec is already prepared for prohibition. But, Sir, he uses that argument because he wants to get out of trouble and to get his friends out too. It is, I suppose, quite understood that the hon. the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) should be conveniently away from this House when this discussion is going on. He is rather tender and does not want to get roasted in this House. I say, Sir, that he should be in his seat to-day justifying the position he took in the country, or condemning the position that his friends in the Cabinet took. We find in the province of Quebec no less than three Ministers of the Cabinet going out on the public platform to influence the people to vote down the plank they put in their Liberal party platform of 1893. Is that fair treatment to the people of this country? I claim that the least these gentlemen could have done was to allow the people to use their judgment without being influenced by not only the position these gentlemen held as Cabinet Ministers, but by the arguments they were enabled to use. What were the arguments used by the Liberals throughout the country. Why, some men who were previously prominent temperance men, and whose voices were heard denouncing the Government on the prohibition question, when the Conservatives were in power, these gentlemen were good enough to go around and to tell some of the good, honest Grits: Oh, you had better

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not vote for prohibition; you will put Laurier in a hole. And, Sir, it is a very significant thing that where we have the largest Grit majorities we also have the largest vote against prohibition. I always thought the Liberal party was the temperance party, but when they came to vote on this question they did not show it. There is something strange about the whole thing. Take the large village of Morrisburg, where I reside, and which has a Grit majority, and it was the only poll in the whole county that gave a majority against prohibition. And, Sir, the strongest and most pronounced vote against prohibition in the province of Ontario was in the large majority of cases given in the Grit counties, which is a certificate that these gentlemen opposite used their influence against prohibition, against their own principles, and against the plank in their party platform of 1893, in order to get away from the responsibility which they asked the people to put upon them. I believe, Sir, that the people of this country will hold them responsible for their action. I believe, further, that there is no candid man, whether he agrees with the temperance people or not, who will refuse to condemn these gentlemen opposite for their lack of honesty of purpose in so dealing with this question which involves a great economic principle. Sir, any party in this country that will needlessly place contending elements of society in such a strife against each other, has the right to be accused of lack of honesty in dealing with public questions. But, unhappily, that is not all. The effect of what they have done will be to add in the future to the acrimony and contention that will continue on this question. Instead of allowing the people to go on quietly and calmly in their honest conclusions according to their conscientious scruples, the action of the Government will intensify the strife, and in the future much harm will arise. I believe, Sir, that if the people of Canada ever get prohibition, they will have to get it within the next fifteen years, or they will not get it at all. Why do I make that statement? I make it because I believe that the influx of the foreign element into this country in the near future will be so great that they will overcome, to a large extent, the purposes of the people who are in this country to-day, and who are willing and able to carry prohibition at the polls in Canada. When great centres of population grow up in any country as is the case in the United States or England or in these older countries of Europe, it is impossible to carry prohibition. That will be the effect in this country, too. So, I say that the Liberal Government has done the temperance people in this country a terrible injury; an injury that no one can measure. And they have done this injury for what? For party purposes and no other. They cannot get away from that. The logic of the whole thing makes it apparent on the face that

they have done it, not in the interests of the country, but in the interests of the party in power.

It is amusing to any sensible person in this House or out of it either, to hear the Liberal members opposite stating that their party has kept its promises to the people. Well, if that is so, their promises amounted to little, for they have changed very little on the old Conservative policy. They have cut a strip off the coat, it is true, and they have put a frill on it which they call preferential trade with England in order to deceive the people and to lead them to conclude they had changed the National Policy. Sir, I dare them to rip a seam in that coat or even to remove a button from it. They dare not; they are afraid. I defy them to meddle further with the clothes they have on them, and which they have stolen from the Conservatives—might I remark that these gentlemen are better dressed to-day than they have ever been in their lives before. All I am sorry for is, that there are not better men in our clothes. They stand to-day condemned before the public, and they know they are condemned, because when there is a county in this country opened up what do we find? We find all the resources at the command, not only of the Federal Government, but of the several provincial governments, hurled into that particular locality. Is that to get an expression of public opinion, think you? No, Sir, but to stifle public opinion, and to hinder public opinion giving full expression to its intention. That is the case all over the country. Go west, go east, go anywhere, and that is the practice. Wherever there is a county opened up, where there happens to be some harbour improvement required, you will find the Minister of Public Works there the next day to see how the shoals are, and to see how the rocks are. But, Sir, it is the political rocks he is after. It is the shifting sands of their principles that he is after. He tells them: "We want to spend money right here in your midst; ask for it—how much do you want? and we will give you what you want." That has been done from time to time, all over the country, from the building of railroads to the building of school-houses. The provincial government, backed up by these men, say to the people: "You want a school, and we will build you one," and these gentlemen say to them: "You want to get into such a place by a railroad, and we will give you one." This is their record all over the country, and they are afraid of their record at the bar of public opinion. I have proved it, and I intend to prove it still further after six o'clock.

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

### After Recess.

Mr. BRODER. Mr. Speaker, when the House rose at six o'clock I was referring to

the position of the party in power in regard to the plebiscite, and to the conduct of the Government in dealing with the verdict of the people on that question, which the people certainly looked upon as a serious matter. Many gentlemen who have the honour of sitting on this side of the House, and a great many people throughout this country, understood that when the Liberal party put that plank in their platform in 1893, they were putting it there for the purpose of honestly testing public opinion on that question, and that the only logical conclusion which the people could come to after the verdict was had, was that the voice of the people would be carried out. I have in my hand a book which is certainly interesting reading for this side of the House, and there is not the slightest doubt that it will be interesting reading as a matter of history. There have probably been no set of men in the political history of this country so anxious to get away from themselves as hon. gentlemen opposite. Ever since they have been in power they have been trying to get away from their own record, and I do not blame them for it. We have a record of their action in what might be considered their calm moments, when they sat down in solemn council to decide on a policy for the great Liberal party of this country to announce to the electorate. Some gentlemen who were at that convention, first, as members of the Liberal party, and, secondly, for the purpose of assisting the Liberal party as temperance men, were instrumental in putting into the platform the resolution to which I have referred. Other men were there who had convictions on the question not in accord with the convictions of those who were advocating its insertion in the platform of the party. I wish now to read from a speech delivered on that occasion by the late Hon. Mr. Anglin. Mr. Anglin, I may say, was opposed to having that plank put in the platform, and I believe every honest, candid man in the country, in this House and out of it, will feel that no other construction can be put upon the action of the Liberal party in their convention of 1893 than that which Mr. Anglin put upon it at that time. After stating that he is opposed to prohibition and opposed to putting this plank in the platform, he says:

It may be said, indeed, that this resolution only asks for a plebiscite. But what do we mean if we ask for a plebiscite if we are in earnest? It is not that we desire to know what the opinion of the people is on this question; that we desire to ascertain their opinion in a particular way, and that we will do all in our power to give effect to their decision as thus ascertained? It may be that not one-half of the adult male population will vote. Nevertheless, should a majority be obtained at the polls when this question is submitted, the friends of prohibition will be in a position to call upon the Liberal party to follow up their resolution logically by assisting in the passage and enforcement of a prohibitory liquor law.

That is the position taken by the Hon. Mr.

Anglin in the convention, and his position was right, it was logical, it was honest; and where are the men to-day who were in holy counsel on that occasion with Mr. Anglin? Trying to get away from their own record, trying to get away from themselves, and it will be a good thing for the country when they do get away from themselves. How was that resolution carried? The record says that it was carried almost unanimously, after the statement of Mr. Anglin putting the proper construction upon it. On this great question hon. gentlemen opposite have been trifling with the electorate of this country. There are many serious people in this country who believe in prohibition, and those people have a right to have their opinions respected at the hands of the Government when they ask them to pronounce those opinions at the polls.

While there is great difference of opinion as to the advisability of a prohibitory law, it would have been better not to have put this machinery in motion than to have attempted to stifle public opinion after putting it in motion. I cannot help but recall the fact that when the late Sir John Thompson was approached by the prohibition party in this country, he stood up manfully, as a statesman should, and said: It is impossible for me to tell you gentlemen in two hours how I shall provide \$7,000,000 or \$8,000,000 revenue. I can hold out no inducement to you that we will be able to meet your views. That was statesmanlike and manly and in strong contrast with the stand taken by hon. gentlemen opposite to-day. Were they candid? Were they sincere? Were they in earnest? Did they mean what they said? Why, if we are to square their actions by their professions, they were not honest in what they said, they had no intention of giving to the people what they asked the people to pronounce upon. The position of the First Minister on that question is such that if not one man who had gone to the polls and voted against prohibition, when the plebiscite was taken, the right hon. gentleman had just the same argument against granting prohibition as he has to-day, because he counts the men who stayed at home and did not vote. Why, every one might have stayed at home except the few who voted for prohibition, and it would still have been defeated. It is generally assumed that if a proposal is put before a community, which has a right to pronounce upon it, the men who absented themselves and failed to record their votes are bound by those who did pronounce their opinion; and when the Government gave this plebiscite and asked the people to pronounce upon the question submitted, it was in duty bound to stand by the proposition it had laid before the people. But the Government did not want prohibition carried. They were afraid it would carry, and they attempted, to my knowledge, in some localities to prevent it being carried at the polls. Further than that in Quebec

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while the vote, the day after the plebiscite was taken, was something over fifty thousand against it, that fifty thousand kept growing until two weeks later there were ninety-four thousand against it. That vote continued to grow for two weeks until the Government could proclaim to the country that there was not a sufficient majority in favour of prohibition to make it the law. It is pretty well understood and admitted that in some localities in the province of Quebec the ballot boxes were tampered with. Some men were good enough to say that they were tired voting all day. One man said that he had voted seventeen times against the plebiscite. Another said: the returning officer knows what we want in this community, and he will put our ballots in the box. It must have been understood what was going to be done in the province of Quebec, because the Government drew all their forces there, including the much respected Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière), who is, of course, the exponent of the best element of the whole province of Quebec, but who nevertheless was good enough to take the public platform against this question down there. The men who put that plank in the Liberal platform, if they were sincere when they did so, should have been equally sincere when the question was submitted at the polls; but it appears that the proper kind of business concern now to run this country, is one in which you must have a good man and then a wicked partner. The wicked partner must go out and drink whisky with the boys, but the unfortunate part of this business concern is that it has too many wicked partners, so they thought it necessary to take in our friend over there into the concern in order to give it respectability. It is astonishing how the machine works to suit the wicked partners. Every time the wheel of fortune turns it stops where they want it. The hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) was particularly prominent in this province talking on this question, and nobody could give any other construction to what he said than that this was a serious matter. If the people want prohibition, he said, vote for it at the plebiscite, and he gave them to understand that if they were in the majority they would get it. But where is the hon. Minister to enforce his views to-day? He ought to be here. Even if he be a practical farmer, the crops are not now growing and he need not go out in this cold weather to hoe his corn or sow his wheat.

Mr. T. C. CASGRAIN (Montmorency). They have put him in cold storage.

Mr. BRODER. Yes, and the cold storage is not so much for carrying produce to English markets as for freezing out the principles of these hon. gentlemen. They have got every promise they made to his country in cold storage where they are going to

freeze it to death. We hear a great deal about this cold storage, as if it was this Government that first enunciated that policy in this country. To hear these men talk, you would think there was no ice in this country until they came into office. They had been long enough in the cold shades of opposition to make ice. They had been so long in these cold shades that they got the monopoly of that business, and in order to get rid of their surplus stock, they had to take up this system and all their professions are now being shipped out of this country in cold storage.

I am a prohibitionist. I have stood up for it when it cost a great deal in my political record to do so, but I am glad to be able to say that I represent a county which gives every man the right to think and speak for himself, and should it happen that my county would prefer some other man than I, I shall submit to their decision. But there are times in the history of every public man when he should not fall down at the foot of public opinion but stand up in a manly way and help to lead public opinion in the right direction. These men, however, have not had that courage. Why, they are afraid of their own friends to-day. They have shown by their own record that they are afraid of their own friends and dare not carry out one jot or tittle of what they proclaimed to the country as their great policy. I do not wish to say more on this prohibition question than this, that the First Minister and his followers have done this country and the cause of temperance a great injury. Why have they done that? For this reason. They gave the people to understand for years that the only true hope of the prohibition party in this Dominion was to put them in power. But what do we find now? There are a great many serious, conscientious, earnest men, who were perhaps largely identified with that party because they thought it was a party which would most likely give them prohibition. What do they find to-day? They find that the idols they have been worshipping for years are broken at their feet. They find that instead of being genuine these idols were only polished up for shelf use, were only made of pipe clay. They find that they have been worshipping gods made of clay who have fallen to pieces at their feet. Such men are disappointed and have a right to be disappointed. The Government cannot get away from the logic of their own doings, and the people are intelligent enough to square them up by their professions. The people will weigh them in the political balance and will find them wanting as the worse sinners that ever governed this Dominion.

Now, I want to say a little more about this Washington business. The Premier, last evening, made a little play on the word "Cabinet." I suppose, you could not have a meeting of the Cabinet of this country in a foreign country, but he will not deny that

they met in New York, and on Sunday too. What to do? To consult whether they should come home, or still stick to the Yankees, I suppose. That is not the only Sunday business they did. They went to Montreal. What for? I suppose they were afraid that somebody would take possession of the post office if they were not there to guard it. That reminds me of a story of an Irishman, a friend and fellow-countryman of my own. Unfortunately, his financial condition was not just what it ought to be. He had been taking the Montreal "Gazette" for a long time, but had not paid for it, and owed about \$15. During the time of the Pacific slander—that is the proper name—the "Gazette" people wrote him a rather sharp letter. This was about the time when John Young and Abbott's private clerk had interfered with the letters in the post office. My friend wrote to Mr. Thomas White, whom he approached in a very familiar way, a letter something like this: "Dear Tommy, enclosed find \$2. I would send you more, only I am afraid of John Young and the post office." So, these gentlemen were afraid of the post office, and went down on Sunday to take care of it, I suppose. I do not know whether it was decided that Mr. McShane or somebody else shall have a post office.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (South Leeds). Did you say, on Sunday?

Mr. BRODER. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR. Is that possible?

Mr. BRODER. Everything is possible now. Now, as to this Washington business, the Premier said, in his speech the other night—and it was an astonishing statement, I think, for the Premier to make, when we consider the past record of these gentlemen and their former pretenses—that the people of this country do not want reciprocity. Then why, in the name of sense, was he over there trying to outrage the public sentiment of this country? Why did he not come home? For my part, I believe that it was an immense relief to the people of this country, and lifted a general feeling of anxiety, when news came that these gentlemen were coming home with nothing done. This is what the Premier says:

There was a time, not long ago, when the markets of the great cities of the Union was the only market we had for any of our products; but, thank Heaven,—

They do not thank the Tories for anything. "Thank Heaven," says the Premier—

—those days are passed and over now.

Does the right hon. gentleman pretend to say that if they had had their way in 1891, those days would not now be passed? He would not be thanking Heaven, but thanking his stars for the change that would have taken place. This country would not be in the

position it is in to-day. If these gentlemen had had their way in 1891, this country would not have stood out conspicuously as the coming country of this world. They may thank the Conservative party, that stood up and defended this country against foreign aggression under the principles of hon. gentlemen opposite. The result of their policy would have been to put this country into the hands of the United States, because no seventy-five millions of people would submit to the rule, in commercial matters, of five millions. These gentlemen are thankful to Heaven now that that is not the case, and they ought not to forget their thanks to the Conservative party, that held the fort in those days until these gentlemen recovered their heads. When the Conservative party was in power, helping to build up this great country, these gentlemen were decrying it. What is the position to-day? Do you find the leading men of the Conservative party, or even the rank and file, going up and down decrying this Canada of ours? No, Sir. During the time these gentlemen were in Washington, endeavouring to negotiate a treaty for the settlement of these questions, which every true Canadian would be glad to see settled, did the Conservative party, in their newspapers, or on the platform, or anywhere else, do anything but hold up the hands of the negotiators? The conduct of the Conservative party contrasted very favourably with the conduct of hon. gentlemen opposite when they were in opposition and the Conservative party were endeavouring to secure a treaty. They did everything they could to thwart the efforts of those who sought to negotiate a treaty with the United States. I am glad to see gentlemen have learned the lesson of patriotism from the Conservative party. They are loyal to-day: they are British to-day. But take up their speeches in 1891—were they British then? Their effort in 1891 was to subject this country to the commercial control of the United States. The Conservative party prevented that. When these gentlemen were trying to negotiate a treaty, the Conservatives even postponed taking the public platform on these questions. But that was not the treatment we received at their hands, when they were out of power. I wish to point out that these gentlemen gave away every argument they had before they went over to the United States. The Yankee will not give anything, if he can get what he wants for nothing. He is a shrewd, sharp business man—they are a nation of shrewd business men. I would like the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) to explain why it is that he is out of harmony with his friends. When he was in Chicago, and felt he could talk without getting into trouble, he said we had made a mistake in giving free corn. But that question was raised when free corn was proposed, and these gentlemen were told that such a step would hamper any efforts at negotiation

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with the American people. But they put corn on the free list, and then they went over there, hoping to get pay for what they had given the Americans before they went there. Well, they are not going to get it. They expected to get it, but they have come home, knowing more than they did before. When they were here, they thought they were all-powerful, that they would go over and negotiate a treaty, whether the Americans wanted it or not. But they have found that the Americans were looking after their own interests, and what the Canadian Government ought to do is to look after Canadian interests, without regard to the welfare of the United States. As soon as they get into that position, and propose legislation solely with a view to our own interests, just so soon will they begin to get into a position to secure a treaty with the American people. We know very well that American public men know less about Canada, probably, than the public men of almost any other country. I dare say, that has dawned on hon. gentlemen opposite. They would find the most prominent public men over there by no means well posted as to the position Canada occupied or the value of Canadian trade to the people that might get it. I must say, I have never been a strong advocate of sacrificing too much in order to get a treaty with the Americans.

The twelve years that treaty of 1854 was in force, were the twelve most favourable years for us that could possibly be; the conditions were such, the American war having removed a large portion of their population from agricultural pursuits that the American people wanted our products. But notwithstanding that the conditions were so favourable apparently to us, I find by some documents published in England, which I think the Hon. George Brown was instrumental in getting up from American records that during those twelve years the Canadian people bought from the United States \$150,000,000 worth more goods and products than the United States bought from Canada. Now, if, under those favourable conditions we bought from them that much more than they bought from us, how can we expect under changed conditions that are not so favourable, to get a treaty that will be of much benefit to us? I want to say this further, that I believe this Government ought without any delay to put a duty upon pulp wood in this country. The American people are confined to very small areas now for pulp wood, they have got to get it in this country. Now, I am informed—and I do not wish to make a statement that it is not borne out by facts—that every cord of pulp wood when manufactured is worth \$40 on the market. I do not see why we should let the Americans cut our pulp wood—I think the stumpage is 40 cents a cord—I do not see why we should let them take away our pulp wood to the

States at a cost of \$4, and make it worth \$10. The market for the pulp is in Europe, not the United States. The Americans come here and take up the raw material, take it over there and manufacture it with American capital and American labour, and ship it to Germany and to England, and get this large profit out of it. Why should we not keep that profit for Canadians? If we put an export duty on pulp wood the Americans would begin to open their eyes on this question, they would begin to see that we can take care of ourselves, and I would vote any time in this House for a resolution to put an export duty on pulp wood. Now, I wish to deal with another matter. I want to talk a little about the Senate before it is gone. No matter how you feel, you have to talk very respectfully about any one that is dead. I want to say something about it while it is alive—of course the Premier intends to kill it. His scheme will kill it, that is what he wants. I want to say that any Government that deliberately disturbs the constitutional conditions of this country ought to be careful before making the step. Suppose the Premier lightly takes hold of the Senate and does what he says, what is to hinder every province changing the position of the minorities? What protection have the minorities without the Senate? Why, you un hinge the whole basis underlying the respective positions of majorities and minorities. You set on foot a movement that you cannot stop this side of revolution. I quite understand that some people in this country wish to do away with the Senate because they are opposed to the expense it incurs; but I cannot understand how, while wishing to yield to the idea of those people who want to do away with it, you still retain all the expense of it, all the paraphernalia. There are those who say it is of no use. The Premier talks about the Australian system. I am satisfied the Premier knows it although he has not told us all about it; but his proposition is not the Australian proposition at all. Both Houses in Australia are elected under the new law, and when the Senate there rejects the law they wait three months, and if they reject it again, the Government goes to the country. That is a very different thing to what the Premier proposes. It would be well for him to look that matter up, because it is worth considering, and he will find that they have changed that law lately. Then why should we attempt, even if he were right, to take up something that has never been tried? Better be a little more conservative, and wait till we see whether the cart will run or not. But I want to go a little further. The people of this country must feel that as the great interests of this country are developing and becoming more important, still more important will the Senate become. In England we very often hear the expression: Thank God,

we have a House of Lords; and the time will come in this country, it has come already, when the people will say: Thank God, we have a Canadian Senate. Now the hon. gentlemen opposite say these old gentlemen in the Senate have never done anything. Well, let us see what they have done: I have a statement here which may not have been seen by everybody, although it has been published in the press. It is a statement made up by one of the members of the Ontario legislature and used in the debate there; it was published in the "Ottawa Citizen" and copied, I think, from the "Toronto Mail and Empire." I want to call the attention of the House to the number of bills that they have dealt with altogether, and the number of bills they have dealt with while their own friends were in power. Now, you know these gentlemen have told the people all over the country that the Senators are there just to help their own friends. Well, they have really rejected more Bills of their own friends than they have of hon. gentlemen opposite. Of course there is a good reason for that because the people have not given these gentlemen their confidence for many years; and the probability is that if they wait a while the Senate will have no longer any occasion to reject their bills. Now, they say these Senators are very old. Why, you would think that when these gentlemen came into power they were going to put young blood into this old body, that they were going to put some life into the Senate. Almost one of the first appointments that they made is the oldest man in the Senate to-day with one exception. It is surprising how Reform members will rejuvenate when they get into the Senate.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). How old is he?

Mr. BRODER. He is over 80. Now I want to tell you the average age of the Senators. You would think that every man put there by the Tories was old enough to be fit for the next world—almost. The average age of the Senators is 65. That is a good, safe average. If you put the 65 years men out of this House the best of it would be gone.

Mr. TAYLOR. There would not be many members of the Government left.

Mr. BRODER. I would not object to that. The youngest Senator is 38, the oldest 94.

Mr. TAYLOR. He is a Grit.

Mr. BRODER. No, I think he is a Tory. When Sir John A. Macdonald was alive, I heard a countryman of mine say to him: Sir John, you look young, I think you will never die. Sir John said: That is what the Grits say. I think the Senators must be Tories because they do not die when they become old. If there is anything these gentlemen over there want, it is that these

poor old fellows in the Senate should get ready and die. If they were all 80 years old they would not change the Senate. What is troubling them to-day is that the Senators are too young now. They were old before they got into power, but now they are too young, they are not dying fast enough. When they find out that the average is 65, they say: We cannot wait for them to die because our men will be dead before they are, and we must make some change. As I say, the youngest is 38 and the oldest is 94. The Liberals have recently appointed one of 90. Oh, I beg the Premier's pardon, I said he was 80. I do not want to steal anything from this man; I do not want to take ten years of his age; he was ninety.

The oldest Senator was as young as any in respect of work done. In thirty years since confederation the Senate has thrown out—

Here is what I want hon. gentlemen opposite to particularly study:

—since confederation they have thrown out 153 Bills: 65 Government measures, 35 public, and 53 private Bills, including divorce. The Government measures were distributed as follows:—From 1867 to 1873, Conservative Administration, 53 private Bills, including divorce. The Govern-13.

Remember, 23 Tory Bills, and only 13 Liberal Bills for the same number of years; of course, the Grit legislation was so good that the Senate could not throw it out.

From 1879 to 1896, Conservative Administration, 24 Government Bills; from 1896 to 1899, Liberal Administration, 5 Government Bills.

That is the position so far as the rejection of Bills by the Senate is concerned. Mr. Speaker, there is no country that ought to cling to a second House with greater tenacity than this country of ours, and there never was a time as now when it was so critical to disturb the existing conditions. I can prove it by the argument of hon. gentlemen opposite. They say that things are going so well, that we will have thousands upon thousands of a new population right away. The people have just learned what this country is, and you want to keep things as they are so that they will recognize it. Further, Sir, there is a principle involved in the constitution of the Senate which no Government of Canada can lightly disregard. I took the trouble to read the confederation debates long before I was a member of Parliament, and let me ask who were the first men to make concessions to bring about this great union of Canada? Who were the men to make the starting point that we might bring about this scheme which all parties, Grit and Tory, found necessary to put an end to that strife which before confederation tore the country asunder. Sir, the people of the province of Quebec made the first concession. They consented to take 65 members in the House of Commons while Ontario had 73, and although Quebec retains her 65

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members Ontario has a great many more to-day. Quebec allowed this country to adopt the principle of representation by population, although it was against their interests as a minority. But, Sir, there was the law of compensation which ought to come in and which always does come in, and so Quebec said we must have 24 members in the Senate, and they have 24 senators, and Ontario has 24 also. The proposition of hon. gentlemen opposite is to change that understanding, and they propose to make the Senate under certain conditions subject to the popular body, when the province of Quebec will have only 65 members in this House, and the other provinces will have a great preponderance.

But it occurs to me that there is something underlying this scheme which has not come to the surface. Do these hon. gentlemen intend to say when the Senate is so over-ridden by the popular body, that then it is time for Quebec to have more members in the House of Commons. Is that underlying this scheme? This country should know the intentions of hon. gentlemen opposite in reference to disturbing the settled conditions of our constitution, for the people of Canada will guard with jealous care the rights they have given to the minorities. Sir, we ought to protect minorities. There is perhaps no man in a better position to speak on this question than I am. I stand here the representative of one of the strongest Protestant counties in the province of Ontario, a county that has comparatively few Roman Catholics in it. I am sorry to say that with a few exceptions nearly every one of these Roman Catholics has been identified with the Reform party for years. When the constitutional question of the rights of the minority in Manitoba was discussed and fought out bitterly in this county, I could have taken the side of the majority in Manitoba and got into this House by three or four hundred majority of the popular vote; but I chose otherwise and contended that it was necessary to stand on the great principle of right by giving the people what they were entitled to under the constitution. In one place I was told they would not allow me to speak if I took that position, but I stood on the public platforms of that county and I was able to convince the people of the right, and they sent me here as their representative, so that I feel I am competent to stand up for the rights of minorities. Sir, it is my duty as a Protestant to do it. I declare here that if Canada is to be a great and happy nation the minorities must be considered by the majorities, because the majorities can always take care of themselves. I believe that in this scheme to change the constitution of the Senate there is something underlying it that has not yet been revealed.

Mr. TAYLOR (South Leeds). They say you are an Orangeman.

Mr. BRODER (Dundas). Well, try me and see. I am not ashamed of it, but as such

there is nothing to hinder me from standing up to advocate that every man in Canada should have his right. I am a citizen of this great country, and I say that the welfare of this country depends on the just recognition of every man irrespective of class or creed. I was sorry to hear it stated in this House that the race cry had been used in certain localities, and if I mistake not it has been used, but no lover of his country will endorse the using of it in any section. I believe that we ought to appeal to the intelligence of the people of Canada and not to their prejudices. If hon. gentlemen opposite have been guilty of feeding the people upon their prejudices instead of upon their argument, it is their own business not mine, but it will recoil on their own heads. You cannot feed a man all the time on prejudices; you must give him something better than that for both soul and body. And so, every honest Canadian ought to consider most seriously the proposition laid down by the leader of the Government. I venture to say, Sir, that the country will not endorse him. The great underlying common sense of this Canada of ours is conservative in principle, and our people desire to preserve this country and every institution that is in it. I venture to say that the Senate will become more and more important as time goes on. What do these gentlemen want to change the constitution of the Senate for. Their own conduct since they have come into power gives the answer. The Senate stands in their way; but it does not stand in the way of the right minded people of this country. It stands in the way of the men who want to get their arms into the public chest up to their shoulders. It stands in the way of men who want to give improvident contracts without the scrutiny of the Senate. It stands in the way of men who want to exploit, if I may use the word, the public chest of this country of ours. Sir, that great safeguard ought to be retained, and the retention of it will be in the interest even of hon. gentlemen opposite. The Premier himself will be most interested in having the Senate. What would the Hon. Alex. Mackenzie have done if he had not the aid of the Senate, when, as he told us, he was sleeping with his arms on the public chest, guarding it from his Liberal friends who were trying to exploit it. Poor Alexander Mackenzie would have a bad time if he was here now. He was glad to have the Senate, and the Premier will be glad to have the Senate before he is many days older, perhaps. He ought to have it to help him out of trouble once in a while, and it will help him out of trouble. But it looks as if there was a scheme on foot. If he puts his policy before the country we cannot tell whether he will carry it out or not. This may be another plebiscite business. I think I know pretty well what he wants to do. He wants to bring in a most outrageous gerrymander Bill, which he thinks the Senate will throw out, and then

he will go to the country with a tremendous cry, and sweep the country again. That is the scheme, because all that is mentioned in the Speech from the Throne is a gerrymander Bill. It is a pretty small grist to bring to a big mill like this; but we are going to grind it—and I suppose there is not the slightest doubt that they will run away with the dough. We are going to grind the grist, and we will grind it that fine that they will not know it when they get home. Have they got done with all the great questions which have agitated this country? They have got down now to a very small business, when they have nothing to offer but a gerrymander Bill. They are going to the country and they want some cry. They never got into power without a cry or a scandal, and when they have none, they manufacture one. I always thought that a great party ought to appeal to the country on principle. They remind me of the American public man who spoke for two hours and a half very earnestly, and at the end said, "Gentlemen, these are my principles; if you do not like them, I can change them." It is an old story, but it applies with great force to these gentlemen to-day. The people of this country begin to see that these gentlemen are insincere, and they are not willing to put their great interests into their hands for the future. These gentlemen find the ground slipping away from them; they hear such rumblings that their stomachs have got sour—they have got too much Tart.

An hon. MEMBER. Castoria.

Mr. BRODER. That won't do; he is too old a sinner for that. The Premier cannot do without him, and he knows it. He may be glad to get rid of some of his wicked partners, but there is one there that he cannot get rid of; he cannot do without him. He is the dominant man in that party—there is no doubt about that; and I am not sorry for it, because I think he will bring them to grief before long. I would not care if they had a couple more men like him.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to engage the attention of the House too long. I do not speak often, and perhaps you are all glad of it. I am here representing a serious county and trying to do my duty as a citizen of this country, and I believe there is a feeling of disappointment on the part of a great many of the people of that county because of the position this Government occupy with reference to carrying out what they proposed. I might go back to this red book. We used to hear years ago of the red parlour, but here is a red book. It is hard to tell where it came from. I will tell another story, and hon. gentlemen may catch the idea. There was a very zealous curé, a Roman Catholic priest, in the province of Quebec, who was in the habit of remonstrating with his people on political matters from the altar. His bishop told

him, and properly so, that he must not do that; but his feelings got the better of him one day, and, preaching very earnestly, he said to his people, "Heaven above is blue, hell below is red." Now, I do not know where this book came from, but it is red. Sometimes a man will hardly recognize his own child, and I do not know whether hon. gentlemen opposite will recognize some of the children that I will bring to light from this book. Here is one page headed Sir Richard Cartwright. I do not know whether the people know him or not. They used to know him, but he is so changed now that I do not know whether his old friends would recognize him. In this book he says:

More than that, I have always held that in Canada protection was not only a crime, but a blunder. I have always felt that there was absolutely no excuse for introducing such a system in a country like this.

We do not hear him using such language any more; but while the lamp holds out to burn you know there is a chance. Sometimes these gentlemen say: "The Tories left us so many rascally bills that we cannot take off protection; we must have a big revenue." But I say this, and I say it seriously, that these gentlemen, with the buoyant revenue they have to-day, with millions of a surplus, are in a position to carry out their principles if they wanted to. Why do they not reduce the tariff on those items which have been so objectionable to them, and keep on doing it? They do not want to do it; it is the last thing they are thinking about.

An hon. MEMBER. Next year.

Mr. BRODER. Yes, we will see them next year, there is no doubt about that; but we cannot tell where they will be. If they wanted to carry out their principles of free trade or even to introduce free trade to a small degree, the buoyant revenue puts them in a position to do it; but they do not want to do it. Now, before I sit down, I wish to thank the House for their forbearance.

Mr. E. B. OSLER (West Toronto). I am, Mr. Speaker, one of a very considerable number of men in this House, on both sides, who have not been a very long time in this House. What has struck me very forcibly, and I am sure it has equally struck all of the new members, is the tremendous time that is wasted here in personal abuse. The older members take up half their speeches in abusing each other like pickpockets. One side is as bad as the other in that respect; and if half of what they say of each other be true, not one of the members who have been in this House for the last fifteen years is deserving of a seat in it. I had hoped, in my innocence, that the hon. Premier, with his sunny ways and childlike smile, would have found some way or another to remedy this evil. He returned from the memorable Jubilee trip, where his

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sunny smile and other pleasing qualities procured for him the Cobden medal and other decorations. He returned, in fact, with a sort of halo around his head. He had satisfied the hearts of the free traders, and received the Cobden medal, and there was a glow around his head perceptible by free traders. But very shortly after he returned, he satisfied the most inveterate protectionists that he was just as much an out-and-out protectionist as any of them. Take the figures quoted last night, which show that the utmost reduction in the duties on the average goods coming into Canada is less than one-half of 1 per cent, and who can doubt that hon. gentleman's zeal for protection? I am greatly afraid, therefore, that the head of the right hon. gentleman is considerably shorn of its former free-trade halo, and, after the exhibition he made on the floor of this House the other night, I think we have seen the end of his sunny smile, and pleasant ways, and pretty speeches, and the remaining faint glimmer of halo has departed.

In replying to a speech as able, perhaps, as any ever delivered in this House, instead of meeting it as a man in his position should, he started out into a tirade of abuse. He used language worthy of a Billingsgate fishwife, and if it had not been for the restraining influence of your presence, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid we should have had to submit to language worthy only of a sailor's parrot. Therefore, I greatly fear that my hope that there was any chance of this long-continued personal wrangling being put an end to has been cruelly dispelled, and there is evidently no longer prospect of any change for the better being brought about by anything which the right hon. Premier may do or say.

The treaty which was to have been made in the city of Quebec, has evidently been a failure, and in future it will, no doubt, be looked upon, not as the Treaty of Quebec, but as the treating at Washington.

The right hon. gentleman said that the great act of wickedness of which the Senate had been guilty, was the rejection of the Yukon Bill. He must be woefully ignorant of the feeling of his own people, woefully ignorant of the feeling of Canadians, because, from one end of the country to the other, satisfaction is expressed at this act of the Senate, and the right hon. gentleman did not dare go to the country and appeal from the vote of that body in rejecting that Bill. But a red herring is sought to be drawn across the path by assuming that hon. members of this side were opposed to the opening of the Yukon country. Nothing of the kind, Mr. Speaker. Not one of the members on this side objected to it. But what we did object to was the infamous bargain which the Government attempted to make. Had that bargain been effected and carried into operation, had that country been put into the possession of contractors, as was pro-

posed, there would have been a rebellion out there which nothing could have stopped. Had the main streams where these deposits are been given into the hands of the contractors, who could have taken them from the prospectors out there, and had one percentage been imposed on the contractors, and a much higher one on the general public, the attempt to put that bargain into force would have resulted in a revolution, and the Senate, in throwing out that Bill, did infinite benefit to the country, and infinite credit to themselves.

As to the general increase in the prosperity of this country, that is a cause of rejoicing for all of us, but let me ask hon. members opposite, what would have been the condition of this country, had their policy been carried out, which for years they advocated—the policy of stopping the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Without the Canadian Pacific Railway, the British Columbia mines, the Yukon mines, the great fields of the North-west and the ranches of that great country would have been valueless to this Dominion, and our country, instead of having prosperity to-day, instead of being a nation, would have been but a narrow, small, restricted colony, without enterprise or energy.

As to the question of the plebiscite, I think that enough, perhaps, has been said, but I cannot help saying, that I was one of the few in this House, I am sorry to say, who had the courage of their convictions, and who stood up and told the Government that the whole scheme was a humbug, that the Government knew it was a humbug, and that they never intended to put it into effect, no matter what the vote might be. I entirely agree with the Government, that it would be an outrage to attempt to enforce it on the vote or any other vote that might be given. The right hon. Premier said that 50 per cent of the people was the reserve figure he had in his mind who ought to record their vote in favour of it. Will he tell me, that on any question that has ever come before this country, 50 per cent of the electorate voted on the one side or the other? I do not believe it will be ever possible to have such a vote, and therefore the reserve figure he had in his mind was absolutely misleading and intended to mislead, and I hope that, in some way or other, the Government will be made to suffer for the sin they committed in stirring up strife between one class and the other, and putting this country to a vast and useless expense.

Coming back to the question of the Senate for a moment, let me say that it is a very beautiful sight to see this Government lean for support upon the Government of the province of Ontario—a government so discredited that if it went to the country it would be overwhelmingly defeated, a government that is hanging together merely by means of patronage, and the fears of its supporters that some

one will get an appointment before the others who are seeking it can be equally fortunate. This Government is simply attempting to get hold of something to sustain it by raising the cry for the abolition of the Senate, and putting that policy before the people of this country and the Parliament of England, and thus raising an issue which would draw the attention of our people from their extravagant and foolish record. If the Government wish to abolish the Senate, let them go to the people, from one end of the country to the other, and submit to them a plan for its abolition. If they consider it necessary to change our constitution, let them submit their scheme to the people and ask them to vote on it, and let them go to the proper quarter and ask for a change, if any change be advisable. I believe that the hon. gentleman who last addressed the House (Mr. Broder), hit the nail on the head when he said the Government have so entirely failed in fulfilling their promises that they are afraid their hold on the country is loosening, and they want to make a cry on which to appeal to the country, and they propose to make that cry the abolition of the Senate.

Such a cry was raised against the House of Lords, I think by Mr. Gladstone. I happened to be in London at that time, and Mr. Gladstone, perhaps a little wiser than our Ministers here, got up a monster meeting in London. Hundreds of thousands of people went to Hyde Park. There was a great procession, and at intervals in the line, were barrels of beer in carts for the thirsty people. Various banners were displayed. One of these I well remember, because it apparently, represented the sentiments of the people. A large pear tree was depicted with huge bunches of pears, and a rabble underneath with sticks and stones knocking down the fruit, the legend being "Down with the Pears." But Mr. Gladstone's demonstration fizzled out, as any demonstration looking to the abolition of the Senate of this country will fizzle out, unless supported by the people. In Ontario, so far from wishing to abolish the Senate, we are beginning to feel that the only safety we have for our property and our rights is in the hope of the establishment of a second chamber for the province. Laws are being rushed through for party purposes; they are being passed without due knowledge of what these laws mean, disgusting every man who has the interest of Ontario at heart and who knows how matters are drifting there. What would you be in the province of Quebec without your second chamber? Do you want to abolish it? If second chambers are to be abolished, let us begin with the smaller provinces, and if the plan succeeds there then try it elsewhere. But I believe that if you secured an expression of thought from the people of Ontario, you would find a strong opinion there, that before many years some sort of second chamber must be estab-

lished, some sort of check on the reckless law making of the present legislature will be a necessity to keep the country in prosperity and to keep industry and enterprise moving as they ought. So much has been said on these subjects that I do not intend to go into details, but simply to give my opinions on broad ground on the various matters that are before you. The Speech from the Throne is so utterly barren that it is a great wonder that it was put in the mouth of His Excellency. Everything was omitted from it, apparently, that the Government intends to do. It contains so little that people wonder why it was worth while calling Parliament together to discuss such a bill of fare.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the country on the auspicious opening of this fourth session of the eighth Parliament. I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, upon being in the Chair; and I congratulate the new Governor upon the eclat which has attended his advent to this country. While upon that point, one cannot but add a word with reference to the late Governor and the Countess who left us after so constitutional a rule and after doing so much good to Canada as they did. Returning to their former sphere of usefulness, we may congratulate ourselves that, with the added knowledge of Canada and its affairs, they will be of very much use to this country still. I would have wished, as no doubt, would many others, that this session had been called a little earlier. I suppose, however, that that was beyond the control of the Ministers, and we must only accept the situation. I must say that I was a little in sympathy with an idea said to have been expressed by a member of the House during vacation,—I do not know how it could be brought about, but I hope it will be brought about—that there should be a fixed time for the opening of the Dominion Parliament each year, so that those who are members might prepare for the session without very much loss of time from their ordinary business. However, we have assembled and ought to be ready by this time for business. I congratulate the Government, who are growing stronger and stronger, not only in the estimation of members of Parliament, but in the estimation of the country. We all remember that in 1896 prophecies were made with reference to the Government. It was prophesied by men on the other side of the House who thought themselves wise in these matters that the Government would not last a single session. At the end of the first session the time was extended, but we were told: You will see when real serious business of a new session comes on. The instinct of government is with the Conservatives, the Liberals will soon go. But the session of 1896 passed, followed by that of 1897, and that by the session of 1898, and here we are at the beginning of the session of 1899, with the Gov-

Mr. OSLER.

ernment not only willing but able to defend themselves and with such a record of administration of our affairs that it has to be conceded that we are in a prosperous condition. Three members of the Government have been singled out, apparently, for special attack. The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), and the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). Hon. gentlemen on the other side have not been afraid to say, and have said both out of the House and in it, that these men were corrupt, that they wanted to get their arms, as was said to-night, up to the elbows or up to the shoulders into the public chest, that they wanted to do and could only do things that were corrupt, things that would not bear the light of day. But on a previous occasion, when these hon. gentlemen were asked to specify, to put their charge in such a form that it could be considered, they retreated from their position and stated before a committee that they had never made such charges—this was in the Drummond Railway matter—but that the charges were made by irresponsible parties. And yet, notwithstanding this, the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) did not hesitate to call it not only the "Drummond deal" but the "Drummond steal." That is the way the Government was treated. Nothing is specified, nothing is put in such a way that the charge can be met or investigated in an open way. We hear nothing but generalities. The other day an illustration was made of the case of the blind King of Bohemia striking right and left against his enemies. The case of the Government reminds me of that of the Jews under King Nehemiah building the walls of Jerusalem, when they built with one hand, while in the other, they held the spear to protect themselves against attack. The Government while they have been administering the affairs of this country in such a way as must be satisfactory to the great majority of the people have had to spend a good deal of their time in defending their administration from attack.

In reference to the Drummond Railway case which I have just mentioned, the charges which were made, so recklessly made, led a newspaper that is independent of politics altogether—I refer to the "Insurance and Finance Chronicle," an independent observer—to express the following opinion:—

Such inquiries tend to degrade us in the estimation of others, and the fear of being vilified and of having unworthy motives imputed as the cause of activity in the performance of public duty is calculated to keep many a man out of the arena of politics.

Now, the Address contains many things that one is tempted to consider, and to make lengthy remarks thereon, but I will endeavour to confine my remarks to as short a time as possible. I thought when we came here, judging the hon. gentlemen opposite by what we hear outside, that even the pros-

perity we are enjoying in this country would be denied, and that they would say: Oh, this is only newspaper prosperity, we have not got it in the country. We have got as many empty houses, the wages are as poor in the factories, there is as much stagnation in trade as we ever had. Instead of that they come here and acknowledge that the country is prosperous, so that we have no argument to make on that point. We feel, as was said by the Prime Minister in a speech in Toronto, that the prosperity is so evident that statistics are not required to prove it, it is in the air. We all know that the prosperity is upon us, that the exodus has ceased, that people are coming back from Dakota and from Nebraska, to Manitoba and the North-west Territories, and they are coming back from Washington and California into British Columbia; while from the eastern states many are coming back to Ontario and to Quebec. These people now find more work at home than they do abroad. It is said that this is not the work of the Government. But surely if the argument was ever good on behalf of the Conservatives when they had good times and attributed them to the Government, it ought to be to the same extent applicable to this Government. I see in a statement that is made by Lord Strathcona to the London "Times," something that is worth while repeating here, because every one will admit his authority on such questions:

Canada seems to have entered upon an era of prosperity. The harvests of the past two years have been generally satisfactory. The other industries, as well as agriculture, have shown considerable expansion, and the export trade, notably in food products of all kinds, is rapidly increasing. The same remark applies to the import trade, especially from the mother country, which cannot fail to be benefited by the preferential tariff. The inauguration of penny postage will certainly also have the happiest results in cementing the bond of union between the different parts of the Empire.

I saw also the other day a report of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, president of the Hastings Loan Savings and Investment Company, where he makes a statement of the great prosperity of this country. My hon. friend from Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux), the other night, gave statistics of the failures in business, showing that the present year compares very favourably with preceding years. I also notice that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have issued a report showing that in 1897 there were 2,406 homesteads taken up, while in 1898 there were 4,848, an increase in the year of 2,442. They also say in their report that in 1896 the Canadian Pacific Railway sold 87,878 acres; in 1897, 199,482 acres; in 1898, 348,680 acres. So you see substantial signs of progress which we cannot ignore, and upon which we may congratulate ourselves.

Now, as to the work of the international commission, we must remember that it has only suspended operations. I think we ought

to be very grateful that it is a suspension rather than a conclusion without anything having been accomplished. There is no doubt a bad bargain would be a very disastrous thing for us to make. We do not want any bad bargain to be made. But while a treaty is being negotiated, and there is an opportunity of making a bargain that will be satisfactory to us, I am sure that every one ought to be willing to trust to the honesty and to the ability of the commissioners, not only of Canada but of the commissioner who will represent England in the matter; and I think we may feel sure that, shrewd bargain-makers as the Americans are, they are not going to get something for nothing. But if they are willing to treat with us we ought to be willing to treat with them, and try to see if some of the many questions that are outstanding between us cannot be settled satisfactorily to both parties. It takes two to make a bargain. If the negotiations are broken off there is an end to the matter; but whether broken off in a huff or in the most friendly way imaginable, in either case it would be difficult for us to renew negotiations under other commissioners, but while the matter stands open we may hope that great benefit will come out of further negotiations. The leader of the Opposition, in speaking of this matter, said if certain things could be settled then they ought to have been settled, even if no settlement could be arrived at on some other questions. I think we cannot agree with that opinion. If that had been done what would have been the argument used in this House? Precisely the same argument that has been used tonight and on other occasions in reference to taking the duty off corn. They said: You have taken the duty off corn, so that you have nothing to give the Americans for what you are asking. If these other matters were settled, although they may be comparatively trifling, there would be less likelihood of securing a settlement of the more important matters. I, for one, shall continue to hope for some good to come out of the negotiations when they are resumed. Our friends opposite complained, not so much that this commission did not continue to negotiate, because there was nothing to negotiate about, but because they were discredited in the eyes of the American people, and, therefore, were not likely to accomplish anything. Now, if any one thinks that argument can be taken seriously in this House of Commons where we know the men who represented us on that commission, or can be taken seriously by the country, who knows these men just as well as the leader of the Opposition, he is very much mistaken. Passing over some other matters, I come to that paragraph referring to penny postage. That is something that has been accepted by the people of this country as a great boon. The correspondence will increase so that at the end of a year or two the loss will not be great, and every one except the man who is of

the smallest calibre in business matters, accepts this penny postage as of great benefit to Canada, and I think too much praise cannot be given to the Government in reference to it. We have heard talk about scandals in the administration of the Yukon, but until the finger is pointed to some particular one who has offended, so that an investigation may be had, fair-minded men will hold their opinion in suspense, and believe in the purity of the administration of affairs in that great and new country, as they do with reference to the affairs of the older portion of Canada.

A redistribution has been promised in the speech. Inside and outside of Parliament, I have heard hon. gentlemen say that it is unconstitutional to do anything of the kind until after another census. Let me refer to what the British North America Act says upon the subject :

Section 40. Until the Parliament of Canada otherwise provides, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick shall, for the purposes of election of members to serve in the House of Commons, be divided into electoral districts as follows.

Then it gives the electoral districts, and that section is entirely in reference to the representation of each province in this Dominion Parliament. Section 51, has reference to the adjustment of representation in the different provinces. The two sections are entirely different—one having reference merely to the territorial limits of any constituency, and the other having reference to the representation of different provinces based upon the unit of 65 members in the province of Quebec. So there seems to be nothing in the constitutional question, and it only requires to call attention to these two sections in order to have that satisfactorily settled in the minds of any hon. members in this House. But we do not need to rest merely upon the interpretation one may put on these sections, for we have a precedent to go by. In 1881, the census was taken and in 1882, we had a representation Act. In 1891, another census was taken and in 1892, another representation Act was passed, but having passed that Act in accordance with section 51 of the British North America Act, it was not left alone, for in 1893 the Act of 1892 was amended, and in that Act of 1893, this Parliament under the control of the Conservative Government changed the limit of the following constituencies. Nipissing, Ottawa City, Hochelaga, Rouville, Bagot, Richelieu, and St. Hyacinthe. They changed the limits of each one of these by the amending Act of 1893. All that is suggested as I understand in the speech from the Throne is, that that Act of 1892, amended in 1893 by hon. gentlemen opposite shall now be amended again, and surely if this Parliament had power to amend it in 1893, it has power to amend it in 1899. There is therefore nothing in the constitutional question as any lawyer on the opposite side will admit on reference to the statute.

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The hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) spoke of the Washington conference and the statements he made in reference to it need hardly be answered, because there was nothing of serious argument in them, nothing except a mere slur at the commissioners. But the hon. gentleman did attempt a serious argument in reference to the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, and he said that this Government had given away a large amount to that railway and got in return nothing that they did not have before. In looking at the Crow's Nest Pass Railway Act there are two observations to be made. That Act provides first, that the road is to be built, the tolls on the road are limited, they are to give running powers to other roads over it, we got a reduction on their general rate of freight from Port Arthur West, and we got from them, 50,000 acres of coal land if the company got these lands from the province of British Columbia. All these things were obtained in return for the subsidy that was given by this Parliament. No honest minded man can say that nothing was obtained in return for the privileges given the Crow's Nest Pass Railway Company, although I see in to-day's Toronto "Mail" that there is a strong plea against the Government on account of their action in this matter. The hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) did not ask for a division of the House, on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway Bill, nor did he in any way oppose it when it was passing through. I have not looked to see whether he was in the House the night the Bill passed or not, but I suppose he was within call and knew what was going on and could have voted for or opposed the measure if he choose. Let me call the attention of the House to what the leader of the Opposition, (Sir Charles Tupper) said with reference to the Crow's Nest Pass Bill. At page 4530 of the "Hansard" he is reported as follows :—

I am glad to have an opportunity of saying a few words on this subject, which is one of very great importance, and I am glad to be able to say that I have listened not only with interest but with warm approval to a great deal of what has fallen from the lips of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) who has just resumed his seat. There is one point on which we all agree, and that is that it is impossible to overrate the enormous mineral wealth that British Columbia possesses ; and we also, I believe, all agree that it is the duty of the Government to take such measures as will open communication between the great North-west and the eastern portion of this Dominion and that great mineral region as promptly as possible.

He goes on to approve of what has been done and at page 4535 of the "Hansard," I quote Sir Charles Tupper again :

It is due to the hon. gentlemen opposite and to the House, without respect of party, that I should frankly state these things as they present themselves to my mind. The committee will naturally infer from what I have said that I am prepared to support this very important proposal that is now submitted. I do not hesitate to say

that I am, and I will give the committee briefly my reasons for taking that position. I felt that I was making a wise and judicious arrangement in the interests of Canada when I pledged the support that I did pledge for the purpose of accomplishing that undertaking.

I am reminded now that the Conservative Opposition members were very much afraid that the Government would not either adopt the scheme they did adopt, or some similar one and put that road through. Yet this is one of the Acts of the Liberal Government which hon. gentlemen opposite clamour about in the House and out of it, and called it one of the jobs or the wrongs that this Government has done towards the people of Canada. An hon. gentleman reminds me that after the Bill passed this House, the question of how speedily it could be got through the Senate was a matter of great concern to the Conservative members.

The hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), after indulging in some of the abuse which the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler) has so strongly condemned to-night, and after using as strong adjectives as could possibly be used in regard to every member of the Ministry and all they did, set himself about suggesting what the Speech from the Throne ought to have been. I could not help wondering, when he was framing a Speech for the Governor General, how he happened to be able to do so. I knew he had never been a Secretary of State or a member of any Government; but then I remembered that this was the gentleman who had issued a Queen's proclamation in his own name in regard to alien fishermen or boatmen. I do not remember which, forbidding them to come over to Canadian waters to do their work. I saw that it was that experience which might fairly entitle the hon. gentleman to make the Speech which he thought should be delivered by His Excellency at the opening of Parliament.

The speech of the hon. member for Dundas (Mr. Broder) to-night was an interesting one. We all know that that hon. gentleman is an excellent stump speaker, whose services are greatly sought after when an election contest is on; and it is evident, from the exhibition he has given us to-night, that he is able to do yeoman service. I am sure that this House has seldom the opportunity of listening to so amusing a speech as that which the hon. gentleman made with the assistance of his red book, which he said came from somewhere below. It occurred to me to ask, if this red book came from below, how was it that the hon. gentleman got it?

With regard to the question of the Senate, which is not referred to in the Address, but which has been discussed in this House as if it were, I shall reserve what I have to say in the main, until the resolution comes before the House. But, in reply to those who say that the Senate was a pledge at the time of confederation, I venture to remark that

that means nothing more than that it was adopted as a part of the machine for the government of this country. In 1841, in the union of Upper and Lower Canada, a legislative council was established; and that was just as much a pledge to the province of Quebec as the Senate was a pledge at the time of confederation. In 1854 there was discontent and agitation, growing out of which an address from the Assembly was sent to England, and following that an Imperial Act was passed empowering the legislature to make the legislative council elective, and that body was changed. At that time of the union the legislative council began with a membership of not less than twenty, appointed by the Crown. That number was changed to forty-eight, and the legislative council was made elective. As Canada secured that change at that time, so if any change is to be made now in the constitution of the Senate that change must be, I take it, at the instance of all the provinces of the Dominion; and if the people wish it, the people must have it. The majority must rule in this country; and I venture to say that there are many to-day in the red chamber who would not only vote for, but would welcome some change which would bring that branch of the legislature up to what is required by the spirit of the age, and put an end to what is now an anomaly and an anachronism. If the hon. member for Gaspè (Mr. Lemieux) had not in his address the other night given the House what John Bright said in regard to the Senate, I should have done so; and I commend it as the opinion of a far-seeing statesman on this question. I must say that I am not so sure about the suggested remedy. It can only be used when the majority in the Commons is large enough to overcome the majority against the Government in the Senate. In that case, if desirable, it is proposed to turn in the Commons, not for conference, but to vote without debate. The members of both Houses, having committed themselves, many by speeches and all by votes would not be likely to change even if there was a conference; but the scheme suggested is to be only a matter of votes. In such a case, the Senate would be of no use, and if so, it seems to me logic would be against the plan. But if this is the best means of relief from the present anomalous condition of things that can be suggested, one is tempted to accept it. It seems to me that in a matter of that kind we ought to go one step further and say that not only should there be voting in that way so that there would be a majority, but the majority should include the majority of the particular province in question, if the legislation proposed applied specially to any one province. However, that is a matter which requires some further consideration.

Now, the burden of the song of the Opposition is that the members of the Government have not kept their promises—that they have been inconsistent. But if they

have adapted themselves to the circumstances of this great Dominion, if they have not in every respect been able to implement all the promises they made, I think the country will excuse them if they have done the best they could with regard to the matters that have come under their hands. In considering this question, there are two things to be taken into account. First, we must consider if we rightly understand the promises that were made. I do not think any one understood that we were to have immediately free trade in this country; I do not think that was expected by the majority of the people. Then, in dealing with the tariff in 1897, we had deputations headed by gentlemen on the opposite side, urging upon the Government what they ought to do. The Government have dealt in such a practical manner with these matters that the country seems to be prosperous under their hands, and I think no one is going to complain or set it down against them that a promise was not fulfilled literally. They have had a difficult task enough to perform in doing the work of this country. They came into it in 1896 with a hostile Senate, and with all the departments filled from cellar to attic with persons opposed to them. They had difficulties in the administration of every department that none except they know of, and having met these and having dealt with such difficult questions as they had to deal with in a country developing as rapidly as ours, they ought to be congratulated on the success which has met their efforts. As was hinted at by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) it has been true in the case of this Government as in other cases, that new occasions bring new duties, and the present Administration have shown themselves able to successfully perform these duties which the new occasions have brought in a way satisfactory to the majority of the people.

Mr. MOORE. Before this important debate closes, I desire to offer a few observations upon some of the subjects which have been laid before hon. members in this House for their consideration in the Speech from the Throne. It is a matter of gratification to those of us upon this side who are not actuated solely by partisan motives—and we know that none of us are—to be able to meet on a common ground hon. gentlemen opposite and unite with them in sentiment. There is one paragraph in the Speech from the Throne upon which I am very glad to find we can all agree, and that is the paragraph pointing out the prosperity of the country now enjoyed. I was a little amused at the remark just made by the hon. gentleman who preceded me. He expatiated upon the point that the prosperity of this country would be denied by hon. gentlemen on this side. He was no doubt judging us by the record of his own party when they sat on this side of the House, for when we were

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in power and this country was prosperous, we had the object lesson of hon. gentlemen opposite who preached up hill and down dale, throughout the length and breadth of the land, that we were in a condition of blue ruin, and hence they expect that because they gave utterance to such an unpatriotic sentiment when in opposition, we were going to follow their example. But I am happy to find that here is an agreement between gentlemen at the right of the Speaker and gentlemen at his left rejoicing over the prosperity of this great country. But what we differ upon is the cause of that prosperity. There is where comes the parting of the ways. Hon. gentlemen on the other side, the Government and their supporters, claim that it is due to their policy and their able management. They claim to have so reformed the administrative affairs of this country that they have induced prosperity and placed us in the enviable position we now occupy. The hon. leader of the Opposition challenged the right hon. First Minister to tell us how in one single particular the Government have contributed to the prosperity of this country, on which we are congratulated by the representative of our noble Queen. That challenge has gone forth throughout the country, and I know of no instance yet where any member of the Government or any of their supporters has pointed out how in one single particular, originated or manufactured by themselves, the Government has contributed to that prosperity. We claim that the Government are assuming an influence to which they have not the least title; and if we were living to-day in ancient times and the same punishments were inflicted to-day as were inflicted then upon those who arrogated to themselves supernatural powers, a similar penalty would be visited upon the members of the Government as was visited upon Nebuchadnezzar, who impiously declared that the great city of Babylon was built by the majesty of his power. The result was that he was turned out to grass. If the same punishment were to-day visited on these gentlemen for a similar offence, they would be sent out to grass. They would certainly not present a very attractive appearance were their hair to turn into eagle's feathers. But though the same punishment be not visited on them, it is none the less evident that they do not properly appreciate the position they occupy. We may claim the policy of the Liberal-Conservative party which was adopted in 1879 and continued in operation until 1896, and which has been continued in operation since, has been the cause of the proud position we occupy and the prosperity on which the representative of our noble Queen congratulates us. But I think it will be admitted that good times and times of depression follow each other alternately, that they come in cycles and are not very many years apart; and

when hon. gentlemen opposite point back to 1896 and the few years previous and enlarge on the then depressed condition of the country, we can reply that in those years there existed a depressed condition all the world over, but one which Canada felt less than any other country, thanks to the wise policy that we adopted and continued in force. It was fortunate for hon. gentlemen opposite that they came into power in 1896, for the times then had begun to improve all over the world, and the affairs of this country improved in sympathy and continued to improve, and one of the most important items in that improvement was the abundant harvests we have enjoyed ever since hon. gentlemen opposite gained office. And for that most important item we have to thank Almighty God, who is the greatest factor in the prosperity of this country. I think it was General Ethan Allan in the revolutionary war who took Ticonderoga. He went to the English commander and demanded its surrender. The English General asked by what authority he did so. General Allen replied: "By the authority of God Almighty and the Continental Congress." He ascribed something to the Almighty, but the present Government gives no credit to a higher power but claims all the credit themselves. As to reciprocity, I think that nothing has ever caused a greater feeling of relief in this country than was felt when it was known by the people that the commissioners had come back without succeeding in getting reciprocity with the United States. The most successful thing in this matter has been their want of success in doing what they were trying to do. In my opinion, they were not the right men to send to the United States to negotiate a reciprocity treaty. The sentiments of all these men were previously known to the people of the United States to be in favour of commercial union, unrestricted reciprocity, free trade, as it is in England, and other unpatriotic fads, and the American commissioners had the right to believe that these representatives of the Liberal party were in sympathy with the sentiments that had been expressed by them and other members of the party years before, and consequently that, in Canada, they had what is sometimes called "a soft thing." I have here some expressions of the sentiment that actuated American politicians, sentiments that were, no doubt, entertained by the commissioners of the United States. Hon. James G. Blaine, one of the greatest statesmen that ever lived in the United States, was a strong believer in reciprocity, but his policy was not to have reciprocity with any country raising products that came into competition with their own, and, as Canadian products came into competition with American products, he was opposed to any treaty being made with us. He said in 1888:

There are no negotiations whatever on foot for a reciprocity treaty with Canada, and you may be assured that no scheme for reciprocity with

the Dominion, confined to natural products, will be entertained by this Government.

Speaking at Calais, in August, 1888, Mr. Blaine said:

Beyond the frontier, across that river, our neighbours choose another Government, another allegiance. They are subjects of Queen Victoria; they are loyal to Her Majesty. They live under a foreign flag. They do exactly as they have a right to do. I neither dispute their right nor envy their situation. It is their right to choose for themselves, as it is our right to choose for ourselves. But I am opposed, teetotally opposed, to give to the Canadian the sentimental satisfaction of waving the British flag, paying British taxes, and the actual cash remuneration of American markets. They cannot have both at the same time. If they come with us, they can have what we have, but it is an absolute wrong against the rights of American citizens, that millions of men who hold the United States no allegiance, who have no part or lot with us, who are not of us, but choose to be foreign to us—it is an absolute wrong for a Democratic Congress to say that they shall have exactly the same share in our markets and the same privileges of trade under our flag that we have.

Here is a statement made by President Lane of the Boston Merchants' Association:

Our Liberal friends, Fielding and Longley, of Nova Scotia; Davies, of Prince Edward Island; Mercier and Laurier, of Quebec; Cartwright, of Ontario, and a host beside, look to us, the people of the United States, for "the sign by which they shall conquer." Can we deny them?

The whole region of Canada will, when this commercial union is established, become as if she were so many vast territories added to our domain, and up and down a continent the world will see the result of an unrestricted trade in all that continent produces, natural or manufactured:

There was an answer given to that by an hon. gentleman who is a member of the present Government, but who, I am sorry to say, is no in his seat at the present time who said:

Briefly, Sir, if this project can be carried out, it will mean for you the addition of half a continent for commercial purposes and the creation of a complete new tier of northern states, with an enormous area of unoccupied fertile land, with very great mineral resources, with a present population of some 5,000,000, but with a capacity of maintaining fully 50,000,000, and the certainty (in such a contingency) of a very rapid increase, which population—and I hold this in no small matter—is essentially in character the same as your own, with much the same habits, customs, and prejudices even.

Mr. Blaine again said:

If Canadians want to get the advantage of the American markets, it must be by becoming American citizens.

General Benjamin Butler said:

Canada is blubbering for a reciprocity treaty. Let her blubber until she is willing to join the union.

Senator Carlyle gave his reasons for favouring unrestricted reciprocity, as follows:—

I am in favour of commercial union, because it will bring Canada under our flag.

Senator Depew, a very important man now, said :

I am in favour of it because it will advance the stars and stripes from Niagara Falls to the North Pole.

Mr. Bullock, the President of the Chamber of Commerce of Boston, said :

The ready road to reciprocity with our neighbours—to accept Sir Richard Cartwright as senator from the state of Ontario.

The Premier of this country stated on several occasions that he hoped to be able, and it would be his greatest effort to conciliate the people of the United States, if he became Premier of Canada.

Now, when this commission from Canada went to the United States, had not the public men of that country a right to expect that all the concessions that were anticipated by the commercial union and unrestricted reciprocity arrangement would be accorded to the people of the United States? That, perhaps, is the reason of the failure. Would the commission from Canada dare to make a reciprocity of that nature with the United States? That is, perhaps, the reason why they did not succeed, and, rather than break off the negotiations, they suspended them and adjourned their meeting until next August, in order that they might not be called upon to explain to this House what they had offered to the American commissioners, and in that way have their conduct discussed and understood by the members of this House. I suppose that that is according to parliamentary usage, yet I think it a very important matter to the people, that they should know before the close of this session just the propositions made by the commissioners on either side. There are a few articles of reciprocal trade in which would be a benefit to Canada. So far as the dairy is concerned, it would be no advantage whatever to have freedom in their markets and they in ours for this important industry, because they raise a surplus, and so do we. We meet in England in the common market and are competitors there. Reciprocity would do us no good in most things, but in some things it would be beneficial to the farmers of this country. If we had free access to their markets with our barley, peas, oats, potatoes and hay, it might be an advantage. But what position do we occupy to-day to go to the people of the United States and ask for the entrance of these articles into their markets free? We say to them: We put corn on the free list; and they say: Yes, but you did it in your own interests, you asked for nothing in return for it; and if we make this concession you must be prepared to make other concessions to us besides that. Why, Sir, they threw away the trump card of Canada in taking the duty off corn, and thus rendered a fair exchange of farm products impossible. I have been informed that the member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton).

Mr. MOORE.

after he had been to Washington, made the statement, that the Government made a great mistake when they took the duty off corn. We on this side thought that they had made a mistake in giving to the people of the United States a favour, the greatest they wanted in any of their products of the soil without demanding and receiving anything in return. Corn is one of the greatest productions of the American soil, a great surplus of it is raised, and they are seeking for markets for that corn all over the world. Canada was the nearest market and the best market; and it was a surprise to the Yankees, I am sure, when they found by the Canadian tariff that we had freely taken the duties off corn without asking from them any compensation whatever. Now, Sir, I have always felt for years that it was time for us to cease truckling to the people of the United States. We have a country as great as theirs, we have a country with more glorious prospects for the future than they have. We have a more fertile soil, we have greater wealth in our soil. We have but 5 million of a population while they have 72 millions, and they are now turning immigration back from that country because they cannot get just the population they want. The best part of their country is taken up, and the result is that the off scourings of Europe, and the roughs are rejected by the United States, are shipped over into Canada, and that is the kind of population that is increasing in this country which is so gratifying to hon. gentlemen opposite. We have greater wealth in our forests, we have greater wealth in our fisheries, we have greater wealth in our soil; and we have a population of 5 millions that cannot be matched by any 5 millions in any other country. I ask, then, what is the matter that Canada cannot stand upon her own feet and live, as she can live, without depending upon the United States, or giving them to understand that they are absolutely necessary to our existence? We wish to live on amicable terms with the United States, but we wish to be commercially independent, and we can be so if we are only true to our interests, and like true Canadians will stand up for our rights, and give nothing away except we get a proper return for the same.

I have a few words to say regarding the ante-election promises of the present Government. It has been stated by some of their supporters that they have carried out all their promises to the people of this country. They said in 1896 and 1897: Give us time, and we will redeem every pledge that we have made. They have had three years of power and, Sir, their whole pathway is strewn with violated pledges and broken promises. They promised to give us an honest administration that would reduce the expenditure of this country, and would reduce the public debt. When election speeches were made throughout the country in 1896 and previous to that time, accu-

sing the Conservatives of being corrupt, dishonest and extravagant, I trembled, for I thought when they came into power they might disclose great irregularities and extravagancies that would, as they said, keep us out of power for 20 long years. But, Sir, tell me a single instance of unearthing one corrupt act of the Conservative party while they were in power. They have no doubt tried to do it. They have no doubt tried to discover something in the administration of the Conservative Government that would give our party a black eye, and injure its reputation in the eyes of the people. But one of the prominent Grits in the city of Montreal, a journalist, when he was asked if that had been done, said: No, it has not been done. We expected that it would be done, but we find that it cannot be done, and we regret the accusations that we brought against the Liberal-Conservative party. They have increased the public expenditure, and no one can deny it. The people throughout this country are beginning to understand what kind of economy it is that this Government practices in comparison with that of the late Conservative Government. They told us that they would reduce the public debt; instead of that we hear to-day that it has been increased between 9 and 10 million dollars. Is that carrying out the promise that the public debt should be reduced? Is increasing expenditures two or three millions a year carrying out the promise made to the people that they should have an honest administration and run the Government for 2 or 3 million dollars a year less than it was costing under the Liberal-Conservatives? Then we have the trade policy. They told us that they would eliminate every vestige of protection from the tariff. Have they done that? Is there a man on the other side of the House that can stand up and say that they have carried out that promise in good faith? They have not eliminated the principle of protection from the tariff, but they have stolen, as we have heard to-day, the Conservatives' clothes, and we say that they look better clad than they ever did before. But, Sir, I think that the robes are a little too flowing, and a little too large for them yet. They will have a long time to grow before they fill them.

Mr. COCHRANE. They do not cover their political nakedness.

Mr. MOORE. They promised that the people's money should be properly guarded, and should not be paid out without a vote of the representatives of this country. How many instances have we where Governor General's warrants have been obtained, and the people's money paid out contrary to that promise? Did they not promise, too, that contracts should be let after duly advertising for competition, and after public tenders? Did they not condemn the Liberal-Conservative party for years for

what they characterized as a most extravagant, corrupt, and unbusinesslike transaction? I think, if my memory serves me, that some seven or eight days before the meeting of this Parliament in 1897, in secret session, the Government sat down and made a contract with Mann & Mackenzie that involved millions and millions of dollars in value of the lands of this country. And to-day they are condemning the Senate because they obstructed that transaction. They said themselves it was a huge gamble, that this property was worth nothing, that the work would cost nothing to the eastern provinces. But I am told that an Order in Council has been passed not very long ago that this land, which was said to be worthless, shall not be sold for less than \$10 an acre, reserving all mineral rights. That would amount to \$37,500,000 which the Senate, that they are trying to dispose of, has saved to the people of this country. Sir, that one act alone of the Senate should make every conscientious, scrupulous, honest man in this country, every patriotic citizen stand by the Senate, and I believe they will do so. These gentlemen opposite promised that they would reduce the taxation of the people of this country, but they have increased it to the tune of two or three millions of dollars a year, and they have not to my knowledge destroyed any combines or monopolies. There is one article largely consumed in this country on which the action of the Government has been rather peculiar. I refer to coal oil. I have been pleading with the Government to give to the poor people of this country an opportunity of getting their coal oil at a reasonably low price, but my appeals have been unsuccessful. Coal oil has decreased very much in price during the last few years, and 5 cents a gallon to-day represents a much greater ad valorem duty than it did a few years ago. Does the Government, and do their followers know how much coal oil costs at the place of production. If they do not, I shall give them a little information upon that score, and we shall then see something of the operation of this tariff, that a free trade Government is forcing upon the people, and we shall also see something of the enormous sums of money that they are taking out of the pockets of the farmers and labouring people who purchase this household necessity. I have in my hand an invoice of the 30th September, 1898, for three cars of the best water white Pennsylvania oil, f.o.b. on cars in Warren, Penn., at a cost of 4½ cents per gallon, which means 5 1-10ths cent per gallon Imperial measure. I have here an invoice on Car No. 3,121 for 6,571 gallons costing at Toledo, Ohio, \$295.70. That was delivered in Montreal free of freight, and the freight on these important lines of railway that are contributing very much to the success of these combines and monopolies cost \$144.99, so that the 6,571 gallons of oil netted the producers \$100.71 or 1 53-100 cents per

gallon. Now, the Ohio oil is a better oil than is refined in any place in Canada. Pennsylvania oil stands first, Ohio oil second, and the Crown Acme Oil of Canada third. Ohio oil is sold in Ohio netting the producer 153-100 cents per gallon. Upon that oil this free trade Government, this Government which was to protect the rights and liberties of the people and shield them from the burdens of taxation, is charging 5 cents a gallon on an article that costs where it is produced 154-100 cents per gallon Imperial measure. I have laid before some of the members of this Government a scheme which should be carried out in Canada, a scheme which is carried out in the United States and by which the cost of oil to the consumer would be greatly lessened. I have asked them to permit the deposit of oil coming in tank cars, in tanks, to be there inspected and to be distributed in tank wagons to the consumer. If that scheme were adopted it would avoid the necessity of the consumer having to pay for the barrel, which amount to 2½ cents a gallon on the oil. That would not be done by the Government, because they said it would throw the business into the hands of this Oil Trust and the people of Canada would then be at the mercy of the combine. No doubt there is a great oil trust existing, but to meet that I proposed to the Government that they should allow oil from the Canadian refiners to be distributed in tanks, and compel oil coming from the United States to be barrelled. That would give the Canadian consumers 2½ cents more and would give that much preference to the people of this country, but the Government have refused to do it.

Let me call the attention of the Government to another important matter. This Government took credit to itself in 1897 for being opposed to monopolies and combines, and in Article 18 of the statute of that year, they took power to themselves that whenever a combine existed which enhanced the price of goods to the Canadian consumers, they could reduce the duty or take it off altogether. What has become of that Government that took authority to exercise such power; have they ever put it into operation? Do they know that this great oil trust has absorbed all the oil industries of Canada, that it has enhanced the price of oil, and that the people of the country are at its mercy. If they have any doubt about it I shall establish it to them by satisfactory evidence. Here is an affidavit which I ask the Government to consider:

**CANADA,**

Province of Quebec,  
District of Montreal.

I, Andrew Downie Gall, of the city of Montreal, in the province of Quebec, oil merchant, do solemnly declare that I am extensively engaged in the wholesale trade of coal oil, burning oil and other oils in the Dominion of Canada.

That all the petroleum oil refineries in Canada at the present time are under the control of the Standard Oil Company, or Standard Oil Trust,

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through the said company having acquired some outright and a controlling interest in others.

That since acquiring the said refineries in Canada, the said Standard Oil Company, which is operating in Canada under the style of the Imperial Oil Company, Limited, has closed up some refineries, demolished others, and is operating only such as it sees fit.

That no petroleum oil from Canadian refineries can be obtained to-day unless it is procured from or through the Standard Oil Company or the Imperial Oil Company, Limited, directly or indirectly.

That it is quite apparent, and investigation will establish beyond doubt, that the said Standard Oil Company, or the Imperial Oil Company, Limited, has so acquired and controls said refineries for the purpose of forming, and they have thereby formed a trust or combination to unduly enhance the price of such oil, and to unduly promote the advantage of the said company at the expense of the consumers.

That the firm of which I am a member and other firms engaged in the oil business are compelled to buy in the United States and import therefrom our supplies of oil to supply our customers and the trade.

And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath, and by virtue of "The Canada Evidence Act, 1893."

(Sgd.) A. D. GALL.

Declared before me at the said city of Montreal, this twenty-first day of March, A.D. 1899.

R. H. DUNTON,  
Notary Public.

I now ask the members of the Government if they are satisfied that there is an oil trust, and if they are, why do they not put into force this article which I will read for their benefit as it is possible they may have forgotten it.

Mr. T. G. JOHNSTONE (West Lambton).  
The hon. gentleman (Mr. Moore) is speaking now entirely of the manufacturer.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. MOORE. I expected somebody would begin to flutter. Here is the provision:

Whenever the Governor in Council has reason to believe that with regard to any article of commerce there exists any trust, combination, association or agreement of any kind among manufacturers of such article or dealers therein, to unduly enhance the price of such article or in any other way to unduly promote the advantage of the manufacturers or dealers at the expense of the consumers, the Governor in Council may commission or empower any judge of the Supreme Court or Exchequer Court of Canada, or of any Superior Court in any province of Canada, to inquire in a summary way into and report to the Governor in Council whether such trust, combination, association or agreement exists.

The judge may compel the attendance of witnesses and examine them under oath, and require the production of books and papers, and shall have such other necessary powers as are conferred upon him by the Governor in Council for the purpose of such inquiry.

If the judge reports that such trust, combination, association or agreement exists, and if it appears to the Governor in Council that such dis-

advantage to the consumers is facilitated by the duties of customs imposed on a like article, when imported, then the Governor in Council shall place such article on the free list, or so reduce the duty on it as to give to the public the benefit of reasonable competition in such article.

I know that the Government must have overlooked that; they could not have seen it; but I am very happy to call their attention to it, because they are a Government who fulfil their promises, of course, and we expect that they will fulfil this promise to the very letter. I am very glad the Minister of Trade and Commerce is present; I know he is an honest and an honourable man, and will take cognizance of this article, which has perhaps escaped his eye until the present time, and it will not be very long before the people will be relieved of this great burden, and there will not be such a large gap between the price of coal oil in the United States and its price in Canada. It is now sold at retail for 8 cents a gallon in the United States and for 25 cents in Canada, the difference conduces to smuggling, and I do not so much blame the people along the border when they know that it is due to the crass neglect of the Government that that great gap exists, and that it could be removed by a stroke of the pen.

When I commenced to speak, I had in my mind a very important subject on which I desired to say a few words, and that was preferential trade. I think that the people of this country generally, and I am quite certain that the members of the Government, their colleagues and supporters, do not appreciate and perhaps do not understand the benefit preferential trade would be to the people of this country. I know that our respected leader, a man than whom no one stands higher on this continent as a parliamentarian, a man who could stand on any platform beside such men as Lord Salisbury and the late Wm. Gladstone, and lose nothing by the comparison, in his prescience and foresight saw that the time must come when this country must have preferential trade. He did what he could to call public attention to the subject in Great Britain. He converted the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, the Duke of Devonshire and other men there to the idea that it would be desirable to have this carried out by some means or other. The question was mooted and discussed in 1894, in this city at the intercolonial conference; measures were taken to bring it before the English Parliament, and it was discussed before the people of this country. The hon. Premier of this country spoke in different places on the question, and said he was as much in favour of preferential trade as the hon. leader of the Opposition. We then thought it was within sight. We thought that with the leaders of both parties converted to the idea, the time was not far distant when this great boon would be conferred upon the country. What was the surprise of the people of Canada when, instead of preferential trade, the Government adopted

a preferential tariff, which put it entirely out of sight. What was our surprise when the representative of Canada, in the person of our courteous and graceful Premier, attending the Queen's Jubilee, in the first reception given to him, said that he did not want preferential trade, that he did not want to see England adopt a protective policy, because it would be a curse to England as it had been to Canada. The Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, after listening to what he said, though he had been in favour of preferential trade, yet, with the Premier of Canada taking that attitude on the question, said he would no longer touch it with a pair of tongs. That is the present position of the question. We have a preferential tariff, under which the duties have been cut down to that point where there is very little protection. The result is that importers are buying more freely from England, and bringing in commodities to compete with the products of Canadian factories. In one factory I know the production is reduced \$25,000 a month. I need not tell the members of this House what preferential trade would have done for Canada. The mother country, with a population of 40,000,000, is able to raise only enough food to feed 17,000,000 leaving 23,000,000 people to depend entirely on outside countries for their food. What would it mean for Canada had we a preference in supplying food to the people of that country? But at present we have to send our products there in competition with those of the United States and with every other country in the world, many of them with high tariffs on everything that comes from Great Britain, while Great Britain allows them free access to her markets. We have a great country, composed of 300,000,000 acres of valuable arable lands not yet scratched by the plough. If we had a preference in the markets of England over foreign countries, we could then induce immigrants to come to us from that country, tenant farmers, who, rather than pay three or four dollars per acre per year for the lease of their lands, would come here and buy our arable lands for a mere song, and settle the country, increase its population and material wealth, thus furnishing markets for our manufacturers, and help to make the country what every patriotic Canadian desires that it should be made. But the reduction of 25 per cent in the tariff prevents Canada reducing the tariff any further as a concession to Great Britain, in return for preferential trade. That has to be undone. It cannot be undone under this Administration. The country must change the Administration and take men into its counsels who are in favour of preferential trade and a business arrangement between England and Canada. When that time comes, we shall be able to point out that the party to which we belong, which has always been a progressive and patriotic party, has done the greatest good which it was possible to do to the people of this country.

I shall not take up the time of the House at any length with regard to the Senate. I shall only ask this question, which I would like to have go out to this country, and which I am sure will go out to this country. Is there any sane man in the Dominion Parliament who can believe for a moment that if the Senate were in the hands of the Liberal party, that paragraph would appear in the Speech from the Throne relating to the Senate? Would the Government oppose the Senate if the Senate were composed of a majority belonging to the Liberal party? If not, then this is a partisan political move merely for the sake of overcoming the Opposition which the Government find in the Senate because of its Conservative majority. As soon as that majority becomes Liberal, you will never find one supporter of the Government desiring to reform it or touch it in any respect. We had that experience in the province of Quebec, during the time of Mr. Mercier. The Liberal party had been crying out for the abolition of the Legislative Council, but when they got into power, fortunately for them many of the Conservatives in the council were replaced by Liberals; and as soon as the Liberals got the majority, they had not a word to say about the abolition of that council and forget completely their cry for its abolition.

It would perhaps not be becoming for me, in view of the active part I have taken in the prohibition movement, to take my seat without first referring to that important subject alluded to in the Speech from the Throne. I have not got a copy of that speech here, but I think the great consolation it gives to the prohibitionists of this country, to the churches of this country, to the Women Temperance Unions and other auxiliary associations interested in this great moral movement is, instead of the prohibition we expected, that the Government are going to have the official figures of the plebiscite laid before us. That is the great consolation which is expected to pacify a great body of men and women who have been struggling so hard to rid this country of this great evil. Why, some of them are beginning to think that possibly they are in the position of having asked for bread and been given a stone. I will now take the time of this House to give a short history of this plebiscite business. I can remember, and every hon. gentleman of this House can remember very well, that during the administration of the late Government they were accused of having made promises that they did not intend to fulfil, and that the temperance people of this country had to look to the Liberal party for the great moral reform they desired, and that when that party got into power they certainly would give the people what the prohibitionists and the temperance advocates asked for. And I am sure that these gentlemen who spoke in this way were, in many instances, taken at their word, and I am sure as I can be of anything that if we were to

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eliminate the vote of the temperance people who voted for the Liberal party on that question from the votes cast for these hon. gentlemen, who are to-day drawing their fat salaries, they would be on this side and we on the other. What were we led to believe? We asked for prohibition, we did not ask for a plebiscite, but the Government said they would not give us prohibition but would give us a plebiscite, and every conscientious earnest man in this country, reading all that was printed on the subject and listening to all that was said by the Liberal party on the subject, could come to no other conclusion than that if a plebiscite were presented to the people and resulted in a majority of votes being cast for prohibition, prohibition was certain to come. Let me take the liberty to refer to the speech that was made by the Minister of Agriculture here in the city of Ottawa in 1893. He made there a very good temperance speech, in which he said that he believed the country was ripe for prohibition, that the Government had dallied too long on the question, and were not honest and did not intend to give prohibition, but that the Liberal party, just as soon as they thought the country was ripe for prohibition, would, if they got power, pass a prohibitory law, and he said that he believed the country was then ripe for prohibition and should get that law. He said:

I am glad, therefore, that the great party to which I belong, with which I have worked, is prepared to take a stand upon the temperance question, and to declare in its platform in favour of a step in the right direction upon this subject. I understand that this is the first time a great political party in this country has ever faced this question in a fair and true spirit. I am not aware that any political party in this country has ever declared itself squarely upon this question. I was aware that the House of Commons itself passed a resolution to the effect that when the country was ripe Parliament should enact a prohibition law. It was some time since that was passed. The Tory party has been long in power, but has not taken any steps to obtain the vote of the country upon this question. It is true, as you know, that Finance Minister Foster—and when I speak his name I have to look back to the first years when he and I were in Parliament, when he was looked upon as a temperance champion, I regret to say that that hon. gentleman on the floor of Parliament has told the country that he, one of the leaders of the Tory party, only advocated temperance “in a moment of weakness,” and that when he came to his sober senses—if we may call them sober senses—he went back on that record. The Tory party has not done justice in favour of temperance; it has only appointed a Royal Commission to go about the country and find out something; but, as Mr. Laurier said, we have all the information necessary of the kind that a Royal Commission can collect. They have put off the question; they have shunted it, and have not taken steps to find out the attitude of the country upon this question.

I am glad to be here to ask this Liberal convention to take a step which will bring about an opportunity for the people to express themselves upon this question. We know that in three of the provinces the Liberal Governments of those provinces have brought about local or provincial

plebiscites, thus giving the temperance people the opportunity to show what they believe to be the truth, that the temperance sentiment of this country is strong enough to enforce a prohibition law if it is given us. I propose to read the resolution which will bring about this result, and which pledges the Liberal party, if returned to power, to give the people of Canada an opportunity to express their views upon this question, and the Government in power must necessarily carry out the expressed will of the people. There is no doubt that this is what the Liberal party would do, for we know their pledges can be trusted.

There have been some doubts expressed in regard to the statement made by the hon. leader of the Government, but I think the remarks I have quoted are about as clear and concise and plain as any language can be, and I notice that there is a question put upon the order paper asking the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) how he can consistently remain a member of the present Government after the hon. First Minister has declared that he cannot give us prohibition. I have here an extract which I will crave the indulgence of the members of the House to read. It was written to the Montreal "Witness":

Sir,—On June 2, 1893, the Liberal party in their Ottawa convention adopted this resolution and embodied it in their political platform:

"That whereas public attention is at present much directed to the consideration of the admittedly great evils of intemperance, it is desirable that the mind of the people should be clearly ascertained on the question of prohibition by means of a Dominion plebiscite."

On September 6, 1894, the Hon. Mr. Laurier is reported to have said (and it has not been contradicted), in reply to a deputation of Winnipeg prohibitionists:

"He would pledge his honour as a man that as soon as the Liberals came into power at Ottawa they would take a plebiscite all over the Dominion. By that declaration the party would stand, and the will of the people would be carried out, were it to cost power for ever to the Liberal party."

On June 9, 1896, in reply to a deputation at Stratford, Ont., the Hon. Mr. Laurier said:

"Up to this moment that question (prohibition) has never been approached by the electors free from other considerations. Whenever it has been submitted to the electors it has always been submitted along with other questions that affect the public mind. We deem it wiser to separate it from all other considerations, and test public feeling in the matter, and that we shall do when we come into office, as I believe we shall."

On September 3, 1896, the Premier, the Hon. Mr. Laurier, said in reply to the prohibition delegation at Ottawa:

"The plebiscite is part of the Liberal programme adopted at the convention of 1893. Our policy has been before the people, who have pronounced upon it. It now becomes our duty to carry out our programme, and I say frankly it is our intention to do so. As to the time when it should be done, my answer is this: It is the intention of the Liberal party to carry out to the letter every article of its programme within the very shortest possible limit. There is no intention to delay. On the contrary, speaking even politically, it is perhaps the best policy of all to deal with the question within the shortest

time. It is not our intention this session, but I have every hope that next session, and not later, we shall introduce the legislation we have promised."

In the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the present session of Parliament the following clause occurs:—

"It is desirable that the mind of the people of Canada should be clearly ascertained on the subject of prohibition, and a measure enabling electors to vote upon the question will be submitted for your approval."

An anxious and impatient public awaits the fulfilment of all these promises. Will the Liberal party be true to its pledges?

That is written by a very strong supporter of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. I have another article from which I would like to read. I may explain, that the hon. the Premier made a speech in Carleton Place. A reverend gentleman, from Montreal, stepped on the platform at the conclusion of his speech and desired permission to ask the Premier a question. The chairman said that he did not wish to have interruptions. But the Premier said: Let us hear the gentleman's question, and I will be most happy to answer it. This is the reverend gentleman's account of it:

Some of the local Reform journals are saying that Sir Wilfrid Laurier will not consider the majority sufficiently large to justify him in enacting a prohibitory law. He governs the Dominion with a majority far smaller than that which the prohibitionists have won in the recent election. He will not forget that to refuse a prohibitory law will be to flaunt defiance in the face of seven provinces out of eight. He will not forget that such a course will be in direct violation of the most solemn and definite pledges which he has personally given to the temperance people. Some persons say that Sir Wilfrid Laurier never gave any definite pledge on the subject. I will quote here for the benefit of your readers the exact words of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a promise as definite as words can make it. It was given in the town hall in Carleton Place, Ont., in reply to a question which I put to the hon. gentleman at the close of his address:—These are his words verbatim: "The Liberal party has pledged in convention at Ottawa that whenever they were in power they would take a plebiscite on the question, as to whether the people want a prohibitory law or not. The answer is not in my hands, it is in the hands of the people, and according to their answer such legislation they will have at the hands of the Government."

Mr. SAM. HUGHES (North Victoria). Who signs that?

Mr. MOORE. Reverend George G. Huxtable, a very strong party man, who has always, I believe, supported the Liberal party. But, if I know anything of the temperance of that man, unless prohibition is carried out to the satisfaction of the temperance people, Mr. Huxtable has given his last vote for the Liberal party, and the same may be said for Mr. Spence, Mr. Carson, and hundreds of others.

I have here something further for your consideration, some extracts from letters written by agents sent out by the Quebec executive. You are aware that a delegation

waited upon the Premier to press his Government to give an answer as to what they would do in view of the results of the plebiscite. The Premier accused the temperance people of not doing anything. He said that, to his knowledge, only two meetings had been held in the province of Quebec, one in Montreal, and the other in St. Hyacinthe. However, agents were sent out by the association to work amongst the French people of the province of Quebec, and here are some of the letters which were sent in, but the names of the writers are not given :

Sept. 14.—Several M.P.'s, among others Messrs. —, — and —, have received instructions from the Premier and from Mr. Tarte to advise the voters to vote against prohibition, but they have resolved to keep quiet, and the clergy do the same.

Sept. 15.—We had a splendid meeting at — ; over 500 people were present ; it was the best meeting held.

Sept. 27.—I spoke after mass yesterday, and obtained a good hearing. — and —, leading politicians, told me they had received strict orders from Sir Wilfrid Laurier to work tooth and nail against prohibition. Now, you can draw your own conclusions. I was at — last night, and held a meeting at the village hall, with an attendance of about 150.

From the second representative who was sent out, came this letter :

Sept. 10.—Now, in — and — there are but few for prohibition. The most part of these farmers won't listen to anything. They have a fear of the direct tax.

Sept. 17.—I went this afternoon to —. The parish priest there would be very glad if such a law would pass. He is in favour of it, still he cannot pronounce himself on the subject, not being authorized by his bishop. He is under the impression the most part will be for prohibition.

Sept. 24.—On Tuesday I went to — and — ; was well received by the parish priest of both places. The Rev. Mr. — told me : " Tell Mr. Bond, on my part, Mr. Laurier and his Government are fooling them. \* \* \* They won't obtain anything whatever." He allowed me to distribute my circulars, as he considered they would do a great deal of good.

Now, these are letters which came from the agents working for the prohibition party to the officials of the alliance, with Mr. E. L. Bond, as chairman of the executive committee, and Mr. Carson, as Secretary. Now, if there are any who doubt the validity of these letters, this is what the gentlemen say who wrote them :

They will be prepared to substantiate them in the event of an inquiry being made, and the points are deemed of sufficient importance.

That comes from an organized and important body of men, the Dominion Alliance, through their chairman and secretary. Now, if that does not fix the responsibility upon the Premier and his associates, that they are bound by all that is honest, and right, and square, to the people of this country, to give prohibition, then I cannot read the English language correctly. I have here some evidence of the work that was done in some portions of the country, besides the

Mr. MOORE.

meeting in Montreal and the meeting in St. Hyacinthe, which I will read to you :

The following is a detail of the meetings held and the literature distributed in Montreal and elsewhere in the province, apart from the two representatives hereinbefore referred to :—Montreal, 63 meetings, 199,000 leaflets ; Compton, 120 meetings, 73,000 leaflets ; Megantic, 33 meetings, 14,000 leaflets ; Missisquoi, 30 meetings, 20,000 leaflets ; Wright, 15 meetings, 30,000 leaflets ; Argenteuil, 34 meetings, 55,000 leaflets ; Labelle, 39 meetings, 12,000 leaflets ; Stanstead, 80 meetings ; Quebec, 9 meetings, 10,000 leaflets ; Huntingdon, 35 meetings, 20,000 leaflets ; Richmond, 41 meetings, 21,000 leaflets ; Pontiac, 100 meetings ; Brome, 69 meetings ; Shefford, 25 meetings.

Now, let me ask the House : After these leaflets had been got up and distributed, after these numerous meetings had been held, at such an expense of time and money, and the honest prohibitionists of this country were under the belief that their wishes would be complied with, and the promises of the Government would be carried out, if there was a majority of voters who went to the polls, what kind of a position are these men placed in, who are now told that they are not going to have prohibition after all ? I tell you that it is most scandalous, most—damnable. I hear an hon. member say, though I suppose that is not parliamentary, but it comes awfully near the mark—and I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that such a course on the part of the Government is not to be submitted to, and the prohibitionists will not lie down under their defeat. I have also in my possession the pronouncements of many church associations, in their official character, in favour of prohibition, and in demanding from the Government that they carry out their promises. If the Government think that the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the philanthropic societies of this country, the ministers and the churches are going to submit tamely to this treatment, they will find they make a great mistake. I think the Premier of Canada has missed one of the grandest opportunities of his life, an opportunity that he had to engrave his name in letters of gold on the hearts of the people of this country, by fulfilling the promises which he had made, and giving the people what he had led them to expect that they would get.

We mark the man who has climbed fame's envied hill,  
And proudly stand upon its lofty height.  
The admired of all observing eyes,  
Until some other comes before the light.

But the man who climbs beyond the hill of fame  
To that great mount, a nation's fervent love,  
Will never be forgotten, and his name  
Will stand engraved all other names above.

He has climbed the hill of fame, and he could  
have gone a step higher by fulfilling his  
pledges which would have placed him on the  
mount of a nation's fervent love, where he  
could stand upon its lofty height, the pride  
and the glory of the Canadian people.

Sir, the Premier of Canada had an opportunity which he has missed. He has climbed the hill of fame, and he might have gone a step higher and climbed the mount of a nation's fervent love by carrying out in good faith his promises to the prohibitionists, and his name would have gone down to posterity honoured, instead of disgraced.

Mr. DAVIN moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 11.30 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 24th March, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### OFFICIAL DEBATES OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. C. BEAUSOLEIL (Berthier) presented the first report of the Select Committee appointed to supervise the debates of the House, as follows:—

Friday, 24th March, 1899.

The Select Committee appointed to supervise the official report of the Debates of this House during the present session beg leave to submit the following as their first report:—

Your committee would recommend—

1. That Mr. George Simpson be appointed to fill the vacancy on the staff of the official reporters caused by the death of Mr. G. B. Bradley.

2. That Mr. Charles W. Boyce be appointed to the position of assistant to the chief reporter, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. J. C. Boyce, and that he be paid a salary of \$1,000 per annum, payable monthly.

3. That in view of Mr. C. W. Boyce having since the death of the late J. C. Boyce, viz., July, 1898, performed the work connected with the office, his appointment and remuneration date from 1st August, 1898.

4. That the quorum of the committee be reduced from eight to five members.

All which is respectfully submitted.

C. BEAUSOLEIL,  
Chairman.

Mr. BEAUSOLEIL (Berthier). Mr. Speaker, with the permission of the House, and as it is a matter which requires expedition, I beg to move:

That this House concur in the first report of the committee appointed to revise the official report of the Debates of this House during the present session.

Motion agreed to.

### NEW MEMBER.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, certificate of the return of Louis Julien Demers, Esquire, for the electoral district of Lévis.

### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell, of East Prince, for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). Mr. Speaker, although, Sir, apparently carrying out the ministerial rule, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) is not in his place, I am inclined to yield to his appeal to be one of those to shorten this debate as much as possible, because I think it desirable that as far as is consistent with the public interest, we should proceed quickly with the business of the House; and also because I like the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) although ever since 1887, when I had the temerity to cross swords with him in this Chamber, he has looked on me with hating eyes of scorn; a thing that I attribute to a misconception on his part because I have always thought that the reason the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) looked upon me with such an evil eye, was, that he supposed me to be a manufacturer—one of the robbers great and robbers small, who used to excite his ire, and who were so long ensconced in the branches of the Upas tree which was to be torn up, and whence they shot so severely at the people of Canada. But, Mr. Speaker, there are reasons why it is impossible that any man true to his duty to the people of Canada; above all, any man true to his duty to the North-west Territories, should allow the debate on the Address on this occasion to go by without close and careful and stringent comment.

Let me call the attention of the House to His Excellency's Speech. It commences with an illusion to the fact that the country is prosperous. As has been well said, we all thank God for that. There is no doubt that heaven, and earth too, have had something to do with it. Then we are treated to a reference to the negotiations of the international commission which took place during the recess, and that is really the commencement of this Barmecidal bill of fare. We are treated in this banquet to which we are invited, in the first place to the cold soup of a consummate failure, and then we get for entrées, first the plebiscite—an outrage: an outrage from every point of view you regard it. I shall not go elaborately into that, but from whatever point of view you regard the plebiscite

having regard to the lately exposed policy of the Government, it is an outrage. One of the first and most prominent achievements of this Government was to inaugurate unconstitutional methods. You, Mr. Speaker, as a student of the British constitution know well that a plebiscite is contrary to that constitution of which we have a replica in Canada, and yet the first thing that was done by my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), himself a student or a supposed student of our constitution, was to inaugurate the plebiscite. Well, what has happened? A quarter of a million dollars, which might have been spent most fruitfully in the North-west Territories for instance, in seeking for water in those parts of that fertile country where water has not been found, was spent—for what purpose? For the purpose of not having it forced on the Prime Minister of Canada to say a plain yes or no as to what was the policy of the Government on so important a question as prohibition. That is the first course.

Then we have the penny postage. I see the Hon. William—oh, I beg pardon. So historical has "I. William Mulock," become that I had nearly committed a breach of parliamentary etiquette and referred to him, not as my hon. friend from York, but in his character as the great stamp dictator—who will go down to history as that Postmaster General who was perpetually issuing stamps which he had perpetually to recall. That is the second course. Then we come to the pièce de résistance, which is the reference to the fact that there is gold in the Yukon; and because there is much gold in the Yukon, the inference is irresistible that my right hon. friend who leads the House is a great statesman, and that the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) is a heaven-born administrator; and the menu which commences with the cold soup of failure ends with the menace of an outrage. It ends with the menace that my right hon. friend intends to bring in at an unconstitutional period a redistribution Bill, for which he has no authority under the British North America Act.

That is the Queen's Speech. We will take the first course; is there anything for the farmer in the cold soup of a protracted failure? Is there anything for him in the entrees? Is there anything at all in this Barmecidal menu that can satisfy the farmer who is accustomed to nourishing, invigorating food? No: he has to fill himself with the east wind of a Queen's Speech such as has never been presented to Parliament before. Well, this is the fourth session of this Parliament. I may tell the head of the Government that a short time ago I travelled west with a leading supporter of his, a man well known in Ontario, a leading man in Waterloo, a man who has spent his money and his time, who has travelled here and there and fought on platform after platform—for what? For Liberalism, as he told me in tones of indignation—for the Liberal-

ism of George Brown, for tariff reform, for free trade, for a revenue tariff. He had fought for all these; and I said to him, "What do you do now?" He said, "I sit and howl." "Well," I said, "what are you going to do?" He said, "I am waiting for the coming session, and many a Liberal in Ontario is doing the same, and if in the coming session they do not redeem their promises, and do not show themselves true to Liberalism, then I will take the stump, and as I fought for them in the past, I will fight against them in the future."

Now, Sir, I will ask the attention of the House for a few moments to the constitutional aspect of the situation which we have now before us; for, Mr. Speaker, it is a most extraordinary situation. We have seen here since the House met the extraordinary spectacle of two or three Ministers of the Crown and their supporters rising and praising the policy of the Opposition. One man after another comes forward, and takes credit for some plank, some time-honoured plank in the platform of the Conservative party. This was especially the case with the speech of the Prime Minister and that of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. It is a spectacle which has rarely been manifested in this House, and it is a spectacle to which I want to call the attention of Parliament from a constitutional point of view. Now, Mr. Speaker, what is our constitution? We have in England a king or a queen: we have the House of Lords, and we have the House of Commons. We have in Canada the Governor General representing Her Majesty; we have a second chamber, the Senate; and we have the House of Commons. The House of Commons is the great power, because it controls the purse. And we have, as we say here, self-government. Now, suppose you were to take our constitution and transfer it to Cuba, would it work? Would it work in the Philippine Islands among the Filipinos? Everybody knows it would not work there—and why? For this reason, that the people of Cuba and the Filipinos, in their present state of development, are utterly unfit for this constitutional government which we enjoy in England and in all the self-governing colonies of the Empire. When you cast your eye over Europe, you find in Russia a strong government, but no individual liberty. In Germany you have a strong government and constitutional government, but individual liberty is greatly circumscribed. In France you have neither a strong government nor individual liberty. As for Italy or Spain, I will not refer to them. Only in England and in our self-governing colonies has this great problem been solved of uniting a strong executive with almost boundless individual liberty. Why is that? It is not because of our system of king, lords and commons, or of Governor General, a Senate and a House of Commons, with an extended franchise; but it is because the men in these countries—in

England, in Canada and the other self-governing colonies of the Empire—are trained in self-government. What enables us to have this admirable constitutional system, which does not exist and has never existed, in any country of the world outside of Great Britain and her colonies, is not the mechanical form of the constitution. It is not the wide suffrage; it is not the balanced system of king, lords and commons. It is because you have a people trained in self-government; in other words, because you have a community where organized public opinion is possible. How is that organized public opinion created and expressed? Sometimes in newspapers, sometimes in hotel parlours; sometimes in public meetings in school-houses; sometimes in vast public meetings in towns and cities; in the home; in the mart; at the fair; in the forum; at the street corner; in the blacksmith's forge; in the barber's shop; and especially is it shaped and expressed at those recurring periods when the Parliament of Canada, the Lower House, which is the great wheel in the mechanical part of our system, is remade, because its life is for five years, unless the Governor General should have some reason to end it before. What happens then? You have then throughout the entire country that immense wheel of organized public opinion going at full momentum, going at full power, in meeting after meeting. You have men going before their fellow-citizens—the one side saying: We have been in power so long, vote for us. Look at our policy, that policy has been successful; we have served you well, we have been economical, we have kept down the public debt, and, as far as was consistent with the progress of the country kept down the expenditure; we have, as far as in us lay, punished boodling and whatever went wrong; we have been a pure and clean Administration. But then comes another set of men, who say: Do not vote for them, but for us. Their policy is bad; they are extravagant; they have not kept down the debt; they have not kept down the expenses; they have been lavish in expenditure—vote for us; we will administer your affairs better, and, above all, we will change their policy. Is it not manifest to you, Mr. Speaker, and every man within my hearing, that that great wheel of organized public opinion is connected with the smaller wheel that sends the power on to the operative machinery, by what I call the belt of confidence between the public and public men? Destroy the confidence in the minds of the people that public men mean what they say, and will they go to the meetings? Would the meetings be anything but show, not a dumb, but a noisy show, without meaning? Would they listen for a moment to those public men unless they had some confidence in their professions? So that one or two things is required in order that our system shall work. First, you must have confidence in the public mind that public men will do

what they promise, or, failing to do it, that they will be held to a strict account and punished for their failure. Where shall we be if men can get into power and then turn round and laugh at the people, and laugh especially at the party with which they are connected, and which they have led?

Let me recall what happened here in this Dominion up to 1896. I need not go back further than 1893, when, in this very town, a vast concourse that might have swelled any man's heart with pride to look down upon, met to greet my hon. friend the leader of the great Liberal party (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Those three thousand representatives met here, and what did they do? They formulated the policy of the great Liberal party. The right hon. gentleman himself pointed out that the policy formulated that day was a much more solemn thing than if he simply, by his ipse dixit, declared what would be the policy of that party. On that eventful day committees were struck, and in those committees resolutions were carefully drafted by the foremost men in the party, and then adopted by the whole meeting and sent broadcast throughout all Canada as the policy of the Liberal party.

Foremost, came the policy of tariff reform. Nay, not tariff reform, for tariff reform is my own phrase; it is what I contended for, it is what the men believing in the policy of the late Government called for, but what the Liberal party proposed was tariff revolution, not tariff reform. And my right hon. friend, in the speech he made, and which is published in the bound volume containing the official report of the proceedings of that meeting, and which speech I have carefully read, sometimes with admiration, sometimes with amazement, and sometimes with such feelings as it will be impossible to give expression to, said, in supporting the resolution with regard to the tariff, that he emphasized the determination expressed in that resolution—to do what? To touch the fringe of the subject, to touch only a leaf on the tree, to amend one little tiny infant twig protruding from a branch? No, but to uproot the Upas tree of protection; and I may tell you, Mr. Speaker, that it would have been salutary for him, if he could have seen the expression on the faces of Liberals when I read to them, as I have done throughout the length and breadth of the North-west some of those eloquent expressions of his with regard to the tariff, and which I deem it my duty to read to you now. In that eloquent speech, supporting the resolution for the destruction of the tariff, he said:

Apart from the logic of events, you have the word of Mr. Foster himself, who has declared again and again within the last few weeks, that tariff reform would consist in this—

I draw the attention of the House to what follows; for if some goblin imp had perched on the shoulder of the right hon. gentleman, if we could believe, as was believed in other days, that invisible creatures of the

goblin species influenced our minds, if some such goblin, fully determined to cynically show up human nature, had lit on the shoulder of the Prime Minister and prompted him, it could not have prompted words that would have painted him as he would be in the near future, in more disastrous colours of satirical contrast and consummate mockery.

That there might be a few changes here and there, but that the principle of the National Policy would be maintained. This simply means—

You can easily understand, Mr. Speaker, with what grace of gesture my right hon. friend, who is a master of rhetoric, used this language.

This simply means that the Government are going to scratch off the paint and put on a new coat of varnish and call it tariff reform.

Well, I may tell you that Liberal farmer after Liberal farmer, when I read that, laughed as if it were one of the best jokes ever made—"that they would scratch off the paint and put on a new coat of varnish and call it reform of the tariff." Why, these hon. gentlemen have not even scratched off the paint and put on a new coat of varnish. At one time my right hon. friend, in a fit of candour, which was a little inconsistent on his part, and I do not think he should break into the inconsistency of candour—said: I do not mind wearing the clothes of my opponents, if they fit me. He might just as well have said: I do not mind wearing the clothes of my opponents, if I steal them. But his colleagues go around the country and they say, not that they have scratched off the varnish and put on a new coat of paint, but that they have fulfilled all their promises. With a brazen effrontery such as there is no power of language to describe, they stand on the public platform before intelligent men and say: We have fulfilled our pledges. They put their arms akimbo and, with the effrontery of a class of persons who are not usually clad, however, as the portion of humanity that we belong to, with the effrontery of a brazen scold, they assert that they have done what they have not done, and proclaim their title to a virtue which the whole world knows they have not. The National Policy, the right hon. gentleman said, must be got rid of entirely, and not merely the branches. After I had spoken at Regina and quoted some of these utterances, Liberals waited on me and asked me to allow them to see the speech of the right hon. gentleman from which I had made these quotations. They could not believe that the right hon. gentleman had used such language, and I showed them his speech, and drew their special attention to these words:

You know it has been the system of the Conservative party, more than once, whenever their clothes became dilapidated, to steal the clothes of their opponents and present themselves before the people decently attired.

Mr. DAVIN.

This is what they want to do again, and on this occasion I do not object to their stealing our clothes,—

May I ask the right hon. gentleman's attention to these words:

—but I do object to their appearing before the country in false colours.

I can assure my right hon. friend that when I read that I cannot refrain from laughing.

They want to reform the tariff and still retain the principle of protection. I submit to you that the ideal fiscal system is the British system of free trade. Sir, my loyalty, as I stated, does not ooze from the pores of my body, but I do want to go for an example to the mother country and not to the United States, much as I respect and love the people on the other side of the line. I say that the policy should be a policy of free trade such as they have in England.

Now, the right hon. gentleman came west, and he was heralded by articles in the "Globe" which described him as the future saviour of Canada, because he would do away with protection. And, not content with this, there was a picture which represented my right hon. friend as the good Samaritan bending over the North-west farmer and pouring into his open wounds the oil of revenue tariff and into his gaping and gasping mouth the wine of free trade as it is in England. Well, if any of that oil reached a wound of that prostrate North-west farmer, I do not think it would be enough to lubricate the spring of the smallest Geneva watch that ever ticked, and if any of the wine of free trade as it is in England touched his gullet, I do not think it was enough to disturb the cerebral equanimity of the smallest and youngest chipmunk on the prairie.

Well, he came to Moosomin and at Moosomin he was accompanied by the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), who, rumour tells us, has resigned in consequence of the tergiversation of the Government on the plebiscite question.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES (North Victoria). Has he resigned?

Mr. DAVIN. I am told that the Minister of Agriculture, disgusted with the policy of the Government on the plebiscite, has resigned. But he may possibly come back. Now, Sir, he declared at Moosomin that 20 per cent on implements was an outrage. And he said: If we get in it will be taken off. The words I read here last session when I interrupted the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson). He said the people of the North-west and Manitoba have had to pay through the nose, this 20 per cent amounting to a considerable sum—I think it was about \$14,000. Now, what would the North-west farmer who heard that or who read it think? Would he not think that if these gentlemen came into power there would be relief as to that 20 per cent on larger implements? But the 20 per cent is there today. Would he not think there would be re-

lief in regard to the smaller implements? Why, Sir, there is a higher duty on these smaller implements than that fixed by Sir Leonard Tilley's tariff in 1879, which the late Mr. Mackenzie declared to be prohibitory, and the present Minister of Trade and Commerce characterized as an outrage.

A pamphlet has been distributed throughout the North-west Territories and Manitoba, and I have no doubt it has been distributed throughout Ontario as well. That pamphlet contains the speeches of Hon. W. S. Fielding, Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright, and Hon. Wm. Paterson. By referring to pages 52, 53, 54 and 55 of that pamphlet, you see that the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) gives a list of articles in regard to which he suggests that the preferential tariff gives an advantage to the people of the country and especially to the farmers. When that speech was being delivered, I did not understand the object of it. If you will turn to "Hansard" you will find that I suggested that hardly any of these articles came from England, and so were not affected by the preference. Of course, such a representation as that made by the hon. Minister could not deceive us here, because all we had to do was to send for the Trade and Navigation Returns—I have them here—and by consulting these we could see at once that the figures in that tabulated statement were delusive. If I were speaking elsewhere, I would use stronger language than that. Now, let me call attention to what is stated in this speech, and let me bring before you and before this House the enormity of the conduct of a man in the position of the Minister of Customs in perpetrating such an outrage on the people of Canada, and especially on the farming community as is to be found in this speech. I know now why this speech was made. We could see through it, it did not deceive us; but the poor people in the country, who would only see this pamphlet and would not have the Trade and Navigation Returns before them to expose the fraud would not know the character of the trick that was being played upon them. Now, this is what the hon. gentleman says:

Every one of these articles is an absolute necessity, and is used by every agriculturist in the country in his house or on his farm. Among the articles I ask attention to is a long list of agricultural implements over and above that which I have read, and I ask attention to the reductions as answering the question whether the Government has carried out its pledges to reduce the duty on agricultural implements and to reduce the burdens resting upon the farmer. The list of articles, with the new rate under the preferential duties and the percentage of reduction from the old rates is as follows:

Now, if any farmer who has this book in his possession will turn to page 53, he will find one of the first items on the list to be springs and axles. What has the free trade revenue tariff done for the farmer in regard to springs and axles? Or what has the right hon. gentleman done who was heralded by

the "Globe" to the North-west farmer as the good Samaritan? Nay, more, there was a companion picture which represented the North-west farmer lying manacled, with gyves on his wrists and chains on his ankles, and on these links was written "30 per cent, 25 per cent, 22½ per cent on cottons," and showed the benevolent Prime Minister bending over and filing off the links. I am afraid that file belonged to goods of the wooden nutmeg order. I do not think it could make much impression on the chains, for, the chains are there still.

Now springs and axles—what do you think has been done? Why, every farmer in the country will throw up his cap the moment the name, the sacred name, of Wilfrid Laurier is heard; he will throw up his cap and cry: What wonders have been accomplished by this great and good man! What were springs and axles under the old tariff? As is seen in the first column, on page 53 of this pamphlet, 38 per cent. But what reduction? 3 per cent; down to 35 per cent. \$35 in the hundred, the revenue tariff of free trade as it is in England, that wine of free trade that was poured copiously down the throat of the poor North-west farmer! Somebody says: But look at the preference that is given to the English manufactured goods in our market, and see what that will do. But the poor farmer who reads that extraordinary and outrageous sentence introducing these columns, the poor farmer who has not the Trade and Navigation Returns which are now in my hand, and which I ask any hon. gentlemen opposite to turn up and look over—he does not know that we do not get springs and axles from England at all, that they all come from the United States, and that we could not get them in the nature of the case, from England, because the springs and axles they make in England would not suit the carriages and wagons we have here. So that here you have it held out to the farmer that he gets springs and axles at 26½ per cent. Suppose he did get them at 26½ per cent, is not that a high percentage? From the place where the hon. gentleman who leads this Opposition sits, in 1879 Mr. Alexander Mackenzie declared that 25 per cent was prohibitive. And, Sir Richard Cartwright declared that 25 per cent was an outrage. And here you have held up to the farmer that 26½ per cent is a panacea for all his ills, a great boon, something that he ought to honour the Liberal leaders for. But here is the outrage, here is the painful thing about that. I could hardly tell you with what pain, as a member of this House, I find myself called on to refer to it. The painful thing is that even that statement of 26½ per cent is a fraud. Now, Sir, we take some other things. Take files and rasps. The farmer needs them. What are they under the present tariff? 30 per cent; the great bulk comes from the United States. Adzes, 30 per cent; cleavers, 30 per cent; hatchets, 30 per cent; saws, 30 per cent; wedges, 30 per cent;

hammers, 30 per cent; crowbars, 30 per cent; picks, 30 per cent; mattocks, 30 per cent. Well, Sir, there is a preference, but when you look at these Trade and Navigation Returns on which my hand now rests, and which are open to the inspection of anybody over there you will find that no advantage under that preference comes to the farmer. Mr. Speaker, I want your special attention to this. When, Sir, you used to sit a little behind where my hon. friend the member for York (Mr. Wallace) sits to-day. I remember that you made a most elaborate speech upon cotton, and you showed to this House and to the country what an outrage it was that there should be the high duty imposed by a Tory Government. Now, I want to show you this,—because I think that it might even impart a sense of liveliness to the somewhat monotonous position you occupy. On page 54—I will assume that you have the pamphlet in your hand and can turn to it—you will find cotton fabrics unbleached, under the first or Tory column, 22½ per cent. Now, what great thing has been done for the farmer? I want the House to understand what has been done. It has been sent down at a run from 22½ to 25 per cent! Marvellous! Why, Sir, we should have three cheers with a tiger for the Liberal leaders, they are so loyal to Liberalism. Then there is the preference. But what is the use of the preference? The great bulk of unbleached cotton comes from the United States, and only 217,159 yards from England. Here are the Trade and Navigation Returns that show the monstrous character of this work of my hon. friend the Minister of Customs—and I am glad to see that he is in his place. I suppose he has been sent for. He has been straying away from school, and has been sent for. I wish the Prime Minister would discipline all his Ministers, because ever since the meeting of this House the members of the Government have done what Mr. Wade and Mr. McGregor did in the Yukon: The moment Mr. Ogilvie was sent up there as commissioner, the two great criminals fled. And when we are here now trying the foremost political criminals on this continent, they disappear from the dock. Now we come to coloured fabrics. The Minister of Customs could have done something for us there. The farmer's wife, the farmer's daughter, the young ladies in towns, wear coloured cotton fabrics. And, Mr. Speaker, I do not know that there is anything pleasanter than to see a young lady well and properly attired in a coloured cotton fabric. Something could have been done there, and I will tell you why. Out of 34 million yards of coloured cottons that were imported into this country, 24 million yards came from England, so that some three-fourths come from England. Something could have been done there. What was done? But it was not the Minister of Customs who did this, it was my hon. friend the Minister of Finance who did this. What does the gallant Min-

Mr. DAVIN.

ister of Finance do, who, I am told, used to be—in a thoroughly drawing room way, of course—in those years that have passed away for both of us, a squire of dames? We should have expected something gallant from him, and what does he do for the young ladies? What does he do for the fairer portion of creation? Well, he saw that the preference was coming into play, that 24 millions yards were imported from England out of the 34 millions, and that the manufacturer might possibly be hit, the manufacturer that you, Sir, proved from your place in Parliament to be such a robber, that cotton manufacturer who you proved was sweating the money out of the people. When the Minister of Finance saw what this poor manufacturer would suffer, it went to his heart. He looked at the old Tory tariff, which was 30 per cent. Why, 30 per cent is very high, it is 5 per cent higher than what Alexander Mackenzie said was prohibitory in 1879. But his heart fails him for the sufferings of the poor manufacturer, and thereupon he says: Before that preference comes into play, we will put on 5 per cent. And so this revenue-tariff Minister, this free-trade Minister, sends it down at a run from 30 to 35 per cent! Shenstone says, speaking of some one in his day:

He kicked him down stairs with such a sweet grace,

You might have thought he was handing him up.

These gentlemen opposite have kicked the manufacturer down in such a pleasant manner that the manufacturer finds himself, after having been kicked down stairs, as my hon. friend the member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) declares, in the drawing room, in the best room on the first floor. The member for Centre Toronto is a distinguished ornament of the band made up of "robbers great and robbers small" who were to be kicked down stairs, but who are up on the first floor, in the best room and as for my hon. friend (Mr. Bertram) why he is in the best arm-chair. It is a delightful spectacle. I remember my late lamented leader, the Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald, used to tell a story which, I suppose, without infringing on the dignity of this House, I may be permitted to relate. It was that of a Cheap John at a fair selling slices of bread and butter, which were quickly disposed of and so deftly that a man in the crowd cried out: "First he butters them up and then he slithers them down." That is the way the Government is treating the manufacturers; first, they butter them up, and then they slither them down, and they do not feel it. Well, Sir, take curtains which, now that our farmers are prosperous—and I may tell you that I am glad to bear my testimony here to the prosperity of the North-west—are important to our people. The North-west is prosperous like the rest of Canada. The farmer's wife wants curtains; curtains are 35 per cent—under the old tariff they were 30 per cent. They have sent them down from

30 to 35 per cent! Is that not magnificent as a free trade tariff? Is it not magnificent as a revenue tariff,—the wine of free trade as it is in England, the oil of joy of revenue tariff! Well, take handkerchiefs; every polite person needs handkerchiefs, and the preference would undoubtedly have done us good in England, because we get many of our handkerchiefs there. Lest the Government should hit the poor manufacturer too hard they sent the duty down from 30 to 35 per cent. We come then to woollens. Now, here in this country, but especially in the North-west, semi-arctic as we acknowledge it is, we ought to expect some consideration. Many persons outside think the climate of the North-west is severe, but no man has ever lived there for a short time without feeling that there is no climate in the world so stimulating, so delightful, so that even when the glass is low you do not feel cold. But we must wear woollens there, and there is no doubt whatever that the preference on English goods would have helped the farmer. But what does the Finance Minister do? Before that hammer of the 25 per cent preference goes down on the manufacturer, the Finance Minister in his pity for the poor fellow, sends it up from 30 to 35 per cent! Under the old tariff of 1894-95 it was 30 per cent, but they sent it up by the tariff for revenue, the free-trade-as-it-is-in-England tariff to 35 per cent. Take tweeds and flannels. These were sent down at a run from 32½ per cent to 35 per cent; carpets, from 30 per cent to 35 per cent; umbrellas 35 per cent, and so on. Well now, Sir, do you not think, Mr. Speaker, that it requires some audacity for any man to stand upon the platform and say that these gentlemen who are now in power and who call themselves the leaders of the Liberal party have fulfilled their pledges in regard to the tariff, or that they have been true to the principles of the Liberal party? Where is the Liberal party? Mr. Speaker, no man knows more about the Liberal party than you do. Sir, you were to my knowledge the trusted and bosom friend of the late Hon. George Brown and you were to my knowledge the trusted and bosom friend of the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie; no man should know more about the principles of the Liberal party than yourself. And, Sir, I think it will be in your conscience when I say here that in the face of the promises we have heard, and which I have read, in the face of the resolutions passed in 1893, in the face of the well-known principles that the Liberal party enunciated for eighteen years while the Liberal-Conservative party was in power, in the face of the well-known principles of the Liberal party for the last thirty years, these gentlemen who are now in power are not the leaders of that party. There must be amongst the Liberals in this House some who are not office seekers.

An hon. MEMBER. There are none.

Mr. DAVIN. That is candid; I am very glad to hear the authoritative statement from a leading member of the Liberal party that there are none who are not office seekers. At any rate there are men outside of this House who are not office seekers; there are Liberals outside of this House who have a career of their own in commerce, on the farm; the yeomen of Canada, the merchants of Canada, the professional men of Canada, the tradesmen of Canada, who are not office seekers. And if there is no liberalism left in this Chamber to which I can appeal, and perhaps there is not, then I appeal to the liberalism outside of this House. Who is that gentleman on the other side who said that there are no Liberals on that side who were not office seekers? I see before me the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), and he is one of those who have risen in revolt in the west against the Minister of the Interior. He is one of the men who have revolted against the incompetence and against the most objectionable character of the administration of the affairs of the country so far as they come under the control of the Minister of the Interior. I can well appeal to him, therefore, if there is no other vestige of the old liberalism in the House. But I can with confidence appeal to the liberalism of Canada which I know to be made up of as patriotic and as true men as can be found in any part of the world. Where is their party? Mr. Speaker, you are yourself a man of imagination, and you could picture this: Suppose the shades of the late Hon. George Brown and the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie were to march in here; suppose they came down—or up—I do not know—I assume it too readily it was down, but wherever they are, suppose they heard something of the politics of the country and learned that their party was in power. Imagine Mr. Brown and Mr. Mackenzie appearing in the House. Suppose we saw Mr. Brown putting to his ghostly eyes, a pair of spectacles. He would recognize the Prime Minister at once; I have no doubt he would make some very familiar remarks and he would ask: "Who is that behind him, Mackenzie? Is not that Tarte?" Mackenzie, with ghostly fingers, scratching a ghostly head, would say: "I believe, George, it is." "But was not he a Tory? And then who is that over there? Is that not Blair?"—referring to the hon. Minister of Railways—"Used not Blair be a Tory?" And he would reply "Why of course he was." And then George Brown would ask: "Who is that highly intellectual man in one of the back Ministerial benches; is that the son-in-law of my enemy Sir David Macpherson?" "Why certainly it is," and George Brown would hesitate and stammer as George Brown's manner was and he would ask in astonishment: "Is it a coalition government? have you heard anything of that, Mackenzie?" And Mackenzie would answer:

"No, George, I have heard the first you mentioned is the Minister of Public Works." "Minister of Public Works, mon; make that mon Minister of Public Works! the great spending department; why, mon, he used be the worst element in the Tory party." And then George Brown would ask: "Is this a Liberal Government with three Tories in it;" and pointing his eyeglasses at the Minister of Finance, he would say: "Is that not our old friend the Premier of Nova Scotia; why, mon, he used be a secessionist," and Mackenzie would reply: "why of course he used," and Brown would sigh: "what an extraordinary conglomeration my poor friend Laurier has under him." But Mackenzie would say to him: "George, the worst thing is that I am told the Minister of Public Works controls our friend who leads the Ministerial ranks," and George Brown would be shocked and indignant, would laugh with scorn and shake his gaunt sides over the pass inferior hands had brought the party to, that party which he led so long on genuine Liberal lines.

To come from the ghostly to the concrete, what strikes the Liberals of Canada to-day is: where is Liberalism? We have the evidence of the member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) on that point. The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) went to Perth recently and made a speech (of which I have a verbatim report here) in which he said: If our opponents were to come in they would not change the tariff to-day; it is a dead issue. And in reference to that, what occurred in the hearing of the member for Lisgar the other day at Regina? There was a Mr. J. G. Grant speaking there, and Mr. John Dougan interrupted him and said: "Have you seen what Mr. Sifton said at Perth that the tariff was a dead issue." Do you know what this gentleman replied, and he dare not reply anything else in the capital of the Territories? This gentleman, Mr. Grant is an aspirant; he sought to run against me at the last election, and he replied to Mr. Dougan: If Mr. Sifton said it—and there is no "if" about it because I have a verbatim report of the speech here—if Mr. Sifton said the tariff was a dead issue, then all I have to say is, that I do not agree with Mr. Sifton. And my friend from Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) declared at that meeting that things had come to this pass—I now quote from memory but I have his words here, things had come to this pass, that he would say that any Liberal who said you should support the Liberal Government the whole time, was what he would call a "yellow dog" Liberal.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar). Mr. Speaker, I beg to state that I did not say anything of the kind.

Mr. DAVIN. Oh, you did not say anything of the kind.

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Mr. RICHARDSON. What I said was that a man who voted for the Conservative party once when it was right and twice when it was wrong, was called in Winnipeg a yellow dog Tory; and I added: That the man who voted for the Liberal party once when it was right and twice when it was wrong, should properly be called a yellow dog Liberal.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, I will accept that. I have the words of the hon. gentleman here and I think it comes to the same thing and I do not think my hon. friend (Mr. Richardson) was right in stating that he said nothing of the kind. I will read his words reported in his own paper. They are as follows:—

There is a good deal of nonsense talked about Liberalism and Conservatism. The Conservative who voted once for his party when it was right and twice when it was wrong was in Manitoba called a yellow dog Conservative. The Liberal who would vote for his party once when it was right and twice when it was wrong should properly be characterized as a yellow dog, for what was wrong in a Conservative could not by any stretch be made right in a Liberal.

And that remark was applauded. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Richardson) knows very well, because he was present, that when Mr. Grant was praising the Liberal party—the Liberal "leaders," because I distinguish between the Liberal "leaders" and the Liberal "party," and mind you the Liberal party in the country is distinguishing between them. There is no connection any longer between the Liberal leaders and the Liberal party, except the connection there is between betrayer and the betrayed. When Mr. Grant was saying that the Liberal leaders had fulfilled their pledges, my friend John Dougan interrupted and called attention to what Mr. Sifton said at Perth; that the tariff was a dead issue, and Mr. Grant had to say, for he dare not say anything else: then if Mr. Sifton said the tariff was a dead issue I do not agree with Mr. Sifton.

The hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) is here, and he declared that the tariff should not be changed for the next ten years. He is quite satisfied with the tariff, as he well might be. You remember that the other day in Manila, the Americans did not know whence they were being shot at, and it turned out that some of the Filipinos were hidden away in the leafy branches of the trees and were popping at them. Now, the people of Canada, and especially the people of the North-west, feel very much like the Americans did. They look around and they discover that the manufacturers are shooting at them, firmly and comfortably ensconced in the umbrageous branches of the Upas tree to which I have already referred. And men like my friend from Toronto (Mr. Bertram)—

Mr. BENNETT (East Simcoe). And Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost) too.

Mr. DAVIN. Leeds and Grenville, yes. Oh, I forgot the brother in manufacturing implements of Massey-Harris. He travels around with the young Napoleon and he tells audience after audience that he is delighted with the tariff. Why should he not? The Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) at a banquet that was given to Mr. Hardy declared that the tariff should remain as it was, and he said in his own somewhat gruff way: Some people say that it is a bad tariff, but I tell them there is a worse tariff, and that is an uncertain one: people should pay their taxes. So with a wave of his hirsute hand, he bids them begone; tells the grumbling farmer who holds up before him what was said in the "Farmers' Sun" (a paper that the Postmaster General subsidized)—the farmer holds that up before him and the Postmaster General turns round and says: Begone, I am not going to say one word to get the promises of the Government fulfilled; they fulfilled my end; they got you to vote for us, and that is all I want. Something still more extraordinary occurred at that banquet. I think I have it here. I am going to frame it, Sir, because it was one of the most extraordinary things that have ever happened in the history of public life in Canada. There was another gentleman at that banquet—that same young Napoleon who is not now in his place, who seldom is in his place. He made a speech there, and of course it was heralded as a great speech. Every speech the young Napoleon makes, Mr. Speaker, is a great speech. We have in Winnipeg, a paper which heads in big letters, every speech made by this young Napoleon: "Great speech by the Minister of Interior."

Mr. BENNETT. What paper is that?

Mr. DAVIN. The Winnipeg "Free Press."

Mr. BENNETT. Is that the Canadian Pacific Railway paper?

Mr. DAVIN. No, it is the paper of the Minister of the Interior; and another paper in Winnipeg has asked the same question in regard to this paper that has been asked in regard to "La Patrie;" where did this Minister—who at a period before he became a Minister of the Crown could not pay his indebtedness to the city of Winnipeg—where did he get money to buy an organ for \$30,000? Did it come from the same source that supplied the coin to buy "La Patrie" for the two promising youths who rejoice in the name of Tarte? Well, Sir, this great young man, whose career during the short time he has been a Minister has been characterized by such a series of blunders as have not distinguished a single other department

of my right hon. friend's Government—and that is saying a great deal—

Mr. BENNETT. You have forgotten the postage stamps.

Mr. DAVIN. The postage stamps pale into insignificance compared with the blunders of the Department of the Interior. He was at that banquet, and of course his great speech was published at length in the "Globe" of November 16th. As a member of this House I think I have some reason, on behalf of my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior, to complain of the "Globe" because it presented him with a picture of himself. I do not say that my hon. friend is a walking Apollo; but I will say that at his worst he does not look so like a criminal at large as that picture makes him.

Mr. BENNETT. That was the morning after the banquet.

Mr. DAVIN. My hon. friend says that was the morning after the banquet; but although my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior has back-slidden so far as to tolerate the sound of the clanging fiddle and the hilarious pipe, and to indulge in terpsichorean gyrations, I do not think he has back-slidden to the extent of taking champagne. I do not think he has gone further than the greatest teetotalers will do—taking Roman punch at the middle of the meal. Well, here is the speech; and, speaking about the tariff, this is what the Minister of the Interior says:

We have, therefore, succeeded in bringing about a revision of the tariff, which has afforded much needed relief—

To whom? To the North-west farmer, over whom my right hon. friend bent with sympathy, and mingled tears with tears? To the shopkeeper and the tradesman? To the artisan and the housewife? Let me read to you the words, and I call the attention of my hon. friend from Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) to them. It is incredible. I will hand the paper to any Liberal who comes over here. I do not suppose any Liberal would doubt my word, but this is almost incredible, and I would like them to look at it. I call the attention of the hon. member for Centre Toronto to it. If he had the least doubt that the machinations of himself and his brother manufacturers would be endorsed and carried out to the utmost by this Government, that doubt may now disappear. Here is what the Minister of the Interior, the farmers' member in the Cabinet, the member in the Cabinet for the North-west Territories, says. The words should be printed and hung up in every farmer's cottage, in every shack, in every home on the prairie, in every artisan's house in the country. They should be hung up in order that the people may see in them the character of this Government. This is what he says:

We have, therefore, succeeded in bringing about a revision of the tariff, which afforded much needed relief to the manufacturers of this country.

The poor manufacturers! Why, Sir, I thought they were the robbers great and the robbers small who were piling up millions of dollars at the expense of the people of the country. I thought they were bleeding the farmer white by reason of the tariff which the Finance Minister did not think high enough, and so, where it was 25 per cent he put it up to 30 per cent, and where it was 30 per cent he put it up to 35 per cent. I thought that was the character of the manufacturers. But it seems they needed relief. My right hon. friend, in this tariff matter, reminds me of a Yankee who made a bet with an obese fat man that he would swallow him. The bet was taken, and the Yankee said, "Lie down on that table." The fat man lay down, whereupon the Yankee knelt at the end of the table, and began to bite his big toe. The fat man cried out, "Hold on, you are hurting me." Of course I am," said the Yankee, "do you suppose I can swallow you whole?" The Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior have not even bit at the big toe of the manufacturers; for, instead of the manufacturers crying out, they sing hymns in honour of the great leader of the Liberal party, and you have the hon. member for Leeds and Grenville (Mr. F. T. Frost), the implement manufacturer, going around with the Minister of the Interior and telling the people the tariff is what they want, and you have the hon. member for Centre Toronto declaring how happy he is.

Now, I want to say something about this tariff and the conduct of the Government in regard to it, because if the people of Canada could look calmly on the terrible outrage on public faith of which the present Government is the embodiment, then I would despair of the future of my country. I have here in my hand the "Farmers' Sun" for October 24, 1894, at which time it was subsidized by the present Postmaster General, and in it I find a letter signed "Richard Cartwright."

You will remember, that some time before that the Patron organization was formed. I do not know whether there is a Patron now remaining in the House. They are all changed. I see a gentleman that was elected partly as a Patron, but who puts himself down, however, in the "Parliamentary Companion" as a Liberal—my hon. friend from East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas).

Here is a letter, dated the 1st October, which appeared in the "Farmers' Sun" on October 24th, written by the present Minister of Trade and Commerce, and in that letter he says, addressing his friends in the Patron ranks:

I know, no man better, how utterly fatal any protective system must be to liberty and to honest and economical government; and it was the profound conviction of this fact, quite as much

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as any belief in the material injury it was certain to work to the chief interests of Canada (as I pointed out in my Budget Speech of 1876, and have done continuously ever since), which induced Mr. Mackenzie and myself and our colleagues to set our faces determinedly against the introduction of that most pernicious system here.

He goes on to add:

Nevertheless, I feel that there is great danger of their—

That is, the Patrons—

—making a very grave mistake at this juncture. The foes of liberty and good government are a very powerful body in Canada to-day. They are strongly entrenched and very highly organized indeed. Protection has many roots. It has a full treasury and a great hold on a large part of the press of this country. It holds the reins of Government, and it has a very large proportion of the active wealth of the Dominion on its side. You may be sure it will die hard here as well as in the United States. Now, this being so, for the opponents of such a foe to quarrel with each other on the very eve of a pitched battle against the common enemy is, as the French statesman said, even worse than a crime—it would be an irreparable and unforgivable blunder.

The man who wrote that is now a member of the Government, who wished to obtain the aid of the Patrons in overcoming their common enemy; but to-day he has linked arms with the one robber, and the Prime Minister has linked arms on the other side with the other robber. Whether he has linked arms with the robber great, and the First Minister with the robber small, I do not know. Later on in that letter, he said:

Then the Patrons desire to reform the tariff and to improve the system of taxation. Good again. By all means let us do so. This is the very cardinal plank in the Liberal platform, and has been so ever since 1878, as the records of Parliament testify most abundantly. The Patrons asked that the interests of the farmers be fairly considered. Was it not solely and simply because the Mackenzie Government would not agree to deliver over the farmers, bound hand and foot, to the tender mercies of the ring of would-be protective manufacturers that Mr. Mackenzie was defeated in 1878?

And the man who wrote that is now a member of the Government that keeps the farmers bound hand and foot to the tender mercies of that ring. He continued:

Let me ask, too, by whose votes was Mr. Mackenzie defeated then? I do not say it as a reproach, but it is a matter of history, that Mr. Mackenzie was defeated by the votes of the Liberal farmers, who were cajoled by the false promises of home markets, high prices and general prosperity held out by the reckless and ignorant charlatans who foisted this precious protective system on Canada in 1878.

But, Mr. Speaker, we have substantially the same tariff to-day; and if those gentlemen who in 1878 inaugurated the National Policy, were ignorant charlatans, the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) cannot be characterized other-

wise than as a conscious criminal. Further on in that letter he continues :

What are the other planks of the Patron platform affecting Dominion politics ?

If there be a Patron here, let him hear. If there is a Liberal here, let him hear. If there is a man who believes in common honesty in public life, let him hear these words written by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) on that occasion to the Patrons :

What are the other planks of the Patron platform affecting Dominion politics ? They are these : 1. Economy of administration. 2. Purity and independence of Parliament. 3. Tariff for revenue only. 4. Reciprocal trade. 5. Protection from labour monopolies. 6. No railway bonuses. 8. No gerrymandering—

Mark this, Mr. Speaker :

—No gerrymandering. 9. Lands for settlers.

If the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) were here, I would ask him to listen to that.

Now, there is no single one of all these objects which the Liberal party have not been fighting for, moving resolutions for, and doing their very best to obtain any time during the last twenty years. Look at the records of Parliament. Look especially at the several motions on the Budget. Look at their platform, and at the very last resolution moved by myself in Parliament, and you will see that as regards Dominion politics there is evidently no ground of bitterness between the Patrons and the Liberal party.

Is not that holding out to the Patrons the promise : Put us into power, and we will carry out your planks and make them the laws of Canada ?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Picou). But there must be an implied condition.

Mr. DAVIN. I do not think there is implied condition here. No, the hon. gentleman holds it out categorically. If there be a condition it is : Put us into power, and we will carry out your planks. What is the Liberal party to do with such a leader ? What are the Patrons to think of such a Government ? Was there ever such a deception practised as has been practised on the Patrons by this Government ? Further on, he adds :

Tariff for revenue only and taxes on luxuries and not on the necessaries, reciprocity and reservation of the lands for the actual settlers are things the Liberals, collectively and individually, have always advocated, nor is there any political single argument which has ever been advanced in favour of all these things, either by the Patrons or anybody else, which has not been previously and most generously said many times over by the Liberal members of Parliament and out of it.

The hon. gentleman then emphasized his offer of association with the Patrons :

You see, as I have said, that the objects of both organizations are absolutely identical. The Liberal party, for fifteen years and more, have been fighting at heavy odds for the very objects

the Patrons professed to desire. The Liberal party lost office rather than forsake these principles.

And they are keeping office now, rather than carry them out.

The Liberal party might have long since regained office if they would have betrayed them, and yet we find certain Patrons continually declaring that both parties are alike, and advising their friends to make no distinction between a Liberal and a protectionist candidate.

Again, he adds :

We will do well to remember that, after all, Ontario is not the whole of this Dominion, and that under certain conditions—

Then he goes on to suggest the fear to the Patrons, that if they do not take care, there may be a coalition between the Liberals and the Conservatives, and where, then, would be the Patrons :

Now, you will bear in mind that I am very far from stating such a condition would be justifiable or desirable. My point is, and it cannot be brought too clearly before the minds of all those Patrons who desire to promote the real welfare of their country, and who, I make no doubt, constitute the vast majority of the order, that such a move would be always on the cards in the event of such proceedings on the part of the Patrons as I have indicated.

Later on, he said :

I, for my part, would be sorry to see the issue dwindle down to a mere question of revenue tariff.

This is a good thing in its way, but very much more than this is needed now, and very much more than this can be got, if only our chances are not recklessly thrown away. We need, among other things, a radical readjustment, not only of our tariff, but of our whole system of taxation.

Mark that, Mr. Speaker, because I shall have to refer to it later on.

Great evil has been done, but out of evil good may come, and the colossal villainy of the protective system may be made to pave the way for so thorough a reform that it may prove possible for the first time in the history of Canada so to distribute the pressure of taxation that every man shall be compelled to contribute to the public needs according to his means and not according to pleasure.

The man who wrote this is in a Government that maintains a protective tariff and that has put a cent a pound on sugar.

I have no intention, and, indeed, no desire, to see your organization put at the disposal of even the Liberal party. Let them remain distinct but friendly. This is pre-eminently a case for mutual concession. Both Patrons and Liberals profess to have the same ends in view. Let them meet and adjust their difficulties—differences of principles there are none.

No differences of principle, Mr. Speaker. Why with that letter on record, the Minister of Trade and Commerce in a Government that supports what he calls the villainy of a protective system, we have, as I say, one of the most immoral spectacles ever witnessed in

any country. I am not done with this question. It is one that comes home closely to the people of the North-west Territories. We up there have been shamefully deceived, shamefully betrayed. In fact, if you will turn to copies of that very paper from which I have been reading, issued after the Minister of Finance had declared his policy, you will find that that paper, which had been attacking the Conservative party and Conservative policy, declared that the farmers of Canada had been betrayed by the Liberal Government. I wish to deal still further with this question, and, as it were, to drive home the nail. If you will turn to the Liberal campaign sheet issued during the election of 1896, you will find that more is said about the tariff even than was said at the great meeting of Liberals that took place in 1893. You have there in detail a comparison which shows the enormous fortunes that were being made out of the farmer by the protected manufacturers. Therefore, not only in the speeches of my right hon. friend the Prime Minister, not only in the speeches of his colleagues, not only at that convention of 1893, but in the campaign sheet it was still more emphasized, that if these gentlemen got into power, we should have such a radical revision of the tariff, that every vestige of protection would disappear. I need hardly say how completely we have been betrayed. I have in my hand the tariff, and, as I turn over page after page, as I am doing now, I find that every page teems with rates of duty of 30 and 35 per cent, page after page, 30 and 35 per cent—the whole tariff pockmarked with 30 and 35 per cent. This is the Liberal free-trade revenue tariff!

Now, Sir, clearly, they have not fulfilled their pledges with regard to the tariff. Have they fulfilled their pledges with regard to expenditure? They said that the expenditure was excessive. The hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), a distinguished member of the commission which has failed, said eight years ago that the country could be run for \$5,000,000 less than it was being run for. Another gentleman, the present Minister of Justice, declared that the country could be run for \$4,000,000 less. My right hon. friend the Premier would not go so far. In his speech in Toronto, in 1893, he said, that they might not be able to run the country for \$5,000,000 or \$4,000,000 less, but he declared, that it could be run for \$3,000,000 less. They have come into power, and what has happened? The first year they were in power they spent \$1,400,000 more than the old Government had spent in its last year, and considerably more than the average of the old Government's expenditure from 1887 to 1896. Taking the old Government's expenditure of \$36,949,000 as the standard of comparison, we find that in the first year they spent \$1,400,000 more; in the year after that, \$1,800,000 more, and this year, over \$1,900,000 more. So that in the first year tak-

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ing the \$3,000,000 less which they said they would expend, and the \$1,400,000 more which they did expend, we find them to be \$4,400,000 worse than they promised; in the next year, \$4,800,000 worse, and in the present year, \$4,900,000 worse.

Then, what about the debt? They declared that the debt was too high, and that they would reduce it. But, as a matter of fact, during the first year they sent up the debt about three and a half millions more than it was under the old Government; and the next year, about four millions, making in the two years an addition to the debt of about seven and a half millions. This year, they are away out of sight. And yet, in the Public Accounts issued by the Finance Minister, we read that the receipts on account of Consolidated Fund for the year were \$40,555,238, and the expenditure \$38,832,526, showing a surplus of \$1,722,712. Now, is it not a very extraordinary thing, that when the Minister of Finance shows that he has a surplus of about a million and three-quarters, he has a man in London trying to borrow two millions and a half? Is this not on a par with their candour with regard to the tariff? What is the explanation? The people outside, when they read the statements of the Finance Minister, as published in the newspapers, are not aware of the way in which the hon. Minister keeps his accounts. He keeps his accounts in this way: He has a consolidated revenue column, in that column he brings out a surplus. He then has a capital account column; so that by means of transferring a sufficient number of millions into the capital account column he can run heavily in debt, he can increase our obligations, he can pile up interest, he can go to England and borrow \$2,500,000 of money, and yet go to the people of the country and say: We have a surplus of \$1,750,000. We read on:

Expenditure chargeable to capital account was as follows:—Intercolonial Railway, Prince Edward Island Railway, Lachine Canal, Ottawa works, St. Lawrence River, Sault Ste. Marie Canal, Trent Canal, \$3,477,906; public works, \$376,852; Dominion Lands, \$127,504; Militia, \$173,740; making a total of \$4,156,004.

Sir, I need not make the calculation myself, because if I turn to a page further on of these public accounts, which are given out under the imprimatur of my hon. friend the Minister of Finance, I find on pages 15a and 15b: "Expenditure for 1898 chargeable to Consolidated Fund, \$38,832,525; expenditure chargeable to capital, \$4,143,503." Then, here comes an item that will astonish the country after the pledges which we know were made, after the resolutions that were passed, after the promises that were held forth, under the head of railway subsidies we find \$1,414,934. Then you have the total disbursements of this Government, which claims to have a surplus of \$1,750,000: \$45,334,281; total receipts, \$40,556,510. Then, under the heading of the

difference between receipts and expenditure, that is to say the real deficit, we find \$4,777,771. That is our position; so that in regard to the way the country is run, it is precisely the same thing as in regard to the tariff. But let me call your attention to that surplus. What is it, according to the best political economists and the best finance ministers, such men as Gladstone—what is it but an evidence of incompetence? I have seen it stated as though it were a feather in the cap of this Government, that it has a surplus of \$1,750,000. Now, Sir, I have here what I read at one of my meetings before the people, who were greatly impressed with the statement that there was a surplus of \$1,750,000; I have here a statement made as to the real character of such surpluses—that it is taking money out of the pockets of the people that should not be taken out, that it is bad financiering, it is, in fact, bad statesmanship, even if it was a true surplus, which I have shown by these Public Accounts that it is not. Hear what this great authority says, that I am now going to read to you:

Why, Sir, you heard the hon. gentleman driven to the expedient of giving it as an evidence of prosperity, that during the last fifteen years which the country has been under a protective regime, the finances of the country balanced year after year by surpluses which now aggregate to the enormous sum of \$20,000,000. This fact, which I do not hesitate to say to the hon. gentleman, is nothing short of a disgrace and a shame for the Administration, was treated by him as a boast. I assert that such a condition of things is a shame and a disgrace to any Government. In England the aim and the purpose of the Chancellor of the Exchequer is so to calculate the expense and the expenditure as to make them balance evenly, and the reputation of the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be lost for ever if, year after year, his calculations were found to be wrong. If, instead of having just the revenue which is wanted to meet the expenditure, it was found that there was such a discrepancy in his calculations as exists in Canada, the reputation of the Chancellor of the Exchequer would, I repeat, be lost for ever, unless he were able to show that the discrepancy rose from a sudden disturbance in the condition of business. What is the truth about these surpluses? Twenty millions of dollars, says the Minister of Finance. The truth is, that these surpluses represent \$20,000,000 of unjust taxation, which have been wrung by the Government from the consumers of the country, \$20,000,000 which would have been left in the pockets of the people for the purpose of their own business, for instance, to be applied to the redemption of the mortgages with which this country has been plastered during that term of years.

Now, Sir, who is the author of that statement as to the character of a surplus? I would call the attention of the Treasury benches as to the author of it. If you turn to the "Hansard" of April 12th, 1894, you will find that the word L-a-u-r-i-e-r is at the head of that speech in which this statement occurs. So that this boasted surplus is characterized by the present Prime Minis-

ter as an outrage. Let me use his own words in regard to what his Finance Minister boasted of, and I believe that he himself has boasted of it. Let me read:

What is the truth about this surplus of \$1,750,000? Is it not \$1,750,000 of unjust taxation which has been wrung by the free trade revenue tariff of the Government from the consumers of the country? \$1,750,000 which should have been left in the pockets of the people for the purpose of their own business?

There it is. I have the "Hansard" here in my hand. It is almost incredible, but my right hon. friend and his Minister of Finance can inspect it. It is for their behoof that I read it, as well as for the behoof of the whole House and the country.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have to turn my attention to the subject of the Department of the Interior. That department as run by the present Minister of the Interior, has certainly been a much bungled department.

Mr. A. CAMPBELL (Kent). Take a little breath.

Mr. DAVIN. My hon. friend from Kent (Mr. Campbell), I am told, is in spirit imitating the Minister of the Interior. The Minister of the Interior has been learning dancing; I am told that my hon. friend from Kent is learning French; and if he will confine his attention to what he calls his 'entourage,' I think the business of the House will go on much better. I wish the Minister of the Interior was here, because I am going to expose some of his blunders, and one of them especially, which was destined to embarrass my right hon. friend at the beginning of his diplomatic life. Last year, in the presence of the Minister of the Interior, I exposed to the House the fact that this great pamphlet, the official handbook of the Dominion of Canada—I read it here and I am not going to do it again—contained pages of libel on Western Assinibola, declaring that the finest wheat fields in the world, that portion of Canada that Mr. Macoun said was the kidney of the North-west could not grow wheat. If anybody doubts it, I will read the passages again, but as I read them last year and as the blunder is familiar to the people of the west, it is hardly necessary for me to do so. But I think it has been surpassed by a blunder the most signal that probably has ever been perpetrated by any department. As regards that great international commission, of which my right hon. friend the Prime Minister is a member and of which my hon. friend the member for Norfolk was, according to the United States papers, a more distinguished member, of which the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries are members, things leaked out as to what took place. Now, I am not going to enter into a discussion of the incidents connected with it, nor am I going to dwell upon the mistakes that the

Government has made, because I have things touching my constituents more closely to deal with; but what I am now about to speak of touches very closely the honour of Canada, and it excites my sympathy for the Prime Minister, who, in consequence of the blundering action of the Minister of the Interior, found himself, during that conference in Washington, in a very unpleasant position. It has leaked out that one of the great bones of contention, in fact it was the large bone of contention, between the commissioners for the United States and the commissioners for Her Majesty, was the boundary between the American and Canadian Yukon. It will be remembered that the Minister of the Interior spoke, I think at Vancouver, but I have his speech here. He was coming back from a visit to the Yukon, or rather from a point on the route to Dawson. He declared that he had consulted with Mr. King, who had been at the head of the Boundary Commission, and that he was thoroughly acquainted with the boundary question. I am told that the Prime Minister was presenting the case of Canada and pointing out the boundary that should belong to this country—I am not at liberty to mention the name of the American commissioner who replied to him, but I am told that he said to him: "Sir Wilfrid, is your Minister of the Interior not well posted on the question of the boundary between Canada and the United States in the Yukon district?" I believe the answer came, as it could not fail to come from a loyal leader. "Yes, certainly, I believe that he has studied it under the direction of Mr. King, who has been at the head of the Boundary Commission on this question." "Yes," replied the American commissioner; "well, now, you do not say so: here is a map issued by a department of your own Government showing the boundary between Canada and the United States, and the boundary shown on this map is the American boundary we contend for and not the boundary for which you are contending."

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (South Leeds). What map is that?

Mr. DAVIN. It is a descriptive atlas of western Canada, showing the maps of the provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia, the districts of Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, a map of the world and of the Dominion of Canada, issued by authority of the Hon. Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, Canada. There it is, and when you look at the Yukon you see that the boundary is marked as contended for by the Americans, and as against our contention.

Mr. TAYLOR. Where was that printed?

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). It was printed in Chicago.

Mr. DAVIN. It is suggested that this map was printed in Chicago. I will send

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it over to the Prime Minister that he may look over the boundary. I have no doubt he will recognize it as the map that one of the American commissioners presented for his consideration.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I never saw it before to-day.

Mr. DAVIN. I see that the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) is behind him, and is giving my right hon. friend the Prime Minister a pointer. I would say here that he must not always reply on the soundness of the advice coming to him from that quarter. No man ever existed in public life in any country so distrusted as the present Minister of Public Works. The whole of the honest Liberalism of the province of Quebec is in revolt against him; all the unbought Liberalism of western Canada is in revolt against him, but by some extraordinary power he keeps his place and exerts his influence over the Prime Minister. Clubs in Montreal pass resolutions against him, but what happens? My right hon. friend writes letters to silence the voice of indignant Liberalism, and he himself tries to make the peace of the Minister of Public Works with the outraged conscience of the more respectable members of the Liberal party in French Canada. This is really one of the most peculiar of positions, that of the Prime Minister of Canada in regard to the Minister of Public Works, and it excites grave feelings in the minds of the Liberals and even of Conservatives. Mr. Speaker, you will remember the story of Mezentius, who used to tie dead bodies to living bodies, not to quicken the dead but to destroy the living. And some Liberals ask the question: Is this close relationship that exists between the Minister of Public Works and the Prime Minister going to destroy the Government? Conservatives, not sharing this fear yet having correlative feelings of surprise and alarm, ask: Is it going to launch the ship of state on a rolling sea of corruption without bar or shore? What is to be the end of it? Such are the questions people ask when they see this extraordinary influence exercised over the Prime Minister by the Minister of Public Works. As some of you know, McEwen took respectable and able men, professors of colleges, barristers, merchants, and put them under the control of his will in such a way that while apparently in their senses they could not do other than as he bade them. Some such hypnotic influence as that seems to be possessed by the Minister of Public Works over my right hon. friend the leader of the Government. It is a bad thing for the Liberal Government, yet I would I could wake the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) from his trance; wake him completely from the spell that the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) throws over him. Whatever effect it might have on my own party, I would like to wake him and break the baneful chain, because

it is a painful thing to contemplate. It recalls a situation that was congenial and captivating to the imagination of the Middle Ages. It is a situation that our own Marlowe played with; a situation that has been treated with consummate power and undying art by Goethe the great German poet. You remember, Mr. Speaker—and probably you will have seen it represented on the stage—you will have seen a beautiful and aspiring and instructed nature; a man with academic relations and learned, brought under the spell of a dark and evil spirit, completely sold as it were to that dark and evil spirit, forced to do its bidding, but rewarded by the gratification of every wordly desire. The kingdoms of the world I will give thee. I will give thee rule, only make yourself subject to me. And the right hon. gentleman has not the power to say "Get thee behind me"; but remains under the spell helpless, supine, and there he sits the Faust of Canadian politics, and behind him the Mephistopheles.

Here, Mr. Speaker, is a very curious thing. Here we have an elaborate descriptive atlas of Canada, 220,000 copies of which have been issued by my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), and in that atlas he places the boundary between Canada and the United States according to the contention of the United States. I have to accept the statement of my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), but what an extraordinary thing that the Prime Minister should never have seen an atlas like this that was issued by the Minister of the Interior as an official document. What an admission! Last year when I pointed out to the Minister of the Interior certain mistakes in a book of his he said he would withdraw it. I do not know whether he has suppressed it or not, but if it is still being circulated, the kidney of the North-west as a grain-growing country is maligned. It is stated in that official document that no wheat could grow on lands where I will take you to men who have farmed 320 acres for 15 years and have each \$10,000 made out of growing wheat to their credits in the bank. The title of this book is "An Official Hand-book of the Dominion of Canada." When my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) was in the west and attended some meetings to which I invited him, I exhibited this hand-book, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) knows very well what effect the false statements it contains had upon the people there. Now we have a map issued from the Department of the Interior with such an egregious blunder as I have described. Perhaps it is hardly a question that should be asked, but I would like to know from my right hon. friend if he has never seen this map, whether that map was not quoted to him at Washington.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). There is a note explaining the whole thing on the cover.

Mr. DAVIN. I am not addressing the Minister of Public Works. I am dealing with the Prime Minister.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). There is a note explaining the whole thing, and my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) knows it too.

Mr. DAVIN. I am speaking to the Prime Minister, and what I am asking him is: Was not that map quoted in Washington as a proof that the contention of the American commissioners was correct?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, I presume that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) does not expect me to give any secrets of the commission.

Mr. DAVIN. Oh, no.

The PRIME MINISTER. I may, however, tell him that it was not or could not, because it is on too small a scale to affect the deliberations.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). There is a note which explains the whole thing.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. When was it put in.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. It is on the last page, and a very clear note it is.

Mr. DAVIN. This is first-rate. I have made Mephistopheles very angry. He knows very well that I have sent a spear by pointing out this blunder through the incompetency of this Ministry that will let blood flow for many a day. What has happened? Every issue of that map has been withdrawn and if they could have got that copy out of my hands they would have got it too. Sir, this is evidence of gross incompetency.

I will now refer for a moment to the Yukon district. Can you conceive greater blundering than has characterized all the management of the Department of the Interior in regard to the Yukon? I may tell you, that if it were the time and place I could show you that to this hour in the Yukon district there is the grossest possible mismanagement going on. Take the issue of the commission. What was the use of sending Mr. Ogilvie as the commissioner? Mr. Ogilvie when he went up there went into the gold commissioner's office, spoke to one or two clerks, and declared after ten minutes that he was perfectly satisfied. It is an open secret that Mr. Ogilvie has Mr. Fawcett in the hollow of his hands; Mr. Fawcett is Mr. Ogilvie's creature and although there was a chorus of praise every one knows that this Klondike brochure, issued by the Department of the Interior with the name of Mr. Ogilvie, is full of gross errors. People have been induced to go up rivers prospecting on statements made here which are founded on mere hearsay.

Take, for instance, the Stewart River. The Stewart River is described as a splendid place to prospect, and hundreds of men have gone up that Stewart River and neither in the Stewart River nor in the "pups" of the river have they found gold in any paying quantities; although if you read this pamphlet of Mr. Ogilvie's you would feel that all a man had to do was to go up that river and get all the gold he wanted. Mr. Ogilvie has been greatly praised, but the fact is that while he is a good engineer, he is quite as unfit to be Governor of the Yukon as Major Walsh proved to be, to my great disappointment. Major Walsh was a man that if he had been properly instructed might have been able to do his work well, but he was sent up there, as we were told last year both by the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior, with no instructions whatever. And what was the result? Why, he actually thought that he could defy and override the laws of Canada. He defied the laws of the North-west Territories while the Klondike and the Yukon were as much under the jurisdiction of the North-west Territories as they are now under the jurisdiction of the Dominion of Canada, and he behaved in a very extraordinary way. But the information I have about Mr. Ogilvie is also of a very extraordinary character, and I am sorry the Minister of the Interior is not here. I am told, for instance, on good authority that Mr. Ogilvie, in order to raise money, had put a tax on women plying an improper trade.

Mr. J. DOMVILLE (Kings, N.B.) No. I was out there the other day.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, I would not dispute an authority like my hon. friend.

Mr. DOMVILLE. No, the women are all free.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, I know that my hon. friend is a great authority on these subjects; but my information is, that a tax was imposed upon them, from which in one day \$16,000 was raised.

Mr. DOMVILLE. From what—from women?

Mr. DAVIN. Yes.

Mr. DOMVILLE. Oh, no; you are wrong.

Mr. DAVIN. Look at the position of things, Mr. Speaker, in this House. Here we are, debating questions relating to the North-west Territories, questions relating to the boundary between Canada and the United States, questions affecting the moral management of the Yukon; and the authority we have to fall back upon, in order to obtain information, is my hon. and gallant friend. I have a high opinion of my hon. and gallant friend, but he is not a Minister—at least, he is not a Minister yet, and he cannot speak with the authority of the Minister.

Mr. DAVIN.

Mr. DOMVILLE. If my hon. friend would allow me to say one word. Would he take my word for it, that the women are not taxed out there?

Mr. DAVIN. I will take his word for anything he would say on that subject, because I know that it is probably the only subject on which he is thoroughly well informed. Now, Mr. Speaker, I say it is a serious thing that we have not the hon. Minister of the Interior here, when such questions are being debated.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Permit me. I am sorry the Minister of the Interior is not in his seat to-day. If he is not, it is because he is kept in his room by rather serious illness.

Mr. DAVIN. I did not know that, and I am sorry to hear it. I am very glad he is not neglecting his duties. However, I have here a speech of the hon. and gallant member for King's (Mr. Domville), in which he declares, that there has been in the Klondike the grossest possible mismanagement.

Mr. DOMVILLE. No, excuse me. I never made any such statement. I ask my hon. friend to read where I made any such statement.

Mr. DAVIN. I did not intend to trouble the House with my hon. friend's eloquence; but now I shall have to do it.

Mr. DOMVILLE. Well, do it.

Mr. DAVIN. I will do anything to oblige my hon. friend. Is that my hon. friend from Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) who is making an interruption? Let us have a good one, as he said when he went into a Winnipeg cigar store the other day, and the store-keeper asked him whether he would like a foreign or a domestic cigar. "I do not know," he said, "but give us a good one." Give us a good interruption, if you give us one at all. Now, I have here what my hon. friend from King's said, because I treasure what he says. There is a virility about all my hon. friend's utterances that I admire.

Mr. DOMVILLE. May I ask my hon. friend, what paper he is quoting from?

Mr. DAVIN. First, I must have my hon. friend deny it.

Mr. DOMVILLE. I cannot deny it until I know what you are reading from.

Mr. DAVIN. This is what he says about the 10 per cent royalty:

It is ridiculous; simply ridiculous. As a result of it men are hiding away their gold and getting it out of the country, and I do not blame them. I would do it myself. If the royalty was 2 per cent, more would be realized from it than from 10 per cent. The present system simply put a premium on rascality. It originated from reports of officials here, made in Ottawa, that the mines were owned by Yankees, and that they were richer than they are.

The hon. gentleman does not deny that ?

Mr. DOMVILLE. I cannot tell what my hon. friend is reading from. He may have made it up. I do not say he did ; but when he quotes a statement from me, I want him to give the authority he got it from.

Mr. DAVIN. I am quoting from a report of the hon. gentleman's speech, which is quoted in the Winnipeg "Telegram" of August 12, 1898.

Mr. DOMVILLE. That is all right. I do not admit that I made that statement.

Mr. DAVIN. My hon. friend can keep his soul in peace, because it will console him to know that it does not matter the least to me or to the people of Canada whether he ever said it or not.

Mr. DOMVILLE. Why do you talk about it ?

Mr. DAVIN. But I will say this, that the information I have is, that the 10 per cent royalty is a mistake, and that more money would be obtained from a more moderate royalty. In a speech which I already quoted from the Minister of the Interior, he said, when asked about the banks, that the banks would go up there. He was asked, whether he would provide that the management of the banks in the Yukon would be such as would be just to the miners. He distinctly said in that speech—I am quoting from memory, but I have his speech here—that he would take care that justice was done. What is the fact at the present time ? Mr. Ogilvie went up there, and the first thing he did, when he went there, was to get his little council to pass an ordinance forbidding payments to officials in gold dust. The principal currency of a mining camp like Dawson is gold dust ; but if a miner goes into the gold commissioner's office, or if he has to pay for land that he buys from the Government, the Government will not take payment in gold dust. He has to go to the bank, and the bank will not give him anything like an equivalent of the value he used to get. The bank will not give him the actual purchasing power of the gold dust. The consequence is, that the banks there are making a huge profit, and are fleecing and plundering the miners.

Mr. TAYLOR. Senator Cox's bank.

Mr. DAVIN. One of them is Senator Cox's bank. I believe. There is another thing to which I wish to draw attention. The chartered banks are doing what my hon. friend the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), whom I now see present, when he used to sit on this side, was wont to denounce. He was then very much taken up with the question of usurious rates of interest, and I rather think he made an effort in this House to control the rate of interest debtors could be forced to pay. Well, what are the facts to-day in Dawson ? The chartered banks

there are charging the usurious interest of two per cent per month. I may be told that this is no affair of the Government but a purely commercial matter. That, however, is not the doctrine which was preached here before by some of the present leaders of the Liberal party. They used to hold out to the people that if they ever got into power they would not allow usury to prevail in any part of Canada, and certainly would not allow it to run rampant and be practised by chartered banks. That surely is a most serious matter.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) whether there is a Mr. Emery Lafontaine in his employ at present. Anyway there was a Mr. Lafontaine in the employ of the Public Works Department, who went up to Dawson last year. If an inquiry be held, and there must be an inquiry into the whole of the Dawson management, it can be proved, I am informed, that his conduct as well as that of Mr. Ogilvie has been anything but becoming officials in any department. Mr. Ogilvie is not heavy enough for the position of commissioner. To use a French phrase, he has not the "exterieur" for his position ; he has not the experience or the weight for his position. He is not fit for it and has made mistakes, some grave and some trifling, but even the trifling ones show the man's character. For instance, during the fire at Dawson, they got an experienced man to work the fire engine. Mr. Ogilvie, however, came along, and without consulting the mounted police who were around, without consulting anybody, said to this man, who was working away at the engine : Get out, you are not in uniform. I would not like to repeat what this man replied, because I would be guilty of irreverence, but he turned round and said to Mr. Ogilvie something to this effect : You are not the creator of the world. I may not be the creator of the world, retorted our commissioner, but I am Mr. Ogilvie, the commissioner of the Yukon, and you must get out of this. He then called a policeman to take in charge this man, who was actually working away at the engine, and had him sent to jail. The people around hooted and jeered, and there was danger of such a scene as that described by Lord Macaulay, when one of the worst of the Claudian gens had behaved so improperly that the Romans gathered up their gowns and took up the benches and created great riot. The result was that this high and mighty commissioner had to take back water and let the man return to his work. That may be a trifle, but it shows the character of the man. I am told that Mr. Ogilvie is in with Mr. Fawcett. I do not wish to say anything more about that, because it is only rumour, but I am told further that he is a cousin of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). That, I do not think is quite proper, and if there be an inquiry, as there should, there ought to be

one of the broadest character and not merely an official one. Mr. Lafontaine went up there, and if we have an inquiry, I have the names of witnesses who will go into the box—and these names I will give to whoever may have the authority to call witnesses—and prove that he used to go into the gold commissioner's office and look over the book of abandoned claims and use for his own personal advantage the information he got there. This book, it seems, shows all the claims had to be abandoned by poor miners who were not able to fulfil the conditions, although many of these abandoned claims are good ones. The public outside were not made aware of the fact that these claims were abandoned, the whole thing was kept in the dark; they did not know that these claims were open to be restaked, and Mr. Lafontaine, after looking over this book, would go out and send one of his agents or go himself to some miner and arrange for taking them up. People would say: Lafontaine is in with the Government, he belongs to one of the departments, he knows all about this, he knows where there is a good mine, let some one stake it out, and give Mr. Lafontaine one-half, and one-quarter to Lafontaine's imp or acolyte or messenger or whatever you like to call him, and the man who stakes the claim may keep the other quarter. According to the information I have, that was done on a large scale by this officer of the Department of Public Works.

Let me refer now to the case of MacGregor and Wade. They, the two principal criminals, fled from the Yukon the moment Mr. Ogilvie went up, and what was the story told? Mr. MacGregor who was sent up as an inspector of mines, and, therefore, was guilty of misconduct and of a breach of the Order in Council, as I am informed, went directly contrary to the existing law, in staking out claims, made a raid on the Monte Christo Island, where he and his friends staked claims, and the result is that in consequence of his official knowledge he has made some \$65,000 or \$75,000.

But it appears that the whole conduct of the department up there is on a par with this. The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) has organized the department as no department was ever organized, namely, on a personal basis. His official staff is made up of heelers, of his own friends, of relatives of his own, and I may tell the right hon. Prime Minister, who is interested in knowing it, that the Yukon is being exploited in a manner to throw grave suspicion on the Department of the Interior. And I say that if there is anything like an adequate inquiry, it will be shown that lands out there are being kept back from being staked in the interests of somebody or another—I suppose in the interest of men like Drolet, who got such dredging advantages as we showed last year he obtained, and then went over to England and sold them for vast sums—went over paupers, he and others, and

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returned millionaires or half millionaires. Is this a sample of the very pure administration that the Minister of Trade and Commerce promised those patrons in the letter I have read and which he published in what was then the subsidized organ of the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) who is now looking at me? I wish he had been here when I read that letter. It would have done his heart good to hear the vigorous protests made by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), as to the sincerity with which he grasped to his bosom the Patrons and their platform. He will see them in "Hansard," and I beg him to read, mark and inwardly digest the sentiments. Not even after looking into his own heart and conscience and his pledges to the House, will he be able to plumb the depth of the sincerity of the Government of which he is a member, as he will be on reading those words written by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright).

Well, there is Wade. He is a sort of pooh-bah holding a lot of offices. He too had his reign. And both of them came back. But, first, I am sorry to say, Commissioner Walsh came back, and what did he say? The first thing he did was to make a report, and the first thing that report does is to prove that the statement made by the Minister of the Interior from his place in this House was incorrect—that is the strongest language in which parliamentary rules will allow me to put it. Mr. Walsh says positively that his orders were to go to Dawson. Positively from his place last session the Minister of the Interior said that Mr. Walsh's orders were not to go to Dawson. Mr. Walsh said he did not see why officials should not stake claims. And when McGregor came—he is a horse dealer, I may say.

Mr. WM. McCLEARY (Welland). Did you say horse thief?

Mr. DAVIN. Well, Sir, that is an inspired utterance, for, I may say, the police were after McGregor a short time before for horse stealing in the west. He was a horse dealer, and I suppose the Minister of the Interior thought that he could tell the quality of a mine, as he could the quality of a horse, by looking at its mouth. Well, McGregor and Wade came back, and what did they say? They said they had permission to stake claims. Permission from whom? McGregor could have had permission from nobody except the Minister of the Interior, who is the master of the department. Well, Sir, that is a serious charge, and it is part and parcel of the egregious bungling.

Now, take a feature of the hon. Minister's department that there is great boasting about, and in regard to which I have never said a word of condemnation. I have never said a word adverse to the Minister of the Interior in regard to immigration. My right hon. friend the Premier will re-

member that when he was sitting on this side of the House, a great friend of mine, Sir John Carling, was Minister of Agriculture. I have since been sorry that even once and indirectly I should have girded against the department under him, because I believe he was a good Minister of Agriculture. One year—I think it was 1890—he only had \$50,000 in the Estimates for immigration. As a western man, I attached great importance to immigration, and I was angry that any man should be content to remain in the department with only \$50,000 provided for that service. I contended that we should have plenty of means for immigration, and that the immigration branch should be transferred to the Department of the Interior; and it was on that occasion that I said that the Cabinet of my late right hon. leader was a “cabinet of antiques.” And I may tell you what happened then. My hon. friend the whp (Mr. Taylor) came over, after that disturbing speech, and asked me where I was. I said: I am where I have always been, a true supporter of the Conservative party, but independent on North-west matters. This position is shown in all my addresses to the people of the North-west and it was because I was so independent of the Liberal-Conservative Government that I was able to accomplish so many things as I did for the farmers of the North-west Territories. For instance, the Dominion Lands Act—I took that Act and turned it upside down. Why, even since you came into power I have accomplished something for the North-west Territories. My hon. friend the member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver) has been making speeches in Calgary and in Regina. When he was in Regina, unfortunately, I was speaking at Balgonie. Otherwise I should like to have heard him, and also my hon. friend from Lisgar, and another who spoke there, because I am certain I should have been interested. But there was one extraordinary thing about the speech of my hon. friend from Alberta. When he spoke in Calgary he tried to show what the Liberal party had done for the west. Two things he dwelt upon particularly. In the first place, he compared the number of creameries in Alberta at the present time with the number that were there in 1896. But the increase in those creameries is in consequence of a motion that I moved in 1896. And the first thing the hon. gentleman did when he broke cover on coming down here was to oppose my motion. I think it would have been more in accordance with the independent character he loves to assume if the hon. gentleman had not insisted that the Liberal Government were deserving of that credit, but had said: I made a great mistake when I went down in 1896. I was impatient to flesh my maiden sword on somebody or other, and I attacked the member for West Assiniboia. Fancy what I did. I actually assailed Davin; I live after assailing him and I am here. The

hon. gentleman will remember that he opposed my motion about the creameries, and he should have told these people that it was in consequence of that motion, and not in consequence of any policy of the Liberal Government, that these creameries exist in Alberta to-day. At Regina, as well as at Calgary, the hon. gentleman made much of the statement that the Liberal Government had modified the Dominion Lands Act to suit the ranchers. Of course, if the Liberal Government had opposed it, I could not have had it passed. But the change that was made was proposed in my Bill, and that Bill was adopted by the Minister of the Interior. The Liberal Government was entitled to the credit of not opposing it; if they had not yielded to me, it could not have been passed; but they are not deserving of credit for it any more than they are deserving of credit for the hon. gentleman's vote against them on the Teslin Lake Railway, or the hon. gentleman's denunciations of the many peccadilloes of the Minister of the Interior. We are in this extraordinary position—that everything the Government and its supporters take credit for is found to have been proposed from this side, either by the former Government or by myself.

I have dwelt on the mismanagement of the Department of the Interior. I have said that I have not spoken against its immigration policy. And I will tell you why. As long as a man is fit to assimilate with us, however poor he may be or wherever he may come from, I would not say a word against him. I have never said a word against the Galicians, who are the bête noir of my hon. friend from Alberta. He has assailed the Galicians and assailed the Department of the Interior for bringing them in. Others have assailed the Doukhobors. Now, Sir, I believe that the Doukhobors, those immigrants from the theatre of the sufferings and triumphs of Prometheus to this new and happier stage where humanity enjoys all that the friend of humanity could have desired it to enjoy—these people seem to me to be a most interesting class. But, Sir, I have this criticism to make. I cannot agree with colonial settlements; I cannot agree with planting colonies. It is a most serious thing, because the colony, as a rule, is cut off from the public opinion of the country around. It renders it very difficult to make Canadians of them. Here we are, a people that lay so much store on the public school as a nationalizing influence, and here is our immigration policy which, by making settlements by colonies, strikes a serious blow at the nationalization of our people. Suppose it goes on, where is it to stop? Before you know where you are you will have an immense and controlling portion of people in those vast tracts who are outside of Canada sentiment altogether. So that while I am ready to welcome the Doukhobors, and the Galicians, for that matter, I am op-

posed to settlements by colonies. Mix them up with our own people, let them amalgamate with our own people.

I regret the cause of the absence of the Minister of the Interior as well as his absence. But I must go on, because I have to leave for the Lower Provinces. I object to exceptional treatment to any immigrants. If there is to be any exceptional treatment, I say it should be given to our own kith and kin; to the people of Ireland, to the people of Scotland, to the people of England, to the people of France, if you will. But any way, if there is to be exceptional treatment, it should be at the command of the possible immigrants in England, Scotland or Ireland. Give any intelligent man authority to go to England and make the proposals to the poorer classes, to the English agricultural labourer, that have been made to these very interesting and welcome Doukhobors; and we shall have the Englishman, the Scotchman and the Irishman coming into this country. We have to-day an immigration agent, in fact we have paid a premium to a gentleman, Mr. Devlin, who used to be a member of this House, in order to silence him, in order to prevent him from knifing the Minister because, in his view, the Minister had been false to its promises. So the Government said: We will get rid of him, we will put the whole sea between him and us, we will give him such a salary as has never been given to any immigration agent before. Having sent him to Ireland, what has been the result? Have they got any results from Ireland? No, Sir. Then take a Scotchman. Why, Sir, the best immigrants that you can possibly have from any country are the thrifty Scotchmen, and how the Scotchmen would jump at such treatment as has been dealt out to those gentlemen from the Caucasus. What have they done there? The hon. gentleman in order to get farmers and agricultural labourers from Scotland, does he go to a Scotch settlement? Does he go down to Glengarry and say to the gentlemen in Glengarry: Give me a good Scotchman to go as an immigration agent to Scotland? No, he does not do anything of that sort. But he goes down to Rideau Hall, and I suppose he said to Lord Aberdeen: Lord Aberdeen, I would like to bring out a few shiploads of butlers, good Scotch butlers. We have grown so wealthy, we are so prosperous now in Canada that we want to put on great style. We want some first-class butlers. Will you lend me a butler? And the butler is provided, he is sent to Scotland as an immigration agent, and really I do not know what great results he has achieved. He came west to us, and he visited some farms, and I am told on good authority that, looking at some timothy seed, he said: That is the most interesting specimen of wheat products that I have seen. He was looking at a binder, and he asked the man who owned the binder: Now, how

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do you run that? Do the horses go before it or go behind it? There, Mr. Speaker, is a sample of their immigration agents.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Was this man Lord Aberdeen's butler?

Mr. DAVIN. Yes, he is the immigration agent in Scotland. Now, I have not heard that he has brought out a single farmer; and I have sought in vain the records of the department to find that he has brought out a single Scotch butler since he went there.

When we come to the expenditure and ask how our debt is running up, we have only to recall what came out here last session. My hon. friend the Minister of Public Works has the courage of his convictions, his boldness is admirable, he does not shrink from anything. He was speaking at Valleyfield and he said. We have expended much this year, but wait till you see us next year. These gentlemen drunk with the prosperity which they did not create, when they are confronted with their vast expenditure and their debt piling up, instead of saying in a repentant tone: Well, we will do better; they say: Wait till you see us next year, then we will have an orgie such as will throw the present financial debauch completely into the background. It reminds me of a circumstance that occurred in one of our departments here which used to amuse my late right hon. leader, Sir John A. Macdonald. There was a gentleman, a good officer, but his habits kept him back. He overcame his habits, and he was promoted from the rank of a third-class clerk to that of a second-class clerk. He could not stand it; he had to celebrate it, and the next day when he came to the office, his chief said: "Is not this a nice way for you to show your appreciation of what the Government has done for you?" The gentleman asked: "What do you mean?" The chief answered: "You were drunk yesterday." "How do you know?" "I saw you drunk, sir, and you were very drunk." "What time was it?" "Why, sir, it was two o'clock." "Well," he said, "you should have seen me at six." That is something like what the Minister of Public Works said. Drunk with the prosperity for which, as I say, they should have no credit, power unearned and undeserved, glorying in that policy which for eighteen years they repudiated, priding themselves on having cast off the honourable uniform of Liberalism and donned the livery of the manufacturers, the hon. Minister of Public Works cries: "Yes, we spend much now; wait until you see us next year." Well, Sir, I may tell you that the people of this country do not think that it was he who made the prosperity, nor the gentlemen who have abandoned Liberalism who have made that prosperity, and if next year or this year they should come face to face with betrayed Liberals and a disappointed country they

will find that my hon. friend's cynical attitude is one that does not commend itself to the people of Canada. Mr. Speaker, I have probably lengthened out these few remarks a little longer than I intended, but as I have one or two more topics to deal with we had better call it six o'clock.

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

### After Recess.

Mr. DAVIN (West Assiniboia). Mr. Speaker, I repeat, Sir, my strong regrets that my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior is not able to be in his place. I greatly regret the cause. As he is not here I feel compelled to go more particularly into his relation to the North-west Territories, because if he were here, it would have been enough to have stated, as I have stated, that he has been false to his promise and to his pledges to the people of the west, but, as he is not here, I feel bound to prove fully what I have indicated. Sir, I have shown how completely forsworn the Prime Minister is; I have shown how completely recreant to his former principles and pledges the Minister of Trade and Commerce is; I am now going to show how still more recreant to his promises and pledges and former principles the Minister for the West in the Cabinet is. Mr. Speaker, you remember that my late friend, Mr. Dalton McCarthy during the election of 1896 ran for two constituencies; he ran for Brandon and he ran for his old constituency, and the present Minister of the Interior was his manager in the former election. Here is a Bill printed under the direction of the Minister of the Interior, on a white ground in red letters:

Vote for McCarthy, the friend of British connection and national schools,—

And then come the items I want to call attention to—

—reduced freight rates, free machinery, free lumber.

My hon. friend the Finance Minister is in his place and he knows as well as I do that there has been no relief in regard to freight rates, or lumber, or the machinery used by the farmer of the North-west Territories as promised in that bill or placard. On the 20th May, 1896, a meeting was held at Brandon, at which addresses were delivered by Mr. Sifton, Mr. James A. Smart, the present Deputy Minister of the Interior, and others, and at which my late lamented friend, Mr. Dalton McCarthy, was nominated. Mr. Sifton, now the Minister of the Interior, strongly supported Mr. McCarthy, on the tariff, and a resolution was passed in which the platform of 1893 was endorsed and in which these words were used:

We condemn the Government of the Dominion for its adherence to the policy of protection, which imposes grievous burdens upon the agri-

cultural community without any compensating advantages.

"We condemn the Government of the Dominion." Why, Sir, you can read that resolution to-day, and it has intenser significance. On Thursday, May 28th, 1896, Mr. Dalton McCarthy was enthusiastically received at Brandon. Mr. Sifton spoke on that occasion. The Minister of the Interior, at that time Mr. Sifton, spoke at the meeting there, and this is what he said:

We have in Mr. Dalton McCarthy a man who supports our principles.

Along with others, I have been blamed with having changed my principles; but where does a better Liberal policy exist than in "tariff for revenue only."

That is quoted because it is one of the planks in the address of Mr. McCarthy. This is what is said about the speech of my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) on that occasion:

He closed with an earnest appeal to the electors that every one who felt his duty to the country as a country of his own, would work hard until the 23rd of June that Dalton McCarthy may be our representative.

You remember, Sir, that Mr. McCarthy elected to sit for his old constituency, and a convention assembled at Souris on October 27th, 1896, for the purpose of choosing a candidate to represent Brandon in the room of Dalton McCarthy. This is what Mr. Sifton of that day said:

When Mr. McCarthy was elected last June, the people here did the best day's work ever done in one day in Manitoba, for they furnished an argument that could not be subverted, and secured a man of the utmost prominence to advocate—

To advocate what, Mr. Speaker:

—to advocate their views on the tariff.

And he says elsewhere:

We men of Manitoba have certain strong views—

Strong views upon what?

—upon the tariff question, and it is doubly necessary that we should be represented.

In the address that Mr. Sifton issued to the electors of Brandon and dated November 18th, this is what he says:

It will be my especial duty to lend my assistance in bringing about such reform in the tariff and such alterations in the methods of administering North-western affairs as will enhance the prosperity of the farming community, and thus lay the best possible foundation for a successful immigration policy.

This gentleman (Mr. Sifton), prior to his entering the Ministry spoke in that way, but let me read what the same gentleman said at Perth the other day—and I quote his exact words now, as I quoted them from memory before:

The tariff question in Canada is settled. It is, I venture to say, a dead issue. There will be

changes, but as an issue between the parties it is dead. We have succeeded in solving the difficulties, and our opponents, if in power, would not alter it, because they are satisfied, and we are satisfied.

You, Sir, know the way the Winnipeg "Tribune" commented on that. The "Tribune," a Liberal newspaper, said: We would want a new political vocabulary to understand the Minister of the Interior; and the writer went on to express his utter astonishment that any man, a member of the Liberal Government—at least, a so-called Liberal Government—would talk in that way.

There are other features about the method of the Minister of the Interior which justifies his title to the young Napoleon. We know that Napoleon was unscrupulous, was tyrannical, and was impatient of independence of thought. His sole idea was to have one mind in the country, and to have that mind—his own—control everything. One of the methods of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) is this. He has established here in Ottawa a central press bureau, whence letters are sent to any papers that will publish them. The consequence is that you can take one paper after another in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, and you will find a letter from "Our correspondent at Ottawa." It may be the "Bally Boomerang Gazette," or it may be the "Shang Wang Sentinel," or it may be the Red Deer "Cultivator," or it may be the "Townships Incisor"; but whatever the title, if it be a Liberal paper there is a letter in it identical with the others. Not only that, but leading articles are sent out from Ottawa. This is what is called in the west the "Siftonian Reptile Press." Sir, let me call your attention to the gravity of this method. The press is one of the most efficient instruments of government in a free community. The organized opinion of which I spoke in the earlier part of my remarks is mainly given voice and effect to in this country by means of the press, and in order that the press shall do it, it must be an independent press. You cannot have a paper published 2,000 miles or 1,500 miles from Ottawa and the articles concocted for it here, and at the same time have that newspaper fulfil the functions which the press ought to fulfil. Sir, the system thus adopted is a fraud on the community. To have these letters sent out under the direction of one of the Ministers of the Crown, and sent out in order to boom that one Minister cuts at the very root of the independence of the press. These letters are full of the greatness of the young Napoleon; he is a heaven-born Minister; everything he has done is wonderful, and his immigration policy is unequalled. Let me say en passant that in that immigration policy he has only followed the principle laid down by his predecessors. Mr. Daly brought in some colonies of immigrants and the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) is doing the same thing. I did not at all agree with Mr. Daly having

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done so, because I disapprove of immigration by colonies. Everything that the young Napoleon does is perfect according to these letters. But sometimes a mistake is made, and one of the letters was sent to an independent paper called the "Grenfell Sun," edited by a very able man, Mr. John Nicholls. That paper contained the following article in its edition some time ago:

A few days ago we received a communication from a gentleman in Ottawa, offering to send us a weekly political letter free of charge. We have received one already which we have published entire this week. We are always thankful to get live, up-to-date correspondence of either local or general interest, but judging from the letter we publish, our friend in Ottawa seems to be writing from an altogether partisan point of view in favour of the Government. Now, we desire to do the Government every justice, as we appreciate the difficulties which men in such positions have to meet, but we can do that the more effectually, and also act more in accordance with our views of the public interest, by judging the Government by its own deeds, and not through any party-coloured spectacles. While therefore, we thank our friend for his courteous offer, we shall have to reserve to ourselves of judging how far his letters may be intended to serve mere party and not general interests, and to act accordingly.

This system of things was commenced by the Minister of the Interior, it seems, even before he became Minister of the Interior, because a Mr. W. G. King, who was one of his acolytes, and had fallen out with him, writes on the 4th of September, 1897, to express his disgust at the way he had been treated, and declares that the Minister of the Interior was deeply indebted to him, amongst other reasons for this:

And he owes it also to the writer, who, by the judicious management of the entire south Manitoba press, formed the entire public sentiment in Mr. Sifton's favour, which ultimately secured his election by acclamation.

So here, on the eve of his coming down to Ottawa, this Napoleonic gentleman of Napoleonic instincts and Napoleonic methods, had already corrupted the entire press of southern Manitoba. He had sent down a man who unblushingly declares that he corrupted that press in order to secure the election of the hon. gentleman by acclamation. Says the "Telegram":

The judicious management of the western press for the fictitious manufacture of public sentiment in Mr. Sifton's favour has been systematically pursued ever since. So gross has it become, that nine papers published simultaneously as their own editorial an article defending Mr. Sifton, which has been prepared at Ottawa, and a number of others publish the same article otherwise than as an editorial.

Nine papers publishing an editorial, declaring that this gentleman who presides over the Department of the Interior is everything that is to be desired as a statesman—an editorial concocted in the Department of

the Interior itself. Why, Sir, it is a monstrous state of things. As an old Liberal, Sir, I think you will be pained to learn that the organ of the Minister of the Interior in Winnipeg is laying down doctrines not only contrary to Liberal principles but contrary to the principles of Liberal and Conservatives in every free and constitutional country the world over. The Winnipeg "Free Press" of February 6th takes occasion to comment severely on the action of the late Mr. Jameson in speaking at a meeting as follows:—

The effect of our representative system was to place a good deal of power in the hands of one man, who, as long as he has the support of the House of Commons, he was to a great extent a dictator. As soon as the Cabinet are united the members have to choose between following their decision and practically voting against his party. As a consequence, there might be a great deal of hasty legislation introduced which might not have the approval of a great number of members, and, under the ideas of party discipline which prevail, that legislation goes through anyway.

It is well known that Mr. Jameson, who was a man of large mind and broad sympathies, was entirely impatient of the boss system of machine politics that obtains here to-day in the Liberal party. Well, Sir, he was taken to task by the organ of the Minister of the Interior, which declares that this gentleman is entirely mistaken in supposing that a member of Parliament should be independent. Not only that, but it says he is under a complete misunderstanding as to what is our parliamentary system. Referring to some extracts, which it quotes from a book, it says:

If these extracts are read over carefully, it will be seen that the Government dictates everything to Parliament, and that it is in accordance with our system that it should be so. Parliament is at liberty to reject the advice of the Government, but it does so at peril of losing the services of that Government. It is indispensable that the House should have a leader, and that responsible Minister is not in the least injured by being called a dictator.

And it goes on to say that the proper view of a responsible Minister is that he is a dictator to the party. I may say here, looking back at the past history of the Parliaments in which I have sat, that anybody who goes over that history will see that it was because I acted with the independence I did since 1887, when I struck the first note of independence here, right on to the defeat of the Government—voting against them, and acting against them whenever it was necessary in the interest of the North-west Territories—it was for that reason I was able to do more than any other private member ever accomplished. Now, Sir, what are we to think of a Liberal newspaper which comes out and declares as follows:—

It is laid down that the Government is not only responsible for legislation, but the authorities go so far as to say that "it is the special duty of the Government, as the responsible lead-

ers (dictators) of legislation, and the chosen guardians of the public interests in Parliament, to watch carefully the progress of private legislation in the House and its committees, and see that it does not in any way interfere with the policy of the Ministry." It will be seen from this that the dictatorship is a fundamental part of the British system of parliamentary government.

I say, as everybody who is acquainted with the constitutional history of England knows, that the true duty a member of Parliament has to perform is to express the opinion of the country and especially of his constituents. He comes here to confer. This is the great council of the nation. We are not the mere puppets that this writer has made out. We are the persons who govern the country, and these gentlemen of the Government are only a committee into whose hands, for convenience sake, we place the duties and the great responsibilities that are ours. But, Sir, this is in entire keeping with the view dear to the heart of the present Minister of the Interior, because, Sir, you remember what happened in regard to that monstrous transaction, the Teslin Lake Railway. You remember that seven days before Parliament met that gentleman had a contract—a contract that was not worth the paper it was written on without the sanction of this Parliament—signed. Seven days before Parliament met, that gentleman had that contract signed in secret, and thus showed a high-handed contempt for the independence and authority of this Parliament.

Having mentioned that Teslin Lake Railway, Mr. Speaker, I may say that since we were here last year, the Minister of the Interior has placed the price of \$10 an acre on all the gold-bearing land in the Yukon. You remember, Sir, what we were told from these benches. We were told by one Minister of the Crown that the gold-bearing land that was to be given to Mann & Mackenzie might turn out to be worth nothing—that it was all a huge gamble, and now not an acre of it can be had for less than \$10. Let me dwell on the monstrosity of the bargain made by the Minister of the Interior with Mackenzie & Mann for that road, and I am going to point out features of it that were unknown to us last year, or at least were not fully known. First and foremost, you have 25,000 acres of this gold-bearing land which is now valued at \$10 an acre, or \$250,000, for the purpose of building one mile of a little tramway.

You have 25,000 acres, worth on their face, without anything being done at all, \$250,000. You give that for the purpose of building what? One mile of a little tramway, just the length of two quarter sections, but the best way of bringing it home to the farmers is this. Divide the 25,000 acres by 640, the number of acres in a section, and you have thirty-nine sections of gold-bearing land given to build the length of two quarters of sections of a one-horse tramway. But what have we discovered since? From the North-west Territories

was sent, in order to carry out certain regulations considered necessary, Mr. Bulyea, a prominent Liberal in Dominion politics, who is a member of the local government. He has told us what has been told by more than one traveller, that that Hootalinqua River would have been perfectly useless as one of the links of that Teslin Lake Railway. Not only that, but on the other side there is an immense marsh, and the most recent reports we have from the Klondike country are to the effect that the worst possible route that could have been chosen was that route. What were we told last session when there was a possibility of that happening which did ultimately happen, namely, the rejection of that Bill by the Senate? We were told that the people would starve. Have they starved? No. We were told that great evils would result. Great evils have not resulted. It was asserted to be the most feasible line. But a line has been built far into that country without one dollar of help from the Dominion Government, and everything that has happened since has been of a character to demonstrate what I lay down here, that from the beginning to the end there has been nothing but bungling in the Klondike.

Coming back once more to the immigration policy of the department and the immigration of the Doukhobors, there is something wrong, as I will show you, Mr. Speaker. A special arrangement was made with regard to this Doukhobor immigration. So far as one can make out from the papers, seven dollars a head were given to these people. Whether given directly to the immigrants or to Count Tolstoi, I do not know, but there is something to be explained, and I refer to this in order that it may go on "Hansard," and that we may get an explanation by and by from the hon. Minister of Interior (Mr. Sifton). A committee met in London and collected money to bring out the Doukhobors, and it seems that Count Tolstoi chartered vessels from Batoum to bring these immigrants here. Well, some 2,300 immigrants came out in one ship, and \$7 a head for each of these would do much more than charter one of such vessels as brought them from Batoum, so that I think there is something to be inquired into regarding the details of that arrangement. I repeat that I should like to see something like the same consideration given to our own people in England, Scotland and Ireland.

I wish to refer to the ignorance on the part of the department as to its proper position with regard to the Yukon. And I think that, considering that my hon. friend the Minister of Interior (Mr. Sifton) is a lawyer, this ignorance is inexcusable. You will remember, Mr. Speaker, that last session, and I think also in 1897, I called the attention of the Minister of the Interior to the rival jurisdictions that might possibly arise in the Yukon, and I think I

suggested that the Minister should at once inform himself of his exact position and the exact rights in the Dominion Government in that Yukon territory, and indicated what was my own strong opinion that it was the local government in the territories that had jurisdiction there. Well, what do we find? We find that the department here began to exercise the functions of the local territorial government, and not only that, but Mr. Smart actually telegraphed to Mr. Justice Richardson not to receive any recommendation for permits from the local government in the territory. The consequence was that a correspondence, which I hope to move for in order that we may have the opportunity of reading it, took place, and the hon. Minister of Interior made a statement, which I do not think we can congratulate him upon as a lawyer, because if any man were ever hopelessly sat upon he was in that correspondence, the upshot of which was he had to yield completely to the contentions made by the Attorney General for the Territories. While Mr. Bulyea was on his way up he met Major Walsh, who was then the Commissioner of the Yukon. They met by appointment, and Mr. Bulyea showed Major Walsh the Order in Council under which he held his appointment, and his authority, under which the regulations were passed which he was instructed to enforce. The first officer of the Minister of the Interior there, Major Walsh, scouted the idea of his appointment, and held that the appointment and regulations did not amount to anything. Mr. Bulyea then showed him the North-west Territories Act, under which the Lieutenant-Governor of the Territories has the sole right to issue permits and to regulate all matters in connection with the liquor traffic, and pointed out to him that the Act of the Parliament of Canada under which his appointment was made could not be superseded by an Order in Council or instructions from the Ottawa Government. Mr. Bulyea went to the Yukon and got to Dawson. The first sign of coming trouble was the receipt by Mr. Constantine, the inspector of mounted police out there, of a letter from Major Walsh. When, as a result, the former resigned from the Board, he gave Mr. Bulyea by request a copy of the letter. Mr. Bulyea read it to the House. Major Walsh wrote cautioning Mr. Constantine against recognizing the man sent out by the North-west Territories Government to issue wholesale liquor permits and regulate the tariff; that Mr. Bulyea seemed to be a first rate fellow but had no business to be there. Mr. Bulyea pointed out that such a letter from his superior officer placed Mr. Constantine in a difficult position.

Next day they met again, and the major seemed in very bad humour. Major Walsh said, he was surprised that, after what he had told Mr. Bulyea, the latter should have interfered with the liquor business. Bulyea replied, that he was acting strictly

by authority and under express instructions from the lawful authorities. The major got angry, and, as it was Sunday, and a crowd commenced to gather, Bulyea moved away. Walsh informed him that he (Bulyea) had no jurisdiction, that he (Walsh) would see all the parties and tell them that anybody had a right to engage in the retail liquor business, regardless of Bulyea, and that Bulyea had no machinery for enforcing regulations.

Then, later on in this report, we are told how the major gave licenses to whom he pleased, and refused licenses to whom he pleased, and the result was, that, after a short time, he introduced such confusion into Dawson that Dawson was back again to the old system of no restriction whatever. You ask: Why, then, did not Mr. Bulyea enforce the law? He tried to enforce it. But Wade was the only lawyer, and Wade would not act for him, and when another lawyer came, he was afraid of Wade, and would not take instructions, while the magistrates were afraid of Walsh. So here was the proper representative of the only legal authority in these matters, namely, Mr. Bulyea, let and hindered by the officers of the Department of the Interior, the magistrates afraid of the Attorney General to act, and the whole process of law hindered and hampered by a Dominion official. Mr. Speaker, this same kind of bungling still goes on: similar incapacity, illustrated by what I have read to the House, is still rampant there. I think I have substantiated, so far, at all events, as the Department of the Interior is concerned what I said last session, or a couple of sessions ago—a remark which created so much perturbation in the mind of the Minister of the Interior—that this Administration has not the instinct of government.

Now, I will come back to this map. When I was exposing the colossal blunder of having, in a map issued by the Department of the Interior, the Yukon boundary shown as contended for by the Americans, the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) asked to see the map. The map was sent over to him, and what does he point out, as though it was a cause of triumph. He points out a note here at the end: "The question of the boundary between Canada and Alaska is undecided. The boundary line is shown on the map as claimed by the United States." But anybody who looks at the printing of that note, will see that it is in a different type from the line immediately above it. It is plain, the printing of this was an afterthought. The colossal blunder had been committed of having this map, "issued by the authority of the Hon. Clifford Sifton," printed and published in Chicago, and, when it was pointed out by the critics that the printers in Chicago had put in the boundary as contended for by the United States, evidently these maps were sent out to a printer in Ottawa, and on the whole two hundred thousand this note was

printed. What is the meaning of this system of giving work away from our own people, sending to the United States to have our maps for the Department of the Interior? When you pass the building where our currency is issued, you will see the sign, and what is it? Is it "Canadian Bank Note Company"? No, it is "American"—it is an American institution. I confess to you, Mr. Speaker, that I do not understand this system of going outside of our country to have work done, when we have men in the country perfectly competent to do it. But when such a blunder has been committed as in this case, I do not understand the action of the Minister of the Crown who will have a little note of that kind printed, instead of frankly acknowledging that he had committed a blunder and withdrawing the evidence of that blunder from the public sight.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), in his speech, did not recall the Cartwright of this side of the House. We all remember what a lion of the Tribe of Judah the Minister of Trade and Commerce was, when he was on this side, free and unshackled, preaching the Liberal doctrines dear to George Brown and Alexander Mackenzie. He was the strong fighting man of the Liberal party. But now he has gone over there, and he, the denouncer of nepotism, he the denouncer of "robbers great and robbers small," among the manufacturers—there he is, toiling, like the blind Samson in the mill of the Philistines, with one son in one department and another son in another department, Cartwright after Cartwright feeding at the public crib, his independence gone completely. Somebody has sent me a list of the hon. gentleman's relatives in Government employ. I had no idea that the number was so great. Why, he is a more nepotized Minister "than has been." Here is the list:

1. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), \$8,000 a year.
2. Rev. C. Cartwright (brother), chaplain of the Kingston Penitentiary.
3. Robert Cartwright (son), Assistant Attorney General.
4. Frank Cartwright (son), inspector North-west Mounted Police.
5. Harry Cartwright (son), Ontario civil service.
6. Jas. Cartwright (cousin), position in Osgoode Hall.
7. John Cartwright (cousin), Deputy Attorney General, Toronto.
8. M. O'Hara (second cousin), private secretary and with the commission.
9. Straubenzle Cartwright (second cousin), appointed to Military School before qualified.
10. Mr. O'Hara (married to cousin), Master in Chancery, Chatham, Ont.; Government appointment.

Why, Sir, it is no wonder his independence is buried under such a heap.

Mr. H. A. POWELL (Westmoreland). That is why he cannot sing the old songs.

Mr. DAVIN. That is true. The hon. Minister made a very peculiar point. He smiled

oleaginously at the thought that the Government were able to carry by-elections by improper means. That is the only way of interpreting what he said. He said: You and I Mr. Speaker—he was addressing you, Sir, and I do hope that there was no truth in the implication; I do not believe, Mr. Speaker, that you ever could have known anything about ways that are dark and tricks that are vain in election matters. But he says: You and I, Mr. Speaker, know very well how by-elections are carried. And he seemed to glory in it. What is the fact underlying the recent by-elections? Notwithstanding the sneers cast across this House by my hon. friend the Liberal whip, these elections are full of hope. You must remember that with the exception of Bagot, every one of them except one was a strong Liberal constituency. In West Lambton we gained 400 votes; in West Huron we gained 150 votes. In Simcoe they put up a Liberal against a cousin of the late Dalton McCarthy and they were unable to carry it. With the exception of Bagot, they carried champion Grit constituencies with reduced majorities, notwithstanding the truth underlying the opinion I am going to read to you of the value of by-elections expressed by the Minister of Trade and Commerce himself. This is what he said at a time when the Conservative party was winning by-elections:

Yet, nevertheless, with all those things against them, we find the Government sustained at all points throughout Ontario, and absolutely winning 18 out of 20 by-elections. Sir, the mere statement of those figures is in itself enough. Does any sane human being who knows anything at all of the conditions of political life believe for one moment that this result was obtained by honest means? The thing is an absurdity. Those figures carry condemnation on the very face of them. "As well defend Sodom." As well say that it is possible to cast double sixes eighteen times out of twenty. Sir, it is only possible on one condition, and on one only—that the dice are loaded.

Are the dice loaded now? I am afraid the dice are loaded, and I am afraid, from the course taken by one of the Ministers especially, that the dice are loaded very heavily to-day.

I want to call the attention of the House to the extraordinary course taken by this Government in regard to what is called the school question, bearing out, as it does, the character for duplicity that I contend inheres in this Government. On the 5th of September, 1896, a correspondent of the Brandon "Sun" inquired of the present First Minister as to the truth of a story in the "Mail and Empire" that the Government had sent an emissary to Rome on the Manitoba school question, he replied in these words: "It is one of the 'Mail's' usual canards, there is not a word of truth in it." Well, we know that since that time several emissaries have been sent to the eternal city. We know that Mr. Drolet was sent, we know that Mr. Russell was

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sent, that the Solicitor General was sent, and that the Prime Minister went there himself. So it would seem this correspondent did not get much satisfaction, because we know very well that these gentlemen have been sent, and that the right hon. gentleman himself addressed a letter to the Cardinal, who is Secretary of State of the Vatican, on the subject of the Manitoba schools, and we heard in this House that he acknowledged he had written it. I am told that the Minister of Public Works has made statements to the effect that the Catholics of Manitoba have got back all they had been deprived of by the Martin Act, and in "La Patrie" of November, 29th, 1898, it is said:

The French Canadians of Manitoba enjoy more privileges in the schools than before 1890.

Yet more than two years ago we were told by the Prime Minister, immediately after the House met here, that the school question had been settled. So that those who hoped that the settlement that was made was a final one, if what is stated from time to time is true, are deceived; and on the other hand, if it was a final one and if there has been nothing done since, those who are assured that in consequence of this diplomatic action all that was taken away by the Martin Act has been restored—those persons must be deceived.

I want to say a word on a question that interests a large number of my constituents, I refer to the plebiscite. You will remember that the right hon. gentleman, replying to one of the leaders of the Temperance Alliance, stated that he could not act upon the vote which took place upon the plebiscite. I call attention to what the Montreal "Daily Witness," a Liberal paper, says on that head:

Meantime, we protest very strongly against the disingenuous language used by those Liberal papers in deprecating the vote. Their language from one end of the country to the other about the prohibitionists having polled "a very small minority of the registered vote," is a simple impertinence, seeing that outside the province of Quebec, in which the vote was abnormal, prohibition polled five-sixths as many votes as were polled for the straight candidates of the Liberal party in the triumphant general election of the 26th of June, 1896, and that they did this out of a panel of voters one-tenth smaller. The pollable vote is usually considered about 70 per cent of the total vote on the list. At the last general election, the lists being old, only 68 per cent was polled. Outside of Quebec the number of votes on the lists was almost exactly a million, of which the Liberals polled at that election, for straight party candidates, almost exactly 300,000, or 30 per cent of the voters on the list, being 44 per cent of the vote actually polled. The number on the list for the plebiscite vote was as nearly as possible 900,000, of which the prohibitionists polled just about 250,000, or 28 per cent of the whole list, and 40 per cent of the presumable pollable vote. Considering that those who voted for prohibition did so from purely patriotic impulses, without any of the usual personal and partisan incentives to goad them to the polls, and, considering that there is almost no other case on record in which the vote on a mere proposition apart from party or personality has

not been been meagre, it would be nonsense to treat these figures as insignificant or as any other than extraordinary and startling. The only question that remains open is as to what their real significance may be, and whether, in spite of the opposition or indifference of the province of Quebec, they do or do not constitute a mandate to do something.

That states as much of the argument as is necessary for me to place before the House.

I want, Sir, to say one word that will show to you and to the members here to-night how our money is being spent and how the extravagance to which I have referred is being piled up. I am glad that the Minister of Public Works is in his place. I will take three specimen bricks, as it were, of the building, of the—I do not really know what to call it, because if I use the word that comes to my lips I am afraid it would not be parliamentary; so I will leave it unexpressed. The Minister of Public Works has gone into amateur dredging. There is a man in the west named McGillicuddy, and he was kicking hard—very hard, whereupon he was given the contract for dredging Goderich harbour. I do not suppose McGillicuddy ever saw a dredge.

Mr. BERGERON. And without tender.

Mr. DAVIN. I do not think there were any tenders. It would be an interesting spectacle to see McGillicuddy advancing, pen in hand to dredge Goderich harbour. You have a companion picture in Montreal. You have Mr. Gauthier. He never saw a dredge; he has no dredge; he does not know anything about dredging, and he too has a \$20,000 contract for dredging. If we ask the Minister of Public Works, "is he a relative?" he says, "No," but when we ask him if he is not his son's father-in-law, he says: "How can I help it if my sons have fathers-in-law." Surely the public of Canada are entitled to the difference between what the people pay Gauthier and what the people pay McGillicuddy, and what McGillicuddy and Gauthier pay others to do the dredging. The Minister of Public Works says, when we ask him, "Why do you not give the contract to dredgers?" When we ask the Minister of Public Works, "Why do you not give the contracts to dredgers?" He says: "How can I do that and put money into the pockets of my friends?" He tells us that all the dredges are in the hands of Tory dredgers, and he says that if he were to ask for tenders the contracts might go to Tory dredgers. He turns around and gives a contract to one man who has kicked hard in one case, and in another to a man who happens to be one of his son's father-in-law. I might repeat what I said here before of that deal for that \$30,000 that was got for buying "La Patrie" in connection with the Drummond County deal.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). There is not one word of truth in that, not one word of truth, and the hon. gentleman knows it.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman says there is not a word of truth in that, but my hon. friend swore in court that he did not tell the truth to this House in regard to it. He swore that what he said to this House was not true. How am I to know that what he is telling us now is true?

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman must not refuse to accept the statement of the Minister.

Mr. DAVIN. I do not refuse to accept my hon. friend's statement, but, Sir, I do not endorse it.

Mr. WALLACE. I do not think that the Minister of Public Works has a right to interrupt the proceedings of this House.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have given my decision on the point.

Mr. DAVIN. I abide by the decision.

Mr. J. TOLMIE (West Bruce). Mr. Speaker, the hon. member (Mr. Davin) has made an assertion that Mr. McGillicuddy—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. SPEAKER. There can be no personal explanation when the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) has the floor unless he chooses to give up the floor.

Mr. DAVIN. I hope the hon. gentleman will deal with Mr. McGillicuddy when I am done, because the more this matter is ventilated the better the people will see how the debt is being piled up and the way that extravagance is going on.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). I rise to say that the hon. gentleman is altogether mistaken. Mr. McGillicuddy never got any dredging contract from me.

Mr. TAYLOR. He got one for crib and pier work.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). After public tender.

Mr. TAYLOR. No, without public tender.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). After public tender.

Mr. TAYLOR. It was never advertised.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). After public tender, I say it again, and it is true.

Mr. DAVIN. I think I have McGillicuddy's own words here.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). I do not care what he says, the contract is there. The contract was given after public tender.

Mr. DAVIN. If my hon. friend will not take what McGillicuddy himself says, what are we to say. Of course, there is no contract if he would take what McGillicuddy says.

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). Mr. McGillicuddy never got any contract for dredging, and he never got any contract without public tender. These are the facts.

Mr. **SPEAKER**. The Minister of Public Works must really ask the permission of the hon. member who has the floor.

Mr. **DAVIN**. In 1896 I pointed over to the Government, and I said it had the colour of death in its face. A still more dangerous symptom has manifested itself to-day, a moribund symptom has manifested itself, and it is the same symptom that manifested itself two years and a half after the Mackenzie Government came into power. They began to plunder, to get deeper and deeper into the quagmire. The moment that anybody criticised them, instead of being able to refute what their critics said, they got out of temper like the Minister of Public Works and like my right hon. friend the Prime Minister in his speech, which was not up to the mark to which he or any other Prime Minister should attain. He had lost his temper, and the Minister of Trade and Commerce had also lost his temper, and this is a sure sign that the Government is moribund. Now, I will give Dan's own words; I did not intend to take up the time of the House by doing it:—

To the first count—being an office-seeker—we plead guilty. After nearly a quarter of a century's faithful service in the not very remunerative business of making politicians out of "nobodies," or as Kipling says of Sergeant What's-His-Name, in "making men out of mud," Mr. McGillicuddy came to the conclusion that when an office became vacant he had as much right to it as any other man in Huron, and he thinks so still. At the same time, Mr. McLean was of a similar opinion, and was an applicant for the self-same position. The only difference between the two was that McGillicuddy made no application until the office was vacant, whilst Mr. McLean put in his application as soon as the registrar was taken ill, and about a year before the death of the then incumbent. If we mistake not, he was the first on the doorstep, waiting for death to step in and give him a job.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have heard what my hon. friend has to say about Mr. McGillicuddy. Will he tell us something about Gauthier or about the Edmonton bridge, about that outrage upon the pockets of the people of this country where a contract was made at \$35,000 for solid ashlar masonry? Without new tenders and without anybody else being allowed to tender, and without any modification in price a man is allowed to change a specification from ashlar masonry to concrete, which does not cost half as much.

Sir, if the hon. gentleman will allow me to talk metaphorically, I put the handcuffs on his wrists last year and there is no sub-lunary power can take them off. I will tell you why. If he will recall what I did, he knows that I took the excuse that was made

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for this transaction. The excuse was that the contractor went up to Edmonton, went to the quarry some ten miles from Edmonton, inspected the stone there, then came back and inspected the stone at Calgary, came to Ottawa and then entered the office and told the department there was no stone either at Calgary or Edmonton fit to make piers for a bridge. The cautious department sent Mr. St. Laurent at once to examine whether what this contractor Mr. Lemoine said was true or not. He makes the same trip, and back he comes and confirms what Mr. Lemoine has said. But I took the time table of the Canadian Pacific Railway for that month and I showed that, if the moment Lemoine had got that contract in Montreal—and he got it in Montreal the last day that tenders were to arrive in the office; by some extraordinary means the Minister was down there and so was Mr. Coste, and he got it in Montreal the day the tenders came in. He got it therefore without the Minister seeing the other tenders. I showed that if the moment Lemoine got it he had flown to the station, taken the train, gone right on to Calgary, taken the next train, gone to Edmonton, taken a trap and gone to the quarry, hurried back, got in his train and hurried to Calgary, then by some extraordinary slight of hand inspected all the quarries in Calgary, then got the next train, hurried to Ottawa, and then gone gasping and panting into the Department of Public Works, he could not have done it in the time. One trip could not have been made in the time in which it was said two had been made. And remember we have the dates, because the date I took is the date of the re-arrangement of the contract to enable him to build it of concrete. My hon. friend the Postmaster General is there and he is a lawyer and he knows very well that if any witness told that story in the witness box, when he left the box the judge would say to the sheriff: Sheriff, do not let that witness leave the court; and he would have him up under arrest and prosecuted for perjury. That is the way our money is being spent. It is the way that the debt is being piled up; it is the way extravagance is being carried on. Why, Sir, we know very well there is every indication that the flood gates have been opened, and there is no body to do what Alexander Mackenzie did. You know, Mr. Speaker, because you were intimate with the late Hon. Alex. Mackenzie, and you have read his life—probably you assisted those who wrote that life—but anyway, Sir, you know all about the late Alex. Mackenzie, and you remember that letter he wrote.

Day and night I lie on my arms protecting the treasury—

Against whom?

—against our friends.

But though he lay day and night upon his arms protecting the treasury against "our

friends"; "our friends" were able to—as was proved by commissions—able to put their hands into the treasury. Alas, Sir, there is no one now to lie on his arms to protect the treasury from "our friends"; and the wolves are able to have it their own way. And, Sir, while they were only able to put in their hands in the time of Alex. Mackenzie, they can put the hands now into the treasury right up to the shoulder, and all that is done is, my hon. friend opposite sits and laughs, and thinks he can carry it on and "business is business."

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). And a scallawag is a scallawag.

Mr. DAVIN (West Assiniboia). From first to last, from the top to the toe, in the whole official machinery of this Liberal Government, there is this same taint of want of sincerity. Why, one of the things I did during the recess was to visit the Saskatchewan, and what did I discover there? I discovered that the present member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) had made a most immoral bargain, an utterly immoral bargain, about the patronage.

Mr. DAVIS. No.

Mr. DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I say I discovered that the present member had made an immoral bargain about the patronage.

Mr. DAVIS. What was the bargain?

Mr. DAVIN. Does my hon. friend (Mr. Davis) deny that he made an immoral bargain?

Mr. DAVIS. Yes, I do.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, I discovered that he made an immoral bargain, and not only that, but he had the insincerity of not being ready to pay what that immoral bargain entailed. Does the hon. gentleman deny?

Mr. DAVIS. State what the bargain is.

Mr. DAVIN. I have the proof here, and if I am challenged I will have to prove what I say.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). Perhaps the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) will defer that portion of his remarks for a few minutes until the hon. member for Saskatchewan returns. He has been obliged to leave the Chamber for a short while.

Mr. DAVIN. When I was up there he was invited to a meeting and he came to the meeting, and after the meeting was over he went about, and when I was out of the town he said: I could have answered that in a quarter of an hour. So another meeting was held to give him an opportunity, but he did not come there as he got the mumps. Has he got the mumps now again?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin)

will permit me to say so, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis) has just received news of the serious illness of one of his children, and Mrs. Davis is in the gallery and he has gone to take her away.

Mr. DAVIN. Under the circumstances, I won't refer to it of course.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) to postpone it until the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis) returns.

Mr. DAVIN. I will postpone it altogether under these circumstances.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I do not ask that, the hon. member (Mr. Davis) will return in a few moments.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, I have something else to say, Mr. Speaker. In connection with the election something took place at Battleford in which I do not think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis) is personally interested, for under the circumstances I do not wish to refer to anything in which he is interested. There was a gentleman named Mercier there who was postmaster and he was dismissed on the affidavits of a man named Skelton and a man named Daumais and others. The trial took place, and Skelton and others were convicted of perjury, and a strong effort was made to influence the Minister of Justice, an effort that I brought before the House last session, because the Minister of Justice had no authority under any Act of Parliament that exists in Canada to have entertained any application in regard to these men, before judgment had been pronounced.

Well, Sir, what has happened? I think I prevented an outrage taking place last session, because I prevented the Department of Justice being guilty of an illegal act, entailing the grave scandal of interfering with the course of justice. Subsequently, these men were sentenced to a term of imprisonment. And now what has happened? No sooner are they sentenced, than word comes from this Government that the perjurers are to be let out. Why, Mr. Speaker, after Connolly and McGreevy had served a considerable time in prison for an alleged offence—a trifle, compared with the grave crime of perjury—it was only after doctors' certificates came to show that their health would be impaired and their lives imperilled if they remained in prison, that they were let out; and we heard no end of talk about that in certain quarters. But here we have men convicted of perjury before one of the ablest and most impartial judges in Canada, Mr. Justice Wetmore, a man who is able to stand up to any lawyer in Canada, and who is the equal of any judge in Canada. There cannot be a more impartial or a more fearless man; and yet the course of justice is interfered with on partisan considerations, and the immoral spectacle is presented to the whole young community of the North-west Terri-

tories of allowing perjurers to go free because the perjury is committed in the interest of party. Why, Sir, it is a great scandal.

Mr. N. C. WALLACE (West York). What did they do with the postmaster? Is he reinstated?

Mr. DAVIN. Oh, no; they dismissed the postmaster on a false charge. There is a point made by my hon. friend from York. Of course, to be logical, they ought to have reinstated the postmaster. They dismissed the postmaster on the oaths of those people.

Now, Sir, up at Bennett there is a Government hospital, supported by the Dominion Government, in which there was a medical officer, named Dr. Diseau. I would like to know whether that gentleman is still in the employment of the Government, because his conduct was such that he ought to have been arrested and prosecuted; yet he is allowed to go free. I am not going into what his conduct was. The enormity of it was such that it would not be proper for me to do so at this time. But I know very well that his conduct was winked at by the department.

Suppose, Mr. Speaker, that in my character as an advocate—and although I do not practice law much now, politics and what not taking me away; I sometimes go into court, and my training has been that of an advocate—suppose that, as an advocate, I were feed to defend this Government and meet the indictment made against it by my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition and my hon. friend the ex-Finance Minister, how could I defend them against the charge that they have been false to all their pledges? Is there any pledge under Heaven to which they have not been false, from the great pledge, that they would uproot the Upas tree of protection, down to the trifle on the part of the Prime Minister, that he would not take a title? I have here his language used at Renfrew, when the Rev. Mr. Huxtable asked him a question in regard to the plebiscite. I will read what he said:

The Rev. Mr. Huxtable. A majority of some 80,000 of the voters in Ontario have decided in prohibition of the liquor traffic. We understand that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has already promised that a plebiscite for the whole Dominion shall be taken in the event of his attaining to power in the coming election. I would like to ask that in the event of that being done, and a majority of the electors voted in favour of prohibition, will Sir Wilfrid Laurier pledge himself to give us a prohibitory liquor law?

Mr. Laurier. I must tell my friend, first of all, that I am not Sir Wilfrid. I am only plain Mr. Laurier. I am a democrat to the hilt.

The Rev. Mr. Huxtable. So am I, sir.

Well, what happened? The shoes that he wore when he made that pledge were not old, the breath that came from his lungs and travelled north, had hardly frozen over the polar sea when he goes across the Atlantic, to London, and he finds there in his bedroom a package.

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He looks at it, and he finds that it is his patent of peerage: "Sir Wilfrid Laurier, G.C.M.G." What does he do? All his manhood rises up against the idea of taking it, and he puts it aside. He remembers what he said: "I am a Democrat to the hilt; I will go back like a man, plain Mr. Laurier." And then he thinks, "Sir Wilfrid Laurier, G.C.M.G.! To have my breast plastered all over with gold! To wear a cocked hat and ostrich feathers as high as a stone wall! Sir Wilfrid Laurier!" He feels himself an inch higher. He is fascinated. He is drawn to it; he takes it up, and is about to perform the deed, when whatever manhood lingers in him rises again in protest, and he puts it down and says: "No; I will return to Canada plain Mr. Laurier, a man of the people, a Democrat to the hilt." And then his eye falls on the hypnotizing paper once more and it fascinates him; he is again drawn to it; he takes it up; he determines to consent and the deed is done. He has put his manhood under his heel, and if he could plaster that Windsor uniform from neck to the tip of it with gold, and if the cocked hat were twice as high, and had the ostrich feathers in it of a hundred birds, that manhood which he then trampled under foot, could never come back. He returned to Canada Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but he did not come back with the manhood that he carried away. Sir, that is only a trifle, but it shows what has happened from beginning to end. Why, Sir, he wears the Cobden medal, side by side with his star, on which is written, "Auspitium melloris ævi—the pledge of happier times." He wears the Cobden medal on the other side, on which is the motto, "Faith, truth, peace, and prosperity." Faith, truth! Where are your promises, Sir Wilfrid? Where are your pledges? Faith!—where is your loyalty to the people of Canada, where is your Democrat to the hilt, where is free trade as it is in England? Faith! truth! Why, he is foresworn even to the very Cobden Club, whose medal he wears. He comes back, and he tells a dinner party at Toronto that he was in favour of preferential trade, for strangling which he got that medal. Faith, truth—truth, faith. Pots and kettles and pans—pans and kettles and pots. All the black belongs to that wretched machine which is called the Government of Canada—the true Liberal party is free from it; and I appeal to whatever Liberalism is in Canada to-day, to rescue itself from the thralldom of those betrayers of Liberalism. Suppose that, in the days of our fathers, when port wine was a great drink, you were to visit a man famous for his hospitality, who would have thirteen decanters on the sideboard and a little silver label on each, describing what was within as port wine, and he were to say to you: "Will you not have a glass of port wine?" You would reply: "I do not mind if I do." And he pours out a glass of something the colour of port wine from

one of the decanters, but which is not, what would you think of it? If you were to say to him: "That is not port wine," what would be your opinion of him, if he, after you had tried each particular decanter and finding that each contained some other liquid the colour of port wine, he were to point to the label and say: "There is the label; it is indeed port wine"? Do you suppose that the label of Liberalism will make these men Liberals? No, Sir, the leaders of the Liberal party are in power, it is true, but Liberalism and the Liberal party are out of power and are betrayed. Where is the Liberal party to-day, that it does not rise up against its wrongers? I am reminded by its present position of a harrowing circumstance that my hon. and gallant friend from Victoria (Mr. Prior) will be interested in. One of his constituents and admirers is a butcher, and one day, this butcher noticed a ghastly, cadaverous, ghostly, lean and hungry-looking cat, all ribs, the skin of one side clinging to the other, hardly able to walk across the shop. This butcher was a sympathetic man, and he said to his assistant: "Give that cat a pound of meat a day until it is fattened up." He then went up to the Atlin country, and when, two months later, he returned, he again saw this ghostly, thin, meagre, skinny cat walk through the shop, and said to his man: "Did I not tell you to give that cat a pound of meat a day?" The man said: "So I did: he has had a pound of meat within the last three minutes." The butcher seized the cat and put it into one of his scales, and the animal just turned the beam at a pound. "Well," said the butcher, "there is the pound of meat; but where is the cat?" In like manner, I may say: There is the pound of meat; but where is the Liberal party? There are the leaders of the Liberal party in power; but where is the party itself? Where is Liberalism? Ah, Sir! Liberalism is not to be found on those front benches, as was said to me by a gentleman who travelled west with me a few weeks ago, towards Moose Jaw, a leading Liberal, one of the old Liberals, one of the true Liberals, one of those men that Mr. Martin, when addressing the Liberal Association in Winnipeg, appealed to, when he said: Let us go back to the principles of George Brown and Mackenzie; because you know, Mr. Speaker, there is a revolt against the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) in Edmonton and Regina, where the anti-Siftonites invited my hon. friend from Alberta (Mr. Oliver) and my hon. friend from Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) the other day. I echo what Mr. Martin, the brother of Joe Martin, said in his appeal: Let us go back to the old Liberalism, the Liberalism of George Brown and Mackenzie, and not endure this wretched masquerade of Toryism, saying it is Reform given by the Government, which has thrown off the uniform of Liberalism, and put on the livery of the manufac-

turers. Why, the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), the moment he came into the Privy Council Chamber, went to the wardrobe, and, finding there some of the cast-off clothes of the late Sir John Macdonald, put off his uniform of Liberalism and donned those cast-off garments, and, thinking he looked mighty well in them, said: I am satisfied to wear the clothes of my opponents, if they fit me. But they do not fit him. He has hardly the figure to wear those clothes, and the way these hon. gentlemen have bungled one thing after another where they have tried to touch that tariff, shows that they did not go into it with a single eye to honest government. They have touched nothing that they have not deformed, and after their two and a half years of power—three years nearly now, and into the fourth session—they stand condemned before the Liberal party of Canada and the whole country, and, as may be seen by their faltering accents, when speaking from those benches, condemned by their own consciences. I sometimes ask myself, what is to be the fate of the right hon. gentleman, who is so completely under the influence of that dark spirit which excites so much fear in the minds of respectable Liberals. The only fate I can think of is this, that he will one day or the other leave the Council Chamber in disgust and despair, determined to flee from the spell and hide his political head under a cowl, and shed abundant tears, and offer up penitence and prayers for broken pledges and promises unfulfilled, for having deceived the people of Canada in 1896, and since 1896 betrayed the Liberal party.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). What about the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis)?

Mr. DAVIN. I was about to deal with him, but will take some other opportunity, as he is not here now.

Mr. BERGERON. He will come in. Let him be produced.

Mr. DAVIN. No; under the circumstances, as he is not here, I shall wait some other opportunity.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). My hon. friend from Beauharnois appears to question the accuracy of what I said, and therefore I prefer that the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) would continue and deal with the subject, if he dares to deal with it.

Mr. DAVIN. No, we can bring up the matter another time.

Mr. RUFUS POPE (Compton). In rising, Mr. Speaker, to make some remarks on this important debate, I must say, that they are called for neither by what is contained in that Speech, nor what is wanting in it, so much, as by the shortcomings of those hon. gentlemen who form the Government of the

day. A government has a right to the support of the people only when it has fulfilled its pledges, when it has acted up to its promises, and has not broken faith with the public. Under no other circumstances has a Government a right to ask even its friends to follow it, to say nothing of independent members of the House. Business men continue in business purely and simply upon the confidence of the people. No business man can prosper or continue to conduct any sort of legitimate business in this or any other country who does not upon all business matters carry out his pledges and stand true to his obligations. This principle is just as applicable to men when they associate themselves together under the name of a Government, I do not care what party name that Government may bear. Now, the hon. gentlemen opposite, if they have kept their pledges to the people, can look with every confidence to the electorate for support. There is no doubt about that, and there is equally no doubt about the insecurity of their position if they must appeal to a people whom they have deceived, whom they have betrayed and who feel that the confidence that was asked of them has been misplaced.

Now, I find in this Liberal bible, this red book with a title, "Dominion Liberal Convention, 1893," several resolutions which embodied the principles of the Liberal party, at that time in opposition in this country. It was through the anticipation that these resolutions would be implemented at least to some extent, that the people of Canada saw fit to extend their confidence to hon. gentlemen opposite. Looking at this bible, and reading it over, I find it is about as applicable to the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite as would be the wooden and stone gods of old times to a land that had been converted from idolatry to Christianity. The Government's course was one of insincerity. It reminds me of a story, a very short story, which I think is appropriate to this occasion. A young man travelling west on the Canadian Pacific Railway was standing on the rear platform of the train as it was passing through the Rocky Mountains. He was looking about and enjoying the beautiful scenery. The conductor came out and said, "You must not stay out here." The young man replied, "I am enjoying this magnificent scenery, it is wonderful." "That is all very well," said the conductor, "but you can't stand on this platform." Why have not I a right to stand on this platform, is not that what the platform is for—to stand upon?" "No, sir, this platform is to get in upon." It is quite evident that when hon. gentlemen opposite had this bible printed, it was only intended to get in upon and not to stand upon after they came into power. We have had and we still enjoy a certain amount of prosperity in this country. That has been recognized by every speaker on this side of the House. We are always pleased, whether we are in opposition or whether we are behind

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the Government, to give every credit to the people of this country for the results of their industry. There are two things that have played important parts in this prosperity, the first is the world's market and the price which the world generally has been obliged to pay for the articles purchased. I fancy that hon. gentlemen on the other side, even in their wildest flights, will hardly claim that they did anything particularly affecting the prices in the world's market. The other point is simply this, whether and how and when and why we in Canada have placed ourselves in a position to reap the greatest possible benefit from that world's market. I think you will find the answer to that in the three great steps in our national history—confederation, the National Policy and the Canadian Pacific Railway. By confederation we brought ourselves together under a political arrangement that has proved very satisfactory to all those who live in this Dominion. Through the National Policy we gave encouragement to the industries that we found struggling here at the time when that policy was adopted. It is not necessary for me to go back to the dark period that preceded the inauguration of the National Policy. That has already been dealt with in this House. It is never referred to by hon. gentlemen on the other side. They never take the opportunity of appealing to the people of Canada and asking them to give them support on the basis of anything that transpired during the period when they administered the affairs of Canada before. By this National Policy we gave new life and new encouragement to industry—we gave diversified employment to the people of Canada. By the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway we made it possible to convey from one end of Canada to the other, from one ocean to the other, the industrial, agricultural, mineral and forest products of our people. These are the three great steps in Canadian history, and to the Conservative party, and to the Conservative party alone, must be given the credit for these three great factors in our development, because during all the time we were fighting these battles we were opposed by these gentlemen on every occasion. And now we see that, with all the hatred that it is possible for men to inspire themselves with by twenty years of training, these hon. gentlemen hate and detest the Canadian Pacific Railway and the National Policy. I do not dare say the same of confederation, because that would be charging disloyalty. But, though they hate the Canadian Pacific Railway and the National Policy, they dare not touch them. They know that if they began to trifle with these two great props of our industry, they would step upon dangerous ground. Wherever they have tampered with the National Policy and have attempted to make what they call improvements, they have put themselves in a position whence it will be necessary for them to retrace their steps. Take the price of wool in this coun-

try to-day. The tariff these gentlemen placed upon yarns coming into this country had the effect of forcing down the price of wool to a price lower than it ever reached before in the history of this country. They tell the farmer: We have given you a cent a gallon on coal oil. But the farmer replies: I use ten gallons a year, that is 10c., and you have lowered the price of wool 6c. One sheep would yield five pounds, so that the loss is 30c., counting that one sheep alone I am 20c. worse off than when you came into power.

Now, Sir, if they had been able, as they promised us, to give us extended markets, if they had found new consumers for the products of the industries of our country, they might claim some share in the prosperity which we now enjoy. But they have done nothing of the kind. On the contrary, if we had not fought out the fight of the Canadian Pacific Railway, if we had not forced the successful completion of that road, the markets of this country would have been circumscribed in spite of what the hon. gentlemen opposite could have done.

Take the great mining development that has occurred in British Columbia, would we have heard of that if it had not been for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway? Take the ranches of the North-west, would they have had a market for their cattle if it had not been for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway? Now, hon. gentlemen opposite are bound to watch for all time, to see future generations benefit from the operations of the National policy and of the railway system of this country. And when these hon. gentlemen can put their finger upon one act of theirs that will benefit future generations, then they can begin to claim for themselves originality which entitles them to the confidence of the country, but not before. They talk of preferential trade. You would imagine that they had brought about preferential trade. To hear these hon. gentlemen discuss the question, you would imagine that we had preferential trade. England has preferential trade, Canada has not. What has Canada gained from preferential trade? Where is the market obtained through their exertions, that the farmer or the artisan of Canada can send his products to and have a preference? The First Minister visited England for the first time, and he scarcely waited to set his foot on the soil before he announced to the people of Great Britain: We will give you a preference in our market. But he never asked for any preference in their market for the products of the people of this country. I say that when the hon. gentlemen took that stand, he did more injury to Canada than he will ever be able to confer benefit upon Canada if he lives to be as old as Methuselah. Why, Sir, what would have been our position as an integral portion of the Empire, with the finest soil, with great forests, with mines

in abundance, if true preferential trade had been brought about? We would have had a preference for everything that grew upon the soil of this country. Every article grown upon it would have been worth more money than if it had grown upon any other soil on the face of the globe—not because the Zollverein would not have taken in Australia, the Indies and South Africa, but because we are nearer to the consuming people, because we have better connection between us and the consuming people, and we in Canada being the largest surplus producing agricultural country in the world per capita, would have received the greatest amount of benefit from the adoption of a true preferential trade. It would have solved the question of immigration at once. A man leaving Europe for this side of the Atlantic, if he had an opportunity of settling in a country where every article he produced would have a preferred price in the great consuming market of the world, would not hesitate whether to go to the United States or to Canada—not for a moment. The Government claim credit for bringing out Galicians, Doukhobors, and all that sort of people to this country, but I say that the whole expenditure would have been saved if we had a true preferential trade with Great Britain. There is a tremendous expenditure going on to bring in strangers. I do not know much of them, sometimes I hear good stories, and sometimes I hear bad. But there is a class of people that attract my attention, a class of people that I think deserves the consideration of the Government of this country, and that is our young Canadian boys. What is the matter with expending some of the money of this country in settling some of our own people out west in comfortable homes? Why go across the water to get the offscourings of the world, to Galicia, or some other point, and pick up the dregs of humanity which have got to be made into citizens. They are not tolerable, they are not such a society as hon. gentlemen opposite would like to stay over night with. They might prove lively society during the night, but I do not think the hon. gentlemen would fancy it. That is a point worth consideration. We have young men in eastern Canada, we have large families in the province of Quebec, and in the older settled portions of Canada, who are hunting for homes. Now, why not expend some of this money to help them find homes? I see the hon. Minister of Public Works who is detailed by the Government to pay special attention to the province of Quebec; why does he not impress upon the Minister of the Interior, who is not present to-night, the idea of assisting some of the young men of our country to find their way out to the North-west where they can make comfortable homes for themselves? Now, Sir in speaking of the pledges that have been

given by hon. gentlemen opposite when they were asking the support of the people of this country, I find some very interesting reading in this Liberal bible, dated 1893. I have looked into it with a great deal of curiosity to see when it was printed. The Convention took place on June 20 and 21, and I find it was printed immediately after the meeting, because those hon. gentlemen change so quickly that unless they had the book printed the next day, it would not have been of any use to them. I find the first speech was delivered by a gentleman who has gone to enjoy the recompense of a long political life, Mr. Mowat. I find that he says, after delivering a long speech in favour of free trade, in favour of changed conditions, in favour of everything that we have not got :

May its (meaning the Liberal party's) accession to office be soon, may its tenure of office be long.

Now, Sir, he based that, I presume, upon the previous part of his speech which called for radical changes in the fiscal policy of this country. What would that hon. gentleman say to-day if he were back again and looking at the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite? Could he say to the Liberal party of Canada: I wish that your tenure of office would be long? The next gentleman of importance who spoke is the leader of the Government :

I submit to you, therefore, that the system of protection which is maintained by the Government, that is to say of levying tribute upon the people, not for the legitimate expenses of government, but for a private and privileged class, should be condemned without qualification. Let it be well understood that from this moment we have a distinct issue with the party in power. Their ideal is protection: our ideal is free trade. Their immediate object is protection: ours a tariff for revenue only.

I might read on, it is beautiful reading. A tariff for revenue only! The hon. gentleman must have calculated what he was going to do when he came into power when he would want a tariff for revenue only. He must have considered the extreme expenditure that he was going to make, he must have thoroughly intended to run up the expenses of the administration of affairs in this country to a point never before touched, and so he wanted a tariff for revenue only. I can well understand that at that time he expected to take the hon. Minister of Public Works into his Government, who says: Wait and see us next year, who has no limit to his ambition to squander the funds of the people of this country—and so the hon. gentleman wanted a tariff for revenue only. So, Sir, perhaps in that respect the hon. gentleman spoke with a great deal of feeling upon that occasion. I think there is one other party here who is very interesting and that is the gallant knight from South Oxford, the Minister of Trade and Commerce. He says :

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I may say at once that I think no man who has taken the trouble to examine the working of the protective system will fail to endorse the statement I make that liberty and protection are a contradiction in terms. You can have no true liberty under a protective system, the function of which is to create a privileged class and to concentrate an undue proportion of the wealth of the community in the hands of a few individuals.

So much for that hon. gentleman; I presume he is ready to take his medicine like other hon. gentlemen who sit around him. There is one other poor innocent here somewhere, a farmer. I do not know where he comes from. I have paid a great deal of attention to this as it has been very interesting reading. I would like to find this farmer, who is a practical man, but while I was looking for him I found Israel on himself. As usual that hon. gentleman did not refer to anything in particular. I speak of the hon. Minister of Public Works :

We may be obliged to submit to law, as all citizens are obliged to submit to it, but I claim, all the same, that our rights have been infringed by this Tory Government at Ottawa. This is our position: we are ready to stand by our declarations, but we don't want to be misunderstood. Now, I have said a few words to you as well as I could. When I was 27 years old I could not speak one solitary word of English. I was born in a French parish, and I was 10 years old before knowing that there was any English people on the surface of the earth; but my boys won't be in the same position.

Their education is being attended to and they will not have to pass through that state of early ignorance that the Minister says he himself came through. Here is one other remark of the First Minister which is worthy of consideration :

The Government, which has its headquarters in those buildings, takes \$36,000,000 or more in the form of taxation every year. The Ministers who spend that money, you may be sure, do not take it out of their pockets—they take it from you, from me, from all the people of the country.

What would the hon. gentleman think if his Government only took \$36,000,000 to carry on the Administration, yet he deplored that fact. I have not only to find fault, Sir, with hon. gentlemen for not having kept their promises, but I have to find fault with them for having deceived the people of this country in a way that is shameful, in a way that must shortly be atoned for by them, because I take no stock in bye-elections. I know precisely what bye-elections cost and so do hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House. I have to find fault with them first, because they are lowering the standard of political morality in this country. It was never dragged down to the depths that we have it to-day. They came to power breathing vengeance; they introduced a reign of terror; they went about dismissing people they made mock investigations, but occasionally they were respectable and dismissed people without any investigation at all. And during the period that this guillotine was going on in this country the First Min-

Ister visited England and he set up there in a certain speech, the model of his great ambition. There may have been some cases in which there was some cause, but I am bound to say that for every case so far as my knowledge is concerned in which there was cause there were twenty dismissals where there was no cause. When a man entered the service of this country it was understood that he should remain during good behaviour and during the faithful fulfilment of the duties of his office. In many cases public servants gave up employments which were more or less lucrative and disconnected themselves from business and a great hardship has been imposed upon these people; not that I find fault as a member of the Opposition from a purely political standpoint, for we are going to reap the benefit of the dismissal of these people. We find fault because it is lowering the standard of political life for the Government, after they get into power, and with a controllable majority at their dictation, use that power over the people to bring down vengeance upon the heads of a few innocent persons by displacing them to make room for their own friends. Their very first act was an act of terrorism. I find fault with the combination of governments in this country. We have this Government sandwiching itself in with all the local governments through the length and breadth of the Dominion. We saw last year the adjournment of this Parliament to aid in the election in Ontario. We never witnessed before in the history of this country the shame and disgrace which contrary to the will of the people of Ontario secured the return of the Ontario Government, for I have no hesitation in saying that the Government that sits at Toronto does not represent the people of Ontario, and it is doomed without doubt to destruction at an early period. Then we see them pass down to New Brunswick. We see the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals exercising himself in that province as no man, I believe ever exercised himself before in New Brunswick. I see reported in the papers gross charges of corruption; I personally cannot say what there is in them, but I do say that for a Minister of the Crown in the Dominion Parliament to take part in an election of that kind, to lay himself and his Government open to criticism and to charges of gross corruption is demoralizing to the political standard of this country. It is dragging it down to a depth that never has been reached by any public Administration. In a democratic country like Canada, a country where people are free to express their opinions, I assume it to be the duty of every public man to put forth all his influence to raise up the public morality of the country, to elevate the standard of public life, by impressing upon the electors that the public men of Canada are simply their servants with honest purposes in view, and that they are not

plodding against pure administration. We have had two or three by-elections in the province of Quebec in local matters. We found the Minister of Public Works, that is the gentleman who runs the machine in that province, putting forth every effort, and be it said to the credit of the people of the province of Quebec, that they were the first to see through this, and he found himself defeated in the county of Beauharnois, and he found himself, in the county of Mississquoi, with only 9 majority, where they had 500 majority less than two years ago. I see indications that the French people—let these gentlemen opposite say what they like—will not be overridden or overburdened with this combination of politicians. I believe we shall find through the province of Quebec, as we shall find through every province, this interference on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite resented at every possible opportunity. As to their administrative ability here, it is well known they have proposed a few of what they call reforms. They have proposed to bring about certain results, preferential trade as they call it, a reduction of the postage, a fast line, and so forth. What has been the result? There has not been a measure upon which they propose to hang their hat, where the First Minister hung his hat the other day, that has not been presented here bottom side up, and has had to be taken back and remodelled. What would we say, in the old days, if our Conservative leaders were so wanting in common knowledge of law and administrative ability, that their legislation and their proposals on every occasion were without warrant or were absolutely wrong? Look at the Postmaster General with his two-cent stamps. He undertook, from his own fiat, to offer to the Empire a reduction in postage. I need not mention that famous circular he sent out, nor need I mention his other circular praying our country postmasters to tell every one who came in, that they had to pay three cents, instead of two. The very fact that there were existing treaties in the way, and that this was an arrangement that England had to be consulted on, was enough, that he, as a lawyer presiding over a department and surrounded by seven or eight more lawyers, as colleagues, should know that he could not carry out his proposal. I say, it is a shame and a disgrace to the administrative ability of hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House. That kind of thing is something that we have not been accustomed to. But we have also an opportunity of judging to the fullest of their administrative capacity in that new Yukon country. There you can see modern Liberalism running wild. I am bound to say, that if hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House had found Canada unorganized and without any system of government, and they were entrusted with the formation of a constitution for this country, the confederation of Canada, the

very existence of the name of Canada, would never be a fact, if we are to judge by their efforts in the Yukon administration. The tax that is imposed on miners, the gross corruption exercised by the officers of that district are enough to prove that. I do not say that the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) told these officers to go there and commit atrocious acts; but when the Minister of the Interior started forth an army of officers into that district, with the right and privilege of speculating as they saw fit, of investing as every opportunity presented itself, giving them small, miserable salaries for work in such a district, there was but one outcome of the opportunity that was presented to these young men, and that was, that they were going to trifle with the positions they occupied, and reflect shame, and disgrace and discredit to the Government and the people of Canada. Did you notice, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of the Interior only recently issued orders that no further speculation and no further investments on the part of the employees of the Government would be tolerated? Do you fancy, for a moment, that the Minister of the Interior would have changed the instructions to his officers, if he had not seen the error of his ways? The very fact, that he has made that change, and ordered that no longer will it be tolerated that Government employees shall speculate, directly or indirectly, in mines or mining, is complete proof to my mind of the fact, that the Government of the day, through the Minister of the Interior, are responsible for all the bad administration that will be disclosed in that district. I shall not discuss it further on the present occasion. Because before this session closes, we shall have many and many an opportunity of discussing these matters in detail, in order that the people of Canada shall know the character of the Administration now in power.

The right hon. the leader of the Government informed us, the other day, that it was well known that the public sentiment at present is opposed to reciprocity, and he looked around among all his followers for approval, when he said it. But, Sir, he has spent just six months in the United States trying to get reciprocity, knowing all the time that he did not want reciprocity. But when you turn to the Liberal bible, you will find that the Minister of Finance says that second in importance to the tariff, is the reciprocity question. The second resolution that is to be found in this Pagan bible says, that reciprocity is absolutely essential to the industrial progress of this country. Sir, the right hon. gentleman ought to be thankful that the American people have taught him something, and that by going to the United States and taking communication with the representative of the United States, he has found out that we had just as progressive a country as they. The Conservatives have told him so for twenty years, but yet he

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had to spend six months in the United States to find it out.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). And \$50,000.

Mr. POPE (Compton). And \$50,000 to boot. Well, I do not begrudge the \$50,000, because the right hon. gentleman has learned that the unrestricted reciprocity he tried to force on this country is all wrong. I am delighted to see him stand up in this House, even at this late hour, and acknowledge to the people of Canada, that he attempted to drive them into a bargain that would be disastrous to their future prosperity and present prosperity. I do not begrudge the \$50,000 for another reason, namely, that the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), who took only one trip, discovered that there were 70,000,000 people in the United States, and he immediately rushed to Huron and told them: We cannot expect to make 70,000,000 people treat with 5,000,000 people. Until he went to New York, the hon. gentleman never knew that there were 70,000,000 people actually living in the United States. The hon. Minister (Mr. Tarte) is active, the hon. Minister has great capacity, the hon. Minister, no doubt, is a quick operator, but, all the same, I do not believe there were any more people when he left the United States than when we went there. But why should the right hon. gentleman wait until he comes back here? I do not know whether there is any truth in it or not, but I was told from a source that I had a right to take it into serious consideration at least, that the right hon. gentleman offered to exchange certain industries in Canada for free hay, free barley and one or two other things, that he thought would be popular with the agricultural districts of this country. But this I do know, that the right hon. leader of the Government made one grand impression on the commissioners he sat with, and this knowledge of the impression he produces is gained directly from the mouths of the commissioners themselves. This was when they were leaving Quebec on their way to Washington. They said: "Our difficulty in treating with these Canadian people lies right here. The First Minister is so timid and uncertain that he not only does not know what he wants, but he does not know what he does not want." This is from an undoubted source, and I venture to say that if the gallant knight from South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) had the power of speech, which he will not have until the 2nd of August, when we shall hear from him, he would agree with me, and so would the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. John Charlton). I am glad to pay this compliment to the hon. member for North Norfolk, and to have it put down in "Hansard," as it is the first opportunity I have had to pay him a compliment. I do not believe in him; I do not believe in his sincerity; I do not believe in the position he is about to

assume; but I have this to say, that the American commissioners said that of all the Canadian commissioners the man of the most brains and with the most business in him was the hon. member for North Norfolk.

Sir, we have in the province of Quebec an exhibition going on at the present moment which is very interesting to those who study politics. We have some very large manufactories there employing hundreds of people, and these people vote just as they have a mind to when they get the opportunity. At the present moment the Government are busy investigating all the foremen, all the managers, all the people who are supposed to control these votes; and certain heads are being recommended to be cut off, and I know some men have been discharged because they did not suit the people in power. This is an indication that the reign of terror has not yet ceased, but that hon. gentlemen are preparing for what they term an intelligent and independent vote of the people. We have seen the results of their reign of terror in other lines, and we wait with perfect confidence the results of their operations in the line they have taken up. Take the great cotton mills. There is not one of these cotton mills that is not at this moment being gone over most thoroughly. There are men appointed to investigate and see who are Liberal foremen and who are Conservative foremen, and who will control the votes, and wherever they are found to be Conservatives, they are recommended for death. This is a sign of preparation for an election. The hon. gentlemen have also considered that this is an opportune moment to introduce a Bill into this House to rearrange the constituencies, which is another evidence that they are preparing for an election. Now, I wish to say to these hon. gentlemen that so far as this side of the House is concerned, if they want to prepare for an election they might just as well give us a fair notice, because if they do not give us fair notice, we are just going to stay right where we are until we are ready for an election. We are not going to leave this session nor this House of Commons to fight the elections, without being thoroughly prepared, thoroughly organized, and having everything in shape and in form; and it makes no difference to us whether we stay here for one month or for six months. We are not going to leave our position in this House until we are prepared to meet hon. gentlemen opposite at the polls on an even footing. We have many things to observe, and we are going to observe them; and as each day passes along and each part of the programme comes forth, we will stop to study and investigate them. The hon. gentlemen need not imagine that because it is late and because the summer is going to be hot, and it is going to be uncomfortable here, that they can steal any little march upon us. I see the Minister of Public Works smile. He imagines that he owns the province of Quebec. I suppose he does. I sup-

pose every part he gets he pays for, and he ought to own it.

Mr. WALLACE. Where does he get the money?

Mr. POPE. I know on one occasion where they got the money. I was looking the other day over some old records of the province of Quebec, in which Mr. Pacaud disclosed certain transactions. The Minister of Public Works knows what took place then. He knows where they got their money then. He knows that \$100,000 was furnished on that occasion by Mr. Pacaud, a man who five years before that could not have furnished 15 cents, a man who never did any particular legitimate business. He furnished \$100,000 and it was accepted—not by the Minister of Public Works, however. The fullest benefit of that went to the gentleman who is First Minister of Canada to-day, to elect him and put him in power. Of course, the latter is innocent, not knowing anything about it when anything is done for him or against him. On that occasion, in 1891, he contested Richmond and Wolfe. He was defeated by my friend Mr. Cleveland, and the election was protested. For that purpose \$1,000 had to be put up, and Mr. Pacaud put up the money, but of course the right hon. gentleman knew nothing about it. He never does know anything. He never has the slightest appreciation of what is going on around him. I do not charge him with knowledge but simply set forth the facts. I set forth the fact that here was a man whom the right hon. gentleman knew was powerless to raise money except he stole it, who had no money to his credit either legitimately or illegitimately, and yet who put \$100,000 into the general elections of 1891, who endorsed and paid notes to that value, \$1,000 of the proceeds of which went to the credit of the right hon. gentleman in the protest which was filed against Mr. Cleveland. All this is shown by sworn testimony. We have often heard hon. gentlemen opposite insinuate that gentlemen on this side are the only men who have ever in the past stood in a position that was doubtful. I have heard a good many times insinuations against the leader of the Opposition in days gone by, but let me tell hon. gentlemen opposite that they are living in glass houses themselves, and that if we are going to lower down the standard of political morality to the consideration of these questions, they will find hon. gentlemen on this side who are able and willing to furnish them proof of Liberal corruption if they want it. At that time I am speaking of, the evil of this combination of Governments was clearly shown. There was then shown the splendid opportunity that exists under such a combination and which must still exist to-day. Here was a Liberal Government in the province of Quebec, run by a friend of the First Minister, stealing from the public treasury and spending the money

for the benefit of the party which he wanted to put in power. Now, if that is shown to have taken place at that time, and only became ventilated by that party being put out of power and the facts being got at, I want to ask you what is going on throughout the length and breadth of Canada to-day, with all these Governments in the hands of the Liberal party? I tell you, Sir, that the public voice if Canada is attempting to raise itself beneath a heavy load of corruption, a corruption greater than was ever known in any country anywhere on the face of God's earth. You cannot get in such a state of things an honest expression of public opinion. These hon. gentlemen went into the county of Bagot, in which, as in any other county, there are certain sections known to be purchasable, and that purchasable vote was bought for the man who came here to support this Government. There can be no secrecy about this sort of thing. We do not go about the country like a pack of fools, not knowing the good and bad districts. Those who live in Quebec or Ontario, or any other province, know exactly in what sections corruption can be used, and where an election takes place and the two parties are pitted against each other, the one with plenty of money and the other without any, and you see the public vote going in a certain direction, that is as positive evidence of corruption just as if we saw the money paid over. Why, if you see a dead body with a bullet wound in its head, you can tell that the death was caused by shooting even though you do not see the bullet.

Mr. T. O. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). Tell us about the Pacific scandal.

Mr. POPE. My hon. friend could not understand it if I did tell him. He may be a judge of cigars, but he is not in it on the Pacific scandal. This point I wish to impress on the House. There must be an education of the public in Canada against this power of corruption, which despite all hon. gentlemen opposite may say, is the greatest evil that can permeate any nation, I do not care whether it be the Canadian people or any other. Any hon. member who sits in this House and has bought his way into it, will realize the truth of what I say. When you are in the midst of an election, it is all very well for you to say: I am going to get elected at any cost. But when you come here and claim honour as a representative of any constituency, you are not entitled to any credit because you have bought your honour and have paid for it. You have lowered the people of your county and of the whole of Canada to the same appreciation that you have of cattle, sheep or swine or any other article you purchase, and it is for that reason I stand up in this House to denounce the combination of Governments as unhealthy and injurious to the best interest of the people. I do not care what the party is that is running that combination of Govern-

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ments, it is against the best interests and progress of Canada, it is opposed to good legislation and the morality of Canada. Let me say further that our late chieftain, the right hon. Sir John Macdonald never tolerated it. Sir, there were at times Governments here and there in the country that were in accord with him, but never did he allow this Parliament to be adjourned to take part in local elections, never did he allow his Ministers to go into the different sections of the country and say: we come here as federal Ministers to manipulate your local elections. He always denounced such action. He said the people of Canada would not stand it. We have an example of the evil of this course in the election in the plebiscite lately held. When the returns came in from the province of Quebec, we had about 45,000 of a majority against prohibition in that province. All the other provinces had their various majorities, the same as they are recorded to-day, practically. I know that hon. gentlemen opposite were particularly anxious to know precisely how the province of Quebec stood after the close of the polls, and had made every arrangement to have immediately the returns from the different provinces; and when these returns came in they showed about 45,000 of a majority against prohibition in Quebec. But to-day we find that that majority has been by some occult means swelled to 92,000 or 93,000. Votes sufficient to make this majority were never cast, and I am prepared to prove it. Thousands of those supposed voters never went to the polls. Now, what brought about this result? Was it the so-called liquor party or the distillers? Not at all. They put up no fight. Was it the temperance people voting against themselves? Not much. Then where is the manipulation that brought these changed results. It must be brought home directly to the Liberal organization in the province of Quebec, and nowhere else, headed by three federal Ministers. The First Minister himself said to the people: It will cost you \$2 for every man, woman and child if we have prohibition. Where did he say that? In a province where more than any other part of Canada those remarks would have the greatest possible influence and to those people whom he claims to represent to such a degree.

An hon. MEMBER. Who said that?

Mr. POPE. The right hon. First Minister. He said: You will have to pay \$2 apiece every man, woman and child, as the cost of prohibition. Why, at my very door, speaking to the French people myself—because I took no part in that election, except to vote—and asking them how they were going to vote, they said: We are going to vote against prohibition. I asked them, why. "Because, they said, "Sir Wilfrid Laurier wants us to; he has told us it will cost us so much money, if we vote the other way." The hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir

Henri Joly de Lotbinière) is not a man who looks dissipated, nor would one pick him out as a man likely to wake up. But he did wake up. He went to his constituency, and got there on Sunday—probably he was afraid he was not going to get there soon enough. He made a speech to the people there, and said: I know you are waiting for me, that you feel a great desire to hear from me, and, when a great public question like this is before you, I must come and give you my advice. My advice is, to oppose prohibition. Now, the hon. Minister is a careful man, a man who does not get excited, a man who remains calm even under fire. He never departed from his quiet course of life except by special instructions. Moreover, he does not take his instructions from the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte). He is one of the few French Canadians in the province of Quebec belonging to the Liberal party who do not take their instructions from that hon. Minister. The hon. Minister of Inland Revenue got his instructions direct from the leader of the Government. He would not attempt to direct a policy under any other circumstances. Then, there is the hon. Minister without portfolio (Mr. Geofrion). He said, that in the convention of 1893, of which this red book is the bible, at a late hour, when all the principal men had left, when nothing but the rag-tag and bob-tail and the hon. member for Brome (Mr. Fisher) remained, this resolution was passed. That is the compliment he paid to the hon. Minister of Agriculture, and he knows the Minister of Agriculture: he sits with him, hears him, studies him, has an opportunity of weighing him at his true weight and estimating him at his true value. It was under these circumstances, he said, that the resolution was passed, but thank God, he said, we did not agree to carry it; we did not agree to give prohibition. So much for the Ministers.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (South Leeds). And how about the Solicitor General?

Mr. POPE. The Solicitor General is included in the lot, but as he is not here, and we do not know that he will be here, particularly if he gets an appointment to a judgeship, there is no use bothering with him. Further than that, in our district all the machinery of the Liberal party was set at work to defeat prohibition. I live in the village of Cookshire. Sawyerville is 7 miles distance. There are licensed hotels in these places, kept by respectable men who do not drink whisky themselves—we do not have hotelkeepers in our country who do. The leading Liberal light outside of our county, who is supposed to represent the power behind the throne in the county campaign, lives by practicing law in the city of Sherbrooke. From his office was sent forth a letter to the hotelkeeper, whom he imagined to be a Liberal, and which did not happen to be. The letter was about like this:

My Dear Friend,—I am sending you a package by express containing pamphlets, which will instruct the electors to vote against prohibition. I want you to circulate these at the Catholic church doors in Sawyerville, Cookshire and St. Malo. Keep it in the dark; do not let anybody know where it comes from. It is very important that we should carry the largest possible vote in the province of Quebec.

Yours truly.

After reading this letter, the man showed it to me, and asked: What shall I do. And I told him to distribute the circulars, or course; that he did not want prohibition, that this machinery could be used, and, as he was interested in that side, it was better to use it. Of course, the hotelkeepers in our village were as anxious about their business as this man in Sawyerville. But they were Conservatives, and this keep-it-dark-and-don't-let-anybody-know business would not have answered with a Conservative hotelkeeper; so the literature was not sent to them, but to men who were supposed to keep the matter to themselves. This shows that all the wires that could be pulled by the Liberal party were pulled, that the organization of the party was brought to bear to defeat the will of the people as to prohibition. You take the words of the Minister of Agriculture in this convention bible, you take the version that Mr. Anglin placed upon it, as contained in this bible, and you will understand why I look to see the Minister of Agriculture resigning his place and going out of office. If he does not do it now, he will, on some future occasion, cease to hold that position. The Government have deceived the electorate in bringing about this plebiscite. We may, or may not agree, Mr. Speaker, with the temperance people, but we know that they are a respectable body. These people have been deceived. All the machinery of the Liberal party, all the means that the Minister of Public Works knows how to utilize in an election—and you know what that is—were brought to bear to defeat prohibition in Quebec; and when after all, they found that they had not enough votes, they went on voting for I don't know how long—I suppose, a week or more. And why? It was an attempt to get out of the hole. Now, when I first heard of the Minister of Agriculture, he came into the constituency I have the honour to represent, and palmed himself off there as a temperance man. He assured the people, that he had no other desire than to promote the cause of temperance, that whenever political allegiance stood in the way of the advancement of the cause, he would disregard that allegiance. He was prepared to consecrate his life to the sacred cause of prohibition. He it was who brought forward this resolution, as shown in this political bible, and he declared, that if it was carried, the wishes of the temperance people would be fulfilled. And he had not stamina enough in him to stop his colleagues from cutting his throat with his eyes open.

Think of a man belonging to a Government, think of a man introducing a resolution into Parliament bringing about an expenditure of several hundred thousands of dollars, who at the same time has not got manhood enough about him to say to his colleagues: If you do not agree with me, you should at least respect me, and if you do not respect me, I will go away from you. That is the position that he ought to take. Instead of that there is truckling and catering to all kinds of sentiment, associating with those picnics we have had up in the tower. I tell you the only place to get prohibition is right here on the floor of the House. These little by-promises that we have had from the leader of the Government, what do they amount to? We have had his positive assurance that there was an understanding. Why did he not come boldly forward and tell the people what the understanding was? Why did he continue to give them to understand that they were going to win, that they were fighting for a grand principle, and they were fighting with a chance of winning? But instead of that he carries them on from stage to stage. And the Minister of Agriculture, there in his own province, under his own eyes, at his own door practically, lets his colleagues knife him right and left. I say, Sir, that a man who will stand the insults that have been heaped upon the Minister of Agriculture, first at Valleyfield by the hon. member for Verchères and Chambly (Mr. Geoffrion), and then by his other colleagues, is deserving of pity. I must say that I cannot help grieving sincerely at the evidence that his colleagues do not respect him. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, if I were a member of a Government from a certain province, and the Government had sat round the Council table and deliberated upon a resolution which had been agreed to by the Government, and upon a subject that was my topic, my hobby, my sacred claim on public confidence, and my colleagues had gone around and knifed me, do you think I would stay in such company? Not much. I say that the only reason the hon. gentleman does stay there, is because his manhood has left him, if he ever had any, and he is truckling for the \$7,000 or \$8,000 a year.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
Bravo.

Mr. POPE. The hon. gentleman can say, Bravo, I say, Bravo.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.  
You are very flat.

Mr. POPE. Yes, so are you. Now, Sir, speaking about the vote. It is an awful small hole. There were 23 per cent of the total vote polled for prohibition, as compared with the 28 per cent that put the hon. gentleman in power, a difference of 5 per cent. The hon. gentleman will swallow an insult for 5 per cent. Now, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture has been given a great deal of credit, as I find in the speech of the

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First Minister, for the cold storage system. I expressed my opinion last year as to this cold storage system adopted by the Minister of Agriculture. In the first place the hon. Minister does not deserve credit for creating cold storage, but he does deserve credit, such credit as there is, for adopting a system that was started by his predecessor. I am bound to say in this respect that I take exception, not only to the hon. gentleman's policy, but to the policy that was begun by the hon. gentleman who preceded him. Canada does the greatest export trade of perishable agricultural products of any country in the world, per capita, the greatest trade of all the colonies who are exporting products of a perishable character to Great Britain and to Europe, but I can say we are the only country which does not possess, and has not possessed, a first class cold storage system capable of carrying articles in the most perfect condition for years. If the hon. gentleman wished to make himself celebrated, if he was desirous, as undoubtedly he is, of obtaining some recognition for having originated an idea, he would have put into the service of this cold storage some of the very best ships in the world that are utilized for that purpose. But instead of that he temporises with it, he puts in a few cold boxes here and there, year after year. Now, if it is a good thing to carry over one ton, or 20 tons, or 50 tons this year, it would be much more rapid progress and much better advancement to carry over thousands of tons. There is no reason whatever why the hon. gentleman should not have employed some of the best lines of steamers in the world, with captains and crews thoroughly trained in the management of cold storage. So instead of saying that they have made progress worthy of a Government that came in taking so much credit to themselves, I say their progress has been slow, has been backward, and in comparison with Australia, New Zealand, South America, Africa, or any other country, the cold storage system of Canada would be laughed at. It is nothing in comparison with those of other countries. Then the First Minister said another thing, for which they should be given great credit, and that was that by the Crow's Nest Pass Railway arrangement they had forced the Canadian Pacific Railway to reduce rates three cents per hundred weight on products coming from the west—I think he said three cents, and I think he set it high.

Mr. WALLACE. One cent and a half.

Mr. POPE. Well, that is about the way they multiply. However, that is excusable in the First Minister. He is not supposed to keep all these details in his head. He said he had induced the Canadian Pacific Railway to make a reduction of three cents. The policy of the Canadian Pacific Railway has been to reduce freights out of that country upon wheat and other articles, ever since they first ran their road into the country.

From time to time they have followed out the principle of reducing as rapidly as possible the cost of transportation, while making a reasonable profit. It is policy for them to do so. Now, do you think the Minister has accomplished a great act when, after giving them one or two millions of dollars, he induced them to follow up the policy they had already been carrying out for years, by making this reduction? They had carried out the same policy before without any special bonus or consideration from any Government, and when they could get well paid for following out their regular policy, they were likely to accept the offer. But instead of the hon. gentlemen deserving credit, I think it shows a lack of business appreciation. If the hon. gentleman should attempt to appeal to a constituency upon the claim that he had induced the Canadian Pacific Railway, by paying them one or two million dollars, to follow up their regular policy, a policy they had adopted for years, I do not think he would meet with much success.

Now, Sir, the right hon. gentleman has seen fit to say to us during this debate that the question of reciprocity should no longer be considered by the people of Canada. I am not going to quarrel with the right hon. gentleman in regard to this point, I am not going to quarrel with him in regard to the length of time which it took him to come to this conclusion; but if the cardinal principle of this bible is no longer tenable, if he has changed absolutely his views upon this question, and if we are no longer to be guided by anything this gentleman has promised this country in the past, I want to know, Mr. Speaker, what we ought to look for in the future, because after all it is the future that is particularly attractive to the people of Canada. I think the Government could have spent their time more profitably to the people by having sat as a commission if they are worthy of sitting as a commission—and I presume they ought to be—in the great west of Canada. I believe the mineral wealth of Canada is one of the sources of our material development, and I think that the development of the mines, of trade and commerce on the Pacific coast should receive the attention of the Government. I believe in smelting our ores, in the encouragement of trade between this country, China, Japan and the east by extending the assistance that the Government should give, that the benefit that would accrue to the people of Canada would be far greater and more absolutely direct than anything that could possibly have been anticipated by the right hon. gentleman when he makes the admission that we do not want reciprocity with the United States. Then take the Pacific Ocean, its future will be as great in the development of trade as that of the Atlantic has been, and we should be preparing ourselves to take a position on those waters, and no uncertain position. We should be giving the matter our closest thought, and the Government should be lending their influence in that

direction. And if hon. gentlemen do not do that, they are not up to the appreciation of the needs of the country, they are falling short of their duty as a Government and ignoring the future of this country. They will not wake up until the glorious opportunity is lost and trade has been turned and fixed in other channels. I regret to say that the right hon. gentleman does not see eye to eye with the leader of the Opposition in regard to the expenditure that will be necessary for laying the Pacific cable, because I look, Sir, with great hope and with great confidence to the results that will follow the proper development of Pacific Ocean trade. We have in this country the cheapest forestry, the cheapest wood fibre that is to be found, and I believe it is well worth the attention of the Government to assist in the development of these industries. I believe that you can change the values of land, that you can change the entire value of forestry by giving that stimulus that is needed to the pulp industry of Canada. The pulp industry touches particularly the eastern part of the Dominion, the lower portions of the provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and the forests lying close to the Atlantic Ocean. Hampered as we are by duties between Canada and the United States we are looking in the direction of England where new markets will be opened to us. I would be prepared to support a resolution in the direction of a bonus bounty or encouragement that would bring about the required development of that great industry, because it would not only enhance the value of lands and of forestry in this country, but would also give employment, and intelligent employment to mechanical life in this country. Now, Sir, I shall close my remarks with a reference to rapid transit across the Atlantic. The hon. Minister, without portfolio, who is the business head of the Government, has made several trips to England to bring about the establishment of a fast line of steamers. He started out after making a contract with a firm in England, which, as I told him last session, would never be carried out, and now he has come to the conclusion after having spent two years in the effort to realize his expectations that it will not be carried out. He entered into negotiations with a set of men who were respectable enough. I have nothing to say against the respectability of Petersen, Tate & Company, but they had no more opportunity of launching that arrangement in the financial market of England than I have. Then he takes it into his head that all the ships that are going across in the service of the best lines and designed and controlled by men of the greatest experience are not built properly. He must have a ship built like a bottle; he must have a bottled-neck ship so that if it got turned around in the wind you would not know where it was going. It reminds us of a story of a little boy who

got up in the morning and made a mistake in dressing himself. As he was going to school he began to cry, and a gentleman meeting him asked: "What is the matter?" He replied: "I have my pants on the wrong side fore, and I do not know which way I am going." It will be the same with the hon. gentleman and his ships. He is going to have something different; he is going to have something that nobody has had, and he is still hunting for it. He has lost himself, and he has lost his opportunity of securing this fast Atlantic service. The hon. Minister of Agriculture and I do not agree upon this question. I met him in his county and heard his views upon the subject. He did not think that the fast service was going to prove a great benefit to the agricultural community. I thought it was. The time has arrived when rapidity counts in all things. Rapid transit in steamers is the proper and the only method to develop the country. I do not care whether it cost \$500,000 or \$1,000,000. I claim that the Dominion of Canada cannot afford to stand still and lay behind her competitor, the United States, in crossing the Atlantic Ocean. It is unjust, it is cruel, it is a fault that is not soon to be forgotten, for the Government to have, without consultation, thrown out the contract that they found prepared by the late Government to create this fast service, and then to connect themselves with a set of men who have proven themselves incapable. I remember being at luncheon, in London, with a friend of mine, and I said to him: What do you think about this fast line service: will these people carry it out? He said: There is a gentleman sitting on the other side of the table who is an authority, and I will ask him. He said to this gentleman: What do you think of Petersen & Tate's contract? And the reply was: You must have a most extraordinary Government in Canada, to enter into a contract of such magnitude as a fast line service with men of so little financial ability as Petersen, Tate & Co. My friend asked the exact standing of Petersen, Tate & Co., and he gave it, which, so far as the figures are concerned, proved that if times were good, they would be solvent, and if times were not good, they would be doubtful. Surely the Minister, and surely the other members of the Government, had an opportunity of verifying these facts which this gentleman, whatever his name might have been, and who seemed to be an authority on shipping, had at his fingers' ends. We find, Sir, the whole result of our two years' work precisely where it began. We had the greatest opportunity we will ever have for getting good passenger traffic during the late war in the United States. If we had a cable, as we ought to have, on the Island of Anticosti, and a fast line of steamers, in three days their friends in America would know that the passengers had crossed the great Atlantic, and the

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steamer would be telegraphed from points along the river until the passengers finally took the railroad for their homes, and they could find their mails landed in New York and other points twenty-four hours quicker than by any other means. I was surprised, the other day, at some hon. gentlemen opposite intimating that they would contract for slower steamers. Do not let them commit a second fault, Mr. Speaker. They have committed one which they should not easily be forgiven for, but if they go to work and encourage and maintain a slower line than the very fastest boats that cross the Atlantic, they will be utterly unworthy of anybody's confidence in this matter. We should have steamers second to none afloat. If the Americans have twenty-two knot boats, we should have twenty-four knot boats; because, if we put on a fast line of steamers, with the distance between Quebec and Liverpool, as compared with the distance between New York and Liverpool in our favour, even if the Americans get steamers two knots faster, they would not catch up to our steamers in the next five years of shipbuilding. That would give us an opportunity, not only of gaining that trade, but of holding it. If we are to have action on that matter, it should be along the most improved line, and let us no longer fool with the Minister without portfolio. Let us give him a portfolio, let us give him a salary, let us give him something to play with, if he wants it, but do not entrust him with such vital interests of this country to play with any longer. I have no objection to have him paid his expenses. If the Government put in an item and say it is necessary that he should have some consideration voted by this Parliament, I would vote that consideration. If he wants us to pay his way back and forwards across the Atlantic to do his business in selling deals and lumber in England, why we will pay his way. If he wants a title, or two titles, give them to him; it won't cost us anything. Give him anything he likes; but, for Heaven's sake, take him out of the fast line service.

Mr. T. O. DAVIS (Saskatchewan) moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 11.30 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 27th March, 1899.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### IRREGULAR PETITION.

**Mr. SPEAKER.** I draw the attention of the House to the fact that the petition praying that additional pay of 25 cents per man per day be granted to non-commissioned officers and men during drill, is out of order, because it involves the direct expenditure of public money.

### MEMBER INTRODUCED.

Louis Julien Demers, Member for the Electoral District of Lévis, introduced by the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and the Solicitor General (Mr. Charles Fitzpatrick).

### REPORTS.

Report of the Secretary of State of Canada, for the year 1898; Copy of the Civil Service List of Canada.—(The Prime Minister.)

Report of the Department of Militia and Defence, for the year ending 31st December, 1898.—(Mr. Borden, King's.)

### FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 2) to amend the Criminal Code of 1894.—(Mr. John Charlton.)

### QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

**Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN** (West Assinibola). **Mr. Speaker**, before the Orders of the Day are called, I rise to call your attention to what I find in the report of the debate of March 24, 1899. I find that the reporter attributes to the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. J. I. Tarte) these words :

And a scallawag is a scallawag.

These words were not, so far as I know, pronounced by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte). If they were, they were an interruption in my speech; and, as the suggestion is palpable, I should have dealt with them then. I am told that the Minister of Public Works went down to the "Hansard" reporter and got him to insert these words. Now, I want to ask the Minister of Public Works whether he used these words. If he did, I certainly want them withdrawn.

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). **Mr. Speaker**, I may say that I used those words. I do not suppose the hon. gentleman applied them to himself. I hope and trust—I am sure such is the fact—that there is no scallawag in the House. It is a

general sentence that I had a right to use, just as the hon. gentleman had a right to use some other general sentences. As to having gone to the reporter, it is true, Sir, I did so. I know something about newspaper work and about reporting; and, looking at the reporter, I saw that he had not inserted the words that I had used. I may have made a mistake in going to him. I asked him, passing by, whether he had put down my words or not. He said no. I told him: "I want my words to be inserted." If, by so doing, I have committed an offence against the House, I am very, very sorry for it; and, as we are entering into a week of penance, I am going to submit to any spiritual or corporal punishment which you, Sir, may deem fit to mete out to me.

### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell (East Prince), for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session.

**Mr. T. O. DAVIS** (Saskatchewan). It was not my intention, Mr. Speaker, to address the House on this occasion, nor would I have done so were it not for some remarks which fell from the hon. member for West Assiniboa (Mr. Davin) in the course of his speech on Friday last. The hon. gentleman saw fit to make some personal reference to me, and I therefore deem it my duty to trespass as briefly as possible on your attention. He saw fit, on the occasion I refer to, as he generally does, to take the great territories of our North-west, from the great lakes to the Pacific coast, under his wing, and posed as the only representative of the people in the North-west; but when we take into consideration the magnificent rejoinder that the hon. gentleman met at the last general election there, I doubt whether we will be disposed to accept at his own word his title to speak for the whole of the North-west. I do not propose to follow the hon. gentleman throughout his oration, if I can dignify it as such, though I should think, it would be more properly called a harangue, for in fact it was a driftwood of ideas in a sea of self-conceited verbosity. As self-constituted champion of the North-west Territories, the hon. gentleman travelled through them from one end to the other, including in his tour the district I have the honour to represent, and everywhere he told the same time-worn old story. From one end to the other he sang the same song, with the result that during last autumn, when an election took place to the legislative assembly in the North-west Territories, in which the hon. gentleman thought proper to call to his aid some one who was of a little heavier calibre than himself to assist in returning Conservative members, and when the hon. ex-Finance Minister (Mr. Foster),

who had just returned from New Brunswick where he had made the onslaught on Mr. Emerson, with the result we all know of, their combined efforts had the effect of defeating their own candidates wherever these two gentlemen preached their mission. They held a meeting at Moose Jaw, and another at a place called Indian Head, two ridings in constituencies which were represented by two Liberal Ministers in Mr. Haultain's Cabinet.

Mr. N. F. DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman is making a mistake as to a matter of fact. He says I held meetings having some reference to the local elections. I never held a meeting in the North-west Territories having any reference to the local election.

Mr. DAVIS (Saskatchewan.) Does the hon. gentleman mean to say he did not hold any such meeting?

Mr. DAVIN. Certainly.

Mr. DAVIS. Of course I accept the hon. gentleman's statement, but nevertheless the fact still remains that he did hold a meeting at Moose Jaw.

Mr. DAVIN. I held a meeting there, but the only subjects discussed were Dominion politics.

Mr. SPEAKER. Personal explanations are not questions of order, and they can only be made during a speech with the consent of the hon. gentleman who has the floor.

Mr. DAVIS. The hon. gentleman held a meeting at Moose Jaw, and the result was that whereas before he and his colleagues went to that town some parties had intended to put a man in the field against the Hon. Mr. Ross, the Liberal member; after it was held, the Hon. Mr. Ross was elected by acclamation. In the riding at Indian Head, which was a strongly Conservative riding, the Hon. Mr. Bulyea would not have been able to secure his re-election had it not been for the visit of these two hon. gentlemen to that riding, but their visit had the happy result for him of securing his election by a big majority. These two hon. gentlemen travelled around in the character of mascots, but they turned out to be, not mascots, but Jonahs. The hon. member for West Assiniboia, not content with these exploits to which I have referred, travelled into my riding, and the other evening he made some allusion to his visit there. Previous to his coming an election had been held, in which the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Dr. Brett, one of the leading Conservatives in my district, was snowed out of sight. The hon. gentleman thought he would rush into the breach, and so he came into the district of Saskatchewan, where he managed to raise quite a little disturbance. In the North-west Territories Legislature Act, it is provided that polls may be opened again where it is considered they were not properly

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held. Three polls had been held, but the hon. gentleman there had his usual success. We have an example in Holy Writ of a famous character who at one time destroyed an army with the jaw bone of an ass; but though this new Samson, the self-styled champion of the North-west Territories has been wielding that weapon for the last fifteen years, I do not think it can possibly be said that he has yet succeeded in destroying anybody. He told the House in his speech that at the meeting in Alberta, which he attended, I was invited to attend. True, the little clique which calls itself the Conservative party in the town of Prince Albert, called a meeting, and billed the hon. gentleman as the greatest orator in Canada who was going to address them. They invited me to attend about half an hour before it was held; but if they had sent me an invitation three days previously, I would not have attended, because I would have deemed it beneath my dignity to take any notice of the hon. gentleman. He mentioned the other evening that I had on another occasion refused to attend a meeting addressed by him. Well, the hon. gentleman and his friends, after they learned I had been laid up in bed about three days from illness, called a meeting and sent me a notice to attend it three days before it was held. I told them I was ill and unable to be present, but they went on with their meeting, at which the hon. gentleman was the principal speaker, and there he spent most of his time in abusing me, and no doubt it was in reference to that meeting that the other night he expressed the hope that I had not the mumps again. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not subject to that complaint. What did he tell the people of Saskatchewan? I was in the gathering at the first meeting he held, and I never in my life heard such a hotch-potch addressed to an intelligent people as he dished up to them on that occasion. Why, at the outset, he proceeded to explain to the people, whom, no doubt, in his superior wisdom, he deemed ignorance personified, how they are governed. Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen, he said, in that beautiful rich brogue of his, which smacks of the Lakes of Killarney, you have a Governor General, you have a Senate and you have a House of Commons. Next he proceeded to give a lecture on the newspaper which is published in the town. Taking it up, he said: There is a paper that is a lying paper. He said: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, never believe a word you read in newspapers, because they are untruthful. And next he went on in that same brogue that smacks of the Lakes of Killarney to read a number of long, old clippings from the "Mail and Empire" and ask the people to swallow them. That is the sort of argument he was using. The next part of his speech was personal abuse of the Prime Minister. He spent half an hour abusing the Prime Minister for having accepted knighthood at the hands of Her Majesty in the Jubilee year. Then he proceeded to abuse the Minister of Public

Works (Mr. Tarte) and the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). He made use of a statement in the town hall of Prince Albert which I challenge him to make on the floor of this House. He told the people that the Minister of the Interior was a thief, that he had gone to the city of Ottawa in a starving condition and that to-day he was worth millions. I was there and took down his words. He said that the Minister of Public Works also was a thief, and he, the hon. member for West Assiniboia, had fastened the gyves upon his wrist. The hon. Minister of Public Works, when he was a member of the Opposition, made charges against gentlemen then sitting on this side of the House. But he took the manly way of doing it; he stated on his responsibility as a member of the House that certain charges which he made were true, and asked for a committee to investigate, declaring that if he was not able to prove his charges he would leave the House. I would like to see the hon. member for West Assiniboia take a like course, but I am afraid he is not likely to do that. The hon. gentleman would rather hang on to what Providence and Dixie Watson have given him—his seat in this House. Will the hon. gentleman make those charges here or will he, as the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) said a session or two ago: "take to the tall timber." I fancy he will take to the timber. Before the hon. member arrived in Saskatchewan, the local poet, learning of the anticipated visit of such a great man amongst us, thought it fitting and right to embalm the event in verse. I ask leave to read these few lines to the House. In reading them, I must, like the hon. gentleman, use the language of the Lakes of Killarney:

We had a short visit from Davin,  
Another wan soon we'll be havin',  
To organize the Conservative bhoys  
And rub down the ould horse wid the spahvin.

Arrah, thin, a grate spache he'll be makin',  
All former ricords he'll be brakin',  
The divil can't beat ould Nick to orate  
Whin the scalps of the Grits he is takin'.

You'll hear all about his grate spaches,  
How he dressed down the monopoly leeches,  
Hit the railways a lick, made Van Horne sick,  
And Shaugnessy shake in his breeches.

The Widdy McManus he'll mention,  
The Grits should have given her a pension,  
In the broad light o' day, they tuk her office  
away,  
An' to his protests they paid no attention.

He'll rade the extracts from a paper  
They call the "Moosomin Spectator,"  
How Fisher he said when the tariff he made,  
That implements wud be much chaper.

Of many strange things he'll be spakin',  
An' very wild statements be makin',  
But his burden o' woe is: the Grits stole the  
clothes  
O' the Tories, while a nap they wur takin'.

Now, Nicholas he wudn't be mindin',  
If a sate here he thought he'd be findin',  
So he'll jolly the bhoys wid buncombe and noise,  
For his arguments he left behind him.

Now, in the long harangue to which he treated the House on Friday last, the greater part of the time was taken up with criticising the members on this side of the House for their lack of sincerity in carrying out what he calls their promises to the people. Well, as the representative of one constituency in the North-west Territories, I can say that the people of my district, at least the majority of them—for there are some people you can never satisfy—believe that the Government of the day has carried out its pledges to the people of this country. The Government is not responsible for the saying of individuals who may have seen fit to make speeches in the school-houses in the back constituencies any more than the Opposition are bound by the orations of the hon. member for West Assiniboia. The Liberal party, in its convention of 1893, promised tariff reform, and I submit that we have that tariff reform. Now, the hon. member went over a lot of figures and tried to show the people that nothing had been done for them. He took up all the items he could find, in my opinion, the people of the North-west Territories were not interested in one way or the other. For instance, he mentioned one article in the tariff—crowbars. What have the Government done for the people, he asked, in regard to crowbars. I would like to ask the hon. member how many crowbars the people of his constituency used in a generation—or two generations for that matter. Then he demands to know what the Government have done for the people in the matter of springs and axles. He says that nothing has been done for the North-west Territories in that regard. I would ask him how many springs and axles the people of his constituency, or of the North-west Territories use in the course of a year or in a generation. And so on all down the line. But he conveniently left out all the things on which the duty has been reduced. For instance, he never mentioned the item of hoes and pitchforks, things which the people of the North-west Territories have to buy every year. He forgot to mention that the duty on these articles had been reduced from 35 per cent to 18½ per cent, that is to say, by nearly one-half. Then he made no mention of shovels and spades. Now, under the old tariff of 1894, these articles bore a duty of 25 per cent ad valorem and 50 cents a dozen. The ordinary iron shovels used by the majority of people cost about \$2 a dozen, so that the duty amounted to about 50 per cent.

Mr. DAVIN. The Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) himself said 38 per cent.

Mr. DAVIS. I happen to be engaged in business and I have bought plenty of shovels and spades and all such commodities, and I

think I speak with a little authority when I say that the old duty was about 50 per cent. That duty has been reduced to 26½ per cent, that is by nearly one-half. Now, I have a little list here of articles on which the duty has been reduced. I may say to the hon. member for West Assiniboia that the whole tariff is not "pock-marked," as he said, "with 30 and 35 per cent." A great many of the duties are down to 18½ per cent, and the majority down to 25 per cent or lower.

Now, tarred paper, under the old tariff, the duty was 25 per cent, under the new tariff that has been reduced to 18½ per cent. Paint—there is another article of which the farmers use large quantities; the former duty was 25 per cent, it has been reduced to 18½ per cent. Window glass—there is another thing the people have to use constantly; 20 per cent, reduced to 15 per cent. Whips—35 per cent to 26½ per cent. Now, I should advise the member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) to look over his list once more. Wood screws, reduced from 45½ per cent to 26½ per cent. Wire fencing 27½ per cent to 11½ per cent.

Mr. DAVIN. There is a misstatement as to a matter of fact.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. SPEAKER. If the hon. member wishes to correct a misstatement, as he says, he must ask the permission of the hon. member who has the floor.

Mr. DAVIN. May I ask the hon. gentleman to correct a misstatement he has just made?

Mr. DAVIS. What is it?

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman has stated that tarred paper is down to 18 and a fraction per cent. I have the tariff of the present year, and it is 25 per cent. Here it is; I will send it over to the hon. gentleman.

Mr. DAVIS. Under the preferential duty, it is 18½ per cent. Now, I would advise the hon. member for Western Assiniboia to get a new pair of spectacles, his eyesight is falling. And a bottle of hair dye, too, would not come amiss. The next item is wood screws. Under the old tariff wood screws, ad valorem, amounted to 45½ per cent, to-day it is 26½.

Mr. DAVIN. 26½? Again I ask the hon. gentleman—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. DAVIN. I ask the hon. gentleman's permission—

Mr. DAVIS. If the member for West Assiniboia will possess his soul in patience—

Mr. SPEAKER. It is very inconvenient to be interrupting the hon. member who

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has the floor unless he is perfectly willing to be interrupted.

Mr. DAVIN. He does not say he is not willing. What he says is a misstatement.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Take your medicine.

Mr. DAVIN. The medicine is over there.

Mr. DAVIS. I may just say concerning wood screws that I mentioned before, the old duty was 45½ per cent, and it has been reduced to 26½. Of course, I am applying the preferential duty to that. I suppose the member for West Assiniboia is aware that many of those wood screws come from Great Britain, he will not deny that. Now, take wire fencing; I am alluding to the ordinary wire fencing used by farmers in inclosing their fields, they use a great deal of it. Under the old tariff that bore a duty of 27½ per cent, it is now 11½. Scythes 35 per cent, that has been reduced to 18½ per cent. Hoes, 35 per cent, reduced to 18½; pronged forks, 35 per cent, reduced to 18½; shovels and spades, 36 per cent, reduced to 26½; post hole diggers, 35 per cent, reduced to 18½. Now, those are commodities that the farmers of the North-west Territories have to use day in and day out; they are constantly buying these commodities. Therefore, it is of more importance to them to have the duties lowered on these articles than on such articles as the hon. gentleman mentioned the other day, such as crowbars, springs and axles. Now, the hon. gentleman tried to show the other day that scarcely any of the goods used by the people of the North-west—I suppose he was speaking of them—come from Great Britain, but that the majority come from the United States. I have here a list made up from the Trade and Navigation Returns, showing goods imported from Great Britain under preferential tariff:—

|                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Woollen fabrics—                   |             |
| From England .....                 | \$2,208,300 |
| From United States .....           | 26,847      |
| Yarn—                              |             |
|                                    | Lbs.        |
| From England.....                  | 120,525     |
| From United States.....            | 2,124       |
| Shawls—                            |             |
| From England .....                 | \$42,642    |
| From United States.....            | 2,068       |
| Socks and Stockings—               |             |
|                                    | Doz. pairs. |
| From England .....                 | 260,666     |
| (Duty paid on same, \$136,070.09.) |             |
| From United States.....            | 10,885      |

Mr. DAVIN. But the preference comes in, I beg leave to call the hon. gentleman's attention—

Mr. SPEAKER. I must really request the hon. member for Assiniboia not to interrupt the hon. member who has the floor. The hon. member, I think, spoke for some time the other day with very little interruption.

An hon. MEMBER. No.

Mr. SPEAKER. Whether that is the case or not, the hon. member knows perfectly well what is the parliamentary rule.

Mr. DAVIS. Socks and stockings—we imported from England 260,666 dozen pairs, on which we paid a duty of \$136,070.09; from the United States we imported only 10,885 dozen pairs. It will be seen that the greatest portion of the articles used by the farmers in the North-west Territories come from Great Britain, and are, therefore, subject to that preferential clause in the tariff. Now, I have here another short list of goods imported from Great Britain under the preferential tariff. Spool thread—there is a commodity that is purchased constantly by the farmers of the North-west Territories. I know that, because I am in business myself, and we sell an enormous amount of it. We would sell a ton of spool thread where we would not sell one crowbar in the North-west. From Great Britain we imported \$276,303 worth, on which we paid a duty of \$60,451.93. From the United States we imported only \$72,193 worth, the duty of which was only \$18,048.50. So it seems that the great bulk of this commodity comes from Great Britain, and is therefore subject to that preferential clause of the tariff. Now, take printed cotton fabrics. The hon. member dwelt on cotton goods a long time during his speech on Friday, but he never touched this item at all: Printed cotton fabrics, or in other words what we call prints, are used in every family all over the Dominion. We imported from Great Britain 20,491,128 yards.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is misrepresenting me. I rise to a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman raises a point of order.

Mr. DAVIN. The point of order is this: The hon. gentleman says I did not refer to these coloured prints. I say I referred to it specially, and called attention to the amount of the imports.

Mr. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). I say, Mr. Speaker, that the value of these coloured prints imported from Great Britain was \$1,698,758, and that the duty collected upon the same was \$522,522.06, so that the great bulk of that commodity comes from Great Britain, and is therefore subject to the preferential clause in the tariff. I think that the hon. member for West Assiniboia will not deny that he dealt with the item of handkerchiefs. I read his speech of Friday over and I think he said something about handkerchiefs. We imported last year from Great Britain \$93,804 worth of handkerchiefs, and from the United States \$1,610, so that the great bulk of our importations came from

Great Britain and was therefore subject to the preferential clause in the tariff.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for West Assiniboia, and other hon. members on the other side of the House, try to make us believe that the country is going to the dogs. But I can tell them that they are mistaken in this. It is not the country that is going to the dogs, but it is their own party that is going to the dogs. I have sat in this House not only during the present session, but during the last two sessions, and I have listened to these hon. gentlemen day in and day out. It is the same old scold, the same old story, the same old charge of broken promises. I am looking at this matter from the standpoint of a North-wester, and as such I may say that I want the best policy and the best Government that we can get. We know, as a matter of fact, that this Government has done something for the farmers of the North-west; we know that they have reduced the duty on a great many of the commodities that the farmers of the North-west use largely; we know also that they have placed binder twine and barbed wire on the free list—two commodities that the farmers use a great deal more of than they do crowbars. We know that they have given us good, honest government in this country. I would like to know what hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House propose to give us? If they have a policy that differs from that of the Government, I would like to know what it is. If they have a policy I would like to hear it stated, and if it is a better policy than that of the Government, I do not know but that they might be able to convert me. I will say, however, that it will require an argument stronger than that presented by the hon. member for West Assiniboia or his leader to produce that result. That suggests to me a question. I would like to know who is the leader of the hon. member for West Assiniboia? I attended a meeting held in the town hall at Prince Albert, and listened to a two and a half hours speech by the hon. gentleman; I heard him speaking about the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) and about the late Sir John Macdonald, whose photograph occupied a conspicuous place upon the platform, while the photograph of the hon. member for Cape Breton (Sir Charles Tupper) was conspicuous by its absence. The hon. member for West Assiniboia in his speech of two and a half hours' duration never once mentioned the name of the leader of the Opposition in this House. The hon. gentleman held organization meetings in my district, and upon making inquiry, I was informed that he pursued the same course throughout the district that he had followed at Prince Albert. When we take into consideration that the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) came junketting up to the North-west Territories, that he and the hon. member for West Assiniboia were holding meetings together, while the leader of the Opposition, who had just come from

the old country, was making that famous declaration that he was not going to take any action during the sittings of the High Commission at Quebec, we will be led to believe that the hon. member for York and the hon. member for West Assiniboia must have had some kind of an understanding between them. I can assure the House that during the whole of their trip through Saskatchewan the hon. member for West Assiniboia never once mentioned the name of the leader of the Opposition. He was challenged in one of the papers at Prince Albert. He went over the articles in the paper, taking a long time to do it, and when he came to this he said: "This paper accuses me of not having mentioned the name of my leader, of being ashamed of mentioning the name of my leader." He never from that day mentioned the name of the leader of the Opposition. I am just mentioning this circumstance to give information to the leader of the Opposition, and I will not charge him anything for it either; it is as free as the air. I will mention another thing that happened in my constituency. The hon. member for West Assiniboia and a coterie of dismissed officials went out to hold a meeting in a polling district in my constituency called Halero. The hon. member for West Assiniboia made a speech upon that occasion. It was a great speech, I am told; he spoke for two and a half hours, and thinking that he had converted the people in the room, he asked them to remain as they were going to organize an association. The people took him at his word and stayed. He drew his document out of his pocket, sent it around and asked the gentlemen in the room to put their names down and join the association. After two and a half hours' eloquence, such eloquence as we heard here on Friday, the hon. member for West Assiniboia sent that paper around the hall. There were some forty or fifty people present, but the only signatures he could get were those of one man and of a small boy fourteen years of age. They at once proceeded to organize a Liberal-Conservative association, electing the man as president and the small boy as vice-president. These are the kind of organizations that the hon. member for West Assiniboia has formed in the interest of the Conservative party in the west.

I was going on to say, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to know what hon. gentlemen opposite propose. They scold and scold day after day. During the first session that I was here, when the tariff was brought down by the hon. Finance Minister, I remember the Opposition set up the cry that the industries of the country were going to be ruined. They trotted out the old stock argument about the smokeless chimneys and the starving artisans. They said that the country was going to the dogs in consequence of this iniquitous tariff that was being brought in by the Liberal Government, and they predicted that the Government would not be able to raise enough money to run the affairs of the

country. Time passed, and the predictions of these hon. gentlemen were not fulfilled. They found out that the blue ruin cry had no effect, that the treasury was overflowing with money, that the industries of the country were not going to the dogs, that more artisans were being employed, that more chimneys were being erected. Then they changed their cry and said, "You have stolen our clothes; this is the same old National Policy." If the Government of the day have, as they claim, stolen their policy; if it be a fact that it is their policy that the Government are carrying out, what have the hon. gentlemen to complain of? The Government must be doing right according to their argument. It is nothing but the old scold. Are they prepared to do anything better for the people, or is it only plunder that they are after? Do they just want to get back to office for the sake of the sweets of office? The present condition of affairs reminds me a good deal of the atheist; the atheist wishes to take something away from the people, but he has nothing to give in return. Now, they say that we have the same old tariff, and the same old National Policy. I claim that we have not the same old tariff or the same old National Policy. The Liberal party promised a tariff for revenue; that was laid down in the platform of 1893, and I submit that we have a tariff for revenue. I submit that if there is any protection in our system it is incidental; it is a secondary consideration. The ex-Finance Minister gave us some figures to show that the duty had only been reduced, as he said, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on an average; but I submit that his comparison was not a fair one. What the people of this country wanted was a rearrangement of the tariff, so that the burden of taxation would be placed on the shoulders of those who were able to bear it, and so that the agricultural classes might be relieved of the taxation which was grinding them down. That is what has been done by this Government. The tariff has been rearranged in such a way that the agricultural classes of Canada have got substantial relief, and the duties have been placed on luxuries, so that the wealthier classes, if they will use luxuries, will have to pay for them. Hon. gentlemen opposite have, for years and years, been waving the old flag in my part of the country. They told the people that the Liberals were annexationists and rebels, and in fact it was not considered quite respectable to be a member of the Liberal party. But these gentlemen were in power for eighteen years, and I would like to know what they have done during that term to bring the different portions of the Empire closer together. They did nothing at all. When the right hon. Prime Minister went over to England, it is claimed by the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), that the Premier was met in Liverpool by the Duke of Devonshire, who, without consulting his colleagues in the British Government, and without consulting

the British public, offered a preference in the British markets to our agricultural products. Does any sane person believe that the Duke of Devonshire would do any such thing? Notwithstanding the fact that no such thing ever occurred, the leader of the Opposition has been continually repeating this same old fable. Let me call the attention of the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) to an article on this matter which appears in "Britannia," the official journal of the British Empire League. It reads as follows:—

Has not the time come when the Toronto "Mail and Empire" may fairly be called upon to give chapter and verse for its repeated assertion that the Duke of Devonshire made Sir Wilfrid Laurier an "offer" of preferential trade at Liverpool in June last year, or, in default, to withdraw it once for all? This fable, as it must be called, recently took the following form:

"The Duke of Devonshire, it will be remembered (so the 'Mail and Empire' wrote on May 19th) 'urged the Premier to consider the project favourably, and to enter into negotiations.' Now, we say emphatically, and we challenge contradiction, that neither of the Duke's speeches contained any passage which is capable of being represented in this sense. Let it be clearly understood that neither 'Britannia' nor the present writer has any concern with the controversy which still rages as to the Canadian Premier's policy or diplomacy in the matter. The 'Mail and Empire' is, of course, free to hammer him to its heart's content. That is a question of party politics in which the British Empire League, comprising, as it does, many members both in Great Britain and in Canada who dissent from Sir Wilfrid Laurier's action as well as many who cordially approve it, has no intention of meddling. But for the very reason that the League, having the Queen herself as its patron, is an organization of a national character, it becomes a sheer impropriety to misrepresent its president as having committed himself on a highly disputatious topic, when he has done nothing of the kind. We write with the most friendly feeling towards the 'Mail and Empire,' which has rendered no mean service to the cause of British unity; but we must ask imperatively to be allowed to stand outside the pale of political controversy."

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Duke of Devonshire is the president of the British Empire League, and it is a fair inference to draw from this article, that it is an official contradiction of the statement that any offer of preference to Canada was ever made by him. No later than a week or two ago, the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), speaking at a smoking concert in Toronto, repeated the same old fable, and he said:

He (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) was met almost on landing by the Duke of Devonshire, who made a speech offering this great boon (preferential trade) in unmistakable terms.

I submit, Sir, that it is not fair-play for the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) to repeat this mis-statement, when we have an official denial of it. For my part, speaking for the people of the North-west Territories, I may say, that we would like to have a preference in the markets of the old country. It

would be a good thing for all Canadians, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, if the British people would give us a preference in their markets; but we all know that the British people are not prepared at the present time to do anything of the kind. When the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) was in the district of Saskatchewan, he spoke a good deal about the expenditure, and he told the people that this Government had raised the expenditure by eight or nine million dollars a year, notwithstanding that they had promised to reduce it. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) took care to say nothing about the increased revenue. He told the people that millions were being wasted, but he never told them that our revenue had been increased by millions. Let me remind the hon. gentleman of some facts about this matter. The last year the Conservative Government was in power, they brought down Estimates to the extent of \$36,449,000, but the reason they brought down these Estimates was, that they thought they were going to the country, and they tried to make the people believe it was an economical Government, and that they were reducing the expenditure. But how did they reduce the expenditure? They reduced it by starving the public works of the Dominion, and I might mention that, in my own district, we had a court-house held up with crutches for two or three years. It was a beautiful sight, especially for new settlers, to see this court-house propped up with poles to keep it from falling down. Another way in which they made a saving was by not drilling the militia for a year, and a third way in which they discovered they could cut down expenditure was by not paying their bills. The hon. member (Mr. Davin) must have some knowledge of this, because I think he knows that many bills in the Indian Department and in the North-west Mounted Police Department were not paid, and were only called in after the fiscal year had expired, so that a good showing might be made. They left about \$500,000 of accounts in the Post Office Department, which should have been paid in 1896, but which were not paid. This is a very easy way, indeed, to reduce the expenditure, but it is hardly a statesmanlike way. Now, in 1896-97, the Conservatives thought they would make up for lost time, and when the Liberal Government came into power, they found the Conservatives had prepared Main Estimates amounting to \$38,306,586.18, and Supplementary Estimates to the extent of \$3,621,689.50, or, in all, \$41,930,237.68. This was not a bad showing for the Conservative Government, that called themselves an economical Government.

Now, I heard the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster), in this House last year, when these figures were given, make the statement that they had not brought down in that year any Supplementary Estimates. I see the hon. leader of the Opposition in his place; and if he would condescend to reply to an

humble member on the back benches, I would ask him to say whether or not there were Supplementary Estimates brought down in that year for \$3,621,689.50. If he does not answer me, this speech will go to my constituents, and they will see that the leader of the Opposition did not reply. Therefore, we may take for granted, that those Estimates were brought down, and that they would have spent, if they had got back to power, \$41,930,237.68. Does the hon. leader of the Opposition deny that there were Supplementary Estimates in that year? I would like to get an answer. Well, Mr. Speaker, I think there can be no doubt at all that there were Supplementary Estimates. I will give, as an authority for that statement, the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), who certainly speaks with some authority for the Conservative party; and if the hon. leader of the Opposition says there were not any Supplementary Estimates in that year, then it will be all the worse for the hon. member for West Assiniboia. They can take whichever horn of the dilemma they please; they must either admit that there were Supplementary Estimates or that they were going around the country deceiving the people, in telling them that there were. Now, in the second session of 1896, the hon. member for West Assiniboia, in answer to Mr. Talbot about creameries in the North-west Territories, made this statement, which will be found at page 592 of "Hansard":

Mr. DAVIN. That is not what I said. What I said was that the Government had agreed with me to place in the Supplementary Estimates the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of carrying out this policy, and if they had been allowed to pass those Estimates, we would have had that money, and I used that as an argument why the people should support me as a supporter of that Government.

Now, could there be anything plainer than that? The hon. member for West Assiniboia, who is one of the leading men on the other side of the House, went around and told the people that the Government had \$20,000 in the Supplementary Estimates. But the hon. ex-Finance Minister (Mr. Foster) denies that there were Supplementary Estimates, and I have heard half a dozen members on the other side of the House make the same statement. Therefore, it is very evident that the hon. member for West Assiniboia had been going around deceiving the people of the North-west Territories, which I have no doubt he had been doing.

Now, take the expenditure by the present Government on Consolidated Account for the year 1897-98, and compare it with the expenditure of hon. gentlemen opposite for their last year, leaving out of account the \$41,000,000 which they had brought down for 1896-97. In 1897-98, the expenditure of the present Government was \$38,832,525.70. But of this over \$2,000,000 was for new

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services which the late Government had not to provide for, such as opening up the Yukon, bringing the Intercolonial Railway into Montreal, providing a steamboat to run between Prince Edward Island and the mainland, and certain other expenditures. If we deduct the \$2,000,000 from the total, we find that the present Government, in that year, did not spend as much as hon. gentlemen opposite spent in 1895-96, the year in which they were practising economy in public works. Besides that, they did not leave a deficit of over \$4,000,000, as hon. gentlemen opposite did in 1895-96, but instead, they had a magnificent surplus for the year of \$1,722,107.22. I ask any fair-minded man in the country who may read these words, to compare the way in which the business of the country has been carried on by this Government with the way in which it was carried on by hon. gentlemen on the opposite side of the House.

I would like to make another comparison. I notice that the hon. member for West Assiniboia was very careful to dodge the question of railways. In the whole of the five hours hotch-potch to which he treated the House on Friday last, I do not think he ever mentioned railways. If he did, I will have to apologize, for I read his speech and did not find one word about railways in it. The hon. gentleman claims to be a man who looks after the interests of the people of the North-west Territories. He says no one has ever done anything for the farmers of that country but himself. Now, I want to compare this much talked-of Crow's Nest Pass Railway deal, as it is called, or bargain, with some of the bargains made by hon. gentlemen opposite, when looking after the interests of the people of this country. I want to compare it with the bargains made with the Calgary and Edmonton Railway, and with the Regina, Saskatchewan and Long Lake Railway. I am sorry that the hon. member for Toronto West (Mr. Osler) is not in his seat, because he has something to do with the latter railway. The other day, when the ex-Finance Minister was addressing the House in regard to this Crow's Nest Pass Railway, he held up his hands in holy horror, and said that \$3,000,000 of the people's money had been thrown away on that iniquitous bargain. But at the time that proposition was before this House, the hon. leader of the Opposition said nothing against it: he was quite willing to let it pass; and the ex-Finance Minister, in the words of the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), retreated to the tall timber. He did not stay in the House to vote, but went when the vote was called. Now, I claim that the bargain that was made with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, was in the interests of the people, for this reason. In the first place, the road was acquired for the purpose of opening up the mineral resources of the Kootenay country, and, in the second place, for the purpose of furnishing a

market for the products of the North-west Territories. Look at the contract that was made. The Government of the day gave the Canadian Pacific Railway, for the construction of this road, some \$3,360,000 by way of subsidy, and they gave that subsidy without granting them any monopoly whatever. The Government took care to safeguard the interests of the people in every particular. They took care to retain for the people running powers over that road. They were not prepared to do as hon. gentlemen opposite did some years ago, allow the Canadian Pacific Railway to stand with a club at one of the passes between the prairies and the Pacific Ocean and levy toll; but they said: This pass belongs to the people, and it must belong to the people for all time to come. Therefore, they retained running powers for the people, and also retained control of the road. Further, they got 50,000 acres of the coal lands we hear so much about, to keep them for the people of this country. Besides, they got reductions in freight rates, which I have heard estimated here as equal to \$600,000, but which I claim to be equal to not less than \$800,000, for the settlers of the North-west Territories, and, for that matter, for the people of the whole Dominion of Canada.

I have the items here. Upon all green fruit brought into Manitoba and the North-west Territories, we got a reduction in freight of 33½ per cent. And that is a benefit, not only to the people of the North-west, but of the whole Dominion. We do not raise fruit in the North-west, we can grow cattle and all sorts of grain but we do not profess to be able to grow fruit, and the people of Ontario, who grow apples, have a profitable market in our country provided we can get reasonable rates of freight. Up to that time, however, we did not. I myself had to pay \$518 freight on one car-load of apples, which I purchased from the hon. member from Huron (Mr. McMillan) and which were brought from Seaforth, Ont., to Prince Albert. In obtaining that 33½ per cent reduction, or a reduction of \$170 per car, the Government saved a dollar per barrel on every barrel brought into Manitoba and the North-west. That is not only a benefit to the people of Manitoba and the Territories but also the people of Ontario and the rest of the country who have this commodity to sell. This Government also secured a reduction in the rates of freight on cordage and binder twine of 10 per cent, which are also largely used by our agriculturists. On agricultural implements of all kinds, set up, or in parts, they obtained a reduction of 10 per cent in the freights. On iron, including bar, band, Canada plates, galvanized, sheet, pipe, pipe fittings, nails, spikes and horse shoes, 10 per cent. They also got a reduction in freight rates of 10 per cent. On window glass, they got a similar reduction. Also on paper for building and roofing purposes and roofing felt, box and packing, 10 per cent. Also on wooden ware, household furniture. These are all

commodities which the settler must have, and these reductions in the rates of freight are a great boon to our people. Another item I forgot to mention is the item of coal oil, on which this Government got a reduction of 20 per cent, which means three cents per gallon to the profit to the people of Manitoba and the Territories. They also got a reduction in freight rates on all the grain exported from Manitoba and the North-west of three cents per hundred pounds, and taking last year's crop, that would amount to a saving of something like \$500,000 to the people out there. Take the imports, the reductions in freight rates on these would certainly amount to close on \$300,000 more, so that I think I am within the mark when I say that this Government effected by this bargain, a saving in freight rates of no less than \$800,000 per year to the people of Manitoba and the Territories.

I wish now to ask your attention to the bargain entered into by the late Government with the Regina, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Company. I would ask the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), who styles himself the watch-dog of the Territories, why he did not see that this bargain was not concluded which fastened such a monopoly on the people of my district. Why, the late Government gave the Regina, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway no less than 6,400 acres of the best lands of the North-west Territories in the Saskatchewan Valley per mile for building that road, not one acre of which have they sold at less than \$2 an acre, and some of which they have sold at \$3 an acre, so that taking a reasonable estimate of \$2 an acre, I find that this company got \$12,800 per mile for building that road, besides \$80,000 a year for twenty years cash subsidy, for carrying the mails into that district. And all this for the construction of a road, which it only cost the company \$10,000 per mile to build. There was no agreement made about running powers or bonding privileges or anything else, but the people were handed over *holus bolus* to this railway company. And further, mark this, that the people of Saskatchewan were not allowed, under the late Government to tax railway corporations, but, on the other hand, these railway corporations were allowed to tax us to their heart's content and to do what they pleased with the people of that district. What did this company do when they got this grant of 6,400 acres per mile to build that road? They went to the English market and bonded it at \$3,800,000. Now, the figures in the blue-book show that it only cost them \$2,500,000 to build the road. Where then did the balance, or \$1,300,000 go? It must have gone into the pockets of somebody. And in what position do the people of my district find themselves? They find themselves in this position, that they have not only to pay interest on the money which the road actually cost, but also on this additional \$1,300,000, and that road we claim we never

asked for because it was not built through a section of country which would commend itself to any one of ordinary judgment. Why did not the hon. member for West Assinibolia (Mr. Davin), who always speaks of himself as the watch-dog of the Territories, see that the Manitoba and North-Western line was built which the people needed and asked for instead of this road. Instead of doing this, he sat quiet as a mouse and never once opened his mouth. I do not know from personal knowledge, but it was generally rumoured that he remained silent because he was afraid of injuring the Regina "Leader," which at that time, I believe, was his property.

Take the Calgary and Edmonton road, of which I shall not speak at any length, because the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver) is here and will probably have occasion to attend to that himself. That is in a still worse position, and any one, I do not care whether he be Conservative, Liberal, Grit, Tory or Patron, who will compare the two bargains—the business bargain made by this Government with the Canadian Pacific Railway in connection with the Crow's Nest Pass and the bargains the late Government made with the Calgary and Edmonton, and also the Regina, Long Lake and Saskatchewan road, not to mention the Manitoba and North-Western Railway Company and all the other companies in the land, will find that the record of the present Government stands out in very favourable contrast with that of its predecessors. I defy any one to show one charter given under the late Administration, during eighteen years, in which they safeguarded the interests of the people, or one charter granted during the three short years since this Government came into office, in which the interests of the people have not been thoroughly safeguarded.

I must apologize to the House for taking up so much time speaking of the hon. member for West Assinibolia (Mr. Davin), but I think it advisable to give the House some little information concerning that hon. gentleman. I am afraid his labours in the Saskatchewan district have borne no fruit. As I mentioned, he came to Saskatchewan for the purpose of electing a great friend of his, Speaker of the Assembly.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Speaker, what the hon. gentleman states is perfectly untrue.

Mr. DAVIS. Of course, I accept the statement of the hon. gentleman—

Mr. SPEAKER. I am sorry to say I did not catch the statement of the hon. member (Mr. Davis), but I think it could be contradicted in a milder form.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman accepts my statement.

Mr. DAVIS. I will say, then, that it was a very strange coincidence that as soon as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly was buried or snowed under, as you like to

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call it, the hon. member for West Assinibolia came junketing up to Prince Albert. In fact it is mentioned in the verses I read: "We had a short visit from Davin." He stayed there a couple of days and arranged to come back. They thought they had made arrangements to defeat the successful candidate, Mr. McLeod. They established a poll at a place away down seven hundred miles from Prince Albert, where there are a lot of poor people, they thought they could manipulate, as they had manipulated them in the old days through the Hudson's Bay Company officials and others. But the hon. gentleman did not succeed in electing his friend the ex-Speaker of the Assembly; but, on the contrary, that gentleman was buried out of sight again. I wish to remind the hon. gentleman of that fact, because he might forget it.

Now, I wish to refer for a short time to the management of the Post Office Department. The hon. gentleman spoke of the management of the Post Office Department under the present Administration. I have here a small book, not the "bible" referred to by the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Pope), but it might well be the bible of the Conservatives, for it has blue cover. It is a supplementary report of the Postmaster General for the year 1896. I assure you there is good reading in it, and I would advise anybody who has not already done so to read it. I commend it especially to my Conservative friends all over the country. This tells us something of the doings of the party of economy and honesty as the representative of which the hon. member for West Assinibolia spoke. In this book we find that contracts were let without tender, and that they were renewed, year after year, without tender. We find that if an incorrect tender came in a supporter of the Government would simply drop a letter to the Postmaster General and he would renew the old contract at the same price, though perhaps, he had a tender for twenty or thirty per cent less in his hands. Now, the hon. member for West Assinibolia is not guiltless in this regard. I was looking over this book, and under the heading "Manitoba and the North-west Territories," I find a case mentioned in which the hon. gentleman was interested. There was a contract let for the carrying of the mail between Balgonie and Hednesford. Mr. H. Edmonds, a gentleman there, put in a tender for \$90 a year, and another gentleman tendered at \$94 a year. But the hon. member for West Assinibolia did not want these tenders accepted. He belonged to a party of purity and economy, so he wrote a letter, which is as follows:—

Ottawa, 18th May, 1895.

My dear Sir Adolphe,—I have just received the inclosed from a great friend of ours. If you can manage to give Cockwill the carrying of the mail you will do well. I know the lad; he is almost a hero. I have known him bring the mail from Loon Creek in the face of a strong wind and the glass 30 below zero—one of the

most extraordinary feats that probably have ever been performed.

Yours truly,  
N. F. DAVIN.

The Hon. Sir A. P. Caron, K.C.M.G.,  
Postmaster General, Ottawa.

And he wanted this hero of his, who, I have no doubt, was a good Tory and a heeler of his own, to get the difference between \$125 and \$90 a year to put in his own pocket. And the hon. member for West Assiniboia is not the only one. Take a case in my own district. There was one contract that had been let to the same party from the time the road went in until I was elected. The contractors, Messrs. Leeson and Scott, had the contract for a route of 90 miles between Saskatoon and Battleford. They had no intermediate post office to serve and they carried the mail twice a week. The price was about \$7,200 a year. Now, there were other gentlemen of the same political stripe as the hon. member for West Assiniboia who were hungry and wanted to feed at the public trough. But these contractors were like the big hog who was eating all the swill, while the lean pigs were grunting round and wanting to get a little, but when they came to the trough, the fat fellow would drive them away. One of these discontented parties, a gentleman by the name of Stovel, got very restless. The hon. gentleman knows him well, as he is one of his good heelers. He writes to the Postmaster General complaining that the contract has been let for ten or twelve years without tender, and offers to take it at \$5,000 and furnish all the security required. Mr. Macdowell, the gentleman who represented the district in this House at the time, apparently had not a very strong pull with the Administration of that time. He wrote a letter recommending that the contract be given to Mr. Stovel, on the ground that it was in the interest of the country that the saving should be made. Mr. McLeod, the post office inspector in Winnipeg, also recommended that the contract be given to Mr. Stovel, on the ground that he had investigated the matter and found that Mr. Stovel was a thoroughly responsible man. But a certain hon. gentleman who was then on the Treasury benches, I think, Mr. Daly, wrote a letter, which is published in this book, in which he says that he wishes Messrs. Leeson and Scott to get the contract. Notwithstanding the letter of the hon. member for Saskatchewan for that time and the recommendation of the post office inspector, and notwithstanding that a change would effect a saving of \$2,200 a year, the contract was renewed with Messrs. Leeson and Scott at the old figure. I have heard that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) has said something about me in connection with a post office. A little paper in Battleford, for which he may write occasional correspondence, published a lot of trash last winter saying I was connected with some post office contract jobbery. The only jobbery that I know of in regard to

post office contracts came from the hon. member's friends in that district. When I was elected, this Tory contractor, who had been feeding at the public trough, had the audacity to write to me a letter offering me \$1,000 if I would allow the contract to run eighteen months. It evidently was a fat contract. My answer was to write to the Postmaster General to cancel the contract at once, and it was cancelled. And that contract was let for less than \$2,000. So there was about \$5,200 a year, something over \$30,000 altogether, that had been put in these men's pockets—enough to build a bridge across the Saskatchewan. And this was only one contract; there are twenty or thirty in the North-west Territories. This contractor, apparently, regarded it as a business transaction and it seemed to be one to which he was accustomed. Apparently he had been doing business on these lines, and had, no doubt, come to the conclusion that every man had his price. And he approached me in that way. He approached me in the same way as he had been doing to this other gentleman, but he found out he had to deal with different material.

Mr. DAVIN. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. But do I understand him to say that I ever had any transaction with Mr. Leeson in respect to any contract?

Mr. DAVIS. I said he was your political friend. You will not deny that.

Mr. DAVIN. I never in my life had a word of conversation with Mr. Leeson on any subject of the kind.

Mr. DAVIS. I was going to say that there was over \$5,000 a year on that little contract being stolen from the people of this country. Let me make a comparison. There is a mail contract that runs from Prince Albert to Melford, ninety miles, the same distance as this other contract running to Battleford. I think it serves not less than twelve post offices; while the poor half-breed who carried the mail on that line gets only \$600, while this other gentleman was getting \$7,200. But there was a rake-off in some places; as I said before, it was done on business principles. Somebody was getting it, I know it was not the member for Saskatchewan at that date, because he recommended that the contract be let to another party, which was not done. Now, on all the contracts in the Territories we were paying more than \$50,000 a year over what the work should cost, and no doubt there was a rake-off for these people. The member for West Assiniboia could no doubt give valuable testimony as to who participated. No doubt it was easy to form associations, easy to have campaign literature and all that sort of thing in a state of matters like that. We find that contracts of this kind have been running for years, not only in Sas-

katchewan and Alberta, but all over the country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. But that has been changed; we now have an honest administration of public affairs in this respect. The contracts have been re-let with a consequent saving of over \$700,000 to the people of this country since the present Postmaster General took possession of that department. Now we have got penny postage that these gentlemen sneer at, these same gentlemen that were waving the old flag and an appropriation," that is what they used to say out west. Now, I have just one thing more, and that is the question of prohibition. I do not know that my hon. friend from West Assiniboia mentioned the question of prohibition, but I think he did allude to it in some way. I may say that there is no gentleman sitting in this House to-day who is in a better position to speak with authority on that question than the member for West Assiniboia. Why, Sir, he is an expert, his advice should be taken, he knows all about it. I remember one occasion when he came to Prince Albert to deliver a temperance lecture in the Methodist church. That was in the old prohibition days when there was supposed to be no liquor out there; that is to say, if a man got liquor to drink he was breaking the law. But the hon. member, as I understand, for some reason failed to deliver that lecture. It was a good deal like the speech that was never delivered here in Ontario. I remember a speech that the hon. gentleman was advertised to deliver in Stratford. The speech came out in the paper with big head-lines, "Great speech by Nicholas Flood Davin, M.P." Not only was the speech there, but the cheers were there. Frequent parentheses filled with "great applause," "tremendous enthusiasm," "cheers, cheers." I tell you the member for West Assiniboia knows how to put in cheers. I think he must have a grievance against the "Hansard" reporters of this House, and also against the gallery, because in reporting his speeches they do not put in cheers. Well, he started in to deliver this lecture at Prince Albert, and the lecture was never delivered. There happened to be a beastly—shall I call it?—well, it was an ungainly, unsightly ditch between the Methodist church and the hotel where the hon. gentleman was stopping. What happened to the ditch I do not know, but when the hon. member appeared before the church doors the people were just leaving. He insisted on going into deliver the lecture, but the clergyman held up his hand and said: "Oh, no, just go away." The hon. gentleman was a terrible looking sight. I do not know whether he looked like a Free Trader, or a Liberal or a Conservative, but he was a terrible looking sight anyway at that time. Therefore, I say that this prohibition question is one that the hon. member might have touched

Mr. DAVIS.

on. It is a question that interests the people of the North-west Territories, it is a question that will come up on the platform at the next general election, I have no doubt, and therefore it would have been well if the hon. member for West Assiniboia had given his experience, not only his experience at this temperance lecture, but his experience at Medicine Hat at one time during the election campaign. I do not know what happened there again, but people talked something about a wheelbarrow. I heard the hon. gentleman quoting a little piece of poetry the other night about an Irish jaunting car. I do not know that I ever heard him say anything about riding in a wheelbarrow, but we have heard a story up there to that effect. I think the hon. gentleman knows something about the width of the streets. However, I have no doubt that he is a good temperance man because he joined the temperance lodge immediately after this memorable ride, and therefore he ought to be able to speak with authority on this subject. I do not wish to shirk this question at all, I will make my position very plain upon it. I think the Government of the day have done perfectly right, and I am willing to take the responsibility for what I say here, because the district that I represent gave a majority in favour of prohibition. But, Sir, the majority was small, the vote polled was small, as it was all over the Dominion. I do not think the Government would be justified in bringing in a prohibitory measure on a vote of 23 per cent of the people. I have had some experience with the prohibitory law in the North-west Territories, because I was there in the old prohibition days. Unless you have the people behind this law you cannot enforce it. What is the use of passing legislation when you know everybody is going to break it? There is no sense in doing that at all. The trouble is to get the public to look at a breach of a prohibitory law in the same light as they do a breach of any other law. That is my experience on this question in the North-west Territories years ago. We could not get the people to look at it as a crime, the people in the country were breaking the law continually, and the member for West Assiniboia knows that. I say that in order to enforce a law of that kind we have got to have the people behind us. Another thing—what do you propose to do with the province of Quebec?—notwithstanding the story that we heard from my hon. friend from Compton (Mr. Pope) about stuffing the ballot-boxes, and all that sort of thing. No matter what he may say, the fact remains that the province of Quebec, by a sweeping majority, voted against it. Are you going to pass legislation to coerce the province of Quebec? You cannot do that. This is a question the people of the provinces will have to settle themselves. The only way this matter can be

settled is by an amendment to the British North America Act to allow the people of each province to deal with it themselves. If the people of Quebec want to drink liquor, the people of Ontario have no right to force their views down their throats; and if the people of Ontario wish to have prohibition, why should the people of Quebec force their views on the people of Ontario? The only thing to do is to allow each province to settle this question locally; and that is the position that this Government or any Government will eventually have to take. I was speaking with a temperance man in my district, one of the leaders, and I said: Do you suppose you could enforce a prohibitory law in this country? Look at the enormous extent of our boundary line from the Atlantic to the Pacific; look at the scattered settlements. How do you propose to enforce a prohibitory law in this country? How are you going to enforce these prohibitory laws?" He said that it should be done. I said: "Supposing that a prohibitory law were passed, and you saw your neighbour going home with a gallon keg of whisky, would you consider it your duty to inform upon him?" The answer was: "No." I said: "Suppose you saw a man stealing another's cow, or burning his house, would you go and inform on him?" The answer was: "Yes." That is the way it is all over the country. You cannot get people to look upon breaking such a law as a crime. There is no use of trying to pass a prohibitory law without having at least half of the people behind it, because you must assume that those people who do not take sufficient interest in the question to go to the polls, are against prohibition.

Now, I want to speak a few words about some charges that were levelled by the hon. member for West Assiniboia in reference to the administration of the Yukon. He made some serious charges, but, like the rest of the charges made by the hon. gentleman, he fails to present the proofs. What proof has the hon. gentleman given us that any of the officials in the Yukon have misbehaved themselves? He has no proofs; he attacks Mr. Ogilvie, and says he is not a fit person to act as commissioner to investigate these charges. Mr. Ogilvie has the confidence of the people of this country, be they Liberals or Conservatives. I have known him for a long time; he has worked in my district, and no finer man ever came into that part of the country. The hon. member for West Assiniboia has not a tittle of proof that any wrong-doing has been done in the Yukon, but he comes here and asks this House to take his statements without evidence. I am quite willing to compare the administration of the affairs of the Yukon, as carried on by the present Government, with the administration of affairs in any new country that has been opened up, into which there has been a rush of placer miners, such as took place in the Yukon. I am willing to

compare the administration of the Yukon with the administration in California in 1847. Hon. gentlemen opposite may say, that this administration was not under the British flag. Well, I will take a country that is under the British flag, and I will say, that I am quite willing to compare the administration of affairs in Australia in the early days of the gold fever there, when there were bushrangers and all kinds of people about, and where many murdered men were found. That was under the British flag. I will come nearer home, and I will compare the administration of affairs in the Yukon with the administration of affairs in Manitoba by hon. gentlemen opposite, when they started in to open up that country. It is not so many years ago; we all know how hon. gentlemen bungled in that respect. We know about how they sent their lieutenant-governor and their officials up to take possession of the country, when they had no right to take possession of it. We had the beautiful spectacle of a lieutenant-governor, appointed by the Crown, holding court on American territory. The bungling of the Government of that day and their officials started a rebellion in Manitoba. Hundreds of good, loyal British subjects were shut up in Fort Garry and starved, and it ended in the unfortunate murder of poor Scott. This was the kind of administration that was given in that country. I will go further than that, because it may be said, that Manitoba was isolated at that time, and that it was impossible to reach it without going through American territory, though the same may be said of the Yukon district to-day. The late Government undertook to open up the North-west Territories, which were in no sense isolated. They were connected with the east by a great railway, by that great band of iron that hon. gentlemen opposite are so fond of talking about. The Government sent up there all the political hacks of the east, as officials, and these people were responsible for that unfortunate rebellion, where millions of treasure were destroyed, where the blood of innocent people was shed, where the houses of hundreds of people were burned over their heads. Yet hon. gentlemen opposite will get up and talk about the condition of affairs in the Yukon. Two rebellions inside of fifteen years is their record. After the officials had caused that rebellion, the Government sent a commission to investigate, with the result that every person who was a voter and a supporter of hon. gentlemen opposite, was paid for everything he lost, and a great deal more than he lost. I know of one case, where a man was allowed \$13,000 for a lot of stuff that he could carry on his back. If that man had been a Liberal, there would have been nothing for him at all. I will instance the case of two widows, who were like the women grinding at the mill, in the sense that one was taken, and the other was left. One happened to be the

widow of a Conservative, with a son; the other the widow of a Liberal, and she also had a son. The Conservative widow was paid her account in full, while the other widow never got a cent. The hon. member for West Assiniboia mentioned the names of several officials—among them, that of Mr. McGregor. He said—I speak subject to correction—that he was a horse thief. Is that not what the hon. gentleman said? Well, I see no difference between one who steals a farmer's horse, and a man who steals the character of an official 3,000 miles away. One steals the horse and is amenable to the law; but the other steals the official's character, knowing that there is no punishment to be meted out to him, because he is protected by this roof, under which we stand to-day. I am quite willing to compare Mr. McGregor, a man with unblemished reputation, with such men as Bedson, Hayter Reed, General Middleton, and a gang of satellites, who went up during the rebellion to plunder the poor people. Talk about a horse thief! Bedson, who was one of the great pushers in the Conservative party, drove away a whole herd of horses, besides which, he is known as to have taken a man's billiard table. We have Middleton taking Bremner's furs, and taking a horse belonging to a half-breed, named Champagne. He was brought before Judge Burbidge, who found that he had taken the horse. Champagne was offered \$200 for his horse. They took everything but the red-hot stove, and they would have taken that, if they could have got their hands on it. It ill-becomes the hon. gentleman to talk about the affairs of the Yukon. I think the administration of affairs in the Yukon will compare favourably with the administration of affairs in the North-west Territories under the regime of the hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House.

I just want to devote a few minutes further to my hon. friend from West Assiniboia. There was one misstatement that he made on the platform at Prince Albert; I heard him speaking to the people there, and I could hardly keep from laughing. He said: "Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, if there is one thing more than another that I am known for, it is my sincerity." Talk about the sincerity of the hon. member (Mr. Davin). Why, he has been moving motions in this House for several years, and then taking to the woods, so that he would not vote for them.

Mr. DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I ask the hon. gentleman's permission to make a statement.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis) has made a statement for which there is not the least foundation in fact.

Mr. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). The hon. member (Mr. Davin) moved a resolution in

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this House one time and voted against his own resolution. Does he say he did not do that?

Mr. DAVIN. There is no truth whatever in it.

Mr. DAVIS. I suppose I will have to accept the hon. gentleman's statement, but we will see about that later on. When he is in the Territories, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) is a great advocate of free binder twine, and in this House used to sweat in every pore over the wrong that was being done the farmers, and his own paper, the Regina "Leader" used to publish his long speeches, freely interlarded with applause and immense enthusiasm. Now, in the session of 1891 the present Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) moved that binder twine be put on the free list, but the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) voted against that, and he excused himself on the ground that he did not know what his constituents wanted in the matter, and in the Regina "Leader" there is an article on binder twine, April 7th, 1892, in which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) wrote:

In the interests of the farmers of Western Assiniboia, the "Leader" raises its voice against the duty on binder twine. We have felt for years that the National Policy bore too heavily on the North-west, and with regard to the particular item of binder twine, no one has come forward to defend a proceeding which compels the farmers to pay some \$400,000 more for the twine than the twine is actually worth.

There are more farmers in the Territories now than there were then, and if in 1891, as the hon. gentleman asserts, \$400,000 would be saved to the farmers of the North-west Territories, then according to the same calculation, \$1,000,000 is saved to the farmers now by this Government putting binder twine on the free list. The hon. gentleman made a speech in Parliament supporting a reduction of duty on binder twine, and it will be interesting to see how he voted. It was a very pathetic speech; his sympathy was oozing out of every pore for the poor farmers of the Territories, but when it came to the test vote, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) turned around and voted against the resolution. He could send his speech to the farmers in the North-west Territories, but they were not in a position to know how he voted, and they no doubt would come to the conclusion that he voted as he spoke. Such, however, was not the case. The hon. gentleman is very fond of talking about independence in this House, but where is there any independence in conduct like that. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) told us in one of his speeches, and I agree with him for once, that the air of the North-west Territories was so invigorating and so fine that any man who drank in that ozone never wished to leave the Territories. But, Mr. Speaker, I know that on several occasions the hon. gentle-

man (Mr. Davin) was only too anxious to leave the Territories, if he could be pitchforked in as Minister of the Interior at Ottawa. We all know how disappointed he was when Mr. Dewdney was hoisted in over his head. We all know that he called the Ministers of that day a cabinet of antiques, and stated that he could not supply them with brains. I suppose the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) has forgotten this, but we in the North-west Territories have not forgotten it, and we feel like keeping him in mind of it. The record shows that in 1893, when the Postmaster General again moved that binder twine be placed on the free list, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) supported the motion in his speech and voted against it. In 1893 Mr. Dalton McCarthy moved the following resolution:

Since the introduction of the protective system, sufficient time has elapsed for the establishment and development of such manufacturing industries as, under existing conditions, can be successfully carried on in Canada. Moreover, many manufacturers sheltered behind the rampart thus erected have formed combinations and trusts which prohibit competition and maintain monopolies.

That the existing tariff, defensible only as a protective measure, has proved in many instances oppressive and burdensome to the great mass of the consuming classes, and especially to those engaged in agricultural pursuits; is unfair and unequal in its incidence, and has been productive of discontent, verging on disloyalty, among those who suffer from its injustice.

That no sufficient reason has been adduced, or exists, requiring investigation respecting the foregoing facts, which are notorious, nor justifying delay in the passage of remedial legislation, which is imperative.

The hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) on that occasion shirked the vote, and he explained the matter, in an article which he sent to the Regina "Leader," his own paper, and which it will be very interesting for the House to hear. He said:

Any resolution impugning the existing fiscal policy is, as demonstrated on the strictly party vote on Mr. McCarthy's motion, regarded as one expressing want of confidence in the Government. It was impossible for Mr. Davin, advocating a protective tariff, to support a resolution condemning such a tariff and suggesting unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, but we do not exaggerate when we say that Mr. McCarthy's proposals of reduction of customs met with the private approval of many members of both parties. It is easily understood that, with party discipline—

It had his "private" approval, but he was afraid to vote for it. These are the words of a man who is constantly talking about his independence and sincerity. I would call the attention of the House to the last sentence in this article. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) thought it was a terrible thing for the late Mr. Jameson to say something of that sort, but here he is writing the very same thing himself that he condemned in others. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) has said and written so much that

he actually does not know what he has said and written. He reminds me of a story which I will repeat for his benefit. A gentleman once had a parrot and a dog, and the parrot was trained to say "Sic 'im," so that the dog would jump up and tackle any other dog that happened to be around. One day the parrot was perched on the back of a chair, and the dog was lying on a mat on the floor. The parrot said "Sic 'im," and the dog jumped up, but finding no other dog around he went for the parrot, and in a few moments there was a confused mixture of parrot and feathers and dog. The parrot escaped and started to scratch the side of his head, and on reflecting, he called out: I know what is the matter with me, I talk too much. So it is with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin). He talks too much, and he does not remember half the time what he has said. In order to keep up the farce with his constituents, on the 13th February, 1893, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) moved the following resolution:

That it is the opinion of this House that the duty on barbed wire, on agricultural implements, on coal oil and on cotton should be reduced so as to give no more than reasonable protection, and that the duty on binder twine should be abolished.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) was willing at that time to have a reasonable protection, but now he is extremely anxious that the whole thing should be wiped out. He has changed his mind since he went on the other side of the House. Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman never pressed this motion to a division, but as is customary with him, when the question came before the House, the hon. gentleman retreated to the woods.

Mr. A. CAMPBELL (Kent). He got under the barn.

Mr. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). Yes, he got under the barn. The present Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) had previously introduced a resolution to make binder twine free, but this the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) opposed, and I will read a brief extract from his speech as reported in his own paper:

Mr. Foster had promised to make known the Government policy on the tariff, and in the face of such a request he (Davin) could not have voted for the motion. Had he done so, he would have been supporting what, coming from a member of the Opposition, was practically a vote of want of confidence in the Government.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) did not know as much then about the intentions of his own Government as he seems to know now about the intentions of the present Government. He was apparently not "the greatest orator in Canada" then, as they recently billed him in the North-west Territories.

Now, in the session of 1893, Mr. Cleveland had a motion for free coal oil, and respecting this, the hon. member for West Assiniboia, sent the following to his paper on 13th February, 1893:—

"A proposal was now before the House to abolish the duty on coal oil. He (Davin) could not go that far,—

To-day I find he is asking for free coal oil. How things change in a few years when a man moves from one side of the House to the other.

—but that the duty should be reduced. Speaking on binder twine, he (Davin) made a strong appeal for free binding twine for the farmers of Manitoba and the North-west."

Members from the west can congratulate the hon. gentleman on any strong appeals he may make, but we would like to see him at least consistent enough to vote as he speaks in the House.

I am sorry I have had to take up so much time in referring to the hon. gentleman, but he has not been very complimentary to me. On Friday night, in his speech, the hon. member said—I quote this from "Hansard":

I will do anything to oblige my hon. friend. Is that my hon. friend from Saskatchewan (Mr. T. O. Davis) who is making an interruption? Let us have a good one, as he said when he went into a Winnipeg cigar store the other day, and the storekeeper asked him whether he would like a foreign or a domestic cigar. "I do not know," he said, "but give us a good one."

From that I infer that the hon. member for West Assiniboia thought I did not know the difference between an imported and a domestic cigar. I can tell him that I have sold as well as smoked plenty of imported as well as domestic cigars, and I can tell him that not only do I know the difference between them, but I can tell an Irish jackass when I see him.

The hon. member for West Assiniboia says he was the means of getting \$20,000 for the people of the North-west Territories for creameries. The hon. gentleman forgets that the present Government has spent for creameries in the North-west Territories not less than \$32,000; so that the people evidently got from this Government a great deal more than the hon. member asked for. He must have great influence with this Government, but he evidently had the ground work laid in the Supplementary Estimates of 1896-97 to which I alluded a little while ago.

Now, I repeat the challenge which I have already made to the hon. gentleman. The hon. gentleman, in the town hall at Prince Albert, made certain statements with regard to the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of the Interior, calling them thieves and everything else. I told my people that I would challenge him on the floor of the House to repeat those charges here. I now ask him if he is prepared to go on and formulate those charges.

Hon. gentlemen opposite say that this Government have done nothing. I heard

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the hon. leader of the Opposition make that remark. He said he would like to see what they had done. Well, for one thing they have settled the Manitoba school question. That is something that bothered us in the Territories, and that question is settled, and settled to the satisfaction of the people of the west, and I presume, from the different members who are walking into this House from the province of Quebec, that it is settled to the satisfaction of the people of that province as well. If hon. gentlemen opposite had been returned to power, I have no doubt that, with their accustomed bungling, they would have mismanaged that question as they did the affairs of the North-west Territories and Manitoba in their early days, until they would have had another rebellion on their hands, with another waste of the country's blood and treasure. The right hon. the leader of the Government promised to settle that question, and he has settled it successfully.

Another thing the Government have done is this: they have brought the Intercolonial Railway into Montreal, which I claim is greatly in the interest of the people of the west, because it is giving us a competing line all the way from Parry Sound on the Georgian Bay to the Atlantic Ocean, something we greatly needed. If the Intercolonial Railway was ever going to be a paying concern, it should not be left to end in a buckwheat field, but it should have a terminus in a great commercial centre. I have no doubt that when the returns are brought down we shall find that that road is paying well.

One of the greatest cries about the tariff was that the present Administration did not take off the duty on agricultural implements. Now, I am strongly of the opinion that that was a war measure. The hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), in an article in his paper, said that the reduction in duty was a substantial relief, and all the farmers could expect; but to-day he wants agricultural implements put on the free list. He is not satisfied to-day with what satisfied him when his friends were in power. It all depends on whose ox is gored. If hon. gentlemen opposite had got into power again, it would not have been many months before they would have put the duty back to 35 per cent. I am sorry the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) is not in the House. In the late election in West Huron he said the Government were doing too much for the farmers of this country. I have here what he said, and I will read it:

To the Editor of the Signal.

Dear Sir,—I notice that the speakers for Mr. McLean are telling the farmers what the Tory Government would do for them if they got in power; yet, strange to say, the story they tell on the other side is entirely opposite.

I had a call from Mr. McLean and his henchman, Mr. Taylor, the Conservative whip of the House of Commons, at my office on Wednesday morning, and during our conversation Mr. Taylor said: "What we want, Mr. Saunders, is more

protection to manufacturers. The Government is doing altogether too much for the farmer. If we (the Tory party) were in power, we would raise the duty on agricultural implements to 45 per cent, and there would be no free binder twine or barb wire. It is the manufacturer we want to help. What is the use of pandering to the agricultural vote? The present Government is doing too much of that."

There is the statement, signed "A. Saunders."

Mr. SAM. HUGHES (North Victoria). Mr. Speaker, with the permission of the hon. gentleman, I would like to make a statement in connection with that. Mr. Taylor is not present, but I saw him, and I saw his denial of that statement. He gave an unqualified denial of it from first to last, and published his denial in Huron during the election.

Mr. DAVIS. Well, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman who signed this is the manager of an organ factory, a very respectable man in West Huron.

An hon. MEMBER. He is a Grit.

Mr. DAVIS. The hon. gentleman says he has seen a contradiction of this by the hon. member for South Leeds. Did he see a contradiction of it by Mr. Saunders?

Mr. HUGHES. I saw a contradiction by Mr. Taylor, backed up by Mr. McLean, the gentleman who is reported to have been present.

Mr. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). Then it is a question of veracity between the hon. member for South Leeds and this gentleman, who is a very respectable man in West Huron. I do not wish to go through a long list, but we know, as a matter of fact, that this Government has done a great deal for the people. We know that our trade is increasing by leaps and bounds and that immigrants are flocking into the North-west. The leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) said out in West Huron, that the reason why the great West had not filled up and why the two hundred millions of bushels output of grain yearly, which he at one time predicted that country would supply, was not taking place, was the low price of wheat. That alone, he said, has kept the country back. But, Mr. Speaker, when the late Government succeeded the Government of Mr. Mackenzie, what was the position? There was then some 12,000 people in the Territories, and when the late Government went out there was 80,000 people in them. Thus, in eighteen years, not more than sixty thousand people went in and settled. But since this Government has been in office, the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) has put 30,000 good settlers into that country in the last year, and I venture to say that at the end of this year, we will find that 40,000 more have gone in, and if this party should remain in power during the next eighteen or twenty years, as I am confident it will—

for notwithstanding all hon. gentlemen may say, they will have to get a policy and cease scolding before the people will listen to them—we will find a million people in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, and then we will see the two hundred millions bushels of wheat, which the leader of the Opposition predicted, coming out of that country. But that will be under Liberal rule, and not under such bungling rule as we at last succeeded in freeing ourselves from.

I do not wish to follow the example set by the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), nor that given us by the leader of the Opposition. I do not care to weary the House by attempting to rival either of them. I shall therefore conclude by saying merely this, that knowing, as I do, the people of the North-west Territories—and I know at least as much about public feeling there as does the hon. member for West Assiniboia—I claim that they are satisfied that this Government is doing all it can in the interests of the farmers, and it has done a great deal. I have letter after letter from supporters of the opposite party, some of them the head men of that party, to bear out what I say. I can tell the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) that one of his own constituents in the Saskatchewan district, a retired British officer, who formerly was always the head centre of the Conservative party out there, told me he was perfectly satisfied with this Government, and was going to support it at the next general election, and I have similar assurances from hundreds of others. The hon. member has made many abortive attempts at organizing in the North-west Territories, but has never succeeded in getting together more than a corporal's guard, and it is an ordinary occurrence to find, at the close of a meeting which he has addressed for two or three hours at a time, those who listened to him give three cheers for Laurier as the meeting breaks up. Notwithstanding what organization he may attempt out there now, and though he may continue organizing from this to doomsday, he will find that when a general election comes on, he and his party will be swept out of existence. He will not even have the vote of the returning officer the next time to give him a seat in this House.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE (Marquette). There being so few representatives, Mr. Speaker, on this side of the province of Manitoba, I deem it my duty to take advantage of this debate on the Address to touch upon a few of the subjects that I consider would be interesting to that particular portion of the Dominion; and in doing so I do not at all propose to follow the hon. gentleman who has just sat down in all his peripatations from Dan to Beersheba, bringing as he did, a lot of irrelevant matter with which this Parliament should have nothing whatever to do. As a medical man, it recalled to my mind an interesting phase of human nature, and that is, how long a man's tongue will continue to

wag after his brains have ceased to work. The hon. gentleman stated that he can always tell an Irish jackass when he sees one. I have not the least doubt of it, Mr. Speaker, because from long study before the looking-glass, he ought to be thoroughly well acquainted with the appearance of that animal. I can quite well understand that my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) must have hit the hon. gentleman pretty hard during the campaign, for otherwise we would not have had him attempting a stump speech in the House to-day for the purpose, as he himself says, of distributing it among his constituents, and the best evidence that he did not base his statements on facts, is the fact that every time he was called to order he had to take something back. Life is too short for me to attempt to correct the inaccuracies he was guilty of, for his whole speech was a tissue of unfounded facts and has only to be read by any intelligent person to find—I will not say the untruthfulness—but the inaccuracies of his statements.

The hon. gentleman indulged considerably in personalities and accuses the hon. member for West Assiniboia of having attempted to make a temperance lecture in a church. Well, if we can judge of the number of times the hon. member for Saskatchewan has been at church by the language he has used in this House to-day, no one can suspect him of having attended church, either for the purpose of making a temperance lecture or listening to one or for any other purpose.

Let me take a few samples from the hon. gentleman's speech which will give you an idea of the character of the whole, for if we are to judge the other parts of his speech on the same basis we will see how very far he was from stating the facts. In the first place, let me say that the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), from his seat the other day, accused the hon. gentleman of having made an immoral bargain with regard to his own election; and I notice that the hon. gentleman did not attempt to deny the charge. The facts are these. The hon. gentleman was opposed by a member of his own party, Mr. McPhail, and we are thoroughly conversant with the fact that there was a considerable split in the Liberal party in Saskatchewan at the Dominion elections. The hon. gentleman's election was protested by his opponent, Mr. McPhail, and this protest created so much trouble in the party that the present lieutenant-governor of the Territories was sent up to Calgary to untangle the twisted threads. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, by mistake, went to the wrong Mr. Davis and put his foot in it, and as a result the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) had to send his own brother out from Calgary to undo the mischief. An arrangement was then made in order to get Mr. McPhail to drop his protest, by which the patronage was to remain in Mr. McPhail's hands, the cost of entering the protest to be borne by the present member for Saskatchewan, and the present member was to re-

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tain his seat. I am not going to give this on my own authority, but will prove it by the affidavit of the defendant himself, the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis). This is the amended defence put in by the hon. member for Saskatchewan. I may say that the defendant had given a note for \$180 to pay the expenses of the protest which had been entered against him to have that protest dropped:—

The defendant says:

That he made the said note for and on account of certain costs incurred by the payee in the prosecution by the payee of a certain election petition filed by the payee of the said note against the defendant, the duly elected member of the House of Commons of Canada for the district of Saskatchewan, in which petition certain acts of misconduct on the part of the defendant's agents at such election were preferred against such agents, which charges, if proved, would be sufficient to unseat the defendant and render such agents amenable to the provisions of the Dominion Controverted Elections Act in that behalf; and the said note, as given as aforesaid, to prevent inquiry into the said charges and insure the abandonment and dismissal of said petition, and to illegally suppress the same, as the payee then well knew; and said note was endorsed to the plaintiff after due, and the said note and the consideration therefor were and are illegal and contrary to public policy.

There was a second affidavit by the same gentleman, which reads as follows:—

I, Thomas O. Davis, of the town of Prince Albert, in the North-west Territories of Canada, merchant, make oath and say:

1. I am the defendant in this action.  
2. The circumstances under which I signed the note sued on herein are set out briefly in count 3 of the former affidavit made by me and filed herein, and in my examination before the clerk of this honourable court in respect thereof.

3. The note sued on herein was made after and as a result of certain negotiations which have been conducted by me, and on my behalf, with a view to having a certain election petition abandoned which has been filed by the payee of said note against my election and return as a member of Parliament, and in which certain charges of alleged misconduct by agents were made. Many of the events of the said negotiations have escaped my memory, but I now recollect more clearly than when I made my said former affidavit the circumstances immediately attending the making of the said note, which were as follows:—

One of the conditions voluntarily assumed by me, and which I was prepared to carry out when informed that the said payee had decided to abandon his said petition, was to pay the said petitioner's costs, which I was advised I was liable therefor. However, when I found that the sum demanded was \$175, I declined to pay the same, as I considered the amount excessive; but I was then told that unless I agreed to pay the said amount, or whatever sum might be due for costs from the said petitioner, the said election petition would not be abandoned, but would be continued in the name of another petitioner, and I thereupon signed the said note as an agreement to pay the said sum as costs. I think I was promised an itemized statement of these said costs, but I never received the same. I was not aware until long afterwards that my agreement to pay the said costs under the circumstances herein-

before set forth, was contrary to law or public policy, and when I did become aware that my said agreement was illegal I repudiated said note and refused to pay same.

I make this affidavit in explanation of the facts deposed to in my affidavit filed herein and my oral examination held thereunder, and in support of my application for leave to amend my defence.

This is the evidence of the immoral bargain the hon. member for West Assiniboia had charged the hon. member for Saskatchewan with being a party to. I have never heard of any petition that was made against any member being returned to this House and the defendant paying the costs without some consideration. The consideration in this case was that the party who had filed the petition should retain the patronage of the constituency, the hon. member retaining the seat.

Now, I would just take up a few of the items which were referred to by the hon. member for Saskatchewan. The hon. gentleman attempted to impress this House with the idea that the preferential tariff was a very great benefit to our people, that a great number of the articles were being imported from Great Britain. But take, for instance, the item of tar paper, which was one of the items he brought forward as illustrating the benefit to our western farmers of the preferential tariff. The value of tar paper brought into this country last year was \$8,031. How much of that came from Great Britain do you think? Just \$754 worth, while \$7,867 worth came from the United States. Practically the same is shown in the case of wood screws. The value of these imports last year was \$10,565. Of this \$499 worth came from England while a little over \$10,066 worth came from the United States—about one-twentieth of the imports being affected by the preferential tariff. Then take the item of pronged forks. The number imported last year was 58,098, of which 50 came from Great Britain. What wonderful saving to the people to have had a reduction of duty on 50 pronged forks. The hon. gentleman has told us that this Government has given us free barbed wire. It is true they have put barbed wire on the free list. But it happens that nearly all the barbed wire industries were run by those who were Conservatives in politics. But the case of woven wire was different. Woven wire was manufactured in the county of Essex. The hon. member for North Essex (Mr. McGregor) is an ardent free trader when it applies to the other fellow, but a great protectionist when an industry in his own constituency is affected. And so we have barbed wire on the free list, while woven wire comes in under a high duty. Binder twine also they have put on the free list. But under the old tariff that paid only a revenue duty of 12½ per cent. But in the way this duty was taken off the peculiar methods of the Government in discriminating in favour of their political friends were exemplified. They sold the output of the

penitentiary binder twine plant to their friend Mr. Hobbs, of London, and delayed the time when the twine should come in free until he had been able to sell out. The hon. member for Saskatchewan even had the hardihood to mention coal oil. Of course the people are buying it for a mere song, now that the Government has made the enormous reduction of one cent a gallon in the duty. The legislation of this Government with regard to coal oil has had the effect of handing over our oil industry to the greatest monopoly that exists in this or any other country, a monopoly so powerful as to be able to hold up our railways with a demand of discrimination in their favour, threatening that otherwise they would take their tank cars to lake ports. They have succeeded in closing up small rival concerns and have bought many of the best wells at Petrolia. This is an octopus that has stretched out its arms and grasped and seized—

Mr. JOHN FRASER (East Lambton). Mr. Speaker, I ask permission to say a word. The company to which the hon. gentleman refers has not purchased any oil wells—

Mr. ROCHE (Marquette). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fraser, Lambton) may be an authority on some of the oil wells, but I hardly think he can be an authority on all the oil wells in the Dominion of Canada. I may mention also that coal oil is dearer than it was under the old tariff, as we might expect, considering they have handed over this business to the most gigantic monopoly that exists in this or any other country. We have also been told that freight rates have been greatly reduced since the accession of the Liberals to power, because of the contract with the Crow's Nest Pass road. The hon. member for Saskatchewan forgets to say that in accordance with their well known policy for years past, the Canadian Pacific Railway had reduced rates before that, and they have reduced them since. They had reduced the rate previous to that, and since then they have reduced the rate on the eastern section of the road, where the Crow's Nest Pass contract does not affect it at all. Surely, the hon. gentleman is not going to have the hardihood to claim all this reduction as a result of the contract made between that company and the Government on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway. He has seen fit to refer to the hon. member for West Assiniboia, and to the members of the Conservative party in his district, as having a very limited use for the leader of the Opposition, whose name, he says, is scarcely ever mentioned up there. He should, however, have told this House that one of the liveliest Conservative associations in the whole North-west Territories exists in his own town, at Prince Albert, to-day, and recently had one of the most enthusiastic meetings known in the history of that town, endorsing the actions and policy of the hon. leader of the Opposition. Now, that hon. gentleman,

in dealing with the Yukon policy of the present Government, had to go back, for a comparison, to the policy of other countries fifty years ago. He could not get a modern parallel, but had to go back to the days of the rebellion, and he accused the member for West Assiniboia of having so little manliness as to denounce a man 3,000 miles away. The member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) did far worse than that. He reflected upon the character of the dead: he characterized as a satellite of the Conservative Government a man who is to-day in his grave—General Middleton. He also reflected upon another gentleman as a "satellite" at that time of the Conservative Government, our honoured Governor General of the Dominion of Canada. He says that political hacks were sent up to that country. I would like to know what he would call McGregor, if not a political hack. What qualification had this man for the position he was sent up there to fill? He was a dealer in horses, and he was sent up there as inspector of mines. After coming back, he declared that he did not care whether he returned to the Yukon or not, as he had made a competency sufficient to enable him to live at ease the rest of his life. And still, they placed this man in a dual position of commissioner of mines and license commissioner. Mr. Wade, the Crown prosecutor, was a political hack, and one who had so little respect for the dignity of his profession as to take the law into his own hands and to thrash a newspaper correspondent who reflected upon him in his newspaper.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne is supposed to contain a prospectus of the measures that we are to adjudicate upon, a programme that is mapped out by the Government of the work of the session. It should be a fair indication of the length of time that we are likely to be here, and should afford us an indication of the matters that Parliament is expected to deal with. Judging the present Speech by this rule, I think it could be disposed of in a short time, and with but little expense to the country. Indications, however, are not wanting to impress us with the idea that the half has not been told. It looks as if the Government were purposely keeping back until the latter end of the session some of the most important measures that may engage the attention of Parliament, when, of necessity, they cannot receive that careful consideration and attention that their importance demands. The Government are probably acting on the principle, that they do not believe in making themselves a target for their political opponents at the beginning of the session, and hope in this manner to escape the criticism that they would otherwise receive. Thanks, however, to parliamentary practice, Her Majesty's loyal Opposition are not restricted to this narrow limit, and we intend to take full advantage of the privilege, and to do full justice to the occasion by antic-

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pating some of those prospective acts of the Government that they have, thus far, seen fit to keep in the background. The able criticisms that have emanated from this side of the House, have undoubtedly covered the whole political field pretty thoroughly, and I recognize how difficult it is for a young member of the House to put forward any thing very original under the circumstances. Knowing, however, that the truth will stand repetition, however unpalatable it may prove to hon. gentlemen opposite, I have no apology to offer for the few remarks I purpose addressing to the House. Time was, and not so very long ago, when any allusion to the prosperity that our country was enjoying in the past, while a Conservative Government was in power, was met with ridicule on the part of our opponents. If any hint were made that this prosperity was in any way attributable to the Government of the day. They were the last to acknowledge the improved condition of trade and the first to deny the Government connection with the same. But what a change has come over the spirit of their dreams. Now that there has been a general revival of trade throughout the universe, a revival that had already been foreshadowed in the last Budget speech of the late Finance Minister (Mr. Foster), now that Canada is participating in this revival, in common with other countries, we find those same gentlemen, who formerly combatted the contention that the Government had anything to do with bringing about such a condition of affairs, trying to take credit to themselves as the originators and promoters of this prosperity. Good crops and better prices are treated as a mere secondary consideration by them in the part they play in the national prosperity, and we are asked to look with admiration on these immaculate statesmen, who, by their magic wand, have effected this change, though, when we ask for details, they are remarkably dumb. What a fortunate thing it would be for them, if they had no past history, if their past utterances did not, like Hamlet's ghost, confront and haunt them day by day. What a relief to them it would be; but, even as it is, what they do not ignore, they repudiate, and what they do not repudiate, they boldly swallow. During the severe business depression that existed between 1873 and 1878, the Conservative Opposition of that day did not blame the Government as being the cause of such depression. What they did blame them for was, for not taking some steps to overcome the depression, and, by the adoption of a national policy, assist our manufacturing, mining, fishing and agricultural industries. It was their refusal to do this that brought about their defeat, and, though they at that time acknowledged their inability to cause a revival of trade by legislative enactments, we now find them arrogating to themselves credit which they are thoroughly undeserving of. 'Tis true, the ruthless hand of the destroyer

has been stayed, and the policy which has made Canada's credit in the world stand in a foremost position, has been practically left untouched, except in a few minor particulars, but, in doing so, they have acted contrary to their professions of the past twenty years. Principles have been scattered to the wind, and they have stultified themselves in the eyes of the whole electorate. The western farmers do not forget the promises of free agricultural implements, free coal oil, free lumber and other necessaries of the farm, upon the strength of which they gave their votes to Liberal candidates. Smarting under the sense of being sold, they are but awaiting the opportunity to mete out deserved punishment to those who thus deluded them, and no amount of sophistry, no quibbling or plausible excuses will avail to wipe out the insult offered by the Minister of the Interior, who was one of the loudest declaimers against the outrageous protective policy, and now says the tariff is a settled question. To break the disappointment which the Government know the western people felt after the tariff was first submitted to Parliament, and when it belied all their ante-election pledges, we were told by the western representatives, that it was but an instalment of what was to come, that continued reductions would be made; but now we have the declaration of the man who is supposed to be the guardian of the interests of the western people in the Cabinet, to the effect that it is a dead issue, satisfactory alike to both parties and no longer a bone of contention between political foes.

This opinion, however, is evidently not shared in by an important section of the Liberal party in the west, and the result is we have seen the hon. Minister taken severely to task by the members of the Liberal Association of Winnipeg, who appear to have a greater respect for past professions than he has, and he will find it a difficult feat to reconcile his past and present attitude on this question. A candid confession on his part that he had previously advocated a policy that he now recognizes as one totally unfitted for a country situated as Canada is; that free trade, while perhaps well enough in theory, is an impossibility in practice, an admission that he was wrong in the past, but is now trying to make amends, would have won him at least the respect of both political friends and opponents, and free him from the accusation of duplicity that is now truthfully charged against him. But it is paying a poor compliment to the intelligence of the people to find him labouring to reconcile the present tariff with his free trade theories, and to convince them that the Government had fulfilled their pledges in this respect, had given them a purely revenue tariff, when the merest tyro in politics knows differently. Deceived as the people were in the first instance, they are not likely to be caught with chaff the second time, and

this political acrobat from the west, who blamed his predecessor in the Interior Department for not, as he said, standing firm in the interests of that portion of Canada, the gentleman who came down here with a great flourish of trumpets, and declared he was going to run his own department without interference from any source, until some of his own friends began to look upon him as a political Goliath. Now, we find that the fruits of office have proved too much for his equilibrium, and we see him sacrificing the interests of his own province for the emoluments of office. The expectations of his friends have been shattered, and a corresponding sense of disappointment and chagrin now prevails amongst his previous followers.

The Speech from the Throne refers to the plebiscite, but as the Government evidently looked upon it as a question of minor importance after their past declarations on the subject have now come to the conclusion that discretion is the better part of valour, dismissed it with but two or three lines. We had the unique spectacle of a Government granting a plebiscite, and four Cabinet Ministers stumping against it, the Minister of Agriculture, who introduced the Bill in this House, being the only member of the Government having a word to say in its favour. A house divided against itself is a precursor of the fate to come. Where was our own Minister of the Interior on this question? He always plumed himself in Manitoba as a great temperance advocate, and his friends, or at least a portion of them, took pride in claiming him as a rather goody-goody young man, but I fear that not only have the blandishments of society at the Capital proved too much for him in other respects but also, as evil communications corrupt good manners, so evil associates have corrupted whatever good political morals he had when he came here. Surely, the hon. gentleman, were he sincere, should have raised his voice in its favour, at least have given the cause he professed to have at heart, the influence which his position would carry with it, but no, party interests were paramount with him, temperance principles were good enough to advocate while the Tories were in power, and so he remained dumb as an oyster, and just as slippery. The argument used by the Prime Minister that they had given no pledge to the people in reference to prohibition, but to the party, and that there was an implied agreement amongst themselves that 50 per cent of the total vote would be required before they could act, is not only one of the lamest excuses that ever fell from the lips of a Cabinet Minister, but was also a deliberate act of duplicity practiced upon the temperance people in keeping them in ignorance of the Government's intention, when time and again during last session they were pressed to do so by members on this side of the

House. The very best evidence that the Government never intended enacting a prohibition law, no matter how large the vote might be in its favour, is the declaration made by a member of the Cabinet, Mr. Geoffrion, and on matters of public policy members of the Cabinet are supposed to be agreed, to the effect that the plebiscite was merely granted by the Government to redeem a promise, and in his opinion the granting of it was one mistake the Government had made. He made the declaration that prohibition was the antithesis of Liberalism, that it was opposed to the very essence of Liberal principles, and while the prohibitionists would have their plebiscite, that is all they would get. Now, Mr. Speaker, if that is not a plain declaration of policy on the part of the Government by one of its members, I would like to know what it is. Why, Sir, the temperance people must feel as sold and deceived on this question, as were the free trade Liberals on the Government's tariff policy. Could duplicity go further, could hypocrisy be more apparent. Read the Premier's declaration to the citizens of Winnipeg wherein he promised to carry out the wishes of the electors as expressed at the polls. Was this promise only meant for the party? It was laid down side by side with the plank referring to the tariff. Will he contend that also was only meant for the party? No, those promises were made on behalf of his party to the people at large, and no amount of quibbling will get over that. The fact is, those gentlemen were so long in the cold shades of opposition, that they were willing to promise anything no matter how impossible of fulfilment, to gain the Treasury benches. They became more reckless and daring at each succeeding election, and now when their numerous pledges confront them, when they see their chickens coming home to roost, they find that they had contracted with the people for more goods than they can deliver. Hon. gentlemen opposite know perfectly well that they received thousands of votes at the last election that they otherwise would not have received were it not for the promises made in regard to prohibition and free trade. Do those gentlemen imagine for a moment that the people of this country are so blinded by partisanship that no matter how they are trifled with, how many pledges are broken, how much they may play fast and loose with their principles, that the electorate will overlook all this and support men who have so little respect for political morality? I would despair of our country and its future did I have no higher opinion of our people than to think they would thus wink at such exhibitions of political depravity. If the hon. gentlemen have fulfilled the expectations of their friends, if they have redeemed their pledges, if credit is due them for our present prosperity, why all this dissension in

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their ranks? Why is the Minister of Public Works repudiated in his own province by so many of the Liberal clubs? Why has the Prime Minister been called upon to dismiss him from the Cabinet? Why have the farmers of the eastern counties, Liberal farmers, waited upon him and demanded a fulfilment of past pledges? Why has the Minister of the Interior been referred to in the inaugural address of the president of the Liberal Association of Winnipeg as being the representative of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the Cabinet, and why is the Liberal party of that province rent in twain, into the Sifton and anti-Sifton factions? What is the reason that dozens of influential Liberal papers in every portion of the Dominion are attacking the Government because of the non-fulfilment of those pledges, and boldly accusing them of attempting to force upon the people of Canada some of the most scaly political transactions ever exposed in the history of Canada? Is not this rather an original and peculiar manner of exemplifying the satisfaction the people feel with the Government? Is this a new illustration of the new Liberalism of the present time? Why, Mr. Speaker, there is more dissension, more disunion, more dissatisfaction in the ranks of the Liberal party in every province of the Dominion for the two and a half years that they have been in office, than existed in the Conservative party after having been eighteen long years in power. How could it be otherwise? Contrast the language of the First Minister when several years ago he spoke in Toronto on the question of reciprocity as follows:—

Every great reform has cost the reformers years of labour, and those years I am prepared to give. Though the Democrats may be defeated in the United States, and though Canadians may grow faint-hearted, the Liberal party, so long as I have anything to do with it, will remain true to the cause of unrestricted reciprocity until that cause is successful.

Contrast that language with his language of to-day. There is no equivocation there; who could mistake such a declaration as that? There is none of that airy indefiniteness about it that usually characterizes the utterances of the Prime Minister.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (South Leeds). Who used that language?

Mr. ROCHE (Marquette). The present Prime Minister of Canada did. In the face of that declaration, we had the First Minister declaring on the floor of this House, a few days ago, that the country does not want reciprocity. If that is not an evidence of the weather-cock politician, I do not know what is. I fear there is much truth in the estimate placed on that right hon. gentleman by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte)—some years ago, of course, before the latter accepted office under the present Prime Minister—when he unbosomed himself as follows:—

Mr. Laurier is a man not wanting in polish. \* \* \* He is without large ideas. \* \* \* The fact is, that he has not yet pronounced a single discourse of a nature to manifest in him a man of serious worth. His polished manners, his astuteness, a certain ability in concealing his principles—not far removed from hypocrisy—have won for him his popularity in the country.

And again :

Mr. Laurier is not a nobody ; still less is he what we call a man of talent. He has a character venerated on the outside. Scratch a little and you will discover the mediocrity within. He is not learned ; his speeches show it. His thought never rises above the plane of his prejudices.

He will never be faithful to what he does not possess—principles, sound convictions, or patriotism.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). Who wrote that ?

Mr. ROCHE (Marquette). That was written by Mr. Tarte. Whoever would have imagined that the gentleman who uttered those words, would now be the dictator of the Liberal party, holding a portfolio under the right hon. gentleman he thus referred to in such uncomplimentary terms ? To borrow an expression used in the House not long since, the Prime Minister is supplying the wind, and the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) is supplying the brains.

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

### After Recess.

Mr. ROCHE (Marquette). Mr. Speaker, I had almost concluded my remarks at Six o'clock, when I was paying my respects to the First Minister, and I had quoted the language used concerning him by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte)—language couched in not very complimentary terms. I congratulate the First Minister on the exhibition of Christian charity he has shown in overlooking all this, in forgetting the past, taking that hon. gentleman (Mr. Tarte) into his Cabinet, and now declaring that the best is none too good for him. I am sorry, however, that I cannot congratulate the Prime Minister on the tone of his reply to the speech of the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), in throwing aside his sunny ways and in giving an exhibition of temper that was not calculated to add to the dignity of Parliament, to help his own case, nor to set a good example to the younger members of the House. With such an example, what could we expect from the hon. member from Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) ? We certainly could not expect him to rise above that level that he attained in his speech this afternoon. I think the very best compliment that could be paid to the speech of the leader of the Opposition, was the tone of the Premier's reply. It was personal abuse, bitter invective, and gross misrepresentation, instead of

a statesmanlike reply to a statesmanlike speech.

Passing from this, I will again revert to a comparison of Liberal pledges with Liberal performances, though I know hon. gentlemen opposite do not care for any such comparison. The hardihood of these hon. gentlemen, in claiming that they redeemed their pledges, would be rather amusing, were they not so audacious. They told us, when they were in opposition, that Canada was groaning under a huge debt, a debt that took millions of dollars out of the public treasury in order to pay the interest on it, and they told us, that this debt was to come down with a thud on the accession of the Liberals to power. They told us, also, that taxation was too high, and must be reduced, and they were to cut down the expenditure by from three to four million dollars per annum. We were no longer to see the degrading spectacle of members of Parliament sitting in their places in the House with offers of public positions in their pockets, and compelled to vote for legislation that, in their inmost conscience, they disapproved of, because of the fear of losing these prospective positions. Railway subsidies were to be a thing of the past, as they afforded opportunities for plundering the public treasury and enabled contractors to amass huge fortunes at the country's expense. The Senate was declared to be a repository of broken-down politicians, of defeated candidates, and of men so old as to be in their dotage. Merit alone was to be the qualification for filling public positions, and Conservative Ministers were denounced for appointing relatives to office. Private cars were to be done away with, and ministerial junketing trips were to be heard of no more. Innumerable other reforms were to be inaugurated, if only the people would hearken to the voice of the Liberal candidates, and turn the wicked Tories out.

Well, strange to relate, the people really believed in these professions—or, at least, a sufficient number believed to effect the change the Liberals desired. They did turn the Tories out, and they placed the Liberals in power. They gave them a free hand ; they afforded them the opportunities of their lives, and they waited, with bated breath, to witness these reforms that never came. As we all know, the public debt, instead of decreasing, has gone forward by leaps and bounds until it has reached a height of several millions greater than ever before. The taxation, instead of being reduced, as promised, has also been increased. The expenditure, instead of being cut down three or four millions, has reached a height never before known in the history of Canada. We have seen upwards of a dozen members of Parliament appointed to positions of emolument under the Crown, in direct contravention of the pledges of the Liberal party on this subject. Millions of dollars have been voted for railway subsidies, and millions

more would have gone the same way, if the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) and the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) had had their way; but, thanks to the Upper Chamber, the country was saved this spoliation at their hands by the rejection of the Drummond County and Yukon Railway Bills. Public positions have been given to political favourites, to relatives of Ministers and to members of Parliament, whose only qualification for the positions were because of such relationship and party services of rather a doubtful character. Private cars are still in vogue, and there is scarcely a week during the recess that we do not see them attached to outgoing or incoming trains from the capital city. Ministerial junketing trips are more numerous than ever, and we have seen almost the entire Cabinet go to England, some of them twice and thrice—one of them spends his time almost entirely either in England or on the ocean, going to and fro. A certain number of them have actually been to Rome—upon what mission, we may well imagine. Several of them have crossed the continent to the Pacific coast, and it is rumoured that a number of them have been to Washington—alas! I fear once too often for their own good. And whenever a by-election is about to take place, the handy man of the party, he who shuffles the cards, the man who is versed in the ways that are dark and the tricks that are vain—the Minister of Public Works—soon appears on the scene, with profuse promises of lavish expenditure of public money for harbour improvements, for wharfs, for public buildings, as the particular occasion demands in these constituencies. And when, by unblushing bribery—for bribery it was—they carry those constituencies, how the tocsin of delight is sounded, and we are asked to admire this hero. But, Mr. Speaker, when we take into consideration the cost of those victories, my mind reverts to the old song, which, no doubt, you have all heard, about the man with the vermilion nose:

It's only a brandy blossom painted on his face  
so fair,  
But, oh, what money it cost him to paint that  
blossom there.

So with the by-elections. Hon. gentlemen opposite must admit that they come pretty high, though I presume they must have them. What a spectacle it is to see members of Parliament sitting in their places on the opposite side of the House, who, in Parliament and out of Parliament, have been denouncing for years the gross extravagance and corruption of their predecessors; and now we see them rising in their places and attempting to condone and justify the extravagance and corruption of the present Government, which transcends anything ever known before in the history of our country. Why, Sir, the events of last session constrained the Montreal "Witness," whose Liberalism is unimpeachable, to raise

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its voice in protest in the following language:—

The heavy extra expenditures carried through Parliament this session have been the subject of a good deal of criticism, and have exposed the Liberal Government to a good deal of jeering and jibing. In Opposition, the Liberals strongly objected to the growing tendency of the Government to take all sorts of industries and projects under its wing and foster them with subsidies. They held that steamship lines, railways, manufacturing and other industries, as well as other commercial enterprises, should cease to be dependent upon the Government, and should be left to individual and corporate enterprise, founded upon a pure business basis. That was the theory and policy of the Liberals in opposition, and yet this session, with a Liberal Government in power, new and costly lines of railway have been heavily subsidized, new steamship lines have been given large annual grants, cold storage warehousing and transportation have been undertaken at considerable cost, increased expenditures under canals proposed, and for other projects considerable sums voted. Liberals who have been and are strong supporters of the Government have objected to the Government's course; indeed, they have been, perhaps, the most strenuous all-round opponents of extra expenditure this season. These Liberal critics are, for the most part, the old guard of the party, who have through seventeen years of extravagance been the champions of economy and of free trade and of purity of administration. They hope that the victory of their party meant the immediate radical reform of every abuse, the immediate curtailment of every extra expenditure. They have been disappointed, and have taken no pains to conceal the fact.

This is only one of many instances in which the present Government have met with condemnation from members of their own political household. With a sham policy of preferential trade to deceive the people of England, whether designedly or through ignorance I am not prepared to say, but which has the effect of turning trade more than ever into the United States channels; with free corn and a reduction of the duties on the products of the farm from the United States to compete with the products of our own farmers to their detriment; no wonder our commissioners, after six months of negotiation, have had to return to their country dissatisfied, and unsuccessful in the negotiation of a treaty. With the spoils system in force in almost every department of the public service, and hundreds of Conservative office-holders turned adrift on the slightest pretext, and some on no pretext whatever, except to make room for political favourites of their own; with the Yukon policy of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) being characterized by the most influential journals of Great Britain as a disgrace to any civilized nation; with the spurious editorials appearing in Liberal papers in the North-west, with the intention of making the people believe that they were the spontaneous utterances of the editors of those papers, when, as a matter of fact, they were manufactured in Ottawa and sent out under the personal direction of the Minister of the

Interior ; with the subsidizing of the Liberal provincial press to stem that tide of reaction which has set in against the Government, particularly against himself ; with the Franchise Act so unworkable that we have not had in the province of Manitoba lists revised for three years and a half, the result of which is that the important constituency of Winnipeg has to go unrepresented in this House. But fortunate it is for the Government that that constituency is unrepresented, for if thrown open to-day, they have reason to fear that it would send a representative to this side of the House, who would prove a thorn in the side of the Minister of Public Works at any rate, for the fast and loose manner in which he has been playing with the question of improving the St. Andrew's Rapids. I may say here that the vote on the prohibition plebiscite was taken on lists over three years of age, and was no criterion of the strength of public opinion on that question. If the vote had been taken on up-to-date lists, I am sure that the majority in favour of prohibition would have been several thousand more than it was. Hon. gentlemen opposite have been warned time and again of the notorious character of that provincial Franchise Act, but they paid no attention to the warning. They adopted it blindly, and now they see where they have landed themselves. With all this and much more of a like nature, no wonder that this Government are in disrepute with the people at large. I venture to say that never in the history of Canada has there been an Administration, either in provincial or Dominion affairs, more corrupt, more incapable, and more deserving of public censure than the hybrid conglomeration that now rules Canada under the misnomer of Liberalism.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Mr. Speaker, in continuing this debate on the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne, I wish for a few moments to direct attention to the conduct of the Government and their supporters in this debate. The first exhibition of weakness which we had on that side was the display of bad temper on the part of the leader of the Government in his reply to the leader of the Opposition. It is often said, and said truly, that the man with a bad case is the one who usually gets angry, and this display of bad temper came with much greater force from the hon. gentleman, who is noted for his sunny smile and his good temper on almost all occasions. I could not help thinking that his exhibition of temper on this occasion was an evidence that he had no argument to present to the House and the country, and he had to fall back on the lawyer's device and abuse his opponents. Following him several other hon. gentlemen spoke in support of the Government, and they gave, I presume, the best answer they could to the arguments advanced on this side of the House. But I noticed that in a short time

they abandoned argument and decided to remain silent—from being unable, I presume, to give any answer to the strong indictment which was presented from this side of the House.

I noticed with some significance the fact that the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) intimated it was time this debate was brought to a close, that all had been said which could be said to enlighten the people, and I thought that he might with a great deal of wisdom and propriety have applied that remark to his own side rather than to ours. We then had a few speeches from hon. gentlemen opposite notable for their lack of strength in argument and soundness of reason, the last of which was from the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis), and I was amused at the time he spent this afternoon, over two hours, in endeavouring to answer my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), who had treated this House to a very cogent and logical reasoning on the public matters of the day. As the hon. member for Saskatchewan spent hour after hour in abuse, destitute of logic, or reasoning, I was reminded of a couplet which describes his lucubrations pretty accurately :

When nature made this captain vain,  
She had at hand but few ingredients—  
Was therefore forced to use expedients.  
She put therein a little learning,  
A grain of sense and some discerning,  
And when she saw the void behind  
She filled it up with froth and wind.

I think that would apply to the hon. gentleman very appropriately because his speech was not calculated to convince any person, but largely made up of noise and abuse. His statements did not appear to be founded on fact, for, when repeatedly contradicted, he either took them back or was obliged to admit by his silence that he was entirely wrong in the assertions he made.

I was also amused at a statement made by the right hon. leader of the Government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Speaking of his efforts to obtain reciprocity, he said : We know the hearts and minds of our people at present, and I think I am not making too wide a statement when I say that the feeling in Canada is not in favour of reciprocity. If that be the opinion of the right hon. gentleman, why did he and his colleagues spend six months at Washington endeavouring to get reciprocity ? Was that complimentary to the view which he endeavoured to impress on the electorate for eighteen years, that reciprocity with the United States was the great desideratum. Was it complimentary to the statesmanship of the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright), who, in that memorable letter of his to the "Economist" said that Canada badly required unrestricted reciprocity. He then seemed to think that Canada could not get on without it. In fact he told the people, over and over again, that if the Reform

party were brought to power they would obtain a reciprocity treaty, but that the Conservative party would not try to get it. I thought how sadly he must have been misleading and deluding the people then, when he was forced to admit to-day that we could live and do very well without it, because, although we had lost the market of the United States for our barley, which only gave us in return a few hundred thousand dollars, we had gone into the manufacture of pork, which brought us several million dollars. I am astonished that years ago he did not make that admission, instead of telling the people of Canada that without reciprocity they must go down and continue to go down and would ultimately drift into bankruptcy or the arms of the United States.

I was also most interested in the speech made in Perth by the Minister of the Interior a short time ago, when he said the National Policy was a dead issue to-day and that both parties were agreed on it. The question naturally suggested itself to my mind: How can both parties be agreed? The Conservative party stands to-day where it always stood in defence of the National Policy, believing in its soundness for the requirements of the Canadian people; and if it be a dead issue to-day, that can only be because those who always decried it have abandoned their own arguments and accepted those in favour of that policy. The conduct of the party opposite, since they came into power, bears out that view, because although they invariably told the people that the National Policy was the bone of contention, they no sooner obtained office than, instead of abandoning it, they went on to keep it almost in its entirety as before.

In looking over the Speech from the Throne, I was very much amused at its brevity and the little it contained. In analysing that Speech, I could not but think that hon. gentlemen opposite had the old adage in their mind when concocting it. "the least said, the soonest mended." It started out with congratulations on the great prosperity of Canada, as evinced by expanding trade, increasing revenue, and the large number of immigrants settling in our country, and then refers to the almost total cessation of the exodus which has been going on heretofore. Then it gave us the information that negotiations have been going on between Canada and the United States to settle the difficulties between these two countries. That subject, however, was merely mentioned, and of course we were told by the right hon. leader of the Government and his colleagues, that the House was not in a position to deal with that question, because the question still remained in statu quo, and the Government were not in a position to give us the date or information which would enable us to deal with it intelligently. But if we are in that position, it is because, for some purpose unknown to us, the Government secured an adjournment of that commission until next

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fall. No doubt, however, the object was to prevent this House knowing what was done or to hold back information of what was done, in order, if possible, to give the Government a reasonable excuse for going to the country and saying to the people: Now we are prepared to negotiate a reciprocity treaty, we have named a commission that has done a lot of valuable work, we are on the verge of concluding a treaty to the advantage of the Dominion, and if the Canadian people desires to conclude that treaty, let them send us back to power, because if they do not there will have to be another commission appointed, which our opponents are not likely to do, and all the important work we have accomplished will be lost and all hopes of our obtaining a treaty will disappear. Return us, however, and we are very likely to conclude a treaty to your advantage and interest.

Then mention is made of the plebiscite and the penny postage rate between Canada and the British possessions, and of the reduction in the rate of Canadian postage. Then follows a paragraph stating that much information has been obtained since you last met relative to the extent and value of the deposits of gold and valuable minerals in the Yukon and other parts of Canada.

And we are then treated to the promise that a measure will be submitted to us for a redistribution of the seats, or what is called a gerrymandering of the electoral districts, and after that we are promised several enactments of less importance. It seems to me that the paragraph would have read better in this way:

The only measure of any importance that will be submitted to you will be one for the redistribution of electoral districts in the interests of the Government of the day.

Of course any other matter would be of much less importance to the Government. Then follows this paragraph, which seems somewhat ironical:—

I am confident that the important subjects I have mentioned to you will receive your serious consideration.

On what subjects is serious consideration required? Is it the commission that went to Washington to negotiate a reciprocity treaty? Why, we are estopped in considering that by the action of the Government in keeping everything in the dark which would enable us to intelligently deal with it; so that we might enlighten the country on what was being done, and what was likely to be the result.

Then there was penny postage. We thought that was a thing of the past. It did not seem to me that it required so much consideration, except, it might be, to ascertain what prompted the Postmaster General to do as he did at that particular time. Then there was much information about the Yukon. No doubt, that might properly engage our serious attention. There is much about it we ought to know to tell the people of

Canada. The plebiscite was a thing of the past, and, after the announcement made by the leader of the Government that he and his party had decided not to introduce prohibitory legislation, it might be left in the background. Then we have congratulations with regard to the prosperity of the country. That may call for a little attention at our hands. It might be pertinent to ask: What are the factors in the situation? What contributed to the present prosperity of the country? I presume that the Government intended to lead the country to the inference that the prosperity which we enjoy was, somehow or other, largely due to the conduct of the Government in the management of affairs. If that was not their intention, I do not know what it could have been. The Canadian people will naturally ask: How has our prosperity been brought about? Was it anything done in the two and a half years during which the present Government have held power? Did they introduce great changes in the system of Government which would account for that prosperity or secure it to the Canadian people. In my opinion they did not, and I think that the electors of Canada will come to the same conclusion. What were the items that contributed to that prosperity. In the first place, there was the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway several years ago, by means of which goods are transported across the continent, the manufactures of the east being carried to the consumers of the west, and the produce of the west being brought to our seaports to be sent across to the markets in Europe. There was a large expenditure of money in this way, and its branches and subsidiary lines that act as feeders to it, was an important element in our prosperity. It was the policy of the late Government that opened up the highways of commerce so that the people of Canada might advantageously and economically carry on trade. I have no doubt that gentlemen opposite believed that the Opposition were going to contend that there was no prosperity in Canada. The present Opposition are not likely to take the course their opponents did when they were on this side of the House. We frankly and gladly say that Canada enjoys prosperity to-day, and no one is better pleased to see it than the members of the Opposition. But it is quite in order to analyse the situation and ascertain what contributed to that prosperity. Another great element in our prosperity was the National Policy, which was introduced, organized, systematized and carried out by the Conservative party. It gave employment to labour throughout the country in many different industries, who would otherwise have been unemployed. It had the effect of encouraging the use of the raw material of the country. It also kept the money of Canadians in Canada, and it secured the markets of Canada for the Canadian people. This, to my mind, was one of

the greatest elements contributing to the prosperity which we enjoy to-day. And, as evidence of that, I need only say—what is well known to the people of Canada—that when the present Government came into power, though they had decried the National Policy for eighteen years, they dared not change it, they dared not carry out their policy of free trade as it was in England. They dared not change the policy which had been so instrumental in bringing about the prosperity of the country. Another element in our prosperity was the educational work done by the Experimental Farms which were all established, organized and carried on by the Conservative Government. The effect of this educational work was to increase the product of the farm and of the forest. Not only did it increase the products, but it improved the quality. Moreover, it enabled the Canadian people to direct their energies to the production of the goods required for markets that could be reached to the greatest advantage, and it assisted them in making those goods and preparing them for shipment. The lines of transportation also were improved as a result of work of the late Government, greatly assisting the prosperity of the country. The great transcontinental line of the Canadian Pacific was completed, the enlargement and deepening of the canals carried on and other improvements were made which greatly decreased the cost of transport, thus giving the Canadian producer a better price for what he had to sell. Much was done also to introduce our goods to the English market, by sending over agents to study what the English markets required that could best be furnished by the Canadian farmer. This was part of the educational work commenced several years ago by the Conservative party through the experimental farms and by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Hon. gentlemen opposite speak of the trade done last year and the year before in sending out Canadian products. Let them not forget that trade cannot be stimulated in a day or in a year. This is a work of education, and it requires time. It was done, as I contend, by the experimental farms and other agencies for the education of the Canadian people. Then, again, the late Government devised and mapped out the cold storage system. We have heard what cold storage has done for the farmers, and the present Government assume credit for what has been done. But they are practically using other men's brains. They did not devise this system. It was established, and was being perfected as rapidly as time and money could do it before they came into office. If the accidents of fortune had kept the Conservatives in power, we should have had a much more perfect system of cold storage, and should now be enjoying much greater benefits from the marketing of our products than we now enjoy. Why? Because the present system of cold storage is of a very imperfect char-

acter. It is a mere beginning, and is practically of little value compared with what it would be if it were perfected, which might easily be done.

But in connection with that, what we did require and what we require to-day and what the present Government did not provide for us, but which was being provided by the former Government, would have been achieved, had they remained in power a little longer, was a fast Atlantic steamship line properly equipped for cold storage. We want something more than putting in a few compartments of cold storage in the very imperfect vessels that are crossing the Atlantic to-day, of slow travel and in imperfect condition, vessels that have never been designed for that purpose. What we want are vessels designed for that purpose, fitted out especially for that purpose, so that every article in every line that is sent across in cold storage shall have a separate compartment suited to the requirements of that article. Then it requires to be carried across at the most rapid speed that can be attained. A few days or a few hours make a great difference. I noticed that in some of the reports that came back regarding the products that were sent across to the other side in cold storage, it was stated that they would have arrived a few days earlier in magnificent condition, but towards the last they seemed to deteriorate very rapidly. I thought, what a pity we had not those bottle-necked steamers of which we heard so much, that were going to cross the Atlantic with such great speed. Had the contract which was entered into by the previous Government been carried out, as it should have been carried out, and had those vessels been properly provided as they might have been provided, we would have now been receiving the benefit from such a system. If I know anything about the requirements of trade to-day, one of the most urgent demands is to carry our produce across the Atlantic rapidly and in suitable vessels; these vessels should be made up to date, they should not be vessels made a quarter of a century ago and fitted over again for certain purposes. Unless they are constructed for that purpose, they can never do the work as well and with as much advantage to the people of Canada, nor return the same profit to the producer of Canada, as if they were made up to date with all modern appliances. I say that Canada lost one of her golden opportunities to increase that prosperity mentioned in the Speech from the Throne when this Government cancelled the contract that was entered into for the fast steamship line by their predecessors. Where are they landed to-day? The hon. Minister without portfolio, the member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell), who has been making excursions backward and forward across the Atlantic so many times during the last year, has been telling us what

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magnificent steamers he was providing in those bottle-necked vessels. Well, the bottle-necked ships have been buried in the graves of the hopes of the past. We hear nothing of them to-day, although he has made trip after trip, and the announcement was made in the election in Centre Toronto of what great achievements had been accomplished by that hon. gentleman, and how much cheaper he was going to get this consideration for Canada than their predecessors were going to pay for it. But that election passed over and their friend was elected. We heard it announced in election after election how much they were saving to the country by this contract. But as time went on we heard suspicions that the contract was not likely to be carried out, that the company were not able to get the bottle-necked steamers, that the bottle-necked steamers were an untried experiment, and something the people would not be justified in spending so much money upon. Like all experiments and like all new inventions, they would not come up to the expectations of the people of Canada, and now they are abandoned in despair and abandoned at a very unfortunate time. The conditions are such now that we will be compelled to pay a very much larger sum in any new contract for the provision of suitable steamers to do the fast Atlantic business that we require to-day. We are told now that the dockyards in the old country are very busy, that they have contracts enough on hand to keep them going for months and years to come, that there is no hope at the present time of the Government being able to enter into a contract for a suitable fast Atlantic service unless they pay an extravagant figure for it. What a lesson it is to the people of Canada, and what a humiliating acknowledgment by hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House who have been deluding the people of Canada for nearly three years, telling them what they had done, what they were doing, and what they were likely to accomplish by this fast Atlantic steamship line. But now they have to acknowledge utter failure, and it is impossible at present and for some time to come to provide this service so urgently required by the people of Canada.

Then the Speech from the Throne refers to the negotiations with the Government of the United States. In connection with that it would be interesting for us, if we were able, to give this question the serious consideration which we are advised to do by His Excellency the Governor General, if we were able to get behind the scenes and find out the various offers that have been made by the Premier and his colleagues while they were down at Washington, being junketed and feted so well and so hospitably by the American people. It would be interesting for the Canadian farmer to know what value they placed upon

reciprocity for him; it would be interesting to know what interests of the Canadian farmer were likely to be sacrificed in the event of these reciprocity negotiations being carried out; it would be interesting to know how far the manufacturer of Canada was going to be sacrificed in these negotiations. But we are estopped from dealing with that question seriously as we are advised to do by the Speech from the Throne. The adjournment of that conference until the work of this session is over prevents us from giving it any further consideration.

The question of the plebiscite is the next one which we are invited to direct our attention to. Now, I have no doubt that we could, with a great deal of profit to the country, give it our serious consideration for a short time. We might very properly consider it under the following lines: Why was the plebiscite put in the platform of the Liberal party in 1893? Why was it put there if not to delude the electorate of Canada? After the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister the other night as to his understanding on this question. It would be very proper for us to consider why it was put in the platform of the party. The Premier tells us:

When we put that plank into our platform, there was an implied agreement between the members of the party who believed in prohibition and those who did not believe in prohibition. The implied agreement on the part of those who did not believe in prohibition was that if the voice of the people spoke unmistakably—

“Unmistakably,” something that was never told to the Temperance Alliance, I apprehend.

—if it should be shown that the great majority—

Was that told to the Dominion Alliance? I think we might direct our attention seriously to that.

—that the great majority of the electorate were in favour of prohibition, then those who did not believe in it would surrender their views to those of their brothers, and would work honestly for the success of that policy. On the other hand, there was an engagement on the part of those who believed in prohibition—

I presume that includes the Minister of Agriculture and the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint), and Mr. Spence, the secretary of the Alliance. These were the contracting parties for whom that plank was put into the platform, and we might profitably inquire if that engagement was kept from the people of Canada who believed in prohibition.

—that if the voice of the people on the subject should not be of sufficient strength to warrant the adoption by the party of the policy of prohibition, they also would square their views to those of their brothers, and we would hear no more of that question in the ranks of the party.

Now, then, it seems to me proper to inquire whether, in putting that in as one of

the planks in their platform, they were not deceiving the people: it seems pertinent for us to inquire: Did the Minister of Agriculture enter into that agreement; did Mr. Spence enter into that agreement—because he was a member of that party, and helped to make that platform—did the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) enter into that agreement, because these are the representative men of the party in the Parliament of Canada and in the ranks of the Dominion Alliance? Did they enter into that agreement without making it known to the Dominion Alliance, and if they did, should not the temperance people of Canada come to the conclusion, that those who entered into it, were greater politicians than prohibitionists? Did the leader of the party ever intend to do more than delude the people and get the temperance vote at the polls? That would be a pertinent question for us to direct our attention to. Was the hon. Minister of Agriculture deceived himself, or was he in the secret, to dishonestly deceive the alliance when he assured them, that the plebiscite would be submitted, and that the behest of the people would be carried out in a constitutional way, as expressed by the vote? I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture that question. Was he deceived, or did he deliberately deceive the Dominion Alliance? Was he misleading the people? I will give him time to answer, if he is willing to do it. Well, silence gives consent; I will take it for granted, that he deceived the people, and I am brought to the conclusion by the fact that the hon. Minister of Agriculture has not made his appearance in this House since the debate on the question of the plebiscite was started until now. What did the Minister of Agriculture mean, when he said:

The Government in power must necessarily carry out the expressed will of the people. There is no doubt that this is what the Liberal party would do, for we know their pledges can be trusted.

I would rather get an answer from the Canadian people than from the Minister of Agriculture, as to the truthfulness of that. I ask the question directly: Was he deluding the temperance people of Canada, when he led them to believe that their pledges could be trusted, that the expression of the will of the people on that question would be carried out, as he said it would? Then, again, I would like to ask the First Minister, what he meant by his answer to the deputation that waited upon him in Winnipeg, in 1894, when he said:

He would pledge his honour that as soon as the Liberals came into power at Ottawa they would take a plebiscite of the Dominion, by which the party would stand, and the will of the people would be carried out even were it to cost power for ever to the Liberal party.

Does the alliance think he has carried out his pledge? I have resolution after resolu-

tion from the temperance associations in all parts of Canada, which say that the Government are not carrying out their pledges, that they are not doing what the Premier declared they would do, or what the Minister of Agriculture declared they would do, if the verdict of the people was in favour of prohibition. These are pertinent questions, which might well engage our attention at this time. The Premier says, in reference to the plebiscite, what I have just read, that there was an understanding between the members of the party. Was it known to, and assented to on behalf of the Dominion Alliance, by those members in the confidence of the Liberal party, who helped to make that platform? Did they come back and report to the alliance, and tell them what would be the result of it? I presume they did not. I am not surprised to find Mr. Spence to-day using no very complimentary language in expressing his opinion as to what they have done. It will be pertinent for us to inquire, whether there were not thousands and thousands of fraudulent votes polled in the province of Quebec in opposition to prohibition, and whether this did not take place with the connivance of the officials who were appointed by the Government and sworn to do their duty honestly and faithfully in recording that vote. If the information we have from Quebec may be relied upon, we can justly come to the conclusion, that these officials did not do their duty either faithfully or honestly. Then, we can seriously consider how far the present Government and party are entitled to the confidence of the temperance people, in view of the fact, that three Ministers of the Crown stumped Quebec against prohibition. We consider how far they were influenced by that plank in their platform. We should seriously consider, whether the conduct of those Ministers of the Crown who stumped the province of Quebec against prohibition, in that campaign, is consistent with the professions of the Government and the party which claims to be the temperance party of Canada. I say, we may very well accept the views of the Governor General, and give these questions our serious consideration, because they are weighty and important questions to the people of Canada at the present time.

In regard to penny postage, I intend to say little at present, because I purpose dealing with that subject later on; but, in the meantime, I would like to say a few words in regard to it. Should we not seriously consider, whether the Postmaster General was an efficient and intelligent man in his office, when we remember his conduct regarding the issuing of postage stamps? Take, first, his issue of the Jubilee stamp, by which he dishonestly mulcted the people of Canada out of about \$300,000. His conduct in this transaction resembled more that of the three-card monte shark than that of an honourable statesman. I would like to ask, whether that was creditable or not to Canada,

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whether it was good statesmanship on the part of the Postmaster General, and whether it was not calculated to injure a great country like Canada, of whose reputation abroad we are jealous? We should seriously consider, whether the Postmaster General displayed great ability by his manipulation of postage stamps, the number of issues that he had, the kind of stamps that he issued, and how he doled them out to the Canadian people. He will live in the history of the future as a man who never seemed to know his mind for three months at a time on the question of postage stamps. I do not know that I could more succinctly draw the attention of the House to this matter than by reading a letter on the question published in the Montreal "Witness," the other day. I may remark, that this paper is usually regarded as Liberal, and it is to be presumed that it would not publish anything which would be very hard upon their own party. The letter is as follows:—

Sir,—In your issue of March 11 there is a communication dealing with the muddle into which the postage stamp business of the country has fallen. Your correspondent quite fairly points out some of the absurdities, which are many and serious. The issues have been so frequent and so confusing that it is now impossible for either collectors or the public to decide where we are. First came the Jubilee issue, in which faith was broken with purchasers, causing merited condemnation in all countries. It was more like a piece of commercial huckstering than the official act of a Government. The Imperial issue brought upon us nothing but ridicule on account of its bumptiousness and bad taste. It might fairly be thought that the department would learn the common rudiments of business from these two transactions. But worse was to come—the three cent issue had to be recalled, because the Postmaster General did not know his own mind a month ahead, when he sprang his two cent game; then came the two cent issue with maple leaves in the corners, of which the users could not literally make head or tail. The outcry against them was so loud that these, too, had to be recalled. Instead of issuing the same dies with the denominations added, he allowed a new stamp to be made, differing in many particulars from the former, and now, after a period of retirement of some months, he brings the old issue out again.

The absence of a good settled standard confuses the public, enrages collectors and dealers, and pleases nobody but counterfeiters. All the other denominations have been dealt with in the same way. A large expense was incurred by issuing three cent envelopes. Instead of confessing his failure and setting them aside as a mistake, the Postmaster General resorts to the puddling operation of marking them down to two cents, with a rubber stamp, and disfiguring Her Majesty's profile. The letter card was mutilated in the same way. The whole business of stamp issue has been bungled in such a way as to make us the laughing-stock of every country with whom we have any correspondence.

Can you not help us by urging upon the Government to make up what does duty for its mind, to decide what is to be the Canadian stamp? At present there are eight different varieties of the two cent denomination before me as I write.

What an exhibition for the Postmaster General of a great country like Canada to make of himself. When we are asked to give our serious attention to the question of penny postage and other postal matters, is it not pertinent for us to inquire whether the Postmaster General—in view of the muddle he has made of this business—is or is it not a capable and intelligent man who can properly administer the affairs of this important department of the public service?

It is said that much information has been gathered with reference to the Yukon, and we are asked to give that question our serious consideration. We may well give it our serious consideration, for if we can believe the press of the country and the people who have returned from that district, the mining laws which the present Government have made and are enforcing, are bad and vexatious and seriously retard mining operations. We must believe also that the officials sent out there are incompetent, dishonest and unreliable, and generally engaged in selfish speculations of their own instead of discharging the important duties assigned to them. It must seriously engage our attention to ascertain if this information is accurate, and I presume it is accurate, because we have had as yet no authoritative denial. Last year the Government proposed to give for the building of 150 miles of railway, 3,500,000 acres of land, which, if valued at only \$2 an acre, would amount to a subsidy of \$7,000,000 for a short tramway. We might seriously inquire if that was a wise speculation on their part, or a business-like proposal and whether the Senate, for that one act of theirs, in throwing the bill out, is not entitled to the lasting support and gratitude of the people of Canada. We might seriously ask also, whether private enterprise and private capital would not have furnished, without any cost to the country, all that the Government proposed to furnish for a very large expenditure of the public money. After that Bill was proposed to the House last year and rejected by the Senate, I was much amused at the conduct of the Government in regard to a Bill that was submitted to the Railway Committee, requesting the privilege for a company to build a railroad through that country. That proposal did not require that the country should part with an acre of land or give one dollar subsidy, and the company proposed as a guarantee for the completion of that work within two years, to deposit with the Government a marked cheque for \$250,000. I think it is very pertinent for us to inquire why the Government refused to accept that guarantee of good faith which these people offered, and declined to give them authority to build that road. I have a copy of that Bill of last year before me, and I think it is well that the Canadian people should know what its provisions were. When we came to that clause of the Bill, which says:—

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The company shall deposit with the Minister of Finance and Receiver General the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars as a guarantee for the commencement and completion of the said railway within the time above mentioned, and the said deposit shall become absolutely forfeited to and for the use of the Government of Canada if the said railway shall not be so commenced and completed within the period aforesaid.

The members of the Government opposed the Bill and would only allow that clause to pass with this amendment: They substituted after the word "company" in the first line, the following words so that the Government might not be compelled to accept the deposit, for they knew these men would complete the road:

May if so disposed and the Government accepts the same.

Even after that they would not allow the Bill to pass, and the only excuse they gave was that it was conflicting with their railway policy in that country. It appears to me that the Government opposed that Bill because it conflicted with the feeling that the Government would like to create amongst the electorate, that in the Yukon Bill they were doing some wonderful thing for the people of Canada. They were afraid that if that private Bill passed and these gentlemen built the road without any cost to the public treasury, the public would soon discover that the Government had not done the best they could do. These were the reasons which impelled the Government to prevent this Bill from passing, although that private company was prepared to build the railway without the cost of one cent to the country.

Then we are promised a gerrymander Bill in the Speech from the Throne. We are told on the high authority of the Premier that this measure will not be a gerrymander, but a fair and equitable redistribution of the seats. Well, I can put the same question to him as some of his friends put to the Conservative Government when the Liberals were in Opposition. If this Bill is to show an honest desire on the part of the leader of the Government and his friends to redistribute the constituencies fairly, why does he not refer the whole question to an impartial tribunal of judges, as they do in England, for the purpose of mapping out these electoral districts. If the right hon. gentleman does that, the Canadian people will give him credit for honesty and sincerity, but if he proposes to do otherwise he leaves himself open to grave suspicion from the start.

I wish now to draw the attention of the House to what in my judgment is an innovation upon the established order of things in Canada. We have never interfered with the boundaries of the constituencies except after the taking of the census; and if the proposal of the Government is not directly a violation of the constitution, it is at any

rate a violation of the principles on which the constitution has been carried out up to the present time ; and since we must have a redistribution two or three years hence at the furthest, or after the next census is taken in 1901, it seems to me that hon. gentlemen might very well wait until that time arrives before they introduce a redistribution Bill. Then we may seriously consider whether this was contemplated under the constitution. In my judgment it was not, because the British North America Act provides that after each census is taken there shall be a redistribution of the representation according to population. Then, we might fairly ask the Government, if all they want is a fair redistribution of the seats, why they do not submit the work to an impartial tribunal. Then, I ask the Government whether the constituencies which elected them are not the same as they have been for many years past, and if their attention has ever been drawn to the fact that by their proposal they are dishonouring the electors who have put them in power. They are declaring that they are afraid or ashamed to go back and trust the people who elected them in the last election, because if the people who elected them elected them on the lines of the present constituencies, they can do it again if satisfied with their conduct since they came into power, and there is no occasion for a redistribution Bill. This very proposition is an evidence, and a strong evidence, to the Canadian people that the Government want more than fair play—that they distrust the electors of the country, and are not willing to submit themselves to the tribunal which sent them here before for a renewal of the confidence of the people.

Now, I would like for a short time to direct my attention to some of the promises made to the people of Canada by the present Government as to what they would do if entrusted with the management of public affairs. For eighteen years they carried on educational work among the electors on certain lines, pointing out to them what was the best policy for the governing party to carry out in the interest of the country. One of the leading subjects they dealt with, one which they always dealt with, very vigorously some times, if not very logically, was the tariff question. The National Policy was denounced as a curse and a robbery, and all the other choice language which the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) could command was invariably at his disposal when he talked on that question. In the platform of 1893 the Liberal party declared to the Canadian people their views of the result of the tariff in the following terms :—

We, the Liberal party of Canada, in convention assembled, declare :

That the existing tariff, founded upon an unsound principle, and used, as it has been by the Government, as a corrupting agency wherewith

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to keep themselves in office, has developed monopolies, trusts and combinations ;

It has decreased the value of farm and other landed property ;

It has oppressed the masses to the enrichment of a few ;

It has checked immigration ;

It has caused a great loss of population ;

It has impeded commerce ;

It has discriminated against Great Britain ;

In these and in many other ways it has occasioned great public and private injury, all of which evils must continue to grow in intensity as long as the present tariff remains in force.

Now, I ask the pertinent question, did they change that tariff system ? The tariff system in existence to-day is the same as that introduced and carried out since 1878. If all the evils pointed out in that platform were the result of the system, and if prosperity could be restored to Canada by doing away with it, then I ask, were they honest or dishonest when they did not abolish that system ? I frankly confess I am glad they did not abolish the system, because I believe it had a great deal to do with bringing about the prosperity which the country enjoys to-day ; and had they abolished it, it would have been the worst thing that could have possibly happened to Canada. Under these circumstances, I may very justly inquire whether the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce was honest and whether his judgment was good when he wrote that letter to the " Economist " a few years ago, a copy of which I have in my hand. In that letter he referred to the evils to Canada caused by the National Policy and the taxation resulting therefrom, saying that the agricultural class was being simply bled white. Are they not being bled whiter still ? Did the hon. gentleman do away with that which was bleeding them white ? Then he went on to say :

Over and above the taxes actually paid into the Dominion treasury to be expended for so-called federal purposes, they have been mulcted during all these years under the protective system of at least an equal amount, which is either totally wasted or goes into the pockets of a very small number of protected manufacturers.

The exact amount levied, or, to speak more accurately, pillaged, in this way can hardly be estimated ; but it is known not to be less than a sum fully equal to the entire amount credited to the treasury, and probably much exceeds it. In fact, the Canadian tariff (which has been, in the most literal manner, dictated by the protected manufacturers) is so constructed that there are innumerable cases in which for each single dollar paid into the treasury, three, four, five and even ten dollars are taken out of the pocket of the consumer ; nay, in many instances, the tax is made absolutely prohibitive, so that the public are heavily taxed without any benefit to the revenue ; e.g., the duty on sugar is now so arranged (for the advantage of half-a-dozen sugar refiners) that the Canadian consumer is obliged to pay a tax of nearly two millions a year, of which only the most insignificant fraction finds its way into the public treasury.

Taken altogether, it is well within the mark to say that while the present nominal amount of the taxation of the Dominion is about thirty-one

millions of dollars, the genuine actual taxation i.e., the sum taken out of the pockets of the people for the benefit of the protected manufacturers, in addition to that paid into the treasury is certainly not less, and is probably a good deal more than sixty millions (\$60,000,000).

And yet, when they came into power, did they change the system? Not a bit of it. The system remains to-day as it was, and it is not materially changed in any respect from what it was at that time. He went on:

It is not merely the policy, but the fixed determination of the Liberal party in the Dominion of Canada to overthrow this system at all hazards; and, after very full deliberation, they have come to the conclusion that the best and probably the only really available method which presents itself for that purpose, lies in introducing a system of perfect continental free trade, or unrestricted reciprocity, with the United States.

And that was the solemn conclusion of hon. gentlemen opposite, as to what they would do, when they came into power. But the system remains to-day, and stands as a monument of the inconsistency and of the untruthfulness of the hon. gentlemen opposite, and of the intelligence and the wisdom of the men who devised and carried out that system in 1878.

We may fairly ask, what have the Government accomplished? The Canadian farmers seem to be the class above all others for which they profess the highest regard. The hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) subsidized a Patron organ, and got his friends to contribute to it for the purpose of reaching that important class, because it was believed that many of them were Patrons; and these hon. gentlemen sought to convince these people that, owing to the dastardly nature of the National Policy, great injustice had been done them, that by the return of the Reform party they would derive great benefit, and that the Reform party stood exactly on the same platform as the Patrons. But when these gentlemen got into office, what did they do? They put through their policy of preferential trade, which lost to Canada the German market, that was rapidly becoming most valuable to us, and obtained for us nothing in return. These hon. gentlemen did not know that they were losing that market, but by their incompetence forced through what they called the preferential trade policy, and destroyed that market for Canada. In return for the loss of that market, and for what they gave England, they got nothing back. They generously gave away what did not belong to them. It is easy to be generous with another man's money, and it was on that principle the Government acted, when they gave away valuable concessions to England and got nothing in return.

They took off the duty on barbed wire, and then said to the farmers, with a great flourish: See what we have done for you: we have taken the duty off barbed wire, and

see how much cheaper it is now. But, Mr. Speaker, it is selling at the same rate as before. We pay the same price per hundred pounds, and the only result of the hon. gentlemen's action was the destruction of an important industry in Canada and the throwing out of employment of three hundred or four hundred hands. Then, they reduced the duty on coal oil 1 cent per gallon, and cried out: See what we have done for you farmers. But while they did that on the one hand, on the other hand, they made a concession to the Standard Oil people which enabled that company to bring in their vessels of coal oil to certain ports and force competing railway companies to give them discriminating rates, to the detriment of the people of Canada, whose money was invested in that industry. They destroyed the oil industry here, and did not make coal oil any cheaper to the people, because we are paying exactly the same price to-day as we did before. They did more; they destroyed the oil industry used by the manufacturers, so that to-day that industry is under the control of that gigantic monopoly, the Standard Oil Company. They played deliberately into the hands of one of the largest, most injurious and most oppressive monopolies that exists on the continent of America to-day. They did that by taking the 1 cent off, and allowing the company's steamers to bring in oil to certain ports, thus giving them the power they have used since so successfully, of compelling the railways to give them discriminating rates against other people in the business. But I have heard the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Fraser) say: Oh, they did not interfere with an oil well up there. Probably, he was literally correct. It was not the oil wells the Standard Oil Company were after, but the refiners; and when I talked with Mr. Fairbanks, a short time ago, he admitted that they were compelled to sell to the Standard Oil Company to save their money and their plant, and that the time was rapidly coming when every refinery in Canada would have to do the same thing. First, control the refiners, and then you will control the oil wells and output. That is the result of the policy of the Government, namely, to destroy a Canadian industry and build up a huge trust and combine. Although they always declared themselves, in the strongest terms, opposed to combines and monopolies, yet the first thing they did was to come to the assistance of one of the worst monopolies in the Dominion or the United States to-day.

Then, the hon. gentlemen took the duty off binder twine, and said to the Canadian people: See what we have done for you; we have made binder twine free. But what did they do next in that connection? They never attempt a good act without doing something that will destroy its efficacy, and in this respect they reminded me of the cow which gave a pail of milk, but invari-

ably kicked over the pail. They took the duty off binder twine, but made a corrupt agreement, under which they sold all the output of the penitentiary factories in this country to one of their own friends and supporters, the Hobbs Hardware Company, in London. Mr. Hobbs then got himself appointed agent of the American factories, and joined with the American combine, with the result that we paid, last summer, for binder twine from 14 cents to 16 cents per pound, whereas before that duty was taken off or the regulations changed, we bought it at 6 or 7 cents per pound. I am free to admit, that that large increase in price is not, perhaps, all due to the conduct of the Government in taking off that duty, or to the way in which they sold the penitentiary output. But it was largely brought about by their policy. It might possibly be, that, owing to the scarcity of manilla and its consequent increase in price, the cost of binder twine would also have increased under any circumstances, but I am told that manilla has not gone up to the extent to warrant the increase that now exists, and that binder twine could be sold at a fair profit at the rate of 10 cents per pound. If the Government had done as their predecessors did, reserved the right of selling binder twine by the carload to any man in any part of the country at the same price as they did to this firm, then any man could go to a penitentiary and get a carload and distribute it to the farmers at a moderate profit, and our farmers would not have been victimized to the extent they have. Our Government would not then have fallen into the hands of a combine, but because they did not, whether intentionally, or honestly, or dishonestly, take the course which ordinary business intelligence should have prompted them to take, they have enabled this combine to control the market and compel our farmers to pay at least 5 cents a pound more than they would have done, had the policy of the preceding Government been adhered to.

Then, these hon. gentlemen took the duty off corn, and they did that although they were proposing at the time to try and negotiate a reciprocity treaty. As the hon. gentleman for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) said last year, they gave away one of the best levers they had in their hands for the purpose of moving our neighbours in the direction of reciprocity. The Americans sent us, in round numbers, twenty million bushels of American corn, which came into competition with Canadian coarse grain, and compelled our farmers to accept lower prices for their own product. The Government gave that valuable interest away, which belonged to the Canadian people, just as they gave England preferential trade, and in each case got nothing in return. They, therefore, found themselves in the position, when they went to negotiate a treaty at Washington, of having given away everything, and hav-

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ing nothing else to offer, so that it is not to be wondered at that they could not negotiate a treaty.

Then, it is pertinent for the Canadian farmer to ask himself: Was the Government working in the interest of the Canadian farmer when they took the duty off corn, considering that the result of that was that twenty million bushels of American corn were brought into Canada in one year, supplanting in the markets of our country at least an equal amount of coarse grain that might have been produced and sold by our people. It is pertinent for the Canadian farmer to ask whether the Government, in changing the tariff in that respect were working in the interest of Canadians or in the interest of Americans. For eighteen years hon. gentlemen opposite tried to convince the people of Canada that taxation was too great. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), in that noted letter which I have read, said that the taxation was so burdensome that the farmers could not bear it, that they were bled white, but, if the Liberals were put in power, they would run the country for much less and be able to give better results in the administration of public affairs. I thought that was a strange acknowledgment he made the other day when, in speaking in answer to a remark of mine as to what had been accomplished in Washington, he said that children and others whom he would not name—I suppose he meant fools—should not judge half-done work. Well, if it took him and his colleagues six months of hard labour to half do the work and then get nothing, how long would it take them to get a reciprocity treaty? Did these gentlemen reduce taxation? In 1896, the year before they came into power, taxation collected through the customs was \$20,000,000. Last year they collected \$22,000,000. These gentlemen used to say that for every dollar that went into the public treasury, \$2 besides were taken from the pockets of the people, and so they figured that this customs taxation really represented a burden of \$60,000,000. If that was true, then the taxation that they impose now through the customs is \$66,000,000. Now, were they unwise then, or were they deliberately deceiving the people? Which horn of the dilemma will they choose. The collections from all sources in 1896 were about \$36,000,000. This was far too much, according to these hon. gentlemen at that time. The Prime Minister said that if his party were in power they could easily save \$4,000,000 by doing away with the Franchise Act, and by economizing in other ways. Well, they have done away with the Franchise Act, and I suppose they have exercised as much economy as they thought was right. But, instead of \$36,000,000, as in 1896, their collections amounted to \$40,000,000, or \$4,000,000 taken from the Canadian people than they said was already too much. Then, they said the taxa-

tion was too high. The customs duties at that time were \$3.91 a head of the people. But to-day the rate has gone up to \$4.22. What conclusion will the Canadian people come to as to that? Will they say that these gentlemen were ignorant and did not know, or will they say that they deliberately tried to deceive the people. Then, when we turn to their expenditure we find that they declared they could carry on the affairs of the country for a much smaller sum than the late Government did. Well, their predecessors managed to get along with an expenditure of \$36,000,000 a year, and last year these gentlemen spent \$38,000,000—and some people are ungenerous enough to say that our affairs are not managed as well to-day as they were for a smaller amount by the predecessors of these hon. gentlemen. They were going to give us stringent economy in public affairs. They made a bargain for the purchase of the Drummond County Railway at a price so high that they themselves admit now that from half to three-quarters of a million can be saved in the bargain. There were to be no more superannuations. They declared that this was one of the ways of spending the people's money that should not be allowed. These gentlemen have now been in power for some time, and it would be well to tell the Canadian people authoritatively what has been done in that line. I am sorry that the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) is not in his seat this evening, because this was an expenditure which he denounced and which he said he would denounce no matter who practiced it, that he would even vote against any Government that would practice it. I got a return going back for ten years, and I want to tell the Canadian farmers, and particularly constituents of the hon. member for North Wellington and of other members who took strong grounds on this question, what has been done by the present Government, as compared with their predecessors. I begin with 1890, for I think that is far enough to go back. In that year, thirty-two officers were superannuated, involving an annual expenditure of \$15,486 until these people died out. In 1891, sixty people were superannuated, involving an expenditure of \$38,099. In 1892 there were sixty-one people superannuated, involving an expenditure of \$32,689. In 1893 the superannuations were fifty-one, and the expenditure thus caused \$28,000. In 1894, fifty-seven superannuations; expenditure, \$22,000. In 1895, 106 people were superannuated, saddling the people with an expenditure of \$59,000 a year. In 1896, thirty-six people were put on the list at an annual addition to the public expenditure of \$21,000.

Before the party came to power they were going to do away with superannuation, and not be out of any more money in that line. What did they do in their first year? Last

year they superannuated 137 people, the largest number, I think, that has ever been superannuated in one year in the history of Canada; they put an annual expenditure on the country for the superannuation of these people of \$64,239, and added to that, \$12,856 for gratuities to parties that were dismissed. And this was from the friends of economy, this was by the very class of men who told the country that they would never squander any more money in superannuation. And, Sir, the strangest of all, the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) sat silent in his seat and never, up to the present moment, so far as I know, said one word in condemnation of the action of the Government. It is well that the Canadian people should see these things, they are able to judge whether these men were sincere when they told the people: If you entrust us with the government of Canada we are going to do away with superannuations and save that amount of money to you annually. They told the people that they were going to get reciprocity; and now the Premier says that in his judgment Canada does not require reciprocity. Well, he could with equal propriety have told that to the country years ago. What does he think of the judgment of himself and his party, who, for 18 years, told the people of Canada that they could not live without reciprocity, that they needed to get back to those old days between 1854 and 1865 which, they said, were the halcyon days of Canada. The Minister of Trade and Commerce used to say: There is no doubt that if we are returned to power we can get reciprocity for you, because we have never antagonised the people of the United States as our opponents have done. They told the Canadian people they were going to destroy monopolies. What monopolies have they destroyed? I ask the Canadian farmer: What monopoly have they destroyed? What monopoly did they destroy when they played into the hands of the gigantic oil trust and gave them control of the oil industry? What monopoly did they destroy when they practically assisted and organized a monopoly that compelled the Canadian farmers to pay last year at least 5 cents a pound more for their binding twine than they would have had to pay were it not for that monopoly which the Government allowed to go into the hands of their own friends? What monopoly did they destroy when the leather dealers came down and appealed to them to do something to destroy the monopoly that was almost shutting up their industry, and prevented them from being able to sell a pound of sole leather in our markets? Last year I had a number of their letters, but they were sent back to them, so that they might be sent to the Government for the purpose of impressing on them the necessity of suppressing this combine. The Government were to do something to destroy that monopoly, but up to the present time, so far as my knowledge goes,

they have not moved hand or foot to do so, but have allowed it to go on to the detriment of that large class of our people. Then they were to submit a plebiscite and enact a prohibitory law if the vote showed a majority of the people in favour of it. I have dealt with that sufficiently, and I do not propose to refer to it again. But I do say that if ever there was anything disgraceful to the Reform party, and that showed their absolute dishonesty and insincerity, it was their conduct on the plebiscite question. The fact that they would not allow the electorate of Canada to vote upon the question on the same terms in the various provinces, that in the province of Quebec, where it was known some members of the Government were going to oppose the plebiscite, they allowed the people to vote under a law which gave one man four, five or six votes, whereas they would only allow one man to give one vote in Ontario, where they were likely to vote in favour of prohibition—I say that was discreditable, and, to my mind, it plainly shows the insincerity of the party, and the sincerity of the leader of the Government who allowed that to be done. From this side of the House a motion was made to remedy that incongruity in the situation, and to give fair play to the Dominion Alliance and to the temperance people when they asked a fair expression of the will of the electorate of Canada. I say they did more. They not only introduced a new system of Government heretofore unknown in our constitution—because we copy the English system, and they introduced the referendum into Canada—they not only introduced a new system which was unknown in the country, but after the electorate had given an honest expression of their opinion, the Government dishonoured their own system, dishonoured the very proposition they had submitted to the people for their verdict. I say they dishonoured their own system, because clearly and unmistakably the rule in this country is that the majority should govern; in all money votes, in votes for members of Parliament, in votes of town councils, or votes for school trustees, the majority always rules, and a majority was entitled to rule on this plebiscite vote as well as in any other case.

But the Premier made a statement the other day which I thought was very interesting, and very valuable for the people to know. He said: It is pleasant for us to contemplate the fact that everybody in Canada is loyal to-day. Loyal to-day! I thought it might be pertinent to inquire how they became loyal, and when they became loyal. When they were in Opposition were they loyal? Why, we know there was a propaganda organized, and carried out, and assisted by the Minister of Public Works, by the Mercier party down there, and a great many of his friends, aiming at the annexation of Canada to the United States. I thought it was pleasant for the Premier to say to the people of Canada: We are all loyal now,

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because that is giving them some information that they did not possess and that they hardly expected, when they see the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) who, a few years ago, ran an election in his own province as a secessionist. It was a confession that the people of Canada were glad to hear. If these hon. gentlemen were made loyal by their accession to the Treasury Benches—and there is no other way to account for it—then I say it was well worth while to put them in power for a short time, because there were a great many disloyal men in the party. We remember that when they were advocating their unrestricted reciprocity scheme, the Hon Edward Blake could not follow them because he considered their scheme disloyal. We remember that Erastus Wiman, one of their ardent friends and supporters, assisted them because he knew that it would lead to annexation. I say it is refreshing to hear from the mouths of those hon. gentlemen that they are all loyal to-day, and if that was brought about by putting them in power, it was well worth while to put them in there for a short time so that they might be made loyal. The next question we might reasonably ask is, Is the present Government composed of capable and intelligent men, and are they, therefore, entitled to the confidence of the people of Canada? I say most emphatically, No, if we are to judge them by the conduct of the Postmaster General, whose first act, almost, was to show that he did not know anything about running his department, when he lowered the postage contrary to the conditions of the Berne Postal Convention. The way he bungled that question, and had to withdraw his noted proclamation, is evidence of incompetency. And the Canadian people have concluded that he is not the most suitable man to be at the head of the Post Office Department. Then take the history of the stamp business, the number of stamps he issued, and the pilfering way in which he took from the people of Canada about \$300,000 by the Jubilee stamps. Why, you would expect no different conduct from a three-card-monte man. It was not creditable, either to the Postmaster General or to the Dominion of Canada. He issued stamps and then he withdrew them, restamped them and gave them out again, showing that he did not know his own mind from one month to another.

Now it is said that he reduced postage to the Canadian people, and I am disposed to give him all the credit that I think he has a right to, I believe that he acted rightly; but I say that he was forced into it. It was not because it was in the interest of the Canadian people that the rate was reduced, but because of the introduction of penny postage between Canada, Great Britain and the British colonies. The Canadian people asked: What good is that to us? What good is it if a man sending a letter ten miles is obliged to pay three cents when a man sending a letter 7,000 miles can have that letter delivered for two cents? After hav-

ing taken the step that he did in the first instance he was obliged to go further and reduce the domestic rate of postage. But with a great flourish of trumpets the Canadian farmers were told: "See what I have done by the reduction of this postage." I think he did right, and I give him credit for it, but he did not do so much for the Canadian farmer because a man in the country does not write more than a dozen letters in a year. It does much for the lawyer, for the money lender, the banker, the rich merchant, and the bloated manufacturer, of whom the Minister of Trade and Commerce was inclined to talk so much. The action of the Postmaster General did a great deal for these classes of wealthy people, but very little for the farmers of Canada, for when the deficit is to be made up, to run the postal business, which was caused by the reduction to postage, the farmer must pay a large share of it. I do not think the farmers will be inclined to give the Postmaster General credit for sincerity in claiming to have acted for their benefit. Was there evidence of incompetence in the reduction of postage? I think there was. Was there evidence of ability and intelligent statesmanship in the first preferential tariff of the Government? From this side of the House the Government were warned that every nation that came under the operation of the most-favoured nation clause, under treaties with England, would be able to take advantage of the preferential tariff. They were told by the leader of the Opposition and by the ex-Finance Minister time and time again, but they ignored the warning, yet in three months, when they went home to England and had the question submitted to the law officers of the Crown, they were obliged to admit that they were entirely wrong, that they had displayed bad judgment and that every country coming under the preferential clause could take advantage of the preferential tariff the same as Canada could in her trade with Great Britain. Was that evidence of good judgment or was it the reverse? The Canadian people, I am quite sure, will come to the conclusion that it was not evidence either of good judgment or statesmanship. Was it evidence of good management, when we had a contract made for a fast trans-Atlantic steamship line for them, with great unction, to tell the Canadian people that they had saved over a quarter of a million dollars in their bargain for a fast Atlantic line? Have they succeeded in getting what they bargained for? If they had by any means got everything that the previous Government contracted to get they would have had the same class of vessels and the same equipment for carrying the important trade of the country in cold storage that is needed, and that was contracted for by their predecessors. But instead of that the bottle-necked steamer which we have heard so much about, was launched upon the country. They came back and were obliged to confess

that they had made a complete failure. All the trips made across the Atlantic, all the elections carried by it, was evidence, not of ability but of incompetency on the part of these hon. gentlemen. Was it evidence of ability and of competency to burk the Canadian Pacific Cable scheme. The late Government would have succeeded in carrying this project to a successful conclusion. To-day it is being allowed to pass rapidly into oblivion; the Government have confessed that they are not likely to get the cable; they have not the ability to carry it forward nor to conduct a successful negotiation upon the subject as had their predecessors. It is pertinent for the Canadian people to ask whether these are the best men to govern Canada, and that is the question they will ask when they have a chance to return a new Government. Was it evidence of ability or want of ability that the reciprocity negotiations have been without result? Is it evidence of ability on the part of the Government to give away everything they had to give and which they might have used to advantage in negotiating a reciprocity treaty? I believe the Canadian people will come to the conclusion that the members of the Government were not the best men to negotiate a reciprocity treaty. They will ask if there is evidence of ability in their conduct in connection with the Drummond County Railway and the Yukon Railway. I am afraid they will come to the conclusion that we have not the right class of men in power.

We are sometimes taunted across the floor of the House with the question: What is your policy? The National Policy is dead. No, we stand on the same platform that we stood upon in 1878. When the time comes that the Conservative party are again entrusted with the management of the affairs of the country as undoubtedly they will be, as soon as the Government appeal to the electorate, it will be found that we have an up-to-date policy, an energetic policy, a distinctive Canadian policy, not a give-away policy such as our opponents have been inclined to follow since they came in power. We have a policy that will promote the interest of the miners, the farmers, the manufacturers and the traders of the country; we have a policy that will give a larger return to industry, that will perfect the lines of transportation, a policy I say, which the Canadian people want, a distinctive Canadian policy, a loyal policy, not only to Great Britain, but loyal to Canada. The people demand first that we shall give evidence of our loyalty to the Dominion, and I have no doubt that we will be prepared to submit a policy that is far ahead of the policy that has been carried out by the class of men who have been governing the country for the last few years. We sometimes think that they are preparing to appeal to the country, and we say that the day cannot come too soon. They can only appeal to the country on a catch question like that of the

Senate issue. We have been told outside of the Speech from the Throne that they are going to reform the Senate. The Prime Minister says that is one of the promises made by the Liberal party to the Canadian people, that they propose to carry out as they carried out all the other promises that they made. It is known to the Canadian people that the present Government are pressing into their service the provincial Governments, notwithstanding the fact that Blake said that it would never do for the Federal Government to enter into entangling alliances with the provincial Governments. The Government are endeavouring to get the provincial Parliaments to pass resolutions to show the Imperial Parliament that Senate reform is in accordance with the sentiment of the Canadian people, but in my judgment these resolutions will not have much weight in Great Britain. I would like to say a word of warning to the Canadian people, to the province of Quebec and to the maritime provinces upon this important question. If they commence tampering with the constitution it will lead in a direction that cannot be clearly foreseen to-day. We know that the secessionist party would not mind breaking up the confederation and that they are found running elections upon that principle. If they attempt to tamper with the constitution it will lead to other amendments that may be demanded by the Canadian people that may be far reaching in their disastrous effects to the provinces and the men who propose this amendment.

At confederation the Senate was constituted so that it could protect the smaller and weaker provinces in the confederacy. For that purpose Quebec was given twenty-four members in the Senate, and although the population of Ontario was much larger, Ontario was given twenty-four, and the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were also given twenty-four senators. Therefore, Quebec and Ontario and the two maritime provinces had each an equal voice in all affairs of state. Let me draw the attention of the people of the province of Quebec to what will happen if the proposal of the Government succeeds. What would be the result of a joint vote in the two Houses, so far as Quebec is concerned? Ontario has 91 members in the Commons and 24 in the Senate, or a total of 115, while Quebec has 65 in the Commons and 24 in the Senate, a total of 89. If a joint vote were had on a question in which the province of Quebec is vitally interested, Ontario would have 115 votes against 89 in Quebec. What would Quebec think of that? How much credit would that province give the Premier and his friends for reforming the Senate in that direction? Why, Sir, such a proposal would simply swamp Quebec, and destroy the equal voice which that province now has in Canadian affairs. To a greater extent would this be the case in Nova Scotia, because that province has fewer members in

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the Commons than Quebec, and they will have relatively a smaller representation if this change in the constitution of the Senate is carried out.

But there is a still worse evil which I foresee. We have representation by population in the House of Commons, but not in the Senate, in Ontario and in the other provinces, except the province of Quebec, which gives us the basis for our representation, Quebec always having only 65, the number never increasing. Census after census, the number of members from the other provinces will increase, and if this reform of the Senate is carried out most assuredly Ontario will demand representation by population in the Senate as well as in the House of Commons. What will the province of Quebec think of that? If this proposed reform is carried out the Government must logically go further and give Ontario representation by population in the Senate, which would give Ontario a preponderating voice in that House. I warn the people of Quebec to beware of what they are doing, because the day will assuredly come if this change in the constitution takes place now, when Ontario will have a larger representation in the Senate than it has to-day. But why does the Government wish to reform the Senate? Is it because one or two of their pet schemes have been burked in that Chamber. We hear some hon. gentlemen opposite say: Oh, the Senate is a political body, but would it be any less a political body if it is merged with the great political Chamber of the Commons. No, Sir, whatever independence and honest judgment the Senate now possesses would be done away with by this proposal. The senator would become part and parcel of one or the other of the political parties in this House, and they would not be likely to exercise any better judgment or any more impartiality than they do at the present time. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) brought to our attention the fact that one of the great weaknesses of the United States constitution was that the small states had as many members in the Senate as the wealthy and populous states, and, if I understood him correctly, he led us to infer that that was a mistake. If the Prime Minister's scheme of Senate reform is carried out, its trend will be to intensify the evil that the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) spoke of. The Reformers tell us that the Senate has been a partisan body. Let us see if that is the case. Since confederation, has the Senate rejected more Bills when the Conservatives were in power than when the Reformers were in power? That is a very pertinent question to ask, for we know it has been stated that the Senate has always had more Conservative than Liberal members. Let us see what Bills were rejected by the Senate since confederation. From 1867 to 1873 the Senate

threw out twenty-three Government Bills ; from 1874 to 1878 they threw out thirteen Government Bills ; from 1879 to 1896 they threw out twenty-four Government Bills, and from 1896 to 1899 they threw out five Government Bills. In all, sixty-five Government measures were thrown out since confederation. The Conservatives were in power for twenty-four years since confederation, and the Senate throws out forty-seven Conservative measures, or nearly two for each year. The Reformers have been in power for eight years, and during that time the Senate threw out eighteen Government Bills or a fraction over two each year. Practically the same number of Bills were thrown out when the Conservatives were in power as when the Liberals were in power. Surely that does not show that the Senate is a partisan body. Any one who analyses this list must come to the conclusion that the same even-handed justice and the same impartiality was meted out by that honourable body under all circumstances. No matter which party was in power, they exercised the same independent judgment, fearless of the consequences so long as they believed they did right. Sir, it is my judgment that the electors of Canada will amply justify the Senate, and that they will emphatically pronounce against the proposal of the Prime Minister. His proposal is unwise and imprudent. It is tampering with our solemn constitution, and above all other men in Canada such a proposal never should have come from a representative of the province of Quebec. I believe I know the situation of the country, and I believe that the Canadian people will come to the conclusion that the men now governing Canada were dishonest when they were in opposition in preaching principles of government for eighteen years, which they never intended to carry out. I believe the country will declare, that these men were incompetent when they came into power, that they were the wrong men to choose to manage our public affairs, and that when the time comes, they will be swept from power as unceremoniously as they were called to power at the last election.

Mr. FIRMAN McCLURE (Colchester). Mr. Speaker, I can promise you that, whatever pledges have been broken, I shall make one to-night which shall not be broken, that is, that I shall speak briefly. I do not intend to cover all the ground that is covered in the Address, nor to discuss subjects which have been so ably discussed on both sides, and at such great length, during this debate. I wish, however, to say a few words upon one subject, and one subject only, mentioned in the Address. In reference to that subject, I am bound to say, that to one who, like myself, has a belief in the doctrine of prohibition as applied to the liquor traffic, there is not very much comfort in the position taken by the Government, and there is no more ground for hope in the position

taken by the Opposition. While both parties seem inclined to avoid taking a square stand on this question, I do not hesitate to say, at the risk of being considered a faddist and a fanatic, that this is the largest and most important question in sight to-day in Canadian politics. While, probably, not one of the other questions that have been discussed during this debate, will live in its present shape to face another Parliament, this question will yet enter into political contests in this country, will yet face parties, and will be a living issue until it is settled, and settled right.

I want to say a few words upon the merits of this question, as it is now presented to this Parliament, and, in doing so, I shall, as far as it is humanly possible, avoid being influenced by any considerations of party. I am in a good position to do this—in fact, I am bound to do so—because, when I accepted a nomination at the hands of the Liberal party, and was elected, while I distinctly declared that I supported the general policy of that party, and had the most perfect confidence in its leaders, I considered that upon this question neither political party in Canada had taken a proper stand ; and, therefore, I felt myself absolutely free to take whatever course, in my judgment, was best calculated to promote the principle in which I believed. That is my position to-day. I do not need to discuss the merits or demerits of the doctrine of prohibition. Upon that abstract principle Parliament has given a very emphatic pronouncement ; and, until that declaration is reversed, I am bound to accept it as the deliberate and matured conviction of this House. In the year 1884, the present hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) moved this resolution :

That the object of good government is to promote the general welfare of the people by a careful encouragement and protection of whatever makes for the public good, and by an equally careful discouragement and suppression of whatever tends to the public disadvantage ;

That the traffic in alcoholic liquors as beverages is productive of serious injury to the moral, social and industrial welfare of the people of Canada ;

That, despite all preceding legislation, the evils of intemperance remain so vast in magnitude, so wide in extent, and so destructive in effect as to constitute a social peril and a national menace ;

That, this House is of opinion, for the reasons hereinbefore set forth, that the right and most effective legislative remedy for those evils is to be found in the enactment and enforcement of a law prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes.

To this resolution the late Hon. Thomas White moved an amendment, by adding these words :

And this House is prepared, so soon as public opinion will sufficiently sustain stringent measures to promote such legislation, so far as the same is within the competency of the Parliament of Canada.

The resolution, as moved by the hon. member for York, and amended by Mr. White, passed this House by a majority of 122 to 40. In the year 1889, this House reaffirmed the position taken in 1884, and has not since that time reversed its decision or modified its opinion. From that time forward the discussion has not been upon the abstract principle of prohibition, but the question discussed here and in the country has been: Is the country ready for this legislation?

Now, at the time this resolution was passed, and for many years after, the Conservative party were in power; and I think I do not state their position unfairly, when I say, that, while they did not dispute the general doctrine affirmed, they took the position, that the country was not ready for the enactment of such a law. But so strong was the prohibition sentiment in the country, and so great was the pressure brought upon that Government, that they felt compelled to do something to satisfy public opinion. They, therefore, proposed to appoint a royal commission to inquire into all the facts of the case, and to report to Parliament. Now, much censure has been heaped upon the late Government for that action. For my part, I am bound to say I never did, and I do not now, concur in that censure, in so far as it is directed at the policy of the Government in appointing such a commission. I have always been of the opinion, that such a commission, properly constituted and honestly conducted, might do a great deal in clearing away many of the difficulties that surrounded this question. Of the commission, as constituted and conducted, I am sure I do not speak too strongly, and I am sure I shall be sustained by all the sincere prohibitionists in the country and by many who are not prohibitionists, when I say, that if that commission escaped being a swindle and a humbug, it did so by becoming a farce. The majority of that commission reported against a prohibitory law for Canada. In this report the Government of that day quietly concurred, and from that day to this we have had no declaration of policy from the Conservative party on this question of prohibition.

Now, I am not inclined to attach any very great weight to the opinions of the royal commission. I have attended too many meetings of that body to have any great respect for their fairness or good judgment. But I wish to call attention to one important fact. So great were some of the evils which flow directly from the traffic in intoxicating liquors in this country, so apparent were they, that even this biased and prejudiced body of inquirers were compelled to report to this Parliament, that there was a necessity for some legislative action. On page 504 of the report of the majority, I find the following statement:—

The licensing of saloons, the only business of which is the sale by retail of intoxicants, the commissioners consider should be put an end to.

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There is no justification for their existence founded on necessity, and it is certain most of the evils which arise out of the immoderate use of intoxicants have their origin in or are encouraged by the existence of these saloons.

I shall not stop to argue, as it might very reasonably be argued, that there was no evidence produced before the royal commission and none can be produced, upon which the sweeping condemnation of the saloons of the country can be based that does not apply with equal, if not greater force, to every hotel or bar of this country or any other places where liquor is sold by the glass. My present object, in making this quotation, is to show that although the royal commission reported against the enactment of a prohibitory law, they nevertheless admitted that some kind of legislation was necessary. The Conservative Government in Parliament, however, accepted the report of that commission as final and conclusive, and since that day have declined to do anything to advance prohibitory legislation. With that position I certainly cannot agree. Now, what is the position of the Liberal party. I think it will be generally admitted that although, while in Opposition, the Liberal party pronounced itself perhaps more favourably inclined towards prohibition than the Conservatives, they nevertheless also took the position that the country was not ready for the enactment of such a law. But just as the Conservative party felt compelled to do something to satisfy public opinion and gave the country the Royal Commission, so the Liberal party gave the people the plebiscite. Now, we must be fair enough—and I think I am not a partisan in making that statement—to admit that the Liberal party never promised to give this country prohibition. They promised to ascertain the mind of the people by a vote, just as the Conservative party promised to ascertain the facts of the case by a Royal Commission. There was, of course, in both cases, an implied promise that they would be bound by the result. Now, we have the result of the plebiscite, and we are told that those results do not justify the enactment of a prohibitory law. I submit that, even if this be true, it does not follow that Parliament has no duty to perform. As I could not, and do not, agree in the decision of the Conservative party to accept the report of the Royal Commission and do nothing, neither can I agree that the Government should accept the vote of the plebiscite, as a final decision against prohibition, and do nothing; for, as I contend, the report of the Royal Commission was based upon an imperfect and one-sided view of the evidence and presented by a prejudiced and an unfair tribunal; so I say the vote of the plebiscite fails to reveal the full strength of prohibition sentiment in this country, and for most obvious reasons. Let me say, however, that I do not at all agree with those who, in this House and elsewhere, have argued that be-

cause a simple majority of those who voted "yes," the Government have a mandate to pass a prohibitory law. This is not like the case of an ordinary election, where you can count the noses and give the victory to the side having the largest number. The object of this plebiscite was to ascertain the strength of the prohibitionist sentiment in the country—to ascertain if there was sufficient moral sentiment in the country to render it probable or possible to enforce such a law if once enacted. In other words, Parliament, having endorsed the abstract principle of prohibition, the object of this vote was to answer the one question remaining unanswered. Is the country ready for such a law? In arriving at our conclusions upon that, I say we must take into account the size of the vote. We must not only count those who voted yes, but those who stayed at home. In saying this, I do not mean to say, by any means, that we should count all who stayed at home as against prohibition or that we should count them all in favour of prohibition. My own view is that the most of them were absolutely indifferent on the subject. Practically the answer they gave to the question was: "We do not care whether you pass a law or not." But certainly this indifferent sentiment in the country must be taken into account. We must view all the circumstances of the case and arrive at a fair decision as to what the whole vote, polled and unpolled, indicates. Now, there were many side issues that entered into this plebiscite campaign and distracted attention from the real issue. In the first place, the plebiscite is something comparatively new in Canada. I am not one of those who condemn it because it is new and not English. I believe there are many good things that are not English, and the plebiscite is one. Further than that I believe that it might be with advantage resorted to more frequently than it is. However this may be, it is practically a new thing to our people, and for that very reason it was difficult to make them believe that it would result in anything practicable, and, therefore, it was difficult to poll a full vote. Then it is an undoubted fact that the party organizations of this country are against the prohibitionists. I do not speak of the one party more than the other, but it is characteristic of party Government that parties are only held together, as the right hon. First Minister indicated the other day, by a spirit of compromise, and for that very reason it is difficult to get any great political party to take a square stand upon a great moral question. The Liberal party gave us the opportunity to vote, but the Liberal party as such gave no encouragement to the principle of prohibition, while the Conservative party in this House and the Conservative press in the country did their utmost to convince the people that the plebiscite was a sham and a humbug and would amount to

nothing. Then, again, there was a fear in some quarters—and I am bound to say it was not altogether without foundation—that certain Conservatives were endeavouring to swell the prohibition vote, not because they loved the cause of prohibition, but because they desired to embarrass the Government, and many Liberals refrained from voting their convictions because they did not desire to give political capital to their opponents.

An hon. MEMBER. That is an extraordinary statement.

Mr. McCLURE. Is it any more extraordinary that a Liberal should refrain from voting his convictions rather than give political capital to his opponents than that a Conservative, who hated prohibition, should go to the polls and vote and work for it in order to embarrass the Government? It may be an extraordinary statement, but it is a true one. All these things combined to involve the issue and to prevent a fair verdict being given, and yet I am bound to say that the number of persons who, without hope of personal reward, or influenced by party considerations or moved by passion or prejudice, went to the polls and recorded their conscientious convictions on this question in September last was a remarkably large one. In the history of those countries, where such votes are common, I fail to find a single instance in which any great moral question submitted to the people under similar circumstances succeeded in bringing to the polls so large a proportion of the voters as this did. Take any other one of the questions that have been debated during this Address, or take, if you will, any question that has come before this Parliament, eliminate from it, if that be possible, the question of party, take out of it the element of personal interest that always attaches to a contest, and will any man here tell me that any one of those questions will bring to the polls, on its own merits, as many votes as the prohibitionist cause did September last. This vote is one which, I say unhesitatingly, demands attention. It is one which cannot and will not be ignored in the country, whether ignored here or not. But the Government tells us that it does not warrant the enacting of a prohibitory law.

Now, let me say frankly: I consider this a perfectly honest answer. Prohibitionists may not fully agree with it. For my part, I cannot fully agree with it, but there is nothing dishonest in it and there is no breach of promise expressed or implied in that answer. The Liberal party has done everything that it had promised to do on this question. As far as the Government have gone I have no fault to find with them. I wish they had promised more and I wish they had performed more. I hope to see the day when this Government or some other Government will promise more and will perform more, but I have no charge of dis-

honesty and no charge of broken promises to make.

The prohibitionists are now at a point where they have to face a serious problem. They have forced this issue into the practical politics of this country; and there it must remain until it is settled, and settled right. Both parties, both party organizations, flatly refuse to go any further. What the present course of the prohibitionists should be I have no authority or right to advise. I can only speak for myself. It is plain to me that if we can hope for nothing from the Government or the Liberal party, we can hope for no more from the Conservative party. I have listened in vain to the many speeches we have had from the Opposition side of the House for any declaration of policy on this question. The Conservative party stands to-day where it has stood since 1893—committed to a blind, placid acceptance of the illogical and prejudiced report of the Royal Commission. I have heard much criticism of the Government. Of this, I do not complain. They are within their rights; they are discharging their duty. I have heard many appeals, some more direct than others, to prohibitionists to punish the Government for breaking their pledges. But I ask those who make these appeals: What help will that give us towards getting a law? I tell them I am ready, and thousands of others in this country—aye, more than the practical politicians often estimate—are prepared to vote against this Government or any other Government, if they will give us a reasonable hope that by so doing we shall get what we want. But the prohibitionists of this country are not all children or fools. We are not going to be caught with empty denunciations that are without a semblance of promise in them. I do not propose here or elsewhere to make capital for the Conservative party until I am convinced that by so doing I can advance the cause of prohibition. When they convince me that by making capital for the Conservative party, I shall advance the cause of prohibition, party names will count for very little with me. Let the Conservative leaders declare their policy. In the meantime, my advice to the prohibitionists is: Keep as clear as you can of party entanglements, and make your fight in the country. I believe the great mass of the common people are with us on this question, if the party leaders are not. I believe we can appeal to them with all confidence on this question, and to them we must appeal. It shall not be made a party football; it shall not be made the means of putting one party in and another party out, but dealt with on its merits. As I said in the opening, so I conclude—this is the largest, most important and most comprehensive question now before the Canadian people. It is a question which stands face to face with nineteenth century civilization—and demands an answer; and it is a question upon the proper decision of which depend issues of the most vital importance to Canadian homes and to the

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hopes of the Canadian people. I do not know what the result of this present situation may be, but I for one am looking for the way by which we can vote according to our convictions on this question, and when I see it, I shall not be afraid to take it. I hope soon to hear of this policy. I have not heard of it in this House as yet.

Mr. L. A. CHAUVIN, Terrebonne. (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne, which the Government has placed in the mouth of His Excellency the Governor General congratulates the country upon the number of immigrants that have settled down in Canada.

Now, who are those immigrants? Have those immigrants been sent here by our immigration agents in France, Ireland, England or in the United States, who are paid by the Government in order to select the class of settlers the best suited to our country? No, Sir; those immigrants are foreigners whose tenets are at variance with our manners and the laws of our country. Among other tenets, they profess that of never taking up arms, were it even for the defence of their own homes and their own country. It was no doubt on account of that doctrine that the Doukhobors had to leave Russia. They do not seem to take any stock in the peace and disarmament proposals of the Czar of Russia. But, Sir, even had we here no military conscription, we have a written constitution which commands us, when necessary, to call up to arms all citizens for the defence of our territory. Let me call the attention of the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence to the Militia Act, chapter 41, section 10, which enacts:

Her Majesty may require all the male inhabitants of Canada, capable of bearing arms, to serve in case of a "levée en masse."

Have the Doukhobors been exempted from military service by some ukase of the Napoleon of the west, the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton)? We have a right to be enlightened on the matter; if not, it will be understood that this immigration of thousands of settlers is an infringement of our constitution, and their presence in the west is to be looked upon in the light of an open challenge to the laws and the institutions of our country. But what do the letter and the spirit of our constitution amount to in the eyes of a Minister and a Government who did not scruple to outrage and trample under foot the same constitution when it was their bounden duty to protect the rights and privileges of the French Catholic minority of Manitoba? Instead of encouraging the immigration of those foreigners, the stream of which flowing strong and broad into the North-west Territories threatens to submerge the small group of French Canadians, the pioneers and first occupants of those fertile lands: why do they not encourage the repatriation of French Canadians from the United States, and chiefly of those who have settled down near the boundary line of our

Canadian west, and those in the state of Michigan, who, as stated in "La Patrie" a few days ago, wish to come home again and settle down in our midst? By so doing the Government would carry out a truly national policy, such a policy as is advocated by the valiant Archbishop of St. Boniface, who is keeping up the fight, "pro aris et focis," such a policy as is also advocated by that good missionary and immigration agent for the Government out west, the Rev. Mr. Morin, a policy which is also endorsed by another missionary, the Rev. Mr. Gérin, who writes as follows:—

What we need is a solid fulcrum in those regions where so many powerful forces are concentrating. Whatever contributes to extend and strengthen French influence, either to the west, to the north, or to the east of confederation, redounds to the benefit of the province of Quebec.

Such a policy would have been carried out by Sir George Etienne Cartier, who was wont to say to his fellow-countrymen, chiefly those who were tempted to cross over the boundary line: "Young men, go west! It is the land of promise." The Government of the day, with a French Canadian Prime Minister at their head, prefer to say: "Doukhobors, go west, and take possession of the best lands."

Why, Sir, I am told that those foreigners, in order the better to group together and concentrate their forces, have taken hold of lands belonging to other people. If I am misinformed, I am willing to be corrected by the hon. gentlemen opposite. There is another important matter which is not referred to in the Speech from the Throne, and upon which I deem it my duty to draw the attention of this House. I refer to an event which has transpired since last session, and one which has aroused public opinion to a high degree, chiefly in the province of Quebec. The fact I wish to refer to is the expulsion from the Canadian soil of two Spaniards, Senors Carranza and Du Bosc. Let me say that in referring to this matter, I disclaim all ties of partisanship. I wish it to be understood that I assume the whole responsibility and initiation of the protest I am about to make. It is as a British subject, as a French Canadian and a member of this House that I wish to protest against that expulsion. The British Government has always been the faithful guardian of the freedom and traditions guaranteed by the British constitution. It has always been the proud boast of Great Britain that she afforded a safe asylum to foreigners of all countries, to all refugees and political exiles, and she has welcomed to her shores those whom the French Revolution had cast adrift upon her shores, as well as those refugees of the Napoleonic dynasty and the princes of Orleans. Now, either these two Spaniards I refer to were guilty of having violated the laws of the land, or they were not. If they were guilty, it was the bounden duty of the

Government who accused them to bring this crime to the notice of Parliament, or to arraign them before the tribunals of this country. If they were not guilty, nothing could justify the Government for committing such a serious breach of international law, for so grossly violating the constitution of the country and the rights of citizens, as they have been violated at the present instance. And by what right did the Prime Minister write that letter to Mr. St. Pierre, that letter to "my dear St. Pierre," signed by Wilfrid Laurier? If he did so in his own personal capacity, he has outrageously abused his position as constitutional leader of the Government. Not even the Czar of Russia, not even a potentate of Africa or Asia would have carried to greater length autocracy and tyranny. If he did so in his capacity as chief of the executive, I would like to know where is to be found the legal enactment which confers on the Government such a right of expulsion.

We have been told, Sir, that in pursuing such a course the Government acted upon the instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, or of some important personage at Washington. Since when, I ask, has this Government, in the conduct of public affairs, to depend upon the good pleasure of the English Cabinet or of Downing Street, or of the British Embassy at Washington? No doubt, the Prime Minister—and this is probably the exact explanation of the matter—was anxious to truckle to the United States Government and get into their good graces. On this side of the House, we do not wish to wage war upon the United States. We have hailed the Anglo-American Alliance, which, to our mind, was a prudent marriage, as well as a love match. But we did not hail it with as much enthusiasm as the right hon. gentleman himself did, because it is a well known fact that the fusion of our race with the Anglo-Saxon race has been the dream of his life; he who, in an interview with the New York "Herald," reported in the "Canadien" of the 26th February, 1890, thus delivered himself: "The achievement of this great object, an alliance of the whole British race upon the face of the globe." But the policy of the Conservative party towards the United States of America has ever been one marked by an attitude of dignity and self-respect, which is a much surer way of winning the respect of other nations than by truckling to them. If our representatives have had to humble themselves at the Washington conference, the reason may perhaps be found in that action of the Government, contrary to justice and honour, the alien labour law, which has been postponed from session to session, in order to please the United States Government.

As to the reform of the Senate, I presume that it is a flash in the pan, and that it is going to meet the same fate as the prohibition movement did. In connection with the last matter, I cannot help remarking that

the Government are refusing to obey the people's verdict. Now, if the popular will is no longer the law even under a Liberal administration why should they complain of the Senate and clamour for its reform on behalf of the sovereign people? No, Sir, the reform of the Senate is but an election and party manoeuvre, and "La Patrie," the organ of the Liberal party in Montreal, from the very outset of the debate on that reform, did not fail to calculate the majority of votes which it was bound to give the Liberal party. If they mean to carry out a reform calculated to place the Senate outside of the influences of active politics, then, I say, let them select its members from the ranks of the public bodies of the people, from the universities, the clergy, the liberal professions, trade and agriculture. But I hesitate not in saying that they merely obey the dictates of narrow partisanship in disturbing our constitution, and an institution which showed in the past what it could do, and which, far from trammelling public business, has, on the contrary, upon several occasions, saved the country. No, Sir; the hon. gentlemen opposite are not actuated by a love of the constitution. A still more serious result of the proposed reform would be that, by nullifying the influence of the Senate, the guarantees secured by the provinces, and chiefly by the province of Quebec, would also be nullified. In a speech delivered on the 22nd of this month, at Quebec, the Hon. Thomas Chapais, a gifted speaker and writer, quoting the opinion of Sir Hector Langevin, one of the representatives of the province of Quebec at the conference which was held for the framing of the Act of Confederation of British North America, reports the latter as stating that "had any member of the conference proposed the formation of a Senate organized upon the plan of reform advocated by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir George Etienne Cartier and himself would have at once withdrawn from the conference, and broken off all negotiations."

Before concluding these remarks, let me quote the celebrated words of Sir Etienne Paschel Taché, who said that "the last gun fired for the maintenance of the British flag on the American continent, would be fired by a French Canadian." Let me express the hope that the first blow struck at the structure of confederation will not be dealt by a French Canadian Minister.

During the session, I intend to give fair-play to the Government, as I have done during previous sessions. As a matter of fact, I do not see why we should wage war upon a Government who continue the policy of the Conservative party, and are indebted for their prosperity to our methods and political platform, which reminds me of the saying of the Latin poet: "Sic vos non vobis." Why, I ask, should we arraign an Administration who are carrying out our political programme, and are borrowing from

our party their views and methods? But is it fair, and sound logic, on the part of the hon. gentlemen, after so long disparaging and traducing that programme and those ideas, now to claim credit for a policy to which the country owes its prosperity? Let the Government encourage immigration of the right kind; let them help French Canadians from the United States to repatriate themselves, and I will support them. Let the Government encourage the colonization of the province of Quebec, a truly patriotic work; let them encourage the development and the settlement of the northern townships of the province, opened up by the heroic Curé Labelle, and they may rely upon it that I will help them to reach that end by all the means suggested at the last meeting of the Congress of Colonization, held in Montreal last summer, the proceedings of which have been submitted to the Government for approval. The Government may count upon my support in any measure calculated to foster the interests and the progress of the farming community, as also in any progressive measure of social reform framed with a view to fostering the well-being of the working classes, and righting the wrongs perpetrated upon them in the Crow's Nest Pass Railway matter. The Government will also find in me a willing supporter should they aim at reforming the Senate so as to make it a body truly representative of the larger interests and important bodies of the country, and not a voting machine, as the Prime Minister and his faithful adviser, the Minister of Public Works, are trying to do. I will support the Government if they deal with the United States as the latter deal with us, and provided they no longer allow them to monopolize our natural wealth, our mines, water powers, natural gas, etc., provided they impose a tax upon those foreigners and expel them from the country, if need be, so as to restore to our fellow-countrymen, the common inheritance of the Canadian family so far monopolized by our hungry neighbours.

Let the Government also grant further concessions to the Manitoba Catholics and they may rely upon my support; but I will agree with them that the school question is settled only when full justice will have been done, according to the pledges given to the Quebec electorate at the elections of 1896, and in pursuance of the supreme orders issued by Pope Leo XIII. Finally, in whatever measure may best serve the interests of the province of Quebec, I will support the Government, claiming, however, equal rights for all, for Quebec as well as for Ontario. And in this connection let me, Sir, invite the attention of the right hon. gentleman to some of those demands and beg him to consider and solve that of the "better terms," that is to say, a readjustment of the subsidies granted by the Do-

minion Government to Quebec. That question was brought up before the Interprovincial Conference called together by the Hon. Mr. Mercier. Two hon. gentlemen who now sit upon the Treasury benches, the hon. Minister of Finance and the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals attended that conference, and among other resolutions subscribed to by them was one enacting that, should the Liberal party come into power, they would grant the province of Quebec "better terms."

Let, then, the Government redeem the pledge given to the province of Quebec in the matter of the "better terms," as also in the matter of the rights of the Manitoba minority, without heeding the threats of fanatics of whatever description, nor paying any attention to the faint-heartedness of some of their followers, relying upon the co-operation of truly independent men, of men of good-will, ready to do justice and grant equal rights to all, and anxious, before everything else, to uphold the constitution of the country and have it respected.

Mr. H. G. CARROLL (Kamouraska). I would not have arisen to address the House at this time, were it not for the speech delivered the other day by the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain). That hon. gentleman made some statements which certainly cannot remain unanswered. I may, first of all, congratulate the hon. member for Montmorency for his great achievements, for his rapid advancement in the leadership of the French Conservative party. At the same time, I cannot refrain from expressing my sympathy with the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron), for, if rumour is correct—and I think it is—there was a new movement inaugurated a few weeks ago in the city of Montreal, a result of which is, that the hon. member for Montmorency is proclaimed by the Tory press, by the "Mail and Empire" and by the Toronto "World," as the brilliant young leader of the French Conservatives of the province of Quebec. Sir, that must be painful to the hon. member for Beauharnois, who sits in this House, an old parliamentarian of twenty or twenty-two years experience; but he is relegated to the old movement, as we are now in the new movement. The hon. member for Montmorency touched upon several different subjects in the speech which he made the other day. He spoke of the Quebec bridge; he spoke of the race appeals to the French Canadians, which, he says, the French Liberal members in this House are always making. Sir, I can understand very well why the member for Montmorency speaks of the Quebec bridge. He remembers when the leader of the Opposition, in the city of Quebec, declared, that if there was no bridge, there would be no votes for the Conservative party. There has been no bridge, and there have been no votes for hon. gentlemen opposite. But I can assure

the hon. gentleman—though I am not authorized, and do not know the intentions of the Government—that the Quebec bridge will be built, and, as usual, there will be votes for the leader of the Government. Again, the hon. member for Montmorency stated in this House, that the French members appealed to the electorate of the province of Quebec for their support of this Government on the ground that our leader is a French Canadian and a Catholic. Sir, I deny the statement in toto. It comes with a bad grace from my hon. friends opposite to state that we make these appeals, when those hon. gentlemen, during that memorable session of 1896, when the Remedial Bill was under discussion—a Bill which, according to the leader of the Government, was a measure of a shapeless deformity—when these hon. gentlemen in this House made just such appeals against the leader of the Opposition. I say, this accusation comes with a bad grace from those hon. gentlemen, who at that time appealed to the passions and to the prejudices of the electors in the province of Quebec. Such a charge comes with bad grace from those hon. gentlemen who, in 1896, conducted a campaign of slander and misrepresentation and falsehood in the province of Quebec against the hon. gentleman who was then leading the Opposition. Why, Sir, they even went so far as to try to peer into our private lives, and, through well-known means, to influence the electorate of that province. The hon. member for Montmorency, and other hon. gentlemen who have addressed the House during this lengthy debate, have assailed the Government, and have said, that it was a bad Government, that it was a Government which does not deserve the confidence of the people of this country. Sir, I will give them an authority, the authority of the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies. Mr. Chamberlain, speaking at a banquet given in his honour in the city of Birmingham, replying to the charge made against his Government, that it was the worst Government of modern times, spoke thus:

They passed a resolution in which they declared that the present Government was the worst Government of modern times. It is, then, for the worst Government of modern times that I have to respond. For what are the signs of a bad Government, and, above all, what are the conditions which you would expect to find in a country which has been ruled for the past four years by the worst Government of modern times? Surely you would expect to find bad trade, a falling revenue; you would expect to see general insecurity and want of confidence.

Sir, the hon. leader of the Opposition has admitted, that in this country we find great and growing trade and prosperity, but he attributes it to the luck of the leader of the Government. Well, it is something to be lucky; it is not much, but it is something, and I am sure the leader of the Opposition, after the by-elections that have been held in

the province of Quebec, would like very well to enjoy a little of that luck. The hon. gentlemen opposite from the province of Quebec complain that they cannot appeal to the electorate of the province of Quebec, that they cannot put the real issues before the electors. Real issues! What are the real issues in the minds of hon. gentlemen opposite? The Curran bridge, the Tay Canal, the graving dock? Sir, the trouble is, not that the electorate of the province of Quebec do not understand these questions; the trouble is, that they understand them too well, and that is the reason the hon. gentlemen opposite are so unpopular there. I suppose, the leader of the Opposition has asked explanations from the leaders in Quebec—from the hon. member for Beauharnois, from the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), from the hon. member for Montmorency—I suppose, he has asked: How is it that in the by-elections we cannot succeed? I suppose, they answered him: Well, Sir Charles, we cannot succeed because we cannot put the real issues before the people. That is a bad excuse, and I think it is not a loyal excuse, and it is one that will recoil on the hon. gentlemen who give such reasons, because it implies an accusation against the intelligence of the population of the province of Quebec. Now, the question of the Senate has been discussed at considerable length by the leader of the Opposition. He opposes the reform which has been proposed by the leader of the Government, on the ground that it will affect the position of the French minority in this confederation. Now, let me ask: What has brought about this confederation? Was it not the friction that existed between the province of Quebec and the province of Ontario? Was it not because the two provinces could not get along together? Was it not because Her Majesty's Government could not be carried on? Sir, we demand this reform because we say, that Her Majesty's Government, as the Senate is now constituted, cannot be carried on. But the hon. gentlemen should not give that reason, because, though I approve of confederation, though I think it has been a great and a good work, there is a defect in its working which is evident to every one. At one time, under the union, there were 42 members from the province of Quebec, and 42 from the province of Ontario, an equal number of French representatives and of English representatives. But, at confederation, the province of Quebec was sandwiched between the maritime provinces and the western provinces, and now we have only 65 members out of the 213 members sitting in this Chamber. If the hon. leader of the Opposition gives that as a reason, I say that he should not, himself a father of confederation, give that as a good reason. But, Sir, I contend that the constitution of the Senate of Canada is a unique constitution; I contend that there is not a second chamber, an upper chamber

Mr. CARROLL.

in any Parliament of the world which has the constitution of the Canadian Senate. What is the constitution of the House of Lords? It is in the power of the Crown to appoint an unlimited number of Peers to the House of Lords. In 1830 the number of names on the roll was 401. It was 457 in 1840; 448 in 1850; 458 in 1860; 503 in 1877; 575 in 1896. The constitution of the Senate in France provides that senators are appointed for nine years, one-third being replaced every three years. Look at the constitution of the Senate of the United States, and you will find that the Senate of that country is composed of members chosen by the State Legislatures for a period of six years. Under the constitution of Belgium the Senate consists of members elected for eight years, partly directly and partly indirectly. I was surprised to hear to-night statistics given by the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule). The hon. gentleman said that there were as many Bills thrown out by the Senate under Conservative regime as under Liberal regime. I was surprised at that statement, because when I look into the volume written by Sir John Bourinot on Parliament procedure, I find that from 1874 to 1896 five Bills were thrown out by the Senate: in 1875, Bills respecting the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway, and County Court judges; in 1877, a Bill respecting the auditing of public accounts; in 1878, a Bill creating the office of Attorney-General; in 1879, a Bill respecting two additional judges in British Columbia. In 1878 a Bill amending the Canadian Pacific Railway Act of 1874 was sent up and was returned. I find that from 1877 to 1896 there was only one Bill delayed and that was sent down to the Commons. It was a Bill for the construction of a railway from Harvey to Salisbury or Moncton in New Brunswick. From 1878 to 1896 five Bills were thrown out and these were thrown out in the four years of the administration of the late Alexander Mackenzie. These are the statistics that I have found in Bourinot's Parliamentary Procedure. I find that by rule 99 of this House it is provided that in the case of conflict between this House and the Senate there may be a conference of members chosen by each chamber, but though it is provided, that such a conference can be held, there is no provision if the members composing this conference cannot agree. In every country where such conferences form part of the rules of the House, it is agreed that those who have the majority carry the Bill, if the Bill is presented.

Much has been said about the plebiscite. I cannot do otherwise than congratulate the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure) on the able speech which he has delivered on this question. Some prohibitionists ask this Parliament to pass a prohibitory law when 23 per cent of the population has declared itself in favour of such a law. They say that they have secured a majority and that in a constitutional country it is the

majority which rules. It is well to state at the outset that this popular consultation, as well as other consultations held on other subjects, do not form part of our constitution. There is a great difference between the result of a vote on a consultation of this nature and the result of a vote for the election of a member of Parliament. The constitution provides that for parliamentary elections it is the majority of voters voting which decides the fate of the candidate, and that, whether a candidate secures one per cent, or eighty per cent, it is he who secures the majority that is elected. The referendum is no part of our constitution and it is therefore proper to turn our eyes towards those countries where the referendum is part of the constitution, and, being guided by the experience furnished by these countries, we can see that the majority of the electorate is required to take action upon a referendum. The country where the referendum is particularly practised is Switzerland, and, when we refer to the statistics, we find that from 1874 to 1892 there have been 21 popular consultations, and we also find that an average of 62 per cent of the qualified voters voted. Formerly the constitution of Switzerland provided that the majority of the electors voting and the majority of the cantons decided the fate of a law submitted to the popular vote, but in 1890 an amendment to the constitution was passed by which it was enacted that the vote of the communes should be compulsory, because it was found that the majority of the voters did not always represent the real majority of the population. And yet if there was a country where the referendum could be relied upon as the expression of the popular will, that country was surely Switzerland, where education is so spread, territory so limited, population so dense, public spirit so developed, where for centuries the people have been trained to the exercise of liberty, the good sense of whose population is so well known, and whose interests are so common. The prohibitionists want us to introduce a law which will not only bring a revolution in the fiscal system of the country, but which will affect the very root of social organization. It has been well said that the best laws are those which are best adapted to the sentiments and inclinations and genius of those for whom these laws are made. In a question of this nature we must consult our past, our origin, the examples, which are given us and the characteristics of our people. As a thinker has said, when we wish to legislate upon a question affecting our social organism we must take into consideration the various elements which govern men, climate, religion, experience of past events, habits and manners from which are formed the resulting general spirit, and I ask every member of this House, are we to-day in a position to legislate with impunity on a question of this nature? It is true, as the Prime Minister declared in England, that we are a nation, but we have not been long born to the

life of a nation, and I contend that we have not to attempt to venture the necessary experience. The different parts of the country are being brought closer and closer together by the bonds of friendship and by the ties of fraternity. Sir, I do not think that we are yet a completely homogeneous people. We are asked to make a trial, which England with its secular experience has not attempted and is not prepared to attempt, an experiment which France has not tried, which the United States have not ventured upon, and which no country holding traditions of science and experience has adopted. We are asked to make this experiment at the request of 23 per cent of the population. Taking into account the small vote in favour of prohibition I ask any member of this House if he thinks that this law could be put into operation? To put the question is to answer it.

Much has been said regarding the International conference, and it has been claimed that this conference has ended in a fiasco. For my part, I admit that our commissioners on some points were placed at a disadvantage. The question of the Atlantic fisheries and the questions relating to the Behring Sea, whereby our plenipotentiaries at Paris have caused to be proclaimed the great principle of the freedom of the seas, have given rise to the statement, and not without reason, that we were left with the principle, while the Americans retained the seals. Whatever may be the outcome of these negotiations, I think it is the duty of every public man to wait until a treaty has been completed or its idea abandoned. For my part, I none the less persist in the belief that arbitration is the wisest and most rational means of settling our difficulties with our neighbours. Sir, as nations progress, as civilization is developed, arbitration becomes the most powerful safeguard of peace and freedom. It is in this century that the principle of arbitration has received its most practical application, and, in spite of the gloomy days which here and there sadden the end of the century, my feeling is none the less strong, that it is not force, but justice and humanity which will in the end rule the world. I believe that in no way can we better manifest our patriotism than by aiding in this great work of peace between the people of the United States, Canada and England. This idea of uniting the populations of the different parts of the Empire, as well as the population of the United States, has haunted thoughts of many, but to give substance to this idea and to cause these sentiments to penetrate the imagination, and in the masses, it was necessary to strike the imagination of the masses, and to do this there could be no more favourable opportunity than the royal festivities of the golden Jubilee, which were the public and solemn ratification of this great work of national organi-

zation. Often of late years, faithful and friendly hands have been stretched towards one another across the sea, but these isolated examples were but the presages and preliminaries which now appear of themselves as if by gradual ascension, to end in this great official act of national solidarity. But we will be asked: What will be the attitude of those who differ from the majority by blood and by language? I am sure I do not err when I say that our province of Quebec has none but good wishes for the intentions of British statesmen. Our people are profoundly attached to its institutions, to its laws, to its language, but after all our population is not a population of dreamers. It understands its position and appreciates our constitutional system. For over half a century our province has lived in peace and security, and it understands the inestimable value of these privileges. Our population tells itself with reason—with the good sense which characterizes it—that after all, liberty is the best of all gifts and the greatest of all boons which a nation can enjoy.

Reference has again been made to the school question, but nothing new has been said. The hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) has alluded to it in this House, and the hon. member for Beauhar- nois (Mr. Bergeron) has spoken of the school question in every county in which he addressed the electors. But, Sir, the hon. gentlemen opposite, have of late years considered themselves providential on this question, but the illusion is now gone. If they are prepared to submit a new plan for the definite solution of that question, well and good, but let us see it. Let us see their brow illumined by new light, and we will cheerfully ascend with them into the light but let them abandon the sterile paths of criticism and ill-will.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Montmorency). You will go back on your pledges all the same.

Mr. CARROLL. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Casgrain) knows something of going back on his pledges, because the hon. gentleman once in the city of Quebec declared, that if there was no bridge there would be no vote. There was no bridge and he voted just the same.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I took occasion last session to contradict that statement, and I now contradict it most emphatically. I never said anything of the kind.

Mr. CARROLL. I accept the statement of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Casgrain) of course, but it is too bad his organ reported him as having used these words.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Never.

Mr. CARROLL. Well, I am not bound to accept the statement that the organ did not report him as having used these words.

Mr. CARROLL.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I defy the hon. gentleman (Mr. Carroll) to find one of the organs of the Conservative party at that time, which reported that I used that language.

Mr. CARROLL. The "Chronicle" of Quebec, did the next morning.

Mr. CASGRAIN. No.

Mr. CARROLL. Well, even if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Casgrain) did use these words he spoke truly, because there was on the school question no bridge, and his party got no votes, Sir, and, on other delicate questions, let it be said to the honour of this Parliament, that at every critical phase of our history our Parliament has understood its role. When under various circumstances difficulties have arisen, the superior voice of reason has always been heard within these walls, and our public men have not measured "their works by the length of their short lives, but have rather attached themselves to these ideas which last, and which are masters of time." Sir, this question has been practically settled, and it has been settled by the hon. leader of the Government.

In 1871, after the Franco-Prussian war anarchy reigned supreme in the streets of the French capital. After the sorrows of defeat, almost before the enemy had left the soil, civil war was unchained. A man of strong will and unconquerable patriotism had been entrusted with the painful duty of signing the Treaty of Peace, and after having brought about peace between Germany and France, he was entrusted with the no less difficult task of pacifying his countrymen. One day, making his appearance in the Chamber of Deputies, he was acclaimed as the liberator of the French people, and Gambetta said, pointing to Thiers: There is the liberator of the territory. Our country has indeed never known such a crisis as this. We have, it is true, lived in relative happiness, but a few years ago if civil war was not at our doors, hearts were swelling, hatred was making its way in our midst, the spectre of intolerance was unfolding its sinister wings, even within the walls of this Parliament. To-day, Sir, we enjoy the blessings of peace and contentment and if hon. gentlemen opposite will not join us in this expression at least we Liberals can say with truth and with justice of our leader: The liberator of the territory is there.

Mr. F. A. MARCOTTE (Champlain). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, it would seem as though, of late, the French language had been done away with in this House. There are several hon. members opposite who could address the House in our beautiful French tongue much more creditably than I can, and yet they are always heard speaking English. I cannot help remarking, in

this connection, that such a course is a crying injustice towards the people of the province of Quebec. I quite understand that the party leaders in this House should use the language of the majority. Still, Sir, allow me to say that I do not think it would be neither a breach of etiquette towards the French Canadian members of this House, nor a lack of delicacy towards the English-speaking members, for an hon. gentleman to use the French language when addressing the House. This objection, which holds good in the case of the party leaders in this House, does not apply any longer in the case of a member who represents a constituency like Gaspé, where there is an overwhelming majority of French population. I felt a genuine surprise, the other day, when I heard the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux) who—let me pay him this compliment—could speak so eloquently in French, I was amazed, I say, when I heard him addressing the House in English. I make bold to tell him, in the name of his constituents of Gaspé, that he certainly does not deserve any credit for his English lecture. We ought to make it our duty here to speak French oftener than we do, and that on several grounds. It is a debt of gratitude we first owe the people of the province of Quebec, then, those who have secured us that right, and lastly, the electors who did us the honour of sending us to Parliament as their representatives.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one hears nothing else talked of, but the prosperity of the country. I am glad to see by the Blue-books that prosperity prevails everywhere. I am happy to be able to join with the hon. members who have taken the floor before me to state that our imports and exports are on the increase; that a larger stream of immigration has set in, and that those settlers will help us to develop our agricultural resources and the latent resources and wealth of the country. I am glad also to state that our trade is developing and that our intercourse with foreign countries is on the increase; but I cannot help calling the attention of the House to the difference which exists between the course pursued by the hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, and that of the hon. gentlemen opposite, prior to 1896. During the electoral contest, the hon. gentlemen opposite were heard to say on all the hustings that the country was on the verge of bankruptcy. And yet, once the contest was over and the hon. gentlemen had reached power, the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) went over to England and succeeded in floating a loan at 2½ per cent. That is the best evidence that when the Conservative party went out of power, the credit of the country was good on the foreign markets, and therefore it follows that the hon. gentlemen opposite were wittingly deceiving the electorate when stating that the country was on the verge of bankruptcy, that blue ruin was staring us in the

face. On the other hand, Sir, what do we see? Here is our old chieftain, Sir Charles Tupper, with his indomitable energy, travelling all over Canada and crossing the Atlantic, and everywhere extolling to the skies the wealth of the country, and telling people what a bright future is in store for us. Quite different was the anti-national course adopted by the hon. gentlemen opposite, and, if people had placed any reliance in their statements and in their organs, they would have had a very poor idea of the future of the country. But, fortunately, we have a leader who sets a great example to us. Have we not seen him everywhere praising up Canada, extolling her wealth, the fertility of her soil, pointing out to the world the prosperous state of our commerce and the ever-increasing volume of our exports and imports, and calling the attention of immigrants to the fact that here, in this land of ours, all those who are willing to work, if they do not find wealth, may, at least, enjoy a sufficient and decent competency, in which consists the happiness of individuals and of peoples.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have been asked to whom we are indebted for this prosperity? One need not make any superhuman efforts nor look very far ahead, before finding out the cause of the prosperity which this country is blessed with. Some of the hon. gentlemen opposite, by dint of repeating the statement over and over again, have finally come to fancy that they had brought about the prevailing prosperity. As I said a little while ago, when the hon. gentlemen assumed the reins of power in 1896, the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) was enabled to go to England and float a loan, bearing interest at 2½ per cent, a transaction by which the country benefited to that extent, thus showing that the prosperity and the credit of the country were very great at that time. And now, lo and behold! These hon. gentlemen come and tell us on the floor of the House that theirs is the credit for the present prosperity which is owing, they say, to their fiscal policy. To whom, Sir, I ask, belongs the credit? If the country is prosperous, it is owing to the fact that they carried out the National Policy framed by the Conservative party, which was a plank of the platform of the late Administration. But this prosperity is chiefly owing to the fact that the hon. gentlemen opposite failed to carry out the electoral platform which they had advocated and propounded to the electorate. What they advocated, then, was free trade with the United States, with a view, they stated, to bettering the lot of the farming community and of our manufacturers. Such was their avowed policy. They were well aware of the fact that free trade was not a suitable policy to Canada. It may suit a country like Great Britain, with her great and fully equipped industries; it may suit Turkey, with all her natural wealth, but it is not the right and

proper policy for a country like ours. The hon. gentlemen were heard in every part of the country preaching the gospel of free trade and telling the people that Canada would enjoy a greater degree of prosperity under a free trade policy than under the National Policy. But, Sir, I shall refrain from going into all the policies framed by the hon. gentlemen opposite and advocated by them before the electorate. Let me only add this, that, in order to further develop the prosperity of the country, they must needs carry out the National Policy, which was in force under the Conservative régime.

I now wish to call attention to the conference held by the Prime Minister with the United States, first at Quebec and, later on, at Washington. I cannot say what has taken place at that conference, as the proceedings were kept secret; still, from what has transpired, we may gather that very little has been achieved. However, I hesitate not to say that, in my humble opinion, reciprocity with the United States would, perhaps, not turn out to the advantage of Canada. Moreover, one must also take into consideration the views of the American people. I remember reading that, under the administration of Sir George E. Cartier a reciprocity treaty was debated in the House. Let us hear what that statesman then thought of the American people, and I am of opinion that they have not changed very much since that time. On the 16th of March, 1870, he said :

The House has empowered us to admit, duty free, by Order in Council, the goods which did not pay any customs duty under the reciprocity treaty, as soon as the Americans were willing to do the same. Our whole legislation has been framed with that object in view, and we have in that way forestalled the Americans. Individually, the Americans prove good neighbours, but as a nation, there are no people in the world less prone to liberality towards other people, with the exception of the Chinese.

And, a little further down, he adds :

In the eyes of the Americans, the bonding system is most advantageous; but, liberality is all on our side.

I believe that if we wish to have a reciprocity treaty with the Americans, liberality will have to be on our side only. And here again, I repeat it, the policy which we must still adhere to is the National Policy, which has made Canada prosperous as it is to-day. We are not yet able to keep up competition with our powerful neighbours; but, as the hon. gentlemen opposite admire so much the American people, I would offer them a suggestion: Let them follow their example by raising a tariff wall against the other countries as the Americans have done.

It appears from the Speech from the Throne, that the Government propose to reform the Senate. It is only on very serious and weighty grounds that a constitution like ours should be disturbed; and the question is: What are those important and weighty

Mr. MARCOTTE.

motives that have impelled the Government to propose the disturbance of our constitution. The plan suggested by the Government is not without its drawbacks. The "Electeur," one of the organs of the Liberal party, stated in one of its latest issues, that the majority in this House was 54, while the majority in the Senate was 38. Now, the combined majority of both Chambers would be 16; but, supposing that the majority in this House were 20, whilst that in the Senate were 38, we would then be at the mercy of a Senate with a majority of 18, and the House of Commons would have completely lost its independence. And yet, the Government, under the proposed plan of reform, pretend to aim at securing a larger sum of independence and freedom for those who are directly elected by the people. I am of opinion that the Government will miss the mark should they carry out their scheme. Moreover, the so-called remedy they wish to apply will eventually prove worse than the evil they pretend to cure. Why do the hon. gentlemen wish to reform the Senate? They want to operate that reform, because the Senate refused to pass the Drummond Railway Bill and the Yukon Railway Bill, and above all, because they refused to vote the \$300,000 grant in favour of Mr. Greenway's schools, which had been asked by the Government of the day. If the Prime Minister and the Cabinet wish to go and urge those reasons before the Imperial Government, we are not afraid of the issue, and we will await it without fear, provided that while enforcing their reasons they do put them in the proper light. Let them make a clean breast of it and give the true motives which prompt them to disturb the constitution of our Senate. Why should they be called upon to reform the Upper Chamber? It is a well known fact to-day in connection with the throwing out of the Drummond Bill by the Senate, that this action of the Upper Chamber has resulted in keeping several thousand dollars in the public coffers. It is a well-known fact that the Senate did protect our national domain when securing to the country the 3,750,000 acres of land which the Government had not hesitated to give to Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann. We are not afraid to go before the Imperial Government and to state those reasons which are further evidence of the necessity of the Senate.

There is still another reason why the hon. gentlemen want to carry out that reform. The Senate has refused to adopt a Bill to grant a certain sum of money to Mr. Greenway. I may say that the Senate, when they threw out that Bill did render a most important service to the Catholic minority in Manitoba, because those \$300,000 were exclusively given to Mr. Greenway in aid to the public schools, and the Manitoba minority would have been denied any share in that grant, ratably to their number. Let me tell the hon. gentlemen that should an

appeal be made to the electorate, and should the people be invited to give their verdict on that reform, I believe that the Canadian electorate will duly show their appreciation of the wisdom of the Senate and of the important services rendered by that body to the country at large. The people will understand that the Senate has proved itself the safeguard of the public treasury; they will realize that the Senate is composed of wise men, perfectly conversant with the laws of the country, able to tender good and sound advice and to take the steps best calculated to promote the welfare of the country.

I now approach another subject, which has been dealt with by nearly all the hon. gentlemen who have preceded me in this debate, and I also deem it my duty to offer a few remarks in the same connection. I refer to that great question of the plebiscite, which is now engrossing public attention. As the hon. gentlemen know, a civil war broke out among the members of the Government when this question had to be tackled, and the Cabinet was split into two different camps, for and against this measure. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) whether it is fair to vote here for a measure which he says should not be enforced in this country? Is it fair, I ask, to spend \$250,000 of the people's money to take a vote upon a measure he looks upon as a Utopia which cannot be enforced? I believe that it is unfair for the Government to ask for a measure which they believe impracticable. Should such a principle be carried out in private life, it would lead to most serious consequences, and I do not think it proper to apply, in the conduct of public business, principles which are not applicable to private life. It is a well-known fact that the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue went to Cap Santé and canvassed against a measure in favour of which he had voted in this House. In so doing, the hon. Minister has proved himself recreant to his duty and to the most elementary principles of public life. It is also well known that the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) went into the county of Quebec and took the stump against a measure which he had endorsed here.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). (Translation.) It was to Quebec Centre that I went. In the county of Quebec, that was altogether unnecessary.

Mr. MARCOTTE. (Translation.) The hon. Solicitor General did not act more consistently with himself in Quebec Centre than he did in Quebec County. Now, Sir, I suppose that the Government are aware that the Prohibitionists have obtained a majority. I think the Government are right in not introducing a Prohibition Bill, and that on several grounds, which have been successfully dealt with by hon. gentlemen oppo-

site. For my part, I endorse most of their arguments, if not all of them.

I also deem it my duty, Sir, to approach another question, although I am well aware that the hon. gentlemen opposite would rather have me pass over in silence. I refer to the Manitoba school question, and if I avail myself of this opportunity to deal with it, it is because I wish to bring to the attention of the House the following words, uttered by the Prime Minister in that connection:—

We dealt with that question. We removed it from the federal arena to the provincial arena, where it belongs and where it should have been left, there to be dealt with by the citizens of the province in a spirit of mutually honourable concessions. I will not show here the character of the hon. gentleman's blunder in this case. It is there before his eyes. He sees it night and day, and he regrets it night and day.

Such utterances, Sir, are really astonishing, when one remembers the course pursued by the Prime Minister, and the pledges given by him to the electorate of the province of Quebec. But before going any further, let me, at the outset, state that the school question is not settled, and let me also show the House how the provincial Government have settled this question. In order the better to elucidate the matter, let me first quote the statement made on the 13th February by Mr. Greenway, at Winnipeg, in connection with this same question, for the settlement of which the Prime Minister is claiming credit. Here is what he says about the progress of the matter since 1890. Let us see what kind of concessions have been made. Mr. Greenway says:

There are now people who have undertaken to discredit the position taken by the Government in connection with the public schools. Those people have not hesitated to state that the Government had flinched and receded from the position first taken by them. Let me tell those people that they could not possibly labour under a more egregious mistake. It is impossible for the Government to have officers go on guard at the door of each schoolhouse, but what the Government can do and will do, is to confiscate the legislative grant, should the regulations respecting the conduct of those schools be violated. The Government are still adhering to the very same position which they have always adhered to since the passage of the Public School's Act. Their object is to make the people of this province one people by education and one people by the concurrence which they must give to the development of the country, and the Government will not tolerate any interference contrary to the carrying out of that plank of their platform.

Such was the statement made by Mr. Greenway with regard to the concessions which have been made since 1890.

The statement of the Prime Minister sounds strange to our ears, nay, more, it is painful to the electors of the province of Quebec in particular and to those who sympathize with the Manitoba minority. I could use much harsher words than those I have

used, but I think the Prime Minister fully realizes now the blunder he has made, and he must feel the pangs of remorse. From the statement made by Mr. Greenway, we may gather what kind of concessions have been obtained, what progress has been made in the settlement of this question. Surely, the Manitoba minority ought to be satisfied now with that arrangement and they ought to feel grateful to the Prime Minister. Those who were asking full justice, ought to be satisfied with the legislative grant given by the Manitoba Government, and they ought, forsooth, to be grateful to the Prime Minister, because, to borrow his own words before the electors prior to the elections of 1896, the Manitoba Catholics now have not only half a loaf, but a whole loaf of bread. It was, therefore, with good reason that the hon. gentlemen opposite boasted of the concessions made by the Manitoba Government, and it was on good grounds that they assured the Quebec electorate that the question had been removed from the political arena and that the Catholic minority enjoyed more privileges than they did, prior to 1890. What a mockery! The question is not settled. We know that justice has not been meted out to the Manitoba Catholics and that they are still denied their most sacred rights. Their schools are nothing else but public and Godless schools. Catholic parents cannot send their children to those schools, and have to tax themselves or else have public collections taken up in churches, in order to have their children properly educated in schools of their own where their children may be taught according to the tenets of the church.

The hon. gentlemen opposite boast of professing a veritable cult for provincial autonomy. It is all very well, but when the Dominion Government have a duty to perform, they ought to attend to that duty and have those rights respected. We are quite willing to respect provincial autonomy, but when we see the Manitoba Government abusing their power, it is our duty to insist that the pledges given to the electorate should be carried out.

The sunny ways, the conciliatory means resorted to by the hon. Prime Minister have undoubtedly failed, and have not fulfilled their purpose. Now, let the hon. Prime Minister come forward and introduce a constitutional measure, a remedial Bill, and thus redeem his promise to the Quebec electorate. Let him say: "The Catholic minority are still denied their rights by the Manitoba Government; we have all equal rights in this country; we are all equal before the constitution and, we have here the authority which has been conferred upon us by the highest tribunal in the Empire; let us then take action." Thus would the hon. Prime Minister show that he can hold with a firm hand the reins of power. Thus would he show the subaltern Government that there is here, a superior power, and that the Gov-

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ernment know how to safeguard their dignity and have their rights respected. Then could he say with good reason that he is protecting the weak from the mighty and that he has restored their sacred rights to a people who had long been denied the same. Then could he turn towards the province of Quebec and tell her people: "I have pledged my word that I would mete out full justice, and, full justice has been meted out." And thus would we side with him on this question, as on many other issues, and on the tariff issue in particular, one which he has stolen from us.

Last session, I rose in my seat and inquired how many members had pledged themselves not to vote in favour of a Remedial Bill. Four of them got up, and among the lot was the hon. member for Maskinongé (Mr. Legris). With the exception of those four members, all the others had pledged themselves to vote in favour of a Remedial Bill. Now, I ask, what prevents them from implementing their promise to the electorate? Let them stand up and propose a remedial Bill. I see here the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) who will vote with you. I see also the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) who will vote with you.

Mr. T. C. CASGRAIN. (Translation.) I would have to do myself violence, to do that.

Mr. MARCOTTE. (Translation.) The leader of the Opposition told us, at the beginning of the session, that he was ready to cooperate with the Prime Minister; therefore, the latter has nothing to fear. You may rely upon a majority; you may banish all fear from your minds; you have friends on this side of the House who are ready to vote in favour of a remedial Bill. What, then, prevents you from taking action? Redeem your promises and all your pledges. The only trouble is that you lack the necessary courage to do it.

As we all know, the school question is not yet settled; and, from the statement made by the Prime Minister during this session, it is safe to infer that he is not willing to render justice to the Manitoba minority. The hon. gentlemen have given pledges which they refuse to implement. Nothing prevents them from implementing them now. Were they ready to do so, harmony and concord would prevail everywhere; we would no longer see a portion of our people deprived of their most sacred rights. Peace and harmony would prevail, and nothing would block the way to the rapid development of the country. If that question were settled once for all according to right and justice, our fellow-countrymen would no longer have to beg and the people would be grateful to the Prime Minister for having redeemed his pledges.

The hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) told us that the Prime Minister would be called to a very strict account for the course pursued by him in that con-

nection. There is no doubt, Sir, that he will be called to a strict account on that head, but I would rather have him settle the question, so as to restore peace and harmony to the country. It will be recorded in history that the right hon. gentleman declined to settle that question, because he did not want to risk his position as Prime Minister, and because he preferred honours to the glory of meting out justice to his compatriots in Manitoba. Let us hope that not a single member of this House, not a single man in this country, will oppose such a measure. Let us hope that justice will be meted out, and that finally, peace and harmony will prevail in Canada, in the general interest of the country.

Mr. MONET (Napierville) moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

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

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 12.10 (midnight).

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, 28th March, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), from the Special Committee appointed to prepare and report lists of members to compose the Select Standing Committees of this House, presented the following report :

#### No. 1.—ON PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS.

##### Messieurs

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| Angers,              | Lemieux,   |
| Belcourt,            | Logan,     |
| Bell (Prince, East), | McAlister, |
| Bennett,             | McCarthy,  |
| Bergeron,            | McCleary,  |
| Blair,               | McClure,   |
| Borden (Halifax),    | McInerney, |
| Britton,             | McIsaac,   |
| Bruneau,             | Madore,    |
| Carroll,             | Malouin,   |
| Caron (Sir Adolphe), | Martineau, |
| Casgrain,            | Mills,     |
| Davies (Sir Louis),  | Monet,     |
| Davin,               | Mcnk,      |
| Fitzpatrick,         | Morrison,  |
| Flint,               | Mulock,    |

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Fortin,                | Powell,             |
| Fraser (Guysborough),  | Quinn,              |
| Geoffrion,             | Russell,            |
| Haggart,               | Sifton,             |
| Ives,                  | Tisdale,            |
| LaRivière,             | Tupper (Sir Charles |
| Laurier (Sir Wilfrid), | Hibbert)—45.        |

#### No. 2.—ON EXPIRING LAWS.

##### Messieurs

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Bazinet,          | Fitzpatrick, |
| Beausoleil,       | Fortin,      |
| Bell (Addington), | Hale,        |
| Bennett,          | Harwood,     |
| Bourbonnais,      | Hurley,      |
| Carroll,          | Legris,      |
| Chauvin,          | Logan,       |
| Copp,             | Meigs,       |
| Cowan,            | Roche,       |
| Desmarais,        | Rogers,      |
| Dugas,            | Seagram,     |
| Earle,            | Somerville,  |
| Ethier,           | Tyrwhitt—27. |
| Ferguson,         |              |

And that the Quorum of the said Committee do consist of Seven Members.

#### No. 3.—ON RAILWAYS, CANALS AND TELEGRAPH LINES.

##### Messieurs

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Angers,                  | Johnston,              |
| Beattie,                 | Kaulbach,              |
| Beausoleil,              | Kendry,                |
| Beith,                   | Klock,                 |
| Belcourt,                | Kloepfer,              |
| Bell (Pictou),           | Landerkin,             |
| Bennett,                 | LaRivière,             |
| Bergeron,                | Laurier (Sir Wilfrid), |
| Bernier,                 | Lavergne,              |
| Bertram,                 | Lemieux,               |
| Bethune,                 | Lewis,                 |
| Blair,                   | Livingston,            |
| Blanchard,               | Logan,                 |
| Borden (Halifax),        | Macdonald (King's),    |
| Borden (King's),         | Macdonell,             |
| Bostock,                 | Mackie,                |
| Bourassa,                | MacLaren,              |
| Britton,                 | Maclean,               |
| Broder,                  | MacPherson,            |
| Brodeur,                 | McAlister,             |
| Brown,                   | McCarthy,              |
| Bruneau,                 | McCleary,              |
| Burnett,                 | McCormick,             |
| Calvert,                 | McDougall,             |
| Campbell,                | McGregor,              |
| Cargill,                 | McHugh,                |
| Caron (Sir Adolphe),     | McInerney,             |
| Carroll,                 | McInnes,               |
| Cartwright (Sir Rich'd), | McIsaac,               |
| Casey,                   | McLennan (Glengarry),  |
| Casgrain,                | McLennan (Inverness),  |
| Champagne,               | McMillan,              |
| Charlton,                | McMullen,              |
| Chauvin,                 | Madore,                |
| Christie,                | Malouin,               |
| Clancy,                  | Marcotte,              |
| Clarke,                  | Martin,                |
| Cochrane,                | Martineau,             |
| Corby,                   | Maxwell,               |
| Costigan,                | Mignault,              |
| Cowan,                   | Mills,                 |
| Craig,                   | Monet,                 |
| Davies (Sir Louis),      | Monk,                  |
| Davin,                   | Mrtague,               |
| Davis,                   | Morrison,              |

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Dechene,              | Mulock,               |
| Demers,               | Oliver,               |
| Desmarais,            | Osler,                |
| Dobell,               | Parmalee,             |
| Domville,             | Penny,                |
| Douglas,              | Pettet,               |
| Dugas,                | Pcpe,                 |
| Dyment,               | Poupore,              |
| Edwards,              | Powell,               |
| Ellis,                | Préfontaine,          |
| Erb,                  | Prior,                |
| Featherston,          | Proulx,               |
| Fielding,             | Quinn,                |
| Fitzpatrick,          | Ratz,                 |
| Flint,                | Reid,                 |
| Fortin,               | Richardson,           |
| Foster,               | Robertson,            |
| Fraser (Guysborough), | Robinson,             |
| Fraser (Lambton),     | Roche,                |
| Frost,                | Rogers,               |
| Ganong,               | Rosamond,             |
| Gauvreau,             | Ross,                 |
| Geoffrion,            | Russell,              |
| Gibson,               | Rutherford,           |
| Gillies,              | Savard,               |
| Godbout,              | Scriver,              |
| Guillet,              | Sifton,               |
| Guité,                | Snetsinger,           |
| Haggart,              | Sproule,              |
| Hale,                 | Stenson,              |
| Haley,                | Sutherland,           |
| Harwood,              | Talbot,               |
| Henderson,            | Tarte,                |
| Heyd,                 | Tisdale,              |
| Hodgins,              | Tucker,               |
| Holmes,               | Tupper (Sir Charles), |
| Hughes,               | Turcot,               |
| Hurley,               | Tyrwhitt,             |
| Hutchison,            | Wallace,              |
| Ingram,               | Wilson,               |
| Ives,                 | Wood—172.             |

And that the Quorum of the said Committee do consist of Thirty-one Members.

#### No. 4.—ON MISCELLANEOUS PRIVATE BILLS.

##### Messieurs

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Bain,                | Joly de Lotbinière, |
| Beattie,             | (Sir Henri),        |
| Beith,               | Kaulbach,           |
| Belcourt,            | LaRivière,          |
| Bell (Addington),    | Lavergne,           |
| Bell (Pictou),       | Leduc,              |
| Bennett,             | Legris,             |
| Bergeron,            | Lemieux,            |
| Bethune,             | Livingston,         |
| Bourbonnais,         | Logan,              |
| Broder,              | Macdonald (Huron),  |
| Brodeur,             | MacLaren,           |
| Burnett,             | Maclean,            |
| Calvert,             | MacPherson,         |
| Caron (Sir Adolphe), | McAllister,         |
| Carroll,             | McClure,            |
| Carscallen,          | McDougall,          |
| Casey,               | McHugh,             |
| Casgrain,            | McLellan,           |
| Cochrane,            | Marcotte,           |
| Corby,               | Martin,             |
| Cowan,               | Martineau,          |
| Craig,               | Melgs,              |
| Davies (Sir Louis),  | Mignault,           |
| Davin,               | Monet,              |
| Desmarais,           | Moore,              |
| Dyment,              | Morin,              |
| Earle,               | Morrison,           |
| Edwards,             | Mulock,             |
| Ellis,               | Paterson,           |
| Ethier,              | Penny,              |

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Fitzpatrick,          | Prior,     |
| Fraser (Guysborough), | Proulx,    |
| Fraser (Lambton),     | Roddick,   |
| Gauvreau,             | Rosamond,  |
| Gilmour,              | Russell,   |
| Graham,               | Savard,    |
| Guillet,              | Scriver,   |
| Hodgins,              | Stenson,   |
|                       | Tucker—78. |

And that the Quorum of the said Committee do consist of Fifteen Members.

#### No. 5.—ON STANDING ORDERS.

##### Messieurs

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Bain,              | Leduc,      |
| Bazinet,           | Mackie,     |
| Bourbonnais,       | McGugan,    |
| Broder,            | McInerney,  |
| Brodeur,           | McInnes,    |
| Brown,             | McMillan,   |
| Cargill,           | McNeill,    |
| Copp,              | Marcotte,   |
| Davis,             | Maxwell,    |
| Douglas,           | Mills,      |
| Dupré,             | McK.        |
| Earle,             | Moore,      |
| Erb,               | Morin,      |
| Ferguson,          | Pettet,     |
| Fitzpatrick,       | Quinn,      |
| Flint,             | Ratz,       |
| Hodgins,           | Rinfret,    |
| Hughes,            | Roche,      |
| Hurley,            | Ross,       |
| Ingram,            | Scriver,    |
| Joly de Lotbinière | Semple,     |
| (Sir Henri),       | Snetsinger, |
| Kaulbach,          | Stubbs,     |
| Landerkin,         | Tolraie,    |
| Lang,              | Wilson—49.  |

And that the Quorum of the said Committee do consist of Eleven Members.

#### No. 6.—ON PRINTING.

##### Messieurs

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Bergeron,          | Marcel,      |
| Bourassa,          | McLellan,    |
| Casgrain,          | McMullen,    |
| Charlton,          | Montague,    |
| Ellis,             | Oliver,      |
| Foster,            | Parmalee,    |
| Gibson,            | Préfontaine, |
| Hughes,            | Richardson,  |
| Landerkin,         | Somerville,  |
| LaRivière,         | Sutherland,  |
| Macdonald (Huron), | Taylor,      |
| Maclean,           | Tisdale—24.  |

#### No. 7.—ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

##### Messieurs

|                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bennett,                 | Johnston,             |
| Bergeron,                | Landerkin,            |
| Bertram,                 | Macdonald (Huron),    |
| Blair,                   | Macdonell,            |
| Borden (Halifax),        | McCarthy,             |
| Borden (King's),         | McCleary,             |
| Britton,                 | McClure,              |
| Campbell,                | McGregor,             |
| Caron (Sir Adolphe),     | McInerney,            |
| Cartwright (Sir Rich'd), | McIsaac,              |
| Casgrain,                | McLennan (Glengarry), |
| Champagne,               | McMullen,             |
| Clancy,                  | Madore,               |

Clarke,  
Cochrane,  
Costigan,  
Cowan,  
Craig,  
Davies (Sir Louis),  
Dobell,  
Domville,  
Fielding,  
Fitzpatrick,  
Flint,  
Foster,  
Fraser (Guysborough),  
Fraser (Lambton),  
Frost,  
Ganong,  
Geoffrion,  
Gibson,  
Gilmour,  
Haggart,  
Holmes,  
Hughes,

Malouin,  
Mills,  
McIntague,  
Morrison,  
Mulock,  
Oliver,  
Paterson,  
Powell,  
Quinn,  
Rinfret,  
Rosamond,  
Sifton,  
Somerville,  
Sproule,  
Sutherland,  
Tarte,  
Taylor,  
Tupper (Sir Charles  
Hibbert),  
Wallace,  
Wilson,  
Wood—69.

And that the Quorum of the said Committee do consist of Twelve Members.

#### No. 8.—ON BANKING AND COMMERCE.

##### Messieurs

Angers,  
Bain,  
Beattie,  
Beausoleil,  
Beith,  
Bell (Pictou),  
Bernier,  
Bertram,  
Blair,  
Blanchard,  
Borden (King's),  
Bostock,  
Bourassa,  
Britton,  
Brown,  
Bruneau,  
Calvert,  
Campbell,  
Cargill,  
Carscallen,  
Cartwright (Sir Rich'd),  
Champagne,  
Charlton,  
Chauvin,  
Clarke,  
Cochrane,  
Copp,  
Corby,  
Costigan,  
Cowan,  
Craig,  
Davies (Sir Louis),  
Dechene,  
Demers,  
Dobell,  
Domville,  
Dugas,  
Dupré,  
Earle,  
Edwards,  
Ethier,  
Featherston,  
Fielding,  
Fortin,  
Foster,  
Fraser (Guysborough),  
Fraser (Lambton),  
Frost,  
Ganong,  
Gauthier,

Ingram,  
Ives,  
Kaulbach,  
Kendry,  
Klock,  
Kloepfer,  
Landerkin,  
Lang,  
Laurier (Sir Wilfrid),  
Legris,  
Lewis,  
Livingston,  
Logan,  
Macdonald (Huron),  
Macdonald (King's),  
Macdonell,  
MacPherson,  
McAllister,  
McCarthy,  
McCleary,  
McCormick,  
McDougall,  
McInnes,  
McIsaac,  
McLennan (Glengarry),  
McLennan (Inverness),  
McMullen,  
McNeill,  
Madore,  
Malouin,  
Marcotte,  
Mignault,  
Morin,  
Osler,  
Paterson,  
Penny,  
Pettet,  
Pcpe,  
Poupore,  
Powell,  
Préfontaine,  
Prior,  
Reid,  
Richardson,  
Robertson,  
Rosamond,  
Ross,  
Russell,  
Rutherford,  
Sriver,

Geoffrion,  
Gibson,  
Gillies,  
Godbout,  
Guillet,  
Guité,  
Haggart,  
Hale,  
Haley,  
Henderson,  
Heyd,  
Holmes,  
Hughes,  
Hutchison,

Seagram,  
Sproule,  
Stubbs,  
Sutherland,  
Talbot,  
Tarte,  
Taylor,  
Tisdale,  
Toimie,  
Tupper (Sir Charles  
Hibbert),  
Wallace,  
Wilson,  
Wood—128.

And that the Quorum of the said Committee do consist of Twenty-one Members.

#### No. 9.—ON AGRICULTURE AND COLONIZATION.

##### Messieurs

Bain,  
Bazinet,  
Beith,  
Bell (Addington),  
Bell (Pictou),  
Bergeron,  
Bernier,  
Blanchard,  
Bostock,  
Bourassa,  
Bourbonnals,  
Broder,  
Burnett,  
Calvert,  
Campbell,  
Cargill,  
Carscallen,  
Casey,  
Christie,  
Clancy,  
Cochrane,  
Davin,  
Dechene,  
Demers,  
Douglas,  
Dugas,  
Dupré,  
Dyment,  
Edwards,  
Erb,  
Featherston,  
Ferguson,  
Fisher,  
Foster,  
Gauthier,  
Gibson,  
Gilmour,  
Godbout,  
Graham,  
Guillet,  
Guité,  
Haley,  
Harwood,  
Henderson,  
Hodgins,  
Hughes,  
Hurley,  
Hutchison,  
Ingram,  
Joly de Lotbinière  
(Sir Henri),  
Lang,  
LaRivière,  
Leduc,  
Legris,

Lewis,  
Macdonald (King's),  
Macdonell,  
Mackie,  
MacLaren,  
McCormick,  
McGregor,  
McGugan,  
McHugh,  
McInnes,  
McLennan (Glengarry),  
McLennan (Inverness),  
McMillan,  
McMullen,  
McNeill,  
Marcil,  
Marcotte,  
Martin,  
Maxwell,  
Meigs,  
Merck,  
Montague,  
Moore,  
Morin,  
Morrison,  
Mulock,  
Oliver,  
Parmalee,  
Pettet,  
Pope,  
Poupore,  
Proulx,  
Ratz,  
Reid,  
Richardson,  
Rinfret,  
Robinson,  
Roche,  
Roddick,  
Rogers,  
Rosamond,  
Rutherford,  
Seagram,  
Seraple,  
Sproule,  
Stenson,  
Stubbs,  
Sutherland,  
Talbot,  
Taylor,  
Toimie,  
Tucker,  
Turcot,  
Tyrwhitt,  
Wilson—108.

And that the Quorum of the said Committee do consist of Fourteen Members.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved :

That the report of the Special Committee appointed to report the lists of members to compose the Select Standing Committees of this House be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

#### LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved :

That a Select Committee composed of Messieurs Bain, Borden (Halifax), Bourassa, Sir Adolphe Caron, Clarke, Sir Louis Davies, Davin, Flint, Foster, Fraser (Guysborough), Sir Wilfrid Laurier, McNeill, Monk, Powell, Russell and Scriver be appointed to assist Mr. Speaker in the direction of the Library of Parliament so far as the interests of this House are concerned, and to act as members of a Joint Committee of both Houses on the Library ; and that a Message be sent to the Senate acquainting their Honours therewith.

Motion agreed to.

#### JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved :

That a Message be sent to the Senate informing their Honours that this House will unite with them in the formation of a Joint Committee of both Houses on the subject of the Printing of Parliament, and that the members of the Select Standing Committee on Printing, viz. :— Messieurs Bergeron, Bourassa, Casgrain, Charlton, Ellis, Foster, Gibson, Hughes, Landerkin, LaRivière, Macdonald (Huron), Maclean, McLellan, McMullen, Marcell, Montague, Oliver, Parmalee, Préfontaine, Richardson, Somerville, Sutherland, Taylor, and Tisdale will act as members on the part of this House on said Joint Committee on the Printing of Parliament.

He said : This is the same committee as last year, except that Mr. Casgrain is appointed in place of the late Mr. Dupont and Messrs. Marcell and McLellan are added as agreed by the committee this morning.

Motion agreed to.

#### EASTER ADJOURNMENT.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I now move the motion of which I gave notice :

That when this House adjourns on Thursday next, it stand adjourned until Tuesday the 4th day of April next.

Motion agreed to.

#### INQUIRY—AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the right hon. gentleman who leads the House when we may expect

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

the report of the Auditor General to be laid upon the Table. It is well known to hon. members that it is extremely important that at the earliest possible moment, the House should be in possession of that report.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am not in a position to give much information upon this subject to the House. All I can say is that the report is in the hands of the printer, so far as it has been completed, but I understand that the report itself has not all been issued to the printer by the Auditor General.

#### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell, of East Prince, for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. D. MONET (Laprairie and Napierville). (Translation). Mr. Speaker, this is the first time that I participate in the debates of the House, since the advent to power of the Liberal party. Although I am quite an enthusiastic admirer—with the exception of a few details—of the Liberal Cabinet, such as constituted, I thought that before overwhelming my friends with compliments, it was better to wait till they had earned them. The hon. gentlemen opposite did not act with so much caution in their attacks, and if we may judge from their crossness and peevishness in their arraignment of the Government, it may be inferred that they were under the impression that the Government of Canada was their property and that they had a perpetual lease of power. Hence their belief that the Canadian electorate, in hurling them down from power, on the 23rd of June, 1896, made themselves guilty of a crying wrong. Hardly had the Government sat down on the Treasury benches when they accused us of having reached power under false pretenses, by giving pledges which we knew well we could not implement. Hardly had we assumed the management of public affairs and begun to modify certain items of the protective tariff, when the very men who had framed that outrageous fiscal policy, arraigned us for not having cut it down more. When at the end of the first year of their administration, the Government had to face a deficit, the hon. gentlemen opposite declared that we would not do any better than they had done, and now that we have a surplus, they say that we do not understand a word of political economy ; that it is preposterous for a Government to have a surplus and that their first duty is to spend every year the revenue collected by them.

When we were in the cold shades of opposition, the Conservative party, of course, used to carry all the by-elections, and as

a rejoinder to the attacks levelled by us at their management of public affairs, they were wont to say that we were too exacting and that we expected too much from their administration. The voice of the people would they say, is the voice of God, and when Heaven smiles on us, why do you require anything more? But of late, the tables have been turned, and we now carry all the by-elections: Bagot, a Conservative stronghold, has fallen into our power; in Lévis our candidate was returned by acclamation, and they can no longer find a candidate to run and stand till polling day in that constituency which, not so long ago, was Conservative. But, the voice of the people is no longer the voice of God, and, if Heaven, they say, allows the Liberal party to carry the by-elections, those victories are only a forerunner of defeat, and should the general elections come on, we would be swept away from power.

But one of the most glaring instances of inconsistency on record on the part of our hon. opponents, was when, to my utter surprise, I heard the other day, the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) taunting us for not having brought down, this session, a prohibition Bill. Why did not the hon. gentleman, when he was a member of the late Government, state on the floor of the House that although he was personally in favour of prohibition, he could not advocate such a Bill, on account of the loss of revenue it would entail? And during this session, the hon. gentleman was heard to declare that we were falsifying our promises, in failing to bring down a prohibition Bill, which he said he could not support, when he sat on the Treasury benches.

Another criticism which has vastly amused me, was when I heard some Conservative members from the province of Quebec and some Tories from the province of Ontario charge us with appealing to racial and creed prejudices, in order to carry the by-elections.

It does even appear that the Liberal party is no longer allowed to state the fact that their leader is a French Canadian! It would seem as though his very name was endowed with the magical power of a talisman, and that just as, in olden days, the mere presence of Du Guesclin was sufficient to put to flight the Black Prince and his troops, so, the mere mention of the name of the Prime Minister is enough to scatter the army of the Quebec Tories. So, it is well understood that henceforth it will no longer be lawful for us to declare that the right hon. gentleman is one of our fellow-countrymen.

Now, Sir, who are they who dare pass censure upon us, in this connection? They are the very same men who, for twenty years, kept stumping the province of Quebec, raising without any scruple those very racial cries, those very national and religious prejudices which they now accuse us of resorting to for party gains, and instead of

discussing political issues, used to denounce, on every husting, the alliance of the French Canadian Liberals with the Ontario Grits and Freemasons! Let it be recorded, to the discredit of the Quebec electors, that the cry of Freemasonry has carried more elections than that of the National Policy ever did. These are the very gentlemen who now accuse us of raising the race and creed cry! Let us for a moment look up the records of the political campaign of 1896, of which we have preserved a pretty vivid recollection, and see what took place on all the hustings of the province of Quebec.

Our political opponents would begin by stating that there was but one issue under discussion, and that was the Manitoba school question. According to their views, we had no business to drag into debate the Curran Bridge scandal, the Caron deal, McGreevism, etc. We were forbidden by those gentlemen to discuss the management of public affairs under Conservative rule, or the live political issues. We were to confine ourselves to the politico-religious issue which alone, they said, ought to engross public attention, to the exclusion of all other issues. The province of Quebec, they said, had only to concern herself about what the leader of the Government of the day had done in favour of the Catholic minority in Manitoba. That is the way the political campaign was conducted through all the constituencies of the province. Now, what was the directing idea of that policy? When, prior to the opening of the campaign, the hon. leader of the Opposition did remodel his Cabinet in so far as the Quebec representation was concerned, why did he evince such a lack of confidence in those colleagues of his who had sat in this House during the preceding session, and why did he summon three Ministers who were known—and let this be said without any disparagement—as three “castors” of the deepest hue, to represent the province of Quebec in his Administration? Now, if they were so selected, it was not owing to their having given any marked evidence of their fighting powers in this House in upholding the Conservative cause, as one of them, at least, was hardly known in the arena of federal politics. Evidently, the hon. leader of the Opposition by this move, wished to appeal to race and creed prejudices and enlist in favour of his party the support which those clerical influences were likely to secure from a body of men upon the concurrence of whom they relied, to carry the province of Quebec.

As far as we are concerned, Sir, it is not necessary for us to appeal to race and creed prejudices, in order to maintain the present Government in power. As to the province of Quebec, we are not afraid whenever the Government may think it their duty to do so, to go before the electorate, because the pledges we have given them can favourably hold comparison with the mea-

asures carried out by us. What were the ante-election pledges taken by us? The hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Marcotte) has just stated that we were free-traders and that we had falsified our promises, because we had not yet introduced free trade as it is in England. I have sat for several years in this House, but never yet have I heard it stated by any of the leaders of the Liberal party that our policy was a free-trade policy. But, our policy has ever been to gradually progress towards free trade as it is in England, and all fair-minded men will grant that the goal we are striving to reach is not to do away with protection root and branches, but to cut down, as much as possible, the tariff rates, so as to have merely a revenue-producing tariff. The hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Marcotte) told us that we had broken our pledges. You had pledged yourselves before the electorate, he said, to revise the tariff so as to relieve the farming community from the burden of taxation. I know that in certain parts of the province of Quebec, and particularly in the county of Napierville-Laprarie, which I have the honour to represent here, and which is almost contiguous to the boundary line, we had long cherished the hope of having a reciprocity treaty with the United States, which would have enabled us to find access for our farming products to the American markets. True, we have been disappointed, but we are not so unreasonable as not to make allowance for the difficulties that confronted the Government. The only pledge we had given the electorate, was that, in case an offer of reciprocity were made to the Government, such as had been made to the late Administration, we would accept it, being well aware that our friends would not refuse what the Conservatives had declined to accept. Hence it follows that we are not open to condemnation at the hands of the people, even on that head. A paper which was brought down here, during the session of 1893, shows conclusively that if we failed to secure reciprocity with the United States, the whole blame for it is to be laid at the door of the Conservative party. From that paper, which emanated from Mr. Blane, the former Secretary of State for the United States, we gather that in 1892 the government of the United States had offered to the Canadian delegates a commercial reciprocity, such as the farming community would have. Those offers are embodied in the following paragraph, which reads :

The delegates were informed that the United States Government would not be ready to renew the treaty of 1854, nor to consent to a commercial reciprocity based on natural products alone ; and that, owing to the considerable development of the manufacturing industries in the United States and the changed conditions of the commercial relations between both countries since 1885, it was deemed essential to include many manufactured articles in the free favoured list in any reciprocity arrangement.

Mr. MONET.

So, we may gather from the above quoted paper that under the Conservative regime, the American Government were willing to give us access to their markets for all our farm products, provided that we should include in the schedule of free goods a certain number of manufactured articles. What was the reply of the Canadian Commissioners to that proposal ? Here it is :

At the conference held on the 11th the Canadian delegates stated that they had carefully considered the question of including in the free list manufactured articles, as well as the desire expressed by the United States Government to see articles manufactured in the United States exported to Canada given the preference over articles manufactured in other countries ; and they declared that it was with regret that they found it impossible for them to agree to the wish expressed by the United States Government.

We told the electors of the province of Quebec that we were ready to negotiate a reciprocity treaty with the United States, but as our neighbours decline to negotiate with us, we are released from the pledge given to the electorate. The United States Government, at that time, had expressed the wish to enter into closer commercial relations with Canada, but the hon. gentlemen opposite declined to accept their offer, as shown by the paper which I have just brought to the attention of the House. Now, the circumstances are quite altered, and we cannot be blamed for not negotiating a reciprocity treaty, the negotiation of which depends, as much, to say the least, upon the consent of our neighbours as upon our own.

Although he did not arraign the Government with vigour, the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Marcotte) could not help confessing that the country was prosperous ; he even went to the length of admitting that the people were satisfied and that many vacant houses, as remarked by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Talbot) the other day were now occupied by their owners who had come back from the United States, and to cap the climax, those events were taking place under a Liberal Administration ! But I was quite amused by the explanation he gave us of these facts. He told us that the present Government could not claim any credit for the actual prosperity of the country, and why so, Sir ? Because, he said, under the Conservative rule, the then leader of the Opposition, who is now Prime Minister, kept disparaging the country and running down the Government then in power, and consequently, immigrants would not come and settle down in the country, because the credit of the country and public confidence in the resources of the Dominion as a field for immigration had been destroyed abroad by the speeches of the then leader of the Opposition.

Such an accusation, Sir, is one of the most serious charges that can be formulated against a party leader. When the right

hon. Prime Minister was at the head of the Opposition, the present leader of the Opposition was our High Commissioner in Great Britain, where he represented our interests. Now, when the hon. member for Champlain states on the floor of this House that the present leader of the Opposition when filling in London the important mission entrusted to him, could not demolish, by the weight of his arguments and by the vigour of his eloquence, the denunciations of the then leader of the Opposition, he is paying a very poor compliment to his leader. If the reason put forward by the hon. member for Champlain to explain the difference existing between the prosperity now prevailing in the country and the depression of which the people were then complaining; if that reason, I say, ought to be held as well grounded, we cannot help inferring therefrom that the hon. leader of the Opposition cannot better serve his country than by sticking as long as possible to his present post. Let then the hon. gentleman remain in the cold shades of the Opposition, while we will continue at the head of public affairs, the leader of the House, who is so well fitted to discharge his onerous duties and to maintain the present state of prosperity with which Canada is blessed.

There is another pledge we gave the electors, that of administering the affairs of the country more honestly than our opponents had done. But can the hon. gentlemen arraign us on any good ground for having broken our pledge in this connection? It is quite true that, during the by-elections, these gentlemen have raised a cry against our so-called extravagance in the management of public affairs; but they have not yet dared to move a single vote of want of confidence on that score. This is the fourth session of the present Parliament and the hon. gentlemen have not yet mustered enough courage to propose a vote of want of confidence, inviting Parliament to declare that in their opinion, the Government have mismanaged the affairs of the country. There are two measures against which the Opposition have entered their protest, the Yukon Railway Bill and the Drummond Railway Bill. As the hon. gentlemen know, both bills were killed in the Senate. Therefore, the hon. gentlemen cannot ground themselves on those Bills to accuse the Government of having badly administered public affairs, at least, in considering them from the standpoint of real facts. Moreover, I think the best evidence that could be invoked in favour of the Government in this connection is to be found in the silence of our opponents on the floor of the House.

I now come to another pledge which we gave to the electors. We never said, as stated by the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Marcotte) that we would settle the school question, by passing a Remedial Bill; no, never did the leader of the Liberal party give such an absolute promise; never did

he pledge himself to introduce a remedial bill in such a formal manner; he only undertook to resort to constitutional means, in case the Manitoba Government should not give the Catholic minority a more ample measure than that proposed by the Conservative Government. In order to substantiate his proposition, the hon. member for Champlain should have begun by showing that the settlement brought about by the Manitoba Government was less efficacious than that provided by the Remedial Bill; Now, in this connection, I think, it may easily be proved that the minority in Manitoba are satisfied, from the fact that there cannot be found in the votes and proceedings of this House, a single word, a single amendment, showing that, on the other side of the House, the hon. gentlemen are not satisfied with the settlement of this question. The hon. leader of the Opposition, during the debate on the Remedial Bill, said that he was ready to die and sacrifice himself on the altar of equal rights; now, if he thinks that justice has not been done, why, I ask, does he not stand up and arraign the Government for this settlement of the question? I see several Catholic members in their seats, the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) and the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain). So far, not one of these hon. gentlemen has stood up to arraign the Government for the settlement of the school question.

We are asked how the question has been settled? Some say that it is not yet settled; others ask us whether it has been settled permanently, as if, under a constitutional regime, a Government could not undo, next year, what has been done, last year; as if the Government who will succeed the Greenway Cabinet in Manitoba were not free to undo what has been done by their predecessors. And while they are everywhere crying out, in the by-elections, that the school question is not yet settled, the leaders of the Conservative party do not know where they stand on that issue. I have here before me the Order paper of this House, and I find that the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) does not know where he stands on the matter, as he had to put to the Government this question:

Has there been any correspondence, since this House was last in session, between His Holiness the Pope or the Sacred College of the Propaganda or any of the Roman Catholic Archbishops or Bishops of Canada and the Government or any member thereof, in relation to the Manitoba School question.

Here is a question well calculated to edify those who believe in the profession of orthodoxy of the hon. gentlemen opposite. It is to be presumed that this question was not put with a view to appealing to national and religious prejudices. I presume that the hon. gentlemen are sincere when they stand up in this House, composed of members of different religious denominations, and put

such questions to the Government. But it must be borne in mind that it is fair fighting for our opponents to resort to such means, while it is never fair play for us to have recourse to similar proceedings.

I now come to deal with another reform referred to in the Speech from the Throne, in connection with the Senate. For my part, Sir, I would rather the Government had not announced this reform.

Mr. MARCOTTE. (Translation.) Hear, hear.

Mr. MONET. (Translation.) I for one, Sir, am simply in favour of the abolition of the Senate, and if the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Marcotte) had a moment of jubilation, when I stated that I did not feel enthusiastic over this Senate reform he may now repent at leisure, after hearing the opinion I have just expressed. I am in favour of the abolition of the Senate. Not only is the Senate useless, but it may, under certain circumstances, prove a cause of ruin to the country.

Let us take the Senate, such as it is constituted. Here is a body absolutely independent and absolutely irresponsible to the people. The second Chamber can block or kill legislation emanating from the popular Chamber. We, members of the House of Commons, when we do wrong, are responsible to the people. Without meaning to insinuate anything against the fair reputation of Parliament, I may be allowed to say that for most members, the fear of the electorate is the beginning of wisdom. Whatever it may do, the Senate is not responsible to the electorate for its action, when it throws out legislative measures. Therefore it is a perfectly irresponsible body. We are told that this second Chamber was created as a safeguard of the rights of the minority. Look up the records of the Senate from its very creation and you will not find a solitary example when it has interposed itself as the protector of minorities. Did it stand up as the protector of the minority in Nova Scotia, and tell the Government of the day: "We will cut off your subsidies, so long as you do not mete out justice to the minority"?

When New Brunswick, or rather a minority in that province, had good ground to complain, did the Senate stand up to protect that minority? When the same thing occurred in Manitoba, did the Senate rise in its might, to tell the Government of that province: "Do justice to the Catholic minority of your province, or we will sweep you from power, by refusing to vote the subsidy Bill"?

No, the Senate is not the safeguard of the rights of the minorities. But I am wrong, Sir, the Senate did once constitute itself the protector of a minority, and that minority is the one that sits opposite; that minority is the loyal Opposition of Her Majesty. Still, had they given fair-play to the Liberal party, when they were out of power and in the minority, I might grant that there are

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in the Senate some redeeming features, that offset its disadvantages. When bad measures are carried by the majority, the constitution provides a remedy to that evil, as the majority in the House of Commons; being responsible to the people, have to appeal to the same people for an approval of their action in Parliament. We may be swept from power, driven from public life, and be made to pay the penalty of our wrong-doing, but it is not so with the Upper Chamber. Another reason why the Senate should be abolished, is that that institution is out of touch with our system of Government, and that it may prove the cause of ruin and of countless evils for the country. The Senate has invariably and as it were prompted by instinct, opposed itself to every reform advocated by the country; a further reason why it should be done away with. Another argument invoked in favour of the maintenance of the Senate is that it is an old institution, the fruit of the wisdom of nations, there being an Upper Chamber in every country in the world. Now, Sir, there is not a single country in the world under parliamentary government like ours where is to be found a second Chamber similar to the Canadian Senate. The English House of Lords, a copy of which the framers of our Senate had no doubt in view, is not above the common law; as, in case of conflict, the Prime Minister is always free to ask Her Majesty to appoint a certain number of members to that body, thus overcoming the resistance and stubbornness of the Upper Chamber. The original, a copy of which the framers of our constitution meant to take, is not all reproduced in the Canadian Upper Chamber. In no other country of the world under representative institutions similar to ours is there a Senate framed on lines like those of our Senate, which is responsible only to its political friends who have granted it powers which will only lapse with its natural death.

As I said, I would rather the Government had not proposed the reform of the Senate, but simply its abolition. Before undertaking to support that measure introduced by the leader of the Government, it may be that I need be convinced that it was impossible for us to obtain more from the Imperial Government; as, otherwise, my constituents, who are men of much good sense, would be likely to pass censure upon me for not proceeding with that surgical operation having for its object to rid us of the Senate. In this connection, I recollect the case of that surgeon who having to amputate an arm, told his patient: "Cheer up, I will not do you any harm; I am going to cut your arm by bits and you will not feel it." Should we begin by clipping the Senate's wing, we would only be increasing its tortures, as we would have to abolish it later on. Our fathers fought for responsible Government, and we should do the same, so long as we have not secured government of the

people, by the people, which is the only safeguard of a good administration of public affairs.

Mr. J. CLANCY (Bothwell). Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne is always looked forward to with a great deal of interest by this House and by the people of the country as foreshadowing nearly all the important measures to be dealt with during the session. I am bound to say, Sir, that we have been met with one of the most extraordinary spectacles this session that has ever occurred in this House. We have a single measure foreshadowed, and it is one in defiance of the constitution, one for the sole and single purpose of gerrymandering the constituencies for the purpose of suiting the ends of hon. gentlemen opposite. If we are to judge from the Speech from the Throne I am sure we will readily come to the conclusion that our only duty now is to vote the supplies and vote for a measure to defeat the will of the people and go home. I venture to say, Sir, that before this session concludes there will be some evidence, at least, given that there is other and more important work to be done. Hon. gentlemen opposite have complained of what they call the harsh language that has been used from this side of the House, namely, that hon. gentlemen opposite have not fulfilled one single pledge which they made to the country before the election in 1896, that they have not contributed in any sense whatever to the great prosperity that now obtains in Canada, and that they have shown marked incapacity in dealing with the great public questions of the country. These statements may appear extravagant and somewhat startling in their character, but they are only startling in their character because they have the elements of truth in them as has been so conclusively shown in the most admirable and as yet unanswered speech made by the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) an evening or two ago. We are told by hon. gentlemen opposite that many of the predictions made by the Conservative party have not been fulfilled, amongst these, the prediction that when hon. gentlemen opposite came into power they would only remain in power for a short time. We believed, as the country then believed, that hon. gentlemen would carry out their pledges, and we were quite sure that if their pledges were fulfilled there was not the slightest doubt that the prediction as to how long the hon. gentlemen would remain in power would have been verified. If we have failed in our predictions it is simply because hon. gentlemen have shown themselves to be altogether unreliable so far as their pledges are concerned. One of their great pledges, one which overshadowed everything else in that election, was the pledge to completely change the fiscal policy of Canada. That was one pledge that was made above all others, because the prosperity of this country must

largely depend upon the fiscal policy of a Government of the day and upon it being faithfully carried out. That was the pledge above all others that the people expected to see fulfilled, and that is the pledge above all others which instead of being fulfilled has been entirely ignored. The truth is that it is becoming a very nice question with the Government of the day and with their followers as to whether pledges are made to be broken or to be carried out. Our experience of the past has shown that the making of pledges to be broken has become a cardinal principle with the Liberal party. The Conservative party had no long record of broken pledges; their policy has been consistent from start to finish and it is the same to-day as it was in 1878 when first enunciated in this House, and it is the policy that hon. gentlemen opposite declared the Conservative party would never carry out. Long experience, however, has shown that the Conservative party were prepared to carry out their policy and that they did carry it out, greatly to the chagrin of hon. gentlemen opposite, has been witnessed by the long lease of power granted to the Conservative party. The greatest pledge made by hon. gentlemen opposite was that they would wipe out what was called by the Finance Minister in his own province, a most vicious policy. But in what way do hon. gentlemen opposite try to shield themselves now? We are told that they never promised free trade, and that therefore they are substantially carrying out their pledges. The Conservative party has never demanded anything more than a substantial compliance with the pledges of the hon. gentlemen opposite, but there was no uncertain sound as to what the position of these hon. gentlemen was; there was no uncertainty as to what the people would expect of them when they came into power. We had the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) shedding bitter and salty tears for the people of this country; we were told that the people were in a state of ruin, that the National Policy was one so bad in its effects that it should not be tolerated for a single day. We have the declaration of the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and also that of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies). I think the Minister of Marine and Fisheries declared the fiscal policy of the previous Government was a thing accursed of God and man. I remember reading many speeches delivered by the right hon. First Minister declaring that the National Policy was a system of bondage in this country, and promising that the moment he came to power there would come commercial emancipation, and that the people would have received the benefit. The Minister of Trade and Commerce went further than the rest of them, and I am sure the House will see that that hon. gentleman was wonderfully distressed when he gave utterance in

this House to such sentiments as I shall ask the indulgence of the House to read in a moment. They were of rather a startling kind; the hon. gentleman was driven to the last stage of desperation in his eagerness to rid the people of that vicious National Policy. This is what the hon. gentleman had to say in 1894, a very short time ago, although I hear it said among the rank and file of the followers of the hon. gentleman: You should not seek to hold the Liberal party responsible for the utterances of members of the Liberal party a few years ago. Hon. gentlemen opposite are anxious that we should forget the days when these utterances were given out, but they are so near the period in which we now live that they have a pertinent bearing upon the action of the hon. gentlemen in revising the tariff. This is what the Minister of Trade and Commerce had to say:

It is, as the hon. gentleman was good enough to remind us, exactly fifteen years, or within a few days, since the initiation of that scheme of fraud, misnamed the National Policy.

Protection and corruption are political Siamese twins. They never have been separated in this world, and I do not think they will in the next.

It would seem as if the Siamese Twins of that day still live and are as healthy as ever they were, so far as any change by hon. gentlemen opposite is concerned.

I announced it years ago. My policy, from first to last, ever since this infamous system was put on the statute-book, has been to do away with protection—how I did not care. If free trade would do it, I was for that. If continental free trade or reciprocity with the United States would do it, I was for that. If a revenue tariff would do it, I was for that. Always and at all times, from the time I was Finance Minister until the present hour, I have set my face like a flint against recognizing, in any shape or way, the tyranny of protection.

The country is now asking what has become of this oral volcano; what spell has come over the hon. gentleman that we hear no more about that?

An hon. MEMBER. That volcano is extinct.

Mr. CLANCY. Yes, it is very extinct. These gentlemen opposite who now sit there without uttering a word in defence of their conduct, for eighteen years, cried out through the country about the evils of the National Policy. Sir, the people of the country now want to know what they have done about it. Hon. gentlemen opposite have repeated in this House and outside of it that the present Government has substantially changed the tariff, that they have practically eliminated all the vicious parts that savoured of protection, and that now the people are satisfied with the new tariff. The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) declared a few days ago that the tariff was no longer an issue between the two parties, and when he was brought to task by the Liberal club at Winnipeg, who

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held the sword over his head, he made the ingenious explanation as reported in one of the newspapers yesterday: Oh, the fiscal policy has been so settled that the Conservatives have come to the side of the Liberals and declared it to be a sound policy. What does the House and the country think of such an explanation from a Minister in a free trade Government? These gentlemen on the Treasury benches cannot escape through the back door of declaring that they never promised free trade, nor can they escape by trying to fool the people into a belief that they have attempted any reasonable fulfilment of their pledges. Sir, the statement of gentlemen opposite that the tariff has been so substantially changed as to constitute a reasonable performance of their pledges, is a statement utterly destitute of truth. Let us see what these gentlemen have done with the tariff? The total number of items in the old tariff as it stood under the Conservative Government was 486, and of this number the Liberals changed 144 and left 342 unchanged altogether. And, Sir, how did they deal with the 144 items they changed? Eighty of these items they reduced, causing a loss of revenue by such reduction (calculated on the importations of 1896) amounting to \$680,000, not a very great reduction after all. On the other hand, they took sixty-one items and increased the tariff on these, adding by this increase \$796,000 to the revenue. Now, forty-two out of these sixty-one items included goods manufactured in this country, and so the present Government added additional protection to that Conservative protection which they so loudly railed against. Is that a revision of the tariff by which the people of Canada have been relieved of the burdens of taxation?

These hon. gentlemen in opposition went further than that. They made war on specific duties, and they stated—and the statement has some foundation—that the truest system of protection is found in specific duties. It matters not what the first price of an article may be, when a specific duty is imposed it undoubtedly is the most far-reaching system of protection. In the old Conservative tariff there were 191 items having specific duties, and of these the Liberal Government left 109 items that it did not touch at all. They changed ten items so as to raise the specific duty on them higher than ever, and twenty other items they lowered. Fourteen items they struck out, but they substituted an ad valorem duty on them which was higher than the previous specific duty, and we had three items made free. In all, we find that in 139 items, the specific duty was entirely unchanged; only fifty-two items were dealt with at all; on fourteen of these the duty was raised, and only thirty-five items were made lower. I would like to ask hon. gentlemen opposite if that

is a fair compliance with the promises they made to the people. I have no doubt that some gentlemen over there, although they may feel the necessity of responding to the party whip, and of the two evils they have to choose, prefer to stand by their leaders, yet I do not despair that some of these hon. gentlemen are not so far gone that they are entirely unconscious of the responsibility of bolstering up the most bald fallacy that has ever been foisted on the people of this country. One of the pledges given to the country by the Liberal party was that in addition to removing every feature of protection from the National Policy, they were going to take the duties off these articles that were prime necessities of life. I confess that is rather a plausible policy. I confess that if the people of this country believed in these promises at the time, and believed that such a policy could be carried out, it was a pledge which might draw to them the support of Conservative as well as Liberal voters. But let us see how the present Government carried out that policy. I will take twenty items which all will agree with me are prime necessities to the consumer, and instead of carrying out their pledges these hon. gentlemen opposite selected these articles of prime necessity for the purpose of increasing the duties rather than lowering the duties on them. Here they are: Rice, Portland cement, grindstones, hats and caps, cutlery, n.e.s., lumber, and timber, cotton bats, unbleached cotton (grey), printed cotton, clothing, including silk, cotton and wool, velvets and velveteens, cotton sewing thread, damask of linen, woollen manufactures, ready-made clothing, towel-ling, shawls of all kinds, and women's and children's dresses. Here are twenty items of the tariff, all prime necessities, on which these hon. gentlemen opposite raised the duty. The whole increase of taxation, as I have stated, imposed by these gentlemen (and not including cigars and tobacco, for that is left out of the calculation), amounted to \$795,000, and upon these twenty items I have stated, imposed by these gentlemen nearly \$600,000 was put on, or 80 per cent of the whole increase of taxation by the Government. Yet, this was done by the gentlemen opposite who declared that they were going to sweep away every feature that savoured of protection in the National Policy, and that they were going to make the prime necessities of life free of duty. They said that in distributing the taxation upon the taxpayers the articles of prime necessity should be favoured in the interest of the workingmen and the farmers of the country.

Now, it has been charged, and with startling truth, that hon. gentlemen opposite have shown a wonderful incapacity for dealing with the affairs of this country. I see the hon. member for West Quebec (Mr. Dobell) in his place. Without directing the question especially to him, I would like to ask him

and hon. gentlemen generally on that side of the House, if there has been extraordinary capacity shown in dealing with that very important question, the fast Atlantic service. The hon. gentleman has favoured us with his presence in the House so little that none of us on this side of the House would be surprised if the hon. gentleman should be away on a trip to-morrow, and we should not have the pleasure of seeing much of one another this session. The hon. gentleman seems to have been living on the Atlantic Ocean. Whether he was doing most business when he saw nobody on this side of the Atlantic or on the other side, is a question of considerable doubt. But there is no doubt that this fast Atlantic business in the hands of hon. gentlemen opposite has been a miserable fizzle. These hon. gentlemen came into office when everything was ready. The hon. leader of the Opposition went a distance that many of his friends thought undignified in the leader of a great party, in the interest of this great undertaking. He was willing to set aside all those forms of delicacy that exist between the leaders of rival parties, and went to the leader of the Government and implored him to carry out the contract that had already been arranged, and that only needed to be consummated by the signatures of the parties concerned. But, no; hon. gentlemen declared that under that contract too much money was to be paid. They claimed to be able to get the work done for very much less. Nobody found fault with that; but the hon. leader of the Opposition while declaring that he would applaud and assist everything that would result in a saving to this country, was able, with his clear foresight, to predict then and there that hon. gentlemen could not obtain a service for such a sum of money as they proposed, and that their whole effort would fail. I would like to know if that prediction has not been fully verified. I am sure that hon. gentlemen on this side of the House are as anxious as hon. gentlemen opposite to save every dollar possible to the country; but they have foresight and statesmanship enough to know that we have first to get a good service, and then we have to pay the price at which a good service can be had. Hon. gentlemen on this side of the House have shown a great deal of forbearance. Without reflecting on the promoters, Messrs. Petersen & Tate, we were confident that they had not sufficient financial standing to make the undertaking a success, notwithstanding that the hon. member for Quebec West, who said he had a personal knowledge of those men, led the House to believe that they would be able to carry it out in a short time. The House has not forgotten the hon. gentleman's work; and what have we in prospect to-day? We have nothing more in sight in regard to the fast Atlantic service than we had when hon. gentlemen came into power, and refused to carry out a contract arranged by their predecessors in office. I would like to ask if this is an indication of great busi-

ness capacity. I would like to know whether the charge of incapacity against this Government had not a good foundation in that case alone.

But there are other cases which indicate the same thing. Let me take the case of coal oil. I see my friend here slumbering peacefully when every interest in his constituency is being swept away. He rose yesterday when an hon. member happened to make the little mistake of saying that the oil wells were in the hands of that Yankee octopus which has fastened itself on the people of this country, and said in great indignation, "I deny that entirely; that is untrue." What has happened? Hon. gentlemen opposite took a course which many people anticipated some months before they came into office. The hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell) won his election with a coal oil can in one hand and a pound of rice in the other. He declared that that was the salvation of the whole country. He calculated the percentages of the taxation paid on coal oil, showing them to be very great, and asserted that if his friends came into power the iniquitous duties on coal oil would be entirely wiped out. I would like the hon. gentleman to look back over his splendid work on coal oil and rice. The truth is that people are paying to-day a great deal more on both than they did at that time. We had the Standard Oil Company come into Canada at what time? During or shortly after the election.

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) No, they were in before the election.

Mr. CLANCY. My hon. friend reminds me that they were in before the election; and before a single item of the tariff was changed, giving the advantages which it now gives to the Standard Oil Company. What took place? The Standard Oil Company came to the town of Sarnia, and without a particle of security, they got large works built, large buildings put up, and spent enormous sums of money there—why? Simply because, as my hon. friend says, they were here before the election, and they knew well that however unfaithful hon. gentlemen opposite would be to their other pledges, they would probably deliver the goods in this case. I have no hesitation in saying to my hon. friend who represents East Lambton (Mr. Fraser) that there never was in this country a more deadly blow struck at the oil industry than has been struck by this Government. Did it show any great capacity on the part of the Government to lower the duty on coal oil one single cent? We find that the price of oil to-day is greater than it was before. As was pointed out by the late hon. member for West Lambton, at the time these tariff items were being passed, the Government were giving an enormous power to that great monopoly, which, with its great control of capital, and its business connections and enormous power in other ways, it could put coal oil at whatever price it pleased. Now,

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what has happened? The Standard Oil Company has come in and purchased nearly all the oil refineries in the town of Petrolia, so that the oil well of a private individual there to-day is not worth a farthing if that monopoly chooses to say so. The producers are entirely in the hands of the refiners in that town, and the oil interest in Canada has received such a blow that there is not a man connected with it as a crude oil producer who dare make a complaint for fear that this gigantic monopoly will not only silence him but destroy every interest he has. This is another mark of the great business capacity of hon. gentlemen opposite. If any one were to commit so great a breach of good manners and good taste as to hint that these hon. gentlemen have shown marked incapacity in that direction, he would be at once accused of speaking harshly and of slandering hon. gentlemen opposite.

But there are other cases illustrating this capacity of our present rulers. The franchise is a striking proof of it. We found hon. gentlemen opposite, when in opposition, declaiming against the disadvantage the Liberal party were under owing to the "infamous" Franchise Act. They declared the first thing the Liberal party would do would be to repeal that Act. I venture to say there was not a Liberal in this House, who had not taken leave of his senses, nor was there a Liberal outside who understood the case who ever for a moment thought but that if they repealed the Act they would give us a federal Franchise Act in place of it, whether making the franchise that was in use in the several provinces or not was entirely immaterial. If they had hinted to the country that they would do what they afterwards did, nobody would have listened to them. They kept crying out that the Liberals were deprived of their votes that young men were disfranchised, that the tyranny of revising officers satisfied justice, and that nothing but the repeal of the old Act would enable justice to be done. I wonder if their action in this matter is one of the things that hon. gentlemen pride themselves upon as great achievements. Why, we have a seat open in the city of Winnipeg, and the condition of things there proves that these hon. gentlemen had not the least conception of what the operation of their new Act would be. Of course, they had the power to repeal the old Act, for it only requires a majority to do that, but more than majority is needed, some business capacity is needed, to frame an Act to take the place of the one repealed. I am not here to defend the old Act beyond any other. Like every other law upon the Statute-book, it was open to some objection, and its defects could only be seen when it was put to the test of practical operation. But by repealing the Act and handing over the control of this matter to the provinces, hon. gentlemen opposite have placed themselves in a most humiliating position. We have to wait for the action

of the provinces, and whatever the provinces may do, whether it be right or wrong, whatever may be the opinion held concerning their action by members of this House, we are absolutely in their hands. Whatever franchise they may make from day to day, we are compelled to accept, or else hon. gentlemen are compelled to recede from the position they took in adopting the provincial franchise. Why, people never supposed for a moment that hon. gentlemen had any intention of doing other than adopting the provincial franchises in part or in whole as they found them. The preparation of the lists did not necessarily involve the adoption of the provincial lists. But the majority in this House have entirely closed their eyes and adopted the franchise in the provinces. No more humiliating position could be taken, and no better example could be found of the utter incapacity of hon. gentlemen opposite to deal with the legislation of this country.

But we are told that a preferential tariff is a great achievement, and the farmers are going to be benefited specially. Well, we have the resolution that was moved by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) declaring something the very opposite of what the hon. gentleman contends for to-day. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) spoke on it, it was a resolution, not of preference, but of reciprocity with any country that would comply with the conditions of the resolution. Hon. gentlemen will not say that that is the case now, and if it is not, we see another evidence of their great business capacity, their foresight and their ability to grapple with the problems of government in this country. These hon. gentlemen have ended with something they did not want or something they did not know they were going to get. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries said :

The Premier thoroughly understands it. The Premier took that stand which the Finance Minister took, which every member of the Cabinet took and holds to-day, that these treaties did not apply and did not bind Canada. The Premier took the stand which is now carried out in every custom-house in Canada, that these treaties do not bind Canada, and German and Belgian goods are not entitled to preferential treatment because of these treaties.

Now, the hon. gentleman is the legal mouth-piece of the Government to-day. He made a very elaborate speech proving successfully to his own mind, and, no doubt, to the minds of his followers, that in adopting that resolution the Government of the day saw clearly they were not interfering with the most-favoured nations treaties, that Germany and Belgium would not be entitled to any preferential, or rather, as the hon. gentleman put it, to any reciprocal treatment, and that it was open to any country in the world. The hon. gentleman went to England to argue the case before the law officers of the Crown. He had hardly time to take off his hat before he was told that he was talking

nonsense, that his law was bad, that the opinion of his friends here had no force whatever. And then, he turned about and said : Our object is to give preferential trade to England and no other. And here we are with preferential trade. The people of this country have by no means forgotten these matters. These things are as clearly in their minds to-day as they were in the first place. Here is what the hon. Minister of Finance said :

I stated that the tariff I am about to read to you is the general tariff ; but that before I conclude I shall be prepared to make a statement in relation to a special tariff. That will apply to Great Britain and any other country which is prepared to accept the conditions which that tariff imposes.

Now, I would like to ask where hon. gentlemen opposite are now on that question. Ministers may turn their backs and sit silent in their seats in this House, but the people are looking for answers, looking for explanation of the conduct of the hon. gentlemen on this question as well as on others. I say we now have evidence beyond all doubt of the most striking incapacity of the Government in dealing with this question. They came as novices, and they have shown that whatever they have learned, they have learned at very considerable expense to the taxpayers of this country.

Well, Sir, hon. gentlemen have, after all, stumbled into something which, they say, will confer special benefits upon the people of this country. I think I can say something for the class to which I belong, namely, the farmers, as to the preferential tariff. The farmers are the largest number of persons who are concerned in the tariff, and as paying the most taxes, they are largely the most interested ; as a single class, they are probably the most important in this country. Now, I have taken the trouble, as other hon. gentlemen have done, to examine the last report of Trade and Navigation. We find there, under the heading "Reciprocal Tariff"—that is a very strange heading to put in—the operations of what they call the preferential tariff. Of course, we must not be too nice in making distinctions where hon. gentlemen opposite are concerned. Now, I want to point out, that I have taken a list of 34 of the principal items that are of absolute necessity for the farmers of this country, articles that are used by every farmer in Canada, but they are all items concerning which hon. gentlemen opposite seem to have given the farmers scarcely any thought, when they were revising the tariff. When we point out that there will be no relief to the farmers in the arrangement of the tariff, hon. gentlemen opposite reply, that there will be a great relief to the farmers by the operation of the reciprocal tariff, as they call it. I am sure, every farmer will see how essential these articles are to the farming class of this country, but on all these articles the farmers receive scarcely any ad-

vantage from the revision of the tariff. I will mention cultivators, binders, hay-tedders, harrows, horse-rakes, manure-spreaders, mowing machines, ploughs, post-diggers, weeders, reapers, feed-cutters, farm wagons and carriages, buggies, cutters, windmills, fanning mills, threshers and separators, road scrapers, saws, pumps, grain-crushers, fertilizers, grindstones, seamless bags, household furniture, stoves of all kinds, sewing machines, woodenware, tubs, pails and churns, seed of all kinds used for field and garden purposes, wire fencing, harness and salt. These are thirty-four items in the tariff that received no reduction, and in which no change whatever was made. These are 34 items, as hon. gentlemen may see, most important to the whole farming community of Canada. Now, they received no relief under the revision of the tariff; but, as the hon. gentleman contends that they will receive relief under the reciprocal tariff, just let me give you the importations made under what is called the reciprocal tariff, and those under the general tariff, and we will see how much was saved on all those articles. The entire importations of these articles in 1898 amounted to \$2,468,000; the amount imported under reciprocal tariff was \$50,959. The whole saving on these \$2,500,000 to the great farming community of this country amounted to the large sum of \$1,323, or less than one-fifth of one cent each. Now, Sir, I would like to ask my hon. friend from South Huron (Mr. McMillan), who is always telling us about post-hole diggers, about lawn mowers and scythe snaths, what he thinks of these figures. The hon. gentleman plumes himself as a champion and defender of the Government on the ground that they have reduced the tariff on land rollers, forks, hoes, hay-knives, post-hole diggers, rakes, scythes and snaths, reaping hooks, spades and shovels, axes, wire nails and cut nails. Well, Sir, the whole importations under the general tariff, where that reduction was made, and on none of which there was a less duty than 25 per cent, amounted to \$102,000. The whole amount under the reciprocal tariff upon these goods was the very large sum of \$7,379. The whole duty saved to the farming community under that reduction was the grand sum of \$294, or one-twentieth of one cent each. That is the sum and substance of the preferential tariff, as concerns a benefit to the farmers of this country. Sir, I do not want to use harsh language, but I say there never was a balder sham anywhere than the pretense of this kind—and I say, without hesitation, a dishonest pretense—that the great farming community of this country have profited one iota by the revision of this tariff that has been made. I mean in a general sense, or that they have profited in any substantial sense—I was going to say, one particle—by the reciprocal tariff. It is one that may affect some persons favourably, but it does not affect the great mass of the taxpayers who are most

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concerned. An hon. member near me says it was made to humbug the farmers. But the farmer is being humbugged in more ways than one. We find that the Postmaster General is engaged in that business, and I am told that he is on the eve of receiving a knighthood for his great services to this country. That hon. gentleman, in the recent campaign in Lambton, laid particular stress on his great achievements with regard to the postal system of this country. The hon. leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) have sufficiently punctured the hon. gentleman's contention in all its details, and have shown that if he has been right in any respect, it was by accident, and not by design, or from having thought the question out in any sense. The hon. gentleman was setting the law at defiance; he shifted two or three times, and finally got down to Imperial penny postage, and to a two-cent domestic rate, instead of three. The reduction of the domestic rate from three to two cents is held out to us as a great boon, as if the hon. gentlemen opposite were putting so much money in the pockets of the people. I say, it is the refinement of folly for hon. gentlemen, for sensible men in this House, to declare that any service in this country that does not pay its way, but has to be assisted from other sources, is going to put money into the pockets of the people. I say, such a contention is perfectly idle, and is unworthy of full-grown men, either inside or outside of this House. The hon. gentleman's own friends have shown him, and even journals supporting the hon. gentleman have shown him, that, in consequence of adopting penny postage and a two-cent domestic rate, making, in other words, a reduction of one-third, there will be a great loss to the revenue, amounting to at least \$800,000. What must follow that? Why, it must follow that 90 per cent of the people who do not profit by it, will pay for the other 10 per cent in the country who reap all the benefit from the reduction. I would like the farmers of this country to consider this matter; I would like to call it to the attention of the hon. member for South Huron, who has on some occasions posed as the champion of the class of which he is a very honourable representative. I would like to ask him what he thinks about this, and what he has to say to the farmers in his constituency as to the action of the Postmaster General in unloading this extra charge upon the general public.

I venture to say that a single house in the city of Toronto will use more postage stamps than all the farmers in one county of Huron, including the three constituencies, and I believe this comparison to be applicable to the whole of Canada, yet the Postmaster General comes back and will give us that same defence—always the same defence—because I fear that hon. gentlemen opposite are no longer their own masters. I say, Mr. Speaker.

that whatever may be the merits that belong particularly to the Postmaster General there is one that the great taxpayers of this country and one that the people not belonging to the favoured class in this case, will bear in mind, and bear in mind when the time comes. They will remember that this Government, so far as the great mass of the people is concerned, has been a Government for a few persons, for the Standard Oil Company, for the persons who propose, and very rightly as business men, to profit by the mistakes and blunders of the Postmaster General in imposing upon the people a tax that is wholly unwarranted. We will all welcome the day when the two sides of the ledger will balance so far as the postal service of the country is concerned, but no man of experience, no man who has given the slightest attention to the question can escape the conclusion that in a sparsely-settled country like Canada the postal service will not be able to make ends meet. If we were unable to do it in the past we will be unable to do it in the future for some years to come at least. Then and then only is any Government justified in adopting a system that at present enslaves one part of the taxpayers of the country and makes them pay for the benefit of another class. The Postmaster General in saying that he has reduced the postal deficit from \$781,000 to \$50,000 makes an unfair statement of the case, because, as the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) pointed out, it can be justified by no manner of bookkeeping. I shall leave that point where the hon. member for York left it, because he gave a complete answer to the statement of the Postmaster General. I would like his attention for a moment because it is a serious one. It is that the hon. gentleman adopted what I maintain was a cowardly position when he exercised the power of the Crown—a very extraordinary power that is reserved in the hands of Ministers—to cancel the contracts of men who had been living upon such beggarly sums, almost approaching starvation, as were paid them for the performance of postal service in this country. The Postmaster General said that, when he came into office, he found these contracts had been renewed year after year, and that therefore he considered it his duty to cancel and relet them. I know of a case where a man furnished a double team, travelled over 20 miles a day and received 85 cents a day. His contract was cancelled and was relet. You go and relet these contracts again; you will have men pitted against each other, not because they can perform the service better or cheaper, but for the simple reason that they conclude if someone has been performing them at a certain rate they can take them at just a little lower rate. The hon. Postmaster General prides himself upon making war upon this class of people as a whole. It is no excuse to contend that there are some cases calling for intervention. It

is his duty to rectify these cases and no blame would attach to him, but when a man enters into a contract in perfectly good faith he should not be unjustly treated. The first duty of the Postmaster General should be to cut down some salaries nearer to his own elbow. I can tell him that he has achieved rather an unenviable reputation amongst a class of men performing services to the country who are underpaid rather than overpaid. I believe in saving every dollar that can be saved, but we must have efficiency in the service and this great country ought to be manly enough to pay fair compensation for services of this kind.

There is another way in which the Postmaster General has endeavoured to balance the ledger and it is by the issue and sale of Jubilee stamps. If I may use a vulgar expression, I would tell him that he will not have a snap of that kind every year. The people charged the hon. gentleman with issuing Jubilee stamps, nearly 70 per cent of which are utterly worthless to-day, because they have been repudiated. They may do as curiosities because the hon. gentleman has the reputation of being associated with the stamp fakirs of the country. He has issued all sorts of stamps to give those who are engaged in the laudable enterprise of collecting stamps a wide field, but there never was a more disgraceful act of repudiation than to lead the people, without the slightest warning, to believe that these stamps had value. Nearly 70 per cent of the whole issue are to-day of such denominations as I believe the people cannot use.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). No.

Mr. CLANCY. My hon. friend says no. I am going to ask the hon. gentleman what he is going to do with the \$5 stamps? How many of these were issued. I am unable to say, but the hon. gentleman in answering a question put in this House said that \$125,000 of these would be issued. I am not in possession of information to enable me to say whether they were issued or not, but that was the proportion to be issued. There were to be, of \$4 stamps, \$100,000 worth; \$3 stamps, \$75,000; \$2 stamps, \$50,000; \$1 stamps, \$25,000; and of 50 cent stamps, \$500,000. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman what he is going to do with these. Are these not absolutely and utterly worthless; has this not been the means of taking that much money out of the pockets of the people? Is it not the fact that so far as any value is retained in them that by the action of the Postmaster General they have become as worthless as anything could be worthless, and that not a single dollar could be realized upon them. What was present in the mind of the people who bought these Jubilee stamps? Besides these stamps being a sort of curiosity the people who bought them yielded to the splendid impulse suggested by the events of the Jubilee year.

They got these Jubilee stamps believing that they might, at a future time, exchange them for any others that they might use in their business not expecting that they would become utterly worthless. What are the people going to do with the stamps of the denominations that I have just mentioned ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). They will use them for postage.

Mr. H. F. McDOUGALL (Cape Breton). The \$4 stamps ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Yes, the \$4 and the \$5 stamps. If any hon. gentleman desires he can come down to the department and he will see many of these denominations that have been cancelled used as postage.

Mr. CLANCY. I am sorry to say that we have just as much light as we had before. We knew before that if any one was foolish enough he could put a \$5 stamp on a letter and it would go. Notwithstanding that we have a 2-cent rate, we know that according to the issue we have no less than \$750,000 of 5-cent stamps that could be put on a letter in the same way. We knew that we could use \$75,000 of the 6-cent stamps, \$200,000 of the 8-cent stamps, \$150,000 of the 10-cent stamps, \$100,000 of the 15-cent stamps, and \$100,000 of the 20-cent stamps in the same way, and that if we put any one of them on a letter it would go. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Mulock) has now disclosed this startling information to the public which was entirely in the dark, that they can put a 5-cent stamp or a \$5 stamp on a letter and that it will be carried through the mails.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). That, of course, is not what I said. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) wants to be fair, and I presume he does, I trust he will interpret properly my statement. There are many parcels of mail matter that require postage stamps up to \$5, and in excess of \$5. Five dollar stamps have been used for regular ordinary legitimate postal needs—not paying \$5 for more than \$5 worth of legitimate postage tax. That state of affairs has gone on during the time this custom has existed, and I would say that postage stamps of the denomination of \$5 are now a matter of public convenience, and will be continued as part of the regular legitimate issue of postage stamps.

Mr. H. A. POWELL (Westmoreland). What class of mail matter ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) will come to the department I shall have much pleasure in showing him cancelled stamps that have come into our department in the legitimate way, aggregating large

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sums, and covering all denominations of stamps that have been issued since I have been in the department.

Mr. N. C. WALLACE (West York). On what particular item would you put a \$5 stamp ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). I happened to be in the post office in this city one day, and I remember the postmaster saying to me : I have just seen a postage parcel go through to England with some \$8 of stamps upon it, and one of them was a \$5 stamp. It happened to be a day when some hon. gentleman was making remarks, as my hon. friend (Mr. Clancy) is doing to-day, and the postmaster of the city of Ottawa made the statement to me.

Mr. WALLACE. What was the parcel ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). I refer the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) to the postmaster of the city of Ottawa for the particulars ; he gave me the information.

Mr. POWELL. How did these stamps come back to your department cancelled ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). If the hon. gentleman comes to my office I will give him that information ; he can see for himself.

Mr. WALLACE. How does the cancelled stamp come back to your office ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). I do not wish to seem uncourteous by intruding on the time of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy), who is addressing the House, but if the information is desired, I will say that in regard to one branch of postal matter which only began on the 1st of January last, but is now a fixed branch of post office business, namely, the postal rates upon newspapers ; and also in regard to postage upon large quantities of mail matter that was always sent in bulk, such as magazines ; and matter that does not have the stamp affixed to each particular piece, in regard to all that class of mail matter it has been customary for the patron of the office to bring in postage stamps equal in value to the charge on the whole weight of the mail matter. It is an ordinary thing, it has always been the custom, and it is partly the law. A news agent would perhaps send down many bags full of magazines or parcels, and the postage stamps are not affixed to each separate piece, and the whole of it is weighed and so many dollars are paid in stamps, or if paid in money it is the duty of the postmaster to put stamps on a piece of paper or in a book and transmit these stamps to Ottawa in proof of cancellation. There are accumulated at the Post Office Department, books in which have been

pasted the postage stamps in payment of such postage accounts.

Mr. WALLACE. Is not that in violation of your own regulations?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). It took place under a previous Administration, at all events, and before I issued any regulations.

Mr. WALLACE. That is hardly an answer.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). Well, I am not sitting in judgment just now, and I will not discuss that question.

Mr. WALLACE. Yes, you are.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). I am not sitting in judgment on the actions of others, but I may say that it is neither in violation of any previous regulations nor of any regulations that I have made.

Mr. CLANCY (Bothwell). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Mulock) has made a very lucid explanation. He has not been limited to time in doing so, but he is convicted by the words from his own mouth. The charge I made against the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mulock) was that he was guilty of bad faith, and his explanation has proved it. We are told that it is a very customary thing to have parcels go through the mail stamped with these large denominations. If that be true, and the hon. gentleman kept faith with the people of this country, why did he not exchange these stamps and have them used as occasion requires, instead of forcing men to use stamps in their possession on very special occasions. The charge against the hon. gentleman is that he repudiated that issue, but the stamps are coming back to him in spite of himself. For the purpose of these articles that require heavy postage he could have let the stamps go out again after he redeemed them, and if they were redeemed the public would not suffer, and the Postmaster General could have given other stamps. I am speaking in the judgment of the House and the country—it was stated in the press—when I say that the fact is that the hon. gentleman made nearly half a million dollars by a pure act of repudiation. It is no explanation of the evil for the hon. gentleman to say: Well, we have parcels coming in stamped in that way. What about a man who has a set of these stamps and has no parcel to send?

Mr. W. H. BENNETT (East Simcoe). He could sell them to the newspaper men.

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) The newspaper men might not be able to pay for them.

Mr. CLANCY (Bothwell). And that remark of my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) may

be very true. The truth is that the Postmaster General has been able to balance the two sides of the ledger by two acts that are hardly creditable to him. One of these is to hamper men who are already underpaid, and the other is a wholesale repudiation of the stamps that were held by those who were innocent purchasers and which the post office would not redeem.

No reference has been made in the Speech from the Throne to the change in the constitution of the Senate, but the right hon. the Prime Minister made a deliverance on that question at a recent meeting, and he also made some reference to it in this House in his reply to the speech of the leader of the Opposition. The Prime Minister stated that it was going to be the duty of the Liberal party to make the Senate responsible to the people. Now, Sir, when you talk of having an independent Senate in this country, and to declare at the same time that you will make it directly responsible to the people, you are talking of two entirely different things. Take the case of the judges. They are not responsible to the people in that direct sense, but at the same time their very independence of the people attaches the greatest responsibility to their position in this country. I say that the Senate of Canada is in this matter a body somewhat similar to the judiciary. What would be the consequence if you made the Senate elective? Sir, you will make them responsible to the people wholly at the expense of their independence. In the case of the Canadian Senate and in the case of the English House of Lords, you cannot have direct responsibility to the people, and have independence at the same time.

Now, what is the greatest proof of a man's fair discharge of duty, either as a member of the Senate or as one of the judges of the land? In the United States there are cases of the election of judges, and the judiciary in that country is infinitely below ours, for the simple reason that they have responsibility at the expense of their independence. They must fulfil their pledges. They must yield to all those influences that tend to undermine their independence, simply because they have come into collision with the people. What is the safeguard of the people provided by the Senate of Canada? It may be briefly stated in two or three words. Each member of the House of Commons is responsible to his constituency, and no further; but the members of the Senate are not individually responsible to any constituency less than the whole Dominion of Canada. Responsibility must walk hand in hand with that high duty that is imposed upon men who have nothing to tempt them to go wrong. They are entirely independent; they have no local question to consider or local influences to yield to; they have no interest except to serve the country, without thought of reward or approval. If you think it out, you will see that we cannot have a Senate in this country that

can be put in a more independent or responsible position than is our present Senate by being free from those entanglements that come from party strife. Hon. gentlemen say the Senate is partisan. You cannot entirely eliminate party feeling from men, and I am not saying that the Senate has been entirely uninfluenced by party feeling. But suppose we adopted the plan adopted by the Prime Minister, what would happen? An independent body comes to settle questions with a body which is in no sense independent. I have no hesitation in saying that the members of this House are not wholly independent. They must answer to their constituencies. There is not a member here who is not bound to listen to what may be the opinion of his constituency on certain questions. That is not the case with the Senate. Then, why should you bring these two bodies into collision? I could understand the consistency of any man who declares that in a democratic country like this, in which the principle of democracy is advancing rather than receding, we could do without a second Chamber, as the people could correct their own wrongs. But if you admit the necessity of a second Chamber—for I understand that the proposal of the First Minister, if adopted, is only to be maintained so long as the Senate are on their good behaviour, and a further step would be resorted to if they returned to their independence—I cannot understand the consistency of causing an independent body, which is responsible to the whole country, to meet with the House of Commons to decide a question which may be entirely a party question. The whole future of the dominant party may depend upon that question being settled according to their wish. Would the right hon. gentleman call in the Senate if the united majority were unfavourable to him? The hon. gentleman would not call in the Senate except at such times as he believed there would be a sufficient number of Senators combined with his own supporters in the House of Commons to carry out his views. The principle of our constitutional system requires our business to be carried on by party; and we have a check on hasty legislation in the form of a second Chamber, which has the staying power to prevent vicious legislation coming from one or the other of the great parties of this country. If hon. gentlemen are agreed as party men, they have their mode of redress at their hand: they can appeal to the great tribunal of the electors, and have any wrongs corrected. There was an opportunity presented last session to test public opinion on a most vital question, if hon. gentlemen were honest and believed that the people were behind them. Had they not the most conclusive proof that the Senate were acting rightly, they would have appealed to the people, and the popular verdict, if against the Senate, would have been a lasting condemnation of it and a vindication of the principles and practices of hon. gentlemen opposite.

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But they did not resort to that opportunity, because they knew perfectly well that the action of the Senate would have been sustained. Under our system of Government, the Senate is an independent body in theory, and, I believe, in practice. It cannot be shown to be a corrupt body. Nobody makes the charge against it. It has not been engaged in jobs or in endeavouring to serve its party friends. What has been the offence of the Senate? Its offence has not been one against the country, but one against hon. gentlemen opposite. The Senate has headed off their schemes, and for doing that it has brought down upon itself the wrath of these hon. gentlemen; and we are told by the party press that the Imperial Government will take into consideration the question stated by the First Minister, and that the right hon. gentleman has an assurance from Lord Salisbury that should the provincial legislatures and a majority of this House declare for Senate reform, on the ground stated by the right hon. gentleman, legislation will be introduced in the Imperial Parliament to carry it into effect. It seems to me that it is unbecoming in the provincial legislatures of this day to be used as donkey engines to further the schemes of hon. gentlemen opposite. This action comes with ill-grace from the legislatures of the provinces of this country, for whose protection the Senate was constituted. Nothing could surpass the effrontery of these legislatures in passing resolutions in favour of reforming the Senate, for the Senate has never, in a single instance, offended against the rights and interests of these legislatures, of which it is the special guardian. I say we can afford to leave the question until the time comes, and if hon. gentlemen opposite are prepared to take that as their fighting ground, the hon. members on this side, as well as the people, may well be glad of their choice.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is just one question more, and it is a rather delicate one. I refer to the mission of the hon. gentlemen to Washington. Every patriotic Canadian must recognize that many difficulties would confront the Canadian and British commissioners in dealing with the questions that have caused considerable irritation between the two countries, and we cannot but desire that these questions should be finally settled. The leader of the Opposition made a sacrifice that few men in this country would make. He set aside all the advantages which would accrue to any great party leader who would go to the country and state the unpleasant truths about the hon. gentlemen opposite, and discredit them in their mission to Washington by showing the position they held in their own country. And the hon. gentleman who leads this side of the House with such marked ability, refrained, as a patriotic duty, from going before the people to discuss these public matters at that time. These are matters that are beyond the realm of party politics. When we come to discuss great internation-

al questions, we must not be bound by party distinctions—that would not be patriotic. However much we may be divided among ourselves, we cannot be divided when there is a contention between Canada and any foreign power. It is upon national, and not upon party grounds, that we propose to judge hon. gentlemen. What was the position taken by hon. gentlemen opposite before they came into power? It must be remembered—and I am afraid that the Prime Minister himself was one of the chief offenders—that the Americans were told that the Conservative party of Canada were hostile to the Americans, that their whole aim was to prevent the success of any movement to obtain better relations between the two countries. I think the hon. gentleman is on record for having made a very clear statement of that kind in the city of St. Thomas, a statement that is still remembered, and is being read with great interest now. When they came into power, they could not wait. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) had to go at once to Washington to talk over reciprocity and other matters. I contend that that was an undignified course. The advent to power of these hon. gentlemen must have aroused great expectation among the American people, as it did among the people of this country, who were looking to a just and reasonable fulfilment of their pledges. It would be illiberal to cavil at the hon. gentlemen for failure to fulfil their promises in every detail; all that could be fairly expected would be a substantial fulfilment of their pledges. But these hon. gentlemen were guilty of the undignified act of going to Washington during a session of this House to discuss these matters with the Americans. And, when they came back, they did even worse. They threw away by legislation everything that they would otherwise have been able to offer the American people in exchange for concessions. So, afterwards, when they went to Washington, they went away empty-handed. And now they have returned empty-handed.

The first thing that these hon. gentlemen threw away which might have been of value in treating with the Americans, was the duty on corn. They might well have held that duty for the benefit of our own people, regardless of the use that might be made of it in the negotiations. The effect of their course was to levy tribute on one class of our farmers for the benefit of farmers in other parts of the country. It has not been the policy of the great Conservative party to make one class of our people pay tribute to another. The duty upon corn meal, wheat and wheat flour were reduced. Then, they placed upon the Statute-book a faint-hearted—I say that advisedly—a faint-hearted Alien Labour Bill. That law was crippled by every means in their power,

even at the expense of decency in this House. Notwithstanding that there was an alien labour law in the United States that had been in operation for years, and that had been harshly exercised against our people, it was provided, at the instance of the First Minister himself, that our law should be brought into life only by proclamation. And why? For fear of offending the people of the United States, for fear of offending these people who had set the example, who thought it right to have such a law, or they would not have enacted it. At the very moment when this law was being so harshly enforced against us, we must not have a similar law for fear of offending those who had first established it. But the country pressed so strongly for an effective law, that the hon. gentlemen had to recede from their position. They then took another step. They provided that this law could only be brought into operation after a special agent of the Department of Justice had been appointed to bring it into force, no matter how long that might take. This made the law utterly inoperative, and it is inoperative to-day. What was the reason given by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) I am sorry he is not here at the moment. He said, that if we did not put checks upon this law, the most irresponsible person could put the law in operation, and might bring about a state of things that would lead to war between the two countries. Why, the people on the other side of the line were not afraid of war, when they put their Act in force; but it seems that, if we imitated them, then hon. gentlemen opposite were afraid that there would be war. Further, the Government procured the passage of legislation which had the effect of reducing the duties on four and a half million dollars worth of goods coming from the United States, while they reduced the duties on only a million dollars worth of goods coming from Great Britain. They did more—they increased the duty on two and three-quarter millions of goods coming from the United States, while they increased the duties on ten millions of goods coming from Great Britain. Having completed these things, these hon. gentlemen went to Washington without a single weapon in their hands to bring about any concession, or anything that they could offer in exchange for them. And now we are told by these hon. gentlemen, as an excuse for this, that the people do not want reciprocity, that they can do without it. I would like to ask them: If the people to-day can do without reciprocity, who taught them self-reliance and self-respect? Was it the Liberal party, with their doctrine of continental free trade, with their doctrine of unrestricted reciprocity? Was it the Liberal party, declaring, as the Minister of Trade and Commerce did: If continental free trade will give us relief

from the National Policy, I am ready for it; if unrestricted reciprocity will give us freedom, I am for that; if a revenue tariff will give us freedom, I am for that. The fact is that everything that could be thought of hon. gentlemen were ready to resort to. My hon. friend who sits opposite me, the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) declared that the farmers of this country tried to grow two-rowed barley and tried to fatten their cattle by different methods of agriculture, in order to overcome the difficulties, but they had failed; and he told us a story about a man who had water in his barnyard and the ducks that swam in it, as an illustration. He pledged his reputation—and I am bound to say that the hon. gentleman has considerable reputation of a kind in this House—he pledged his reputation that if the Liberal party came into power they would get a treaty of reciprocity including those items; they would not only be able to deal on more friendly terms with the people of the United States than the Conservatives, but they would give the people relief by reciprocity. We are told now by the First Minister that the people of Canada do not want reciprocity, though we are told by the Minister of Trade and Commerce that unless the people are so blind that they cannot see, they should still desire reciprocity. Well, let those hon. gentlemen settle that question between themselves. But if it be true, as they say, that the people of this country do not want reciprocity, it is because of the policy that was adopted by the Conservative party, and carried out by them, under which the people were taught self-reliance, and I can only add, self-respect. Our people sought new markets, and found new markets. The Canadian people are not slow to adapt themselves to changed circumstances. I have no hesitation in saying that if the Canadian people do not want reciprocity, it is because they have learned to live and to act independently of our neighbours to the south of us, and we can get along without reciprocity. I will only say further on this matter that there has been an adjournment of the international commission, and the people are looking forward with some anxiety to its resumption. We have been told that all the questions except one could have been settled. The alien labour difficulty could have been settled, the North Atlantic fisheries question could have been settled, the question of the seal fisheries could have been settled, as well as the question of reciprocity. No doubt, these are four important questions. What the people are asking now is why, if these four questions could have been settled, they were not settled. They are surely large enough for a settlement. We are told by the official statement that was sent out by the commission that the reason of this disagreement was that the American commissioners would not agree to anything within

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the bounds of reason; we are told that if a commission were to be appointed to settle that one difficulty that has delayed a settlement of all the others, it would have to be proceeded with upon such grounds that the Canadian and English commissioners could in no sense assent to it. But hon. gentlemen have chosen a falling place. Now we are enjoined not to speak above our breath lest we should endanger the negotiations that are now pending between Great Britain and the United States and Canada. I am sure there is one thing that the people of this country are agreed upon, and that is that the whole thing has been a miserable failure from start to finish.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. CLANCY. Let my hon. friend who says "hear, hear," wait a little, and he will find that the people of this country will entertain the idea I have just expressed. But I wish just here to mention a matter I forgot to mention with regard to the attitude of hon. gentlemen on the question of preferential trade. We have heard from the mouth of the First Minister himself that the sole ground of giving a preference to Great Britain was that of gratitude and loyalty to the mother land. Well, Sir, this is the first time I ever knew the Canadian people to put their loyalty on so low a ground as that it could be bought by a preference. Conservatives, as a great political party in this country, do not understand loyalty to be a thing that can be procured by a favour; but we hold that it is a man's duty to be loyal under our institutions in this country. We think loyalty rests on a higher and sounder ground than gratitude for favours. We think we should be loyal because it is our duty, because we receive protection to life and to property, with the inestimable blessings of civil and religious liberty. We have that protection and that liberty to a greater extent, I believe, than any other country under the light of the sun, and if we are not loyal, it is all the more to our discredit. I say it is our duty to be loyal, and we should not wait to be purchased. But what have we to be so grateful for? Are we to be grateful because we have been treated no better and no worse than others? Are we to be grateful because we have not been put at a disadvantage compared with others? I say this plea is the greatest nonsense that hon. gentlemen could put forward. The people of this country do not take much stock in such reasons; they rather take the ground that has been put forward by the great leaders of the Conservative party in this country that our trade relations with the mother land should be brought closer and closer, but they should be brought closer upon such mutual grounds as would be beneficial to both parties, that they should not be in the nature of favours extended

to each other. They think that the business transactions of this country should not be based on a sentimental basis, but on a sounder and more lasting ground. What is the proposition of my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition? He proposed that we should have a preferential arrangement between Great Britain and all her colonies. And how was that to be done? Why, Sir, just to the extent that Britain gave us favours, just to the extent that they extended to us what they received from us—and even I do not know that the hon. gentleman would have been very exact in that—upon that sound business principle he proposed to proceed. Upon that principle the First Minister promised to proceed, but he lost his head, he lost his head for reasons that made him no longer a democrat, and he is now the one man in this House who is wearing the reward of his treachery to the promises made to the people of this country. Mr. Speaker, I am sorry the Minister of Agriculture is not in his place. But I see several members of the Government sitting opposite, some of whom were not Ministers at the time of the Liberal convention, but they were prospective Ministers. I see the Minister of Public Works, I see the Minister of Customs, I see the Minister of Inland Revenue and the Postmaster General, all of whom were at that great convention, besides some others, making in all eleven Ministers out of the thirteen who preside over the affairs of this country just now. The Minister of the Interior was there and was elected chairman of one of the committees. These gentlemen formulated a policy that was a pledge to the people of this country, and if they did not mean it they did not mean anything. Can any one well conceive a great convention formulating a policy, printing that policy, and having it distributed from one end of the country to the other, discussing it in every detail, and not meaning anything by it? If it meant anything it meant a direct pledge to the people. One of the questions included in it was the question of prohibition. The Minister of Agriculture was selected to introduce the resolution embodying that plank, and the reason of his selection was that he had been trading a good deal upon the prohibition question in the past. I am not sure but that that was one of his qualifications in becoming a Minister.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). It was his principal qualification.

Mr. CLANCY. My hon. friend says it was his principal qualification, and I am quite willing to concur in that. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) declared that he felt a special pride in belonging to a party that was prepared to face this question in the country, a party supported by the young men because of its courage and moral quali-

ties, proposing to make for legislation that would be of great benefit to the country. But there was an honest man in that convention.

Mr. BERGERON. Name him.

Mr. CLANCY. I am sorry to say that that honest man has lately gone to his long home, where we must all go some day. I refer to the late Hon. Timothy Anglin. When that matter came up, when the resolution was proposed in a very elaborate speech by the Minister of Agriculture, plain Mr. Fisher then, Mr. Anglin, who was not prepared to play the part of the hypocrite for his party, protested against the introduction of a resolution of that kind under false pretenses. The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) was there, but he did not raise his voice in protest.

Mr. T. C. CASGRAIN (Montmorency). I do not think he was there.

Mr. CLANCY. Yes, he was there. He was one of the newer ones. He told them he came there notwithstanding big prizes held out to him to stay. The hon. gentleman shakes his head, but if he desires it, I will read his speech; his statement was that big prizes were held out to him, and he did not take them. He went over to the Liberal party, not the strong party, but the weak one. Coming back to the statement of Mr. Anglin, which had the ring of the word of an honest man, he said that he was not willing to commit himself to anything laid down in the platform that the Liberal party might be prepared to carry out. His statement was as follows:—

It may be said, indeed, that this resolution only asks for a plebiscite. But what do we mean when we ask for a plebiscite if we are in earnest? Is it not that we desire to know what the opinion of the people is on this question; that we desire to ascertain their opinion in a particular way, and that we will do all in our power to give effect to their decision as thus ascertained? It may be that not one-half of the adult male population will vote. Nevertheless, should a majority be obtained at the polls when this question is submitted, the friends of prohibition will be in a position to call upon the Liberal party to follow up their resolution logically by assisting in the passage and enforcement of a prohibitory liquor law.

Mr. Anglin made that statement in the presence of eleven out of thirteen gentlemen who are Ministers to-day. There was no dissenting voice; it was accepted that to pass the resolution meant just what Mr. Anglin said. It meant that there was a pledge given as significantly as any pledge could be given, because if hon. gentlemen can repudiate that pledge, in the very nice terms in which the repudiation was couched by the right hon. Prime Minister, who said that it was merely a pledge to the party, they can repudiate any pledge. Attention being called to the consequences of the resolution by one of the most prominent Liberals in the country at

that date, was there a man in that convention who rose in his place and said that it had not the meaning attributed to it by Mr. Anglin? Not a single one. We have hon. gentlemen opposite after coming from the country sitting down at the Council table, preparing a Bill assenting to it, to give effect to a resolution adopted as one of the planks of the Liberal party, sending out several of their number, and doing what? Four Ministers of the Crown are found going out in Quebec and fighting in every possible way against the passage of the Bill. How does that compare with the position of the Minister of Agriculture? If the Minister of Agriculture was at all in earnest, then he is not in earnest in the position he takes now. I am sorry that the hon. gentleman has not been here; I am sorry to say that the hon. gentleman has been skulking about the corridors of this House while this discussion has been going on. The hon. gentleman has not the courage to sit in his seat or to rise up in exposition of his attitude and if he remains in a Cabinet which refuses to give effect to the resolution moved by himself, is it that the Liberal party alone had courage to face the country on this issue? I say he is in a disgraceful position. He is not so great a man that he can disregard a statement made in this House. He ought to be in his place to defend his course, because he cannot ignore, by his silence, the criticisms that have been made of his conduct. We have a splendid example in the member for Colchester (Mr. McClure) of what the tactics of hon. gentlemen opposite will be on this question. That high-minded gentleman had no party until he came to the question of prohibition. In a long speech delivered last night he saw nothing good in the appointment of a Royal Commission by the Conservative party, but what could be attributed to bad faith and a determination to sidetrack the question. He saw in the Liberal party some things that he did not quite agree with, but he saw as clearly as noonday, that they were perfectly honest from start to finish. I have no hesitation in saying that the prohibitionists can have prohibition if they want it, but they will never have prohibition from a Government represented by such hon. gentlemen as the hon. member for Colchester. He may be a prohibitionist, but he belongs to that class that you can fairly characterize as renegade prohibitionists, who try to delude and mislead the people by telling them that he does not think the Government are bound to introduce a prohibition Bill. If the hon. gentleman spoke with authority he and his party will have to deal with the people who take an entirely different view, if this pledge of the hon. gentleman was not good, as was pointed out by the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster), there is not a single pledge contained in their platform of some twelve or thirteen articles, and if that is the case let hon. gentlemen be manly and honest enough to acknowledge that they have repudiated every other pledge. This

Mr. CLANCY.

pledge they have repudiated in words, and every other pledge they have repudiated by their acts, so that the hon. gentlemen opposite have the consolation, if consolation it be, of having by their acts and words repudiated every pledge they made to the people of Canada.

I regret that the Prime Minister is not in his seat, because I have a word to say to him of a somewhat personal character.

Mr. A. CAMPBELL (Kent). Oh, never mind.

Mr. CLANCY (Bothwell). We hear from my hon. friend (Mr. Campbell) when coal oil and some other comparatively small things are talked about, but let me ask him now: can he go back to his constituency and with truth on his lips, and I know I am imposing an impossible task on him and tell them that his party have performed their pledges? It is rather interesting for us to compare the stand he took in this House before the elections, and his silence since. I wonder if it is extreme sensitiveness that imposes such profound silence on the hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell) in this Parliament. I was about to state, Mr. Speaker, that I regretted the absence of the Prime Minister from his place in this House, for I have a word to say regarding him. The right hon. gentleman accepted all the challenges thrown down to him by the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) but he answered none of them. He told us that one of the great achievements of the Liberal party was to settle the Manitoba school difficulty. The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) also declared that the question had been settled, but strange to say the Solicitor General, who, in a sense, represents a very numerous and a very intelligent and very powerful section of the people of this country, declared that the question is not settled. I will leave these hon. gentlemen to settle that difference of opinion amongst themselves, but let me ask you, Mr. Speaker—because as your duty is merely to listen to what is said around you, you will be able to form an impartial opinion—I ask you, Sir, who raised this question first in Canada, who initiated this difficulty, and who traded on it when it was once started? Sir, was not that question first raised by a body of conspirators within the shadow of the legislative buildings in Winnipeg, and is not the product of that conspiracy to-day holding a portfolio as Minister of the Interior? It does not lie in the mouths of these hon. gentlemen to declare that the Conservatives could not settle the Manitoba school question, because it was part of the conspiracy that they should not be allowed to settle it. Every endeavour was made by the Conservative Government to arrive at an amicable understanding; commissioners were sent to Winnipeg, and the provincial government sent them back with the message, that they were not prepared to settle. No terms could be offered by the Government that a self-respecting federal Government could

entertain. These hon. gentlemen opposite entered upon the conspiracy in order that they might profit by it and be enabled to say that the Conservatives were unable to settle the question but that the Liberals were. Whether that question has been rightly or wrongly settled, or whether it has been settled at all, I will not discuss at this moment. But I do know that the people of this country recognize to-day that the whole thing was a conspiracy. If, as the Prime Minister has told us, this country was brought to the verge of rebellion and civil strife, that civil strife was fomented by the Liberal party in Canada, and it was continued so long as it suited them to continue it. What was the result? The moment the general elections were over, the very man who told the people of the province of Manitoba that he was holding out for a great principle, was lionized in the city of Montreal and at a family union of the Liberal party held there to divide the prizes according to the merits of those who had served the party, this very man obtained a rich prize as his share. Sir, the whole thing in connection with that transaction is a lasting disgrace to the Liberal party, and it will live longer than the not very reputable fame of hon. gentlemen opposite, in the minds of the people of Canada.

Let me point out briefly, Sir, what seems to me to be the duty of the Conservative party. It is not a new duty, for we have the old policy, and we have one of the oldest leaders of public opinion in Canada at our head. Our leader is a man who has contributed more than any man living to the bringing about of the unity of Canada and the welding of these provinces together in this great confederation. We have at our head a man who deserves all credit for his great stability of character, and for that strong personality of his which it is the lot of but few men to possess. We have a leader whose supporters have no occasion to be put to shame by any one declaring that our leader has said one thing to-day and another thing to-morrow. Our leader has never been charged with having repudiated, or with having left unfilled any pledge he has made to the people of Canada. Sir, the duty of the Conservative party is easy under such a leader. We are equipped with a policy that was inaugurated by the efforts of our present leader, for he was the first to propose that we should have a national policy; national not alone in name but national because it protects the interests of all our people; national because it does not impose undue burdens on one class for the purpose of relieving another; national because it never sanctioned jobbery; national because it contributed to the best interests of Canada. Sir, we have a true national policy; we have the Father of the National Policy as our leader, and our patriotic duty will be to faithfully follow that leader until he attains power, as he deserves to.

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

### After Recess.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. J. I. Tarte). Mr. Speaker, the eminent baronet who leads the Opposition has given notice to my right hon. friend the Prime Minister and to myself that during the recess he will pay a long visit to the province of Quebec. Let me assure him that he will be received with all the consideration due to his age, to his many years in public life, and to the important position he occupies in this country. I even apprehend, Sir, that French flags may be displayed in his honour, unless he feels for the three-coloured banner of France the same dislike—nay, the same disgust—that the chief whip of his party expressed with so much vehemence in the House a day or two ago.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (Leeds. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman misstates the fact if he says that I showed any hostility or disrespect to the tri-coloured flag. What I stated was that the hon. gentleman had raised that flag on Her Majesty's boat.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I am very glad indeed that the hon. gentleman eats humble pie so soon. The hon. leader of the Opposition believes that the province of Quebec is not well informed. I beg to take issue with him on this very point. I claim that the province of Quebec is one of the best informed provinces of the Dominion; and it is because she is so well informed that she has taken the political position which astonishes so much the hon. leader of the Opposition. There is no other province where the newspapers are more largely circulated than in my native province; and I will add that there is no other province where newspapers of both political creeds and of both languages are read as they are in Quebec. Take the city of Montreal: The "Star," "La Presse," "La Patrie," the "Witness" and the "Herald," I am glad to say, are seen in everybody's hands. The one-cent paper has extended the reading of newspapers all over the province. There is scarcely a village or a parish where the "Star," "La Presse" and "La Patrie" are not sold every day at one cent. At Lévis, where my hon. friend (Mr. Demers) was elected without opposition a few days ago, the "Star," "La Patrie" and "La Presse" are circulated. In Bagot the same papers are read in every house. In point of fact, it is because the newspapers of both political parties and of the two languages are read in Quebec everywhere, that false statements and unfair accusations have no weight with our people. The hon. leader of the Opposition has been away practically for the last fifteen years, and that is the

reason why he has lost track of public opinion in my native province. When he so gallantly came from the other side of the ocean to relieve Sir Mackenzie Bowell of the onerous duties of Prime Minister, he thought, I am afraid, that he was living fifteen years in the past. He had to form a new Administration. He had been a colleague of Sir George Etienne Cartier. I am sorry indeed he is not in his seat, for I would ask him, what did he do? Did he apply to the old comrades, the old colleagues of Sir George Etienne Cartier? No, Sir, he went to the representatives of the school who did everything they could to destroy and disgrace Sir George Etienne Cartier. He invited to be one of his colleagues Mr. Desjardins. I have nothing to say against that gentleman's reputation or character. Mr. Desjardins was one of the opponents of Sir George Etienne Cartier, so was Mr. Taillon. I will not put in the same category Mr. Angers; he does not belong to the same class of men, and I have been very sorry to find him at times with them. But, Sir, the hon. leader of the Opposition applied to the representatives of that school for the very reason pointed out by my hon. friend the member for Napierville (Mr. Monet) to-day. He appealed to the most retrograde element in the province of Quebec, with the view of securing what he thought would be a dominating influence in that province. Sir, I will not allude further than is necessary to what took place in the campaign of 1896; but it is my duty to my party and to my province, and to the country at large, I may add, to state again the position which I stated in the House in 1897. I am amazed when I hear members of Parliament from the province of Quebec speaking of appeals to prejudices. I say that in no part of the British Empire, nor at any time, was such an attempt made at religious coercion as the one which was made in the province of Quebec in 1896 on behalf, in the interest, and with the knowledge and consent of the hon. leader of the Opposition and his friends. Sir, the French habitant stood up to the mark like a man. He was not coerced, but felt that he was a free citizen, and that he had the right to vote just as he pleased, and he voted just as it pleased him to do. Neither the hon. leader of the Opposition nor any of the other leaders of his party have ever repudiated the part they played in the campaign of 1896. But, they have found out that coercion did not succeed in the province of Quebec, and they made up their minds to change front. They do not, they say, rely any more on the province of Quebec, and they have resolved to coerce that province in other ways. They seem to have made up their minds to appeal to the Protestant provinces against the province of Quebec. Their war-cry seems to be: "No French Premier! No Roman Catholic domination! Down with the Pope!" Their campaign is not new to me. The "Mail," which is the chief organ of that unholy campaign, started it long ago.

Mr. TARTE.

In 1884 or 1885, the "Mail" started on the course which they are still pursuing. So much so, Sir, that although that paper had cost the Conservative party nearly \$400,000—and I speak of what I know—Sir John Macdonald established the "Empire." My hon. friend spoke of moneys collected for party purposes, but I may tell him one day in Montreal—and I do not reveal any secrets in saying this—Sir John Macdonald collected \$40,000 to start the "Empire." There was no harm in that. I point out these facts to make a comparison between the late lamented chieftain who so long directed the destinies of the Conservative party and these gentlemen who are leading it to-day. Sir John Macdonald died, and the "Empire" was suppressed, while the "Mail" was kept on with its old staff. Sir John Abbott took office. Unfortunately, he did not lead his party long, and we all exceedingly regretted his death. He was succeeded by Sir John Thompson. The reorganization which took place then has some interesting features about it. I am very glad indeed to see my hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace) in his place. I may tell him what he has, perhaps, ignored up to this time. Sir John Thompson had made up his mind to take Mr. Meredith and Dr. Bergin into the Cabinet with him. Dr. Bergin went to Ontario and got the consent of two or three bishops that Mr. Meredith should be taken in. Before the negotiations were completed, however, my hon. friend from West York was taken in with Mr. Montague. If my hon. friend does not know these facts, I know them, on the best possible authority. Dr. Bergin was to have come in, but he did not, and he was replaced by my hon. friend from West York. Anyhow, wrangling and unseemly differences were more acute than ever in the Conservative party. If Mr. Justice Ouimet and Mr. Angers would speak freely and frankly, they would say to the country that on more than one occasion they were very near going out of the Government on account of the unfair treatment they received at the hands of their Tory friends. The same element that then got the upper hand in the Conservative party has the upper hand to-day.

And what is the result? I will not weary the House with too long quotations, but I cannot refrain from alluding to what some of the organs of hon. gentlemen opposite are saying and writing. The "Telegram" is a newspaper published in the city of Winnipeg. I have been informed, and it was with a great deal of regret and chagrin that I heard it, that the "Telegram" is controlled by Mr. Hugh John Macdonald. I hope that is not the case, because I cannot conceive that the son of the late lamented chieftain whom the province of Quebec so faithfully supported for twenty years would allow to be written against the French Canadians what I read in that paper. On the 16th December the "Telegram," commenting on the election in Bagot, wrote this:

So far as Bagot is concerned, the "Telegram" is not sorry of the loss of the seat; the lessons it teaches are more valuable than one member more or less on the Conservative benches in Parliament. It shows that against a French Premier and unlimited boodle it is useless for the Conservatives to bother particularly about Quebec. The French have shown themselves utterly ungrateful for the sacrifices of the Conservative party made in 1896 to see justice done their race and religion. They have shown themselves to be mere venal opportunists. In Quebec they are evidently of the same calibre as the Prendergasts, the Forgets, and the Martins of Manitoba. The Conservative party will do well to realize that it had better not prejudice its chances of success in other parts of the Dominion by further truckling to that unprincipled province. Whenever the Conservatives are strong enough to obtain power without the aid of a Quebec majority there will be no difficulty about obtaining a Quebec majority. Quebec will then come flocking over to Conservatism solicitous to be seduced. Her venal electorate will swarm around the dispensers of patronage like flies round a honey-pot. Meanwhile, Conservatives had better let Quebec stew in its Laurier juice, and build up its strength elsewhere, even at the expense of the Quebec interests.

And further :

A French Canadian Premier means, it is very evident, that the rest of the Dominion is to be despoiled for the benefit of Quebec. We in Manitoba have been made to keenly realize this, if the other provinces have not. While millions are being spent on Quebec, we cannot get even consideration for necessary public works whose costs would be comparatively a bagatelle. We are starved that Quebec may gorge. The arrogance of Quebec under the Laurier regime has become insufferable. Mr. Tarte not only lavishes millions on his province, but he flies the French flag on Government vessels in preference to the Union Jack.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (Leeds). Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The hon. gentleman says "hear, hear," of course. He has never read and never understood a word of French in his life. And yet he quotes French speeches and articles. I do not suppose he will ever learn that so beautiful language, but he will go on quoting my words in French, words that he is quite unable to understand. I am very sorry indeed that the "Telegram" is not the only Conservative paper that speaks in that strain.

The hon. member for Leeds who interrupted me a moment ago, spoke the other day of an incident which, I believe, I have explained in a manner satisfactory to every reasonable man.

The hon. gentleman has said—of course, I do not suppose he was serious—that I had hoisted the French flag and given it the place of honour over the English flag. Sir, that is too ridiculous—I am sure he is not serious. What did I do? Any man in my position would have done what I did; there is no doubt about that. I am just as loyal a British citizen as my hon. friend from Leeds, or any other member on that side of the House. I had occasion to

inspect the public works of my department in a Government boat. I did not go on foot; I could not walk on the water, and so I went in a Government boat. I took with me several flags. First of all, I took the Union Jack, which is the flag of my country, and which, in the speech the hon. gentleman quoted without having ever read it, I said was the flag of my country. I put it in the place of honour, as any British Minister is bound to do. But I do not deny that I took with me a French flag also, and an American flag. I took an American flag in order that, when I met an American vessel, I might be able to salute the flag of a friendly nation with the flag of a friendly nation. I did that on several occasions. Now, Sir, if I have been guilty of hoisting the French flag on several occasions, that is to say, where I was visiting groups of French people in the province of Quebec, then let the House condemn me. I have done it, and I do not regret it in any way whatever. Mr. Speaker, Sir John Macdonald often came to the province of Quebec, and he was never horrified at the sight of a French flag. The French flag is in nearly every home in the province of Quebec. On more than one occasion I have witnessed the touching sight, in the houses of my French countrymen, the portrait of the Queen wrapped in the French flag. I have expressed elsewhere, and I express here, the earnest desire of a French Canadian, and as a British citizen at the same time, that the two flags of Great Britain and France may always float together to the breeze in friendship and amity.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) No, Sir; no, Sir.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The hon. gentleman says, No.

Mr. PRIOR. Yes.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Let me remind my hon. friend of what Queen Victoria said, a few months ago—and it was reported in the press of the whole civilized world. Her Majesty, in an interview with Eugenie, ex-Empress of France, during those painful days of the Fashoda incident, said to the ex-Empress: "If war were to break out between France and England, I should ask God to let me die before the beginning of hostilities." Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman for Victoria, B.C., (Mr. Prior) has been a Minister of the Crown in this country. Let me appeal to his better sense; let me say that what he has said, he should apologize for just now. Why should not the two greatest civilized nations in the world walk in the ways of peace and harmony? Does the hon. gentleman desire war between France and England? Why should it be so? Sir, the hon. gentlemen is but expressing the sentiments of a group of men on the other side of the House who hate everything that is French.

Why, his interruption just now proves that. Because I hoisted the French flag, I have been denounced as disloyal to the British Empire.

Mr. PRIOR. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I hope the hon. gentleman is not in his sober senses. Now, Sir, my hon. friend for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) has thought proper to allude to the fact that I had visited the Island of Anticosti. My department has a telegraph system of 250 miles on the island, and I thought it was my duty, when making a tour of inspection, to inspect that system. The Island of Anticosti was the property of an English syndicate. Mr. Menier, a well-known French capitalist, bought the island from that English syndicate. My hon. friend from Leeds—again I say that I do not think he was serious—accused me of having gone there and of having been practically a party to the proceedings having in view the expulsion of a Methodist settlement from that island. So much has been said about that expulsion, that I may be permitted to say a word in explanation of the circumstances. As I say, Mr. Menier, a capitalist from France, bought the Island of Anticosti from an English syndicate, who had purchased it years ago. When my hon. friend opposite, or any other hon. gentleman opposite, buys a property, he believes himself to be the owner of it. Mr. Menier found at Fox River about twenty families, who had settled there. Those of us in the province of Quebec who know what is going on, are amused at the reports that have been spread abroad. It is said, that all those who have been settled there are Methodists, and that they are going to be expelled on account of their faith. I may say, that my hon. friend from Charlevoix (Mr. Angers) is acting as a counsel in the case, and he will bear me out in what I am going to say. There are some people of the Protestant faith on the island, and I may add, that, among those whom my hon. friend opposite characterized as persecuted Methodists, are a couple of French Canadians and a couple of Irishmen, and, perhaps they may not be the best of the lot. Everybody who lives in the province of Quebec knows—that nearly all those who live on that island are professional wreckers—people who deceive the captain of a ship, in order that the vessel might be wrecked, and that they might steal everything on board. Every lawyer in Quebec knows—my hon. friend from Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) knows—that that company was not a very suitable company for Mr. Menier, and he took proceedings to expel them. They resisted, and, as there were some Methodists among them, the whole lot were supposed to be Methodists. They came to Quebec, enlisted the active sympathy of some of our friends of the Protestant religion, and the fight is

Mr. TARTE.

going on. It is a question of property—a question as to whether Mr. Menier has the right to own land or not. Proceedings are now pending in the court. Some of the Conservative organs, and my hon. friend from Leeds (Mr. Taylor) has quoted their sentiments in the House, have said that Mr. Menier should not be allowed to remain the possessor of Anticosti Island. The question is very clear. Shall a French capitalist, who comes to Canada to invest money, be allowed to do so or not? If, because Mr. Mernier is French, he has no right to buy property here, the case is very clear. If a Frenchman coming from France has no right to buy property, it is better for us to say so; but nobody will say so. Mr. Menier has spent a million and a half of dollars; he is employing only Canadian labour, and I am always surprised to see that so much noise has been made about a thing which, in my estimation, is a very clear one indeed. But, of course, all these appeals are made in accordance with the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. It is a two-faced policy. In Ontario, and in some of the other Protestant provinces, my right hon. friend the Prime Minister is represented as the vicar-general of the Pope, and in Quebec—well, in Quebec, he is represented as a man who has no religion whatever. My hon. friend for West York (Mr. Wallace) made a speech at Barrie, a few days ago, in which he alluded to the religious position, if I may express myself so, of my right hon. friend the Prime Minister and that of ourselves. Speaking of the Manitoba school question, he said:

It is enough to make our blood boil to think that a foreign potentate was asked to interfere in our government.

Well, Sir, the hon. gentleman is a member of Parliament—

Mr. N. C. WALLACE (West York). I said that in Parliament last session, and I am prepared to say it again.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. And it was no more true. The more the hon. gentleman says so, the more he will prove that he does not mean to be fair. There is nothing like truth in this world. All the false statements that may be scattered, even if they come from the mouth of my hon. friend the member for West York, cannot prevail against truth. I say here—and nobody can deny it with any success—that the Pope was never asked by the Prime Minister or myself to interfere in this country in political matters. What was done was very fully stated by me on March 30, 1897. I have the statement before me. We appealed to Rome for freedom, for liberty against oppression, against organized oppression, against the oppression organized by the hon. gentleman and others in this House. Because the man who was placed at the head of Catholicity, is one of

the broadest-minded men that ever lived, we got freedom, justice and liberty. The hon. gentleman has a reputation to save: he is a responsible man. He should not go on saying, that we have appealed for interference in political matters to the Pope. It is not a fact; it is not true. He cannot deny, that we have never appealed to Rome in regard to those matters.

Mr. WALLACE. Will the hon. gentleman deny the letter written by Charles Russell, in which he said, that he was sent there by the powers that be for that express purpose?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Whatever Mr. Russell may have said, he cannot have said anything else but what I am saying now.

Mr. WALLACE. Yes, he did.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. In Rome there is a court just as in any other capital in the world, where there is work to be done and arguments to be given. Was it a crime for the leader of the Opposition to go to Rome lately? He went to Rome a few months ago. Was it a crime? If the hon. member for West York should visit Rome, he would go to see the Pope, I have no doubt. The Pope has seen worse men than he, and he has always blessed them with both hands. It would not do any harm. I will always remember an incident which has become history. The pope that Napoleon put in jail, was passing through the crowd, and somebody would not kneel to be blessed by him. "Well," he said, "the blessing of an old man can do harm to nobody." What the hon. gentleman is saying, and what the organs of hon. gentlemen opposite are writing, is all of very great importance. The question really comes down to this point, that we Roman Catholics are obliged to ask ourselves whether we are to be banished from public life on account of our faith. Is it because the right hon. Prime Minister is a French Canadian and a Roman Catholic, that he cannot be Prime Minister of this country?

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no; nonsense.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Nonsense! The organs of the hon. gentleman are writing that every day. I have my hand full of quotations to that very effect.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Read, read.

Mr. TAYLOR. What about Sir John Thompson?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Sir John Thompson was not very long Prime Minister, and I doubt very much that the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) was very hot for him. When the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) does us the honour of coming to Quebec, he will have to explain why a French Canadian cannot be Prime Minister. We have always

thought that the French Canadians are a respectable minority in this country: we are a million and a half, and we do not lose any time in having more and more population. I read, a few days ago, in the able address of Mr. Tooms—a brother of my hon. friend, who is an Orange chief—the doleful complaint, that the French Canadians were swarming to Manitoba and covering the whole ground very fast. Sir, these gentlemen opposite speak of Quebec domination because the people of the province of Quebec have thought fit to vote for my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), who is a French Canadian. But political history is open to us, and we know that for nearly twenty years the province of Quebec voted steadily for Sir John A. Macdonald. I never then heard my Tory friends complaining very loudly about it. They were very complimentary to us in those days; they relied very much upon us, and Sir John A. Macdonald never dissolved a Parliament without doing some of us the honour of calling us up to Ottawa and asking us what we thought of the chances of war. The Conservative party had good leaders in those days. They were well organized, as my hon. friend from Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) knows, and we generally carried the day against the Liberal side of the House. I repeat again that our English Tory friends never complained of French domination when Quebec voted for Sir John Macdonald, and it cannot be denied that the province of Quebec kept Sir John in power for nearly twenty years. Why is it that because the Prime Minister happens to be a French Canadian there is so much talk about French domination now? It means, Sir, that these gentlemen deny to the French race the same privileges and the same aspirations as they claim for themselves. At one time the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) had nearly his whole province behind him, but nobody cried Nova Scotia domination. A day or two ago some hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House pointed to the great danger that was likely to result from the fact that all the provinces were now Liberal, but when the province of Nova Scotia was in the hands of a Conservative Government, or when the majority of the representation from that province was Conservative at Ottawa, there was no talk of Nova Scotia domination. They cry to-day that there is Nova Scotia domination in the province of Nova Scotia because the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) could not carry more than four out of forty-six members in the provincial legislature.

But, Mr. Speaker, 1896 was not the first year that the right hon. the Prime Minister of Canada was leader of the Liberal party. It was in 1888 that my right hon. friend was chosen as leader. The English Liberal party did great honour to the French

race in choosing one of them as a leader. Sir, we greatly appreciate that honour.

Mr. GEO. LANDERKIN (South Grey). So do we.

Some hon. MEMBERS. So do we.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). We greatly appreciate the honour that has been done us, and I do not believe that our friends of English origin have any right to say that we have abused that proud privilege. There is no doubt that the province of Quebec is French; she is French and British at the same time; she is as loyal to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen as any other part of the British Empire. Lord Elgin, who, I think, had as high ideas as my hon. friend from Victoria, B.C. (Mr. Prior), wrote in the year 1848 to the British authorities as follows:—

I must confess that I for one am deeply convinced of the impolicy of all such attempts to denationalize the French. Generally speaking, they produce the opposite effect from that intended, causing the flame of national prejudice and animosity to burn more fiercely. But, suppose them to be successful, what would be the result? You may, perhaps, Americanize; but, depend upon it, by methods of this description you will never Anglicize the French inhabitants of the province of Quebec. Let them feel, on the other hand, that their religion, their habits, their prepossessions, their prejudices, if you will, are more considered and respected here than in other portions of this vast continent, and who will venture to say that the last hand which waves the British flag on American ground may not be that of a French Canadian?

Well, Sir, knowing my native province as I do, I say that if there was any necessity, if there was any appeal to the French province of Quebec on behalf of the British Empire, there would be more than one French Canadian hand ready to wave the British flag in any part of the world. It is painful to us as a race to be assailed as we sometimes are in some quarters. We feel that we are just as loyal as you, my English friends, are; but still we see that a part of the population (to whose respect we attach a great deal of importance) is under the wrong and false and unfair impression that we are a disloyal race.

The hon. leader of the Opposition has spoken at great length on the question of Senate reform, and he told us he was ready to die to save the Senate, and especially the province of Quebec. Perhaps the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) is a little too ready to sacrifice his life for the province of Quebec, for I think we can take care of ourselves without his blood being shed on our behalf. I remember very well that one evening in this House when the school question was being discussed, he gave us a most solemn assurance that he was ready to give the last hours of his life to save our religion and our altars. Today he is ready to die once more for us.

Mr. TARTE.

Providence spared him then that he might save us now. Allow me to say that the French Canadians do not want the Senate more than do their fellow-citizens of other origin. If the people of this Dominion want to maintain the Senate, the province of Quebec has no objection, but I add without any hesitation whatever that if the people of the Dominion make up their minds to abolish the Senate the province of Quebec will have no objection to it either. And, Mr. Speaker, I shall tell you why. Times have changed; confederation was enacted in 1867, long years ago. Previous to that time there were struggles, violent struggles between Upper and Lower Canada, and the fathers of confederation thought it necessary to give special guarantees to the French Canadian and Catholic minority in the Federal Parliament, and special guarantees to the English minority in the legislature of Quebec. The Senate was then created, with an equal number of senators for each of the provinces. As I said a minute ago, times have changed. We are now the Canadian nation; thank God, we are more and more the Canadian nation; and the French Canadians feel that they are quite as much at home in Ottawa as they are in the province of Quebec. We do not require any special protection. We feel that we can take care of ourselves. We are just as strong in the House as our friends of other origin, and we are treated with the same fairness and justice as our friends of other origin. We are proud to content ourselves to be British and Canadian citizens, pure and simple. Sir, there was an English legislative councillor appointed in Quebec a few weeks ago, Mr. McCorkill. It is stated that the Legislative Council exists in the province of Quebec to protect the English minority, as the Senate was created to protect the minority here. Mr. McCorkill stated in my hearing that he consented to be appointed a Legislative Councillor so as to vote for the abolition of the Legislative Council.

Mr. T. CHASE CASGRAIN (Montmorency). He did not mean it.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. On this side of the House we never say what we do not think. The existence of the Senate may have been considered a necessity in former days; I do not believe it is a necessity now. I do not mean to say that I am prepared to vote immediately for the abolition of the Senate, but I say without hesitation that if there were a vote taken in the province of Quebec to-morrow, 95 out of every 100 votes would be cast for the abolition of the Senate. There is no possible doubt as to that, and any man who does not see that has not looked carefully over the political ground.

Sir, we are living in the last part of the 19th century, the century of liberty par excellence, the century of government by the

people and for the people. Have we got responsible government in the proper sense of the word? There is no use denying that the Senate is just as partisan as we are. Now, what is the position of affairs? Here is a Government, which was returned in 1896 by the popular will, and has been maintained since 1896 by the popular will. The Senate can block, can put to nought, its policy at any time, and there is no remedy. I heard to-day the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) saying: "Oh, we should appeal to the people every time the Senate refuses to pass a measure passed by the House." If such a proposition were propounded on the other side of the ocean, the man who made it would be the laughing stock of the whole community. The House of Lords have never claimed the right to force a dissolution of Parliament. If we simply had a Senate like the House of Lords, it would be tolerable, although the English people are pretty restless under the rule of the House of Lords to-day. But we have not that at all. We have a Senate composed of men who were appointed 25 years ago, 20 years ago, 15 years ago, 10 years ago—appointed by governments composed of men belonging to the party of hon. gentlemen opposite; and that Senate has not the right but the power to block every measure introduced in this House. All party questions and all party feeling put aside. I say this state of affairs is intolerable. I was very much struck by a few words uttered by Mr. Gladstone which I find in Heaton's "Three Reforms of Parliament." Says Mr. Gladstone:

The strength of the modern state lies in the representative system. I rejoice to think that in this happy country, and in this happy constitution, we have other sources of strength in the respect paid to the various orders in the state, in the authority they enjoy, and in the unbroken course which has been allowed to all our national traditions; but still, in the main, it is the representative system which is the strength of the modern state in general, and of the state in this country in particular.

And here are some other words of Mr. Gladstone, uttered in 1895, which I find in Mr. McCarthy's book:

Above all, present purposes vindicate the right of the House of Commons as the organ of the nation.

Well, Sir, we are proceeding on these lines. We want to vindicate the position of this House of Commons as the organ of this young Canadian nation. It is amusing to hear some of our friends speaking of the guarantee that the Senate is supposed to be for the province of Quebec. Do you know how many French senators we have from Quebec in the Senate? We have 16 of them. What a bulwark! If we had only that bulwark, I would pity the poor French Canadians. The names of those French senators are as follows:—Mr. Armand, Mr. Bellerose, Sir C. A. P. Pelletier, Mr. Bernier, Mr. Bol-

duc, Mr. Ross, Mr. de Boucherville, Mr. Thibaudeau, Mr. Dandurand, Mr. Fiset, Mr. Forget, Mr. Landry, Mr. Masson, Mr. Montplaisir, Mr. Poirier, Mr. Paquet—sixteen all told. I say it again: Is it not preposterous to ask the province of Quebec to believe that without those sixteen men we are nowhere? The French Canadian habitant will not take much stock in that saying; he knows better than that.

The hon. leader of the Opposition, and nearly all of those who have spoken after him, have alluded to the great expenditure which this Government, they say, has been guilty of. I would like to have a frank understanding with my hon. friends on the other side. They have held the reins of power almost continuously since confederation. We find that they have increased the public debt of this country by \$118,000,000. We find that when they came into power, succeeding the Government of Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, the annual expenditure was \$23,000,000 in round numbers, and they increased it to over \$38,000,000. I do not blame them for doing so. I could not very properly blame them, having supported them nearly all that time. I do not blame them. This country has made great progress, and besides, hon. gentlemen opposite were not always as bad as they are now. But, Sir, what do they reproach us with to-day? I am sorry that the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), and the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), who have more authority to speak for the other side than others—although the leaders are not very safe in their seats on the other side—are not in their places. I would ask them to point out the items of expenditure to which they object. There is no use in saying in a vague way: "You are spending too much." On what great public work are we spending too much? Since we came into power we have been going on with the deepening of the canals. That policy was initiated before we took office, only it was not pushed as it should have been pushed. Hon. gentlemen opposite had too much wrangling among themselves to go on with anything of importance. We have been going along with this work as fast as we have been able. Do hon. gentlemen opposite object, I want to know, to the further deepening of the canals, in view of securing to this Canadian nation the trade of the west. Will they make a motion condemning this Government for having deepened the canals? No, the money was voted in this House and these hon. gentlemen have not said a word. The other great work is the Crow's Nest Pass Railway. They did not object to that. My hon. friend the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) reminds me that the hon. ex-Minister of Finance, more than any other man, was pushing it forward. He was afraid we would not bring the measure in. No vote has been taken to oppose any of these appropriations. There has been shaking of the head

on the part of my hon. friend from West York, but when he shakes his head, the brains of his party are not always there. Now, I wish to call the attention of the country to the unfair position that is assumed by hon. gentlemen opposite. They speak against the expenditure. Let them tell us to what item of expenditure they object. A deputation came to me a few days ago from the city of Toronto, composed of men of both political parties. They asked me to apply, for a start, for half a million of dollars to improve the port of Toronto. Shall I decline their request? Shall I say: We are spending too much money. Shall I say that the port of Toronto is deep enough, that it is sound Canadian policy to allow trade to flow to American channels and not go to the city of Toronto? I cannot say that. Let hon. gentlemen opposite make a motion declaring that I should not spend that money, and we will see. This very morning the Prime Minister received in his room with some of his colleagues, of which I was one, a deputation from what we call "New Ontario," a deputation composed of men of both political parties. Members of Parliament on the other side were present with the deputation. They asked us if we were willing to favour the appropriation of half a million dollars to help with the construction of a railway. Shall we tell them that our hon. friends on the other side are opposed to that? Shall we stop the progress of that district? Shall we close the door? If my hon. friends want to say it, let them do so. Then there is the port of Hamilton. The works that were built there years ago are in a decayed state. There is only about 12 feet of water. I received a petition from the Board of Trade, including the most influential citizens, who asked me to rebuild these piers and give additional water. That will cost money. Shall I tell them that our friends on the other side are opposed to further expenditure? Shall I allow this port to be closed? I say again there is no use speaking in a vague way. Let hon. gentlemen opposite tell us what they object to. Sir, there are works going on in Collingwood and Goderich. Now, as to Goderich—I am sorry not to see my hon. friend from Leeds in his place—

Mr. TAYLOR. Here.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I am glad that he is present, and I hope he will stand corrected. He has repeatedly asserted that the contract for the rebuilding of the crib-work at Goderich was given to Mr. McGillicuddy without tender. I vainly told him that he was mistaken. Reading his speech—which was no very great fun—I found out that he repeatedly said there was no tender in this case. What are the facts? The contract was awarded to Mr. Madigan, who was the lowest tenderer. My chief engineer reported that the price was so low that the work could not be done for the money. Still, Mr. Madigan had made his deposit, and I gave him the work. He could

Mr. TARTE.

not carry it out and he gave it up. My department asked for new public tenders, publishing the advertisement in about thirty papers. McGillicuddy & Smith tendered and their tender was found to be the lowest. They had made their deposit—I insisted on a large deposit, \$5,000—and I awarded the contract to them. That is the whole story in a few words. Shall I stop the contract? Since dredging was done there, a new elevator has been built, besides the one already there, bringing additional traffic to the port. Now, we have work going on in Collingwood. My department is deepening that harbour. The present contract was given for \$144,000. The Board of Trade of that place, the Grand Trunk Railway people, and Chicago capitalists have come to my department and have told me that if the Government can give them 20 feet of water in that port, they are prepared to build one or two, and perhaps three, additional elevators.

Shall I say: No, we won't spend any more money. The people of Toronto, the people from the great province of Ontario, come to my department, and come to the department of my hon. friend the Minister of Railways and Canals, and say to us: Are you going to allow the trade of Canada, the great trade of the lakes to be permanently diverted from us? We have not given the despondent answer that our hon. friends opposite would have given. We have the results before us. I gave an additional depth to the port of Midland, and the result is that, if I am not mistaken, about eight or ten million bushels of grain have been handled during the last season; the result of next season will, doubtless, be far greater. During this season the Grand Trunk Railway will take from the port of Midland about 20,000,000 bushels of grain, as a result of the additional accommodation that we have given there. The work of deepening the harbour is going on. My hon. friend the Minister of Finance also reminds me, that there are smelting works to be erected at Midland. Messrs Drummond, McCall & Co. are going to establish works at Midland which will give employment to hundreds and hundreds of men. I also did some additional dredging at Kingston. When I inspected the port of Kingston, I found that for the last ten or twelve years the Government had been carrying on the work of deepening that harbour with hand implements, wasting a great deal of money. I took one of our powerful dredges, and, during the last session, have been able to give about 18 feet of water. The result has been, that 15,000,000 bushels of wheat have been handled in the port of Kingston, two additional elevators and a flour mill have been erected. The Kingston Board of Trade, the most influential citizens of both political parties, are applying to me for further accommodation. Shall we tell them, that we will not do anything? Shall we close the door? There is also the port of Burwell, there is the port of Dover, there is the port

of Parry Sound, of Port Stanby, and there are some other ports which require our attention. I ask the hon. members opposite who come from the great province of Ontario, to rise above party spirit. We cannot go on with important public works without spending money; it is out of the question. But, Sir, Ontario is not the only province which requires attention at our hands. Look at the province of Quebec. A great and healthy agitation has taken place in reference to the port of Montreal, and we have at last come to a satisfactory agreement. I am glad to be able to inform the House and the country, that the plans for improving the port of Montreal have been agreed to, both for the east and for the west, and everybody is pleased. I shall not grieve over it. The port of Montreal has never received any help from the federal exchequer. The harbour commissioners have been carrying on their work by the income derived from tolls raised on the trade of the port. I do not know whether they will apply to this House or not. I hope they will be able to go on without asking any assistance from us, though I am not sure of that. But I ask this House and the country, if the time has not come when the port of Montreal should be made a genuine national harbour. The port of Montreal is the distributing point between the east and the west. Is it not a crying shame, that, out of about 50,000,000 tons of trade on the great lakes, on that magnificent reservoir of great lakes, we get scarcely anything, although our St. Lawrence route is the shortest? Are we not bound to make it the best? It is the shortest, and it is possible to make it the best. I say, that not only is it possible, but it can easily be done. Since taking this office, I have felt a deep interest in the transportation question. It is not a Montreal question; it is not a St. John or Halifax question; it is not a Toronto question; it is a national question, par excellence. We have the route at our disposal, the shortest route, and it is relatively easy to make it the best. I am now working, to the best of my ability, with the implements that were left by my predecessors, in deepening the St. Lawrence. During the last season, we never had less than 28½ feet of water in the St. Lawrence between Quebec and Montreal. Still, there remains a great deal of work to be done. If we want the biggest ships to be able to come to Montreal, to the distributing centre of the Dominion, without any danger, and without being obliged to pay too heavy an insurance, we must make a deep and safe channel in that river. My department is now engaged in this work. Big vessels coming from Europe up to Montreal and big vessels coming from the lakes to Montreal, mean cheap transportation, and cheap transportation means prosperity and development to the farmers of the west, to the manufacturers of the country, and to the community in general. The port of St. John

and the port of Halifax cannot be overlooked. If we are going to be a nation, we must have our own winter ports. Are we going to depend for our national life on the ports of Portland, Boston and New York? If this Canadian nation is to grapple with the national question of transportation, it must be prepared to spend money. I ask this Parliament, on both sides, to give their best attention to this very important question. Then, there are other routes than the St. Lawrence that are worthy of consideration. A great deal has been said about the Georgian Bay Canal. I am not prepared to give my opinion to-day as to the best mode of carrying on that work, but I have no hesitation in saying, that, in my opinion, that project is worthy of all consideration. A good deal has been said also in reference to the Trent Valley system; a good deal has been said against the project. I made an inspection of that system during the last recess, and I have come down here as a convert: I am glad to say, that, in my opinion, the Trent Valley Canal work is not the building of a canal; it is the improvement of a magnificent system of lakes and waterways. It would be, in my humble judgment a fatal mistake and a blunder to think for a single moment of not proceeding with that work.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES (North Victoria). Will you push it through?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. To the best of my ability, but of course I hope that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Hughes) will have enough influence on the other side of the House that they will not accuse us of crimes when we go on with the work. I alluded a minute ago to the port of Collingwood and to the proposed connection with the port of Toronto. A great deal of correspondence has been had with the Department of Public Works and with the Department of Railways and Canals about the construction of a piece of railway, 70 miles in length, between Collingwood and Toronto. Business men of great ability have represented to us that by the construction of that piece of railway, between Toronto and Collingwood, it will be possible to bring from the upper lakes an immense traffic to Toronto where that trade will be taken in Canadian bottoms through Canadian waters. I am not prepared to say that, or when that work should be carried out. It is something that requires money, but I say without hesitation that public men who would despise all these projects would not be worthy of public confidence. We are entering upon a new era; it is no use being afraid to spend some money. I am accused of spending too much money. What money can I spend that has not been voted by this Parliament? I cannot spend money that has not been voted here, but I am one of those who have unbounded confidence in the future of Canada. I have travelled a great deal since I took

office ; I have to the best of my ability tried to acquaint myself with the circumstances of the country, and I say that we have a great future before us if only we are true to ourselves. Should we not divert from American channels the trade that has been taken away from us ? We cannot even handle our own Canadian trade. We have built the Canadian Pacific Railway at an immense cost, but that railway is taking wheat to Fort William, and from Fort William it goes in Canadian and American bottoms to American ports. That is what is taking place every day. The question is whether we are going to stop that or whether we are going to allow the trade of the country to be destroyed. We cannot stand still ; our neighbours are spending millions and millions of money. They have spent \$25,000,000 in the port of New York, they have spent about \$30,000,000 in the ports of Baltimore, Boston and Philadelphia, they are spending enormous sums of money. The country will ask, if we are spending money judiciously and honestly, and I think that if we are doing so, it will not hesitate one minute to spend all the money that is necessary to promote the progress and development of Canada. But who are these economists we have heard on the other side of this House ? The leader of the Opposition is posing as an economical man. When he took office he started his campaign by making speeches. He made a great speech in Winnipeg. I will not read his speech, although there are some features that deserve to be read. It was on the 8th of May, 1896, in answer to an address presented to him, his colleague, Mr. Hugh John Macdonald was present. He promised, first, to build the Hudson Bay Railway, a little item of about \$10,000,000 or \$15,000,000, and he also promised \$1,000,000 for St. Andrew's Rapids. He promised moneys for other improvements, but when he had got to Port Coldwell he found that he had neglected to make any promise to the Manitoba and North-western Railway, and he wired back to Mr. Macdonald repairing the omission. He promised in the same speech to build the Crow's Nest Pass Railway ; he promised in another speech to give a subsidy to the British Pacific Railway ; he promised in another speech to resuscitate the Chignecto Railway scheme involving the payment of \$175,000 a year for 20 years. Well, Sir, did he promise something else ? The hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain), who is now in the House, will remember very well that in 1891 the leader of the Opposition made a celebrated speech in Quebec. As soon as he put his foot on Canadian soil he climbed up to the Citadel of Quebec and made a speech—a fine speech it was too—in which he solemnly promised to build the Quebec bridge. The Conservative party carried the election and the bridge was not built, but it meant \$1,000,000.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Are you going to build it ?

Mr. TARTE.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I am delighted that my hon. friend has asked the question. We are going, I have no doubt, whatever, to keep our promises a great deal more faithfully than hon. gentlemen opposite, and I will add that unless Providence turns against this Government, which it has not done yet, the Quebec bridge will be built. But it means money ; the hon. member for Montmorency knows that it means money. Now, Sir, unless I am mistaken, when our estimates come to be discussed, there will be demands and requests and petitions from the other side of the House that we spend more money. Last session you will remember that nearly every hon. gentleman on the other side of the House got up and said : "Give me this and give me that." I am ready to give money, but give me money. I cannot give what I have not got.

Mr. CASGRAIN. What about the \$1,000,000 to be given to the member for Quebec West ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. We do things a little cheaper than the other regime. I hope that we will not spend money in Quebec as it has been spent in the past. If there are two men who know something about it, it is my hon. friend (Mr. Casgrain) and myself. Mind you, the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) has made all these promises.

Mr. LANDERKIN. What do they amount to ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). About forty million dollars, all told, but I am just taking the principal items, as I could not have time to detail the whole thing to-night. Our friends on the other side of the House were complaining that we are spending too much money, but nevertheless the leader of the Opposition reproached us most vehemently because we have not yet succeeded in establishing the fast line. Does he not know that the fast line would, on the basis of the proposal of the Conservative Government, entail an annual expenditure of \$750,000. That is a very, very large sum of money. Take three-quarters of a million a year for the fast line, and \$175,000 a year for the Chignecto Railway, and you will see that if all the promises I have pointed out had been implemented by the leader of the Opposition, how much money do they think this country would spend ? I say the hon. gentlemen opposite are not fair when they reproach us for our expenditure. If they intend to get any advantage out of it they must suppose that the electors of Canada have a shorter memory than they really have. Many accusations have been made against us in the course of this debate, but they were all of a general nature. Not a single specific charge was ventured by any hon. gentleman opposite. One of the accusations is that some

of us have fallen into bad habits, and that we are travelling in private cars. Well, Sir, when I go to the old car Cumberland, I find myself quite at home, because I was there often before I was a Minister. Let me say only a word on this question. I believe that a special car should be properly called "an office on wheels." I would rather travel in public cars and not do any work than travel in a private car and be obliged to work all the time.

Mr. PRIOR. Then, why did you object when we were in power?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). My hon. friend will permit me to say that I never did object to it.

Mr. T. C. CASGRAIN (Montmorency). Your leader did, then.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Never—not a word against it.

Mr. PRIOR. The member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) did.

Mr. J. McMULLEN (North Wellington). No.

Mr. CASGRAIN. What?

Mr. McMULLEN. I objected to the abuse of it.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). I know too much about the work of a man occupying the position of Minister to object to it. I say without the least hesitation, that a Minister cannot travel too much. If my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart) had travelled more; if he had gone oftener to the city of Montreal, we would not have had the Curran bridge affair. I repeat that Ministers cannot travel too much. They must, of course, attend to their office duties, but after the experience I have acquired, I state that the Minister who wants to understand his business has to travel, and to travel a great deal. I have travelled a great deal and have been reproached for it. As I have before stated, I do not travel on foot nor do I mean to do so. I always remember a remark made by Sir John A. Macdonald in this House. He was reproached for having paid \$750 for his cab-hire, and he said, in his nice way: "The country has to pay for my cabs this year, and I am very much afraid the country will have to pay for them next year." Every one who has been a Minister knows that the salary of the office is more than inadequate to the obligations of the office, and if I as a Minister were asked to stay in my office and not to spend a dollar travelling, I would much rather read the reviews and books there, when I had some spare time, than go tramping on the wharfs and breakwaters of this country. It is no pleasure for me, but when I do so, I feel that I am doing my duty.

This Government has been reproached by gentlemen opposite for having spent a great deal of money in elections, and the hon. gentleman from Compton (Mr. Pope) has especially singled me out for violent attack with reference to this. Well, we have been travelling together in past days, and if he believes that I am not improved, he is quite mistaken. We have travelled together in elections in days past, and I think he might not have spoken of that. If there is a man who knows what amount of money has been spent in elections by the Conservative party—and all parties under a constitutional government spend money in elections—that man is my hon. friend from Compton (Mr. Pope). He knows all about it. He is not in his seat now, and I shall not for that reason deal with the personal allusion he made to some of my family. I believe, Sir, he should not have made such an allusion. I will not retaliate on him, but I wish to say this, at all events: I have got sons; I hope they will live long; I did not give them any money, and if I were to die to-morrow, I am very much afraid that if they relied on being wealthy men from what I would leave them, there would not be very much left in their hands.

Now, Sir, we have been told that the hon. gentlemen opposite are organizing. On the 2nd of February last, there was published in the Montreal "Star," displayed in a very prominent place and surrounded by a border, the announcement that the Conservative party was organizing and that the money was piling up.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Lots of it.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). They have lots of it, as my hon. friend from Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) says. He is a great organizer in Montreal; I suppose he is just as good there as he was in Quebec.

I would not fulfil my duty, Mr. Speaker, if I did not allude to some accusations which have been made against the province of Quebec in reference to the vote on prohibition. I am very sorry that some hon. gentlemen have thought proper to say that ballot stuffing, improper practices and so on, have been carried on in Quebec. If these gentlemen can substantiate these charges, why do they not do so? I say that they cannot prove their statements. I challenge any one of them to rise in his seat and to make specific accusations, and I promise that they will be answered immediately. There is not one solitary word of truth in what has been said in that connection. The vote in Quebec was a straightforward vote. Had we not the right to vote just as we liked; have we not the right to vote against prohibition? We may be mistaken in our views, but the province of Quebec is a peculiar province. There is no corner of the land where the love of liberty

and freedom is more accentuated and pronounced than it is in that province.

The French habitant wants to be free, and he wants his neighbour to be free like himself. That is why he has voted against prohibition. I am proud to say that my countrymen do not drink more, if they do not drink less, than people in other parts of this Dominion. The French Canadians do not drink. They take their little 'coup d'appetit': I suppose that is allowed to them, as it is to people in other provinces. Sir, the vote has been straight; it has been honest; and it is unfair and unjust on the part of some of the hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House to reproach us with what they cannot prove. I was sorry the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) made himself the echo of those accusations. He, a gentleman of English origin, to whom the French electorate of Jacques Cartier have given their confidence and their mandate, should be the last man to rise in this House and decry the province to which he owes the position he occupies to-day. But that is not the only accusation that has been brought against our province. It has been said that we are appealing to prejudices—racial prejudices. My hon. friend from Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) has said a word as to that; but the hon. gentleman who made the strongest statement was the hon. member for Jacques Cartier. Mark again, that hon. gentleman is of English origin, and he has been elected in a riding where four-fifths of the population are French. Is that an evidence that we are a prejudiced people? My hon. friend from Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Stenson) is not a French Canadian; yet he has been elected in a riding where the vast majority are French Canadians.

Mr. M. T. STENSON (Richmond and Wolfe). Three-fourths.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. On many and many occasions have the French Canadians given their mandate to friends of English origin. It is a common thing in the province of Quebec to see an Englishman the mayor of a French parish. It is painful to us to be accused in that way; it is so unfair and so ungenerous. I trust, Mr. Speaker, that our brethren and friends from the other provinces will not side with our accusers. I trust and hope we are better known throughout this vast Dominion.

I will not say much on the negotiations at Washington.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES (North Victoria). Oh, yes.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. My hon. friend is a learned man, but he has still something to learn. Although there are men who are not apt to learn much, he is not one of them, I am glad to say. My hon. friend the leader of the Government has been

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reproached for not having succeeded in negotiating a treaty, because he had preached reciprocity. Sir, the story has been very soon forgotten. In 1871, Sir John A. Macdonald went to Washington to try to negotiate a treaty. What was the main object he tried to achieve? It was reciprocity. Read Pope's book; read the letters that were written by Sir John Macdonald to Sir Charles Tupper, the present leader of the Opposition, and to Sir George Etienne Cartier, and you will find that the main object Sir John Macdonald tried to achieve and could not achieve was reciprocity. The hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) has reproached the Government to-day with not having succeeded, because, he said, "You have given away a lot of things that would have been useful to you." Read what Sir John Macdonald wrote to Sir Charles Tupper from Washington:

I am now satisfied that the repeal of the coal and salt duties in Canada has been the cause of the change of feeling here. The moment the coal and salt owners found that our market was open to them, they put the screws on their representatives at Washington.

In other words, his colleagues allowed the duty on salt and coal to be removed without his consent, and Sir John attributed to that action on their part his want of success at Washington. Yet, in the face of this fact, hon. gentlemen opposite have the temerity to reproach us with having lowered the duties on some articles. They are queer people. We have heard them time and again saying that we have not kept our promises—that the whole tariff has been allowed to remain as it was, that we are protectionists to the hilt. And now an hon. member reproaches us with having taken off \$4,000,000 of taxation. Sir, my right hon. friend the leader of the Government and his colleagues who have taken part in the negotiations at Washington have returned to Canada in the full possession of the confidence of their countrymen, just as they had it when they left for Washington, if not more so. The letters of Sir John Macdonald that were published after his death, and that I hold in my hand, proved that he signed the treaty of 1871 against his own will. The hon. leader of the Opposition is not in his seat, but I will remind him of the action of himself and his colleagues on that occasion in Canada, when they instructed Sir John Macdonald not to sign the treaty, so bad they thought it was. But he thought proper to sign the treaty because he was so instructed by the Imperial Government. My right hon. friend was not in the same position as Sir John Macdonald. Sir John was the only Canadian representative in the negotiations of 1871, whereas in the negotiations which are now going on, the Canadian Government is represented by four and England by one. We have made some progress under this Liberal Government. We have become a nation, and England understands it, and

treats us as a nation. The negotiations have not been closed; they have not yet come to a satisfactory issue. An adjournment has been agreed to by my right hon. friend and his Canadian colleagues and the representative of England. Never lose sight of the fact that England was represented at the table of negotiations, and if there has been a humiliation for us, there has been a humiliation for old England as well. But there has been no sort of humiliation. We are negotiating on difficult questions with a great nation. Six months are not so long, after all, and the negotiations are not yet closed. Hon. gentlemen opposite say that no adjournment should have taken place. Let the hon. leader of the Opposition and his colleagues read the letters of Sir John Macdonald, and they will find that Sir John himself suggested an adjournment in 1871.

I have only one word more to say, if I may be permitted, and that word in reference to myself. The Tory press and some of my friends in the House are kind enough to say that I rule this Government. When I read the utterances of the public press about me, I feel like being a proud man sometimes. Not only do I rule the right hon. Prime Minister, it appears, but I rule my colleagues—I drive them at my own will. And not alone do I rule this Government, but I rule the Government of Quebec. Why, I rule also the Government of Ontario—so these gentlemen say. Upon the life of me, I ask myself occasionally: When shall I begin to rule the British Empire? I am becoming ambitious.

My role has been a very simple one since I took office. I have devoted all my time and the little energy I possess to the duties of my department. Perhaps I may be permitted to add that I have given some attention to politics. I have meddled in some elections. Of course—I am a very unpopular man, especially in my native province of Quebec, everybody is against me, the clubs and everybody—still. Mr. Speaker, we have not lost one by-election in Quebec. I have taken some part in elections in Ontario, and we have been fortunate enough not to lose them either. My hon. friend from Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) has been courteous to me. He has complimented me on my pluck. Well, there is not much courage required to stay where I am. I have good colleagues around me, who, I may say without undue pride, have confidence in me. I am surrounded by members of Parliament who are good enough to have confidence in me. My personal tastes—and I say it upon my word—would keep me out of this Chamber. I would rather be a newspaper man. I have said that repeatedly, and it is true. But my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) asked me to join him. He may have made a mistake. He is free to repair that mistake whenever he likes. If he should suggest to me to-morrow that somebody

else in our ranks would do better work than I can do, not only should I go out not dissatisfied, but I would, from outside the Government, give him the same cordial and enthusiastic support that I give him now. My hon. friend from Montmorency has spoken of dissatisfaction with me among the clubs. As to one of the clubs in Montreal, I know that some of the fellows there came to me wanting positions—wanting pap. I had no pap to give them. One fellow particularly wanted a place, and when he did not get it, he went direct to the great Tory organ and got money, and now I am, with him, a most unpopular man, while he has the glory of being quoted by responsible men in this House as a leader of the party. Now, as I have said, the people in the province of Quebec, in all the villages and parishes, read both sides. And when they read preposterous statements such as some of those heard in this House, they will think: We cannot place confidence in men who will say such things. I give my opinion to my Conservative friends that they are very wrong in the policy they are pursuing. Parties do not last for all time. We are strong to-day, but the time will come when we shall be a little less strong. That is only fair. When we have been in office twenty-five years or so, that will be enough. But these gentlemen should not make statements which will lose them the confidence of the people for a century to come. Let them take their little medicine in patience. The Conservative party was twenty years in office. We have been scarcely two years and a half, yet these gentlemen do not want to allow us to proceed with our work. In my opinion, the electors do not sympathize with that kind of opposition.

Mr. Speaker, I must thank you and the hon. members of this House for the kind indulgence shown to me. I had not expected to speak so long.

Mr. WM. H. BENNETT (East Simcoe). Mr. Speaker, I must, first and foremost, congratulate the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) in this the hour of his triumph. To us who have watched that hon. gentleman for the last three years and have seen his faltering, timorous steps, and contrast them with what we see to-night, when we find him with all the bravado and braggadocio possible, defying those who would pull him down but a few years ago, it is plain that he is a fit object of congratulation. Behind the hon. gentleman for the past two or three years there have been cliques and intrigues. But one by one these intrigues have been overcome, one by one the intriguers have passed from the scene. First came the late hon. member for Centre Quebec, Mr. Langelier, who worked all day and planned all night to despoil the Minister of Public Works of his well-earned honours. Time passed and the hon. Minister

relegated him to a judgeship. But, Sir, disappointed at seeing Langelier despatched from the scene, rather an inferior gentleman came forward in the person of Mr. Choquette. He, too, has been shifted from the scene. And to-day in the newspaper it is announced that the Minister's great rival, the hon. member for Berthier (Mr. Beausoleil) is to be relegated to the position of postmaster for Montreal. Little wonder the Minister of Public Works glories in the fact that he is in fact the master of the Administration. And while he glorified himself in this fact, he threw out an intimation to the Premier and to hon. gentlemen behind him which they would do well to note, when he spoke of leaders not being safe in their seats. If there is a man in this country who knows that leaders are not always safe, it is the hon. Minister of Public Works, who, I regret to say, has left the Chamber. He stands to-day in the public life of Canada as the man who, after kissing the hand of one who gave him position, stabbed the man who had trusted and befriended him. He is the man who, night and day, preyed upon Sir Hector Langevin until he invaded the privacy of state secrets. Then, Cassius-like, he stabbed this Cæsar in the person of Sir Hector Langevin.

The Premier to-day knows full well that he sits on a gunpowder mine. A little while ago he was appealed to, to go to the city of Montreal on behalf of the Minister of Public Works, but instead of going he wrote a letter endorsing the position and the stand of that hon. gentleman; but when he found that would not suffice, he was forced to go there in person and plead for the Minister of Public Works in the extremity in which he found him. But that has all passed away, and the Minister of Public Works to-night has defied all who sit behind him. Sir, I think he is to be congratulated on the position he has attained. Coming into Parliament with prejudices against him, he has sprung into a position which is astonishing when we remember how his reputation had been blackened by the basest of all calumnies, ingratitude, and he now finds himself at a single bound the master of an Administration, and the master of the party that sits on the Government benches to-day. But while the Minister of Public Works has been applauded to the echo, I have seen to-night on that side of the House faces that were not glowing with enthusiasm, faces that were blackened with scowls when they heard the Minister of Public Works throwing out his notes of defiance, and those who are the men who represent the stern, honest, unbending, uncompromising Liberalism of the province of Ontario. Little wonder is it that sitting to-night behind the Government are men who will applaud every utterance of a Minister, afraid to stand up in their places as one by one the positions are indicated that these men are to fill. I know that in the

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innermost recesses of the Premier's heart he would sooner have the applause and commendation of a few men like the hon. member for North Wentworth (Mr. Bain) than all the applause of the hangers on that endeavour to be foisted into positions. Why, Sir, what has been the course of this Administration in this debate? Man after man has risen on this side of the House and has assailed the Government. The Premier himself, so strong and startling was the indictment brought against him, was unable to reply to the criticisms of the leader of the Opposition, was forced to go off for a day and endeavour to formulate some defence. And then be it said, not to the credit of the leader of the Government, he came back, not in the spirit of fair argument, but in the spirit of animus and of anger that ill-became him, showing that the hon. gentleman's armour had been pricked in a very vulnerable part. Now, Sir, to go into some of the matters that were touched on by the Minister of Public Works. I do not intend to follow him through the bulk of his utterances, remarks that had nothing whatever to do with the matters that have been introduced into the Address, but those matters which alone constitute the stock in trade of the Minister of Public Works, questions of race and religion. I am not here to-night to resurrect the dead issues of the Remedial School Bill, but I have this to say, that among the men from the province of Quebec who applauded the sentiments of the Minister of Public Works, I did not find the Solicitor General nodding acquiescence, for the reason that the Solicitor General is a man of ability, is a man who looks forward to political preferment, and is not prepared to stable himself in some petty position, and jeopardize the political future that he believes awaits him. The Minister of Public Works went into questions of expenditure. But these hon. gentlemen must remember that they stand to-day before the people of Canada, not only advocating that the expenditure to-day is correct, but that the expenditure of past years have been grossly excessive, grossly outrageous. Why, the First Minister went through the province of Ontario, year after year, he was followed by his present Minister of Justice, and followed by other hon. gentlemen who are allied with him to-day. What was the burden of their song? Why, the burden of their song was that the expenditure in every department of state was grossly excessive, and that if they were permitted to have access to the council chambers of the nation, and were given the reins of power, there would be shown a decrease in the expenditure of this country—not only of \$4,000,000, but some of them went even as high as \$6,000,000. And to-day, after all their pledges, after all their promises, little wonder is it that the Premier a little while ago, met in the city of Montreal a large deputation from the Eastern Townships, headed by the editor of that influential east-

ern journal, the Huntingdon "Gleaner;" and there these men demurred, and demanded that the Premier should carry out some of the pledges that he had made in reference to the expenditure. The Premier must not imagine that the people—and I am speaking now particularly for the province of Ontario—are to be hoodwinked; he must not imagine that after having gone through that province and after his Ministers had gone through that province making these promises, they can go back to-day and stultify themselves in the manner that they are doing. Because those hon. gentlemen are not only bound by the promises that they made, but they are bound by the resolutions that were placed upon the records of this House, declaring that if they were given an opportunity for retrenchment, retrenchment would commence at once. Where is the Premier to-day, and those who are associated with him? Instead of the expenditure being some 34 odd million dollars, it has sprung up to \$40,000,000. Why, the Minister of Public Works says, do you not from time to time challenge this expenditure in the House. He gave one instance, that of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway. I say there was no opportunity afforded of differing with the Government on that question. When the Government brought down their proposition to build the Crow's Nest Pass Railway it was accepted by this side of the House, as we thought it was in the interest of the Dominion that that railway should be gone on with. But we found that the Government were going to undertake it themselves, then this side of the House jumped at the opportunity of giving a bonus rather than that the chance should be given to those hon. gentlemen, headed by the Minister of Public Works and the rest, to undertake the construction of a large public work which would incur an expenditure of millions of dollars. But, Sir, time has proved how wise and how provident it was that the work was not undertaken by the Government, when we look about it and see some of the expenditures that have been made by these hon. gentlemen. The hon. gentleman then went on to instance the case of the Collingwood harbour grant, and said that we made no demur on this side. I challenge the Minister of Public Works in this. When he came down to the House a couple of years ago and stated that a contract was being entered into for \$144,000 for that work, I then asked him, and the "Hansard" will bear out my statement, whether that was to complete the work. Why, Sir, what was the result? The \$144,000 that had been spent in the Collingwood harbour might as well have been thrown into the sea. And to-day the Minister of Public Works will and must come down to this House, in fulfilment of the pledge that he has made, and ask this House, in order to follow up that work and make it accessible for the boats sailing on the upper lakes, not

merely to expend \$144,000 but \$1,000,000 before that work can be consummated. There is a case of stupid blundering in the hon. gentleman's department, undertaking a work which to-day practically amounts to nothing. Then the hon. gentleman went on and said that they had spent money because we would not demur to it. Why, look at the reckless waste there was in spending the \$250,000 on the plebiscite vote. What was that done for? The hon. gentleman has referred to carrying out the pledges of this Government. To-day in this Dominion, the public have been despoiled to the tune of \$250,000, expended in the taking of that vote. Nothing has been accomplished beyond the distribution of a large amount of Government patronage among their friends. Now, Sir, I am not going to follow that hon. gentleman through all the list of figures and matters that he spoke about. Suffice it to say, that those hon. gentlemen stand before the people convicted in this, that they have not carried out the promise they made to the people of retrenchment and economy. The opportunity has been afforded to them, and when the time does come, that such of those hon. members as I see sitting before me who have not been provided with positions under the Crown, have to meet the electors, they will have to answer for the breach of trust of which they are guilty in this respect. The Minister of Public Works touched upon the Senate, and I should say, that, of all men, it comes most properly from him that the Senate should be touched upon. Master of the Administration, as the Minister of Public Works is, he entirely sets at defiance the Ministers sitting about him, and two years ago we saw him usurping the position of the Minister of Railways and Canals and taking upon himself, in the discharge of his assumed duties, the handling of what is known as the Intercolonial Railway deal. What was the result of that? The country has been saved over a million of dollars on that deal already, but had this hon. gentleman been permitted to go on with this scheme and to carry it out in its entirety, as the figures compiled show, there would have been saddled upon the people a charge of \$7,000,000 for all time to come. But, worse than all that. Before the House there was the question of the expenditure, and there would have been the other question as to the desirability of taking over the Drummond County Railway. The Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) has assumed the responsibility of that action, but the whole Ministry stand here committed to the scheme of taking over this Drummond County Railway and making this arrangement with the Grand Trunk Railway Company for running from a point on their line to Montreal. The absurdity of their position was recently pointed out in a letter to the "Globe" by the hon. member for Halifax, who discussed the endeavour

of the Government to foist upon the people that line of railway. What would the result have been, if the Government had purchased that railway, and it had become part and parcel of the Intercolonial Railway system? There are to-day running into Montreal from western points the lines of the Grand Trunk Railway and of the Canadian Pacific Railway companies. The Grand Trunk Railway Company has one terminus at Montreal and another terminus at Portland. The Canadian Pacific Railway has its terminus not only at Montreal, but also at St. John, and yet the Minister of Public Works—because, after all said and done, it was he, and not the Minister of Railways, who was engineering the scheme through the House—undertakes to foist upon the people and upon this House a proposition by which they would have a seaport also at St. John. A reference to the figures will show the absurdity of this scheme. From Montreal to St. John it is 481 miles by the Canadian Pacific Railway; by the Intercolonial Railway it is 740 miles. From Montreal to Portland by the Grand Trunk Railway it is 297 miles. What was it that this business Government were going to do? They were going to get railway connection into the port of Montreal; then, when they had secured that, they expected to get freight from there to the seaport of St. John, because Montreal would, of course, during the winter season, be closed. The position then would have been this. They represented the Intercolonial Railway; the Minister of Railways would have to approach a shipper who had shipped his merchandise to Montreal by the Grand Trunk Railway, and say to him: You have brought your goods here by the Grand Trunk Railway? Now, let us take them to an ocean port over a road 740 miles from Montreal to St. John. The Grand Trunk shipper would have told him at once what folly it would be to ship goods 740 miles, when he could have them carried to Portland via the Grand Trunk Railway, with a mileage of 297. One would have imagined, that men claiming to be the members of a business Government, would have looked into these figures. The merest tyro in business would never expect, that a shipper would choose a route 740 miles long in preference to one 297 miles long. But, failing to secure the business of the Grand Trunk shipper, the Minister would next go to the man who had brought his freight to Montreal by the Canadian Pacific Railway line. An appeal would be made to him to have his goods carried 740 miles instead of 481 by the Canadian Pacific Railway to St. John. What has been the result? This remarkable scheme has been in operation for the past year, and the loss has been upwards of \$150,000. And here is the Intercolonial Railway, which, under the management of the late Administration, was earning \$50,000 a year, going into the hole fur-

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ther and further under this business-like arrangement of the Minister of Railways and Canals.

Let us come down to the question of the Senate. The Senate cost this country about 3 cents per head per year, and these hon. gentlemen ask the people to abolish that body, which, in a single year, saved millions of dollars, while, in the matter of the Yukon deal, the country would have been despoiled of an asset which cannot be calculated in point of value, but for the action of the Senate. These hon. gentlemen have had an opportunity of pronouncing upon the Senate, but they must sooner or later appeal to the people of the Dominion. The Ministers care not one iota for the clacking and applause of the hon. gentlemen who sit behind them, and I may tell hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House that we care even less than they do. We never do hope to effect any conversions on that side of the House, but it is the electors that we hope to convince, and from now until this House closes I hope every hon. gentleman will avail himself of every opportunity of expressing his opinion of the course of the Government, despite any protest which may be made as to the time of the debate being lengthened, and that they will lay before the people facts and figures to show how they are being hoodwinked and humbugged by this business Administration.

Coming down to the question of the Yukon Railway, the First Minister got very warm the other night. It is seldom that the hon. gentleman loses his head so completely as he lost it then. In opposition he was a mild-mannered man, but like the hon. Minister of Public Works, his head has rather run away with him, and the other night he undertook to read a lecture to some hon. gentlemen on this side of the House. He stated that the throwing out of the Yukon Bill by the Senate had been a criminal act. I ask the right hon. gentleman, if the throwing out of that Bill by the Senate was a criminal act, was it not even more criminal in members of this House to vote against that Bill? I ask the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Robertson), who is an independent member of this House, how he likes to be branded as one of the criminals. The right hon. Prime Minister knows that the hon. member for South Perth (Mr. Erb) voted against him on that occasion, and there is no doubt that he would prefer to have had the votes of these gentlemen, rather than the votes of Mr. Lister, Mr. Langelier, and other gentlemen, who were going out with positions in their pockets. The country sees how these votes have gone, and it to-day endorses the stand taken by the Senate on the Yukon Bill. Why, not only was the Yukon Bill not endorsed in the Senate of Canada, but it was not endorsed in the independent press of this country. Even such a warm friend and ally of the Prime Minister as the Hon. Joseph

Martin, of British Columbia, has denounced the so-called Yukon scheme, the Mann-Mackenzie deal, to be one of the most absurd things ever attempted to be perpetrated in this country. The Senate must go. Is the cry of the Minister of Public Works. Well, the Senate will live for a long time, and that is saying a good deal more than I think of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) as a politician. I believe the day will come when the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) will revolt against his leader. It is his second nature to be disloyal. He was disloyal to Sir Hector Langevin, who first brought him into prominence, and the man who to-day will try to hit the Minister of Public Works, will be slapped back with double force and violence. That is the reason why to-night the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), having swept away all the opposition against him, glories in the fact that he is a Minister in this administration, and that he is there to stay; at least as long as this Government stays.

These hon. gentlemen opposite have been masquerading in this country with promises of so-called reforms, and in the Speech from the Throne there is foreshadowed what is known as a redistribution Bill. I shall not enter into the question now as to whether this is, or is not, the proper time for a redistribution of the electoral divisions in this country. The question I ask of the Government now is: what do they propose in this regard. The Prime Minister indulged in a good deal of mock heroic style in appealing to his creator as a witness to the justice of the action he would take in this matter. Sir, I will be bound to say that when that Bill is submitted to the House, there will be little proof of any higher power being concerned in it than the average peddling politician. Why, I can tell the Government to-day what will be in the Bill, so far as my riding is concerned. It has been rumoured for weeks what the change in East Simcoe will be, and that change will please the hon. gentleman from Huron, because it is a delightful scheme and will help to kill off the Tories in his constituency. It is stated that they are even going to split up a township, county lines will be adhered to, but township lines are to be cut in twain. I will be much surprised, and the Liberal party in East Simcoe will be much disappointed, if the township of Tiny is not split in half, and the southern, or strong Conservative part, put in the riding of North Simcoe.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). That will be a "tiny" blunder.

Mr. BENNETT. It may be as my hon. friend (Mr. Montague) suggests, but I will tell those hon. gentlemen opposite that there is yet some public opinion left in the country, and that kind of thing cannot go on. The public opinion that to-day is revolting in the Eastern Townships against the Government, and the public opinion that is

being pronounced in the province of Manitoba against them, is pretty general throughout the whole Dominion. They had a warning in the results of the last elections in the province of Ontario, and speaking about that province, I might say that these gentlemen pay a very poor compliment to the county divisions of Ontario for legislative purposes. Why do they not divide the province of Ontario for federal exactly as it is divided for provincial purposes. The number of seats are practically the same, and it could be very easily done. But, Sir, infamous and outrageous as is the distribution in Ontario for provincial purposes, I venture to say that it will pale into utter insignificance compared with the scheme that will be introduced into this House by the present Government.

Mr. A. CAMPBELL (Kent). You had better wait until you get the Bill.

Mr. BENNETT. I have no idea whatever that any particular kind of fairness would be introduced into that Bill by the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell). I feel quite sure that if any finishing touches are required on that Bill, to make it excessively bad, these finishing touches will be furnished by that hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell). First and foremost then, Mr. Speaker, this Liberal gerrymander Bill is to be worse than the law which now exists in the province of Ontario. That goes without saying, or else the Government would announce to-day, that Ontario would be divided as it is for the legislative assembly. They are afraid to take the constituencies as they exist for local purposes, and so the result must be that the Government intends to cut and carve and twist the province of Ontario, despite the pious ejaculations of the Prime Minister.

Hon. gentlemen on the Treasury Benches are rather in a composed mood on the plebiscite question, and they seem to think that all is well. I can tell them that I do not think it is so well for them in the province of Ontario, for the strongest in denunciation of the tricks played by the Government on the temperance people is the Liberal press in my own constituency. There is in East Simcoe a township which stands second to none in point of intelligence in the province of Ontario. It is a township that has within its borders a single hotel license, and although I regret to say that township is strongly Liberal, still in point of intelligence it cannot be surpassed in the whole province. If there is one part of that township with stronger Liberal tendencies than another it is the part known as Rugby Post Office, and for the edification of the Premier I will read what a correspondent from that place says with regard to the Prime Minister of Canada. It is as follows:—

The recent answer of the Premier to the temperance delegation that waited on him last fall, in the interest of prohibition,—

I am sorry to see that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) is going out of the Chamber at the very idea of prohibition.

—may not be much of a surprise to some, and the best of good news to others, still to us who asked for prohibition, and only got the plebiscite, it is discouraging, to say the least, after spending our time and money on it. And, moreover, let him take warning that if he fails to fulfil his promise there are thousands of us who will vote against him at the next election.

From another point in the same township the following is written :—

Sir Wilfrid's reply to the secretary of the Dominion Alliance in regard to the action, or rather inaction of the Federal Government respecting the verdict of the electorate at the recent plebiscite, must savour of broken pledges and disappointment to temperance advocates, who were led to expect better things at the hands of the party leaders, more especially as the Premier himself boldly asserted after the vote had been taken that the mandate of the people would be respected. The mandate of the minority we presume was intended. Out of 148 English speaking constituencies in the Dominion the prohibitionists carried 120 with average majorities of over 1,042, and yet the Government are handicapped for the want of a more definite expression of the people to legislate in the matter. We have had plebiscites galore—every English speaking province in the confederation and the Dominion as a whole have declared for prohibition with no uncertain sound, yet our rulers prefer to toy with the wishes of the masses, while they shrink the responsibility and seek an exit through some trifling technicality, in order to pander to the liquor interests. The ruling is hardly consistent with the pledges made at Liberal conventions prior to the election, which was prophesied at the time was promulgated in order to pull the wool over the eyes of confiding electors.

Now, Sir, what was the stand taken by the Liberal leaders on this question of prohibition? When they had their famous convention in the city of Ottawa, we were told that among the sinners who were assembled on that occasion there were at least a few saints; at all events, saints on the temperance question, and these gentlemen made a demand that there should be inserted in the platform of the Liberal party a clause to the effect that a plebiscite should be taken in the event of the Liberal party coming into power.

Well, Sir, what happened? The vote was taken and a good, fair majority was polled in favour of that measure; and as a result the temperance people throughout this Dominion expected that the hon. gentleman would carry out some of the pledges and promises that had been made. Even at the risk of wearying the House, I must read some of the pledges made by the present Premier when going throughout the province of Ontario and endeavouring to enlist the sympathies of the temperance people. The Premier spoke at different points in the province, and at each point he found the temperance people alive to the promises and pledges which had been made by the Liberal party on that ques-

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tion. Speaking at one of these meetings, I think at Perth, the Premier, when asked by the Rev. Mr. Huxtable, a Methodist minister, as to what the position of the Liberal party would be after coming into power, replied as follows :—

The Liberal party has pledged itself in convention at Ottawa that whenever in power they would take a plebiscite on the liquor question, as to whether the people want a prohibitory liquor law or not. The answer is not in my hands, it is in the hands of the people, and, according to their answer, such legislation they will have at the hands of the Government.

And poor innocent Mr. Huxtable went away believing that the Premier really meant what he said. At Stratford the Premier addressed a large number of people. There again the temperance feeling was strongly predominant, and in response to a question as to his stand on the temperance question, he made this reply :

Up to this moment the question of prohibition has never been approached by electors free from other considerations. We deem it wiser to separate it from all other considerations, and to test the public feeling on the matter, we shall do so when we come into office, as I believe we shall. Then I am asked, what is to be done? The answer is plain. I am by nature a democrat. I believe in democratic government, and above all in a constitutional government, and the only way to act under a democratic and constitutional government is that the people must govern, and their command must be obeyed. As the people shall speak so shall be the duty of the Government, if that Government be in the hands of the Liberal party.

The Premier journeyed on from one point to another, and at the town of Listowel, addressing another meeting, he made this statement :

We deem it wiser to separate it from all other considerations, and to test the public feeling on the matter, we shall do so when we come into office, as I believe we shall. Then I am asked what is to be done. The answer is plain. I am by nature a democrat; I believe in democratic government, and above all in constitutional government, and the only way to act under a democratic and constitutional government is that the people must govern, and their command must be obeyed. As the people shall speak, so shall be the duty of the Government, if that Government be in the hands of the Liberal party.

Then, as the hon. gentleman got still further west his enthusiasm for the temperance cause seemed to grow; and, addressing the people of Winnipeg at a large meeting, he said :

He would pledge his honour that as soon as the Liberals came into power in Ottawa they would take a plebiscite of the Dominion by which the party would stand, and the will of the people would be carried out, even were it to cost power for ever to the Liberal party.

But times have changed altogether with the Premier. The vote has been taken; and here, to the astonishment and amazement of the temperance people of this country.

the Premier informs the House and the country that while he was making these statements and pledging his solemn honour, he and his party were practising on the people of this country a piece of duplicity and a piece of trickery, because, he says, "While I made those pledges, I never stated the whole truth"—and half truths are dangerous. "It is true," he says, "I made these statements and promised that my Government, if we came into power, would introduce a prohibitory Bill." When the Liberal convention met at Ottawa, this is what happened; but this was studiously kept back from the temperance people. Surely the hon. gentleman must imagine that the people are fools to be hoodwinked in this manner. "It is true," he says, "that I gave that pledge, but when I did so there was another understating altogether." I say it was the bounden duty of the right hon. gentleman to tell the people what the true position of himself and his party was. I am going to repeat his own words as reported in "Hansard" the other day as to what the stand of the party was in the Liberal convention held in Ottawa. He said:

The prohibitionists represented to us that intemperance was one of the great evils, as we know, and that we ought to struggle with it at once by making prohibition a plank in the party platform; declaring that the people were with them, and that if the people themselves had an opportunity to pronounce upon the question they would emphatically pronounce in favour of such a policy. The opposite view was also put forward; and the result was that a resolution was introduced and inserted in the platform, by which the party pledged themselves that if they came into office they would have a plebiscite on the question of prohibition, so as to obtain the honest, unbiased opinion of the people on that great question. Let me say this: When we put that plank into our platform, there was an implied agreement between the members of the party who believed in prohibition and those who did not believe in prohibition. The implied agreement on the part of those who did not believe in prohibition was that if the voice of the people spoke unmistakably, if it should be shown that the great majority of the electorate were in favour of prohibition, then those who did not believe in it would surrender their views to those of their brothers, and would work honestly for the success of that policy. On the other hand, there was an engagement on the part of those who believed in prohibition that if the voice of the people on the subject should not be of sufficient strength to warrant the adoption by the party of the policy of prohibition, they also would square their views to those of their brothers, and we would hear no more of that question in the ranks of the party.

Well, Sir, there was one gentleman present on that occasion, the present hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), and I am doing him no injustice when I say that to a great extent his stock-in-trade as a public man has been that he was an earnest advocate of temperance; and I think every man on this side of the House and also on that side for that matter, will

join me in congratulating the hon. gentleman, especially in the company he is now in, on having that tendency. Well, where was the Minister of Agriculture? He attended a large meeting in the city of Ottawa; he saw earnest men and earnest women there working and striving for this cause. Did he say to the people there: "Now, my friends, let me tell you the honest truth about this matter. There is a contract between the members of the Liberal party that unless we get a large majority there will be no prohibition Act." Not at all; not a word was said about it; and to-day there is a complaint, and it is an honest complaint, on the part of all the temperance people in this country, save and except, of course, such men as the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure), whose sails apparently are set for any breeze, whether it is light or heavy. It is well known that temperance people are asking this Government to-day what they mean by the pledges they made, and they are going to ask the Premier if all his statements are to be found as utterly unreliable as his statements in this regard have been. The other night the Premier made the statement that not less than 23 per cent pronounced in favour of having a prohibitory law in this country. I would like to ask the right hon. First Minister, if he will be good enough to answer the question, whether that computation was made on the provincial lists or on the federal lists.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). On the provincial lists.

Mr. BENNETT. Well, I have not had an opportunity of going into the figures for the whole Dominion; but I can tell the hon. First Minister that in the riding which I have the honour to represent the vote on that occasion stood this way: For the plebiscite there were 2,500 votes, and against it 2,297, or a total of 4,797, while the number on the list was 9,613. It is plain that over 50 per cent of the vote was cast on one side or the other. But the people of this country were never told that that was to be the arrangement, they were simply informed by the Premier and his statements have been read in the House—and the First Minister nods acquiescence that he was not misreported in the newspaper—that if there was a majority in favour of prohibition, though it cost the Liberal party power, they would carry out their pledge. When the Bill was brought in the Premier placed himself plainly on record:

I have often said, and I repeat here, when the will of the people has been affirmed one way or the other, then the Government must be prepared to abide by the consequences. We must be governed by the majority.

Where is mention made of 50 per cent of the total vote there? Let me show how absurd and unfair it would be to ask that

there should be 50 per cent of the vote in the affirmative. Let me give the figures recorded in the general election of 1896 of the riding of East Simcoe. The number cast was 6,501, out of a total of 11,010 on the list. Every man knows that it is impossible to poll on one side of a question 50 per cent of the voters on a list. The duty of this hon. gentleman was this: He had pledged his word and his honour to the country that if the temperance people succeeded in carrying a majority of the votes, a prohibition measure would be enacted. But, if he choose, he could change front and say: I made a statement as to the legislation that should be given under certain circumstances, but it must be understood that there shall be at least 50 per cent of the total vote in favour of it. But if the First Minister's position is to be condemned, what is to be said of those hon. gentlemen who attend that convention representing especially the prohibition sentiment, notably the hon. Minister of Agriculture and several of the members of the House, who did not honestly disclose to the temperance people of this country the terms and conditions on which the battle was to be fought. And the fact is, as shown by what I have read from the Orillia "Times," there is to-day among the earnest and honest temperance people, not only in East Simcoe but throughout this province and throughout the Dominion, a deep feeling of protest against the duplicity and trickery practiced upon them by this Administration.

Now, Sir, if hon. gentlemen opposite have masqueraded through the country on one question more than another, it was on the tariff question. Twenty years have passed since party lines were clearly drawn on the tariff question. Hon. gentlemen opposite, after four or five years power under the Mackenzie Government, found themselves in Opposition, and a party in power with a well-known and clearly-defined policy—the policy of protection to native industries as against revenue tariff, free trade or unrestricted reciprocity with the United States. Year after year these hon. gentlemen who are now in power carried on their attacks against the administration policy. One by one they formulated different lines of policy. But there was one thing ever certain and ever present in their minds, and that was that they were strongly adverse to a protective tariff. And so we find that while they were moving about the country these hon. gentlemen, unfortunately for themselves in the light of recent events, made pledges and statements in reference to the ground they would take; and I am going to read for the edification of the House, even at the risk of trespassing on the time of Government members, some of the statements made by these hon. gentlemen. The Premier spoke in Oakville in 1888, and on that occasion he said, referring to the trade policy:

Sir, what must be the new departure? Sir Richard Cartwright indicated it during last session. Mr. BENNETT.

sion. We have tried the policy of restriction and failed, let us try the policy of expansion. The policy propounded by Sir Richard Cartwright is that we should have unrestricted reciprocity with the sixty millions of men on the other side of the line. That policy is that we should open as wide as we can all the avenues of trade between the two nations.

Further on he said this:

When Sir Richard Cartwright proposed his resolution last session he knew it would be defeated. He will renew it next session, and he knows that it will be defeated then; he will renew it the session after that, and he knows that it will be defeated. He will renew it again and again, but in the meantime, there will be a general election, and we believe that the result of that election will be the return of a majority, whether Conservatives or Reformers, pledged to support a treaty of unrestricted reciprocity between Canada and the United States. This is the policy which we have to place before the people. There are other issues, there are other questions, but every other question must take a back seat, and leave the first place to unrestricted reciprocity.

Further than that, the hon. gentleman said:

They (the Conservatives) want to have no reciprocity with the United States, the great nation to the south of us, for fear that we might be seduced from our allegiance to the mother country. But they are ready, they say, for reciprocity with Great Britain. I have only this to say. I say it openly, I say it on my own responsibility, and I believe I can speak as well for the Liberal party. If reciprocity with Great Britain is practicable, I am in favour of it; but Britain is 3,000 miles away, and the Americans are just to the south of us. They are our near neighbours. There is not a natural barrier between us.

And further on:

We have heard the statement made in the House by Mr. McCarthy and others that perhaps Great Britain might resort to protection, might tax foreign products and exempt Canada. Well, if this were offered, I say I am ready for it. If we can persuade the English people to put import taxes upon the productions of every other country but Canada, and to admit the products of Canada free, I am in favour of that. But I am afraid it will take some years before we can persuade the British workman to tax his bread, even to oblige his Canadian brother.

At Oakville, he said further:

Well, I have only this to say: It is a great argument in favour of unrestricted reciprocity, because, if it means anything at all, it means that the change will be so advantageous to the people that they will want to go into still closer union with the United States.

Now, that was the position hon. gentlemen took for years, and they made statements and pledges throughout the country. There seem to be some pangs of conscience among these hon. gentlemen. Some of them demurred to broken pledges, and it is sad to see the punishment that is meted out to such offenders. There is the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson). He made pledges to his constituents, and he is apparently an hon. gentleman who thinks, in the discharge of his public duties, there should be some

attempt at least to act in the public interest. So that the hon. gentleman who is, unfortunately for the Liberal party in control of a newspaper in Winnipeg, has seen fit to lecture these gentlemen in that newspaper on broken pledges and unfulfilled promises. And what was the result? The other day he was practically read out of the party, because he saw fit to give expression to his opinions. Well, all I can say is as I have said, that we do not hope to affect votes on the other side. We have nothing to offer for votes, nothing to offer for gentlemen on that side to change their opinions. And, speaking of changes in opinion, this House has been treated to a sight in the present session that, I hope and trust for the honour and good name of Canadian politics will never again be seen. We saw an hon. gentleman sitting on this side who had been elected as a Liberal-Conservative in opposition to hon. gentlemen opposite, and we see that hon. gentleman cross over and take his seat with hon. gentlemen opposite. I have only this to say—I do not know who is worse, when goods are stolen, the receiver or the thief. My sympathy goes, as a rule, to the thief, because he is a weak-minded party. But to the receiver severe punishment should be meted out. Well, we are well rid of him and hon. gentlemen opposite are very welcome to him.

Now, the Premier, speaking the other day, said that these were not serious matters at all, that it was simply idling away the time of serious men to talk about such affairs as the tariff at so much length. Sir, does the Premier and his friends think they can make all these pledges, all these promises, and then snap their fingers at the people who placed them in power? The Premier does not believe in that at all, but he is endeavouring to read a lecture to the rest of his followers, such as has been read to the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), lest some more of them would break into open rupture and do what the Huntingdon "Gleaner" and what the hon. member for Lisgar are doing. There are disaffected but straightforward Liberals, who, from one end of this Dominion to the other, are dissatisfied with the gentlemen who are in power to-day. A couple of years ago the Minister of Finance threw out a note of warning to the manufacturers. He told the manufacturers that if they wished to have their rights they must be eternally vigilant. But, lo and behold, for the edification of the whole Liberal party, the other day, speaking in the town of Perth, the Minister of the Interior made the startling statement that the tariff to-day is fixed, and fixed practically for all time to come—a dead issue. How can these hon. gentlemen hope to reconcile all their statements? No less a personage than the Premier himself, in speaking in the House the other day, said:—

We have reformed the tariff to the great satisfaction of the majority of both the producers and consumers.

Well, the result of this change of front is that these gentlemen have abandoned every principle that they laid down when they were in Opposition; they have abandoned all the pledges they made to the voters who supported them throughout the country. They must stand or fall on their record, and I am bound to say that from this side of the House they will at all times, and on all occasions, be reminded of their broken pledges and of their unfulfilled promises. But while the Premier says that the tariff is satisfactory to-day to the people, he says that certain changes have been brought about in this country which have resulted in making it a most satisfactory tariff, and the great point that he brings to bear is that they have established a system of cold storage with England. Well, Sir, I see the hon. member for Russell (Mr. Edwards) who has been persistent on the question of the removal of the lumber duties between this country and the United States; the hon. member for Russell no doubt is now told, and the hon. member for North Renfrew (Mr. Mackie), and those hon. gentlemen whose constituencies are largely interested in the lumber business, are told now, when they remonstrate against the tariff, that the tariff is satisfactory, and that they cannot ask for anything better in the lumber business, because they have cold storage to England, as if cold storage had anything to do with the lumber business. Then these hon. gentlemen who live on the border counties, like the hon. member for Essex (Mr. Cowan), and some of the hon. members on the Lake of Ontario, whose constituents have been told that the only natural market for their horses, for their barley, and for their hay, is that of the United States—these hon. gentlemen are told now: You do not need anything better, you do not want any foreign market, because we have got cold storage. This is indeed a statesmanlike explanation of the question, and probably the Premier is well satisfied, seeing the applause that greeted his efforts the other day in explaining that matter. But I do not think the electors of this country are going to be so easily satisfied with their explanations. The electors are going to look to something else, they are going to look to the merits of the case. And when we see the electors are alive, and that they are prepared to deal with these questions on their merits, the Minister of Public Works announces with a flourish of trumpets that there have been by-elections, and the electors have pronounced in their favour. Well, Sir, I regret to say to-day that in the province of Ontario there has been reached a state of depravity lower than has been touched for years and years; and I trust and hope that the public sentiment may be in the ascendant in the next few years. An hon. gentleman near me says New Brunswick is worse. Well, all I can say is, Providence help New Brunswick if it is worse than Ontario to-day. I have taken an interest in some of the local elections that have been

held in the province of Ontario ; I have taken an interest in the last election that was held in the riding of West Huron ; and I have only to say, if public opinion has got down to the state where, as the "Globe" says, in every constituency in Ontario there are a certain number of electors who can be bought, and that the Liberal party are going to buy them, then I can only say, that it is high time that the manhood of the men of Ontario asserted itself. The Minister of Public Works to-night speaks here in a vaunting tone about the West Huron elections. Of all the elections in the world that was the last election that should be referred to. Why, Sir, how was that riding carried ? So desperate were the chances of the Government in that riding that the members of the administration in the province of Ontario pronounced themselves helpless to stem the tide of indignation that had set in there. Then the Minister of Public Works came in post haste, and when the Minister of Public Works goes into a riding, why, something has to give. I do not know who he had in his following—

An hon. MEMBER. The hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Talbot).

Mr. BENNETT. It is a startling commentary on the present condition of public affairs that in that great riding of West Huron, one of the richest ridings in the province of Ontario, the stern uncompromising Liberals like the hon. member for North Wentworth were not there ; not there with arguments ; but the hon. member for Bellechasse, all the way from the province of Quebec—

An hon. MEMBER. Are there any French in the riding ?

Mr. BENNETT. There was not a Frenchman in the riding. I was assured, but there was the Minister of Public Works, doing what ? Telling the people of Goderich what the Attorney General of the province of Ontario told the people of Owen Sound when the Minister of Customs was elected there a few years ago, telling them in effect that grass would grow in the streets of Goderich if they did not support the Government candidate. Those were the promises that were made. The people in that town were terrorized. They had a harbour there, that, as the Minister of Public Works says, requires a great deal of money to be expended upon it. There is a large elevator built there, and the people of that town knew well that a public expenditure would be to their advantage. And there was this paragon of excellence, this innocent Minister of Public Works, in that riding, owing to the fact that the Ministers from Ontario had announced themselves as being powerless to stem the tide of indignation. What was the result in the townships where the honest yeomen of West Huron were to be met with ? I was through

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that riding a good deal, and you could not go to a country hotel and wait there for a meeting, but that you would see a gang in the riding, and the same gang has been taken around from one riding of Ontario into another, disgracing it and debauching it. Worse than that I am informed and believe that the same outrages were perpetrated in that riding on the ballot boxes, that were perpetrated in the riding of West Elgin for the local election a little time ago, because I am not able to believe that in an intelligent riding like West Huron there were 75 electors who did not know how to mark their ballots, and who spoilt them. If they were spoilt they were spoilt by friendly hands, I have no doubt, the deputy returning officers. What do we see to-day, right within the corridors of this building ? The Brockville election is in sight, and the first of the gang was moved into the city to-day in the person of the notorious Cap. Sullivan. What a travesty on honesty, what a burlesque on decency, that an election cannot be conducted in that riding without the aid and assistance of a lot of men whom the First Minister or any other hon. gentlemen on that side of the House, would be afraid to leave his purse within the same room alone. Yes, they have carried West Huron ; they have carried some ridings in Ontario, but I can only say there are some ridings that cannot be purchased, and when these hon. gentlemen come to a general election in the province of Ontario, I would be bound to say, that their Cap. Sullivans and G. F. Macdonalds will be given a very warm reception. And if either of these loafers makes his appearance at Brockville, he will be kicked out of the place summarily. These are the kind of things that hon. gentlemen opposite indulge in when carrying elections. They had an election in North Simcoe, and they tried their hand there, too. They endeavoured to procure the return of the hon. gentleman who now represents that riding (Mr. McCarthy). The Liberal feeling being too strong for them in that riding, prevailed. The member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) went up there and prayed with might and main that the Liberal party might not bring out a candidate. The result was that the wishes of the Government were set at defiance, and a Liberal candidate was brought out. The Conservative party in the riding stood on one side and left the hon. gentleman who represents the riding and the Liberal candidate to fight it out. Notwithstanding that there was no candidate in the field in strong opposition to the Government, notwithstanding that while in the local election a short time before, some five thousand votes had been polled, there were on the same lists a little more than 3,000 votes polled on this occasion. They can lay up plenty of unction to their souls when they look at the by-elections. They have had by-elections in Ontario, but when the time

comes for an appeal to the public, if the Minister of Public Works attempts to flaunt through the province of Ontario as he flaunted through West Huron, I will be bound to say that he will get a rebuke from the honest electorate which he will long remember provided the hon. gentleman is then in the Cabinet. He may be there and he may not be. To-night in the hour of his triumph, the hon. gentleman has our congratulations, but he must not be so boastful as that when he comes into Ontario.

There has been much discussion of the business of the high commission at Washington. The Minister of Public Works attempted to make merry over it, and referred to the fact that Sir John Macdonald went down there alone, while on this occasion the Dominion had four representatives. I can only say that I think the people of Canada had more confidence in Sir John Macdonald, although he was a unit on that occasion, than they had in the four hon. gentleman who went there this year. The composition of that deputation was a matter of comment and of strong comment. One would imagine that when an occasion of this kind presented itself, members of the Administration would be selected as commissioners, but to the surprise of everybody in this country when the personnel of the commission was announced, it was found that no less a personage than the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) was placed upon it.

Mr. TAYLOR. The best man on it.

Mr. BENNETT. My hon. friend says that he was the best man on it. I quite agree with him. It was an odd and striking fact that with so many members of this business-like Cabinet they had to go outside of their ranks to secure a gentleman, and I think hon. gentlemen on this side of the House will recall that in events of a year ago, an explanation was afforded of the presence of the hon. member for North Norfolk on that commission. We all remember the weeks that were devoted to the discussion of the Yukon Bill. Hon. gentlemen of prominence on both sides of the House rose in their places and discussed the Bill, approving or disapproving of it. Day after day we saw the hon. member for North Norfolk sitting listening to the debate; day after day we saw the approaches of the Government to the hon. gentleman, and of hon. gentlemen outside the Government to him; we saw them closeted with him. The last day of the debate came on, but the member for North Norfolk had not spoken. I well remember on the evening that the vote was to be taken, seeing the Premier himself having a last consultation with the member for North Norfolk, and after that consultation, the member for North Norfolk stood up in his place, and endorsed the Yukon Bill that

he did not endorse a week before. It was a striking event in the history of the debate, and many hon. gentlemen at once arrived at the conclusion, that on that occasion the deal was made, which gave the hon. member for North Norfolk his place on that commission. All I can say is, that it was a serious reflection upon the other members of the Administration that they were not accorded the place of honour upon it. But yet it may have been important to have the hon. member for North Norfolk on the commission, because I believe he brought to the duties and labours of the commission a mind better seized with the business interests of the country than that of any other hon. gentleman. Still, at the same time, the hon. gentleman was not a desirable man to be on the commission, as representing Canadian interests, by reason of the fact that he had been so pronounced and so strong in his utterances in favour of reciprocity. What was the position of these hon. gentlemen when they went to Washington? They did not go to Washington as gentlemen who were seeking to drive a hard and fast bargain, but they were approached by the representatives of the United States as men who were prepared at all hazards and all costs, according to their past utterances, to make a treaty with the United States. These two countries lie so close together that the utterances of public men must be heard and read from one country to the other, and more than that, the right hon. Prime Minister on more than one occasion had spoken in the large cities of the United States, and had enunciated the principle of having a treaty of unrestricted reciprocity. The hon. member for North Norfolk also stood in that position. He had on more than one occasion gone to Washington, and I regret for the honour of that hon. gentleman, that he had been in direct communication, as can be shown by the "Hansard" of this House, with the people of the United States through their Government, assisting and aiding and pointing out to them ways in which they could harass and hamper the trade of the people of Canada, particularly the lumber trade. What did the hon. member for North Norfolk say? Speaking from his place in this House in the session of 1891, I find on page 4787 of the "Hansard" that he said:

Sir, we want, in short, and the sum of it all amounts to this, we want to participate on equal terms, and without impediment and without exaction, in the energies and in the activity that characterizes all the Anglo-Saxon people of this continent. We want, in place of having free trade with seven Anglo-Saxon nations under the British flag, to enlarge the number, so that we will have free trade with forty-nine. We want the market of 63,000,000 of people across the border; we want to sell them the productions of our mines, and our forests, and our seas, and our soil. If the Liberal policy is carried into effect, if that arrangement which the Liberal party is

able to give this country, and which the Liberal party, if in power, would secure for this country, if that arrangement is carried into effect, then, as my hon. friend the Minister of Finance says, the turning point would indeed come.

And the hon. gentleman, on the same occasion, said :

Here, Sir, are the results of this miserable fiasco called the National Policy. Here are the results of this political falsehood, of this fiscal confidence game, that enables the few to plunder the many, that makes the fishermen, the farmers, the lumbermen and the miners the prey of a very small portion of the population. This is the outcome of what the Government designates by the high-sounding title of the National Policy ; and yet we are told by the Minister of Finance that under its operation for twelve years, with the evidence we have now before our eyes, that that policy has been a satisfactory one.

These gentlemen went to Washington, with the announcement made in advance that they were opposed to a protective policy for Canada, and that the policy they desired was a policy of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States. They dealt with the United States commissioners month after month, but with the only result that a little while before they returned from Washington, the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), in his paper "La Patrie," made the announcement that the negotiations were at an end. Parliament met, the Ministers say their mouths are closed, but this much, we have had the satisfaction of wrenching from them, much against their will, the humiliating confession that, after trying to make the people of this country believe that the National Policy was a snare and a delusion, they accept it now almost in its entirety, and, after having assailed the principle of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, they now come before the people of Canada and say : We do not want unrestricted reciprocity, and negotiations to that end should be dropped once and for all time to come. What has come over the spirit of the dream of these hon. gentlemen? Either they were ignorant of the real wants and the requirements of the country, or they were endeavouring to induce the people to accept a policy that they knew, if they came into power, they could never carry out. Having vilified the National Policy in every shape and form, they find themselves now bound to accept it in its entirety, and, Sir, it is in the best interests of the country that it should be so. I state here, and I shall reiterate it time and again, that we do not hope to make any impression on hon. gentlemen opposite in this House. It is to the electorate of this great Dominion that we hope to appeal, and to appeal successfully. True, hon. gentlemen opposite may whistle to keep their courage up ; true, we read that the Ontario Liberals had an enthusiastic meeting the other day, but I do not believe that they can take much comfort out of what they see passing around them. My hon. friend from South Victoria (Mr.

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McHugh), who sits in front of me, cannot give them a very encouraging report, because his riding gave a majority for the Conservatives of 500 in the provincial election. Then, my hon. friend from North Ontario (Mr. Graham) cannot give them a very encouraging report either, because he has got notice from his riding to quit, and we may not hope to see him in this Chamber again. From one end of Ontario to the other, the same tide of public opinion runs against the Liberal party. Centre Toronto and the city of Hamilton will no longer know their representatives in this House, for Hamilton a little while ago gave the friends of the hon. gentlemen opposite a little minority of 900 votes. In the interests of the Conservative party—but certainly not in the interests of the country—it might be well that this reign of gross extravagance should be continued a little while longer, because the more the country knows of it, the more anxious it will be to turn out those who are guilty. If we consulted the interests of party, and not the interests of country, we would allow these gentlemen opposite to have full scope, knowing, as we do, that the end is in sight. But, Sir, so long as the Conservative party is in opposition, their one aim shall be the interest of their country before the interest of their party. With regard to the Yukon Bill, had the Conservatives studied the interests of their party, and not the interests of the Dominion, that Bill would be to-day on the Statute-books of Canada. That nefarious deal—because, had it been consummated, it would have been a nefarious deal—would have resulted in these hon. gentlemen opposite having a civil war on their hands to-day in the Yukon district. Does any sane man believe that, had that immense area of territory been handed over to Mann & Mackenzie, the hardy pioneers from Canada and other countries who had gone into that country in search of fortunes, would have quietly allowed themselves to be despoiled and robbed? No, Sir. Close as this Government has been to a rebellion in the Yukon within the last few months—and God knows they have been close enough to it—had the Yukon Bill not been rejected by the Senate last year, that territory would now be in open revolt. The administration of the Yukon, as well as the administration of every department of Government to-day, bears evidence of gross incapacity. First, this Government selected Major Walsh as administrator, and they had to recall him, and to-day, and for months past, there have been pouring in from all quarters complaints against the Government in that territory, complaints of wrong-doing, and of incapacity, and of corrupt officials. There will be many opportunities before the session closes for these hon. gentlemen opposite to try and square themselves on some of the positions they have assumed. There will be opportunities for some of these hon.

gentlemen into whose capacious mouths the goodly plums are about to drop, to explain their position in this Parliament. If this depletion of the members of this House is to go on and continue in the same ratio as in the past, then, in a short while, there will be very few men behind the Ministry who can bring to bear fair and impartial minds upon any question. Why, within the last few years upwards of fifteen members of Parliament, supporters of the Government, have gone to their rewards, and if reports are to be believed, there are upwards of fifteen more ready to flit to soft offices on the slightest provocation. The Liberals promised the country honest and economical government. The Liberals have absolutely failed to give it, and the time is not far distant when the country will punish them for their broken pledges and extravagance, and return to power a party that has always stood by the best interests of Canada.

Mr. J. H. N. BOURASSA (Labelle) moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The PRIME MINISTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 11.40 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 29th March, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### VACANCY.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that I have this moment received a notice from two members of this House formally informing me of the death of the late Hon. John Fisher Wood: and I have to inform the House that I shall at once give orders for the issuing of a warrant for a new election.

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 3) respecting the Canada Accident Assurance Company.—(Mr. Hughes, for Mr. Monk.)

Bill (No. 4) to incorporate the Canada Plate Glass Insurance Company.—(Mr. Hughes, for Mr. Monk.)

Bill (No. 5) respecting the Alaska-Yukon Company.—(Mr. Logan.)

Bill (No. 6) respecting La Banque de Peuple.—(Mr. Carroll, for Mr. Préfontaine.)

Bill (No. 7) to incorporate the Northern Telegraph Company.—(Mr. Bostock.)

Bill (No. 8) respecting the Atlantic and North-west Railway Company.—(Mr. Campbell, for Mr. MacPherson.)

Bill (No. 9) respecting the Calvin Company, Limited.—(Mr. Rogers.)

Bill (No. 10) respecting the Nisbet Academy of Prince Albert.—(Mr. Rutherford, for Mr. Davis.)

Bill (No. 11) to confer upon the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of Thomas Robertson.—(Mr. McAlister, for Mr. Robertson.)

Bill (No. 12) to confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of George L. Williams.—(Mr. McCarthy.)

Bill (No. 13) respecting the Home Life Association of Canada.—(Mr. McGregor, for Mr. Macdonald, Huron.)

Bill (No. 14) respecting the Quebec Steamship Company.—(Mr. Malouin.)

Bill (No. 15) to regulate the trade in grain in Manitoba and the North-west Territories.—(Mr. Douglas.)

Bill (No. 16) respecting joint securities for seed grain indebtedness in Manitoba and the North-west Territories.—(Mr. Douglas.)

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. SPEAKER. I would like to make a suggestion to hon. members of the House in regard to the introduction of Bills. If a Bill is not introduced by the hon. member whose name is on the back of it, but by some other hon. member, I would suggest that, if the introducer would be kind enough to write his name on the back, it would save considerable confusion.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to call the attention of the House to an article which appeared in the Montreal "Daily Star." It is headed: "Sir Louis Davies' View." "He claims that he is not neglecting his work as a Minister." Certain statements are attributed to me in this article. There is a very great mistake somewhere; I made no such statements to the correspondent of the Montreal "Star" nor to anybody else, nor did I make any such statements to anybody of any kind or description.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). I have heard the statement of the hon. gentleman with great satisfaction because I felt, if this statement were true, a very serious blow would be dealt to a measure of some importance which the Government has under consideration.

### REPRESENTATION OF WINNIPEG.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to ask, Mr. Speaker, if your warrant has issued for a new election to fill the vacancy in the representation of Winnipeg, caused by the lamented death of the late hon. member for Winnipeg, to which your attention was drawn in a very formal way at the opening of the session?

Mr. SPEAKER. I have not issued my warrant for an election at Winnipeg, because I do not consider that my attention was formally drawn to the death of the hon. member. A mere debate on a subject of that kind, no matter how clear it may be, is not understood by the Speaker as a notice without a formal notification.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. May I ask, then, if you would accept that formal notification now?

Mr. SPEAKER. If the hon. gentleman gives me that formal notification now, the writ shall be issued to-day.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER. The Clerk will please enter on the Journals the formal notification.

### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell (East Prince), for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle). Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that you have already heard everything that could be said, and many things that should not be said, on the subject of this debate. I do not hope to add any new feature to it. I am simply giving way to that peculiar instinct of parliamentarians which seems to induce us so strongly, at the opening of every session, to exhale the most obnoxious talking microbes that we have germed and nursed during the eight months of the recess.

Eloquent and dull words have been used during this debate on the actual prosperity of Canada and as to the share of responsibility and of merit which should be attributed to the Government as a factor of good times. At all times and in all lands, rulers are apt to exaggerate their creating and initiating powers. Louis XIV is charged with having said, "L'Etat, 'est moi." In our democratic days, political leaders more modestly say, "I am the Almighty." I must, however, note a signal exception in the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), whose mental energies being altogether of the talkative and sounding sort, more properly says: "I am the Almighty

Voice." But if no government can make the rain fall, the sun shine, the soil produce, and the genius of man move, work, and generate, a good government can, by a sound policy, help natural and even providential causes to have their full effect, and therefore contribute largely to the general welfare of the country.

I am not going to enter into a general appreciation, or even give a simple enumeration of all the works and reforms accomplished by this Government since their advent to power. I will content myself with pointing to one cause which I think has not been mentioned already in this debate—perhaps because our opponents gave birth to it, though it is no credit to them.

For years back the talking and publishing organs of the Conservative party were sounding with lamenting prophecies about all the evils that would befall this country on the day the Liberal party should come to power. No doubt several of those dismal predictions went to the winds, in company, I must admit, with some of our own pathetic appeals to the electors; but nevertheless they created among the trading and manufacturing classes of this community a feeling of uncertainty as to what would happen in the event of a change of Administration. Nothing, however, in the public platform adopted by the Liberal party warranted such a feeling. The very word "tariff for revenue," coupled with the most rudimentary knowledge of our financial situation, and in the absence of any new form of taxation, meant, in itself, still a large amount of protection to manufactures.

As to unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, allow me, Sir, to call it, happily, an accident in the political life of both parties—with the difference quite illustrative of the characteristics of both parties, that the Liberals spoke of it openly and frankly at a time when they could do nothing in the matter; whilst the Conservatives, after loud protests of virtue, came very near committing the sin, and certainly went as far as full consent, which, if my theology is right, is equivalent to commission itself. In this matter I would advise the Opposition to imitate the conduct of the laird of Redgauntlet, who wanted to keep the poor Steenie Steenson responsible for a rental already paid to his father; but when Steenie came back from the dark spot and told Sir Robert that he had found the old gentleman there himself, and in a very bad fix, the laird gave him his discharge and begged him to speak no more about it.

But, coming back to the question of tariff reform, I must admit that if it meant not a revolution in the tariff, the mere fact that a readjustment in the customs schedules of the country would take place in case of a change of Administration, created, no

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doubt, a certain feeling of uneasiness among the industrial classes.

But there were some other causes for that feeling. The scandals that were poisoning the blood of the Conservative party, once healthy and robust; the Manitoba school question, which created a political agitation and kept it up for two years previous to the general elections; several Ministerial crises, taking at the end the hideous appearance of open treason; the dislocation of a huge political structure, once imposing and bearing the character of the powerful men who had built it up—in fact, all actions and all inactions of the Conservative Government, at the end of the last Parliament, were giving to all classes not only the impression, but the deep conviction, that the next general elections would bring a change of Government; that the Conservative party was doomed, and that the Liberals would come to power and have for the first time a chance of applying their financial theories. This may be rhetoric and sentiment; but statesmen and business men who do not take into account moral causes in business matters are no real business men and no real statesmen.

After the general elections were over, after the Liberals had come to power, the Government could not bring down at the first session their tariff Bill. Therefore, we may fairly state that for two years the manufacturers of Canada limited their importations of raw materials and the wholesale merchants their importations of foreign manufactured articles to the strict figures of actual requirements. But when the tariff of 1897 was brought down; when it was found that the burden of the consumer was lifted to some extent without any injury being done to the producer; when it was found that the policy of the present Government was to seek new markets for our agricultural products without consenting to the slaughtering of our own industrial market—a deep aspiration of hope and relief filled the breast of the nation, and the Canadian people went to work with a feeling of joy and of self-reliance which alone makes peoples and individuals strong, progressive and productive.

If our opponents are so sensitive that they do not like us to say that our coming into power is the cause of the progress of this country, let us say that their going out of power was the cause.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BOURASSA. You may think, Sir, that these two propositions belong to that same system of logic which makes such a difference between an unrestricted offer of reciprocity and an offer of unrestricted reciprocity. But I shall venture to explain my statement. I maintain that so long as the Conservative party remained in power; so long as before the trade community of this country, they would have posed as

the only economists, as the only men who could create, develop and maintain our national industries; so long as by reason of that, a certain number of traders in this country would have believed, rightly or wrongly, that the coming into power of the Liberals would have meant a change in the tariff—there was a check to the full and free development of the energies of this country.

But now that our tariff policy has been firmly established and proved to be a stable one—not the thing of one party or one class of men, but the property of the people of Canada—there is full confidence that, whoever may be the men in power, the trade and the industries of this country are safe.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BOURASSA. I see the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) laughing at my naïveté, but I am just coming to the point which probably brings that smile. It is charged by hon. gentlemen opposite that the Liberals have not fulfilled their pledges, that they are illogical, that they are not sincere, that they are inconsistent.

Well, Mr. Speaker, as far as logic is concerned, I will state, at the risk of scandalizing the philosophical mind of my hon. friend (Mr. Foster), that in public affairs, that in politics, in government, in business, in trade, I do not believe much in logic. Pure logic is one of the most deceiving and dangerous guides of public men.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh!

Mr. BOURASSA. Well, it has been the sham and the curse of all weak and decaying governments! It is all very well for theorists to sit quiet in their cabinets and libraries, far from men and from reality, to write splendid articles and books on free trade and protection, inspired by the best of logic and the most profound erudition; but they will not change the climate, the soil, the mines, and all the varied consequences which natural causes impose on human communities. Their philosophical logic will never break the brutal logic of facts. These books may be very useful to the men of action because they may throw light on their actions. But I claim, Sir, that the good governments are those that clothe the people with garments fit to their size and proper to their actual life and work.

Free trade may be a splendid policy for this country in some years to come, and no doubt it will be the duty of the Government of that future day to adopt it—if only for the great pleasure of the descendants of the hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House who are so sorry that we do not adopt free trade now.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BOURASSA. I say, Sir, that the only actual possible policy for this coun-

try, and I am not ashamed to say it, is a policy of moderate protection. I am a young politician, I admit, and perhaps if I were as old as the hon. gentlemen opposite I would not give my sincere thought with so much liberty; perhaps I would have such a sufficient knowledge of politics as would prevent me from speaking frankly. I ran in my county as a moderate protectionist; or rather I said to my electors that I did not believe in theories in matters of trade, but that I believed in facts and in figures, and in any Government that would give to my country the policy that was required for the moment, and not the policy that might be required fifty years hence. Let the words and deeds of the Governments of the past speak for themselves—and so far as that is concerned, the hon. gentlemen opposite have more to their debit than to their credit. Let the men of the future make the proper policy for the future of Canada. I have hope enough in my countrymen of any race and of any language to feel sure that when fifty years will have passed upon this country, they will know how to deal with the policy of their days.

But on this very ground of logic, to what school of philosophy belongs the reasoning by which the hon. gentlemen on the other side, who predicted that we would, on coming into power, bring ruin and starvation to this country, reproach us now that we did not accomplish such ruin and starvation? Do they think the electors will look on it in that way? Much more consistent and much more dignified was the position taken at first by the leader of the Opposition, when he said that the Liberal party had simply put on the shoes of the Conservative party and done nothing of themselves. Of course, that was one of those strong assertions which the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) has accustomed the House and the country to hear from him, but, at the same time, I repeat it was far more dignified and consistent than the present attitude of the Conservative party. It is another evidence that the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) is too big for what is left of his party, or that this remnant of the past is too small for him.

Now, as to sincerity. I believe and have always believed that there is a good deal of misapprehension, both in public or in private life, as to what sincerity really is. Of course, if sincerity meant a direct and constant relation between intention and words and actions, very few men indeed, and still fewer political parties, could be called sincere—and I do not think the hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House would get the prize. In my humble judgment, sincerity is the direct relation between thought and word, between thought and action at the moment the word is uttered or the action is performed. Under this interpretation, I candidly believe the majority of men to be sincere, either in public or in private life. In politics especially. I see no ultimate gain to be made, no sound public opinion to be

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created by suspecting, and causing the people to suspect, the sincerity of our public men. There should be enough to criticise and to blame in the actions of all political parties, without attributing low motives to any—unless there is absolute evidence that such motives exist. For my part, I am ready to admit that our opponents are as much animated with a fair spirit of justice and a sincere devotion to the public welfare as we may be ourselves. I want to believe it at least; and if the hon. gentlemen opposite do not talk too much I will continue to believe it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BOURASSA. I go a step further, and I say that I quite agree that the Conservatives have done good work for their country in their time—intermingled, of course, as must be in any human community, with misdeeds—though at last a too long use of power made the bad overcome the good until, for the great benefit of the country and for their own, they were sent to the regions of penance, and—

An hon. MEMBER. Oblivion.

Mr. BOURASSA. I forgot, for the moment, the word I was about to use, but anyway the thing is there, and the hon. gentlemen are on the other side of the House. I meant to use the word "purification," but it will be a long time before they are purified, and so the word will come in just as well next year.

But now supposing we stand the accusation of insincerity, how can we face the charge that we are inconsistent? On this subject again I must confess having a very strong opinion. I believe that consistency is another great danger of public life. I believe that next to the logical, the consistent have been the worst rulers of any country. Of course, I must explain. Consistency in philosophical and moral problems is the only protection for the dignity of the human mind. Consistency in action is most desirable, provided that the cause which gave birth to such action remains unchanged through unvaried circumstances. I have no respect for political men or parties that are not consistent with themselves, that would change their programmes and bend their principles for the sole purpose of catching the capricious wind of public favour. But I have no regard for governments, who, for the petty satisfaction of being told that they are consistent with theories and programmes adopted in years past, would not do the duty of the day. Whatever may have been the varied and isolated opinions of some members of the Liberal party, the general principle of the party in regard to protection and free trade was laid down in 1893. We promised tariff reform, and we have given tariff reform—not, perhaps, to the full extent some of us would have desired, and surely not to the point which hon. gentleman opposite would

have liked us to reach, so as to kill ourselves. If in years to come, further reform is needed, I hope and I know that the Government of the day will be equal to the task and will give that reform—provided they are not moved by the crocodile tears of the patriots on the other side exiled from the sweets of office, but by the real touch of the sound public opinion of the country.

It seems to me as if the Opposition was not aware that in a free British country like ours there is a public opinion. There is a great deal of common sense, a spirit of justice, by which our people do not judge politicians so much by their words as by their deeds—and it is probably because they judged our opponents by their deeds that they put them where they are. Of course, they applaud speeches and programmes, but when the time for action comes, they judge men, I repeat, by their deeds.

At least, it is so in my native province, the province of Quebec. And this alone explains the so sudden and so complete changes that have taken place in the political arena of Quebec, both in federal and in local affairs.

This brings me to a statement which I was surprised, and painfully surprised to hear from the lips of a personal friend of mine, the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), whom I regard as a broad-minded man. He said the other day :

I fully agree in what the hon. member for Gaspé has said to-night as regards the independence of my province, for the people there are fair-minded, but what I do say is that as long as in the province of Quebec political discussions are carried on by means of such appeals, it will be impossible for us to bring forcibly before the people of that province the real issues between the two parties.

I regret that the hon. gentleman is not here, for I would like to ask him this question: Does he mean to say by these words that when appeals are made to the French Canadians on religious and national grounds they listen to nothing else and can no longer judge of any political question? I do not believe that he means it, because I repeat, he is a fair-minded man. But if he does not mean that, why did he use such words? He should have left that language to his colleague and chief whip the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor)—last year I might have said to the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace); but I really believe that since that hon. gentleman has spent a couple of months in Quebec he has so much changed his mind on such subjects that we should not despair of hearing him, in a nice French speech, tell of the loyalty and liberal-mindedness of the French Canadians.

Sir, the province of Quebec is Liberal today because she believes that in both Parliaments where she is represented, there are men at the head of affairs who are to be trusted. Times are good, crops have been bountiful, trade is active and the people are

merry. And, as everybody knows who has travelled in Quebec, there is no population in the world that can be so easily merry as the true sons of the nation of which its sovereign said: "The people is merry: my Government is safe."

Not that the French Canadians are not interested in politics—quite the contrary. But when they feel that the public chest is in safe hands, they let politics alone and go to work. When they think that a change is needed—and they can make up their minds very quickly, as both parties know by experience—they make the change.

Of course, to say that they are not proud of the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) would be a great untruth and an insult to their appreciative sense of honour and greatness in men. Like all sincere and sensitive people, they give way to their love and their admiration, not by mere words, but by deeds and by votes. Who can blame them? Surely not the men who came down in the by-elections of the province of Quebec in 1893 and 1894 and asked the people to vote for the candidates of the Conservative Government because Sir John Thompson, the Prime Minister, was a Catholic and the only man to settle the school question.

I admit that in the province of Quebec, or rather, to make it broader, I admit that with the French people more than with the English, the personality of leaders and candidates has to do with the political movements of the masses. But, Sir, is it not true that in all countries a few men, often one at a time, give direction to public opinion. And when in any country a man arises of whom a whole nation can be proud, it is natural that those who are more closely connected with him are proud of him and say so and prove it. What I deny most emphatically is, that the love and admiration of Quebec for Sir Wilfrid Laurier would make her forget her public duty and her joint responsibility in keeping a sound Government for this country.

Our history is there to be read by all. At one time Louis Joseph Papineau was the idol of the French Canadians. He could move the entire population by the charm of his voice and the power of his magnetism. When after a struggling and unwearied constitutional agitation, his compatriots had obtained their rights as British subjects, they set him aside, and followed the less ideal but more practical policy of Louis Hypolite Lafontaine. They were accused of ungratefulness. But after all, gratitude is not and cannot be a national virtue: races and nations must follow their instinct of self-government.

Another leader came to the front, George Etienne Cartier, and he also, to a less degree, possessed the confidence of his fellow-citizens. But if I know a little of the history of that time, the political fathers of the men who are trying now to raise the Francophobe cry did not complain, because, as the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) pointed out last night, it was the only way for them to

retain power. Later on, another leader came whose popularity in Quebec attained very nearly the point which Papineau had reached: that was Honoré Mercier. Like all strong men he had warm friends and bitter foes. No man surely was ever calumniated and misrepresented to such a degree, both inside and outside of his province. The day came when his compatriots listened to his denunciators, and threw him out of office. When the whole truth was known they regretted their sincere but prejudiced movement of indignation, which shows anyhow that, sensitive to a point of injustice when the honour of their province is at stake, they do not hesitate to break their most worshipped idols.

No doubt some hon. gentlemen opposite, disappointed to see the race cry and religious appeals die out all over the land, would be happy to start out a little French domination cry. Not only is such an appeal utterly unfounded and most unjust to the people of Quebec, but it is an insult to the common sense of the English-speaking provinces. I hope the Conservative members coming from those provinces, have more respect for their fellow-citizens than to try and make us believe that their constituents start furious at even the words of French and Catholic, as wild bulls do at the sight of a red rag.

Giving to the language of the member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) its proper wording, I would say:

As long as the Conservative party carries discussion by means of such appeals, it will be impossible for them to induce the people of Canada to trust them back in office.

Sir, as I came up to the Parliament House this morning, I noticed the statues of Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir George E. Cartier both shrouded with snow. It seemed to me as if the two great leaders, disgusted with the conduct of their party in abandoning its traditions, were hiding their faces as if they wished to return into the tomb.

Coming to the plebiscite, I need not say that the question of bringing in a prohibitory law is settled, and it would be futile and most pretentious to add anything to the straight and impregnable position taken by the Government. But I want to make a few observations on the Quebec anti-prohibition vote. Two causes have been pointed out by some of the prohibitionists as an explanation of that majority, both of them equally untrue and insulting to my native province. One, the worst, has been rather whispered than stated openly, and it is that the vote indicated the marked inferiority of the French people in morality and civilization. I quote the "Camp Fire" organ of the League, number of November last:

The vote that went against prohibition was mainly a French vote. All the Quebec constituencies that voted against prohibition have a very great French-speaking population. Many of them are entirely French. Outside of Quebec a majority of the constituencies that voted against prohibition have large French or German elements.

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Then, after an analysis of the vote:

These figures show clearly that a great majority of the English-speaking counties in which reside a great majority of the people of Canada, are overwhelmingly in favour of prohibition. In these days of majority rule, there cannot be any entertainment of the proposition that we should all wait for the legislation we need and desire, until our fellow countrymen from continental Europe are far enough advanced to be fully in accord with the progressive ideas of Saxon civilization.

Does it not sound like an echo of a speech made in the Temple of Jerusalem some two thousand years ago: "I am a just man—not like that publican"?

The first of those two paragraphs was reproduced almost literally in two circulars sent around the country, one in December last and the other a few days ago. The second one was wisely skipped over.

I believe in the good faith of the author. But then his only excuse would be his utter ignorance of foreign people, especially of the French, one of the most sober and civilized in the world. I invite that gentleman to take a trip across Quebec and especially through those farming districts where the vote was almost unanimous against prohibition, and if he can find elsewhere a rural population more honest, sober, moral, polite and hospitable I will join his league and become a temperance preacher, without a moment of weakness. Of course, I should warn him against the good-humoured wit of our old habitants, for, if he presses them too much to join the league he might get the reply that a good Irishman once gave to Cardinal Manning who was urging him to take the pledge. "I took it myself, Pat." said the great archbishop—to which Pat replied with a most respectful wink of the eye: "No doubt your Grace needed it."

The second cause to which the prohibitionists have decided to stick as an explanation of the Quebec majority, is that the vote was fraudulent. This is what I find among the resolutions adopted by the Dominion Alliance at their last meeting:

That we record our profound conviction that the adverse vote on the prohibition plebiscite in Quebec province, as reported, does not correctly represent the sentiment of the electors of the province, but was the result of gross irregularities and frauds in many parts of the province.

Some members on the other side, more virtuous, as usual, than virtue itself, have re-echoed and exaggerated this contention. The member for Compton (Mr. Pope) stated in this House that the majority had grown up from 45,000 to 95,000. Now, what is the use of bringing such accusations when unable to prove them? And this cannot be proved, because it is false. It may be that in some quarters men voted who had no right to do so, but perhaps if we make a thorough inquiry in all the ballot boxes, we may find that those votes are quite evenly balanced. I admit that I did not expect such a vote to be polled in Quebec. The people were not excited over

the matter, being unable to understand why they should be deprived of a liberty of which they abused so little. Without going out of my own constituency, I may say that I was absent in Quebec during the whole time of the plebiscite organization and took no part whatever in the matter save in the appointment of the returning officer. Had I been there, it would have been the same. There was quite a prohibition party in Labelle, recruited amongst the best class of people, and most of them my personal and political friends. I would have done nothing to prevent their trying to convince the people. They sent lecturers and canvassers in the most important centres of the county; they organized their representation at the polls. There was no organization whatever on the anti-side. But when the polling day came, people turned out to vote, and figures were: Yes, 546; No, 1,785. Negative majority, 1,239. The whole vote was less than two-thirds of the vote polled at the general elections. The prohibitionists proclaimed that they had no organization in Quebec. Had they had a stronger one they would have simply induced more people to go to the polls and the negative majority would have been still larger.

The explanation is a very simple one. The people of Quebec like to vote, and to vote the way they like on any question. This is not the first instance where they have shown their independence of opinion, and I hope it is not the last, because that independence is most respectful of vested rights and of outside opinion. They simply do not want what they do not think proper, to be imposed upon them.

I intended closing these remarks by a reference to the Anglo-American Commission. But my connection with that body imposes upon me a special duty of discretion. I think it more proper to wait for the moment when negotiations will be ended one way or the other. May I be permitted, however, to say this much? Whatever may be the immediate and practical results of these negotiations, they will mark an epoch in our history. They are the first indication that, after having achieved our political and commercial independence, we are now in the full practical possession of our international liberty. The first step in that direction was the denunciation of the Belgian and German treaties at the request of the Canadian Government. But this had still the appearance of a gift from the mother land to the child colony. In the present instance, the whole thing was left within our hands. Not that I want to depreciate in any way the good work done for Canada by the representative of the Home Government. Far from it; and I consider the sad death of Lord Herschell as heavy a loss to Canada as it is to Great Britain. His very appointment was a great favour and a high compliment to Canada, as well as an acknowledgment of our independence. One of the most eminent jurists of this century, a straight opponent of the present

English Administration, and therefore out of political office, the presence of Lord Herschell on the commission meant that the whole political direction of the negotiations was left to the Canadian commissioners, who were given the help of a great legal mind and the moral and constitutional support of Great Britain. And the American commissioners understood it: they saw clearly that in Canadian matters they must deal with the Canadian people, behind which stands the British flag, not as a forced protection to a flock of slaves, but as a free help to free men.

It suffices to go back to the inside history of the Treaty of Washington and compare it with the still incomplete developments of the present negotiations, to appreciate how far we have advanced on the way towards self-control in international affairs. The correspondence of Sir John A. Macdonald, to which the hon. Minister of Public Works referred last night, constitutes a testimony which the hon. gentlemen opposite will, no doubt, readily accept. The great statesman made a gallant fight for Canada; we should all be happy to acknowledge it. But not only did he meet the American stubbornness on his way, but he realized very soon that the British commissioners had decided to bargain the Alabama claims and other Anglo-American trials at the expense of Canada. He tried uselessly all means, persuasive and threatening. He yielded at last for the sake of Imperial satisfaction. Let it be said, to his credit or to his detriment, according to the point of view taken by oneself: on this, as on some other occasions, Sir John A. Macdonald proved that his devotion to British interests could silence for a moment his Canadian sentiments. But I am not prepared to say, that, under then existing circumstances, he acted wrongly at Washington; and his letters show, at least, that his motives were of the most elevated and statesmanlike nature.

I hope that the negotiations will be resumed and carried to a happy end. In the meantime, it would be fruitless and foolish to start up a jingo cry and raise the feelings of the Canadian people against their neighbours. As I heard once said by Senator Gray, one of the noblest men and broadest in mind that could be met in the great republic or in any other country:

There are always enough of natural and unavoidable differences between two nations. Why create new and artificial ones?

It has been said often that it is most difficult to deal with the American Government. It is quite true, and quite explainable, too, if we go back to the circumstances which gave birth to their constitution—a monument which bears testimony to the high motives and shrewdness of the men who framed it for the thirteen new-born free states—but unmistakably too narrow for the great nation which the shores of two oceans can hardly contain to-day.

I have come back from Washington a greater admirer than ever of the illogical but

so broad and so humane British constitution—and, I must add, a greater admirer than before of the American people; a larger gathering of free men, intelligent, progressive, sincere, quick and broad, both in mind and in action, never existed under the sun. Let us rely upon the better feelings and keen judgment of the best, if not the most numerous class of Americans. Let us stand in a cool, dignified, unprovoking attitude. And if John Bull and Brother Jonathan meditate some good bargains in partnership, somewhere else in the world, they will soon understand each other as to Canadian affairs. Many think that the new friends may find the pieces too small for an equal division, but others add that they may meet on their way some other concerns too big for either one of them. This is a pretty safe guarantee of friendship. And then—there is no use of denying it—the Anglo-Saxon feeling is there. It had been dormant for years; it may go asleep again; but for the time being it is awake—not perhaps to the point indicated by the most enthusiastic statesmen and journalists of both countries, but beyond what I expected to find there myself. I was never so much impressed as during my late stay in the United States, with the truth of the proverb, “Blood is thicker than water.”

Of course, I am too much of a Frenchman to call for an Anglo-American alliance all over the world; but I am enough of a Canadian and of a Britisher in Canada to desire its accomplishment as far as Canadian interests are at stake.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES (North Victoria). Mr. Speaker, I can join with the right hon. leader of the Government in congratulating the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) on the very excellent speech which he has delivered here this afternoon. The introductory part of it, showing the benefits of the policy which my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition and the Liberal-Conservative party in Canada have been upholding for many a long year, and which has been rigidly opposed, even to the most bitter end, by the right hon. leader of the Government and his associates all through the Dominion of Canada, was magnificent. His logic, I noticed, was very peculiar. Sitting on this side of the House, as we are, we have the privilege of watching the countenances of hon. gentlemen on the other side, and it is really amusing to see the change of expression from grave to gay of our volatile friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies). One moment his heart is in his boots, and the next moment he is off like a pop bottle. I noticed last night, when the hon. Minister of Public Works was speaking, that our good friend the hon. member for Verchères (Mr. Geoffrion) wore a dejected countenance, and I also noticed that the broad-brimmed hat which the hon. the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) wears, was pulled down tighter than ever over the face, and that a smile played across the counten-

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ance of that hon. gentleman, and that our good friend the member for Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux) and a number of others never once brought their hands together in applause of the Minister of Public Works. When that hon. gentleman made a majestic wave of his hand, and said he had the confidence of his colleagues and the support of hon. members around him, I noticed that the applause came from those who are looking for jobs. However, I must congratulate my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) on one thing, and that is the magnificent system of lighting which he has introduced into this Chamber. The Minister of Public Works and I have been personal friends for many years, and I trust he will not take amiss anything I have to say in reference to him to-day.

We have been catechised by gentlemen on the other side of the House, and criticised, and I might almost say censured for daring to take up the time of the House and of the country in discussing matters affecting the welfare of the nation at large. Sir, these hon. gentlemen opposite might as well learn first as last, that the Liberal-Conservatives are here as free men representing the people of Canada, are here as Her Majesty's loyal Opposition, and we shall not shirk that duty even though we have to stay here during the long sweltering days of summer. I forget the metaphysical term which my hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) used, to describe what “sincerity” was, but whatever it be, the little variations in opinions and the little explanations regarding the inconsistencies of the Government will be threshed out in this Chamber to a final issue. And what reasons did the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bourassa) give as to why the country placed the Liberal party in power. He did not say it was the strength of the policy as propounded by the right hon. the leader of the Government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), or by the knight (Sir Richard Cartwright) who sits at his left, but he did say, that the Liberals were in power because of the dissensions that tore up the ranks of the Liberal-Conservative party. And, Sir, throughout the hon. gentleman's speech from first to last, I challenge hon. gentlemen to point to one word which would justify the platform of the Liberal party. His definition of sincerity was truly metaphysical. They say that a proper definition of metaphysics is this: When you see one man talking to another about something which neither of them understand, that is metaphysics; and so the definition by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bourassa) of “sincerity” was really metaphysical. When I was a boy I always thought that the word sincere was derived from an old Latin root, meaning “free from wax.” It had its origin in the fact that the porticos of the villas on the hills around Rome were made largely of marble, and in making the contracts for the erection of these buildings it was always stipulated that the marble should be pure,

and that the flaws in that marble should not be filled with wax. That was how the word "sincere" came into being, but it has had broader use since then. The word "sincere" applied to a political party, may be taken in general terms to mean absence of fraud or of hypocrisy or deception, and if the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) remembers that definition, he will find that he has failed to clear his political friends from the charge of their being insincere; a charge which he himself advanced.

We have had the Address in reply to the Speech presented to us and I must say it does not contain much. True, it says the country is prosperous. But I have never read a Speech from the Throne and I have never read a reply in answer to the Speech from the Throne in Canada, which did not contain the same statement. In the present instance I may take the liberty of pointing out a few causes of the prosperity which prevails not only in Canada but in the United States, in fact over all the new world as well as a greater part of Europe. First, the price of grain was raised on this continent, at the outbreak of the war between Greece and Turkey a few years ago. Following that we had an enormous crop for a couple of years, and that together with the good prices, undoubtedly largely benefited the farmers of this community. Then as every one is aware, famine in Russia and in India have removed from competition in the grain markets of the world two of our great rivals in the grain trade. Furthermore, for three years, yes, for four successive years, our fellow countrymen who live under the same old Union Jack as we do, our fellow-countrymen in the Australasian colonies have suffered severely from drought throughout their land and consequent failure of crops. These are the negative causes of our prosperity, but the positive cause of the good times in Canada is the development of the gold mining industry. We can therefore heartily join with the right hon. the leader of the Government in congratulating His Excellency on the prosperity which prevails in this country. In all kindness, however, I wish to draw the attention of the right hon. gentleman and his colleagues to another cause of our prosperity. When the Liberal-Conservatives sat on the Treasury benches, and while they were maintaining the National Policy in spite of the determined opposition of the Liberals, they were met on every platform in Canada, and not only in Canada but in the United States and in the old land, with the charge made by Liberal politicians: that the National Policy was ruining the country, that as soon as they got into power—and at every election they were surely coming into power as they preached—they were going to change the National Policy. Sir, the effect of such conduct was: Capitalists who were interested in the development of industries in Canada, men who would have invested their money in the development of the mines, our lumber

industry and other commercial pursuits, these men were debarred from investing through fear that the Liberals might come into power and that when they did come into power they would abolish the National Policy in its entirety. Blue ruin was then preached, by the Liberals within the walls of this legislature, and on every platform in Canada. I ask the right hon. the leader of the Government to contrast his conduct and the conduct of his colleagues when they were in opposition, with the conduct of the leader of the Opposition and his colleagues to-day, now that Conservatives are out of power. Have they directly or indirectly heard the members on this side of the House say one word in detriment to the upbuilding of the Dominion of Canada? No, Sir. Although we may have fault to find with the Government, still we do not propose to wash our dirty linen before the world, but we do propose to stand loyal to Canada, even to the extent of backing up these gentlemen opposite before the outside world in the mistakes which they may make.

We have heard a great deal of talk about the plebiscite. I have never taken a great deal of stock in the agitation that was carried on to bring about prohibition in this country. It was honestly carried on, I have no doubt, by the great majority engaged in it; but a great many, to my certain knowledge, joined in the cry for prohibition while the Conservative party was in power in order to handicap and hamper them and win votes for the Opposition. The hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) read some extracts which I presume are placed on the pages of "Hansard" in order that he and his friend the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) might appeal to the province of Quebec with the cry, "Oh, the French are attacked, the French are attacked, the French are attacked." I presume that the hon. gentleman did not know that the very document he quoted from, was prepared and published by members of his own political party, and not by members of the Liberal-Conservative party. Mr. Spence, of the city of Toronto, and Mr. J. J. MacLaren, well-known both in Toronto and Montreal, are two of the most ardent Liberals in Canada, and they have, in season and out of season, engineered the prohibition cry for the benefit of the Liberal party. These two gentlemen will now have to show themselves in their true colours or for ever be relegated to oblivion. I have a resolution to which I wish respectfully to draw the attention of the First Minister, in order to show that members of the Methodist Church, at all events, have had some communication with him on the subject of prohibition. It is a resolution that was adopted in the county of Oxford the other day. That county is represented in this House by the chief Government whip, and also by the hon. knight on the right of the Speaker. We all know what that county is. You can scarcely get any Tory to run there against a Liberal and save his deposit.

These people must have thought that the chief Liberal whip had become a prohibitionist because he attended a meeting of the Prohibition Alliance the other day; and thinking he was on their side, they passed this resolution:—

The executive of the Oxford Prohibition Association desires to record its great dissatisfaction and disappointment at the decision of the Dominion Government to take no action in regard to prohibition, thus ignoring the will of the majority as clearly specified in the recent plebiscite vote. Outside of Quebec that majority was throughout the whole Dominion very large, much larger than that by which the present Government rules, and even Quebec included, the vote was an emphatic condemnation of the liquor traffic. Quebec is not opposed to prohibition, for a large majority of its constituencies are already enjoying the blessings of prohibition. It is well known that no less than four members of Mr. Laurier's Cabinet did what they could, on the platform and in the press in the province of Quebec, to defeat prohibition, assuring the French people that if the measure passed it would defeat the Laurier Government. While it is quite correct that in Parliament the Premier refused to commit himself to a majority vote, it is not true that he did not pledge himself before the people to introduce prohibitory legislation if the plebiscite showed a majority for it. Here are his words to the general conference of the Methodist Church: "If a plebiscite meets with the support of a majority of the people, those who find themselves in the minority will have to concur in the verdict of the majority." Let the tens of thousands of temperance electors throughout the Dominion, who are not subservient to any political party, take a note of this.

I would ask the right hon. First Minister whether he denies the words which are here credited to him. I presume he will not attempt to deny them, as they were evidently in writing.

I notice that the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) is not in his seat. I shall not take up the question of penny postage, as it has been already well thrashed out. I will simply point out that the Liberal-Conservative party, without any flourish of trumpets or brass bands or processions, made a substantial reduction in the internal postage of Canada a few years ago, reducing it from three cents for the half ounce to three cents for the full ounce, a reduction of 50 per cent, while the recent reduction in the internal postage has been only a reduction of 33½ per cent, and yet there has been a great flourish of trumpets over it. In connection with Imperial penny postage between Canada and Great Britain and a few of her other colonies, I may say that it has given me considerable annoyance to find Liberal speakers and newspapers, possibly unintentionally, failing to give due credit to Mr. Henniker Heaton, the member for Canterbury, I think, in the English House of Commons, who has made a hobby of Imperial penny postage for many years, and who, in furtherance of it, has visited Canada, all the Australian colonies, New Zealand and South Africa, and spent thousands of

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pounds in working up the agitation, while the Liberal party in this country invariably opposed the proposition. And yet an attempt has been made to rob Mr. Henniker Heaton of all the credit that is rightfully his due in connection with that matter.

I notice that the Government propose to run a telegraph line into the Yukon. I am very much surprised that no further reference to the Yukon is made in the Speech or in the Address. Last year this House was treated to a Yukon Railway Bill, and I ask the right hon. First Minister to remember the incidents of that occasion. While I supported his Bill, and will do so in case he introduces a similar one this session, on the ground that the frame work of the measure was on the lines of Liberal-Conservative policy, and in the general interests of Canada, yet, as I pointed out on that occasion, the details of the scheme had many drawbacks. I certainly expected, when the Bill was defeated in the Senate last year, that this Government, instead of remaining neutral and idle throughout the whole year, would have brought in an amended Bill that session; and then, if the majority in the Senate should prove adverse to a Bill, with the drawbacks of the last Bill removed, there would be some justice in the cry which the right hon. leader of the Government and his colleagues have raised against the action of the Senate. I endorsed him last session in face of an extraordinary outcry, some of it genuine, more of it not genuine, in the country. I am prepared to take the same stand again; but I say that the Government are open to condemnation for not having brought the matter up again in some form or other. Let them pursue the old Conservative policy, and start from a Canadian port and carry the line over Canadian territory into the Yukon country, opening up a country every foot of which would be valuable, and building up a town and a harbour on the Canadian seaboard. One town of 20,000 inhabitants is of greater value to Canada than a hundred gold mines. Let them build up such a town on our own seaboard and not on the American seaboard, and they will have my hearty endorsement. I think the Senate did wrong in rejecting the Bill last session, but I would not for a moment think of condemning the Senate or reforming it, because of that.

The constitutional course open to the hon. gentleman, if he is not satisfied with the action of the Senate, is either to bring in another Bill with the objectionable features removed, or go to the country. I tell the hon. gentleman frankly that I am prepared to stand or fall on such a measure, if laid before the country, in case the Senate takes similar action this year on a properly amended Bill, but following the framework of the one brought in last session. But the talk of abolishing the Senate because of their action on the Yukon Bill and on the Drummond County Railway deal, will meet with no echo, not only in the hearts of any Conservatives in this country, but from a great many

men in the ranks of his own party throughout the older provinces particularly, and, I believe, also in the new ones. Therefore, I am surprised that no proposition is made in the Speech from the Throne in reference to the development of the Yukon and of northern British Columbia generally. The question of the electoral districts is the only positive measure foreshadowed in the Speech, and inasmuch as a Bill will be brought before the House dealing with that subject, I shall not discuss it here.

The hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) last night, spoke of the good old democratic principles of their party. Well, now, when we read of his arrival in the city of Washington, as chronicled in the New York papers, we could not help thinking of his democratic principles. I presume the sensation created in Washington by his arrival was something akin to that created in a county town by the arrival of Barnum's circus. When a circus arrives in a town, the small boys all congregate on the platform to see it come in. I well remember the first time I saw Barnum's circus, and I think, judging by the conduct of hon. gentlemen opposite, some of them must have heard what P. T. Barnum used to say in his early days: "They tell me, and they tell the country, that my circus is a fake. I admit it, but the thing is to detect the humbug. The people of this country are bound to be humbugged, and I am bound to humbug them." And so, I presume, these hon. gentlemen, profiting by the experience of Barnum, are going around the country endeavouring to humbug the people in some of the constituencies, and being fairly successful at it. It is true, they have a menagerie, with the white elephants, which will be marched out after a while, and the public will have an opportunity of seeing them. They have the best set of acrobats that any circus has in stock, because these men can turn a somersault back-handed or front-handed with an agility very astonishing, from the Prime Minister down. I did look into the Speech from the Throne, and into the Address in reply, for some announcement respecting the question of free trade. We have heard the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) and we have heard the First Minister, again and again speaking upon these subjects. We have heard the Minister of Trade and Commerce say this:

That party that abandons its principles and repudiates its pledges should not be left in control of the affairs of any self-respecting colony. Speaking of reciprocity with the United States, the Minister of Trade and Commerce goes on to say:

This is not a case for half measures, and you have in the fate of the Democratic party in the United States a warning and an example of the doom which must overtake any party which palters with its convictions, and having placed itself at the head of a great movement, will offer the people a stone instead of bread.

So, we find hon. gentlemen opposite bringing in no proposition in relation to free trade. I noticed that my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) winced considerably under the scathing criticism of the leader of the Opposition the other evening in regard to the question of the fulfilment of pledges of the free-trade wing of the party. I noticed that when a parallel was drawn between the actions of the free-trade wing of the young Napoleon, the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) the young Napoleon's head was raised erect in the air, while the head of the Minister of Finance was bowed down. I presume victory rests for the present with the young Napoleon and his wing of the party. I looked also for a fulfilment of the pledge that a Bill would be introduced during the coming session to make it criminal for any member of Parliament to be appointed to an office under the Crown. But when I glanced over the list I saw that one hon. member of this Parliament was removed in order to make room for the Minister of Public Works; another in order to make room for the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair); another to make room for the Minister of Finance; another to make room --or rather not to make room for the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), because he was making it so hot for the First Minister for not having been himself appointed Solicitor General, that he was given an office outside the country: they got rid of him and sent him off to the south of Ireland, somewhere near Limerick, or Tipperary, or some part where he would have ample opportunity to display his fighting qualities. I refer to Mr. Devlin. I presume the First Minister will have some explanation to offer of the fact that this commissioner of immigration to Ireland was recently quoted in the newspapers as threatening to resign. I wondered if the appointment of the late organizer of the Liberal party, Mr. W. T. R. Preston, as superintendent of immigration, had anything to do with the kicking on the part of this immigration agent in Ireland, and how they have managed to silence him in the meantime. I noticed, further, that the law partner of the First Minister, a very eminent gentleman, who had been occupying a seat in this House, was taken out of it, in face of the doctrine preached for so many years by those hon. gentlemen, that no man occupying a seat in this House should be given an office under the Crown. But that gentleman has been taken out of the House and made a judge. I noticed, also, concerning the late member for West Huron (Mr. Cameron), who made it so warm for these hon. gentlemen opposite for a long time, that not a word could be got out of him; he was dumb on all the great questions affecting the province of Ontario until he had received the commission of Lieutenant-Governor of the North-west Territories. When he had that in his pocket, he suddenly received vitality, and was heard from a couple of times

in this House, and then departed from it for ever. The same may be said in regard to the late member for West Lambton (Mr. Lsiter). We all know how he walked the corridors and the hotels around Ottawa with a heavy, solemn brow for two or three sessions here. The sunny ways of the First Minister were futile to revive life, and vigour, and the old party fealty in the member for West Lambton; and it was not until he had the prospect of a judgeship, perhaps the commission in his pocket, that the sunny ways had an effect upon him, and he made a speech in this House in the defence of the actions of the Government. We have sat here, and we have noticed the heavy brow—I might almost say, the scowl—of the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen). When he places his right hand on his heart and stands before this House, he will not ring out the old note of criticism and defiance at the extravagance, corruption and all that sort of thing on the part of this Government. His conscience pricks him; I know that he is above accepting any gift from the Crown, except possibly a Ministerial portfolio. But as the race is so close, as others might reach the goal for Cabinet positions ahead of him, I am afraid he will have to chew the cud of disappointment, and lend his valuable influence to the cause of economy and good government, remaining out of the Council for some years to come. But on this side of the House we cannot but notice that heavy, dissatisfied look upon the face of the hon. member for North Wellington, as he sees the conduct of hon. members of the Government from day to day. Then, there is our good friend from South Huron (Mr. McMullan), who used to talk so much about free corn. We hear no more from him now. He sits there, reading the "British Statistical Journal," or some other work on agriculture, in peace and quietness. He got his little bit in the shape of free corn, and that settled him. I notice our good friend from Kent (Mr. Campbell), and our good friend from North Wentworth and Brant (Mr. Somerville), both men who asked no favour of any Government, who now remain quiet. We hear no more from them, as we used to in the good old days, on questions of economy and so forth. However, I do not know what their object may be. I presume they do vigorous kicking privately with the First Minister, who seeks to hold them back as much as he can. They are loyal to the party, there is no doubt; but the onlooker cannot but see the disunion and the disruption that are going on in the ranks of the party. But I would advise these hon. gentlemen, if they wish to get good positions in the Cabinet, or to get judgeships, to follow the practice of our good friend, Judge Choquette, and the other gentlemen I have named. If they wish to get anything out of this Government the way to succeed is to kick most vigorously, and they will soon be pacified and got out of the way. Now, the Liberal-

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Conservative party, in my knowledge, has never complained, has never objected, to deserving members of Parliament being appointed to office. I am sure that when Mr. Lister was appointed judge, no man was better pleased to see him promoted than I was; I believe he will make an excellent judge. So with the others; although I must say that I think some of them are not fitted for the positions to which they were appointed. But in the case of Judge Lavergne, I think he will make a most excellent judge; others will do very well also. We do not object upon this side of the House to deserving members of Parliament, to men who have given the best days of their life in the service of the country—we do not object to see these men getting positions for which they are fitted. But the point I make is this: The hon. gentlemen opposite, in season and out of season, made the welkin ring with the cry that no man occupying the position of member of Parliament should be appointed to an office under the Crown. More than that, having in view the record of our hon. friends in the past on that question, we expected to see a Bill foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne making it, possibly not a criminal offence, but an impossibility for this or any other Government to appoint relatives to office. I stand here, and I say this further—I have already said so in this House—that no man has a better right to name any one for an office than a member of Parliament, and I go further and say that no man has a better right to an office than the son of a member of Parliament, all other things being equal. Supposing a good position in the service was vacant to which my son should aspire, and for which he was qualified, I say that if I had given my service to this country and to my party for a number of years, no man would be better entitled to hold that position than my son. That is the ground that I take as a Liberal-Conservative, and that is the ground our party has always taken. But hon. gentlemen opposite have gone up and down this country seeking to make it appear that the Liberal-Conservative party were guilty of the most notorious corruption and nepotism in appointing their relatives to office; and yet as soon as they get in we see every public office in the country filled, as far as possible, by relatives and associates of hon. gentlemen opposite. Now, I must say that the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce is a sinner in this respect, as some of the others are that have sons. However, I will say this for the Minister of Trade and Commerce, that long years ago when the Liberal-Conservative party was in power, I took occasion to do my best to get one of his sons in a position in the permanent force of the Dominion of Canada. I consider that all his sons, those of them that I know, at all events, are thoroughly well

fitted for any office to which they may aspire. This young man having done his duty fearlessly and well in the North-west rebellion, it was a pleasure for me to put in a word with the Tory Government, and to get that young man appointed to the permanent corps. But I again deny that any member of the present Government or of the then Opposition can find any fault with the Liberal-Conservatives for having put their friends in the public service. The complaint we make against these hon. gentlemen is that they are not consistent, and no hon. member opposite can explain away their inconsistencies before the people of this country.

We also looked for a Bill to be foreshadowed against combines and trusts; yet none is found because, I presume, this Government is under the thumb of the Standard Oil Company. More than that, it has been pointed out again and again in this House, and in the country, that in their dealings with the agricultural implement makers of Canada they have violated every pledge they ever made. We were met on every hustings, I was, and I know other members on this side of the House, were met in our contests during the last Dominion elections by the cry that if the Tories stayed in power the duty on agricultural implements would remain as it was, that the price of binders, for instance, would not be reduced lower than \$95 or \$100. The cry then was: Put us in power and we will make the price of binders \$60. The Liberals have got into power, and what is the result? The duty remains the same on binders, but the duty on the raw material of the binders is reduced, in other words, the case is a little worse than it was before. And here let me draw the attention of the First Minister to a point that is impressing the people of the North-west Territories, of Manitoba and of western Ontario, at this time. There is a large firm that has grown enormously wealthy in Canada, called the Massey-Harris Agricultural Implement Company. I am told on pretty good authority, though I do not vouch for the truth of it, that the Massey-Harris Agricultural Implement Company own the Winnipeg "Free Press." I would like to know whether there was anything in the deal by which the agricultural implement manufacturers received an additional rebate of duty on what we may call the raw material going into the manufacture of their machines. Is there anything in the charge that these men who are putting up money in this paper are doing so out of the duty which was saved to them on their raw material. That is a point which impresses the farmers of this country, at all events.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (South Leeds). Ask the hon. member for North Leeds (Mr. Frost).

Mr. HUGHES. I think he is out of the House. He is one of those gentlemen in-

terested in the manufacture of agricultural implements, he is one of those gentlemen who, before the election, had a private tip, whatever the deal was, and could use that privately in his canvass with the agricultural implement mechanics of his town, telling them what was going to be done if the Liberals got into power. Others had the same tip, the Massey-Harris firm had the tip undoubtedly, and used it to the fullest extent in favour of hon. gentleman opposite. We do not hope for much, but if these hon. gentlemen had been true to their professions and had been consistent in what they claim to be their principles, we would have witnessed a reduction in the annual expenses and in the taxes of the country, as well as in the national debt. But, Sir, in place of reductions, there have been increases. However, that matter has been exhaustively dealt with already, and I shall not enter into the subject further. A criticism of which much was made among the rank and file of the farming community by hon. gentleman opposite, was based upon the statement that enormous sums of money were paid by the Conservative party in lawyers' fees. They made every platform in the country ring with that charge; they pointed out that we had a Solicitor General paid to perform these duties, and yet the enormous sum of \$100,000 was paid out in lawyers' fees. The fact is, that more money has been paid out for lawyers' fees by hon. gentleman opposite, over and above the Solicitor General's salary, than was ever paid out by the Liberal-Conservative party. It was upwards of \$100,000 last year, as compared with \$89,000 under the Liberal-Conservative rule, and the accounts show that it has increased every year. I know that the returns of last year, in some instances, do not contain the full amount of the fees paid to certain lawyers, but I presume these payments will appear this year in the Auditor General's Report. A great many of these payments are held back for a year or two, while the elections are going on, so that the total amount will not appear too large.

In regard to the question of parlour cars, I remember the time that the then Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) came to the village of Sunderland in a private car. On every platform throughout the length and breadth of the country, night after night, the iniquity of the Finance Minister of this country travelling in a private car was heralded, when the fact was that had he not taken a private car, he would have been obliged to turn out at Peterborough at four o'clock in the morning and hang around until eight to make connections.

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (King's, N.B.) They are offices on wheels at present.

Mr. HUGHES. We are not finding fault with hon. gentlemen riding in private cars. If the First Minister, or a gentleman of the standing of the Minister of Trade and Com-

merce (Sir Richard Cartwright) is going on a tour, in which he will have to turn out at an unseasonable hour in the morning, or if he is going on public business, it would ill-become him not to travel in a private car. But these hon. gentlemen are not in any position to find fault with the ex-Finance Minister for travelling in a private car, nor do I find fault with hon. gentlemen for doing it now. It is their inconsistency I condemn. Another matter in which I am in a position to show that hon. gentlemen have been inconsistent is this: On every platform, great and small, in the province of Ontario, and in the English-speaking provinces—I draw the attention of the Minister of Public Works to the fact that I mention an English-speaking province, so that he can get his dander up and make a speech in behalf of his province—the First Minister grew eloquent. He would swell his breast up, and, substituting for his sunny smile a serious countenance, shout, “No coercion; hands off Manitoba.” That was the watchword through the English-speaking provinces. He would tell how he, a French Canadian born, but a lover of the institutions and constitution of Great Britain, would resist any attempt to coerce Manitoba. But his speech was almost as metaphysical as that delivered by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) this afternoon. I would ask, if it was the principle of the First Minister that there was to be no coercion of Manitoba, if his cry were not simply to blind the people in the English-speaking provinces, why was it necessary for the Solicitor General to go to his bishop and sign a document declaring that he would go the Tory party one better? The document is here; he will not deny it, and, further, he has held to that line, and that is why he is going around the country shouting that the question is not settled, while the hon. Minister of Public Works is shouting: We have effected a satisfactory settlement. The hon. gentleman has to leave the Cabinet, or else he will be brought before his bishop, so the story goes. If the First Minister was sincere in his cry of “No coercion; hands off Manitoba,” why was it necessary for him to make a pledge, at St. Roch, that he would go to the utmost limit of the law in forcing separate schools on Manitoba? Why was it necessary, if he was consistent, that he should coerce the Prime Minister of Manitoba into passing the most iniquitous separate school law that is upon the Statute-book of any province in the Dominion of Canada to-day? It is not satisfactory to the Protestants of that province, nor is it satisfactory to the Roman Catholics of that province. It gives the Roman Catholics no guarantee by law; it gives the Protestants all the annoyance and imposes upon them the iniquity of a separate school system in practice. Possibly, the young Napoleon might explain things. Why was it necessary for the First Minister, not

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longer ago than last autumn, to attempt to still further coerce the Prime Minister of Manitoba by removing certain restrictions in the regulations which they will not put on the Statute-book? Why, if the hon. gentleman's intention was that there should be no coercion, was it necessary to do all these things? It shows the same cool and deliberate want of sincerity that has marked other professions of hon. gentlemen opposite.

My good friend the Minister of Public Works wants a good excuse to wave the French flag. I would not for the world disappoint the hon. gentleman. He is one of the nicest gentlemen that this country could produce, and I shall have the opportunity of gratifying him by giving him a chance of saying something in the interest of his province. He attacked the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) the other night on account of some remarks that hon. gentleman made in reference to his speech on the French flag. I would like the attention of the hon. Minister of Public Works for a moment or two. He may read it in the “Hansard,” but I might fix the “Hansard” up, and he would not know what I had said; it is just possible that I might go and fix the “Hansard” up. I think he will agree with me, that whatever charge may be hurled against the hon. member for Leeds, or any other hon. member on this side of the House, the charge of being against the French Canadian people cannot be hurled at me. I have placed on record before in this House a statement of Judge Dugas, at one time the major commanding the 65th Regiment, in which Judge Dugas thanked me for the kind words I had said of the 65th Regiment and of the French Canadian people generally, and in which he stated that it was pleasing to find one English-speaking writer in the province of Ontario doing justice to the 65th Regiment and the French Canadian people. More than that, the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) will remember that in the old days, when he was editor of “Le Canadien,” he and I crossed swords at a certain point in regard to some articles published in his paper, and I think it was generally admitted then, that I taught him some of the virtues of the French people which he previously was not willing to recognize. It is, therefore, not necessary for me to proclaim here that I am now, as I always have been, willing and ready to recognize the virtues and grandeur of the French race. The Minister of Public Works was not justified in claiming during his crusade in the province of Quebec, that I, at all events, was actuated by any prejudices against his race. And why should the Conservatives of this province of Ontario throw any slur on the people of Lower Canada for their conduct at the last election, for we know that although we did not get many Conservative members returned to this House, the Liberal-Conservatives in

that province polled a very large vote, a vote which I trust will be largely increased when the elections come on.

The Minister of Public Works endeavoured to show in his speech that the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) had improperly quoted his utterances with reference to the using of the French flag on the Government yacht. The words quoted by my hon. friend (Mr. Taylor), as used by the Minister (Mr. Tarte) were as follows:—

It has been made a crime on my part in certain quarters that I floated the French flag on my yacht on a tour of inspection. Well, I did so, and I shall go out of the Government when I have not the liberty of floating the dear old French flag on my yacht.

Mr. E. COCHRANE (East Northumberland). It was not his yacht; it was the people's yacht.

Mr. HUGHES. The Minister of Public Works objected to the language used by the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor); he stated it was not a proper translation, and he charged my friend (Mr. Taylor) with not knowing a word of French. Now, I have here "La Patrie" for the 4th January of the present year, and I find there a magnificent speech made by the hon. Minister (Mr. Tarte), in which he speaks of the sins he is made to answer for—amongst others, that he is boss of several of the Ministers—and he goes on to say that another fault found with him was that he had a French flag floating on his yacht. He says:

I said it elsewhere, and I repeat it here again, assuming the full responsibility of what I say: the day when I will not be allowed to float the French flag beside the English flag where there are Frenchmen, I will retire from the Cabinet as a man. And I will tell you why I speak that way, Minister of the Crown as I am: it is because I understand that the French Canadians have equal rights with the other races in this country.

The Minister of Public Works therefore goes further than the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) went the other night, and he says that he floated that flag,

—because he understands that the French Canadians have rights equal to those of other races in this country.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). No, no, read the whole of that quotation.

Mr. HUGHES. I gave the words of the Minister (Mr. Tarte).

The PRIME MINISTER. No; you did not translate everything.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Hughes) send me over that paper and I will read for him what I said.

The PRIME MINISTER. Let the hon. gentleman (Mr. Hughes) translate into English all he read in French.

Mr. HUGHES. Will the First Minister be good enough to point out what I have omitted?

The PRIME MINISTER. The hon. gentleman omitted to translate the first part of the words which he read in French, where the Minister of Public Works says he claims the right to float the French flag beside the English flag.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Let the hon. gentleman (Mr. Hughes) read the whole thing or I will read it myself.

Mr. HUGHES. The Minister of Public Works has a perfect right to do that, but I am justifying the language used by the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) the other night, and I am showing that he did not make any incorrect statement as to what the Minister of Public Works said. But, Mr. Speaker, who was it first raised the question of the French flag being floated beside the English flag, or being floated on that yacht at all. Sir, it was the friends of the Minister of Public Works, in order that he might have the kudos of it among his French Canadian countrymen. His newspaper was the first that wrote anything about it.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). May I be allowed to explain?

Mr. HUGHES. Yes.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). The first newspaper that wrote anything about that incident was the Tory organ in the town of Pictou, and it was circulated in nearly every other paper in the land.

Mr. HUGHES. Did the Minister say that it first appeared in the "Pickwick Paper"?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). No, I said the Pictou paper. It was then reported in the Halifax "Herald," and after that in nearly every other Tory paper in the land.

Mr. HUGHES. The first I saw of it was when the matter was brought up in a Liberal club in Montreal, where the Minister of Public Works was advised—

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I answered the charge there.

Mr. HUGHES. I am referring to a Liberal club in Montreal, where the Minister of Public Works was advised to attend to his business, to do something for the people of the country besides flaunting a flag in their face. Mark you, it was not an English club, but a French Canadian club, and not a Tory club, but a Liberal club, composed of members of his own party, who brought the matter up in that way.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. So-called Liberals, who are doing the work of the Tory party now.

Mr. HUGHES. As British Canadians, we repudiate the charge made against us by the Minister of Public Works that we attacked him for flying the French flag. He is at liberty to cover his vessel from stem to stern with French flags, for all I care. He may cover every house in the province of Quebec with French flags, but if he is so loyal as he pretends to be, I would like him to run in a British flag once in a while, and I insist that he shall fly the British flag at the post of honour in the Government yacht. That is all we care for—at least, it is all I care for, because so long as the British flag gets due honour, I have no objection to his floating the flag of old France, or the American flag, or a whole string of flags, for they look pretty on a vessel, and so long as the British flag has the post of honour there can be no objection to it. But the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), or the Minister's friends, took advantage of the incident to make capital for him, by saying that the English Tories were attacking him because he used the flag of France. The statement first given to the public was, that the Minister floated the French flag alone, and I have no hesitation in saying that on a vessel belonging to the Dominion of Canada, carrying any citizen or any Minister either, none but the flag of the country in which that vessel is registered, the British flag should fly at the post of honour.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Hear, hear.

Mr. HUGHES. I quoted in French some remarks of the Minister of Public Works and if you will pardon my pronounciation, Mr. Speaker, I will give you a little more of it. I was delighted to hear the Minister (Mr. Tarte) speak of his loyalty to the British Crown. I know his loyalty. He served too many years in the ranks of the Tory party, and he was trained by too great a master mind not to be truly loyal to England. But, Sir, he has been absent from the office of his newspaper, and on various occasions articles do find their way in the columns of "La Patrie" which make those of us in the province of Ontario who read that paper wonder what it all means. We know the French Canadian people are loyal. It is true that in 1837, a few of them stood out in rebellion, but, Sir, there were Englishmen in rebellion also in those days. There were renegade Englishmen in Ontario and Quebec, just as there were renegade Frenchmen: but the great mass of the French Canadian race was truly loyal on those occasions. They were sons of men who had refused to join the American colonies in rebellion in 1775. They were sons of men who fought and fell in defence of Canada's rights in 1812. These were

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men who, in 1837, stood out loyally with their English fellow-countrymen in defence of the country. They also proved themselves true to British institutions and to Canada during the Fenian raids of 1866 and 1870, and many of the men in the brigade that went to Manitoba to put down the Red River rebellion in 1870 were French Canadians. They also proved themselves true in the Nile expedition later on; and in 1885, the 65th of Montreal and the 9th of Quebec, though possibly not as well drilled as some of the other regiments, willingly left their homes and marched on that terrible trip to the North-west to put down a rebellion, not of our kinsmen, but of their own, displaying a loyalty for which they deserve every credit from this country. Therefore, I am not here to say a word against our French fellow-countrymen in this respect. But I do point out as very strange that articles like those to which I refer are not intended to breathe a very loyal or friendly spirit to Great Britain. "La Patrie," of the 29th September, says:

Nous avons raison de conseiller à nos compatriotes de se défier des dépêches américaines; elles sont constamment hostiles à tout ce qui touche de près ou de loin à la France et elles tendent systématiquement à déconsidérer notre mère patrie dans l'estime des étrangers.

Speaking of the troubles in Paris, this article says:

We wish to advise our compatriots to mistrust the English despatches. They are constantly hostile to everything which touches France near or far, and tend systematically to discredit our mother country in the estimation of foreigners.

I want to note here that the despatches objected to were not English despatches, but United States despatches, and yet not a word is said about United States despatches. If the reference were intended to United States despatches, the word "Américaine" would have been used. Further on, speaking of Col. Marchand on the Nile, it says:

Vous avez lu d'abord que les Anglais avaient été étonnés de trouver les Français à Fashoda, que ceux-ci auraient à déguerpir, que l'Angleterre ne tolérerait pas la colonne Marchand sur le Nil, que Kitchener n'en ferait qu'une bouchée, que la France se ferait mettre en charpie dans la Manche si elle ne se retirait de Fashoda, etc. Mais voici maintenant qu'on change de ton devant la ferme et fière attitude du gouvernement français, qu'on annonce que l'imbroglio du Nil sera soumis à une commission d'arbitrage et que, sans l'arrivée d'un détachement anglais et égyptien à Fashoda, Marchand se serait fait massacrer par les derviches.

Oui, défiez-vous dépêches anglaises.

You have read at the outset that the English were astonished to find the French at Fashoda, that the English would not tolerate Colonel Marchand on the Nile, that Kitchener would make one mouthful of him, that France would be torn to pieces in the channel if she did not retire from Fashoda, etc. But, nevertheless, they changed their tone before the firm and proud

attitude of the French Government, which announces that the trouble on the Nile will be submitted to a commission of arbitration, and that without the arrival of any detachment of English or Egyptians at Fashoda, Marchand would be massacred by the dervishes. Yes, mistrust the English despatches.

I regret that the hon. Minister of Public Works was absent from the office on the day that article appeared, for I am sure that had he been there, he would have inculcated a better and more loyal spirit to Britain in the printers. There is another article dealing with Fashoda, which says :

Les Français sont à Fashoda, et ils ont certainement autant droit d'y être que les Anglais, car il est admis que ce point n'a jamais été compris dans les limites du Soudan et n'appartient pas aux provinces que l'Angleterre prétend avoir mandat de restituer à la puissance des khédives.

The French are at Fashoda, and they have certainly as much right to be there as the English, for it is admitted that this point has never been comprised in the limits of the Soudan, and does not belong to the provinces which England pretends to have the mandate to restore to the territories of the Khedive.

Further on it says :

Or, on sait que des Français venus de l'Oubanghi explorent la vallée du Bahr-el-Ghazel, et c'est sur Fashoda justement que se dirige cette fameuse expédition du capitaine Marchand, dont la marche audacieuse à travers une immense région inexplorée a donné depuis deux ans tant de tablature aux ennemis de la France. Si le capitaine Marchand et ses compagnons sont, à l'heure présente, comme tout porte à la croire, solidement établis sur le Nil et en relation directe, par la rivière Sobat avec le pays des Abyssins, les Anglais ne pourront passer et la France aura, par l'effort d'un petit nombre de héros, conquis l'une des portes du Nil, accru, dans des proportions énormes, la valeur de son empire africain et porté un coup irréparable à l'orgueil et au prestige anglais.

Now, it is known that the French, coming from the Oubanghi, explored the valley of Bahr-el-Ghazel, and it is even to Fashoda that they direct the famous expedition of Captain Marchand, whose bold march across an immense unexplored region has caused so much discussion during the last two years to the enemies of France. If Captain Marchand and his companions are at the present moment, as everything leads one to believe, solidly established on the Nile and in direct relation, by the river Sobat, with the Abyssinian country, the English cannot pass, and the French will have, by the effort of a small number of heroes, conquered one of the doors of the Nile, increased in enormous proportions the value of her African empire, and struck an irreparable blow to English pride and prestige.

Now, there was another day that the Minister of Public Works chanced to be away from the office, when the printers worked in another article on Fashoda, which says :

Remarquez, s'il vous plaît, que jamais, au grand jamais, la bourgade en question, où Marchand était revenu en partant du haut Oubanghi et en traversant le Bahr-el-Ghazel, n'a appartenu à l'Angleterre. Tout au plus pourrait-on prétendre, au Caire, que les cartes géographiques, dressées sous les Mehemet-Ali, englobaient cette région dans

ce fameux " Empire du Nil " qui n'a guère existé que sur le papier.

Nous n'ignorons pas que les Anglais ont toujours rêvé d'établir une sorte de grande route commerciale depuis Alexandrie jusqu'au Cap de Bonne-Espérance. Mais qui donc empêche la France de rêver, à son tour, une autre grande route commerciale, perpendiculaire à la première et allant de l'Atlantique à l'Océan indien, du Congo à Obock ?

Note, if you please, that never has the town in question, where Marchand has arrived in setting out from Upper Oubanghi, and in traversing the Bahr-el-Ghazel, belonged to England. Nor can we pretend at Cairo that the geographical maps, prepared under Mehemet-Ali, took in that region in the famous Empire of the Nile, which has existed only on paper. We do not ignore that the English have also dreamed of establishing a kind of grand commercial route from Alexandria to the Cape of Good Hope ; but what then prevents France dreaming in her turn of another grand commercial route, perpendicular to the first, and running from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean, from the Congo to Obock ?

Now, I know that the Minister of Public Works is thoroughly loyal, I know he would not for a moment have allowed these sentiments to appear in the journal which he controls had he been at home, but being absent on those days, these articles found their way in. I leave it to the judgment, even of the hon. Minister of Public Works himself, whether they tend towards building up a better feeling between the French Canadians and the English people. When these articles appeared a declaration of war between the two countries seemed not improbable, and I leave it to the judgment, even of hon. gentlemen opposite, whether the publication of those articles at such a critical period, tended towards a better feeling between the French and English people in this country, whether, in other words, if the French Canadian regiments had been ordered out, some of them would not have been a little affected by the articles in the paper of the Minister of Public Works. But, fortunately, there was such an overwhelming sentiment of loyalty among the French Canadians of the province of Quebec that the publication of such articles in any French paper was discouraged, and the true spirit of Lower Canada, the loyal spirit to the British Empire, found expression, and those articles were discontinued. While I am dealing with the Minister of Public Works, there is one other point I will mention. Last night, in his speech in reference to the Washington Treaty of 1871, he pointed out and quoted correctly from the speech of Sir John A. Macdonald to the effect that the duty on salt and on coal removed by the Conservative Government should not have been removed. Sir John said :

But, Mr. Speaker, I made an entirely erroneous application of it.

The Minister of Public Works says :

Yet in the face of this difficulty, the hon. gentlemen have the temerity to reproach us with not having lowered the duty on some articles.

Why, Sir, what we have done is to reproach the hon. gentlemen opposite with having lowered the duty on articles when they should not have done so. We claimed that before they went to Washington they should not have lowered the duty on corn; we claimed that when they went to Washington they should not have lowered the duty on wheat; we claimed that in that preferential tariff of theirs they should not have given the American manufacturers favours over the English manufacturers. That is the very thing we claim that they should not have done, and above all, that when the example of that grand old chieftain, Sir John A. Macdonald, was before them in cold print, they committed, according to his own statement, the very fault that was committed by the Conservative party away back in 1871. But I want this fact to be noted carefully. The hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) claims credit for this commission for being composed of four Canadians and one Britisher, while the moving spirit of this commission was Canadian. He pointed out that in the other commission we were represented by but one Canadian. He pointed out also what the late Sir John A. Macdonald clearly showed, that when he got to Washington he found the majority of the commission anxious to serve British ends rather than Canadian ends, and he found an adverse spirit among the members of the United States commission. Now, what are the facts? Sir John A. Macdonald returned with a treaty, and in that treaty he obtained the free entry into the United States of fish oil, and he got \$5,500,000 in cash for the use of our fisheries, or \$4,500,000 as Canada's part. He also got free navigation of the Yukon, the Stikine and the Porcupine rivers, and bonding privileges on the railways. Although single-handed, with the majority of the commission, as our friends opposite say, looking after British interests instead of Canadian interests, and with an adverse United States commission, still he came back bringing all these advantages with him, though he was handicapped, as these gentlemen say, by the action of the Canadian Parliament in making coal and fish free. In comparison with what he did, what have these hon. gentlemen secured? Why, not even a title. Now, I have briefly pointed out some of the broken pledges of hon. gentlemen opposite. We did look, I frankly confess it, for these hon. gentlemen opposite to carry out in power some of their promises made in Opposition. Well, I believe they intended doing so, but when they got into power they found that the interests of the country would not permit it, and consequently they endeavoured to put on our clothes. However, there are a few questions that have arisen since these hon. gentlemen assumed office, and we had hoped that while they were not specifically

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on record in reference to these in the past, they might do something during the present Parliament. One of these questions is in reference to the export duty on nickel ore. We have in the Dominion of Canada, I suppose, about the best nickel mines in the world; yet all we get out of them are the wages paid to a few men for blowing up a few tons occasionally, and the profit that may be derived in carting it across to the United States. I am speaking of these matters from my view-point solely, not for any section of the party; and I say that a duty should now be placed on nickel ore. I am also in favour of a duty on saw-logs, inasmuch as the Americans are holding up their duties against our Canadian lumber. I maintain that the best way to bring these men to their senses is to let them see that we have the self-reliance of a self-governing people. I am prepared to impose a duty on saw-logs and on pulp-wood, and thus give our young men at home employment, and in every sense increase the prosperity of Canada. I did look for something in the Speech in reference to the great transportation problems which the Minister of Public Works and others have been explaining to the people of the country, although I must say that some of their views upon this question are rather laughable. Nevertheless, I did look for something in the Speech from the Throne outlining their policy on these questions. I hoped to see something in reference to the development of the Ottawa Canal up the Ottawa River by Mattawa, through Lake Nipissing and down the French River into the Georgian Bay. I had hoped that a distinct pledge would be given that the construction of the Trent Canal, or a route from the Georgian Bay and the Bay of Quinté down to Montreal would have been carried to a finality within the next twelve months. I still hope that when the Estimates come down a substantial sum will be placed in them for this purpose. I had looked for improvements of transportation in other lines. I am sorry the Minister of Public Works is not present at this moment, because I wished, to use a sporting term, not only to endorse him, but to go him one better, in his endeavour to build up Montreal. I am anxious that our great Canadian city of Montreal should be built up. I would be pleased to see Montreal have a population of a million souls. I believe its geographical position is such that in the near future it will have a population of one or two millions. I would also be pleased to see the city of Quebec made the terminus of a fast line of steamships, or, at all events, made such a port that she could command a great deal of freight that now goes by New York, Boston and other American cities. I would be pleased to see St. John and Halifax able to take the commerce that now goes by Portland, Boston and New York, and I see

no reason why an arrangement cannot be made whereby running powers should be given to the Canadian Pacific Railway from St. John to Halifax, and to the Grand Trunk Railway from Lévis to St. John and Halifax, in order that our own Canadian seaboard cities might be built up in the winter season by our own business, instead of the American cities. I need not enter into this question at length, it will doubtless come up again at a later period in the session. You are aware, Mr. Speaker, that since you have occupied your present distinguished position, and even previous to that, I have repeatedly taken a stand in favour of building up the Canadian seaboard cities and the Canadian lake cities in preference to the American cities, and any action which the Minister of Public Works, or the Minister of Railways and Canals, or the Minister of the Interior, or any other Minister, may take along practical lines with that object in view, will meet with my hearty endorsement. I take my stand, as I did last year, upon the Yukon Bill, that a great Canadian city could ultimately be built up at some Canadian seaport. I want to see Vancouver and Victoria grow, instead of Seattle, Tacoma and San Francisco. I am satisfied that no Government can remain in power in this country that will long ignore that line of action. Another subject I looked for in the Speech was regarding our ocean commerce. At present Germany bonuses her sugar industry. Take up the Trade and Navigation Returns for Great Britain and Ireland, take up the Trade and Navigation Returns of the Dominion of Canada or of any other country in the world, and you will find that thousands of tons of German sugar are imported into those countries. How can that take place? Germany bonuses her sugar industry, more than that, Germany bonuses the companies manufacturing that sugar; still further, Germany guarantees the bonds of the companies that build these immense steamships that carry goods from German ports all over the world. I chanced to be out in Australia a year or so ago, and I noticed, in Sydney harbour particularly, German vessels riding at anchor, bringing in German goods and driving English goods out of the market. I was admiring one of those vessels, when an English admiral pointed out that it was a German vessel. He used an expression which, perhaps, I ought not to repeat, for, although the times are so peaceful just now, they may become warlike again very soon. The admiral looked at it, and said, "A magnificent prize in case of war." But in the meantime there is another war going on than a war with powder and shot: a commercial war is quietly and slowly going on, by which the British merchant and the British manufacturer are being driven to the wall by the bonused manufactured products, and by the

bonused steamship lines, whose bonds are guaranteed by the German Government. We find, in relation to British trade on the Pacific Ocean, that there is a great falling off into the hands of German steamship companies. They have a chartered line running from German ports to all the ports in Australia. There is another line, a weekly line, about being established to run from German ports to Australian and New Zealand ports, and thence to Europe, calling at Indian ports. Whether we realized it or not, these bonused ships, and bonused companies, and bonused manufacturers of Germany are gradually driving our British lines to the wall. I maintain it is the duty of this country, first, to stand true to herself, and next, to the grand old British Empire. I had hoped that the Government would direct its attention towards encouraging still further, for instance, the fast Atlantic steamship service coming down to Montreal. Even in our Canadian harbours you will find German vessels rivalling us in our own ports. I hoped that there would be something definite proposed, not a mythical election campaign scheme. What was their cry, when we offered \$750,000 to a company to run fast steamships across the Atlantic? They called it extravagance, and said it could be done for \$500,000. They get in, and they try to get a service for \$500,000, and fail, even with the bottle-necked ships under the command of the Minister without portfolio from Quebec. Then they came up to \$750,000, and they have again failed. We are now told, in the speech of Sir William Van Horne, that he is in a position to run such a service, provided his company is guaranteed a subsidy of \$1,000,000. Now, I stand here to say, that, from my view-point, if we can get a fast steamship service from Canada to the old country, with proper cold storage facilities, for \$1,000,000, it would be a good bargain for this country. Even if it costs that sum, it would amply repay this country over and over again to grant any properly organized and properly managed steamship company the sum of \$1,000,000, provided it furnished these cold storage facilities between here and the old country. Sir, one would scarcely imagine the volume of trade that comes from the little islands scattered up and down the Pacific Ocean between Vancouver and Victoria, on the one hand, and Australasia on the other. Last year I drew attention of hon. gentlemen opposite to the fact that they did not place the Fiji Islands and Queensland on the list of the most-favoured nations. I may say, that there is not a vessel leaving the harbour of Vancouver or Victoria for Australia, that does not bear with it, for the Fiji Islands, for the Australian ports and for New Zealand, tons and tons of freight. On the docks of those cities are tons and tons more that cannot be taken on board the vessels. Yet, when these vessels return, they return comparatively empty. I maintain that it is

the duty of this Government, in the early stages of this transportation problem, to come to the front and to give a judicious helping hand in order to encourage return cargoes. It would be a great benefit to Canada. I think I can claim the credit of drawing the attention of the Vancouver sugar refinery people, and of other parties interested in that business, to the advantages to be derived from importing sugar from the Fiji Islands. I understand that 400 tons are brought in on every vessel that returns from Australia and the Fiji Islands to-day. There are tens of thousands of tons more that will be brought in. I see no reason why we cannot trade with our friends in Queensland and the other Australian colonies, the British people in the Islands of Fiji—because the foreign white population is entirely British—why we cannot trade with our friends there, and build up this Great British Empire on these lines. I was also surprised that there was no reference to the Pacific cable in the Speech from the Throne. Now, I am not belittling the importance of the telegraph line to the Yukon, which is certainly necessary; but I maintain that a cable line from our Pacific ports to the Australian colonies is necessary, not only from a national view-point, but from an Imperial view-point as well. I believe the hon. gentlemen opposite are now so thoroughly vaccinated with the loyal spirit that they, at all events, appear to be desirous to upbuild the British Empire as well as the Liberal-Conservative party. Now I will say a few words on the international commission. I do not want to appear harsh to any one who was on that commission; I do not want to appear unfriendly to the United States. If you turn up the parliamentary records, you will find that a number of years ago I stated my views on these questions, and advocated, first, a cordial union along trade lines and the lines of defence of Britain and all her colonies, and ultimately maybe a political union, first of Great Britain and her colonies on the one hand, and then of Britain, on the one hand, and the United States on the other. Therefore, I have been long favourable, having due regard to Canadian and British interests, to closer lines of union with the people of the United States, but I never dreamed that that union was to be brought about by lowering our blades and getting down on our knees to that people. We have the benefit of the experience of Sir John Macdonald when he went to Washington in 1871. He found the Americans sharp traders, ready to take advantage of every point that they could raise in their favour in the negotiations that took place there. I maintain that, in the first instance, the hon. gentlemen who went to Washington made a mistake in giving their case away before they went. We have \$7,000,000 worth of corn imported last year into Canada, while there is an export of

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only half a million dollars' worth more of cattle from the country. I think it is rather a dear experiment, because that \$7,000,000 that was invested in corn could as readily have been used up in buying the coarse grains grown in Canada.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Does the hon. gentleman think that this corn was imported for consumption in Canada?

Mr. HUGHES. It was imported and duty paid on it.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). Duty paid on free corn?

Mr. HUGHES. It was imported and entered into Canada. Would the hon. gentleman tell us what it was imported for?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. This corn is passing through Canada, and it is imported to increase our carrying trade—that is, a portion of it.

Mr. HUGHES. Does the hon. gentleman say that that \$7,000,000 worth was exported?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, no.

Mr. HUGHES. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries what he does say.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I merely asked the hon. gentleman if he wishes the House to understand that \$7,000,000 worth of corn was imported into Canada for home consumption, because much of it is imported for re-exportation?

Mr. HUGHES. This is another evidence of how these hon. gentlemen deceive the people. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries would have the country believe that the corn is imported for export.

Mr. P. MACDONALD (East Huron). Over \$5,000,000 of it is.

Mr. HUGHES. For the seven months ending January 31st last there were over \$6,000,000 worth of corn imported free of duty for home consumption. The statement is this in the "Unrevised Statement of the Values of the Principal Imports, free, entered for consumption in Canada"—not for export—during the seven months ending January 31st, 1898 and 1899, respectively. Here is what the amount entered in January, 1899: \$239,000 worth. During the seven months ending January 31st, 1899, \$6,081,000 worth was entered free, or nearly 20,000,000 bushels in seven months, that we imported for home consumption, and every bushel of that corn that was imported drove at least two bushels of oats out of sale. It is all very well for the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries to shake his head; as the saying is, there is

not a great deal in it. I made the statement that there is nearly \$7,000,000 worth of corn entered for home consumption, and I was exactly right. The amount actually entered for home consumption was \$6,964,000, or 19,000,000 bushels during last year alone.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). If the hon. gentleman will look at the explanatory note on the first page of the Trade and Navigation Returns, he will see what is meant by the term "home consumption," as applied there.

Mr. HUGHES. I will give the Minister of Customs a chance to speak later.

Mr. J. McMULLEN (North Wellington). We will have it out in the Budget debate.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). Have it out now.

Mr. HUGHES. The Canadian commissioners had a good time in Washington. In the first place, as I have already said, they gave the whole case away, and in the second place, they robbed our farmers of a home market worth \$7,000,000. The Minister of Customs may appoint a few Philadelphia lawyers to explain his regulations, but he cannot deny that \$7,000,000 worth of corn was imported in one year. They had a splendid time at Washington; they had a jollification, and I am only sorry they did not bring something back. The right hon. the First Minister had read up some of the old treaties of the early days between the white man and the Indians in Canada, and the first thing that they would have, upon reaching Washington would be a glass of fire water, after which would come the pipe of peace and the presentation of the wampun belt. Then they would have a little pow-wow, a war dance and so on. We are told by some of the American commissioners when it was all over that some of the Canadian commissioners came down and acted as if they had been at a debating club. I know it was not the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) who acted in that way, and I know that my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) could not be charged with being a debater when there is anything diplomatic on, and I am satisfied that it could not refer to the First Minister, who was employing his sunny ways and manipulating the machine generally. There is only one other pair of shoulders upon which we can lay the burden of being a fussy debater. I can easily imagine how the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries went into that commission and said: "We are going to show that we have a plan of doing things different from that of Sir John Macdonald." He was going to show that "we Canadian fellows are not a lot of asses, but that we know how to do things up in first-class

shape." He entered that chamber in which the commissioners met and undertook to show them how we run things in Canada. I can easily picture him with his fist clenched and swung above his head in debate. A great deal has leaked out, and as Mr. Chamberlain says, it is all pretty accurate. The Yankees got the start. When they had got the start of us on the Behring Sea question they said, "We will do something for you on the Alaskan boundary question." When they had got the start of us on the fisheries question, the tariff, the alien labour question and reciprocity, and on every question, they told the Canadian commissioners, "Wait until the report of the commission on the boundary question is brought in, and we will have something nice for you." After they had got the Canadians to surrender every right and every point excepting the boundary, they said: We think you should hand all these over to us, and then they adjourned. They got angry, and I dare say there was a good deal of fuss and feathers flying around for a little time, but at all events the four Canadians who composed that commission came home, and they got nothing.

Mr. COCHRANE. And their secretary besides.

Mr. HUGHES. And their two secretaries.

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

### After Recess.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES (North Victoria). Mr. Speaker, when the House rose at six o'clock, we were considering the question of the import of corn. The Trade and Navigation Returns indicate that about 19,000,000 bushels of corn were imported, valued at \$7,000,000, and that there were about 14,000,000 bushels exported. But, Sir, in considering the question of the export of corn it must be borne in mind that the people of Ontario alone—not considering the rest of Canada—grow about 25,000,000 bushels of corn, much of which may be included in this amount exported.

I had about concluded considering the Washington conference also before recess, but I omitted to give one statement which an American made to me as the cause of the failure of the Canadian commissioners to impress the American commissioners. He said to me: When the Canadian commissioners came down here, they reminded us of the chap who went out duck shooting with blank cartridges and a brass band. These hon. gentlemen know better than I do what transpired within the walls of the conference chamber, but so far as the public can judge they have accomplished nothing whatever. There is another point in connection with this conference which should

be considered. When the Cuban war broke out our American friends were very loyal to Britain; the old lion's tail was no longer twisted, but on the contrary hats were raised (and I believe sincerely raised by the great majority of the American nation) in honour of Queen Victoria and the British Empire. To my mind, then was the time that our Government should have looked for a settlement of these questions involving the relationship between the two countries. But time wore on, and the Americans got through with the Cuban business. The commission will meet in six months again from to-day, and by that time the Philippine affair will be settled, and mark my words, Mr. Speaker, our commissioners will get very little out of the United States. As the American ambassador to England stated the other day: while he trusted Great Britain and the United States would always be friends they would never cease to be rivals. The experience of the past proves that. Even between the cities of New York and Boston and New York and Chicago, there is rivalry in business matters, and so in business matters between nations there will never cease to be rivalry. We cannot expect to get anything from the Americans except on the basis of a very generous quid pro quo to them, and, as I have stated before, we have thrown away the strongest levers in our possession to enable us to bring them to their senses. In passing, I might note that the friendly relations existing between Canada and the United States have materially improved during the last few years. But the credit for this is not due to the gentlemen who now govern Canada, and who, when the Liberal-Conservative Government was in power, contributed greatly to produce friction between the two countries. The present Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) was then managing the affairs of Nova Scotia, and he was truckling to the Americans in every imaginary respect, almost to the verge of secession from the Dominion of Canada. We found the First Minister and others of his party then making speeches severely condemning the Liberal-Conservative party for their stand on various international questions, and openly almost siding with the American people. This language was stored up in the mind of the Americans, and when these gentlemen went to Washington to negotiate, they were met with their own speeches in days gone by. To the conduct of these gentlemen more than to any other cause is traceable any unfriendliness that may have existed between Canada and the United States. Having pointed out that the Americans are a keen business people, I desire to mention one reason which to my mind has tended greatly to produce friendship between the United States and the Dominion of Canada, and strange as it may appear this involves my mentioning the names of four or five business men. I believe that Sir William Van Horne, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway,

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Chas. M. Hays, who for a few years has been general manager of the Grand Trunk Railway, with the able assistance of Mr. Shaughnessy, Mr. McGuigan and Mr. Wainwright, and gentlemen managing other railways of Canada doing business with the United States, have taught the business community of the United States the importance of Canadian highways and a Canadian trade; and to these gentlemen more than to any other single influence is due the good feeling that exists between the business people of the United States and the Dominion of Canada. We must remember, however, with all our dealings with that people, that it is not many weeks since the Democratic candidate in the last presidential election condemned the American Government for interference in the Philippine Islands and in Cuba, but pointed out that lying north of the United States was a country that should be annexed to the United States. We must remember that during the war of 1812 a very small percentage of the people of the United States were in favour of that war. We all know that the State of Massachusetts refused to obey the mandate of Congress calling for men to enlist in the war. Her mandate to the United States Government was: "The war is unjust and unholy, and Massachusetts will not send a single man." Nevertheless, war was declared, and as time wore on all of the states of the Union were found contributing their troops to that unfortunate event. At that time the population of Canada to that of the United States was 1 to 40. The remarks I make now, I make with all kindness to the United States, recognizing that a very small element in any country may produce great trouble for the nations around. In that war the United States had thirty-six times as many troops as Great Britain and Canada combined; and yet, commencing at Detroit, and following down to Lundy's Lane, Chippewa, Chrysler's Farm and Chateaugay, on every occasion when we met the invaders, and we never met them without meeting five or six to one, they were defeated. To-day our population, in place of being 1 to 40, is 1 to 10; and as the most potent cure for the jealousy of Germany and for the quarreling of Russia and France with Great Britain was the fitting out of the Flying Squadron and the strengthening of the British army and navy, so there is nothing that will bring our American neighbours to a sense of their responsibility as quickly as to let them know that we are ready to stand on our rights and are not going to cringe to them; and if the worst comes to the worst, we can, with the assistance of Great Britain, change the international boundary from the forty-ninth parallel down to the forty-second. At the time of the settlement of the boundary between our North-west Territories and the United States, you know, Sir, for you have read history, that the mandate of the United States Government was: "the fifty-second parallel or fight"; and you know that Lord Palmer-

ston's quiet reply was : " We have rights and we are ready to defend them." Let the same spirit actuate the Government to-day in their dealing with the United States, and, mark my words, we shall be better friends, and there will be no gunpowder wasted on the border.

The question of preferential trade has been before this House, and I regret that in the Speech from the Throne there is no promise of any legislation tending in that direction this session. We have a species of one-sided preferential trade. It is preferential for Great Britain, but there is no preference in it for Canada. My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), and the volatile Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), went to Washington in 1896, and they came home again sadder and wiser men. Then hon. gentlemen opposite became seized with the Jubilee fever and they crossed to the old land, where I must say the Prime Minister conducted himself with credit to Canada, except for a few free trade speeches which he made when he was carried away by his association with Mr. Gladstone—and he won the Cobden medal. He declined, however, to enter into any negotiations for preferential treatment, as we understand it, and as the Liberal-Conservative party had long fought for it, between Great Britain and her colonies. I was rather amazed that such a keen observer as the right hon. First Minister undoubtedly is, did not learn that free trade and Cobdenite ideas have been a perfect farce in the old land. I know it is looked on as heresy here to say that free trade has not made England great. Let us examine the facts of the case. I maintain that it has been in spite of free trade that England has grown great. At the time the Cobdenite idea seized possession of the English mind, steam vessels were about supplanting sailing vessels, and in many parts of England and Scotland factories were established for the construction of engines and boilers which gave an impetus to all other industries. The iron ship-building industry of England sprang into existence. We know that in Canada, to our cost, the old ship-building yards for the construction of wooden vessels, furnishing employment to thousands of men, were banished off the face of the earth, and the ship-building business was centralized in the shipyards of London, Birkenhead, Belfast and other points in the British Islands. In this way England secured and maintained her lead in commerce, and to this cause and not to free trade is due England's commercial greatness. What are the facts to-day in connection with our association with Great Britain? Canada taxes herself—I am free to say that it is not much and it should be a great deal more—for the defence of the Empire; but Great Britain is not taxing herself a particle for the defence of Canada. Were Canada wiped off the face of the earth, Great Britain would

still have to maintain her naval supremacy as she is doing to-day. She taxes herself hundreds of thousands of pounds every year to protect herself against Russia and other hostile foreign nations; and yet the Russian farmer is able to put his grain on the English market as freely as the farmers of friendly colonies and those of her own possessions. Facts like these should be pressed home, and if they fail to have any effect the first time, they should be pressed time and again; because, that is the only way to bring the people across the water to a sense of their obligation to us.

Now, as possibly this is the last evening sitting before the adjournment for the Easter holidays, I shall cut my remarks somewhat shorter than I had intended, in order that others who may desire to do so may have an opportunity of addressing the House. There are just a few points which I will summarize briefly.

The hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), who is familiarly termed "the young Napoleon" of his party, made a speech at Perth, and followed it up with one at Stratford. Correctly or otherwise, the public believe that the gage was there thrown down and warning was given to the free trade wing of the Cabinet that there must be no more tampering with the tariff. As I pointed out this afternoon, when that announcement was made by the leader of the Opposition, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) dropped his head, while the young Minister of the Interior held his head aloft. We on this side endorse the stand taken by the Minister of the Interior. It will be a sorry day indeed for this country should the free trade wing of the Cabinet triumph over the protection element. I am very much surprised to find an old colleague of the Minister of the Interior in Manitoba taking up the gage which he has thrown down. But then one does not know how that machine may be engineered by these hon. gentlemen on the other side. It may be that there is a real difference among them, or it may be that they are all working in perfect harmony, and that the seeming quarrelling and disruption among them is only seeming and not real. However, that hon. gentleman pointed out something that the Liberal party had done since they came into office. But, after reading his speech two or three times, I have not been able to see what it amounted to. I would like to point out briefly what these hon. gentlemen have done as it appears to me. They coerced the Prime Minister of the province of Manitoba to establish in that province the most iniquitous system of separate schools to be found in the Dominion. As I have pointed out, it is not satisfactory to the Roman Catholics, because they are granted no permanent rights, and it is not satisfactory to the Protestants because the regulations are most annoying and irritating to them.

They have favoured the Americans in the

changes they have made in the tariff, as witness free corn, and reduced duties on wheat and flour. And, at the same time, they have made changes which increased the burden upon imports from Great Britain.

They have endeavoured to carry out the Drummond railway deal, and, through the action of the Senate, were prevented from doing so.

They have promised—and I regret that the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) is not in his seat to hear what I say—to carry out a deal which, I suppose, will be known as the Canada Eastern deal. It is true that many have only been for the purpose of making a good impression in the province of New Brunswick in the recent election. I know not what may be the object or whether it is intended to be forced upon the people of the country during the present session. Possibly it will be held over until the general election when it will be used to carry the province against the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster), and the hon. member for Victoria, N.B. (Mr. Costigan).

They introduced a Bill last year for the construction of a railway to the Yukon country, but failed to get it placed on the Statute-book. They carried it through this House, and I backed them in it. As I stated, if they would present and carry through a proper scheme for the establishment of railway communication with the Yukon, starting from a Canadian port, I would support it, and would take my chances of re-election. Their Bill last year was defeated in the Senate, and this Government, instead of acting as a business administration would have done, sat still and let a whole year roll round without turning a hand to secure that great trade to the Canadian railways or to build up a Canadian town on the coast.

They have had the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell), who sits in the Cabinet without portfolio, buzzing backwards and forwards between Great Britain and Canada, nominally in connection with the fast Atlantic service. They have tried two or three times to make an arrangement for the establishment of this service, but have always failed. Had they carried out the policy of the Liberal-Conservative party, which they found perfected and ready to their hand when they came into office, we should have had a fast service to-day with a first-class system of cold storage from which the farmers and tradesmen of Canada would have reaped immense benefit. They tell us now that it will be impossible to establish a fast Atlantic service in less than two years.

They have removed the duty from binder twine and reduced the duty on barbed wire. And to-day, I am informed, binder twine and barbed wire are dearer than they have ever been before in the history of the country. The effect of their policy has been to close our Canadian industries in these lines; and now the American manufacturer dumps his spare twine and barbed wire upon our mar-

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ket at prices to suit himself, and the Canadian farmer pays the enhanced price.

More than that, we charge these hon. gentlemen with duplicity. I certainly have proven, and it was practically admitted by the gentleman (Mr. Bourassa) who preceded me, that they had been insincere and inconsistent. But in his metaphysical attempt to define the difference between sincerity and insincerity, inconsistency and consistency, he merely fastened the charge more clearly and firmly than before. We say they have been guilty of more than inconsistency, they have been guilty of duplicity. We have from the lips of the First Minister himself, the private statement he made to the members of his own party, that, in submitting the plebiscite, it was not the intention that they should act upon it, unless prohibition were carried by a certain majority. This was a deal, so to speak, made by the hon. gentleman with his own particular friends. But it was not made known to the people of the Dominion of Canada, and I maintain that in this he and his colleagues were not acting fairly toward the people. We find also that prior to the general election the Prime Minister of this country, while he and his colleagues were standing on the platform declaiming against protection, declaiming against the manufacturers of this country as "robbers great and robbers small," wrote a private and confidential letter, undoubtedly he intended it to be hawked around, as it was hawked around by a gentleman in the city of Toronto, who took that letter from manufacturer to manufacturer in that city assuring him that he need have no fear whatever of any change in the tariff in case the Liberal party came into office. They had to keep up the old song and dance before the people, but Laurier, as he put it, would not interfere with the tariff in the slightest degree—an example of duplicity, which, I venture to say, cannot be equalled in the history of responsible government in the British Empire. We find also that while they were holding up their hands in holy horror in the other provinces and calling out "No coercion" and "Hands off Manitoba," these gentlemen were going along the side roads and in the villages and on public platforms in Quebec inciting the people against their English fellow-countrymen, declaring that in case the Liberals were returned to power, they would go the Conservative party one better and give a more complete system of separate schools in the province of Manitoba. We find also documents to their bishops and priests to this effect, again attempting to humbug the people and playing a double game. We find that while they were crying out against collusion between the Dominion Government and the provincial authorities, this Government had dealt after deal in Nova Scotia, in New Brunswick, in Ontario and Manitoba with the provincial governments, in order that they might supplant the Liberal-Conservative party and

get into power. And they pretended to give a preference to Great Britain under their system of customs duties when it is apparent that they were giving a preference to the manufacturers of the United States.

A famous general, whom it is not necessary I should name, on the eve of an important engagement passed the word to his officers: "Let there be none but true men on guard to-night." The hour has arrived in our history when the mandate of the people to the politicians on either side must be: Let there be none but true men on guard in the halls of Parliament. Philip of Macedon, used to boast that he could capture any city, provided he could get a donkey through a breach in the wall with a bag of gold on his back. Our friends of the Liberal party seem to have profited by the teachings of the Philip of Macedon. I would like to point out to these gentlemen that the Empire over which Philip reigned, and the whole Greek nation descended in the scale of human progress until it presents the pitiable spectacle that Greece presented in the recent war with Turkey. A more degraded people in all that pertains to the greatness of a nation than is the Greek race to-day, it would be hard to find. Spain has largely followed a similar course and with the same results. That course is appealing to selfish motives in the people and buying them with this concession and that. And these tactics, if carried out in this country, will ultimately bring this people to the same level upon which the people of Greece stand to-day. When we find at least three Ministers of the Crown obtaining their positions in this House by deals with members of Parliament, what can we expect of such an Administration and what shall we think of the example they set? In Nova Scotia, the Finance Minister got rid of one member of this House by giving him first a landing waitership and then a judgeship. That gentleman had to hang around as a landing-waiter until they created a judgeship for him. We find the Minister of Railways and Canals getting rid of another in the province of New Brunswick, and the Minister of Public Works appointing a member in the Eastern Townships to the Senate. When you find the members of the Government stooping to such conduct, how can these judges whom they create condemn the unfortunate who comes before them for stealing a loaf of bread to keep his family from starving? If our public men are proven guilty of double dealing, of making secret understandings with their own followers and others on great public questions, as has been proven in the case of the temperance questions and in the case of the Prime Minister's stand on the National Policy, what must we think of the example thus set to the people of the country? It is good old British rule to have things done in the broad light of day. One of the things I most admire about the Englishman is that he does not fear criticism. If

he is going to take his glass of liquor, he takes it and cares not who knows it—he is open, manly and fearless. And responsible government has for its corner stone that very principle—that politicians shall stand or fall by their public pledges. The course taken by the Government on the plebiscite meant that \$250,000 of the money of the people was squandered. Had this been placed in the hands of my good friend the Minister of the Interior to be spent for immigration purposes, it might have been the means of bringing many people to our shores and of establishing thousands of happy homes in the North-west. When we find our political leaders recklessly casting aside their past pretensions on assuming office, a change in our methods is sadly needed. I have nothing further to say, I conclude by stating that like the general whose words I have already quoted, Canada to-day demands that whatever men may be on guard in our public life, shall be true men.

Mr. J. A. C. MADORE (Hochelaga). (Translation.) I do not rise, Sir, to vindicate the Government from the attacks levelled at them by the hon. gentlemen opposite,—the Government does not require to be vindicated from the accusations and the denunciations of those gentlemen—but I merely rise to congratulate the Government upon the policy they have pursued since their advent to power and upon the gratifying results of that policy throughout Canada. The gloomy forebodings of the hon. gentlemen opposite, upon the occasion of the advent of the Liberals to power, resulted, it is true, in disturbing to some extent, a certain portion of the electorate, but that anxiety and uneasiness were pretty soon dispelled. It had been foretold that a new era of deficits would coincide with the return of the Liberals to power, but the Government has given the lie to those false prophets by ushering in an era of surpluses. The last financial year has closed with a surplus of a million and a half, and there is every reason to presume that the next financial year will close with a still more considerable surplus. An increased taxation had also been predicted, but the Government have again silenced the false prophets by remodelling the tariff, and thus considerably cutting down the burden of taxation which bore so heavily upon the people: and, further by reducing to 2 cents the rate of Imperial postage, for all the British possessions and for the United States, and, later on, by reducing to two cents the Canadian domestic letter-rate. Through those reforms the cost of correspondence carried on by the people of this country has been cut down by at least one-third.

The hon. gentlemen further predicted that the trade and the industries of the country would be ruined, but looking at the Blue-books, I find that since the coming into power of the present Administration, the

volume of our trade has increased by sixty million dollars and never have our industries been in a more flourishing condition. Our opponents, on finding out how judicious was the reform of the tariff carried out by the Government, and that the changes brought about were not exaggerated either in the direction of protection, or in that of free trade, while considerably lightening the burden of taxation that bore upon the consumers, the hon. gentlemen, I say, began to arraign the Liberal party for breaking their promises, and not carrying out, when in power, their past professions and the policy they had advocated, when they sat in the Opposition. I have often heard the hon. gentlemen opposite, and even the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) imputing as a crime to the Government, the fact of not having removed every vestige of protection, on the ground, as they said, that when sitting opposite, the Liberals had proclaimed that such was their policy and that should they come into power, they would carry out that programme. As the saying goes, what does not happen one day may happen another. I remember perfectly that, at the outset of the first session of this Parliament, during the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, the hon. leader of the Opposition gave expression to views diametrically opposed to what he advocates now. I still have a vivid recollection of having heard him say that in the course of the election contest, the Liberals had stolen his programme. And, in support of that proposition, the leader of the Opposition referred to the speeches of a certain number of Liberal candidates, and he also referred to the speech delivered and to the position taken by the right hon. leader of this House, who then occupied the position now filled by the hon. gentleman himself. What were the pledges given by the Liberals, in the course of the electoral contest? It will suffice, in order to fully understand the matter, to refer to the speech delivered upon that occasion by the hon. leader of the Opposition :

I believe I am warranted in saying that the hon. gentleman opposite has received no mandate from the people of this country to break down the protection that is now given to our industries, and to adopt a policy of free trade or a revenue tariff policy. At a public meeting held at Westmount on the 19th of May, 1896, as reported in the Montreal "Witness" :

"Mr. Madore impressed upon his hearers that he was utterly in accordance with Mr. Laurier's policy. He was with him in tariff reform, and also in his policy with regard to the reform in the general administration of public affairs, also on the question of Manitoba schools. \* \* \* Speaking of the reform of the tariff, of which he was decidedly in favour, he said it did not mean a radical change, but it was purely and simply a legislation on a better scale with regard to the duties on different goods. The tariff reform had been a necessity for more than one year. It would be beneficial to every one, including manufacturers, and would not injure them as the Conservative party makes it appear. It would

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lessen the taxes, and it could be called a kind of protection.

The hon. leader of the Opposition further said :

Well, Sir, that, I think, was climbing very vigorously unto our platform, and adopting the issue upon which we were standing, and forsaking the issue upon which hon. gentlemen opposite said they would go to the country.

The "Star" of the same date gives this report of the same speech :

"The speaker was in accord with his leader on the tariff question. The Liberal party was not seeking to make any radical change in the tariff, but simply wished for a readjustment of the duties on a more equitable basis—a tariff which would assist the manufacturers, and at the same time, would not press too heavily on the consumer."

That does not exactly square with the views expressed by the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright). That desire to assist the manufacturers does not exactly square with the policy of removing every vestige of protection, to which the hon. member for Queen's (P.E.I.), (Mr. Davies) had committed himself. But I may remark that the hon. First Minister, who was present when Mr. Madore made his speech at Westmount, stated in the course of his address :

"The issues now before the electors had been well defined by Mr. Madore."

So that this view of making no radical change in the tariff, but rather improving the condition of affairs in the country, was heartily endorsed by the hon. First Minister, who was there to ask the electors to accept the policy stated by Mr. Madore as the policy of the Liberal party.

At that time, Sir, the hon. leader of the Opposition agreed with us that the programme upon which we had gone to the people was a tariff reform policy and not, as he now contends, a radical policy. Now, if, as admitted by the hon. leader of the Opposition, our tariff policy is not a radical policy, our opponents are quite astray in arraigning us for having broken pledges which we never gave to the electorate. I am well aware that they are unpatriotic and selfish enough to wish that the Government should lack wisdom to the point of respecting no vested rights, and, through an inconsiderate policy, dealing a deadly blow to the trade and commerce of the country. But I may venture to tell the hon. gentlemen this, that they will be sadly disappointed, if they indulge in this vain and foolish hope, and they will soon find out, to their utter dismay that, despite the considerable reduction in taxation brought about by the new tariff, despite also the decreased revenue which that reform, and chiefly the operation of our preferential trade policy must necessarily involve, the manufacturers are satisfied with the policy inaugurated by the Government and the flourishing condition of the revenue will allow the Government to meet the public expenditure of the country, still leaving in the public exchequer, at the close of the financial year, a handsome surplus of several million dollars. There can no longer be any doubt that throughout the length and breadth of the land, the people

hail with delight the tariff reform carried out by the Government. Even those manufacturers who dreaded most the reforms foreshadowed in our programme, are now ready to declare that they view them with satisfaction; and to take but one instance, coming from people who bitterly opposed at the outset our policy, let me read to the House the following letter, addressed to me, some time ago by the manager of the "Montreal Rolling Mills Company":

Dear Sir,—I take this opportunity of writing to thank you for the trouble and attention given to our claims regarding tariff.

While, of course, as you would expect from a manufacturer, we did not get all that we asked for, viz., that the materials that we used for rolling into skelp, now \$2, while the duty on skelp is only 5 per cent, say 95 cents per ton, and the result being that we lose about one-third of the tonnage that we have in the past turned out in our rolling mill, still we must acknowledge, with many thanks, that our claims reduction in duty on steel billets enables us to continue the manufacture of bar steel, and together with the specific protection on cut nails and wire nails now afforded us, will give us the opportunity of continuing the manufacture of the same.

Mr. BERGERON. (Translation.) Would the hon. gentleman tell us who signed this letter?

Mr. MADORE. (Translation.) It is signed by William McMaster, manager.

Mr. BERGERON. (Translation.) What is the date?

Mr. MADORE. (Translation.) The 27th of May, 1897, just after the tariff reform had been carried out. If it is true, Sir, as stated by the hon. leader of the Opposition, that, during the electoral contest, we pledged ourselves to a tariff reform policy; if it is true as the most competent men declare, that the manufacturers are satisfied with a tariff reform, which, while lightening the burdens that bear on the consumers, allows the manufacturers to realize reasonable profits, I would like to know on what authority the hon. gentlemen ground themselves to state that we have falsified our promises? There is another issue which, the hon. gentlemen opposite predicted, was to prove a stumbling block to us and bring the Government to grief. I mean the settlement of the school question. It is to no good purpose that the hon. gentlemen opposite are trying to stir up civil strife among the different classes of the community, by appealing to religious prejudices; it is of no avail for our opponents to proclaim everywhere before the electors of the province of Quebec and to tell the Catholics that the Greenway-Laurier settlement does not give satisfaction to our co-religionists, while their Protestant colleagues denounce before the Protestant electors the fair and reasonable concessions granted by Mr. Greenway to the Catholic

minority. It is of no avail for them to blow hot and cold, dry and damp, in order to stir up religious strife among the people. The school question is permanently settled, and it has been settled to the satisfaction of the interested parties, and in such a way as to meet the views and the approval of all moderate and right-minded men in the country.

It is a noteworthy fact that in the Catholic province of Quebec in the name of which the hon. gentlemen opposite pretend to speak, nobody complains of that settlement. The most authorized voice, that of the competent religious and ecclesiastical authorities, has only been heard to warn the faithful against denouncing the settlement carried out by the Government. If the Church authorities are satisfied, I say without hesitation that the Government have done their duty, and that, having applied the proper remedy and righted the wrong, they are entitled to the congratulations which I proposed to offer them, when I took the floor. The two political parties are at the antipodes as to the policy respectively pursued by them on that vital issue. One party tries to stir up one class of the community against the other class; they try to sow dissension and discord, by appealing to racial and religious prejudices, to civil war, while the other party appeals to the best interests of humanity, to the good feelings of all classes of the community, reminding our fellow-countrymen that they are brothers, and that if they do not kneel at the same altars, still they all adore the same God, and are all brothers in Christ. From what I have just said, it will easily be inferred where is to be found true patriotism. No greater misfortune could befall a young country like ours than that of becoming the seat of a religious war; because as history shows us, religious feuds are all the more fierce as both parties are blinded by fanaticism.

In the last century, in Nova Scotia, then called Acadia, there prevailed a fierce religious conflict. The Acadian Catholics, who were in the minority, were the butt of persecutions of every description. The Abbé Sigogne proved their protector, and it was by conciliatory means that he often succeeded in obtaining justice for his people. It was by this means that he enlisted in their cause the services of one of the most eminent statesmen who ever commanded the confidence of the people of Nova Scotia, Haliburton. I may be allowed to place on record here what that good Protestant statesman told his co-religionists of those days, in connection with religious matters. Would to God such views were shared in by all my fellow-countrymen! Would to God they were endorsed by our opponents, so strong is my conviction that it would do away with many prejudices. I invite the hon. gentlemen opposite who are now trying to stir up race and creed prejudices to deeply ponder over the words of that states-

man, as I also invite my fellow-countrymen to treasure them up in their minds :

Every man who lays his hands on the New Testament, and says that that is his book of faith, whether he be Catholic or Protestant, Churchman or Dissenter, Baptist or Methodist, however much we may differ in doctrinal points, he is my brother, and I embrace him. We all travel by different roads to the same God. In that path, which I pursue, should I meet a Catholic, I salute him—I journey with him; and when we shall arrive at the 'flammantia limina mundi'—when that time shall come, as come it must—when the tongue that now speaks shall moulder and decay—when the lungs that now breathe the genial air of Heaven shall refuse me their office—when these earthly vestments shall sink into the bosom of their mother earth, and be ready to mingle with the clods of the valley—I will, with that Catholic take a longing, lingering, retrospective view. I will kneel with him; and instead of saying, in the words of the presumptuous Pharisee, "Thank God I am not like this Papist," I will pray that, as kindred, we may be equally forgiven: that, as brothers, we may be both received.

Such are the principles, such are the feelings on which is grounded the Laurier-Greenway school settlement, and such principles I would like to see prevailing among all classes of the community in Canada. Unfortunately, I fear our opponents are trying to weaken and uproot these noble feelings from the midst of our community.

The Government having so successfully settled both these vexed questions, no wonder that the people should welcome the proposed Senate reform, which is a still more important scheme from an administrative standpoint, than the tariff reform was, from a financial point of view. Was the course of the Senate during the two last sessions, such as to justify the movement now on foot in favour of the reform of that body? I may say, before giving an answer to that question, that I am not in favour of the abolition of the Senate. When brought face to face with a problem of such moment we should beware of hearkening to the voice of passion and prejudice. I am well aware, as all those who are opposed to the Upper Chamber, of the blunders committed of late by that august body: I know also all the arguments that may be urged in favour of the abolition of that branch of our legislative system, but I know also that it would be unfair to urge the reform of our constitution on the ground that some bad votes were given by that branch of the legislature. I am, therefore, an advocate of the bicameral system. I am also in favour of the appointment of senators by the Governor in Council. As in the case of the administration of justice, and the appointment of judges, I believe that the senators should be responsible to nobody. I believe that the senators, like the judges, should be free from all party entanglements, and that like the judges of the land, they should be disgraced in the eyes of the community, whenever, in the discharge of their duty, they act as political partisans. Such were,

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I believe, the views held by the fathers of confederation. It is not to be presumed that the men who framed the constitution by which we are governed were not conversant with the various modes of constituting an Upper Chamber; and if we refer to the debates of confederation, we will find that the different systems were well threshed out, and that the one by which we are now governed, was finally adopted.

The fathers of confederation never entertained the idea that any disagreement or friction would occur between the Upper Chamber and the Lower Chamber; not only did such an occurrence appear to them highly improbable, but it was even thought impossible. In order to show that such was the case, let me here put on record what was stated on that subject by the hon. George Brown, who is recognized by both parties as the chief factor in the work of confederation. Referring to such dead-lock as the members of the then Opposition thought likely to occur under the new order of things, he said:

And, after, all, is it not an imaginary fear—that of a dead-lock? Is it at all probable that any body of gentlemen who may compose the Upper House, appointed, as they will be, for life, acting, as they will do, on personal and not party responsibility, possessing as they must, a deep stake in the welfare of the country, and desirous as they must be, of holding the esteem of their fellow-subjects—would take so unreasonable a course as to imperil the whole political fabric?

Sad to say, the Senate of the day has given the lie to the predictions of the hon. George Brown. The senators appointed some twenty years ago by the Tory Government, remembering their old party ties, have showed themselves partisans. I know men who, up to lately, had made a name for themselves for their broad views, for the unswerving sense of justice and fair-play, ever displayed by them, for the contempt in which they held the petty manoeuvres of party politics and political partisanship, and who, through their political career, had ever been guided by the beacon-light of patriotism, and yet, these men, I say, during the two last sessions, did derogate in certain respects, and yield to political partisanship. They have forgotten that it belongs to the elective branch of Parliament to govern and they did not hesitate for party considerations, to block Government measures, because they were introduced by political opponents. Those senators who were bound to act with the same impartiality as a judge presiding over a court, those men whose political career had so far entitled them to an honourable record on the scroll of Canadian history, those men, I say, will be called to a severe account by unbiassed historians and their name will go down to posterity as that of men who have soiled and tarnished their reputation, when yielding to the promptings of party spirit, they forgot what they owed to their country and proved recreant to the voice of patriotism.

They will go down to history as men who allowed themselves to be influenced by party spirit, instead of hearkening to the voice and obeying the promptings of patriotism, which is the standard by which the course of true patriots is to be gauged. It will be recorded that Senate reform had become a necessity, owing to the fact that the majority of those composing that body had yielded to partisanship, thus giving the lie to the predictions of the fathers of confederation who treated as an imaginary fear that of a dead-lock, or disagreement between the Upper House and the Lower Chamber, holding that any body of men who might, in the future, be called to compose the Senate, desirous as they must be of holding the esteem of their fellow-countrymen, would act with such impartiality as would be dictated to them by a sense of lofty patriotism, and would never be so unreasonable as to yield to the suggestions of party spirit and prove recreant to their duty as patriots.

The friction which had been foreseen by the Liberals at that time, predicted by Sir A. A. Dorion, and which the fathers of confederation thought could never occur, that conflict, I say, is now a fact. Such an evil ought to be remedied. Doing away with the Senate, in my opinion, would not remedy the evil. Radical changes are always fraught with danger, and making the Senate elective would to my mind, prove too radical a measure.

The remedy suggested by the right hon. Prime Minister, that of calling together the two Chambers, and asking them, at a joint sitting, to give a vote on the question on which they disagree, to solve it, in a word, by a majority of the votes of the Senate and of the House of Commons, such a remedy, I say, seems to me one well in accord with the spirit of our institutions and with the principles of representative Government.

We have been told that it was a mere utopia. The leader of the Opposition has so qualified it, adding that it was a preposterous proposal. Whether it is a ridiculous proposal or not, I cannot say, but I know that it is the proceeding resorted to in the most civilized countries in the world, in France, for instance, under the most solemn and trying circumstances. Under the Republican rule, a few weeks ago, the hand of God lay heavy on France. The first magistrate of Republican France was suddenly carried away by the grim visitor and the government was left without its official head. All the European nations, the jealous rivals as well as the devoted friends of the Republic, were in daily expectation of one of those terrible crises attended with results fraught with the greatest dangers to the whole world. Thanks to the admirable mechanism of the French constitution, the second day had scarcely elapsed when the Republic gave a new president to France, and all the world realized that the republi-

can system in France could work just as efficaciously and as smoothly as the old monarchical system did, when they cried out: "The King is dead! Long live the King." Now what was the mechanism adopted by France, and which worked so promptly and so effectually? It was just the same as was proposed by the right hon. Prime Minister, and to be resorted to in our country, in case of conflict between the Upper House and the popular Chamber. The French Senate and Chamber were called together and the president of the Republic was elected by the joint vote of both Chambers.

The people consider, on good ground, that the president whose name comes out ahead of all others from the ballot-box wherein the members of both Chambers have cast their ballots, is truly the choice of the nation itself. So, the vote given here in the present case by the two Chambers, in case of disagreement between them, will be looked upon as the vote of the people and as the expression of the popular will.

Mr. T. C. CASGRAIN (Montmorency). (Translation). Will the hon. gentleman allow me a question? Whenever there arises a disagreement, in France between the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, is the Congress called upon to discuss the question?

Mr. J. A. C. MADORE. (Translation.) The hon. gentleman knows very well that no such thing takes place in France; because, the Senate in that country, is partially elective. But the instance I referred to shows that under the most trying circumstances, the most civilized country in the world has adopted the very mechanism proposed to us by the Prime Minister here, in case of disagreement between the two Chambers. As our senators, in this instance have thought fit, through political partisanship, to give rise to a disagreement between the two Chambers; and as, owing to their action, it has become necessary to provide for a mechanism calculated to remedy such a state of things; as the same hon. gentlemen have chosen to assume, in the eyes of posterity, the responsibility attaching to the reform of the Senate, I am in favour of the proposal of the hon. the Prime Minister as the most moderate reform that could be devised and the one most in conformity with the democratic views which I hold.

There is still another question, in connection with which I have to congratulate the present Administration, that is the Anglo-American rapprochement. It is referred to in the Speech from the Throne, and we find also stated therein the reason of the adjournment of the Conference to the 2nd day of August next. Mr. Speaker, it was highly creditable to the present Government as well as a marked advantage over their predecessors, to have been able to bring together in conference the representatives of the two nations. We have it on record how

in the past the attempts made by former Administrations to negotiate treaties or to hold conferences with the United States of America proved dismal failures.

The mere fact of having provoked this opportunity of having debated between the representatives of the two people, the various causes of differences existing, is, in my opinion, a marked success and one highly creditable to our Government whatever may be the issue of the conference. I find the best evidence of the importance of that result for the country in the fact that the hon. leader of the Opposition was so impressed with the same view that he thought it a public duty to tell his followers that while the commission was sitting, they must refrain from dealing with questions which were under its consideration, and which might be prejudiced by such a public discussion of the position of the Government. From this action of the leader of the Opposition it may safely be inferred that he considered that the Conference might result in accomplishing some great good for Canada, and that in his view it was a work of the utmost importance and gravity which the Government had undertaken, when they had succeeded in bringing together the representatives of the two countries. This first step was well calculated to urge on our opponents to renewed efforts to serve their country. We may be told, I know, that it was in order the better to choose his ground that the leader at first assumed a neutral attitude, and one of mere expectancy. It was not so very long ago that he had proved so unlucky in his role as a prophet: he had declared that never could the Laurier Government succeed in having the treaties with Belgium and Germany denounced by Great Britain, and on the very day he had committed himself to that statement, the treaties with Belgium and Germany had been denounced by the Government of Great Britain. Now, if the hon. gentleman was wary and circumspect in his conduct, his followers did not show themselves as circumspect as their leader. While the Commission was sitting, the hon. gentlemen and their organs, unwillingly satisfied that the conference would result in accomplishing great good for Canada, began to cry out that the concessions wrested from the Americans would cost us great sacrifices, that the Canadian Commissioners were even ready to give up a portion of our national territory, in order to obtain a few paltry concessions. Now, the reason why the Commission was adjourned is well known. It was because our representatives resisted those extravagant demands; and then, the statement made by our opponents is at least premature, as the conference is only adjourned.

The Canadian Commissioners, representing the Dominion Government, instead of having been more or less courteously shown the door at the American capital, as was the

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case with the delegates of our former Government, had enough influence with their colleagues representing the other countries, to have the conference adjourned to the 2nd day of August, in order that they might be enabled to elucidate the various questions under their consideration, and to get the necessary information as to the means best calculated to remedy the present condition of affairs.

But, it is not only in the United States that the prestige and influence of the Canadian people have gone increasing since the advent to power of the Laurier Government. Through the voice of their Prime Minister, the Canadian people have been duly appreciated beyond the seas. It was in the mother country and in old France that the increased prestige and influence of this young nation were first felt, in such an unprecedented way. And if we have now the honour of being looked upon as a nation by our powerful neighbours, we owe it to the more thorough information they have had about us and to the éclat of the Prime Minister's visit and reception on the European continent.

To sum up, a greater prestige and influence abroad, an increased prosperity at home, decreasing prejudices and dissensions between men of different races and creeds in this country, such is the balance sheet of the present Government. With such a record, the Government may well laugh at their traducers, and as the God sung by the poet of old, poured forth floods of light over his obscure blasphemers, well may the present Government pursue their triumphant course and continue to pour forth the beneficent results of their policy upon the Canadian people, upon their obscure traducers as well as upon their admirers.

Mr. G. V. McINERNEY (Kent, N.B.) Mr. Speaker, I have listened with a great deal of pleasure and considerable interest, as I do not doubt you have done yourself, to the many admirable speeches contributed by hon. gentlemen on both sides of this House in the course of this important debate. We thought at one stage of the proceedings—a very early stage—that the Government had sent forth the order that their supporters, sitting behind them, should be gagged and muzzled, and that the attack which had been kept up all along the line upon the Government's position should not be answered by any of their supporters. For a whole week, in the early part of the debate, no man rose on the other side of the House, to answer the charges levelled against the Government by the numerous speakers of the Opposition, but the Government evidently changed their tactics, for last Monday, having no doubt given careful and prayerful consideration on the previous Sunday to the situation, they determined that it would not be wise or in the interest of the Liberal party to allow this wordy war to continue and have all the discussion on one side only.

On Monday, on Tuesday and to-day, we saw the Government putting up their men to answer, and if possible repel the attack which has been directed against their position. I have listened with a great deal of pleasure to all of the speeches that have been made, but I must pause for a moment to pay a highly deserved compliment to the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux) on the very elegant diction of the essay which he delivered, though not in the honourable gentleman's mother tongue. There can be no doubt that that dissertation on parliamentary history was quite interesting to those who have given any attention at all to such subjects. The hon. gentleman proceeded to tell us that he was a Liberal of the English school. I think we have heard that expression before. He proceeded further to tell us that the Tory party in England was noted for its illiberality, that it was constantly opposed to reforms and all measures designed to extend the liberties of the people. He became specific in his charges against the Tory party. He praised the Liberal party in England as being the party of reform and laid to its credit the great reforms which have been carried in that country. That hon. gentleman, who, I believe, is a professor in one of the schools in Montreal, told us that the Liberal party deserved the credit of carrying Catholic emancipation. I felt shocked when the hon. gentleman made that statement, and I am amazed that one who is credited with being so erudite should have made such an inaccurate statement of an historical fact, for the merest tyro in the study of history knows that it was the Duke of Wellington's Government that carried Catholic Emancipation, and it is well known that the Duke of Wellington was the leader of the Tory party in England. Not only that, but it was while Sir Robert Peel, was leading the Tory party in England that he introduced the Reform Bill into the English House of Commons, and let me go one step further and tell the hon. gentleman that Sir Robert Peel, while a Tory, endeavouring to carry the Reform Bill, fell. Now, Sir, I am not so much interested in pointing out the inaccuracy of the statements made by the hon. member for Gaspé, as I am concerned with showing what object the hon. gentleman has in reading such lessons from English parliamentary history. It is well known to every man who studies our politics, that the large majority of the Irish Catholic people of this country support hon. gentlemen opposite, and it is well known to any student of political matters in Canada that a number of Catholics do so because they believe that in some mysterious way the Liberal party in Canada has some connection with the Liberal party in England, that the Liberal party in England has been the great friend of reforms, and that it had given them, as hon. gentlemen opposite claim, this measure of Catholic emancipation. Now, Sir, I am here to-night to show that, while hon. gentlemen

make such appeals as that in order, as I have shown, to prejudice men's minds apart from the general questions, upon which their judgments should divide them, the Liberal party in this country has not been the friend of the Irish Catholic population, nor have they, when in power, given them a legitimate share of patronage and positions in the country. What do we see to-day? We see that the Irish Catholic population in Canada is not even represented in this Chamber by any member of the Cabinet. It is true that the Solicitor General is a member of the Government, but not of the Cabinet, and in this whole Government there is but one representative of that large body of the population. Compare, if you please, that conduct with the conduct of the Liberal-Conservative party. The Liberal-Conservative party, though charged with illiberality towards Irish Catholics, placed the late Sir John Thompson at the head of their Government, and with him there were three other gentlemen of the Irish Catholic persuasion. There was the hon. member for Victoria, N.B., (Mr. Costigan), the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Sir Frank Smith, who had a position in the Senate, and Mr. Curran, now Judge Curran, of Montreal. I have refrained hitherto in this Chamber from calling attention to this matter, because it may wear a demagogic look, but I believe that when such appeals are insiduously made, as they have been made, by the hon. member for Gaspé, it is time for such an answer and such retaliatory arguments as I have made here to-night. I pass from the speech of the hon. member for Gaspé, and the next hon. gentleman I would refer to is the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa). He is a gentleman of erudition and scholarship, and I listened with a great deal of pleasure to the speech that he gave us this afternoon. There was only one thing that I found fault with particularly, in that long speech, and that was in the hon. gentleman saying that if Sir John Macdonald and Sir George Etienne Cartier had been alive to-day they would have found fault with some of their followers in this country for the position they have taken on all great public questions. He went so far as to say that as he came up Parliament Hill this morning he saw the statues of Sir John Macdonald and Sir George Cartier shrouded in snow as if the statues of those gentlemen were anxious to hide themselves and to retire again to their tombs. What the hon. gentleman meant by the statues wishing to retire to their tombs I can hardly understand, nor can I understand by what method he diagnosed the brazen mentality of the statues, but if he could assume what might be in that mentality. I suppose I may have the same privilege. It rather struck me that these statues covered themselves with snow, to use the figure of the hon. gentleman, because notwithstanding the preferential tariff, they found that even in the end of March snow was cheaper than cotton.

Sir, in the Speech from the Throne with which this Parliament was opened we are denied the privilege, which generally inures to the Opposition, of discussing any question of policy, because if I may be allowed to state a paradox: the policy of the Liberal party in power is to have no policy. We do sigh for the good old days when these hon. gentlemen opposite had a shifting policy for every day in the year, and when their chameleon-like condition permitted them with every motion to change their colour, and don a different garment to suit the occasion. They appeared before us as if they were dressed in shot silk to attract the eye of the public; one day unrestricted reciprocity, the next day commercial union, the next day free trade as they have it in England, and on all other days of the year a policy for each varying phase of public opinion. We feel regret that we are not allowed the privilege now of criticising any policy of the Government as it may appear in the Speech from the Throne. That document simply contains, as it should contain, they say, the programme of the Government for the present session; but we are still allowed the privilege to contrast the announcements in the Speech from the Throne with the platform of hon. gentlemen opposite adopted in 1893, at their great convention in Ottawa. What was that Liberal platform? It called for economy, it called for retrenchment, it called for a reduction in the number of Ministers, it called for the independence of Parliament, it called for an end to nepotism, it dealt death to protection, and it announced the repeal of the Franchise Act, and a plebiscite on prohibition. Sir, the only two pledges in the Ottawa platform they have attempted to carry out, are the plebiscite and Franchise Act repeal. And with regard to the latter, I am here to-night to state that the Franchise Act which last session these gentlemen placed on the Statute-book, is in many parts of the country an unworkable Act. I made bold to state in this House that that Act, as introduced by the Government, was unworkable, and as perfected—as far as it could be perfected by the arduous labour and industry of the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) and the help he was willing to admit he received from both sides of the House—that Act remained after it left this House and even after it passed the Senate, a very imperfect piece of legislation indeed. If time permitted, I could specify instances in which the Act has failed altogether in its operation, and instances in which unintentional wrong on the part of officials—even in the plebiscite election and in the local election held not long ago in New Brunswick under the same lists as we will have for the Dominion election—instances in which unintentional wrong was done to a very large number of the electorate in the county which I have the honour to represent. But, Sir, I will let that pass for the present.

Mr. McINERNEY.

The other planks in the Liberal platform of 1893 have been altogether unfulfilled. Instead of retrenchment we have inflation; instead of economy we have extravagance, and instead of a reduction in the number of Ministers, we have a larger number of Ministers in this Government than in any other previous Government of Canada. Instead of having the independence of Parliament asserted, as the hon. gentlemen opposite boasted we would have, we find that members supporting the Government have sat in this Parliament with promises of offices in their pockets, and no less than a dozen of them are now enjoying lucrative positions on the bench and in other high offices, because they supported the present Ministry. Why, rumour tells us that even at this hour there are sitting opposite members of Parliament, with the expectation, aye and the promise of remunerative positions in their pockets. These were the gentlemen who before they came to power, declaimed in favour of the independence of Parliament; these are the gentlemen who found fault with every member of Parliament who was appointed to office when the Conservatives held the reins of Government. And as to nepotism, I will not state what my own view is as to the principle of members of Parliament and Ministers having their own relatives appointed to positions of emolument under the Crown, but, Sir, it has been clearly proven that all the criticism formerly levelled at the Conservative Government is a broken shaft in the hands of these gentlemen opposite, who in the face of the pledges they made, have in some instances placed nearly a dozen of the near relatives of some of the Ministers of the Crown in positions of the greatest emolument. They were to deal death to protection—that was the principal plank in the platform of 1893. I will deal with that question at a later stage in my remarks, but comparing the platform of 1893 with the performances of hon. gentlemen opposite, and with the programme they now announce in the Speech from the Throne, one is inclined to ask: Is this the same Liberal party that held the convention in Ottawa? It is true that we miss the faces of the Listers, of the Langeliers, of the Camerons and of the Guays, and many others of the old guard of the Liberal party, and that we find in their places men of much more pliable material. The members of the old guard have been weeded out from the other side of the House, and in their places have come gentlemen who are much more amenable to the party whip, and who can be moulded more easily to the will of the men who now conduct the affairs of Government. Sir, one is inclined to parody the allusions of Burke to the disappearance of chivalry in France after the French revolution, and to say: That the age of chivalry in the Liberal party is gone, that the age of calculators and pretending economists has succeeded, and that the glory of

that party has departed for ever. Where one might ask, is the party honour that formerly felt a stain like a wound; where is the party honour when such transactions as have been recited in this House have been unblushingly performed by hon. gentlemen opposite? I claim, Sir, that we can expect nothing else, seeing the formation of the party as it is to-day. It may be the first time that the statement has been made in this Parliament, but I take the responsibility of this statement when I say: That I believe that the downfall of the Conservative party dates from the convention of Quebec in 1890, when the provincial premiers of Canada met to resolve, and to resolve principally for the purpose of bringing about the downfall of the Conservative Government. There the initiatory step was given to the Jesuits Estates Act, and there was started the Manitoba school question. These gentlemen who met at Quebec believed, and believed in their hearts, that between the Scylla and Charybdis of these two questions it would be impossible for the Conservative party to steer their course in safety. They were right, and I find as a reward for the institution of these Quebec resolutions, that the different premiers from the different provinces were installed in this Government as soon as it was formed. I find the Premier of Nova Scotia; I find the Premier of New Brunswick; I find the man who stood most closely to the then deceased Premier of Quebec; I find the Premier of the province of Ontario, now departed from this scene. These gentlemen were taken into the Government, not for any services they had rendered to the Liberal party in the great fight of 1896, for some of them, I am told, hid behind the wood-pile in that fight. No, Sir, it was because the arrangement had been previously made that these gentleman, who worked so ardently and insidiously to bring about the downfall of the Conservative party, should be the first to get the reward when the Liberal party came into power. Sir, in that aggregation I see the spirit of the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. J. I. Tarte), who represents, as nearly as I can judge, the Hon. Mr. Mercier, once the Premier of the province of Quebec. Here, Sir, I would like to utter a warning to the hon. Prime Minister. He may not heed or welcome that warning, but nevertheless I will give it to him. I warn him that he should take heed of his association with that hon. gentleman. Let us inquire into that hon. gentleman's associations in the past. He became an intimate friend of Honoré Mercier, and Honoré Mercier fell from the high position in which the people of his native province had placed him. He became the friend of Sir Hector Langevin, and Sir Hector Langevin fell. He became the friend of Sir Adolphe Chapleau, and Sir Adolphe Chapleau fell—fell, I am forced to admit, in the estimation of his party and the public. And, Sir, in the fight

which the hon. Minister of Public Works instigated between Sir Adolphe Chapleau and Sir John Thompson, the hon. Minister of Public Works was the Iago of the piece; for, Sir, he was prepared to say, "Whether Cassio kill Rodrigo, or Rodrigo kill Cassio, or either kill the other, my cause must gain." Sir, I would tell the hon. Prime Minister that the hon. Minister of Public Works can best be described as he has been described by the French people of the province from which I come—as the political assassin of the political reputations of great French Canadians; and, Sir, I would warn the Prime Minister against the insidious association of that gentleman. He has himself remarked that the Tarpeian rock is not far from the Capitol; and I would tell the hon. gentleman that, if the history of public men in this country is to be taken as an indication of what is to happen in the future, the sooner he cuts the alliance between himself and that hon. gentleman the better.

Now, Sir, the first paragraph in the Address that calls for consideration, is that which refers to the expansion of trade. Hon. gentlemen opposite have not yet answered the question that has been put to them from this side of the House—to what is that expansion of trade due? To what is due the wonderful prosperity—because we admit that it is wonderful prosperity—that this country now enjoys? Hon. gentlemen opposite do not tell us that it is caused by the reduction of the tariff; they do not tell us that that has caused the increased exports and imports; because, if they made any such argument as that, I would direct their attention to the figures of the trade of the great American republic for the last year. Why, Sir, the exports of the United States for last year increased over those of the preceding year by the enormous sum of over \$180,000,000. Under what sort of a tariff did that great increase come about? Under the Dingley Tariff, the highest protective tariff that country has had for many a year—higher even than the McKinley Tariff. Therefore, hon. gentlemen opposite are precluded from making the argument, as they have done in some cases, that the great prosperity has been brought about by the reduction they made in the tariff. On this point I would quote for their benefit an article which I have clipped from the New York "Commercial," one of the very best and financial trade papers in New York, of the 16th of July last:

The complete foreign trade returns of the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898, show a net gain of \$328,995,880 in our favour over our trade in the previous fiscal year. Of this stupendous increase no less than \$180,318,312 represents the greater value of exports, while \$148,677,568 represents the smaller value of our imports of foreign goods. This last change is mainly due to the effect of the Dingley protective tariff, which has excluded from our markets the products of foreign factories, thereby enabling the American wage-earners to have a chance to

sell their labour in supplying the home trade to the improvement and betterment of our general business conditions.

And the same argument could be made here, that if our imports have greatly increased, that increase has been at the expense of our own Canadian industries, which were thus prevented from providing labour for the betterment of the condition of things in this country. The Canadian figures, during all the time since hon. gentlemen have been in office, except for a very late period, do not show increased exports to any great extent. They show, rather, decreased exports and increased imports, and we want no better authority, as to the result of that condition of things, than hon. gentlemen opposite. We could go back to the "Hansard" of a few years ago, and find plenty of instances in which hon. gentlemen argued that that meant the decay of the local industries of the country.

The next thing hon. gentlemen call our attention to in the Speech is the flourishing condition of the revenue. Are these the same gentlemen who, a few short years ago, were wont to teach us that a flourishing revenue meant bleeding the country white—that increased revenue meant increased taxation? Why, Sir, compare the tariff, as we have it to-day, with the tariff of 1896, when hon. gentlemen came into power. In 1897 there was a reduction in the tariff of 3-100ths of 1 per cent, as against the tariff of 1896; in 1898 there was an increase of 57-100ths of 1 per cent, and in 1899 there was an increase of 3-100ths of 1 per cent over the tariff of 1896. In January and February, of 1899, on dutiable and free imports, there is an increase in the tariff of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1 per cent over the tariff of 1896. In the face of figures like these, hon. gentlemen cannot, and do not claim that they have carried out their pledge of tariff reform, and I was very much pleased to find one of them, at least, frankly admit that that never was his platform, and that he did not intend now to state that the tariff was reduced or should have been reduced—I refer to the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa). Taking the proportionate figures which I have just read, taking the full amount of customs duties collected, and comparing 1898 with 1896, we find that in 1898 they collected \$21,000,000 in customs duties from the people of this country. And I find that the average collected in 1892 to 1896 was only \$19,000,000. In 1898, in customs and excise together, they collected \$29,000,000, against an average for 1892-96 of \$27,100,000. And these are the gentlemen who were to cut down and reduce the burden of taxation which bore so heavily upon the people.

Sir, I have here a few figures which I hope will not weary the House, but which I wish to embalm in "Hansard":

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Total net debt— |                  |
| 1898 .....      | \$261,653,808.20 |
| 1899 .....      | 264,287,106.26   |

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|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| January 31st, 1898.....                       | 262,323,386.10 |
| January 31st, 1899.....                       | 264,803,025.40 |
| Total revenue (Consolidated Fund account)—    |                |
| February, 1898 .....                          | 3,319,490.00   |
| February, 1899.....                           | 3,620,163.70   |
| Expenditure (Consolidated Fund account)—      |                |
| February, 1898.....                           | 1,900,495.62   |
| February, 1899.....                           | 2,244,509.99   |
| Expenditure (capital account)—                |                |
| February, 1898.....                           | 736,581.54     |
| February, 1899.....                           | 982,564.47     |
| Increased expenditure on capital account..... | 245,982.93     |

These gentlemen claimed that they would do away with the National Policy. But they had fought the National Policy on many a hard-fought field, and had found out what the opinion of the people of this country was on that question. And they bowed before the verdict of the people, like the heathen Hindoo before his god; for while they saw it was ugly, they recognized that it was great. They were also to reduce the expenditure of the country. In 1898 they had an expenditure of \$39,250,000. In 1899 the estimated expenditure is over \$41,000,000. This is against an expenditure in 1895-96 of \$36,949,000, or an expenditure estimated for the present year of nearly \$5,000,000 greater than in 1895-96, the year before they came into power. Why, Sir, their estimated expenditure for this year is more than \$2,000,000 more than the Conservatives spent in 1885-86, the year of the rebellion. On the 28th February, 1899, the expenditure of this Government for the eight months of the current year was \$23,927,000, as against \$21,595,000 for the similar eight months of the year immediately preceding, an increase for the eight months of this year of over \$2,000,000.

Now, it is known to every man who has ever heard these hon. gentlemen in this House or in the country that they pledged themselves to reduce the expenditure. Their resolution to that effect is there in the celebrated red book containing a report of their convention in 1893. But, besides that, on every political platform in Canada these gentlemen denounced the Conservative party as the creators of this terrible and burdensome public expenditure, which must be reduced and which they would reduce if they got into power. We had the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) telling us that the expenditure should be reduced by about two or three millions. We had the Minister of Trade and Commerce telling us the same thing, and Mr. Mills, the Minister of Justice, who is now in another place, telling us that there should be a reduction of at least four millions. But they were also to reduce the public debt. Now, we find that the net public debt on the 31st October, 1896, was \$254,352,000. In 1897, on the same date, it had increased by \$4,886,000. On the 20th February, 1899, the net debt was \$264,-

287,000, or an increase in the three years during which these hon. gentlemen have been in power of about \$10,000,000.

But they take consolation to themselves in what they call their preferential trade policy which, they said, would foster trade within the Empire. But what is the answer of the facts of the case? Our dutiable imports from Great Britain in 1897-98 were half a million dollars less than 1895-96; our dutiable imports from the United States in 1897-98 were twenty millions more than in 1895-96. Our free imports from Great Britain in 1897-98 were a million and a quarter more, and from the United States eleven millions more than in 1895-96. So that instead of these gentlemen advancing trade within the Empire, their preferential trade policy has had the very opposite effect. The total British trade shows an increase of about three-quarters of a million, while the total United States trade shows an increase of about thirty-one millions. That is to say, the American trade with Canada has increased forty-fold as much as the British trade with Canada since this policy has been in operation. But I think the issue should be defined on this preferential question between hon. gentlemen opposite and hon. gentlemen on this side of the House. They propose and have inaugurated a preferential policy which, according to their own contention, freely and gratuitously gave everything to England. I hold that it should be the policy of the Conservative party to favour such a preferential trade system as will give the preference to England, and also secure some return of benefit for this Dominion. I believe that is the preferential trade system that would be acceptable to this country. It is all very well to talk about Imperial interests, but we must be fully alive to colonial interests also. It is true that Rudyard Kipling has been called the poet of the Empire, but he can just as well be called the poet of the colonies. In one of his songs he proposes this colonial toast:

We've drunk to the Queen—God bless her!  
 We've drunk to our mothers' land;  
 We've drunk to our English brother  
 (And we hope he'll understand).  
 We've drunk as much as we're able,  
 And the Cross swings low to the morn;  
 Last toast—and your foot on the table!—  
 A health to the Native-born!

A health to the Native-born (Stand up!)  
 We're six white men arow,  
 All bound to sing o' the little things we care  
 about,  
 All bound to fight for the little things we care  
 about  
 With the weight of a six-fold blow!  
 By the might of our cable-tow (Take hands!)  
 From the Orkneys to the Horn,  
 All round the world (and a little loop to pull  
 it by),  
 All round the world (and a little strap to  
 buckle it),  
 A health to the Native-born!

There is one thing that is of considerable importance to the people of this country, and that is the management of the Intercolonial Railway. I do not find in the Speech from the Throne any mention of that subject. I do not find it stated that the accounts of the Intercolonial Railway for the last year show a deficit of \$129,000, without taking into account the \$64,000 of rental for the Drummond County part of the road, as against a deficit in 1895-96, under the hon. member for South Lanark (Mr. Haggart), when he was then the Minister of Railways and Canals, of only \$50,000 or thereabouts. The hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), whom I see in his place, was to have brought about an equilibrium between the receipts and expenditure of the Intercolonial Railway, but so far he has been unable to do anything of the kind. He has found it not quite so easy a task as some of his friends contemplated when he assumed that high and important office.

The next paragraph in the Address to which I shall make reference is that which calls attention to the increased number of immigrants into this country. I have my own view, which I am free to express in this Chamber, as to the introduction of any great number of Doukhobors and Galicians into Canada. I am free to admit that our doors should not be shut against any deserving portion of population from the old countries who wish to find homes in Canada and become citizens of this country. We should give a welcome to—

Each man who bears his honest part,  
 And does what duty bids him do.

But I claim that we are not in a position financially, and I think it would be a political mistake on our part, to pay vast sums of money to bring into this country a class of people not suited either by their training or the institution under which they have lived, for citizenship in this country. And it is not my own opinion alone that I give the House. I would give the House the opinion of Dr. Whitelaw, who is in the North-west and speaks from observation of the Galicians on his adopted heath. He writes to an Ontario Liberal paper, the Guelph "Mercury" to discourage the importation of more Galicians. Dr. Whitelaw says:

Having for generations been ground down in the most abject servitude by the Russian government, under which they lived as serfs, they have become degraded, almost bestial, in their nature, and it is scarcely to be expected that they would make desirable neighbours to English-speaking people of ordinary intelligence. They will certainly improve with time, but we have now an ample sufficiency of them to give the experiment a fair trial, and to those who say the emigration of such to Canada should continue to be encouraged, I would suggest that they come out here and settle in their vicinity. These Galicians will in a short time have the right of the franchise, and, living as a commun-

ity, they will necessarily vote as a community, and will certainly, if their emigration continues, be numerous enough, even if not already so, to turn the scale in any election towards that side which offers them the highest inducements.

The announcement made by the Minister of the Interior that he intended importing six thousand more Galicians is met by the Winnipeg "Telegram" with this protest:

Not only are they poor and filthy, but their moral character is disgraceful. The revelation of the character of these people which the atrocious Stuartburn murder has afforded is sufficient in itself to condemn them. Not only do they hold robbery and murder in very light estimation, but they are inveterate and unscrupulous perjurers. In the vicinity of every Galician settlement the justices of the peace have been kept busy. The "Telegram" does not condemn these people from exceptional cases. All the time evidence is being furnished as to their disgustingly low moral standard. One of the most recent instances in this regard is furnished in a late issue of the Calgary "Herald." There are very few white women who sink so low as to become the mistresses of Chinamen. Yet the Galician women have no scruples against so doing.

Is this the class of population that should not only be invited into this country but for which the good solid dollars of the people of this country should be given to pay their passage across the ocean, to sustain them during the winter, to build them houses and give them land free—when they will not take up the burdens of Canadian citizenship? I hold that every man who is invited to become a Canadian should at least take up the ordinary burdens of citizenship. Some of these people are opposed to anything like war, and would not go to war even in defence of their dearest institutions. I contend that such a class of population is utterly undesirable and should not be encouraged. I think that the Government, instead of deserving the praise of this Parliament for encouraging such immigration is deserving of our condemnation, as I am sure they will receive the condemnation of the people for what they have done.

I now come to a very important paragraph, as I consider it, in the Speech, that dealing with the negotiations at Washington. We all remember the old Liberal cry that the Conservatives did not want reciprocity but if the Liberals were placed in power, they would not be twenty-four hours on the Treasury benches before they would inaugurate a policy of reciprocity with the United States. In 1893 I made bold to declare in this House that I was opposed to any great measure of reciprocity with the United States. When I made that declaration the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who was one of the most violent partisans of reciprocity, spoke as though he had caught me in a political trap and would use my declaration against me. But I repeated what I had said. I said that the sooner the farmers of Canada could be taught the necessary lesson that they should turn their farms

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into manufactories of goods for the highest market instead of remaining hewers of wood and drawers of water for the Americans, the better. I said that, instead of sending their coarse grains, hay and potatoes across the line for what they might then have regarded as remunerative prices, they should carry production further and produce goods of the highest class for the markets on the other side of the water. That was the opinion I held then, and that is the opinion I hold now, and I am glad that we have such a high and notable convert to this view as the right hon. the Prime Minister, who boldly made the assertion the other night that the time had gone by when there was any great desire in Canada for reciprocity and that reciprocity was not very desirable in itself.

Now, in order to show how thoroughly fallacious is the doctrine that it is absolutely necessary for Canada to have the United States market, I point out that the United States sent across the ocean to the markets of England alone \$540,000,000 worth of their products, including wheat, \$123,000,000, bacon, \$32,000,000, and hams, \$18,000,000. Now, it is idle to tell our people to produce just such articles as these with the hope of finding in the competitive market of the United States remunerative sale for these products. I am glad that the eyes of hon. gentlemen opposite have been opened to the truth, even at this late day.

They call our attention in the Speech from the Throne to the very serious disagreement in these negotiations. For diplomats as these gentlemen pretend to be that phrase "serious disagreement" is a very unfortunate and very undiplomatic phrase, if the negotiations are merely adjourned, as they say. I would read to the House what the Boston "Transcript" thinks of the declaration made by the right hon. gentleman. It is as follows:—

The speech of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the Canadian House of Commons in reply to Sir Charles Tupper was of peculiarly timely interest, not alone to the people of the Dominion, but to the United States as well. The Premier's statements that Canada did not seek reciprocity in the negotiations, and that it does not desire it now, must be taken as settling for the present, at least, all chances of putting our trade relations with our northern neighbours on a more desirable footing.

Here is the Boston "Transcript," published in that place where, if in any part of the United States, there is a feeling in favour of reciprocity with Canada, making the assertion that the speech of the right hon. gentleman, in reply to that of the hon. leader of the Opposition, sets at rest for ever the question of closer trade relations between the people of the United States and Canada, notwithstanding that these were the negotiations from which they looked for such happy results and which were simply adjourned until 2nd August. I agree to a very large

extent with the prophecy that has been made that it is very doubtful if ever they will be taken up again by the commissioners on either side. There was a very remarkable statement made by the hon. member for East Prince (Mr. Bell), and while I mention his name, I will do him the credit of saying that he succeeded in putting the Government's bad case in a very good light. The hon. gentleman said that all the questions but that of the delimitation of the Alaskan boundary were settled. Whether that statement was made with authority or not, I do not know, but if the other nine or ten important questions were amicably concluded, how was it that these hon. gentlemen with an ounce of sense in their heads did not sit down and make a treaty including those that were settled and leave this other question open to be taken up on August 2nd? But there is another phase of this question that I wish to deal with. The delimitation of the Alaskan boundary the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bell) said was the only question upon which there was a disagreement. There was a Yukon scheme brought down last year which found its greatest foundation, its only foundation, upon the representation of hon. gentlemen opposite that it was an all-Canadian scheme. We on this side of the House would have been willing to forego very much of our criticism if they could have shown that it was an all-Canadian scheme. But what was the fact as was pointed out by hon. gentlemen then. It was that the Stikine River for twenty-five miles from its mouth was claimed by the Americans, and that we could not ship or tranship freights on that river without the permission of the American people. Hon. gentlemen opposite answered that we would get that permission. We told hon. gentlemen opposite, in our innocence and naivete, that they should have got that permission long before they entered into the contract. We pointed out that it was foolish to have entered into a contract by which they were to give 4,225,000 acres of the finest gold-bearing lands in the world, that it was unpardonable that they should have entered into a contract calling for this tremendous consideration for the construction of a tramway, when they had not entered into negotiations with the American people for transshipping rights at Wrangel or for shipping rights up the river which the Americans claimed belonged to them. We said: You may not be in a position to obtain these rights afterwards. They said: There will be no difficulty about that. The hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) claimed that the speech of the hon. leader of the Opposition, in which he was denounced, for having failed to negotiate first for the rights necessary to the carrying out of the contract, was such a speech as made differences and brought about quarrels between nations. But he was answered that it was such dealings as he was a party to, that it was by entering into such contracts as these, in which foreign nations were somewhat interested, before negotiations had been concluded,

to obtain the rights which we must necessarily possess before they could be carried out, that contributed very materially to bringing about disagreements between the two peoples on either side of the line. After having boasted to us that it was an all-Canadian route and that they would get these transshipping rights at Wrangel, they come down to this House at this session and make the declaration in the Speech from the Throne that it was upon that very point that the commissioners disagreed. The delimitation of the Alaskan boundary, which, last year, they said was a simple matter, was the issue upon which, according to the hon. member for East Prince (Mr. Bell), the negotiations fell through. Now, Sir, there is just one other thing I wish to say in connection with the Yukon matter while I am on my feet. It will be remembered by you that, during the discussion of the Yukon scheme we found fault with the preparations the Government had made for the carrying of Major Walsh's party to Dawson City. We said that that gentleman had got no further than Big Salmon River, and it was thought remarkable that a party sent forward for the administration of that country should not find its way to its destination. The hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) turned around and coolly told us that Major Walsh was at Big Salmon River, where he was sent to remain for the purpose of taking care of men coming out from Dawson during the winter. We have here, Sir, the report of Major Walsh as to his administration at Dawson, and the very first sentence of that report gives a most emphatic and specific contradiction to the statement made last year by the hon. Minister of the Interior. What does he say:—

When the Canadian Yukon party first camped on the Big and the Little Salmon Rivers, it was with the expectation of pressing on by dog teams as soon as they arrived to Selkirk and Dawson City.

That was a most important contradiction, because it was on that very point that I offered to make a very foolish wager, which was ridiculed by the hon. Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair)—to wager that Major Walsh was even then in Dawson City, against the statement of the hon. Minister of the Interior, that he was at Big Salmon River and was sent there to stay. I say that it is a clear and specific contradiction of the Minister's statement.

While I am on the question of the negotiations at Washington, I would like briefly to compare the Treaty of 1871 and what we got from it with the negotiations which hon. gentlemen opposite have carried on, at Washington and Quebec. I wish to point out that the fishermen of the Maritime provinces today must give credit to the Conservative Government for its treaty of 1871, because, if it were not for that treaty and that negotiation, they would be entirely without the bounty which they receive and which is such

a great encouragement to them. Hon. gentlemen opposite denounced that treaty at that time and for ever after, but it was a very much more successful negotiation than that which they have lately carried on at Washington.

The third paragraph of the Address deals with the plebiscite, and it will be immensely interesting to the prohibitionists of this country to know that the Government is now in a position to lay the official figures of the vote before Parliament. We understand that the vote in favour of prohibition was 23 per cent of the voters on the list, while the vote for the Liberal party which returned them to power in 1896 was 28 per cent of the total registered vote. Yet these gentlemen tell the prohibitionists that because they did not poll a majority of the votes on the lists, they are not in a position to demand prohibition from this Government. Let me point out to hon. gentlemen opposite that the prohibitionists of Canada never asked for a plebiscite, and that it was the Liberal party who in the Ottawa convention of 1893 forced the plebiscite upon them, as the Liberals thought it was a good card to play. Take the record of the transactions of their convention, and you will find that Mr. Spence, a Liberal, I believe, who represented the prohibitionists there, declared that he did not want the plebiscite, but that he wanted the Liberal party to declare straight in favour of prohibition and to go to the country on that issue. It is true that subsequently when the plebiscite resolution was moved, Mr. Spence said he would not oppose it, because, he said, that half a loaf was better than no bread, but I know that the prohibitionists all through this country during the plebiscite campaign, stated they never asked for a plebiscite, and that although the Government gave it to them it was not at their request. The opinion of Mr. Anglin in the Ottawa Liberal convention has been referred to. This is the same Mr. Anglin who from 1873 to 1878 represented a New Brunswick constituency. He was one of the ablest men. I think we ever had in Canada, and he is a man whom these gentlemen opposite could not find a place for in their Cabinet all the time they were in power. These great Liberals, these broad-minded statesmen, could not find a place for Mr. Anglin in their Cabinet from 1873 to 1878. This was the same Mr. Anglin who at the Liberal convention in 1893, stated that he was opposed to prohibition 'per se,' and that he was opposed to a plebiscite, because if the plebiscite carried and the prohibitionists got a majority of votes, the Liberal party would be logically bound to enact a prohibitory law. Mr. Anglin said: If a plebiscite is granted and a majority of the votes is polled for it,—not the votes on the list, but the votes polled, mind you—then the Liberal party is in honour bound to bring in a measure of prohibition. On that ground Mr. Anglin was opposed to a plebiscite.

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The next paragraph in the Address deals with the penny postage, and I am not here to make very much of a criticism on what the Government claims so much credit for, but I am here to repeat what has been already very much better said, namely: that penny postage in Canada is more calculated to give advantages to large commercial concerns, banks and extensive traders, than it is to the ordinary farmer or artisan. It cannot be very much benefit to the farmer who will only write a very few letters in the year, and who will save one cent on each of these.

The last paragraph of the Speech deals with the question of the redistribution of seats, which I suppose will be the 'piece de resistance' of this session. I will have an opportunity later on to make a contention as to what the constitution means on that question, but let me say to-night, that I do not see how gentlemen opposite can claim that the present distribution of seats has worked very disadvantageously to them for they must remember that although they were returned to power in 1896, they had 20,000 less of the popular vote than the Conservative party which they whipped on that occasion. If the distribution of population had been so very much against them, I cannot understand the logic by which they claim that with a popular minority of 20,000 votes returning them to power, the constituencies of the country had been gerrymandered so as to work them a very great injury. If they had received 100,000 or 50,000 of a popular majority and had still been beaten in the elections, then I might well see some force in their contention, but under the circumstances I cannot see the logic of it. It has been said, Sir, that this Speech from the Throne is a Lenten bill of fare, and it rather looks that way, but we may fairly assume that the Government does not pretend to rest its case this session on the announcements contained in that Speech. We have the statement of the Prime Minister, that he has a plan for the reform of the Senate, which amounts to a joint vote of both Houses in case of non-agreement on any great question. Well, Sir, this plan is at least novel: it is original: there is nothing like it in the heavens above, on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth, and one could fairly fall down and adore it. I doubt if there is any country in the world that has such a system as the Prime Minister has pledged himself to adopt. It is surprising to say the least of it, that such an important matter as a reform of the Senate should not have found a place in His Excellency's Speech. The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) tells us that it was not necessary to place it there. Well, Sir, I can tell him it was not wise on his part to place it there, because had it gone to the Senate, the Senate would very naturally have amended the Address, and the right hon. gentleman and his friends would not have been able to do very much during

this session. So, in order to avoid any such difficulty, they eliminated from the Speech any reference to the Senate, and they propose to base their acts in this regard on a statement made publicly by the Prime Minister. I shall refer for a minute to the number of Bills the Senate has thrown out during its existence in this country, and in this connection I call attention to the erroneous figures given by the hon. member for Kamouraska (Mr. Carroll). The figures that I have in my possession are quite authoritative, and hon. gentlemen opposite will, I believe, not have the hardihood to contradict them. For thirty-one years, from 1867 to 1898, there have been 153 Bills rejected by the Senate. Of these rejected by the Senate, there were 20 Government Bills, 27 public Bills, and 28 private Bills, or 75 in all which originated in the Senate. Of the Bills rejected and which originated in the Commons, there were 45 Government Bills, 8 public Bills, 25 private Bills, a total of 78. Of the Government Bills rejected by the Senate, 47 were during a Conservative Administration—I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Carroll) said 5—and 18 during a Liberal Administration. Which it seems to me to be about a fair proportion. They were divided as follows: Conservative Administration, 1867-73, 23 Bills; Liberals, 1874-78, 13 Bills; Conservative, 1879-96, 24 Bills; Liberal, 1896-98, 5 Bills. Now, Sir, I wish to give the credit for the figures I have quoted to the gentleman who represents the city of Ottawa in the local legislature—Mr. Berkeley Powell. He brought them up, I think, in the debate on the Senate in the local legislature at Toronto. The figures will be found, I think, strictly accurate and within the mark.

Now, Sir, I do not think that any scheme for a rearrangement of the bicameral system in this country is at this time in order. What is the *raison d'être* of the Senate? Why was the Senate formed in the first place? Why was the Second Chamber put into the constitution of this country? Everybody knows that in every country the second chamber must necessarily be the safeguard of the rights of the minority—and why so? A wave of prejudice, or of passion, may sweep over a country, and effecting a majority may carry it off its feet, and legislation of a very vicious character may result. But if you have a second chamber, that is not responsible for the moment, that is not whirled about and swayed by the passions of the moment, it will stand for the rights of the people against the prevailing agitation. Therefore, I have always claimed that a second chamber is the greatest safeguard and bulwark of the rights of the minority in any country. The abolition of second chambers in New Brunswick and other provinces in this country has led to no good. Cheap legislation is like cheap law—it is not worth paying for at all. If you want good law, you have to pay for it, and I think the people of this country ought to be taught that good legislation is worth paying for.

Why, Sir, the few hundreds or thousands of dollars that the people pay for legislation, what is it compared with one single Bill that might pass a legislature, depriving them of millions, aye, hundreds of millions of money—yes, a Bill like the Yukon Bill. I may here cite, as an instance, the abolition of the Legislative Council of Manitoba. Everybody knows that that council would not have been abolished, had it not been for the promise, open and above-board, made to the minority in the province, that their rights in regard to their schools would never be invaded. Speeches have been quoted in this House to show that it was on that ground alone that the minority acceded to the abolition of the legislative council. But, no sooner had the council been abolished, than the Manitoba school question arose, and that brand was thrown into the political arena of Canada, until the Manitoba School Act of 1890 was passed—that measure which wrought the passions of the people of Canada to the very highest pitch, and, as hon. gentlemen opposite have said, almost brought Canada to the verge of civil war, which they say was happily averted by their accession to office. But if there is a piece of impertinence on record, it is the action of the Legislature of Nova Scotia. In that province they have a legislative council, a second chamber, and, notwithstanding that, the lower chamber passed a resolution by an overwhelming majority, declaring that the Senate of Canada should be destroyed. It seems to me that the old maxim about people who live in glass houses not throwing stones, would apply very well to Nova Scotia in this case. The Senate's crime has been, not that it opposed the popular will, but that it has opposed the will of the Government in regard to the Yukon scheme and the Drummond County Railway scheme. For these two acts alone, I say, the Senate is entitled to the lasting gratitude of the people of this country. With regard to neither of them did the Government dare to take the constitutional course which they knew they should have adopted. If they thought that the Senate had done wrong in throwing out the Yukon Bill, they should have appealed to the country. That was the course taken by Mr. Gladstone, when the House of Lords threw out the Home Rule Bill, although his Government was not in power so long as hon. gentlemen opposite were when the Yukon Bill was thrown out by the Senate. That is the course always adopted in England; it is the course of every constitutional government in the world where a second chamber, such as ours, exists, when any measure having a majority of the lower house behind it is thrown out by the upper house.

There is another very important matter omitted from the Speech: that is, all reference to the decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council touching the rights of the provinces, as distinguished from the rights of the Federal Government,

in the matter of the shore fisheries. Will hon. gentlemen say that subject is not important enough to refer to in the Speech from the Throne? I answer them by saying, that the most important paragraph in the Governor's Speech, in opening the Legislature of New Brunswick, was a paragraph alluding to that very subject, claiming that the governments of the provinces had the right to the shore fisheries, though admitting that the matter was in some doubt. I, for one, cannot see why the Government, in the Speech from the Throne, have not given us some idea of the course they intend to pursue on that important matter.

I do not know, Sir, that this Government can be praised for any great achievements they have performed. I do not know that anything they have done has obtained for them the gratitude of the people of this country; but, Sir, there are some achievements which the Government have been guilty of. They have been guilty of the Drummond deal; they have been guilty of the Yukon deal; they have been guilty of the Jaffray-Cox Crow's Nest deal; they have been guilty of the Toronto harbour dredging scandal, the Coteau dredging scandal, the Ottawa park fence scandal, the Dan. Rose guide-book scandal, the Drolet gold dredging scandal, the bogus Manitoba prosecutions scandal, the \$20,000 St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary investigation scandal, the Killam cows scandal, the Baie des Chaleurs Railway scandal, the Calgary Bridge scandal, the Hamilton Smith cablegram scandal, the Bank Note Printing Company scandal, the "La Patrie" scandal, and the Yukon officials scandal, which we shall hear about later. These are some of the achievements of hon. gentlemen opposite. But they would seek to hide all such transactions from the people under what they call their successes in the elections. These, they say, are the vindication of their conduct. They point to West Huron and say: See what we have done there. With the Ontario Government supporting them, with the power of patronage in their hands, with all the Ministers in the riding, they had a majority of 300, which had been polled in the general election, cut down to a majority of 100 in the by-election. In East Prince, from which comes my hon. friend who moved the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne (Mr. Bell), they had a majority of 200 cut down to a majority of 43. The hon. gentleman who is now seated in another place in this Parliament, when running against the Conservative party in power, in the general election of 1896, polled a majority of 200 votes in the riding, whereas the hon. gentleman who moved the Address, when he appealed to the constituency in a by-election, with the local government supporting him, with the Dominion Government and all its patronage at his back, polled the magnificent majority of 43 votes. One more fact—the returning officer and deputy returning officers, appointed by

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hon. gentlemen opposite, rejected 130 ballots, and, while the defeated candidate made an application for a recount of the votes, that application was refused because a holiday intervened and made it three days instead of two days after the return. But Liberals as well as Conservatives from the province of Prince Edward Island tell me that the Government candidate was fairly and honestly defeated.

Now, some gentlemen on the other side take considerable gratification in the fact that there was an election in New Brunswick, and they say that the member for York (Mr. Foster) was able to have only four men returned on his side in that election. Well, Sir, in the first place, that statement is not true. At least nineteen Conservatives were returned out of the forty-six members of the local legislature of New Brunswick. So the statement of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) that only four were elected is altogether inaccurate. But the Moncton convention, to my mind—and I am speaking only for myself—struck out a proper line. It was not an original line, it is true; the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Ellis) had advocated just such a policy in regard to local politics—that is, that contests should be run on party lines and party issues, the object being the preservation of a measure of purity in the public life of the province, so that a man should not be elected on one side to-day and on the opening of the legislature, walk over to the other side, bound to no party, and having no party's honour as a safeguard for his own. Now, the Moncton convention did what they had a perfect right to do. I do not mean to say that the Conservative party was all represented there, although it was a highly representative convention; but we found it impossible to get all the Conservatives, including many leading men, to agree with us. And so our party was split up, while the Liberal party remained solid. It is no great cause for glorification on the part of any Liberal that a coalition government in the province of New Brunswick was returned by a large majority. It does not prove that the Liberal party is in anything like the same position in that province. I am here to refute the statement made by the Minister of Railways and Canals in an interview with a certain paper in Montreal—of course, he had a right to his own opinion—that that election boded ill for certain candidates in New Brunswick, mentioning myself with others. It is true that the men I supported in my county in the local elections were defeated. But it is equally true that the men the hon. gentleman supported in his county were defeated. So, if it bodes ill for me, logically it bodes ill for him. The hon. gentleman, with all his power of place and office, went to the county town of his county on nomination day and made one of his powerful speeches

in favour of the candidates of his choice ; but on election day they were defeated. I do not bring this up for the purpose of harrowing the irritable feelings of the hon. gentleman, but rather for the purpose of puncturing the bad logic he uses on some occasions. Now, I would call the right hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that his party, while strong in this House may not be so strong in the country. When Sir Robert Peel's Government fell, he declared that the great mistake he made was in trying to carry on a Government with a majority in the House that did not represent a majority in the country. Much has been said in this House and much has been said in the country as to the personality of the two men who lead their respective parties. I have nothing to say against the praise that hon. gentlemen opposite bestow upon their leader, nothing to say against the incense they burn before their idol. He has a charming personality. His sunny ways have done very much for him. But in some cases, his sunny ways are not successful. I have here an extract from a western paper which touches on this point. It begins with a supposed dialogue between the Prime Minister and Mr. Greenway :

Mr. Laurier—My dear Mr. Greenway, I have longed for many days to meet you face to face, in order to smile away the domestic troubles in our land. I pray you by all the love I bear, to bury all the differences which now exist between us, and place your lovely hand in mine.

Mr. Greenway—My own dear Wilfey, your charming smile I can't withstand ; I meet at once ; on bended knee I clasp thy hand ; henceforth we two are one.

After the glowing success of this first attempt, Sir Wilfrid became convinced that as a masher he could wield a master hand, and he immediately aspired to try it on Uncle Sam. So we find him for some months gathering up material with which to clothe himself for this momentous occasion, and ultimately he sets sail for Washington in a pulp-wood canoe dressed in the following peculiar fashion. About his neck a yard of binder twine formed a guard from which the Cobden medal was suspended. In his left hand he had a cane made from corn cobs cemented together with Canadian postage stamps, and decorated at intervals with whirls of Canadian dollar bills. A cotton shirt-front nicely perfumed with Standard coal oil covered his heaving bosom and hid the fondness of his heart. In his right hand he held a nugget of glittering gold from the Yukon mines. Thus appropriately adorned he presents himself to Uncle Sam in the following sunny style :—

Sir Wilfrid (smiling)—My charming Uncle Sam, I present myself before you as a suitor for friendly terms of trade.

Uncle Sam—It is, indeed, in strange and wondrous garb you come. Is this the native costume of your land ? Explain the jewel on your breast.

Sir Wilfrid—Each item of my robe is meant to remind you of a favour I have already graciously bestowed. This twine about my neck speaks of an industry I ruined at home in order to lay its profits at your feet Uncle Sam ; this jewel speaks of the master stroke I made for you in England, in order to give your produce there an

equal chance with mine, when I was offered the preference ; the perfume and the cotton shirt recall the boon I gave your bloated monopolists in cotton goods and coal oil. This cane bespeaks free corn for you and leaves the cob alone to me ; these postage stamps and dollar bills I built in Boston to show we patronized you well. Take, I beseech, this golden nugget from the north (as emblem that the Yukon's thine) to seal my faith in what you may bestow.

Uncle Sam—These gifts are lovely, but you see they now are given free. Pray tell me, noble knight, what dowry can you further yield to have and hold my hand ?

Sir Wilfrid—I have already given all I have to yield.

Uncle Sam—My dear Wilfrid. Sentimental marriages are now a thing of the past. A distinct settlement of value is the only ground upon which I can be wooed. John ! Would you kindly show the gentleman out.

Sir Wilfrid's soliloquy on the road home :

Its hard to think that for twenty years I vowed to woo dear Uncle Sam, and then after clothing him in sealskins from our seas, and sprinkling his hair with gold dust from our mines, he should calmly take my clothes and show me empty-handed out. How shall I present myself at home to Jack Canuck ? I guess I'll have to tell Jack to thank God I did not lose my hide.

That is one of the cases in which the charm of the personality and the sunny ways of the leader of the Government did not have their usual effect. On this side of the House we have for a leader a man unanimously elected to that position by the party in this House and in this country, a man whom we all respect, one of those who laid the foundation of this broad Dominion. Sir, he can proudly say, after long years of service, dating from 1857 down to the present time, in the many public offices he has filled and filled so well, that he has done the state some service, and they know it. Now, Sir, he can repel, I think, with some contempt the assaults made on him by hon. gentlemen opposite ; he who withstood the assaults of Howe and Brown and Blake can afford to contemn and despise the assaults made upon him to-day. He can virtually declare with the old Roman, "Contempsit catalinae gladios non tuos pertimescam." The hon. gentleman is yet in the full vigour of his mental attainments, and it can be well said of him that "panting time toils after him in vain." Now, hon. gentlemen opposite having failed in their promises to the people of this country, having failed in the fulfilment of the pledges that they made on every platform, in their conventions and in this Chamber, seek to hide all their misdoings beneath the cover of their recent victories. They boast of their victories, and like Ancient Pistol, swagger in their pretentious triumphs, forgetting that like him they may have to eat their leek. Let them have their triumphs, gained at the expense of their political principles and the degradation of their political honour. They will find that their temporary successes are but dead sea fruit which will turn to ashes on their lips. Nor should they forget that it is much better to deserve than to command

success. Let me recall to their minds the warning of one of their leaders, the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, who read in the overwhelming defeat of the second Cleveland administration, a just retribution on the Democratic party for their broken pledges of 1892. But they should not forget that no man is dubbed a squire who does not win his spurs upon the field of honour. They sometimes jeer us on our defeat of 1896; but I would tell them that history is very partial to men who fall in what they consider a just and patriotic cause. The Napoleon that appeals to me is not that most wonderful character of modern times in the full blaze of his victorious glory, after Wagram, Austerlitz or Jena; but the conquered captain of Waterloo, the uncrowned exile of St. Helena, on whose faults history, like the angel of mercy, drops a tear, desirous of blotting them out for ever. I feel a thrill of pride when I remember that a descendant of refugees from the land of my fathers, could become a marshal of France and the second president of that great republic. But, Sir, the word of McMahon that shall sound clearest and farthest into history is the cry of the smitten leader at Sedan, who, in the forefront of the shattered French line, when venomous death hissed round him in a hundred forms, could boldly exclaim: "Go tell those German kings and princes who fight behind their immense masses of men, that a marshal of France knows how to fight, and, when beaten, knows how to die." The right hon. gentleman himself once said that the Liberal party should stand by its principles or remain for ever out of power. Such brave words, now so sadly and so utterly forgotten, somewhat resembles the doctrine which Edmond Rostand puts in the mouth of a 17th century hero:

What are you saying? That it is no use? I know it; but one does not fight for the sake of winning merely. No, no; it is much finer to fight when it is no use.

And the right hon. gentleman who sits yonder would have left a name much more lastingly illustrious had he, like Cyrano de Bergerac, continued to the end fighting what he once considered his ancient and detestable enemies—lies, compromises, prejudices, base expedients, the horde of ugly things which he has since taken to his bosom; for then, Sir, like Cyrano, in his last great fight against the common enemy of our race, he might proudly boast that he would sweep the welcoming threshold of God's house with an unblemished if not a knightly plume.

Mr. G. GUILLET (Northumberland) moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE moved the adjournment of the House.

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

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 30th March, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

### PRAYERS.

### VACANCIES.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a notification of a vacancy having occurred in the representation of the electoral district of Brockville, by the demise of John Fisher Wood, Esquire, and my attention having been called by one of the hon. members for the electoral district of Cape Breton, in his place, to the fact of the demise of Richard Willis Jameson, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Winnipeg, I have, in accordance with section 8 of chap. 13 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, issued my warrants to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, to make out new writs of the elections for the said electoral districts.

### REPORT.

Report of the Department of Fisheries for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 1898.—(Sir Louis Davies.)

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 17) respecting the Ottawa and Gatineau Railway Company.—(Mr. Champagne.)

Bill (No. 18) respecting the Ottawa Electric Railway Company.—(Mr. Bernier.)

Bill (No. 19) to amend the Act respecting certain works constructed in or over navigable waters.—(Mr. Britton.)

### AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the right hon. leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) if he can give us any further information in regard to the Auditor General's report.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I have to-day a communication from the Auditor General, and I must say that I was slightly inaccurate the other day in the statement I made on the subject of his report. I am informed by the Auditor General that the Queen's Printer has had the copy in his hands since 23rd February last, that he has been supplied from time to time ever since, and that now, and for some time past, the whole of the report of the Auditor General has been in his hands. I am further informed by the Auditor General that by next Wednesday the whole of his report will be printed and will be in the hands of the members of the House with

the exception of that part relating to the Mounted Police and to the Department of Trade and Commerce.

#### THE MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES AND THE "STAR."

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I also desire to call the attention of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) to the fact that the Ottawa correspondent of the "Star" informs me that the information, the accuracy of which was questioned by my hon. friend yesterday, was furnished by the Department of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and transmitted exactly as supplied to him by the department.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). My hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries denied that he had had any communication with the "Star" reporter, whereas the "Star" reporter, as the House will see, puts into my hon. friend's mouth the whole statement.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am requested to say that Mr. Holmden understood from the department that the statement he sent had been submitted to the Minister and had received his sanction.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). All I can say is that Mr. Holmden has misunderstood entirely and absolutely. I never saw Mr. Holmden, directly or indirectly, and upon asking my deputy if it was a fact, as the hon. gentleman states it, because Mr. Holmden made the same statement to me, he informed me that it was not.

#### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell, of East Prince, for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Picou). Mr. Speaker, for some time this House and the country has been accustomed to hear from the leader of the Government what might properly be described as ear-kissing arguments. The right hon. gentleman has obtained a certain amount of strength from the weakness of his arguments, or to put it more directly, from the absence of any evidence of intense conviction. But, Sir, facts are hard things, and although this session marks a very brief period in the time that responsibilities have begun to grow upon the shoulders of the right hon. gentleman, we are to-day face to face with an entire change of character in him. The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) has endeavoured to become emphatic, and in doing so, I venture to sug-

gest, he has not strengthened the position which he held before this change of character became marked. Samuel Johnson—not Sir William Johnson, whom the right hon. gentleman has conjured up in some extraordinary manner from the history of Nova Scotia, though I never knew that such a gentleman existed or was known to the political arena there—Samuel Johnson has said that he never thought he hit hard unless the hit rebounded. The right hon. gentleman gave us, early in this debate, the very best evidence that he was hit hard, and during the continuance of the debate by those who dared to come out into the open from behind him, those who have ventured to raise their voices from the back benches—since they have spoken, it is all the more apparent that the right hon. gentleman was hit hard. For that reason, perhaps, some excuse may be offered for the extraordinary plunge the right hon. gentleman made into not only a new sphere, but into the very lowest plane of a new sphere.

The right hon. gentleman slept—I hope he slept—over the attack that was made upon him, and upon him primarily, for after all said and done, whether the right hon. gentleman serves under the master of the Administration, or whether he endeavours to shift responsibility upon one shoulder or another on the Treasury benches, he is, under our constitution, himself responsible for all the shortcomings, and all the extravagance and all the recklessness of his colleagues. The right hon. gentleman signaled this session as a new era in his life, and, Sir, I cannot congratulate him upon the new departure. The Prime Minister slept over the arguments of the leader of the Opposition, and therefore there was less excuse for violence of language on his part, and in violence of language he certainly indulged. In the twenty-four hours that elapsed after he had an opportunity of considering the arguments of the leader of the Opposition, when he found he could not answer them in fair debate, he apparently resolved to be violent in abuse. His case being bad, he resorted to the old artifice known to some lawyers, that under the circumstances it was a good thing for the defendant's counsel to abuse the plaintiff's attorney, and he succeeded therefore so far as the abuse is concerned. It struck me as curious to hear from the lips of the Prime Minister such language. He began by charging the leader of the Opposition with being a Bourbon, who had learned nothing and forgotten nothing, and although the right hon. gentleman had ample opportunity to show to the House whatever fallacy he thought might exist in the arguments of the leader of the Opposition, he was forced to ransack his old speeches, to furbish up some old arguments and some old points that the House has grown weary of, and with a very few additions to these the right hon. gentleman sat down. He referred—

and to this subject I will allude later—to that old misstatement that has been corrected time and again, as to the offer on the part of the leader of the Opposition of unrestricted reciprocity to the United States; and the right hon. gentleman actually quoted at length, as though it were something new, an article from the Montreal "Gazette," written in 1891. The right hon. gentleman will remember, no doubt, that he has used that argument very frequently in this Chamber, and that it has been completely answered.

But, Sir, speaking generally of the speech of the right hon. gentleman, I would ask the House to turn its mind back to a period in its history which will show conclusively, if evidence is necessary, that history repeats itself. The right hon. gentleman boasts, and frequently boasts, and loudly boasts—indeed, it is his chief argument—that he has behind him a majority; that he has carried the by-elections. Well, Mr. Alex. Mackenzie, in his time between 1874 and 1878, was led into that dangerous spirit to such an extent that he indulged in sneers at the minority and boasted over the triumph of the majority, and when the late Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald fulminated against the Mackenzie Government—as we are able to do to-day with even greater force and greater justification—serious charges of maladministration, extraordinary and unparalleled incapacity, Mr. Mackenzie was accustomed to answer in temper, and to sneer, and to level personal charges and indulge in personal statements against the Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald and his followers. On one occasion Sir John Macdonald very well exemplified the condition of affairs, at a remarkable meeting of his party held in the city of Montreal. That meeting was held in the days when, no doubt, the member of the Administration from one of the Quebec constituencies; the hon. gentleman who has charge of the fast service which for the time has been wrecked; in the days, I say, when that hon. gentleman cheered loudly the sentiments of his leader. Sir John Macdonald, at that meeting exemplified the position by quoting from Hudibras:

The Prince of Cambay's dally food  
Is asp, and basilisk, and toad,  
Which gives to him so bad a breath,  
It nightly stinks the queen to death.

For instance, Mr. Speaker, when the Opposition asks the right hon. gentleman what about his tariff pledges, his only answer is, "The leader of the Opposition is an asp;" when we ask him in regard to the perfidy that has been practiced on good and honest prohibitionists in the country, his answer is, "You are a basilisk;" and when we further charge in solemn debate the failure of that farce, the Washington negotiations, his answer is, "You are a toad." The country will ask for more than that, I think, before they will be satisfied that the answer

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from the Administration is all that can be desired. Men who have not given thought to the subject have been fond of referring to the right hon. gentleman as the silver-tongued orator of the Treasury benches. Well, if his tongue is silver, what must the tongues of his colleagues be? I have picked out a few choice morsels from the speech of this so-called silver-tongued orator. Time would not permit me, good taste would not permit me, to give you all the adjectives that were used by him; but when this right hon. and gallant gentleman desired to run a tilt against the leader of the Opposition, he indulged in adjectives of which I will give a few samples. He called him prolix, diffuse, redundant; he likened him to the blind old king of Bohemia; he charged him with idling away the time; said that he was conceited; that Ancient Pistol was second to him, that he possessed a gigantic but childish vanity, that he blew his own trumpet, that he sounded his own praises, that he was a blunderer—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. And this is the food on which his party exists, as you see, Mr. Speaker. He said that he possessed a sublime egotism, that he was attached to the skirts of Sir John Macdonald, Sir John supplying the brains and Sir Charles the wind—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That again appeals to the intelligence of hon. gentlemen opposite. These are the arguments which these hon. gentlemen most thoroughly appreciate, when they are charged with maladministration of the affairs of this country. Then, the right hon. gentleman used this extraordinary language, which I wish to dwell upon for a moment, because it gives us some idea of the desperate straits to which he is driven. There is not the old, happy-go-lucky style about the hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches. We do not any longer hear their boasts loud and long; we do not hear them indulge, as they used to do, in that happy confidence in themselves, whereby they could be exceedingly gallant as compared with the vituperation and abuse of the Opposition. The right hon. gentleman used language of this kind in his speech when he was attempting to answer charges made in the debate on the Address: "So help me God," said the hon. gentleman. "I think we shall have that strength in the hearts of the people, but never by such methods as were resorted to by the leader of the Opposition." And again: "I believe upon my word, my memory is better than his." These samples, culled at random from the speech of the right hon. gentleman, entitled us to the belief that the hon. gentleman is in a dire position and is not happy. He is certainly not as happy as his friends would wish him to be. He charged the hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition with "equivocating, quibbling and pettifogging to

get out of a hole." He charged that he had been taken by the throat by one of his supporters, that he had disgraced Canada at Washington, that he was reckless, extravagant and unreliable.

It is not for me, Mr. Speaker, it is not necessary for any one in this House, in considering that the Canadian people are intelligent, to review any of these charges, and that is not my purpose in referring to the condition of mind in which this Parliament when it opened found the right hon. gentlemen. He is in a pitiable plight and knows it. He is absolutely destitute of any defence for the extraordinary condition to which he has brought things in this country. We have had international negotiations, and I shall be able later to submit some reasons for the assumption that the hon. gentleman's boastings of old have come to naught, and that he is in his heart absolutely ashamed of the condition to which he has brought the affairs of the country, certainly in the eyes of the United States, let alone the eyes of the people of Canada.

Now, there is a reason for the right hon. gentleman's strong language in regard to promises. In the old days he promised faithfully, on the word of the leader of a great party, he promised as a Canadian, certain things and certain reforms. Those promises have been shown in this debate to have been like pie-crust only made to be broken. That has been demonstrated, and therefore we can understand his reason for using, instead of the old language, such expressions as "God forbid," "so help me God," and "upon my word." We have to ascertain, as history runs on whether those strong expressions will lend any greater credence to the word of the Prime Minister of this country than the good old English style of giving his word without such strong assertions.

The right hon. gentleman, in his abuse of the hon. leader of the Opposition, was, I think, mistaken in the figure of speech he used, when, having in mind no doubt the ship of state, he likened the leader of the Opposition to the wind, and descanted upon that. It brings out in strong contrast, Mr. Speaker, if I may be permitted to say so—contravening to some extent, perhaps, the laws of good taste—the position occupied by the leader of the Opposition and the right hon. leader of the Government, respectively, in the history of the country. In the ship of state, I suppose, it is no inconsiderable feature to have a propelling force. He admits that the leader of the Opposition, in the time of Sir John Macdonald, was the propelling force of the ship of state; and I put it to the master of the Administration who is not present to-day, I put it also to his colleagues, what has been the position of the right hon. gentleman in the ship of state since June, 1896? Par excellence, he has been a mere figure-head, the most useless thing about a ship of state. And so we can afford to stand the sneers of the right hon. gentleman—for

sneers they were—in regard to the leader of the Conservative party.

The hon. gentleman, if anything, is a historian, a man who prides himself in his knowledge of the history of men and things, not only in the province to which he belongs but in all the provinces that go to make up the Canadian confederation. And I would call your attention, particularly, to the position which the hon. gentleman's temper—for nothing else was displayed in his speech—led him into, when he referred to Nova Scotian history. One of the hon. members for Halifax (Mr. Russell) sits behind the hon. gentleman, and he must have blushed when he heard his leader refer to one of the most famous men in Nova Scotian history as Sir William Johnston. The right hon. gentleman, no doubt, was coached for a night and a morning between the speech of the hon. leader of the Opposition and his own, but so inapt a scholar was he, having known nothing of our province, that he failed to remember that there were men who, whether you call them democrats or not, had never been knighted, never covered with honours, and their breasts bedizened with medals, yet, after all, great men, men whose names have come down in history. There never was, I may tell him, a Sir William Johnston known in the province of Nova Scotia. But there was a great man who was not honoured in the way the right hon. gentleman has been honoured by the Queen, who was known as James W. Johnston, and he was the leader of the Conservative party. The right hon. gentleman's temper, his extraordinary rage, so blinded him that he dipped for a moment into Nova Scotian history only to show that he had never read a word of it. But he referred to a man of whom every Nova Scotian is proud, whether as a politician and statesman or as an illustrious judge in Nova Scotia. He referred to him only to sneer again at the leader of the Opposition. And that gives me the excuse, for otherwise, perhaps, I should not have it in a matter almost personal to myself, to enlighten the hon. gentleman and to remind him of the actual facts of Nova Scotian history in this connection. Mark you, Mr. Speaker, it does not rest upon me to defend, and I am not attempting to defend, the leader of the Opposition against the sneers of the leader of the Government. I wish to expose the absolutely crass ignorance of the right hon. gentleman when he travelled so far afield as to the history of that famous province of Nova Scotia. The right hon. gentleman pretended that in that province the leader of the Opposition in this House had been practically attached to the skirts of Mr. Johnston—whom he called Sir Wm. Johnston—as he endeavoured to show that he had been attached to the skirts of Sir John Macdonald in the federal arena. Now, let us turn back to the "Hansard" of Nova Scotia and see if the hon. gentleman reckoned with his host or without him to learn

whether he knew what he was talking about or whether he spoke in sheer recklessness. The leader of the Opposition in this House came to public life in Nova Scotia in 1855, having defeated Hon. Joseph Howe. In 1856 Mr. Howe was returned for another constituency and these two gentlemen met on the floor of Parliament. While the fight was fierce and furious between these two hon. gentlemen, Mr. Howe, as all his friends and all his opponents knew, was too big a man, absolutely too big a man, to attempt to sneer at an opponent who was, at any rate, a noted man in his own party. I have only to quote from the language used in that debate on the great constitutional question in 1856 to completely refute that sneer. The leader of the Opposition in this House was then, as Mr. Howe supposed, leading the Opposition in the provincial House, although the titular leader, as Mr. Howe called him, was Mr. Johnston. In that debate the leader of the Opposition in this House used this language, which is pertinent to the present occasion :

Sir, I will not weary the House. The Government should define their policy; else, united on no public question, agreeing on no definite policy, they must take the verdict of the country on the anomalous position they occupy, which is that of a number of individuals combined for their mutual benefit alone, and distributing the spoils of office in such a manner as to subserve, not the good of the country, but their own continuance in power.

That was the prophetic language of the present leader of the Opposition, and as it was applicable in 1856, it is applicable in 1899. The charge he made then was supported, as I believe the charge in the present debate is supported, by the opinion of the people, as it will be expressed when they have an opportunity of passing their verdict upon the conduct of public affairs. But in that debate so similar to this in the particular I have mentioned, let us see how the hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition was reckoned with, whether he was sneered at, whether the attempt was made to decry him, to pretend that he was supplying merely the wind for his party, that he was altogether an incapable supporter of the leader in those days, as the right hon. gentleman pretends he was in the days of Sir John Macdonald. Mr. Howe, who, at any rate, was as good a judge of men when face to face with them as the right hon. gentleman in that very debate referred to the hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition in this House as follows :—

Now, Sir, let me then turn to the closing speech of the hon. member for Cumberland, the leader of the Opposition.

And again, referring to the fact that Mr. Johnston was then recognized as the nominal leader, he said :

I find the veteran chief, not deposed indeed—for I cannot imagine an act of his party so suicidal as his deposition—but I see him de-

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throned, possibly by his own voluntary abdication.

Then the reporter, speaking of Mr. Johnston's speech, says :

The hon. gentleman made a statement at the close of his speech, which was listened to with marked attention, to the effect that he considered himself to a great extent absolved from the ties and duties of party—that it was impossible not to feel the infirmities of age creeping on, and the excitement of worldly affairs passing away—that even if the Conservatives, or the party with which he had acted had been returned to power, he should not have accepted a place in the Government of the country, but would hereafter leave the trials and responsibilities of statesmanship in the hands of more youthful and vigorous men.

So I refer with some interest to that period to which the right hon. gentleman has given practically no attention, of which he has had an account at second-hand to show that in regard to these matters of history the right hon. gentleman is as little informed as he is to the great questions that have arisen between the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada, as I shall show later on.

Then he has charged that the only government the leader of the Opposition led in the province of Nova Scotia, was defeated. Sir, no government of which the leader of the Opposition was leader, was ever defeated in the province of Nova Scotia. Will the right hon. gentleman take notice of that? His reference in that particular is as fallacious and misleading as his reference to the hon. gentleman in regard to other matters. Sir, the right hon. gentleman, if he had been properly advised, would have left unsaid these personal attacks upon the leader of the Opposition. He has charged against the leader of the Opposition incapacity, and a notoriety for doing nothing else than speaking, and prating, and supplying wind for his party.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. And the hon. gentlemen who shout acclaim to that, from temper, and not from reason, will, perhaps, listen while I show to this House what opinion of the right hon. gentleman is entertained by his master. What is on record in regard to himself? First of all, let me cite, if it is worth anything in this House or in this country, the answer to the hon. gentleman's sneers from the lips of his colleagues in regard to the leader of the Opposition. The leader of the Opposition amounts to nothing, the leader of the Opposition, forsooth, is to be abused and vilified, sneered at and contemned by the leader of the Government. Well, Mr. Speaker, has he any regard for the opinion of the gentleman who sits near him, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries? Has he any regard for the opinions of the Minister of Trade and Commerce? Does he think their judgment amounts to anything? If he does, I would ask him to

remember that only in 1888 this is the language of the Minister of Trade and Commerce in regard to the leader of the Opposition :

He was a capable, resolute man, who had deserved exceedingly well of his party. There can be no doubt that he saved them in 1887.

Again, not content with that eulogium, which is a direct contradiction of these miserable sneers from the right hon. leader of the Government—of which, of course, we understand the purpose—in that same session, the Minister of Trade and Commerce said :

Though I differ from him in toto cœlo as to his policy, I think he is much the best Minister of Finance that has appeared in my time on that side of the House, or for a long period of years.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce. (Sir Richard Cartwright), however, does not count for much ; I admit that. He has been practically relegated to a back seat, to a department in which he can do nothing except tote up statistics. The Minister of Trade and Commerce, of course, has been relegated to the shades. But the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) is supposed by many, not merely because he sits side by side, and cheek by jowl, with the right hon. leader of the Government, to supply the information and assistance to the right hon. leader of the Government that the master of the Administration, the Minister of Public Works cannot supply. In 1888 the Minister of Marine and Fisheries was forced to say this of the present leader of the Opposition:

He is the real leader to-day, and the master of the policy of the Government.

Later on, in 1891, the Minister of Trade and Commerce was again compelled to say this of him :

The man who, to do him justice, had twice saved them,—

That is, the Conservative party.

—including Sir John A. Macdonald, from ruin.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I hope I will not be misunderstood in referring to these eulogiums. I am not saying they were right ; I am not endeavouring to put the leader of the Opposition on a pedestal above that occupied by the former great leader of our party, Sir John A. Macdonald. But I do say, that the intention of the right hon. gentleman, the miserable, contemptible intention is apparent, when I can show from their lips that, when that great man was alive, they endeavoured to put the present leader of the Opposition on a pedestal higher than his ; and those miserable subterfuges, I contend, will go for naught in this country. Now let us come to what they say of the character of the leader of the Opposition. It is a question of ability ; it is a question of whether a man is a bag of wind, or whether he is a man of brains. The hon. gentleman has given his opinion of the leader of the

Opposition. Let me give his own master's opinion of him—his own master, who sits directly behind him, and who has not denied that he controlled him, when charged with it in this very debate ; he is rather flattered and gratified by the recognition of his mastery of the Administration. He has thus referred to the right hon. gentleman :

As a venerated mediocrity, as a man who had neither principles, sound convictions or patriotism.

That is the opinion of the master of the Administration. Now let us see what is the opinion of the great Liberal organ of Canada, the Toronto "Globe." In that memorable debate on the French treaty there was much harsh criticism of Quebec Liberals, who were then, as now, headed by the right hon. gentleman. The "Globe" made this charge against one and all of them :

The present leader of the Government and all the Liberals from the province of Quebec would rush to cover on the French treaty, simply because France was a party to it.

That was the opinion then of the right hon. gentleman's own colleagues and of his own organ concerning himself. I say, it ill-becomes him, under the circumstances, to falsify history, to refer to facts in the province of Nova Scotia of which he is as ignorant as an unborn babe, with the sole object of endeavouring to minimize the ability and the position of his opponent, the hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition in this House.

Mr. J. McMULLEN (North Wellington). Good boy.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I do not know to whom the hon. gentleman refers.

Mr. McMULLEN. I refer to you.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman refers to me. I would be particularly gratified if that hon. gentleman would have the very opposite opinion of me. The right hon. gentleman, however, in that debate, was remarkable, not only for his vituperation, his abuse—I would not say, insolence in this House, because, perhaps, Mr. Speaker, that would be transgressing a little the rules of debate—but the hon. gentleman was remarkable for some other things. The leader of the Opposition—and I do not hesitate to say this, as a member of the Conservative party—took some time, even at the risk of testing the patience of this House to establish every position he took on an occasion when he had the right to do so, and was bound to take the position that it was incumbent upon him to take, in discussing the affairs of this country. The hon. leader of the Opposition having established each of these positions by proof, the right hon. gentleman not only failed to meet any of them, not only failed to contravene the evidence adduced by the leader of the Opposition, but he himself showed,

as I will demonstrate, if demonstration be necessary, before I finish, his absolute incapacity, not merely to meet the indictment of the leader of the Opposition, but his absolute incapacity to manage intelligently the affairs of this country. Take, for instance, a reference that he made to a very important subject. I would prefer to refer to the hon. gentleman's incapacity than to refer to an intention to mislead, an intention to falsify, an intention to garble, or an intention to misrepresent. I would prefer to believe that my right hon. friend did not know any better than that when he spoke in this House or out of this House on certain important questions. Let me give him one concrete case. The hon. gentleman went to a meeting in Montreal, as reported by the "Herald" of Montreal, of 4th January, 1899. This was at a time when it would be assumed the right hon. gentleman was well instructed in regard to the occurrences of state since 1896. Now, what do we find him telling the people of Montreal in regard to his opponents? I do not say that he wished to mislead them, but let me call your attention to what the hon. gentleman was induced to say, and what he believed to be the fact, no doubt. He said:—

A singular thing,—on the 31st of July, 1897, Sir Charles Tupper declared solemnly in an interview with the "Daily News" of London—I think I see him with his dictatorial manner—that England would never consent to the denunciation of the treaties. That was on the 31st of July. The next day, the 1st August, the treaties were denounced.

The right hon. gentleman was referring to the denunciation of the German and Belgian treaties and was supposed to know the history of that denunciation. The right hon. gentleman, in order to gain a few cheers from the claqueurs who surrounded him, made this statement in regard to the leader of the Opposition, which, I as a member of the Liberal-Conservative party here and now in his presence, challenge the accuracy of. I say that neither he nor any hon. gentleman behind him, from this time out to the end of the debate, will be able to show that that statement made to the people of Canada was correct in any particular. On the other hand I say that it was not correct; I say that the leader of the Opposition never made any such statement to the "Daily News," and the reason for my indignation lies in the fact that the right hon. gentleman could be misled to such an extent is that I hold in my hand the interview published in the London "Daily News," with the leader of the Opposition, not on the 31st of July, for there was no interview on the 31st of July, but on the 30th of July. If the right hon. gentleman wants a copy of it now I will hand it to him, and from the beginning to the end he will not find one single line to justify that statement that was made to prejudice his rival in public life, the leader of the Opposition, to convict him not merely of dictatorial sen-

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timents and statements, but to convict him of having made an egregious blunder and mistake. There is the statement of the right hon. gentleman which I have read; there is the interview, and the right hon. gentleman cannot find one single line or word that will justify the statement that the hon. leader of the Opposition had declared solemnly that England would never consent to the denunciation of the treaties. He took up, forsooth, hap-hazard, one of those miserable reckless misstatements that so distinguish the Liberal press, a clipping out of some newspaper, a garbled report of the interview with the "Daily News"; that and that alone was his vindication, and that and that alone can be found to be his vindication for the statement he made in regard to a solemn question and an important matter of state in the Dominion of Canada.

Let us see how feeble the right hon. gentleman showed himself to be in this important debate. It is not so long ago since we heard the right hon. gentleman, and it is a remarkable thing that not a man who has dared to rise in his place on the other side of the House has been able to vindicate the position taken by the right hon. gentleman when he dared to lock horns with this party and with the leader of this party in this debate. Let us, for instance, test the statement of the right hon. gentleman in regard to the subject of preferential trade. I do not intend to weary the House by going into the arguments pro and con upon this subject; that has been done more ably than I could do it, on this side of the House, but there appears to be the necessity even now of showing how little informed the right hon. gentleman is, not merely in regard to the policy for which he is responsible but in regard to the effect of it. When the hon. leader of the Opposition charged against that side of the House and established his position by the strongest evidence possible, that this so-called preference for England, the preference that they intended to be at our expense, with nothing in return—had been misleading to the British public, that it had been in every sense fallacious, and that, if we may go so far as to refer to a policy as being wholly dishonest, from top to bottom, and when he dwelt upon the statement that the Right Hon. Mr. Chamberlain, taking the six months from the end of July in which this policy was in full operation, involving only a benefit to England, the right hon. gentleman endeavoured to harp back and include a month to which the most extravagant imagination could not apply the so-called preferential policy as having been in operation. He said:

Sir, at all events, I say that a door has been opened, and that trade at this moment is flowing into it. The hon. gentleman minimizes the efforts which we made in that direction.

The excuse he gave us was that whether it was one per cent or six per cent there was an advance, and hon. gentlemen sitting be-

hind the Treasury benches in fairness understand that that was the force of the hon. gentleman's argument. He claimed that as the general result. Time passes, but not too much time has been taken up with this debate, for we are now face to face with a month that followed the six month period, a month that was not present to the mind of the Rt. Hon. Mr. Chamberlain when he stated that in the months ending January 31st, there was this increase. I have the "Canadian Gazette" for March, 1899, and hon. gentleman looking at the heading of British trade with Canada, will find that not only had that one per cent of increase disappeared altogether, but that we are face to face with a decrease. Whether they intended the preference for England or not, we see after the lapse of only a few months that they gave the United States before entering into negotiations with them every concession they could reasonably demand, and we are face to face with the fact that instead of there being a British preference the figures of our trade with Great Britain, compared with those of our trade with the United States, show that the United States has come out on top and that Great Britain has come out at the bottom in regard to this so-called and much-vaunted trade policy. Then, we had another instance of the reckless handling of even the debates of this House, and reckless handling of the history of this country. We had the most audacious attempt I have ever seen undertaken, except at the hands of hon. gentlemen opposite, and that was to father upon the Liberal-Conservative party and upon the leader of the Opposition the responsibility of that bastard policy of unrestricted reciprocity. Notwithstanding the fact that we fought until the very last signs of life were beaten out of that policy by this party, we heard from the right hon. gentleman, who pretends to lead the Government, the statement that the leader of the Opposition was responsible for unrestricted reciprocity. What did the right hon. gentleman do; what cheap trick did he resort to?

What palpably weak argument did he resort to in order to father on the Conservative party the responsibility for such a monstrosity as that. I will tell you. He used the argument that he had vainly used in this House before. He sent for "Hansard" and read his old speeches, but did not disclose the conclusive replies that had been made every time these speeches had been uttered. The right hon. gentleman referred back to a remark of the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) when he was a Minister, and the right hon. gentleman said, that the leader of the Opposition intended the offer to be unrestricted. And then turning and twisting the language and giving it his own interpretation, he endeavoured to make the leader of the Conservative party (Sir Charles Tupper) responsible for the policy of unrestricted reciprocity. Can the Prime Minister find in "Hansard," or in any speech

reported, a syllable, let alone a line, uttered by any Conservative or Liberal-Conservative, that ever gave adhesion to the policy of discrimination against England in favour of the United States. The right hon. gentleman knows right well that the Minister beside him (Sir Richard Cartwright) was honest enough and bold enough to say at the very outset, that the very germ of unrestricted reciprocity lay in discriminating against England and all countries in the world in favour of the United States; and that it was madness to conceive the success of that policy without discriminating in favour of the United States against England and all other countries. When the right hon. gentleman endeavoured to father upon this side of the House the responsibility for that policy, he knew there never had been a whisper, let alone a word or a sentence, in favour of such a policy by any Liberal-Conservative authority.

Mr. A. McNEILL (North Bruce). We always gave it the strongest opposition.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, as my hon. friend (Mr. McNeill) says, we gave it the strongest opposition from the day it was mentioned down to the present day; or, as the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) would say, we opposed it 'in toto cælo.'

I charged the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) with incapacity, and I believe he has displayed the most deplorable incapacity in connection with the administration of the affairs of this country that any Minister was ever guilty of from the days of Alex. Mackenzie down. Let me see now if the right hon. gentleman could have been as incapable and as ignorant as his position would indicate him to have been in connection with that unfair charge—for it is almost a disgraceful charge—which he laid at the doors of the Conservative party. The right hon. gentleman at one time knew better, for at one time his own lips gave testimony in this House that he knew the Conservatives had never done so disgraceful a thing as to be party to a policy that no man in this House would dare to hold himself responsible for to-day. The member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) interrupted me a moment ago; he has shown in regard to the Auditor General's report how it was studied at one time and neglected now, and we have seen how he can change his face—but I appeal even to him when I ask, whether there is a man in this Chamber to-day who would vote for unrestricted reciprocity as defined by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright). Not a man of them. Let us see what the right hon. the leader of the House has himself said in regard to the nature of the opposition that was offered by us to this policy. In the first place to prove my point, in case there is a doubter, I will show how unrestricted reciprocity was defined by

hon. gentlemen opposite. I hold in my hand a most useful publication; it is a volume I am sure the right hon. gentleman himself would be glad to have destroyed; it contains the speeches of Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the platform from 1871 to 1890. Now, in this book, on page 422, this is the language I find from the lips of the right hon. gentleman in 1888:

The objections made on the subject were crystallized in one sentence by the hon. the Minister of the Interior in reply to the interruption by my hon. friend from Prince Edward Island. What I said was that a differential duty against England was disloyal to the mother country and inconsistent with our position.

That is the language used by the late Hon. Thos. White, and the right hon. gentleman continued:

If this objection means anything it simply means that if we find it is to be to our advantage to adopt reciprocal free trade with the United States we should forego that advantage because we are a colony of England. That is the proposition made by gentlemen on the other side of the House. I denounce such a proposition; I repudiate it; I denounce it as unmanly and anti-Canadian, and even anti-British, to pretend, Sir, that our colonial allegiance demands from us that we should be deterred from the spirit of enterprise, that we should refuse to extend our trade and to increase our prosperity according to the best methods which commend themselves to our judgment. To pretend that this is loyalty, I deny; and if I were to characterize the sentiment in the only language in which it ought to be characterized, I would say this is not loyalty, but that it is mere flunkeyism.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if we are to believe the right hon. gentleman, or if he believes himself, the policy of the present Administration is mere flunkeyism. They have thrown a sop, a pretended sop to the British merchant regardless of how it would affect Canada, and as they tell us, out of gratitude. That is a policy, as the right hon. gentleman said, of mere flunkeyism. On page 432 of this delightful book I find the following remark from the same right hon. gentleman:—

I fully appreciate the objections of our friends on the other side of the House, who say that our course is not generous towards England. My answer is simply this: I only wish that we could offer to England the same propositions that we offer to-day to the American people. England has opened to us her doors. Gentlemen on the other side have closed our doors against England. They have done it, I know, not in any spirit of hostility towards England, but because they thought it was in the interests of this country. They have adopted protection as their deliberate policy.

And the gentleman who was appointed secretary to the international commission at Washington, the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), said that the policy of the Liberal party is now protection:

They have adopted protection as their deliberate policy. England has a policy of free trade;  
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England is 3,000 miles away from us. The policy of the United States is a policy of protection; the same as ours. They are our nearest neighbours. There are our channels of trade. Therefore, the course we take is not a matter of choice—it is the dictate of reason.

England on the one side has given us everything, the United States alone will not give us anything unless we open our doors to them and shut them against England. That is what the right hon. gentleman said. He continued:

Therefore, the course we take is not a matter of a choice—it is a dictate of reason. I fully appreciate, as well, the objection of those who say this is the first of a series of changes which must end in annexation.

The right hon. gentleman spoke at Oakville in 1888, and he spoke there at a time when were published all these documents on which he based this fearful charge against the Conservative party, that they were in favour of unrestricted reciprocity. At page 459 of this delightful book, I quote the following passage from the words of the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) at Oakville:—

They (referring to the Conservatives) want to have no reciprocity with the United States, the great nation to the south of us, for fear we might be seduced from our allegiance to the mother country. But they are ready, they say, for reciprocity with Great Britain. I have only this to say—I say it openly, I say it on my own responsibility, and I believe I can speak as well for the Liberal party: If reciprocity with Great Britain is practical, I am in favour of it; but Britain is 3,000 miles away, and our American neighbours are just to the south of us.

They keep to the south of us, Mr. Speaker.

They are our neighbours, there is not a natural barrier between us; if Britain were where the United States is, I would go at once for reciprocity with Great Britain, but, Sir, it is very well to be sentimental; but, after all, sentiment is not business.

Now, after unrestricted reciprocity had been so defined, I want to take the offer of the leader of the Opposition, which the hon. gentleman, in his desperation, attempted to show this House, was the offer of a policy such as I have been referring to. In 1888, when the leader of the Opposition was in the House, he read in debate, on April 10th, the offer which the hon. gentleman pretends now was an offer of unrestricted reciprocity, and it was this:

Sir Charles Tupper begged leave to submit a note containing the following proposal from the British plenipotentiaries. That with a view of removing all causes of difference in connection with the fisheries, it is proposed by Her Majesty's plenipotentiaries that the fishermen of both countries shall have all the privileges enjoyed during the existence of the fishery articles of the treaty of Washington, in consideration of mutual arrangement providing for greater freedom of commercial intercourse between the United States, Canada and Newfoundland.

These are the 'ipsissima verba.' The hon. leader of the Opposition went on to discuss

this offer, and then came this interruption by the present Minister of Justice, then Mr. Mills, the member for Bothwell: "The offer is unrestricted." Then the leader of the Opposition said:

The hon. gentleman says the offer is unrestricted, and I intended it should be so. I intended to give the Government of the United States—

This is the part, however, which the right hon. gentleman did not read to the House, but what should have been read with the actual offer, if it was intended to treat the leader of the Opposition fairly.

I intended to give the Government of the United States the fullest opportunity of stating just how far they were prepared to go in reciprocal trade with Canada. I knew, Sir, that the air was full of theories of commercial union, full of proposals of unrestricted intercourse, and I thought I could not do a better service to Canada, under these circumstances, than to ascertain at the very outset what was the position of the United States as to that question.

Now, hon. gentlemen who have been good enough to follow me in this—and it is after all, but an argument—will, if they do not think my deduction reasonable, pay some attention to the language used by the right hon. gentleman, not when he was in temper, not when he was bereft of all argument, not when he forgot all that was due to this House, and to fair debate in his speeches attacking an Administration; but let us take what the right hon. gentleman said in regard to the meaning of this offer at the time. I take this delectable book again, this collection of speeches, which had better never have been made, even from the hon. gentleman's point of view; and I find, on page 417, this construction of what was done at that time. The right hon. gentleman, speaking of this offer, said:

Was it for an entire settlement of the question upon that line? No; the proposal was simply an arrangement for greater freedom of commercial intercourse. Sir Charles Tupper's proposal to settle the question was—

An offer of unrestricted reciprocity? The hon. gentleman would not admit that when he was interrupted by the leader of the Opposition the other night—

—by an entire discussion of the trade relations, but the proposition of the British plenipotentiaries was simply for greater freedom for commercial intercourse than now exists.

So that what the hon. gentleman says there, if we can add to the words to make them more clear, though they seem clear enough, is that at no time was any definite offer made. Sir Charles Tupper, in advance of the formal negotiations, simply proposed a discussion of the entire trade relations, but when he came down to pen and ink, the formal offer was more restricted than Sir Charles' formal offer in the correspondence that had previously taken place. So that,

out of the hon. gentleman's own mouth, in his speeches in previous debates on this question, I have established that nothing but a most unfair twisting and turning of the records themselves, and even of the speeches made in this House, would justify the hon. gentleman in making that horrible charge which I for one most indignantly repudiate, that any member connected with the Conservative party, at any time in the history of the country, ever looked with even an eye askance at so hideous a proposition as that we should throw in our commercial lot with the United States, and that, in order to obtain trade concessions from them, we should discriminate against every other country on the globe, and particularly against Great Britain. Now, what was the reason the right hon. gentleman used such very strong language as "So help me God," "God forbid," and "Upon my honour"? He has used other expressions not so strong. He has given to the House and the country the old British promise which has been repudiated. Let us take a sample or two, because I think these emphasize the charge we bring against the Government; and let me say here that I, as one member of the Liberal-Conservative party, would like to have it plainly understood that the Liberal-Conservative party would not, if they could, turn out the present Administration because they have repudiated their promises in the most direct manner on the trade question. I would not wish to turn the Government out because they have been protectionists in any sense. I, for one, am ready to support them, and I believe this party in opposition will support them in every possible way in maintaining protection. That is our policy. It does not change simply because of a change of political fortune. But we do charge home to them, as is our duty, that they are a combination of gentlemen who have no political principles of any kind whatever, that they are in that sense a dangerous Government, that there is no certainty about them. Whether one member goes out and preaches free trade or protection, we have proof that all their promises and pledges in regard to trade have been falsified. But I want to mark that, and show to what a depth of degradation the Liberal party have gone in regard to solemn pledges, and what has induced the Prime Minister now to start a new phraseology for political purposes. In the old days the words, "I tell you," were enough for the Liberal party; but with the repudiation of all those promises that begun with "I tell you," the hon. gentleman begins his new promises with "So help me God," and "Upon my honour." Let us see what the promises were, in the old days. Here is one made at Toronto, given at page 568 of this book:

I tell you the Liberal party will never cease the agitation until they triumph and obtain continental free trade.

They have not ceased, Mr. Speaker. There is not a man sitting behind the Prime Minister, who will say, nor will the Prime Minister himself say, that they have ceased to try to obtain continental free trade. There is not an hon. gentleman there who dares to say that to-day. There was the pledge to the electors in 1889. Now, let us take another, at page 564. Of course, there is this distinction between his utterances of this time and what he said in this debate, that he did not say "so help me God" or "upon my honour" or "God forbid," but he said :

I have read it in this way—that every reform has cost the Reformers years of labour, and those years of labour I, for one, am prepared to give; and though the Democrats may be defeated in the United States, though Canadians may grow faint-hearted in Canada, the Liberal party, as long as I have anything to do with it, will remain true to the cause until that cause is successful.

I will not expect to win in a day, but I am prepared—

Mark that, Mr. Speaker—

—to remain in the cool shades of Opposition until the cause has triumphed, and you never shall hear a complaint from me. But some think that, though unrestricted unreciprocity is possible, it is not probable. We are on the eve of triumph. The triumph is at our hands, if we only know how to play our cards.

The only excuse that they can make in this case, as in so many other cases, apparently, is that they did not know how to play their cards. Now let me give you the language of the leader of the Government in 1899, in this very debate. I quote the same gentleman who made these pledges and these promises that no accession to power, for instance, would change his mind. He now occupies a seat on the Treasury benches, and he rises in his place, and says :

If we know the hearts and minds of our people at present, I think I am not making too wide a statement when I say that the feeling of Canada to-day is not in favour of reciprocity.

And then he tells us that that feeling did exist. But how do you suppose he exults over what he thinks is an excuse for repudiating in the most direct manner, not merely his promises but his solemn pledges ?

Thank Heaven those days are passed and over now.

Well, Mr. Speaker, for years the right hon. gentleman endeavoured to instil into the minds of the people of this country the idea that all that prevented this country and the United States from making a fair settlement of all vexed questions was the existence of Tory rule, that the Tories in Canada were distasteful to the good people of the United States—I do not think I misrepresent the burden of the Liberal song as it used to be—but the moment there was an accession of the Liberal party to the Treasury benches, all would be happy and the best rela-

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tions would follow between this country and the United States, and, indeed, between Great Britain and the United States. And, after spending a long period, upon which I shall not descant further than has already been done by those who have preceded me, he is compelled to come back to this House with one of the most humiliating confessions that ever came from the lips of a man charged with the government of any country in the world, with the announcement of the most extraordinary proposition ever made by a great country to a great country. He tells us that every sense of fairness was eliminated from the American proposition. On its face the proposition was not only unreasonable and such that Canada could not for a moment entertain it, but the very fact of the proposition being made, is to me, as a Canadian, a matter of regret and shame. That any power in this world should tell, not merely the leader of a Canadian Government, but the representative of such a power as Great Britain that they would not arrange an arbitration for the settlement and delimitation of a boundary between their country and another unless all parties would agree that what they had grabbed and what they had squatted upon, what they had taken illegal possession of, should be eliminated from the consideration of that tribunal; that there should be no finality whatever in regard to that tribunal, but that each side should send three representatives, and if one of theirs could not be detached from sympathy and belief in their argument there should be no results in regard to this matter and it should remain a "questio vexata" for an indeterminate time. Sir, it is enough to bring the blush of shame to the face of any man who calls himself a British subject that such a proposition was ventured. But there is an excuse for it. I can understand the United States position; I can understand why they dared to make such a proposition. They made it upon the admission made by the members of the Canadian Government in this House, made by the right hon. gentleman himself who was the accredited agent from Great Britain. They practically said to that hon. gentleman: If you believe what you told the Canadian House of Commons you can find no fault with such a proposition, if you believe what you said in solemn debate, what you never retracted, that proposition should be in no sense offensive to you, but you should consider it reasonable. We discussed this subject last session. I begged, I implored, as "Hansard" will show, that not only the right hon. gentleman but the Minister of the Interior should qualify the statements they made in the heat of debate that in view of these very expected negotiations they should not allow those admissions to remain. But they did not retract, they did not in any sense qualify those admissions, and only in those admissions could there be found the slightest

thing to account for such an extraordinary proposition as the United States has made, and which, we are told, has practically ended negotiations between Great Britain and the United States 'quo ad' Canadian questions. They propose an indefinite arrangement regarding the boundary of Alaska, and that United States settlements should be agreed upon in advance of the reference as being in United States territory. I want to call the attention of the House to the reason for that by showing what occurred in the House of Commons last year, which also showed the recklessness of the hon. gentlemen. The Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) never gave expression to his opinion in the same direction as others, and it is well that they should respect to some extent the Department of Justice in dealing with so important a matter. For instance, take page 407 of the "Hansard" of last year. In the light of the proposition of the United States, let us see what the Minister of the Interior said, what he hurried to put on record, what he insisted upon recording against all expostulations. This is what the Minister of the Interior says :

I believe our contention is that Skagway and Dyea are really in Canadian territory, but, as the United States has had undisputed possession of them for some time past, we are precluded from attempting to take possession of that territory.

Now, the Solicitor General knows that there never came from the lips of a lawyer or a client so serious an admission of a case in advance as that. I will give some proof of that before I am through, if any man doubts it. It was practically giving away our case in anticipation, it put the right hon. gentleman in the most ridiculous position—and I do not say this offensively—to come back here and say that the United States, insisting on possession, this fact eliminated our rights from consideration. But, to emphasize my point, after the Minister of the Interior had said that, I myself ventured to say :

May I be excused for saying that I do not think the hon. Minister meant to say "undisputed possession."

Well, the hon. Minister of the Interior exemplified the adage that fools rush in where angels fear to tread, for he at once said :

There have been no protests made. It must be taken as undisputed when there has been no protest made against the occupation of that territory by the United States.

So far as he could give our case away, the hon. gentleman gave it away. If there is any importance to be attached to the utterance of a Minister of the Crown, under the British system, in an international discussion like this, so far as it had any weight whatever, he gave our case away, and he put that weight into the scales of the United States. Then I said :

A claim, I suppose, was made and adhered to.

I endeavoured, as far as possible, to head off the hon. gentleman, and suggested to him that he should qualify that serious admission. But he insisted, and plunged on. He answered :

There is nothing on the records to show that any protest has been made—an unfortunate thing for us, but it is a fact.

Now, let us read something further on that subject. Let us take the Prime Minister's statement, and see what position he puts us in, how he helped our case, whether he assisted Canada, or interfered with the proper consideration of this subject. In the same session he said :

But if we had adopted the route by the Lynn Canal, that is to say, had chosen to build a railway from Dyea by the Chilcoot Pass up to the waters of the Yukon, we would have had to place the ocean terminus of the railway upon what is now American territory.

"American territory"—a considerable admission. Again I challenge the accuracy of the hon. gentleman's statement. It was not only against us, but it was without rhyme or reason, and it is contrary to history. I have no doubt these hon. gentlemen were endeavouring to do their duty, if they did their duty at all, in informing Lord Herschell at Washington, they have endeavoured to disprove every statement they have made in this House to which I referred. But see the humiliating position in which we are put, and in which the British Government is put, by these thoughtless, heedless, reckless statements, made by these gentlemen who, unfortunately, through accident, in 1896, were given responsibilities they were never intended for. Take, for instance, the right hon. gentleman's statement, on page 1277 of "Hansard" :

From time immemorial Dyea was in possession of the Russians,—

I challenge the right hon. gentleman to find one single American author to show that from time immemorial Dyea was in possession of the Russians.

—and in 1867 it passed into the hands of the Americans, and it has been held in their hands ever since. Now, I will not recriminate here ; this is not the time nor the occasion for doing so ; but, so far as I am aware—

"So far as I am aware," mind you, Mr. Speaker ; mark that, not even keeping his counsel and letting the other side prove theirs, but giving the result of his examination.

—so far as I am aware, no protest has ever been entered against the occupation of Dyea by the American authorities ; and when the American authorities are in possession of that strip of territory on the sea which has Dyea as its harbour, succeeding the possession by the Russians from time immemorial,—

Why, no advocate of the United States could argue this more strongly.

—it becomes manifest to everybody that at this moment we cannot dispute their possession, and that before their possession can be disputed, the question must be determined by a settlement of the questions involved in the treaty. Under such circumstances, Dyea was practically in American territory.

And again, on page 1278 :

If we had built the railway by Dyea, when we came to Dyea we would have come to an American port.

On page 1280, in the same speech, the hon. gentleman drove the thing in. He did not merely refer to it, but apparently arguing the case of the United States as hotly as he could, and as strenuously as possible, he continues :

If we do not proceed with this Bill, then there is only one thing to do, and that is to build the line to Dyea on the Lynn Canal. But would that remedy the evil? On the contrary, it would make it ten times worse. There is no possibility of remedy at the Lynn Canal, because there we are altogether dependent on the goodwill of the American authorities. We have no treaty rights there, whereas upon the Stikine River we have. And, if these proved insufficient, there is one alternative for the Canadian Parliament, and that is, at the very earliest possible moment, without the loss of a single day, to have the line extended south, where it will reach Canadian waters.

So, if the hon. gentleman could have given our case away, could have given them justification for an otherwise entirely offensive proposition, he certainly did it. In another place the hon. gentleman said, speaking of this question of possession, that possession was nine points of the law, and he dwelt upon the importance of those possessory rights. That was not the case in the San Juan case between Great Britain and the United States. The United States took the very opposite view. England had possession, had the nine points of the law, and England lost San Juan. But the hon. gentleman would not bring that forward, he would not occupy a ground that was firm under his feet, that this grabbing of territory—and not from time immemorial, forsooth—but that this grabbing of territory, by the mere fact that some American citizens, with men from other parts of the world, have been squatting at those places, would not affect the construction of a treaty, or the delimitation of the boundaries under an expressed treaty. But ignoring the San Juan case and the British arguments where there was ten years of possession by the Hudson Bay Company, ignoring all the facts of the case and going contrary to every principle of law, he affirmed over and over again, in the language I have quoted, that so far as these places were concerned, the Americans had possession of them and practically that was the end of it. Therefore, I say the sting is taken out of the American proposition, otherwise it would have been disgraceful and humiliating, not from the Canadian point of view, but from

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the British point of view, that they should have dared to make such a proposition, let alone the circumstances that there was good-will between them, and that they had agreed over the council board to settle these matters in a fair and honourable manner. There is the excuse that the United States Government has to-day, they have simply taken the Canadian Government at its word, and relied upon the statements made by responsible Ministers in this House. Then, what fitting qualification had the right hon. gentleman in other respects to represent us at Washington? I gather from the remarks he made in this House that we were in singularly unfortunate hands when the hon. gentleman was the adviser of Lord Herschell in these negotiations. Take, for instance, one view of the case where he endeavoured to lock horns with the leader of the Opposition. The leader of the Opposition had stated that there was legislation in the United States Congress last year conceding reciprocal rights to Canadians in mining in Alaska, and the right hon. gentleman endeavoured to cast a reflection upon the leader of the Opposition and his sources of information, and he went on to expose what he supposed to be the ignorance of the leader of the Opposition and to show him that he was mistaken, that the legislation was inoperative and did not meet the case. I hold in my hand the proof that the only answer that the right hon. gentleman gave to the position of the leader of the Opposition is based upon a most disingenuous document from United States sources. The hon. Solicitor General could not have advised him nor could the hon. Minister of Justice have advised him. I say that if good faith had been shown on the part of the United States Government every citizen of Canada would have had the right to obtain a license or a lease of mineral rights in Alaska under that American legislation. The Act is this, and the language is so plain that any one who runs may read. The Act was passed in 1898, and it is upon clause 13 that I would dwell. My object is to show that everything has been bungled and botched because the men who were our representatives at Washington were not informed and did not understand this legislation that existed for the necessities and interests of Canada. Here we have, in a circular from the General Land Office printed at the Government printing office, the Act of 1898, and section 13 of that Act, to which the leader of the Opposition referred, is as follows:—

That native-born citizens of the Dominion of Canada shall be accorded in the said district of Alaska the same mining rights and privileges accorded to citizens of the United States in British Columbia and the North-west Territories by the laws of the Dominion of Canada or the local laws, rules and regulations; but—

I call attention to this language :

—no greater rights shall be thus accorded than citizens of the United States or persons who

have declared their intention to become such may enjoy in the said district of Alaska,—

And I call special attention to these words :

—and the Secretary of the Interior shall from time to time promulgate and enforce rules and regulations to carry this provision into effect.

What is the answer of the right hon. gentleman. Forsooth, it is his : The system in the Yukon is a system of license ; the system in Alaska under the United States is a system of sale, therefore, there can be no reciprocity ; the Act was barren of results. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is an entirely erroneous construction ; I say without fear of contradiction that the construction of that Act cannot bear any such interpretation at all, and I think I can point it out. That is the construction that the United States endeavoured to put on it. They knew a thing or two ; they saw that the negotiations were coming on. They found after they had passed that Act that they were going to deal with the representatives of Canada, and they consequently adopted that extraordinary theory and that fallacious reasoning. That is the very reason that the Prime Minister blandly adopts it. It was not a greater right for the Canadians to ask that they should be given a lease or that they should be given the right to work a mine. They said : We cannot claim the right to purchase a mine in Alaska because our Government will not allow that, but under the instruction of the Secretary of the Interior you can provide for a Canadian citizen who comes from a country whose Government allows you to take out a license to work a claim which gives you the practical effect of a lease. Under a lease issued by the Secretary of the Interior under the regulations authorized by the Act you will hold no greater rights than would be accorded to citizens of the United States in Canada, your right being the right to buy land outright. The right hon. Prime Minister gives us some inkling as to why everything failed, as to why everything is now in a worse muddle between the United States and Canada than it was when he says : We cannot expect that they should do anything under that legislation ; they have no concessions because there is no reciprocity in regard to the title of those going into the Yukon and those going into Alaska.

Then the hon. gentleman spoke of the sealing question. Consider for a moment the humiliating position in which he is. How can he individually stand up for any consideration for the rights of the sealers. We have only talk in the papers, it is true ; but, nevertheless, the list of questions which the right hon. gentleman referred to indicates that the question of sealers' rights and the further closure of the fisheries in Behring Sea was a matter under consideration. How was he met?—by the reckless statements made by himself on the floor of this House, statements made without information, statements that could not be supported, it is

true, but statements that would embarrass Lord Herschell and the British Government. In 1894, the right hon. gentleman said in this House :

Sir, I call the attention of my hon. friend from the city of Ottawa to this fact, that the effect of that award has been to kill the Canadian sealing industry completely. Canadian sealing is a thing of the past. I know that the British Columbia sealers have offered all their schooners and tackle for sale at auction, saying that their industry was past, and, unless I am greatly mistaken—we shall see by and by—I understand that there is in the hands of the Government a petition from the owners of schooners and tackle employed in the fisheries, asking the Government to compensate them for the great loss they have sustained by the award.

Just consider, Mr. Speaker, the position that our representative was in, when he asked of the United States anything in the nature of compensation for the further exclusion and prohibition of the sealers from Behring Sea or from any part of Pacific waters. That statement, of course, can be shown to be wholly fallacious, for that year happened to be one of the greatest years in the history of the sealing industry, because the largest number of schooners that ever was engaged in sealing in Pacific waters went out in 1894, and one of the largest catches ever made was in that year. We were prejudiced in the fact that we had representing us a gentleman who had proved to his fellow-commissioners that he did not know what he was talking about for he had discussed it on the floor of Parliament.

Now I come to the subject of reciprocity. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) is present, and I would ask him how much responsibility he has for the total and absolute failure of anything in the direction of reciprocity. In the first place who has not heard that a Tory regime was responsible for the friction that existed between the United States and Canada ? Hon. gentlemen opposite have said that so often that I have no doubt some of them actually believe the statement to be correct. Let us examine that. Here was an occasion last year when, if anything could have moved the United States to friendliness in regard to Canada and Great Britain, it was the incidents transpiring during the Spanish-American war. If any country ever had reason to be grateful, it was the United States ; and yet one of the Canadian plenipotentiaries was forced to confess, on the 13th of February, this year, in Chicago :

It is useless to conceal the fact that at the present time—

Mark you, Mr. Speaker, this was after nearly six months of association of the Liberal representatives of Canada with the representatives of the United States.

It is useless to conceal the fact that at the present time a feeling of bitterness prevails in Canada towards the United States, which is more widely extended than at any previous period.

There we have the confession of one of the plenipotentiaries entrusted with these negotiations, that the feeling in Canada was bitter, and more bitter than ever, against the United States of America. And, Sir, this language was used in the middle of their negotiations. It might, consequently, be a very interesting subject for discussion, as to whether the present Government wished to obtain reciprocity of any kind. I have quoted the speech of the right hon. gentleman in this debate, where he said, that Canadians practically did not want reciprocity. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) could have told him how not to get it, for in Halifax, many years ago, that hon. gentleman told the people that the manner in which you could prevent reciprocity with the United States being obtained, was to preach the dependence of Canada upon the United States markets. Let me contrast that language of years ago with the language of the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) used in this debate, and I am sure the House will be struck with the changed attitude of that Minister. He said in his speech the other day :

Although it may be quite true, as my hon. friend has said, that we are more independent of the United States than ever before, and better able by far to do without their markets, no man will dispute that the markets of the United States would be of enormous value to us if we could obtain them.

And again :

Let us meet the Americans and beat them in the markets which are open to both, and use all the advantages which will enable us to meet and beat them. Let us show them that if they decline to trade with us, they are only putting the competition off a stage, and not a very distant stage. Let us show them that so far from putting it off, they are creating a very serious competition in agricultural products, which, I am inclined to think, will soon drive them from the markets of England, if not the world. It is a good lesson to point to the United States that immediately after the imposition of what must have been a very hostile policy to Canada in the shape of the McKinley tariff, our trade expanded as it never did before. And it is worth noticing, as I think.

I ask the attention of the House to some language used by the same hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright), when he was not in that easy position which he occupies to-day. Speaking in 1894, he said :

Hon. gentlemen may say what they please ; they may do what they please ; yet withal that we can do with our tariff, the full development of Canada must and will depend on our success in obtaining access, as I said before above all things and before all things to the markets of the great country, our great neighbour to the south of us.

After the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) had stated at Halifax that the way to prevent reciprocity was by saying that we required it, he turned around and preached this dependence on the American

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market, and for eighteen years he has told the people of Canada that we were absolutely dependent on it. The hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) has gone to Washington, and now he comes back and begins to preach the old Tory doctrine, that if the United States would not deal fairly with us, we could beat them in the markets of the world, and succeed by being, as we are, totally and wholly independent of them and their good-will, and that they require as much from us as we do from them, relatively speaking. Therefore, these hon. gentlemen have been wasting money in trade negotiations, if the opinion of the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) is of any account whatever. The hon. gentleman will not deny that he is on record as saying that outside of unrestricted reciprocity, you cannot dicker with the United States on a trade proposition. Let me call attention, in this connection, to the reckless manner in which the Administration is handling international negotiations at the present time. Could any language be more unfortunate—if these hon. gentlemen are seriously in media res ; if these negotiations have not been finally broken off—could any language be more unfortunate than the sneering language of the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) in regard to the boasted institutions of the United States. The hon. gentleman talks about the language on this side of the House being ill-timed, but let us see what he, a gentleman associated with the American commissioners, has ventured to say in regard to the Senate of the United States at a time when, as they claim, the negotiations have not been broken off. Here is the language he used in this debate :

I believe that if this had been a matter with reference to which it would have been possible to reach the great bulk of the people of the United States, a treaty could very easily have been arranged.

Here is a very important suggestion. If these observations amount to anything, there is not a ghost of a chance to accomplish a treaty with the Senate of the United States, for he tells us, if they had anything like a reasonable sort of constitution, or anything like a reasonable Senate—such, perhaps, as our own, and I do not know whether the hon. gentleman would go that far or not—

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I said ours was the worst in the world.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) is bound to say that. He dared not say anything else, or he would lose even the very slender hold he has on this Administration. His argument is, that on account of the unfortunate institutions possessed by the United States, the Canadian commissioners cannot accomplish a reciprocity treaty. Is the Senate of the United States

to be reformed before August 2nd? Is there to be a change in the United States Senate before then? If not, according to the Minister (Sir Richard Cartwright), there is to be no further negotiations; at any rate, nothing to be accomplished by this international commission. In this very debate the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) went on to say, on this absurd condition of things, after examining the votes in the Senate:

It is not merely that we must overcome the inherent difficulty of obtaining a two-thirds majority—and let me remind this House that the strongest Government that ever sat in Canada has hardly ever, except in the first years after confederation, possessed a majority of two-thirds of this Chamber—but we must besides be in a position to overcome the inevitable tendency of these various small states to regard their own individual interests without much consideration for the general good.

Well, in this country the hon. gentleman can afford to sneer at our Senate, and he and his friends can afford to make attacks on it, but I tell him that the Senate can afford to be attacked by them, and can justify its existence. But I ask, whether there was much wisdom in this sneer at this particular time, this indictment of the constitution of the United States and the condition of things existing in that country, if the Minister of Trade and Commerce had the slightest idea that anything was to come from these negotiations, which have been almost confessed to be abortive. But, coming to our own case, I want again to call attention to the weakness of the Prime Minister in debate, through force of circumstances, and I want his particular attention, if he will be so good as to give it to me, in regard to a challenge which was thrown out by the leader of the Opposition. And so that I may make no mistake, I will turn to the challenge, which had reference to a very important proposition as to the constitution of our own country. The leader of the Opposition, I think, with cause, was very emphatic in regard to this extraordinary and radical proposition; and it is an argument, though not conclusive, that the proposition of the right hon. gentleman quoad the Senate is so radical that there is not in any civilized country on the globe any precedent for it. Now, this is a very formal challenge for the leader of any opposition to put to any government, and this is the language the leader of the Opposition used:

A more mad, a more silly, I do not hesitate to say, a more absurd proposal never emanated from the mouth of man. You may search the civilized world to-day where liberal institutions exist, and I defy you to find a single case in which so monstrous, so absurd, so utterly and so absolutely untenable a proposal was ever made as this proposal to which the hon. gentleman has committed himself in Montreal. He says:

"The reform we propose is this: When there is a conflict between the Senate and the popular House, then there should be a general vote and the majority should carry. That, gentlemen, is

the reform which we have to propose to the people of Canada.

Now, how did the right hon. gentleman meet that? I will show you the manner in which the hon. gentleman attempted to parody a very important statement. I do not say that it is necessary to give a precedent for everything; but it is a strong argument to say, after all the experience we have had of British institutions and continental institutions, that there never was such a proposal before. We, on this side, think it a monstrous proposition, and it is reasonable to characterize it as mad and silly; and, in order to prove that and to show that no other man ever propounded such a proposition, we ask the hon. gentleman to name such a case. How does he meet that challenge? Surely, he would not have put it before the people without having given it mature consideration. This is the right hon. gentleman's answer:

Let me again draw attention to the statement of the hon. gentleman that such a reform does not exist in any other country. Well, I shall have great pleasure in quoting to my hon. friend the authority of a gentleman—

And then, he quotes from an almanac containing an article by a gentleman of distinguished position in these matters, a gentleman, I am frank to admit, whose name is associated with the constitution of our country—Sir John Bourinot. But did he ever take the trouble to ascertain whether this cursory observation—for I shall show that it was but a cursory remark of Sir John Bourinot—had any reference to such a proposition as that which the hon. gentleman has propounded? I am going to challenge the right hon. gentleman in fair debate, here and now; and before I finish this subject I will gladly sit down, if he will correct me. I am going to challenge him, as a humble student of constitutional history and the history of governments, to give me, not a cursory observation of Sir John Bourinot that there was such a system to be found, but the name of a single country in the civilized world where such a system has ever been adopted, let alone any country where such a system is in force to-day. I make that challenge seriously, to show that the right hon. gentleman has rushed into this proposition without considering his ground; and, in reply to the challenge of the leader of the Opposition to state where such a system ever obtained or now obtains, he has not given an answer, nor has any hon. gentleman on the Treasury benches, or behind him, been able to give an answer. While I go on, I ask the right hon. gentleman to consider whether he is able to do more than hide behind three lines of a lecture of Sir John Bourinot, found in an almanac; for, after reading the extract, this is what he said:

In some countries there is a union of the two Houses to consider and pass Bills on which one or the other disagrees.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). Which country ?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. An hon. gentleman asks: In which country? The Canadian people are entitled to know whether the right hon. gentleman ever gave sufficient study to this subject to be able to answer that question, and give the name of a country. Is he only able to say, that Sir John Bourinot said there were some countries where such a system existed? I say, that Sir John Bourinot's language cannot thus be twisted into a support of the hon. gentleman's proposition. Sir John Bourinot, in those words, evidently had in mind the well-known system that exists in the United States and on the continent of Europe, of a conference of the two houses. But, as the leader of the Opposition says, was it ever dreamed in any civilized country on the globe that one house should swamp the other, that you should have a joint vote of both houses, and that the absolute majority of both should govern? I pause for a reply. I say, there is no country where there is, or ever has been, such a system. Conferences obtain between this House and the other House. We consult in regard to our committees and in regard to many other things. The right hon. gentleman knows that; but I challenge him with confidence to name a single country where any such system obtains as he intends to force on the people of this country. He knows he cannot do it; and this reference in the almanac was the only argument he could furnish up to meet a direct and pertinent challenge from the leader of the Opposition. Now, though time presses, I suppose, I feel that the importance of this subject warrants me in giving the hon. gentleman some information from authorities which he ought to regard as of great weight. For instance, the right hon. gentleman feels aggrieved, or pretends to feel aggrieved, on account of the action of the Senate respecting the Yukon Railway Bill. Well, the manly thing to have done, under those circumstances, unless power and place are valued above everything by hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches, was to take the verdict of the country on that measure. The moment the Senate rejected it, if the right hon. gentleman had gone to the country, in man fashion and fulminated his charges against the Senate and their conduct, and had been returned, I say, the Senate, composed as it is, judging from everything that has happened, and if there was nothing to the contrary, would have passed the Bill. That is the English system, the system under which the Empire has grown great. That is the system under which our constitution has been, in a sense, moulded. In Earl Grey's correspondence, there is a minute of the Reform Cabinet of 1832, as follows:—

It must be admitted that cases may occur in which the House of Lords, continuing to place  
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itself in opposition to the general wishes of the nation, and to the declared sense of the House of Commons, the greatest danger might arise, if no means existed of putting an end to these collisions which such circumstances would produce.

It is with a view to a danger of this nature that the constitution has given to the Crown the power of dissolving, or of making an addition to the House of Lords, by the exercise of the high prerogative of creating peers, which has been vested in the King for this as well as for other important purposes.

Now, turning to Sir William Anson, whose authority no one in this House will dispute, we find in his "Law and Custom of the Constitution," the following:—

And so the relations of the two Houses may thus be stated. In matters which do not greatly interest the electorate the Lords can use a free hand in rejection, amendment or postponement. In matters of widespread interest the House of Lords, by rejecting a measure sent to them by the House of Commons, might force the Queen's Ministers to advise a dissolution in order to ascertain the sense of the country. If the country gives a decided answer, the Lords must, substantially, abide by it, and, as the history of the last twenty-five years has shown, they will abide by it.

And here in Canada who should complain? The hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches boast of carrying by-election after by-election. They can bring all the harpies and all the hangers-on and heelers of two or three governments to their rescue. They can resort to the most extraordinary practices, which, later on, I hope will be exposed in this House. If they believe they represent the sentiment of the country on the Yukon deal or any other question where the Senate opposes them, why should not they be asked by reasonable men in Canada, whether Liberals or Conservatives, to try the good old British plan of going to the people as a court of appeal before they try to force by their majority these crude reforms upon the country? That would be the manly and honourable course. They are not yet able to say that the British system has failed in this country or that on any occasion, after the verdict of the people has been pronounced, the Senate remained stubborn or would not recede. These expressions of opinion by the authorities I have read are the result of years of experience which we would do well to consider, as we can benefit greatly by them. These authorities are the result of experience under a system which is diametrically opposed to this proposal of the right hon. gentleman. Prof. Hearn, in his treatise on "The Government of England," also agrees in the general principle laid down by the other authorities, and says expressly as to the House of Lords:

But since the House of Lords cannot be altered by dissolution, it would, unless some other check were provided, have the power of obstructing the executive with absolute impunity. In these circumstances the remedy which the constitution

provides is that which I have already endeavoured to explain. It enables the question, if the case should require, to be by means of dissolution ultimately submitted to the decision of the constituent bodies.

Then, take the Right Hon. James Bryce, of whom I need not say anything in this House—a man who is at present giving England the benefit of his knowledge and research in matters of this kind, a member of Mr. Glastone's Government, and of course a Liberal, and the author of "The American Commonwealth." Mr. Bryce says :

Should a difference arise between the House of Lords and a Ministry supported by the House of Commons, and the former persist in rejecting a Bill which the Commons sends up, a dissolution is the usual remedy ; and if the newly elected House of Commons reasserts the view of its predecessor, the Lords, according to the now recognized constitutional practice, yield at once.

Then, in Sir John Bourinot's work—and the Prime Minister has referred to him—we have the benefit of his research coming after and in review of these other great writers on the question, and writing not from a party point of view, but before this subject was mooted. He says :

As things are now in Canada, it is always within the constitutional powers of the Ministry to advise and obtain a dissolution with the avowed object of testing public sentiment on a question in dispute between an elected Commons and the nominated Chamber.

In such a case the Upper House would be constitutionally bound to bow to the popular verdict when clearly expressed.

That is the sum and substance of the constitution as it affects us. Why should the Government endeavour in this country to have a constitutional struggle and crisis on an exceedingly awkward question between provinces and provinces, when they have not exhausted the means provided in our own constitution as interpreted by the British constitution, and have not shown the courage of their convictions by going to the people and getting their direct mandate not to over-rule the Senate, but to induce the Senate to agree to what they and the people desired. They have never tried it, and until they have tried it and the Senate has shown by stubbornness that it is prepared to act contrary to the popular will as directly expressed, I affirm that there is no semblance of reason or argument or justice or right in the scheme the Government has propounded.

Passing from that, the right hon. gentleman, in his speech in this debate endeavoured to quarrel with the leader of the Opposition on the position the Conservative party took concerning our relations with the United States. I think it is unnecessary for me to cite authority to show that the Conservative party, whether under the present leader or any other leader since 1867, has desired to cultivate friendly relations with the United States, but, at the same

time, has desired to show its complete independence of the United States commercially. I need not bring evidence to prove that the leader of the Opposition has interpreted public opinion correctly in maintaining the traditional policy of the Conservative party, and saying that we should follow, not a policy of retaliation, but of governing this country and legislating for this country wholly regardless of what might be thought of our policy in the United States, having in view the good of the country and copying where we can the legislation of the United States to our own advantage. I think that the right hon. leader of the Government would have gained favour with his own party and with moderate men throughout the country if he had said he accepted the suggestion and that he would accept support from this side of the House in maintaining that independent, Canadian, national and rational policy. But the right hon. gentleman and the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), seemed anxious to pick a quarrel with the leader of the Opposition and to put him in a false position by suggesting that he was endeavouring to use inflammatory language and to provoke the animosity of the United States, and suggest retaliation merely for the sake of retaliation and of punishment. Now, if time permitted, I could give you from the pen of a gentleman closely in the confidence of the right hon. leader of the Government language almost verbatim like that used by the hon. leader of the Opposition. I refer to Mr. Willison in his letters to the "Globe" and articles in the "Globe." They are almost in the line taken by the leader of the Opposition, and they speak the feelings of the people of Canada regardless of politics.

I care not into what province you go to-day, the very fact that the Treasury benches had perforce to adopt the main features of the National Policy, is evidence of it. There is the feeling that while we wish to cultivate friendly relations with our great neighbours to the south, we are absolutely tired of begging favours at their hands, and we wish this House to be in a position at all times to legislate for the Canadian people, to do what is in our interests, whether in relation to the United States, or to any other part of the world. There is a fretting, there is a chafing now in this country, we find ourselves tied up, bound hand and foot, by the negotiations conducted by the Government out of which nothing practical will come, and in consequence of which we find ourselves unable to legislate in any particular in regard to the great interest of the Canadian people. It is not only the young men of this country, but I believe it is also men of all ages of life who are absolutely tired of marking time to see what our neighbours to the south will do. There are things we can do, there are things we ought to do, and there are things that ought to be done this session, and could

be done this session if the right hon. gentleman had not, as I say, in this diplomatic manner tied us up by the hands and by the heels. When he talks of the leader of the Opposition using inflammatory language, let me show how entirely unfair he is in charging upon this party or its leader any desire whatever to embarrass the Government or to cause ill-feeling with the United States, when the leader of the Opposition lifts his voice in advocacy of a Canadian policy being promulgated for the benefit of the Canadian people alone. Let me refer to some communications in the "Globe," for instance, of February 24th, 1899, to show that I am speaking by the book when I say that when the right hon. gentleman attempts to rebuke this side of the House, our leader, or the men who sit behind him, he is rebuking the sentiment of the whole country, if Mr. Willison, the able editor of the "Globe" can be taken as an exponent of that sentiment. Both under his own name and in his editorial writings in the "Globe," he happens to have said precisely the same thing as the leader of the Opposition, he happens to have said it before the right hon. gentleman spoke, perhaps he dare not continue the same advocacy now. But when he was free and untrammelled, writing as a Canadian—

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). I spoke in Toronto on the same subject on the 22nd February.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). Yes, this is an important fact to mention. On the 22nd of February he did give voice to the sentiments that we find in the Liberal press, and he spoke not only the sentiments of Liberals in the eastern part of Canada, but of those on the Pacific coast, as well as of the Conservatives there, when he spoke of a Canadian policy, of legislating regardless of any other country. We have in that speech the genuine feeling of the Liberals, untrammelled by discipline and unaffected by the party lash, and with these sentiments the right hon. gentleman, if he attacks our position, must join issue. In the "Globe" of February 24th, we find this :

Our duty is to make the most of our own sources of strength without troubling ourselves about the disposition of our neighbours, and without basing either fear or hope upon their public policy.

Again in the same article :

Our view of the relations we should maintain with the United States is that we should regard them largely as one business concern regards another. We cannot expect favours from that source. Neither do we think that very much is to be gained by the attempt to balance one concession against another. Whatever may be the disposition of Americans toward us, the fact is that their system of government renders the adoption of a treaty involving reciprocal concessions almost as difficult as the passage of a camel through the needle's eye.

Then again—and this is important, and for that reason I dwell upon it, as showing that

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the hon. gentleman did not understand the ground he was treading when he endeavoured to put upon the shoulders of the leader of the Opposition a mad desire to make party capital against the Government, when in fact he was endeavouring to show this House the real feeling of the country. Take Mr. Willison's own letter from Washington, where he was, I suppose, in close communication with the right hon. gentleman himself, and in which he writes :

Reciprocity in adjectives, but no reciprocity in trade ; rhetorical good-will, but tariff war all along the boundary.

That is the position that confronts him. Then, speaking of the position of the American citizen, Mr. Willison writes :

So let him stand. He has a right to his protectionism, as we have a right to mark out our public policy with a sole regard to our own interests.

Concluding his letter, he says :

In Canada to-day the national spirit is as fervent and as strong even as the United States, and in proportion as we grow in strength, in national dignity and in old-fashioned British confidence in ourselves, we shall grow in the respect of our neighbours to the south, and influence in the Empire to which we belong, and, let us hope, prove no estranging factor in the relations between the old mother country and the mighty republic of the new world.

I believe he there speaks the sentiment of the people of Canada, and he speaks the sentiment which the leader of the Opposition, both before these remarks were made and in this House has expressed. Then, take the "Globe" of March 4th on the same subject. If our advice and suggestions can have no weight with the right hon. gentleman, at least he will consider the advice and suggestions in the same line coming from the great organ of the Liberal party :—

Canadians have at the present moment a rare opportunity of enforcing a new National Policy, a National Policy affecting products which are more truly native than even those of the farm or the orchard. In these we have rivals everywhere, but in white pine, in pulp wood, in nickel, in lead, we have commodities in which we enjoy something of the nature of a complete or partial monopoly. We were quite willing to turn these into the complimentary volume of exchange, but as this has been vetoed—

I call your attention to that, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Willison, the editor of the "Globe," who was at Washington with these gentlemen during the negotiations, does not say that proceedings have been adjourned, but he says the trade proposal has been vetoed, rejected, turned down.

—vetoed through no fault of ours, the next movement must be to make the very most possible out of the advantages that we possess in this respect.

Again :

If the American mill man were cut off from the Canadian forests, the cost of his raw mate-

rial would go up at once, and the calculated advantage that he now possesses would be cut off at once.

Then, skipping a portion of the article :

The nickel industry is in largely the same position. By the same policy of putting a heavy impost on the refined article, while nickel matte is admitted free, our American friends have made it next to impossible to establish the refining industry here.

Again :

The Federal Government has already power to impose an export duty, and should use that power fearlessly.

Now, nothing but these negotiations in Washington block the way of a useful reform being carried out on the floors of this House, as hon. gentlemen will see. Coming now to a subject of peculiar interest to me, I read this from the "Globe" in the line of making a suggestion that has been so ruthlessly spurned by the right hon. gentleman simply because it came from his opponent. Here is what the "Globe" says :

The condition of silver-lead mining in British Columbia should also be inquired into. The same tariff game is worked there with respect to the lead, so that of the growing production in British Columbia the American smelting companies get an undue proportion. The duty amounts to about \$33 per ton on the lead. In 1897 British Columbia miners paid \$600,000 for the privilege of having their ores admitted to the United States for treatment, and the amount would probably be \$800,000 or \$900,000 in 1898.

Of this large sum but little goes into the revenues of the United States, for when the smelter exports the lead to Canada or Great Britain the duty of 1½ cents a pound is remitted and goes into his pocket. All that the miner receives is about \$20 a ton for the lead contained in the ore, while if he buys it back from the smelter it costs him from \$60 to \$80 a ton.

Now, after a few words the "Globe" goes on to say :

It is well worthy of careful inquiry, with the view of seeing if this waste is at all necessary, and whether it could not be corrected by a strong policy. Retaliation would be a foolish policy.

I heard some one say "dispense" from the other side of the House, but after all said and done that interruption pays me a great compliment. Instead of using my own bare argument it has seemed to me far better that I should say acceptable things of the proposition laid down, but instead of the useful advice offered to the right hon. gentleman by the hon. leader of the Opposition being received in a proper way, the right hon. gentleman spurned it, and endeavoured to place him in a false position. I now show, by their own organ, that the leader of the Opposition spoke for the country, represented by the independent spirit in this House, not the unjust and intolerant spirit that is manifested on the

other side of the House. But none of these useful things we can now do, none of this advice can be felt this session, because the hon. gentlemen have got affairs in such a jumbled and inextricable position that with the commission adjourned to August 2nd, 1899, probably not to meet again, all that Canada is enabled to do, is to mark time.

There are other affairs to which I would refer. I had intended to perform what I consider a solemn duty. If we are to continue I will go further into a subject that I consider is necessary to be dealt with, lest the country should consider that it is not as serious as it is.

The PRIME MINISTER. Go on.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I refer to the administration of the Yukon territory. There is a chapter in the history of Canada that I would be glad if it had not been written, but there are facts, and facts that are so stubborn that I am surprised, in view of all that has transpired, setting aside altogether the incompetency of the Minister of the Interior, there has not been some action taken by the Government which would have removed, for this session, at any rate, the discussion of such a subject from the arena of debate. The Minister of the Interior resorted to the most extraordinary plan apparently for the purpose of shielding and preventing a searching investigation into these matters. His deputy wrote to me—I suppose he wrote to all the other members of the House—asking me to kindly furnish some officer of his, Mr. Ogilvie, up in the Yukon territory, with such information as I had in regard to the misconduct of officials and the misgovernment of that territory. There never was in the history of government such a remarkable request made to a member of Parliament. I do not know whether the Minister has denied it at all or whether the question has been put to him; at any rate, he puts his request in this way: "I have appointed a man to an important office. He is under me; I have appointed him to inquire into some vague charges that have been made in regard to delinquencies of officials in office. and if you have any information in regard to maladministration in that territory will you send all that information up to my officer?" I do not want to deal with the hon. gentleman's officers, the gentleman I want to deal with is the Minister of the Interior. What would have been the use of my sending to his officer charges and facts so that his officer, his understrapper, a gentleman who got his appointment from him, a gentleman whose position can be affected by him—what would have been the sense of my sending or any other gentleman sending these particulars to him! I was amazed when I considered the posi-

tion the Government now take compared with the position the Government took in 1896. They had not got into office, the Prime Minister had not kissed hands, when the Minister of the Interior had the audacity to begin an account that has run up to some \$18,000 or \$19,000, for which the Prime Minister is responsible, by employing Pinkerton detectives and by going to extraordinary expense in order to pin, if possible, upon his political opponents, charges in regard to Dominion elections, which he claimed would have sent them to penitentiary or at any rate give him and Liberal candidates information upon which they could file petitions in the election courts and unseat their opponents. Without information, without specific charges, the Minister of the Interior has, I say, dared, before the Government came into office and before the Government of the present leader of the Opposition went out of office, to begin an account which was paid by the Government of the right hon. gentleman after he got into office in order to ferret out, in order to fish for, evidence upon which he could fasten charges upon his political opponents in Manitoba. But there were no detectives employed when the press, from one end of the country to the other, rang with charges and were filled with interviews of men who had come from the Yukon, when the "Times" of London had such charges as Miss Shaw put in her communications to that paper after having been up in that country, when evidence of that character was all over the country, and the impression was general in the minds of all men, no matter whether they belonged to one side or the other, that there was something wrong in the Yukon, that there had been maladministration in connection with the officials appointed by the Minister of the Interior, there was no money expended, no expense incurred, no Pinkerton detectives employed, to track down these men. When the charges were being made the officials implicated decamped day after day from the Yukon and were succeeded by others. There was no investigation, no charges made by the department itself, but a cool request in an official letter to members of this House, to communicate to Mr. Ogilvie any information which they might have in regard to maladministration in the Yukon and to corruption on the part of the officers of the Government. In the case of the Manitoba prosecution, or persecutions, Mr. Howell was supported by the Minister of the Interior in refusing to disclose the names of informers, but now the hon. gentleman asks us to make specific charges.

Let us see some responsible man who will come forward and attack us in regard to what we have done in the Yukon. The Government say that; knowing very well, as they cannot fail to know, that in many cases where men have been victimized and

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robbed of the rights that they had every reason to expect would be guaranteed under Canadian laws; they dared not give their names, because these Government officials who had so ruthlessly dealt with them, would rob them afterwards of anything that was left if these outraged citizens dared to make charges which would bring upon these officials disgrace and obloquy. Under these circumstances—while I do not think that in the case of the Manitoba prosecutions there was any justification for Mr. Howell, backed and supported as he was by the Minister of the Interior and the Liberals on the committee, to refuse to divulge all the information upon which that huge account of \$18,000 or \$19,000 was run up—here was a case if there ever was one, where the Government needed no prompting, and where the Government were in honour bound to have dragged down these officials of the Department of the Interior who had done that which brought disgrace and infamy, not only on the Yukon, but on the name of Canada and on the name of the Canadian Government the world over. I propose to deal at some length with the information which is at hand with regard to this matter. I propose to go into the facts of this case, because while I fully understand that the subject must be definitely dealt with later on, and while the Government cannot refuse to give this House and the country the amplest means that a committee can afford, to probe this thing to the bottom, I believe, Sir, the debate on the Address should not close until some more extended reasons may be spread upon the "Hansard" of the House of Commons, and given to the people of the country.

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

### After Recess.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). Mr. Speaker, when the House rose at six o'clock I was referring to the maladministration of the Yukon territory. The history of that territory under this Government is a history of failure and disgrace. There have been notoriously bad regulations; there have been imposts, taxes, and royalties, which would make such a personage as Oom Paul blush. Notoriously there have been under this Administration, underpaid, inefficient and corrupt officials, described by Australians and by Englishmen as a pack of licensed thieves—very strong language that. Some of the information that I will give to this House seems to justify the use of that language. There has been favouritism in the issue of liquor permits, a system so extraordinary that to my knowledge, fees have been obtained by Liberal solicitors—or solicitors of Liberal proclivities; that is proclivities of the Liberal political persuasion—to the extent of \$500 for merely obtaining from the Interior Department for clients, a

permit to sell liquor in the Territories. There has been favouritism in the grants of the lands; there has been favouritism in the contracts let by this Government; there have been notorious blunders in the management of the transportation of Government supplies from any part of Canada up to that territory. There has been an extraordinary exhibition of favouritism towards the United States transportation companies in connection with the transportation of supplies by means of United States steamers from United States ports, carrying our Canadian materials and supplies to the Government posts in Canadian territory. There has been a favouritism shown by this Government, and a marked favouritism, to United States routes for transportation of supplies, against the two principal ports of Victoria and Vancouver in British territory, where private capital was struggling as best it could against the formidable rivalry of foreign capital in the ports of the United States. There has been, beyond and above and surrounding all the troubles and irregularities that have occurred, this extraordinary feature, which to my mind—and as the evidence will show—had a most painful effect, namely, the secrecy of official records. This secrecy of official records has tended to create not only throughout this country, but throughout the centres of intelligence in the Empire, perhaps more than a suspicion that the whole thing was conceived in iniquity. Trace the history of the mining legislation and the legislation in regard to the development of the mineral resources of British Columbia, from its inception to the present day, whether it was under the supervision of the British authority or as afterwards under the supervision of the local authority, and you will find that both the British and the local authorities seemed to pride themselves on having all the official records public, and accessible to the public without fee or charge. That has been the great vindication of the system of gold mining, or of mining generally in the province of British Columbia. But in the Yukon territory, the very fact that these official records were secret, that you could not during the official hours from 10 to 4 by payment of any fee or otherwise obtain a full knowledge of how the record stood; that very fact seems to me to be at the foundation of not merely the impression that had been formed in regard to the bad administration of that country, but it afforded an excuse and an opportunity for all the villainy that has occurred, because advantage was taken of that time and again as will be seen. There has been, after all is said and done, above and over the necessities and desires of individual speculators—of men who endeavour to enrich themselves out of the resources of the country—this crying shame and this crying neglect perpetrated in regard to that portion of the British Empire and of Canada, and it is this, that, whereas huge royalties have been imposed—royalties

so large that all the history of Spain, all the history of Australia, all the history of British African government affords not the slightest justification for the huge exactions that have been imposed upon the development of the mineral wealth of the Yukon; yet, withal, there has been an unparalleled and disgraceful neglect of local necessities and local improvements. Why, Mr. Speaker, last session, from this side of the House, out of official records, an appeal was made to hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches in regard to the improvement of navigation and improvements in connection with the localities themselves; but, so far as I am able to discover, not a particle of attention has been directed to these important considerations. You have fever raging to an extraordinary extent in the country; you have correspondents of the highest possible standing going into the district of Dawson, whence this Government has derived an enormous revenue, and you have them all coming out with the statement that this Government has not raised its little finger to promote the improvement of local conditions or to prevent contagion of the most dire and disastrous character. You have a condition of things there in regard to health that is almost indescribable, and that is unparalleled in any other part of Canada. There has not before been such a state of neglect, that I am aware of, as exists, and has existed, in Dawson from the time the Government began to reap its revenue from the speculators and people who went in to develop the resources of the country. You have nothing like it in any other part of Canada. And yet it was no new thing. There had been mining districts developed aforetime, long before the time of confederation, in the province of British Columbia; and yet you heard of no scandal and no condition of things like that which exists in the Yukon territory. There has been some defence suggested; I have seen it in the press, and perhaps it has been mentioned in this debate, that, in regard to the development of the North-west Territories and Manitoba, the old Conservative Government had not been able to take time by the forelock and to arrange things to be suitable and pleasant for all the settlers; but that is a proposition to be considered, I submit, on its own merits. It has no similarity whatever to the opening up of a new gold field or a new mineral territory. So far as the Yukon is concerned, we had the advantage of the history of the world: we had the dire consequences of ill-considered legislation in Australia to warn us; and, on the other hand, we had the successful legislation of the Imperial Government in the province of British Columbia, not so far removed from the Yukon territory, where they had been able, from away off in London, to practically open up and administer the rich mineral wealth of that province without scandal or suspicion of any kind whatever. And, after

the advantage of all these years of experience, after all you may say in regard to the faults and deficiencies of the previous Governments—for it was an advantage to know where mistakes had been made, so that they might be avoided—we come to a condition of affairs absolutely unparalleled. For the support of that statement I need not refer to any party press or to any party opinion in the Dominion of Canada. The witness to whom I have referred already, is, perhaps, as far removed from the scene of local strife in Canada as we could wish an impartial witness to be—the correspondent of the London "Times"; and hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches know that, on a recent occasion, notwithstanding that an opportunity of months had occurred for reflection and consideration, when an officer of the Public Works Department made the strongest possible appeal for the vindication of what he called the Civil Service of Canada at the hands of Miss Shaw, after she had delivered a lecture in London on her experience in Dawson, Miss Shaw absolutely refused to take back one single word that she had committed to writing months before in regard to the condition of affairs in that territory. Surely, Mr. Speaker, without saying more, these statements or opinions from that source ought to have been sufficient to put the Government on its guard.

Now, before I go into this matter more in detail, I want to refer to what some people in Canada are apt to think a vindication of the Government, or, at any rate, some qualification of the grave charges that have been made against the Government of our country in connection with the Yukon territories. That is, that when on occasion persons representing transportation companies, mining companies, or any other interests, happen to be at the capital, though these self-same individuals may have committed themselves to public print in corroboration of the serious charges to which I have referred, they have been found retracting or qualifying the statements they had previously made, and giving to the Government the pleasant information that, after all, the only people in the Yukon territories who have been dissatisfied, or who are grumbling, are the failures among them—the men who have gone without knowing what the needs of the country were, or what the conditions required of them, and, having made a mess for themselves or the parties they represented, were only too prone to lay the whole blame on the shoulders of the Government; and these men, coming to Ottawa for concessions, privileges and considerations, have rushed into print to vindicate, as far as they could, the character of the Government. That undoubtedly has, rightly or wrongly, created some impression in the minds of those who follow these things favourable to the Government, or, at least, it has caused men to doubt whether the serious state of affairs existed in the Yukon territory that

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has been charged by a great many individuals. I think that hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches will not think it extraordinary if I say that when you find a man who, at one time, has charged the Government with neglect and the officers appointed by the Government with corruption, on coming to Ottawa seeking a privilege or concession, appears in print as a vindicator, his evidence may be set aside as not weighing much one way or the other. But I have been informed by men whom I thoroughly believe to be honourable men, subjects of the Queen residing in England—not Australian miners or African miners, but men who have convinced me at any rate that they represent houses, some of them the very first banking houses in England—that they have had experiences in the Yukon which were enough to make a Canadian blush for his country. I have asked whether they would allow me to use their names, to quote their statements, and they have made answer in the negative.

Mr. R. R. DOBELL (Quebec West). Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I see that my hon. friend from Quebec West (Mr. Dobell) lays stress upon that, as does the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), who lays it down at the outset that there should be specific charges.

Mr. McMULLEN. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. And hon. gentlemen behind him agree with that. So, they wanted the names of the men who would take the responsibility of making a charge. But what are these charges? The facts that I shall refer to later on will show that they are serious. On the surface this challenge of names and specific charges seems plausible—I admit that frankly. The ordinary man will say that if you cannot make a specific charge or find one who will take the responsibility of making it, your talk is waste, it is idle and there is nothing that the Government need concern itself about. But we are dealing with a unique condition of affairs. I confess that when I asked to be allowed to use the names of the men who made these charges any they declined I was somewhat weakened. But what was their answer? It was this: They were not Canadians, they had lived in England under a system under which such conditions could not possibly exist at the present day. No officer acting directly under the British Government would dare to do the things of which they complained. These men, however, had acquired interests in mineral claims, some for themselves directly and others representing companies—including some strong English companies. We would not dare, they said, to give our names. We went as trustees for people in England and have acquired certain interests under your laws and under the system by which you are govern-

ed. If the Government of this country, of which we know nothing, would retain in office the unscrupulous scoundrels with whom we have had to deal, if they would support the men who have robbed us and tyrannized over us, who have acted in every respect dishonourably and corruptly, how can we know but that the Government with its despotic power over the regulation under which we hold our title, would, by Order in Council, embarrass us and rob us finally of all we hold. Is that unreasonable?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. "Hear, hear" comes from the Treasury benches. Let me consider that for a moment. Hon. gentlemen opposite think it is as unreasonable to suppose that there is truth in charges of that character, but when the evidence is brought before the House I think that these "hear, hears" will be fewer.

Mr. McMULLEN. Bring on your evidence.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I will bring some of it forward before the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) leaves this Chamber, unless he is afraid to hear it. Let us consider what has happened. Where is the original outfit that went to the Yukon under which these infamies occurred? Scattered to the four winds of Heaven. Where is that Poo-hah, Mr. F. C. Wade? Does he hold all these offices—

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Mr. Wade is in Dawson City, I believe, ready to meet any charges.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Does he hold all the offices with which he was clothed at the outset?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. No.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, says the Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). What odds, if he is there to answer?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. What is he to answer?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Anything brought against him.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. As a matter of fact, Mr. Wade took the trouble to ascertain whether any charges would be brought against him during this session, asking whether I myself intended to say anything against his character, on the ground that if I did he would desire to be on the spot to answer.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Wait for a moment. Candidly, I answered

that I did intend to reflect on the character of Mr. Wade, and that if I were in his position, I would be on the spot. He immediately started for the Yukon, and is now in Dawson City, as the Minister of the Interior tells us.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I do not know that the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) will be able to say that long, because I apprehend that Mr. Wade may be back before Parliament is prorogued.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Well, he will not be taken by surprise. At any rate he is now in Dawson City, and unless the Postmaster General shows more activity about the mail, Mr. Wade will not know what has been said here before the end of the session, for I understand that three tons of mail are detained at Lake Bennett, whether by the intention of the Postmaster General or by accident, I do not know.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). Neither by accident or otherwise has a pound of mail gone forward irregularly.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. When did it get loose? For I have some good ground for believing that it was done.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The hon. gentleman has no information whatever. Ever since the ice has enabled the Mounted Police to traverse the lake, the mails have gone forward. I do not believe there has been a pound of mail waiting transportation at Bennett longer than the usual time. The mails have left regularly every two weeks.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I quite accept that. The usual time means months.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I stated that the mails left Bennett every two weeks, and have gone as far forward as they could, as the state of the ice enabled the police to do the work.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Will the hon. gentleman say that all the mail matter has gone forward regularly?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I say that so far as my information goes there is no foundation whatever for the hon. gentleman's statement. The hon. gentleman ought to know that the Mounted Police are industrious and courageous, and anxious to make a success of the service. They have brought the mails out in about 10 days from Dawson City, and I believe have made equally good despatch in when the condition of the ice enabled them to do it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I would remind the Postmaster General that the "Globe's" correspondent at Dawson City tells an exactly opposite story.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The "Globe's" correspondent makes no such statement.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). It does make such a statement.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). I happen to be to some extent interested in this question, I happen to have a partner in the city of Dawson, and neither letters from me nor letters from him can be conveyed in one direction nor the other, though he went into that city in November last.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The hon. gentleman's charge is not at all correct.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman himself is not able to make a statement that is worth anything on that matter, as he was not there, and it is not possible for him to know anything about it. However, he has endeavoured to divert the current of this discussion a little in regard to the postal facilities. There is not one of his friends on the coast, and there is not one member from British Columbia who will undertake to rise in this House and say that there is an intelligent man in the province of British Columbia having communications with the city of Dawson, who will say that the postal service between Dawson and Vancouver and Victoria has been anything else than an absolute disgrace for months past.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I challenge the hon. gentleman to produce the testimony of any person who is a credible witness, to sustain the accuracy of the statement that he has just made.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, I challenge the hon. gentleman's supporters, and I say that the hon. gentleman's supporters in this House sitting behind him, will not get up and say that the postal communication between Victoria, Vancouver and Dawson City has been in a satisfactory condition for months past.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The hon. gentleman stated it was a disgrace. I now here challenge the hon. gentleman or any one else to make good his charges, and he shall have, so far as I am concerned, a committee of this House to investigate the mail service this winter—as he is referring to this winter—and the management of the Mounted Police. He shall have the fullest opportunity of making good any charges he may make.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Exactly so.

Mr. G. R. MAXWELL (Burrard). My hon. friend is not the only one on the coast that has communications with Dawson City. I have had letters every month from Dawson City for the last four or five months.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou).

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. And that is an answer to my statement that the service in general has been absolutely unsatisfactory and disgraceful, and that it is known to the hon. gentleman's constituents. The hon. gentleman, perhaps, is prejudiced a little by his relations with Deadman's Island, which is a matter of interest between him and the Government, and a matter that will bear further investigation.

Mr. MAXWELL. I will be ready for you when you come on.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I think the Minister of Militia and Defence will not be quite as ready as the hon. gentleman. The member for Burrard (Mr. Maxwell) was ready, no doubt, long ago when he happened to be fortunate enough to induce the Government to perpetrate one of the most extraordinary frauds upon the people of Vancouver that was ever perpetrated on any people in this country—the hon. gentleman was ready to push the Minister of Militia and Defence into that position. But there is not a Minister on the Treasury benches who will now rise up and say they propose to confirm the lease that the member for Burrard induced the Minister of Militia and Defence to grant and to put his name to, that is the lease of Deadman's Island. I am speaking to the Treasury benches. There is not a Minister of the Crown who is at this moment prepared to plunge himself into that position and say he is going to stand by this lease which the member for Burrard happened to induce the Minister of Militia and Defence to put his name to. Of course he comes forward, the only member for British Columbia, to vindicate this rotten post office service, notorious in the province of British Columbia. The Postmaster General must know that his rickety old post office service is a by-word in the province of British Columbia. Take it from Nelson, take it from Rossland, the member representing that district will not rise up and say that the service there is anything but a disgrace. I have had some experience with correspondence between Nelson and the coast not so long ago, and I found that a passenger could go two or three days ahead of a letter from the city of Nelson to the city of Vancouver, and that I myself could go from Nelson to Rossland three or four days ahead of a registered letter. Why, Sir, the hon. gentleman is notoriously neglecting and starving the post service for the sake of vindicating "I, William Mulock," in regard to this vaster Empire than has been. That is the position in which he is. The penny postage is his forte and outside of that, when it comes down to the ordinary humdrum business of the service, he does not know much about it. But I think we are digressing.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentlemen are quite right. The Min-

ister of the Interior, backed up by the Postmaster General, tried to turn the current of this discussion off into a direction altogether foreign to what I have in mind. However, I have no intention of neglecting any of the points that I have in view. An hon. gentleman has just put into my hands this ugly and formidable fact, that a letter posted at Glenora, December 1st, 1898, arrived at Ottawa on February 29. You can see the postmarks on the letter. The letter was sent to A. Martin, M.P. There is something rotten in the state of Denmark. Now, I was referring to these gentlemen who, when this interest was evoked in regard to the extraordinary state of affairs, suddenly decamped from Dawson City, which, it seems to me, amounts to an admission of corruption—because charges of corruption had been made: specific, perhaps not; with names attached to the charges, perhaps not. But there were charges made in the press all over this country, all over the world, in fact, and the result was the sudden disappearance of all these gentlemen in charge. What became of Mr. Walsh? Let us begin at the beginning. Mr. Howell said:

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.). He never got in.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Major Walsh was charged with wrongdoing in several particulars, but instead of standing to his guns and justifying the reputation he had for personal courage in the times of old, in the time of the inauguration of the Mounted Police in the Northwest, suddenly decamped from Dawson, following most of the men against whom charges were made.

But I charge more against the Minister of the Interior, the responsibility for all I am going to say; I do not wish to deal with these understrappers, I do not wish to deal with the creatures of the Minister of the Interior. He cannot in fairness shelter himself behind their misconduct; he stands primarily charged with all the rascality and all the nefarious conduct of these men. We are dealing with the Government, we are not dealing with individuals, and when they undertake to appoint certain men who disgrace the offices in which they are put, who act in the most reckless and dishonourable manner, it is no excuse for the hon. gentlemen who sit on the Treasury benches to say that, in one way or other, they have caused the disappearance of these men from the public service. I drive home the charge to the Treasury benches; I say that the hon. gentlemen who sit there are individually and collectively responsible for all the maladministration, all the crooked work, and all the disgraceful conduct of their minions out in the territory of the Yukon. It may be well for the correspondent of the "Times," or for the correspondent of any other paper to simply use general language to refer

to the condition of things that exists and give expressions of joy and gratification that there seems to be a new era, and that some new men have been appointed, but what the taxpayers of Canada have to consider, what the Canadian voter has to consider, is this: Are the Government in any way responsible for this state of things? Against the Ministers of the Crown, against the Treasury benches I charge to-night that there has been a most serious state of things existing, and that they have not lifted their little fingers to show that they are themselves innocent or that they themselves can be considered as reprobating the facts and as punishing the delinquents. Therefore, they must stand in the criminal box with the men whom we can put in the criminal box.

In regard to this, I want to refer to some general principles before I come to the specific facts. I want to refer to the interesting discussion that took place in the Public Accounts Committee last session, and which was reported by that committee to this House. I hold in my hand the report, and I draw your attention to some evidence in regard to the administration of the criminal law of the country with the object, let hon. gentlemen understand, that I may be able more fully to fasten upon the Treasury benches the responsibility for which I hold them in every sense accountable. I say that in connection with the so-called Manitoba election frauds, this was the evidence on which this Government ventured, without any direct sanction to Parliament, to embark in a huge expenditure, an enormous expenditure of public money. The gentleman known as Mr. Clifford Sifton, now a member of this Government, but not then a member of this House, happened to write to the Prime Minister on July 17th, 1896, that he had reason to believe—to use his own language:

The result of the late elections in some of the constituencies of Manitoba indicated to me that a fraud of some kind—

I dwell upon that—

—had been perpetrated in the interest of the Government candidates. I at once placed skilled detectives at work, and have now in my possession conclusive evidence—

The examination in the Public Accounts Committee showed that statement in regard to conclusive evidence to be absolutely without warrant, as I will show later on—

—of an organized system of tampering with ballots, which constitutes the most colossal crime against honest electors which I have ever had any knowledge of.

The Minister of the Interior wrote a letter of this character on the 17th of July. He implored the right hon. the Prime Minister to supply him with means of ransacking the province of Manitoba for evidence that would incriminate members of the Conser-

vative party, and those gentlemen who are elected for the different constituencies, and without asking Mr. Clifford Sifton, as he was then, for specific charges, without asking for the names of his informants, without taking any of those precautions that the Treasury benches seemed, in regard to the Yukon territory, to think necessary, the Prime Minister says on the 24th of July, almost on the day on which he should have received the letter of the 17th of July

I feel confident that you will unearth the most odious conspiracy that has taken place for many long years, and we will most willingly furnish the necessary funds for the service, in order to carry on the work in which you are engaged.

This is the introduction of a little bill amounting to some \$18,000 or \$19,000, for which I suppose this Government is responsible, \$10,000 of which has already been paid, and the result was the conviction of one poor creature who confessed at the trial that he was guilty of dishonourable conduct. But we have more in this interesting revelation before the Public Accounts Committee. On page 52 of the report of the Public Accounts Committee we have the testimony of Mr. Howell, who did not say that he was in possession of any such information as Mr. Clifford Sifton stated he had on the 17th of July. I want to be exact. Mr. Howell did not say that he had in his possession conclusive evidence, but Mr. Howell frankly admitted that instead of having what Mr. Sifton said he had in his possession, they started on a fishing inquiry, they employed Pinkerton detectives from the United States, that they might be able to fish up conclusive evidence, and they ransacked the province of Manitoba at the expense of the people of Canada from July to December, 1896, that they might be in a position not only to indict Conservatives for malpractices, but to get an easy and cheap way of unseating Conservatives for irregularities in connection with petitions. In his examination, Mr. Howell, being examined by the Minister of the Interior, says :

Q. You have stated that at one of these interviews I gave you some lengthy instructions in regard to what you were to do ?

And the Minister of the Interior said :

Yes ; I intimated to you that I had received information to the effect that there had been extensive frauds practised in connection with the election ?—A. Yes.

Q. And instructed you to proceed with the investigation of them ?

Not to lay charges or information on the conclusive evidence that he had to convict, not by any means ; but to run up a huge bill at the expense of the people of this country, that he would father on the Prime Minister, to collect the conclusive information.

Q. How did that compare with the action that would be taken in any other criminal case ?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou).

Mark this, Mr. Speaker :

A. I think it was practically the same. I am usually brought into criminal cases at a very early stage, and evidence is gathered very often subject entirely to my direction.

Question by the Minister of the Interior.—The Attorney General, as well as counsel and others may have charge of the prosecution before the case is prepared for trial and before the information is laid. It is usual to employ detectives—

Mark this, Mr. Speaker :

—and work up the case, as detectives say.

And Mr. Howell replied :

Yes, quite so. I think I have done it under your instructions before.

Now, Mr. Speaker, think of the Minister of the Interior instructing Mr. Howell, or any other counsel, to work up a case against Mr. F. C. Wade, Mr. Clarke, or Mr. Perdue, or whoever these gentlemen were. Said the hon. the Minister of the Interior :

I think so, several times. The Crown does not wait as a rule, according to your experience, until there is evidence enough to convict a man before a jury, before it starts to make inquiries.

And said Mr. Howell, who at this time had drawn about \$6,000 as counsel fees :

No, that has not been my experience. When we get a suspicion—

This was in the good old days of Manitoba, and when, of course, the Minister of the Interior was merely Attorney General of that province ; this was not when he had his own dupes and his own appointees out in the district of the Yukon. Mr. Howell said :

When we get a suspicion we start, and I may say it is perhaps different in Manitoba from what it is in other places, certainly different from this province, because there are no county attorneys in Manitoba, as there are here, and the prosecuting counsel in Manitoba has to take a burden that is not taken in Ontario.

Then said the Minister of the Interior :

Sir Charles Tupper seems to think that there was some discredit to be cast upon the proceedings, because it was, as he said, a fishing excursion that you sent out detectives ? Did the proceedings differ in any respect whatever from the ordinary proceedings in any criminal case ?

And said Mr. Howell :

No, I have fished just the same in this case as I did in the Holland murder case under your direction.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what would have been the hon. gentleman's bag, if he had employed Mr. Howell and the Pinkerton detectives to fish in the Yukon territory. The proceeds in the way of minerals have been large ; fancy, Mr. Speaker, what a bag there would have been in the ordinary fishing for crime there. Said the Minister of the Interior :

Do you remember, Mr. Howell, the general nature of the instructions I gave you at the time ?

And Mr. Howell said :

I know you told me to hunt it out, and if it required a great deal of expense to find it out and bring the rascals to justice.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the expense did not bother the Minister of the Interior. He was the Attorney General of Manitoba, and he was not going to pay the bill himself, and Manitoba was not going to pay the bill, but the Prime Minister of this country, the Government of this country, was going to pay the bill, and the Federal Government did pay the bill. So they went on a fishing excursion on the twaddle, and on the hearsay, and on the information of a drunken reprobate, named Freeborn, to try and fasten on the Conservative party charges of irregularity and misconduct, which, whether it would send a man to prison or not, would get at the public expense evidence to unseat Conservatives, for which they were individually in no sense responsible. I have more to say about this, Mr. Speaker, for it becomes now a pertinent matter. It is a splendid matter of comparison as to how eager Mr. Clifford Sifton was to hunt down the rascals, and to go on fishing excursions, and to obtain by hook or by crook, calling Pinkerton detectives to the rescue, evidence in the matter of an election case in the province of Manitoba at the cost of \$18,000 or \$19,000 to the exchequer of Canada—to compare that with his present position, and how lordly he sits, when he is Minister of the Interior, and how he demands, when the whole world is ringing with charges of malversation in office, and charges in regard to the corruption of his creatures in the Yukon territory: Produce your specific charges; give me your name; state under your signature, if you dare, what can be said of these men.

Let us go on with this comparison, because I think the country will be interested in knowing how that situation contrasts with the position the Minister of the Interior now takes. We came a little closer to him than during the investigation, in order that I might be able to show that Mr. Howell went into this matter recklessly, that Mr. Howell had not in his possession from the Mr. Clifford Sifton of that time any reasonable evidence which justified him in going into this wild-goose chase. I pressed him for Mr. Howell to produce to the Public Accounts Committee the information he had in his possession, either at the time he saw Mr. Sifton, when Mr. Sifton wrote the evidence that he had this extraordinary proof in his possession, or, as to the evidence he had before he had these very men arrested, and what do you suppose was the condition of affairs that confronted me? Why, forsooth, in that committee they took subterfuge behind the privilege of a prosecuting Crown attorney. They told us that it was against the administration of justice that any public prosecutor should be compelled to tell a committee of Parliament the

names of his informants. Why, they said: It would obstruct the course of justice, if the Crown authorities had to divulge the names of their informants. That was to be locked in the breast of the Crown prosecuting authorities, and though our charge was, that this whole business was, on its face, a fraud and intended for the purpose of indirectly obtaining evidence at the public expense to unseat political opponents, and did not justify these abortive criminal proceedings, yet the majority of that committee pulled the Minister of the Interior through, shielded Mr. Howell, and by their votes enabled him not to divulge the names. A little while ago, I heard members from the back benches say, "Hear, hear," when I said, that, in consequence of the unique condition of affairs in the Yukon, we could not obtain the name of many a man to make specific charges, for the obvious reason that he would at once become a target for unfair treatment at the hands of the Government or their minions. Do these gentlemen say, "Hear, hear" now? If they do, where is the difference between the condition that the Minister of the Interior and his supporters imposed on us in probing this affair in Manitoba to the bottom, and the condition to which I have been alluding? Again, let us hear a little more of this evidence. I asked Mr. Howell:

That is to say, technically and professionally, if we may so use the terms, you were acting for the Attorney General of Manitoba and looking to Mr. Sifton for your money?

And Mr. Howell said:

Well, perhaps that was the way.

Q. And you got the money from Mr. Sifton?—  
A. Yes.

Q. You got \$19,000, you and the other counsel?—  
A. More than that.

Q. Well, how much did you get from Mr. Sifton?—A. Well, Sir Hibbert, the total in Exhibit "A" is \$19,724.63, and that does not include Richards' and Bradshaw's bill.

And in regard to that, by the way, so eager and hasty were the Minister of the Interior and the Prime Minister, that what do you suppose they did, in order to fasten some charge, if possible, on their political opponents? They dipped their hand into the public treasury of this country, and they took out, in connection with some financial kiting of the Minister of the Interior, \$500 odd to pay Mr. Perdue. They paid that sum into the Bank of British North America to relieve the Minister of the Interior from a personal responsibility under which he lay to Mr. Perdue. The Department of Justice, under the authority of Sir Oliver Mowat, cut down that bill to \$300 odd. Mr. Perdue got the \$500 odd, which the Minister of the Interior declared he got to pay Mr. Perdue; and not one farthing of that money was refunded when the Public Accounts Committee sat to investigate the matter. In other words, they took out of the public treasury of this country.

as straight as any man could take it, over \$200 and put it into the hands of the Minister of the Interior, though not a single dollar of the \$200 was owed, according to the legal department of this country. But, forsooth, it was to track down like sleuth-hounds their opponents in Manitoba, and to help to fasten on their opponents a criminal charge in connection with the elections in Manitoba. There was money to burn for that; but there was no money to send a detective up into the Yukon—not one single stiver, not one single sixpence—and I will put into the hands of the House, before I am through, information that is far more serious in regard to the misconduct of the Yukon officials. The satraps, and the myrmidons, and the heelers of the Minister of the Interior had no information which they dared to give to the public Accounts Committee respecting any Conservative in the province of Manitoba. They had \$18,000 to spend for that, \$19,000 for that, but not one farthing or sixpence for the other. But the hon. gentlemen sit there and say: Come on with your specific charges; give us the names of your informants; we ourselves will not give you the names of our informants. When we take the money out of the public treasury to hunt down our political opponents, we will protect ourselves behind the grounds of privilege and secrecy; but, when you attack any man serving under us, you are to give us, not only the specific charge, but the name of the man who dared to make the charge. On page 8 of this official evidence, what do we find? Mark you, Mr. Speaker, these prosecutions were in the province of Manitoba. The Deputy Minister of Justice, on oath, told us:

We have no criminal prosecutions, except in the North-west Territories.

Now, the Yukon is part of the North-west Territories. There is no money, as I have shown, to follow up and track the men who have done the notorious wrongs that have been done to the Yukon and Canada, according to the universal testimony; but there was money to spend in a province, without any statutory authority and without any vote, and though an official of the Department of Justice said that, in regard to criminal prosecutions, the department was confined to the North-west Territories. Now, let me take a further exposure of the position in which this Government stands. I hold in my hand a copy of a most extraordinary letter—a letter from the Minister of Justice, written in this very month of March; and if he had desired to damn this Government, to put it in a most defenceless position in regard to that Manitoba persecution, that attempt to use the public funds against their political opponents for party purposes, and party purposes only, no opponent of the Government could have framed a letter more pertinent to the occasion. He states, in regard to a perjury

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matter, in reference to a complaint made by some gentleman in the province of Manitoba on March 1st, 1899:

The administration of justice in the province of Manitoba is under the jurisdiction of Manitoba and not under mine. With it I have nothing whatever to do.

Respectfully yours,

DAVID MILLS.

If that department had nothing whatever to do with the administration of justice in Manitoba, when it was appealed to in case of perjury, and if this language of the Minister of Justice was justified, I ask, in the name of common sense, in the name of all that is fair and reasonable, how dare hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches dip their hands into the public till and take out \$10,000 odd in cash and hand it round to Mr. F. C. Wade, Mr. Perdue, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Howell, and all those Liberal attorneys in the city of Winnipeg, in connection with a matter which was certainly, if anything, a criminal matter? They pretend to spurn the men who sit behind them, and to condemn the people of the country. Their argument always is: We have carried the by-elections; we are here, you are there; we will spend the money of the country as we like; we have helped these men to carry the elections; we may tamper with the ballot-boxes; but we will sit here quiet and quiescent, if the whole country rings with scandals and charges affecting the administration of the Yukon territory, though it remains under our jurisdiction, while we will use the public funds to take unfair advantage of our political opponents in Manitoba, though it is out of our jurisdiction. That is the position of the Treasury benches.

So much for the light that is afforded to us by an inquiry which is only half finished, but which must be finished. I hope, conclusively, because I am of opinion, from the evidence that has already been taken, that there never was such a torture of authority, or such a bold and audacious handling of the public funds, secretly and without any express sanction of this Parliament, as there was in that connection, with so little justification and with such a poor result. I believe, if we can have the evidence of Sir Oliver Mowat and many other gentlemen referred to in that inquiry, if we can have the documents which were purloined, filched from the public files, and which were refused to be brought to the Public Accounts Committee, though they were before the Auditor General, we will fasten a scandal and a crime, not upon the backs of the Conservatives of Manitoba, but upon the backs of men on the Treasury benches, and we will fasten on the Minister of the Interior a hideous scandal and a hideous crime. There is nothing more contemptible than the action of the Minister of the Interior, as shown in that document, from the first page to the last.

He never dared, as Attorney General of Manitoba, to take up the matter. He did venture, with the protection of confidential communications with the Prime Minister to engage Mr. Howell. He put himself in the position of being under obligation to Mr. Howell, so that that gentleman could have sued him in the courts if he had not kept the kites floating for months with Mr. Howell and ultimately paid him out of the public treasury. The Minister of the Interior, not then a member of the House, not acting as the Attorney General of Manitoba, but as Mr. Clifford Sifton, retained and engaged Mr. Howell and contracted with him to carry on that party warfare. He was not man enough to shoulder the burden to pay party expenses, to pay for the persecution of his opponents in Manitoba, but with confidential letters written to the Prime Minister, he begged and implored the Prime Minister to come to his rescue. He engaged Mr. Howell before the Government of Sir Charles Tupper went out of office, and then, after having got this word from the Prime Minister of this country, he got the money paid. A large portion of it was paid—\$10,000 according to the Auditor General—and we shall see whence the balance came. Ten thousand dollars came out of the treasury of this country and not a dollar came from the pockets of the Minister of the Interior. He paid Mr. Perdue something over \$500 on his account, and Mr. Perdue's account was taxed down to something over \$300, but the liability of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Clifford Sifton), as he was in the eye of the law, was assumed by the Government of this country, and I believe that before this investigation is through it will be shown that the Minister of the Interior has no right to a seat in this House, and that he has infringed the law concerning the independence of Parliament, and is liable to be mulcted in heavy penalties for having done so. Now, this is what this Government can do in regard to the administration of criminal justice, when some one in Manitoba in the secrets of the party whispers that a foul wrong has been done to the party in that province. Let us see what they will do when there is not merely a whisper, but a widespread suspicion, based upon the statements of reputable people, that there is a nefarious condition of affairs in a portion of our country. But before I leave this point, in order that I may not leave my statements unconfirmed, I wish to quote the evidence with regard to this miserable wretch, Freeborn, whom the Public Accounts Committee cannot get hold of, this miserable thing who has decamped from the country and whose whereabouts are not known to any living man, but on whose statement the Minister of the Interior relied, and upon whose statement this whole persecution was based. What kind of man was he? I do not refer to his being an informer, or a man who pretended that he had wormed himself into the secrets of a party in order to divulge them and make money

out of his perfidy and treachery—but, according to Mr. Howell, this is the kind of man on whose statement eighteen or nineteen thousand dollars of indebtedness was run up. On page 42 we find the questions asked about this man, and why they were paying him from time to time so much money :

I may have got them from him because I would not give him any money to pay his way, because he would spend it, and I would have to buy his tickets for him.

Q. Was he drinking?—A. Yes; I had to be careful of him, so that there is a charge for railway tickets, \$32.50, which may be for him.

The statement of this drunken, miserable informer was the basis of this expenditure of \$18,000 or \$19,000. I can bring you more serious evidence than that. The Treasury benches have been in possession of more serious evidence in regard to the conduct of things in the Yukon.

Now, we undertook to govern that country, and for that purpose to send up men when expenses of living were abnormally high. And what did this sapient Administration do? Did they give any man from the judge down, a decent living salary? Will the Minister of the Interior say whether there was one single individual in his whole outfit, who, having regard to the cost of living and the expenses in that country, was given a decent ordinary living salary? The Minister of the Interior is dumb. He is in the condition of most of his colleagues. There is the Prime Minister half asleep, there is the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) wholly asleep; there is the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) absolutely reckless in hilarity; there is the Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly) who does not know what we are talking about; there is the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), who is now taking notes, but who will not vouchsafe a word; there is the Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden), who is looking as happy as only one of the Bytown Coons can; there is the hon. Minister without portfolio (Mr. Dobell) who, I suppose, is only wondering when he will put to sea again, and the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), for a wonder, is looking happy. I would ask any of these hon. gentlemen—and it is not a discourteous request in fair debate—will they name a single official commissioned under this Government to go to the Yukon who had a decent salary, considering the conditions that prevailed there? They cannot do it. They put these poor wretches in a position of temptation. Why, take the judge of the court. His name was Maguire. He had a high and dignified position, but they must have known, for they had the means of obtaining information, that the humblest miner that came before the judge had a better income or as good as the judge himself. No hon. gentleman will say I am exaggerating.

Mr. A. CAMPBELL (Kent). Why did they not resign?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Now, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell) helps me on with my argument. I do not say that captiously; I want to discuss this thing fairly. I say that if any Government ever went to work to put a poor lot of men, or a lot of poor men—I do not wish to reflect on any others than those I charge—in a position of temptation, where they would be subject to dire and disastrous influences, these hon. gentlemen subjected to that treatment these men who went out as the first outfit to the Yukon.

There is not a doubt about it. It was a country in which huge interests were being canvassed and huge interests were at stake; where men talked of hundreds of dollars as we talk of a dollar. That is not exaggeration. When the hon. gentlemen opposite began they gave these men, from the judge down, ordinary eastern salaries in a part of the world where there was no parallel for expense in cost of living. There never was a gold country in Christendom where the cost of living was so enormous—nor in heathendom either, as an hon. gentleman reminds me. I say there never was a country where men were sent to such an extraordinary place to do their duty, whether you have regard to the cost of living or whether you have regard to the climate and all the disadvantages. They sent these gentlemen, as I think the facts will show, into these positions thoroughly unfitted, so far as salary went, to keep them independent, thoroughly unfitted, therefore, in every sense to keep them independent. Is the conclusion to which I am going to come shortly, unreasonable, that the most of these men, if not all of them, succumbed to the conditions and circumstances and brought disgrace and brought infamy upon the administration and Government of this country? Now let us begin at the beginning. Take the wise laws that have been made in regard to the independence of our officers. Take the Postmaster General—he is present. What is the order that he has promulgated in regard to his officials? The Postmaster General will correct me if I am wrong when I say that he has recently recognized the impropriety of his officials being interested in commercial transactions, and has made some order to secure the independence of the officials of the Post Office Department. He was not the pioneer in that respect. The Minister of the Interior had before him the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act. Let him consider the spirit of that Act in connection with all the unfortunate things that have happened:

No person employed in or under the Department of the Interior, including the Geological Survey Branch thereof, shall purchase any Dominion lands, except under authority of an Order in Council, or shall locate military or bounty land warrants or land scrip, or act as agent of any other person in such behalf; nor shall any person so employed disclose to any person except his superior officer any discovery made by

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him, nor any other information in his possession in relation to Dominion lands, until such discovery or information has been reported to the Minister of the Interior, and his permission for such disclosure has been obtained.

That was a wise provision, the Minister of the Interior did not attempt to repeal it. The principle of that law was good, sound, wholesome and clean. It commends itself to the good sense and judgment of this House, I am sure. If the House will banish from their minds the important point we have in hand, they will see that the law in itself is good, and has never been questioned in this House. Now, it was because the Minister of the Interior did not observe the spirit of that legislation in the Yukon administration, largely because of that—there are other causes no doubt—but it is largely because he ignored the wholesome, healthy spirit of that legislation approved by this House, that all these troubles have occurred in the Yukon territory. He gave these men starvation wages, starvation salaries, and instead of coming in a bold fashion, as the Minister of Public Works, to do him justice, would have done, and asking this House to supplement those salaries by such amounts as would enable these men to live independently in that country, the hon. gentleman, on the sly, behind the backs of this House, behind your back, Mr. Speaker, and our backs, gave, if my information is correct, express direction and sanction that these gentlemen appointed by him, while taking very ordinary salaries, could themselves become directly interested in the affairs which they were to administer and in connection with which they were to be consulted. Does the hon. gentleman deny that? Mr. F. C. Wade is an authority which induces me to make that serious statement, for it is a serious statement. The Minister of the Interior never dared to say to this House that he had told Mr. Wade that when he went out there to administer the Lands Department, when he went out there as Registrar of the Court, when he went out there in three or four different capacities, as Crown Attorney, for instance, with a mere bagatelle of a salary of \$2,500, that he could become interested in the mineral lands and in the mineral claims in regard to which he was to advise the registrar of land titles, in regard to which he was to advise the mining recorder, and in regard to which he was to conduct the criminal business of the Crown. No member of the Government ever dared to say that these men were to make up indirectly the salaries that they required and the living expenses they absolutely needed, in order to keep them independent in that country; and it is because such extraordinary instructions were given and such extraordinary license was permitted that these things have occurred. It is because of that, among other reasons, that there has come upon this Government such a condition of affairs the like of which has never been since Canada was Canada.

An hon. MEMBER. Tut, tut.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman from Kent (Mr. Campbell) is mumbling something, but he will not dare to rise up and say that what I have been denouncing was right on the part of the Government; he has not the courage to stand up and say that the Government that asks from this Parliament \$2,500 for an officer was justified in telling him on the sly that he could be interested in all these various things. Now, let us see what Mr. Walsh says, his conduct is most extraordinary, because Mr. Walsh figures in a great deal of the information that I have to lay before this House. Mr. Walsh was the Commissioner first appointed, and where is he now? The Minister of the Interior said he was a courageous man, that he was one of the chief organizers of the Mounted Police, who could go into an Indian encampment and take a criminal out of the strongest tribe. He had physical courage. Had he the courage to stand at his post in the Yukon until his character was thoroughly considered and thoroughly weighed? Had he the courage to meet this Parliament as Commissioner of the Yukon and vindicate his character? He has been supplanted, he has disappeared from the district where we are told, forsooth, that the present Commissioner, thousands of miles away, is instructed to hold a commission of inquiry. He is neither there to assist him, nor is he there to answer the charges that might be made against him.

He has reported, and from that report I want to draw the attention of this House to some interesting facts that will assist in the consideration of the manner in which the Government conducted the administration of the Yukon. There are questions on the Order paper in regard to the position of Mr. Wade. How does Major Walsh tell us about this extraordinary gentleman. He refers to him as the Crown Attorney for the district on one page, he refers to him as the Registrar of Lands on another page. He had a survey made of lands and a division of the town of Dawson before the commissioner arrived on the spot. He refers again to Mr. Wade as collecting a large amount of money by private subscriptions, and to a committee being formed for the raising of the balance necessary to discharge the hospital debt, and I may say that I am informed by credible parties that that was a system of blackmail on the part of the Crown Attorney, on the part of the Registrar of Lands and on the part of the gentleman who held all those various offices under the Federal Government. I observe that the Minister of the Interior laughs; this is not a laughing matter; it is a very serious matter.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I was laughing at the hon. gentleman's credulity.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman says that he was laughing at my credulity. When he hears all the serious statements I have to give him in regard to the goings on of the officials sent up by him into the Yukon territory he will laugh at my moderation; he will be surprised that I speak with such moderation on the subject. I hope I am wrong, but this was told to me by a credible party; I have it on the word of a man who in my opinion stands as high as any member of this House, on the word of an Englishman, an educated man and a gentleman, that Wade obtained these subscriptions for the hospital by a system of blackmail on the saloons. The hon. gentleman smiles again; I am informed that Wade would go into a saloon and ask for a certain subscription for the hospital, and if the saloon-keeper would say that the sum asked was entirely beyond his means, Wade would say: "It either means giving that amount for the hospital or having your license cancelled and the saloon closed up." I was told that by a man of honour who has interests in Dawson City, and in the Yukon, but who being terrorized by the satraps up there fears to give his name, just as Mr. Howell feared to give the names of men who had less to be afraid of. Mr. Howell feared to give the names of those informants who had given him information in regard to alleged crimes committed in Manitoba. The Minister of the Interior protected Mr. Howell, and the committee protected him and concealed those names. If the House of Commons of Canada to-day says: "We will pay no attention to what any hon. gentleman in this House says, unless he gives the name of the man who will dare to attack the Government, unless he will offer his name and his signature, you will make it absolutely impossible to attempt to purify conditions in the Yukon." You will have such a state of things there in future that it will be infinitely worse than it has been in the past. Living in a state of terrorism as these people are, you cannot think them unreasonable for that belief, which they hold, for their logic is sound. They believe that the Government that would put in office the men who have been charged with these offences would not hesitate to introduce changes in the regulations that would drive them out of the country and ruin those who became responsible for accusations against these officials. As a Canadian, I have endeavoured to show them that no Government would dare to adopt that attitude, and that if they would come forward with the information I could guarantee, almost, that no Government would dare to make them victims. There is a public opinion in this country that would prevent the Government doing such a thing. These men do not know the Canadian people; they simply see the kind of men that I will describe to you a little more parti-

cularly later on, that have been put in positions of power and influence by the gentlemen on the Treasury benches. Consequently I tell the hon. gentlemen, I assume the responsibility for saying what I have in regard to Mr. Wade, but I do not say it behind Mr. Wade's back entirely. When he asked, indirectly, if I had charges that reflected upon his personal character, I frankly said that information had come to my hands that seriously reflected upon him, and that if I were in his position I would attend the House of Commons during the present session of Parliament. I feel prepared to make these statements, particularly now that the Minister of the Interior, who seems to know all about Wade, says that it is probable that he will be back before the session of the House concludes. I hope he will.

Mr. FOSTER. He will have to come quicker than his letters did.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I was referring to Walsh's report, and I will refer further to it. Here is the germ of the trouble; here is the opinion of the commissioner who exercised such wide powers; whether he had a right to in many particulars is a question. I have found no vindication for many of the arbitrary acts of the commissioner in the Yukon. He says:

With regard to the question which has arisen as to the propriety of an official taking up a claim in the Yukon District, I fail to see any reason for not permitting him to do so, nor any way in which the public or the public service can be thereby injured.

Now, here is a man, who is given these wide powers, and who went to that far-off country with views diametrically opposed to the direct order recently made by the Postmaster General of this country, diametrically opposed to the order that I understand since charges have been made, the Minister of the Interior has issued, and therefore some of the statements to which I will refer in a moment will seem to be such as one might expect. Touching Mr. Fawcett, this is what the commissioner says. Mark, Mr. Speaker, that the commissioner is friendly disposed towards Mr. Fawcett. I hope that Mr. Fawcett has been more sinned against than sinning; I believe the Administration are responsible for all the charges laid against Mr. Fawcett. I never knew that gentleman until he came into this position. This is what Major Walsh says:

I do not think any one but a lawyer is qualified to try these cases.

If the present Gold Commissioner had such qualifications, I am inclined to think that complaints against his administration would have been few—if indeed any would have been made.

There is the report of the late commissioner who, not soldierlike in anyway, vacated his post under the fire of the artillery. He was bombarded, he was charged by the news-

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papers in such a way that unless the charges were true he could have had a remedy. I regret, considering his position, he did not stand to his guns and demand an investigation before tendering his resignation to the Minister of the Interior. I regret particularly, as a member of this House, that the Minister of the Interior accepted his resignation before an investigation, full and complete, was held and before the result of that investigation vindicated him in regard to his responsibility as a public officer. Let me quote from another publication before I come to the evidence to which I refer. Here is an official report published in the bulletin of the Department of Labour, November, 1898, from the Washington Government Printing Office, and in this publication an official makes his report to the Government of the United States. Samuel C. Dunham, an agent of the department, giving an illustration of his personal investigation in the mining district of the Yukon Valley and the adjoining territory—this is a man wholly outside the political arena of Canada reporting to his Government—after dealing with Dawson, says incidentally:

A strip of land on the river bank, 1,500 feet in length, and varying in width from 50 feet down to a point has been appropriated as a Government reservation and leased for \$30,000 a year. The lessees charge a ground rent of \$8, \$10 and \$12 per front foot per month; the rent varying according to the depth of the lot. This entire tract has been wholly built up, being occupied by restaurants, small stores, laundries, etc., and yields the lessees a gross income of about \$10,000 a month.

Mr. FOSTER. \$120,000 a year.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. \$120,000 a year, as my hon. friend from York (Mr. Foster) suggests, for a Government rental of \$30,000 a year; and thereby hangs a tale, thereby hangs enough to put the Government on the qui vive to institute a most searching inquiry. Mr. J. C. McCook, the United States Consul at Dawson, arrived early in July at his post of duty, and reports to the Government of the United States:

Along the river, ground leased from the authorities brings \$10 per front foot per month.

I merely mention these evidences from impartial sources. Standing alone we might not pay much attention to them, but here we have two officials of the United States Government giving their opinion. Let us see what the other information amounts to which would justify the strong statements that I have made in regard to the maladministration of the Yukon. I want this House to understand, Mr. Speaker, that I have a great deal more information than I propose to give to-night. I propose to give the Government, as fast as I can, some information; not that they shall send out a satrap of their own to investigate, not that they shall send it to a connection of the Minister of the Interior to inquire into, but that they shall be

forced by public opinion to appoint a commission of the highest judges in the land, some men who are not dependent on this Government for favour or by fear, some men who can and would dare, if commissioned, to go into this matter thoroughly for the sake of Canada—not merely for their own sake—and who would root out the thing from bottom to top, and let the public know how much there is that merits the disgrace that has been passed by the world upon Canada in connection with the government of this Yukon country. I propose to give the Government some samples of information that have reached my hand, and, Mr. Speaker, from what I have already said, you know yourself that if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) had shown a thousandth part of the zeal and activity that was shown by Mr. Clifford Sifton, when he was in the Manitoba Government, to fasten upon his political opponents some despicable charges, it would be unnecessary for me to take up the time of this House in referring even to these instances. In no sense am I responsible for the time that is taken up. The Government are responsible, and these facts must be ventilated, and it is only right that on the debate on the Address the Government should have intimation of what evidence there is obtainable, and what charges should be sifted to the very bottom. Here is an article which was sent to the Toronto "Globe," and which the Toronto "Globe" refused to publish. It was sent under the name of a gentleman, and in it he gave as his authority (date, Sept. 9th, 1898), an interview with Mr. M. E. C. Woodford, a member of the M.I.C.E., an English organization, said to be by this correspondent a well-known South African and Australian mining engineer. This correspondent signed his name S.R.D.—at any rate he called on me and handed me this document, which he said he sent to the Toronto "Globe," and the Toronto "Globe" refused to publish it.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Is it published anywhere else?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, not published anywhere else. He sent it to the Toronto "Globe" and he told me the Toronto "Globe" refused to publish it, and he said I was welcome to use his name and that of Mr. Woodford, because it was not given to him in confidence. This document says:

In the first place, the mining laws are crude, and not properly carried out. Take, for an example, the Record office, where all claims are presumably to be registered, and a clear record of such claims kept. It is almost impossible, says Mr. Woodford, to find out whether or not claims already staked out have been recorded. Surely that is a serious state of affairs. The miner in every part of the world has a perfect right to know. In other countries it is considered absolutely essential to have those records properly kept. Why not in Dawson City? Sim-

ply and solely because there is inadequate "help" in the Government office, and also because insufficient salaries are paid, which fact, no doubt, tends to place a premium on bribery. It usually takes miners two weeks to find out whether certain claims have been recorded. And when the necessary information has been supplied, it frequently takes two weeks—sometimes longer—to record them.

There came in—as will appear from the information which has reached my hands, and which I will give to the House—extraordinary opportunity for fraud and rascality. These men who were given, as Mr. Wade says, the right to become interested in mining claims, because interested in putting off applicants from time to time, so that while the inquiry was supposed to be taking place, they, through their friends, staked the claim, and when the time was up and the applicant came to the office, the answer given him was: The claim was recorded—not, of course, in the name of the officer, but in the name of the officer's friend. The hon. gentleman will see the gravity of that statement, as the evidence collects on this, which certainly calls for the most rigid examination. The rest of this interview relates largely to Mr. Woodford's views of whether the regulations were right or wrong, but I do not propose to go into that now, and I shall deal with the charges of maladministration. Later on he says:

In fact, says my informant, under the present conditions in Dawson City, every impediment is thrown in the miner's path. He has to pay, in one way or another, all the Government's revenues. The Government takes half the ground and 10 per cent of the gross receipts from the miners' claims. Is this fair?

When in both Australia and South Africa mining is free, always excepting the cost of the miners' license.

The saloon, the dive and gambling-house keepers, without license of any kind, make the great part of the money.

I will pass the rest of his statement, as it deals more with the regulations than with serious charges. But on August 25th—the House does not yet know, though the Government does—the miners themselves were stung into such a condition of feeling that they addressed the following document to the Prime Minister; and I fancy this is the document which the Minister of the Interior, through his Deputy, referred to in a letter to me, as, I suppose, to other members of the House of Commons, as containing very vague and general charges; but, nevertheless, out of their good grace they have appointed Mr. Ogilvie to inquire into them:

Dawson, Y.T., Canada, August 25th, 1898.

To the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, M.P.,  
Premier of Canada.

Sir,—We, the Miners' Committee, duly appointed at a mass meeting of the miners of the Yukon

territory, beg leave to submit to your notice the following statement, feeling that the Government of which you are the head, has only to know of the state of things here, appertaining to the administration of the laws and mining regulations, to take immediate steps for their remedy.

Many of the Government officials have forfeited their claims to the people's confidence and respect by their conduct and action in certain matters, thus leading to strained relations, which ought not to exist where the people have every desire to be loyal and law-abiding.

The Gold Commissioner's Office is practically closed—and has been closed for a considerable time—to the miner who has not the means or desire to bribe the clerks in order to obtain knowledge of the records which ought to be public. It is an undisputed fact, that those with money obtain easy access, concessions and valuable information. The Gold Commissioner allowed the clerks to work overtime for those who are willing to pay them for so doing. This naturally led to many evils, which have developed into a scandal, and the system is a great detriment to the camp. Wholesale information with regard to unrecorded ground is conveyed to certain individuals outside the office, who obtain men to stake and record the ground in consideration of an interest in the same, thereby defrauding the miner who cannot obtain correct information by legitimate means.

Also, it is felt to be unfair that those connected with the administration who have opportunities of acquiring special knowledge, should be allowed to compete with the miners in securing desirable ground.

With respect to decisions in claim contests, much dissatisfaction has arisen, particularly owing to the fact that the Crown prosecutor being the only person to whom the Gold Commissioner could look for legal advice, permitted himself to be retained as an advocate by one of the contestants.

The same gentleman, in his capacity as Dominion lands agent, is openly charged with serious breaches of trust and malfeasance in office, in that favouritism has been shown to persons by whom he had been retained as attorney, in the letting of valuable franchises and leasing of Government lands.

Injustice has been, and is, done, and great dissatisfaction thereby occasioned, owing to the incompetency of some of the officials connected with the recorder's office.

The mining inspector's want of experience and conversance with the most ordinary methods of mining cause hardships to many of the claim-owners.

The Crown timber agent has granted such extraordinary concessions and laid down such stringent regulations, that only a few parties have the privilege of supplying the town with cordwood this coming winter.

Grave and serious consequences must result in a country where cordwood is a necessity of life.

The feeling engendered in the country is widespread, deep and bitter; and until the officials are either publicly exonerated or removed, a better feeling cannot exist. The well-being and prosperity of the camp suffers in consequence.

Therefore, we respectfully petition for the appointment of a commission of inquiry, having power to subpoena and protect its witnesses, many of whom have been forced by the attitude of the officials into becoming technical bribe-givers, and who would not come forward, fearing their interests might suffer.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou).

We do so only after long and serious consideration, impelled by the conviction that such is our plain duty.

We have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servants,  
(Sgd.) GEORGE J. C. ARMSTRONG,  
Chairman, Ireland.

PERCY McDOUGALL,  
Secretary, England.  
J. KNIGHT SMITH, West Australia.  
DONALD McGREGOR, Canada.  
C. G. HICKEY, Ireland.  
WM. GALPIN, England.  
D. G. FRASER, U.S.A.  
GANON REID, New South Wales.  
CHARLES WORDEN, U.S.A.  
FRANK J. DUNLEAVY, Australia.  
E. LeROY PELLETIER, Canada.  
A. N. McLEAN, U.S.A.  
JOHN CAMERON, B.C.

Now, the hon. Minister of the Interior had that information before him—at any rate, it was in the hands of the Government—when he wrote the letter I have referred to, in which he passed over this as a most general and vague statement; and yet the Committee of Public Accounts, which inquired into the expenditure of that \$18,000 or \$19,000, never was in possession of information so direct and so certain, as a justification for the expenditure that was made, and the investigation of the Pinkerton detectives. I am told, too, that the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison) has made a trip into that country and out of it. There are certain questions down on the Order Paper, and I am told that he will not dispute the assertions I have made in regard to the maladministration of affairs there, or the assertions that have been made by the miners' committee.

But I have a great deal more to say on this subject before I propose to stop. Let us take some further information that has reached the hands of the Government. Specific information they want. Now, in every paper in Canada—at any rate, in many papers that came to me—there was a statement made by Captain Cadell. I never met that gentleman; but this statement seemed to be serious, and went through the press, where, in confirmation of the statement of Miss Shaw, the correspondent of the London "Times," he said in an interview:

I went to the post office on three successive days, and waited for periods of from two to four hours. Even then there was no getting near the door. If, on the other hand, you were prepared to pay one of the mounted policemen, or some one personally acquainted with the postmaster and his assistants a sufficient sum of money, your letters would speedily be brought out.

And I can say, of my own personal knowledge, that this was done.

Then in regard to the Gold Commissioner's office, Capt. Cadell says:

I shall give you the names of three miners, with whom I am personally acquainted, who complained to me that they had staked out claims in the

Klondike district, notified the Gold Commissioner's Office of their desire to record the same, and were told to come back in two or three days.

And when they did go back, they found that the claims which they had staked had been recorded in the names of other persons. These miners' names are William Huslig, of Christiana, Sweden; Arthur Brown, of Rockford, Illinois; and John Staten, of California.

Now, I am going to take another specific case, that of Dr. Leblanc. The hon. gentleman will see that I am not pretending that the condition of things is that there are no gentlemen who will give their names. I did combat a little while ago the position that it was an answer on the part of the Treasury benches that there had been no serious charges, but that the parties who made them would not take the responsibility of making them.

There are quite a number of men who have taken the responsibility of making serious charges, and for the investigation of these charges, so far as this House is aware, no commission of any kind has been appointed. As I understand it, Mr. Ogilvie has been authorized and commissioned to inquire into the charges I have read from the Miner's Committee and no other. We have no communication on that subject. Take the case of Leblanc, of course, any man who dared to say anything against the administration of the Yukon was branded by every Reform journal in Canada as a slanderer and a blow-hard. But look at what Dr. Leblanc says :

Skoohum Gulch comes into Bonanza at No. 2 above Discovery, and there is, perhaps, the richest spot in the country, or on earth for all that is known. You can see the gold in the gravel in nuggets. I staked a good bench claim on Bonanza, but lost it by not "standing in" with the officials.

And he goes on to support his statement. Then we have certain charges conveyed by means of the press. These that I am reading are from the newspapers. When I refer to information that came to me direct, I make that clear; for instance, the case as sworn to before this shackled, this manacled commission presided over by Mr. Ogilvie, where you have to go and indict Mr. Ogilvie's own superiors. Hon. gentlemen will see what an unwise, what a short-sighted move it was to appoint that gentleman, no matter how honest he may be individually—and I would not wish from anything I may say to be understood as insinuating anything against Mr. Ogilvie. All that I know of him is to his credit, but I say that any man put in a position of responsibility like his would decline, would feel bound to decline to inquire into any matter that directly or indirectly might affect any connection or relative of his. Here is one of the charges made and it is specific enough :

Mrs. Duboise swore before the Gold Commissioner that she staked a claim and applied to the bench claim recorder to record it; this official said it was necessary to wait for a survey; while she waited another person took up the claim, and the official granted it to the newcomer.

J. F. Murdock, the person who secured the claim, confessed that the official was in it to the extent of one-third, for which that officer had never paid a cent.

These are statements that appear in the public press, and I know nothing further of them. They coincide and are corroborative of the very serious information given to me from time to time by gentlemen who for reasons I have mentioned, do not desire to have their names disclosed, but in regard to whose character—I do not know how far hon. gentlemen opposite will be fair to me. I made careful inquiry and satisfied myself they were responsible people before I took down what they told me. I have a statement under my hand which I propose to read. It is from a reputable individual, and it contains facts, which, I believe, would be borne out by an honest and impartial investigation. We could even dispense with Pinkerton detectives. We need not go to any such expense in learning the facts :

In the latter part of the year 1897, and the beginning of 1898, the water front along the Yukon River in Dawson was unoccupied except by a few squatters, who had put up at their own expense small buildings thereon for business purposes. These squatters had applied to the Gold Commissioner for permission to rent the ground space occupied by them. This had in all cases been refused by the Gold Commissioner, but the squatters were assured that should the Government decide to lease the water front, they would be given the first opportunity to lease the same. When Mr. Wade arrived, he held the following official positions:—He was clerk of court, recorder, Dominion land agent, Crown counsel and also a private barrister, and Mr. Wade, Crown counsel, and Mr. Wade, Dominion land agent, and Mr. Wade, clerk of court, and Mr. Wade, recorder—all used their first and best efforts to facilitate the private business of Mr. Wade, barrister.

As we go deeper hon. gentlemen will see that he was clothed with extraordinary powers. Whether he abused his trust or not I am not particularly concerned to inquire. If he did not abuse his trust, but kept within the implied instructions of the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of the Interior abused the trust reposed in him. It is plain that Mr. Wade cannot be justified, for he acted for the Crown on one side and for his private clients on the other in regard to property from which his clients made enormous profits, and to that extent the country lost.

Acting upon this commendable principle, Wade immediately as Dominion land agent, upon the advice of Mr. Wade, Crown counsel, leased the water front without any advertisement and without exhibiting any lease to the public, to Morrison & McDonald for the sum of one dollar per front foot, the rent not to commence to run against the lessees, however, until the ground leased was occupied. Consequently, the lessees incurred no liability whatever in taking the lease. Mr. Wade, at the time of making this lease received a fee of \$2,500 from Morrison & McDonald as a retainer to act as their private counsel. He also received a salary as Crown

counsel, and, it is presumed, likewise as Dominion land agent, from the Government of Canada. No man can serve two masters, and Mr. Wade had no right to take a fee from the lessees of the water front on the one hand, and from the Government as Crown counsel and Dominion land agent on the other hand. It was well understood in Dawson that Wade and Major Walsh (and it was said Judge Maguire), held a half interest in this lease, and Morrison & McDonald held the other half. It is undeniable that Grötschier & Lingard, the brokers who collected the rent, acted under the orders of Wade, and did nothing except under his direction and with the assistance of the Mounted Police. They put through the deal, and compelled the squatters on the water front to pay \$10 per front foot rent without ever exhibiting to the said squatters any authority for collecting this money, although there was a civil court, and the squatters who refused to pay could have been put off by an action in ejectment if the title of Morrison & McDonald had been sufficiently legal to have stood in an honest court of law.

In the fall of 1897, Dominion Creek, below the Lower Discovery, was stampered and staked over two or three times, and there was considerable contention in the staking; consequently, the Gold Commissioner refused to record any claims on Dominion Creek after November, 1897, until the Government should survey the creek, and thereby determine what ground was open to location and what was already occupied. The miners were told by the Gold Commissioner and advised, many of them, by a legal firm to go back to the creek and squat on their property, improving and prospecting it according to law, so that when the same should be surveyed they would have the legal right to record the claim under the proper number and description given it by the survey. Many of the miners did this, erected substantial cabins and sunk two or three holes to bed rock on their claims, and in many instances got rich prospects. After Mr. Wade and Major Walsh arrived, Mr. Fawcett suddenly changed his front and announced that none of the prospectors and locators on Lower Dominion would be allowed to record these claims, which many of them had been in possession of from four to six months, as this property would be reserved for the Government, as the Government needed some property to recoup itself for its great outlay in sending in officials, Mounted police, etc.

These claims were sent out by the Gold Commissioner to be sold in Ottawa supposedly at private auction, and Wade himself said, to my knowledge, that he proposed to get hold of all of the unrecorded claims on Dominion. If the Government decided to do what they had no right to do, to deny these prospectors the right of recording their claims, they should have put the claims up at public auction, first at Dawson so as to allow the men who had developed and improved them a chance to purchase the same, and not sent them to Ottawa, where they could be disposed of at private sale to a syndicate working in the interest of Walsh and Wade at a nominal figure, which, I presume, has been done by this time. Certain it is that none of these claims have been sold in Dawson, where, according to law, if any public sale takes place, they should have been sold.

A woman named Nellie Cashman, an old resident of the Yukon, and hearing a good character for honesty and respectability, now having a small place of business on the water front in Dawson, staked a claim on French Hill, and tried to have it recorded by Capt. Norwood, the deputy

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou).

recorder at the Forks of Eldorado and Bonanza. Not succeeding, and being put off, she boldly demanded of Norwood what his price was, and asked how much she would have to give up to have her claim recorded, and he laughed and informed her that if she went to Miss Belle Mulrooney, he thought Miss Mulrooney could fix it for her. Miss Mulrooney is the recognized go-between of the officials for property around the Forks of Eldorado. She went to Miss Mulrooney, who informed her that she could get her claim straightened out and recorded if she, Nellie Cashman, would deed her a half-interest in the same. This Nellie Cashman did, and Capt. Norwood promptly recorded her claim for her. A man named Clarence Talmadge, a restaurant keeper in Dawson, staked a hill-side claim off 33 Eldorado. Finding some trouble in recording the same, he was told to go to Gougin & Peabody, brokers. He went there, paid them \$10, received a slip of paper from them, which he showed to the policeman on guard at the Gold Commissioner's office, and was admitted at once, and his claim recorded. There were many such instances as this. These are simply a few that came under my personal knowledge.

Andrew Donnelley, of Dawson, staked on June 13, 1897, a claim on Dominion Creek, which he recorded within ten days after it was staked as No. 17, above Lower Discovery. On the 11th day of August, 1897, one N. Swanson Blade recorded the same piece of ground as No. 34 below the Upper Discovery, claiming that he had staked the same on the 12th day of June, 1897. Blade sold the claim to Hansen, Misner & Company for \$1,500 and skipped the country. Shortly after buying, Hansen & Company, hearing that 34 below Upper Discovery was the same claim as 17 above Lower, and that Donnelley was in possession of the same place, sold their interest to a Swede named Andy Nelson, who, in his turn, gave a deed to a one-third interest in said claim to his mistress Lucile Elliott, one of the most notorious women in Dawson. This latter transfer to Lucile took place in March, 1898. Lucile then took active measures to assert her right. Up to this time Donnelley and his partners had been in undisturbed possession of the claim, had built a cabin thereon, and taken out a dump on the property, which they estimated was worth at least \$5,000. Up to March 31, 1898, Donnelley had received no legal notice of any adverse claim to his property. On that date he received a peremptory letter from the Gold Commissioner, sent at the intercession of Lucile, ordering him to quit possession of his claim, as there were adverse claimants thereto, and concluding with this remarkable sentence: "You are hereby notified that if the claim is not vacated by those working in your behalf immediately, your right to have a hearing in connection with this matter will be cancelled." Dawson is probably the only place on the globe where an official has the power to deny to British citizens, or to those of foreign origin claiming the friendly protection of the Union Jack, the sacred right of trial for property or life. Donnelley was forced to quit possession of his property, although no complaint or summons or notice of any kind other than the above letter was ever served upon him. The case finally came on for trial in June, 1898, Judge Maguire sitting as legal adviser to Mr. Fawcett, before whom the case was tried. The only evidence or proof of staking submitted on behalf of the plaintiffs in the case, Andy Nelson and Lucile Elliott, was the affidavit of N. Swanson Blade, which was filed in the Gold Commissioner's office at the time he got his grant for the property in question, to wit, the 11th day of August, 1897.

I do not vouch for this statement. It is specific enough, it is serious enough. The only absence is the name of my informant, and all I can say in regard to that is that while I do not vouch for his statement, I say I believe that while it is possible he has made mistakes, I do not believe he is a man who would wrongfully misrepresent the facts.

They had no other proof to bring and rested their case. Judge Maguire stated that unless Lucile and Andy could bring positive proof of the staking of the claim, he would advise Mr. Fawcett to non-suit the case; that is to say, dismiss it for want of any proof on behalf of the plaintiff. The case was then adjourned for one week. That night, about 11 o'clock, Lucile Elliott came up to Major Walsh's tent; he had retired; she remained until morning and was sent up the river about 8 o'clock in Major Walsh's canoe, accompanied by his private secretary, and rowed by the Government policemen. Lucile Elliott continued her nightly visits to Major Walsh during the continuance of the trial, which, it is needless to state, was decided in Lucile's favour. Major Walsh, at the time of his notorious liason with Lucile, was the Commissioner of the Yukon, with full power to remove Mr. Fawcett, and to reverse his decisions and acts. And after the case was decided, Donnelley was notified indirectly that if he would not appeal the case he (Major Walsh) would see that he received a grant for a claim down on Lower Dominion Creek.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Who signed this, may I ask?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I have told the hon. gentleman that no person signed it, that I can only give my own statement. I may have been deceived, but I take the statements from people whom I believe to be honest. I may have been deceived, but they corroborate the common talk, and it forced the conviction upon me that this is a matter of serious moment, a matter that should be followed up after the fashion in which the hon. gentleman followed up those Manitoba cases without any justification whatever, to clear the good name of this country. Of course, I have argued as well as I can the reason why these names are concealed. The whole case stands on that. If the commissioner you sent into the Yukon was as corrupt and foul, and vile, and dishonest, and tyrannous, as all reports agree, whether from Liberals or from Conservatives down along the coast, I can understand an Englishman, or an Australian, or any man outside of this free country, coming to the conclusion that he would lose all his property if he dared over his name to charge this favourite and this selection of the Government, with high crimes and misdemeanours. I did not sympathise with them, I implored them to divulge their names, and endeavoured to convince them that their rights were safe in this country, even with a Grit Government in power—though I may have counted without my host. I was anxious to give their names, but they would not

consent to it. But after reflecting over the situation, seeing that these statements are so fearful and so terrible, when we see the powers that have been exercised by these men, I have concluded to bring these statements before the House. Take Major Walsh's report wherein he refuses to confirm claims unless they are made of certain dimensions, wherein he assumes authority to tell a man how much food he would have to bring with him in order to enter the British Dominions.

You may say that was from necessity, but, after all there were reasons why these strangers to our country and to our habits should fear and tremble when they had rights that they had to buy, when they had to pay bakshish for what they got, and had to submit to misrule and to a corrupt system. They were just as much afraid as our own people would have been to charge officials of the Spanish Government in Cuba with harsh treatment and malversation in office. If hon. gentlemen take the position that because we cannot give them the names of our informants they will do nothing, they take a dangerous position. The country will not justify them. This thing has gone beyond these benches; I am not merely telling the Treasury benches what we have heard on this side of the House. It has gone beyond the bounds of party altogether. Take the case of the correspondent of the London "Times." Take the cases of all the strangers that have entered that country. Hon. gentlemen cannot meet or deny these statements, and if I am right the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison), who made an inspection of the country, will not, as I am informed, contradict these serious statements; but, perhaps, it is better that I should not have referred to him. He has not stated that to me; I have been told it, but whether he saw the things which I have described or not, there are other members from British Columbia, and I am sure they will not say that I am speaking wholly from the Conservative point of view when I say that the air in Victoria and Vancouver is full of these statements and these suspicions, and that they are not confined to one party or the other. That is a statement I make in all seriousness in this debate. I have another statement very similar to the last. They may vary in certain particulars, but that probably strengthens rather than weakens my argument because it shows that they are not made one with the other, but from independent sources. Take this one from a source wholly independent from the last:

The water front along the city of Dawson was, during the fall of 1897 and the winter of 1898, occupied by a few squatters, who put up small buildings thereon, with the general understanding that in the spring they would have to move off, if the Government decided to clear the water front, or pay the Government whatever rent it might see fit to charge them for the amount of space occupied on said water front, it being the general supposition that, if the water front

should be leased, the squatters who had erected bona fide improvements thereon, would have the first right to rent, provided they paid the amount fixed by the Government. Shortly after the arrival of Crown Prosecuting Attorney Wade in Dawson, it was announced that the whole of the water front had been leased by him as Dominion land agent, to the firm of Morrison & McDonald. McDonald, however, denied publicly that he was a partner in the lease, stating that he had thrown up his interest therein, and it is the general supposition that Mr. Wade and his associates own one-half of the lease. According to the terms of this lease, the lessees did not have to pay rent to the Government for any of the water front until the same was occupied by their lessees, thus incurring no responsibility whatever. Mr. Wade, at the time of making this lease, was the Crown prosecutor in the pay of the Government, and, as such, received a salary for tending to the Government's interests and advising the Government officials. At the time of this lease he acted also as the pay attorney of Morrison & McDonald, from whom he accepted a large retainer in dispossessing the tenants on the water front. Morrison & McDonald were represented by the firm of local brokers in Dawson, named Grotzcher & Lingard. The police were placed at the disposal of this firm, and all of the business transacted between Morrison & McDonald, the lessees, with their sub-tenants in fixing the amount of the ground rent to be paid by each was done under the personal direction of Mr. Wade. At the time of making this lease, the civil law was in force in Dawson, Judge Maguire being then present. No civil procedure was brought by the lessees of the Government to eject the squatters on the water front. They were given no opportunity to go into court and test the validity of the lease to Morrison & McDonald, but were ejected summarily by the police under the orders of Mr. Wade. Several of the tenants refused to sign a very binding, one-sided and stringent agreement, drawn up by Mr. Wade for the squatters on the water front to sign, but offered to pay their rent. They were told, however, that no rent would be accepted from them unless this agreement was first signed; and in one case, after rent had been accepted by the brokers for Morrison & McDonald and a receipt given therefor, the police ordered the lessee to quit his building within twenty-four hours unless he signed the aforesaid agreement.

Two Swedes, in April, asked Mr. Wade for a license to put a log-boom in the Klondike. Wade asked them, if they didn't want the exclusive privilege, which, he said he could give them for \$1,000. The men said they hadn't thought about that, but would let him know the next morning. They consulted together, and informed him that they had decided to take the exclusive privilege and would pay \$1,000; whereupon, they were informed that he had raised since the night before, and that they must pay \$1,500, if they wanted the exclusive privilege, which, it is asserted, was paid to Mr. Wade by others who later on got the exclusive privilege for maintaining a boom in the Klondike.

**THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.** May I ask the hon. gentleman is that statement made by a man who was there and who saw that transaction?

**SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** Yes, this was given to me by a gentleman from Dawson.

**THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.** Was he there?

**SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou).**

**SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** He says that he was informed of these occurrences.

**THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.** The person who gives the information says that he was informed?

**SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** Where he said that he was informed I was careful that he should say so in his statement, and it goes for what it is worth. I do not think that it would be strictly evidence in a court of law, but it is fifty times stronger than the evidence the Minister of the Interior got out of Mr. Howell in regard to the Manitoba prosecutions. The statement proceeds:

A man named Talmage, the owner of a restaurant in Dawson, located a bench claim about July, 1898, on Eldorado. Finding it difficult to get into the commissioner's office, he was informed that the firm of Gougin & Peabody could fix it for him. He went to them, paid them \$10, and received a slip of paper, which he showed to the policeman on guard at the commissioner's door, was let into the office, and recorded his claim. This was a common occurrence.

A woman, a well-known character, and an old resident of the Yukon, staked a claim on French Hill. Finding she would have some difficulty in recording it, she went to Captain Norwood, the Government deputy at the Forks, and asked him how much she would have to give up to get her claim straightened out and recorded. He said: "Go and see Miss Mulrooney; she will fix it for you." She went to Miss Mulrooney, who gave her a bill of sale for a half interest in her claim, when she was allowed to record the same, and then she claimed that she didn't get the claim that she had staked. Miss Mulrooney, by common report, was the regular go-between for the officials at the Forks.

**THE MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies).** That seems to have been stated of his own knowledge.

**SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** A good deal of it he qualifies; in regard to some he says that he was informed.

**THE MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** There is no qualification in the last passage.

**SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** Yes, he says in regard to the Forks that he was speaking of common knowledge. Now, in this case there was a singularly credible man representing, I suppose, one of the largest banking houses in London, a man who has interests in the Yukon. He came to see me, and I never discussed with him whether he was a Liberal or a Conservative in English politics, but he confessed that he knew nothing whatever of Canadian politics, but he knew that I was a member of the Canadian Parliament. He declined, not so much on his own account, as on account of the people he represented in England, to allow me to use his name. He gave me his name, and showed me letters from Lord Strathcona which he had shown to Major

Walsh. He said that when he went to present his letters, Major Walsh, the Commissioner of this Government in the Yukon, was in such a state of inebriation, so drunk and besotted, that he ordered him out of his office and denied that Lord Strathcona had ever given him any such letters as he claimed to have. He told me other things in regard to the Commissioner, Major Walsh, that I would not like to repeat on the floor of this House, but he afterwards committed to writing a statement which I hold in my hands. A large part of it refers to the onerous conditions upon mining transactions in that country, and is quite clear from his statements that he found these transactions most detrimental to the prosecution of his industry. I wish to give to the House, Mr. Speaker, through you, that part of the statement that bears more directly on the serious charges that I am bringing to the notice of the Government, and with regard to which I think they are bound to take some active measures and some course which hitherto they have not indicated they would take. This was taken down by myself from this gentleman :

A grievance with which the entire respectable population of Canada will sympathise is that of the liquor traffic. Up to the present no prospector, miner, claim owner, or investor going into the country is permitted by the law, even though he be going to winter in an Arctic climate, to take into the country with him a gallon of whisky, or any wine. The law does not allow him even to take a bottle of brandy for medicinal purposes. It goes without saying that the law is to a certain extent evaded. Such a law encourages smuggling and petty dishonesty among lower officials. However, that is not the point. While a respectable member of the community going into Alaska is not permitted to take any alcohol, owners of drinking saloons, gambling dens and houses of infamy can get permits to take in any quantity of liquor they like. There are scores of these places in Dawson, and there is enough drink in the town to supply the requirements of a population three times as large as exists in the district. What these parasites of the community have paid the persons who obtained the permits for them should be inquired into. The Minister of the Interior, who is responsible for the system, while he prevents the respectable member of the community taking in alcohol, at the same time granting permits to the saloon keepers and others, has not taken any step to see that the liquor which is sold in the district is of even reasonable quality. The parasite is left free to sell what he likes at his own price, such as from 50 cents to \$1 a drink, and \$10 a bottle. Most of the stuff sold, it need scarcely be said is very bad. Beyond the duty of \$2 a gallon on the liquor taken into the country, these saloon keepers, etc., pay nothing to the Government. The distinction between their treatment in the way of taxation and the treatment of the miner, who is taxed and harassed at every turn, is a curious one for a Christian Government to make.

I do not know whether this gentleman mentions it in the paper, but he gave me a sample of how this system worked. For instance, for fifteen miles away from the Re-

cord office, as he explained, you travel up a trail in order to find any land which is possibly open for staking. When you go up there and find a first-rate prospect, you see stakes all about, but you had no knowledge when you started as to the location. You could not get it for love or money, and, as he said, many and many a man who had staked a claim could not maintain his claim there and had to abandon it, but there was no notice of that, and so, you would have to trudge back to the office at Dawson, and when you got back after doing at least your thirty miles—for every claim nearer than fifteen miles from Dawson had been taken up—then you met an official, and when you asked him if he could show you what claims were taken up and what were not, he would refuse you point blank. He would simply tell you : You must tell us the lands you want to take, and we will tell you if you staked property that is open to location. As this gentleman put it : You can imagine how many weary trudges were made between the mining district and that office if you could not get into the good graces of the official. Then I pressed the question to him : But surely men do not do these thirty miles of travel without getting some result. He replied : Oh, no ; they came in the side door. In the Post Office Department, in the mining office, from 10 o'clock until 4, you could not get your work done. Everything was so arranged that it was impossible for the ordinary applicant to get information until after office hours, and after office hours came the fee \$10, \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50, and up to \$100 for the officials. Everything was so arranged and all the official instructions so arranged, that the officer was protected by the rampart that he was not at liberty to give this information. There was no fee for getting the information during office hours between 10 and 4, but you could pay a certain fee to the official and get a map and a sketch of the district which would tell you on your next day's journey just what claim was abandoned and what was not. That information was not open to the public, and yet in British Columbia the reverse of that system has always been the case. In that province you can find out in every mining recorder's office all that information gratuitously, so that there is no opportunity for the officer, whether corrupt or incorrupt, to resort to these subterfuges to implement his salary. This gentleman continued to say :

A great grievance is the fact that the records at the mining office are not open to inspection by the public. It is impossible for anybody to find out what claims are and what claims are not recorded. The whole district is staked, but there is not a doubt that a large number of claims have never been recorded. The people owning them know they are safe, because they hold them in conjunction and connivance with certain officials. This should be put a stop to, and there should be hung up for public inspection in the Gold Commissioner's office a map showing every unrecorded claim in the district. This would give the outsider and the poor miner a chance.

I will stop here if the Minister of the Interior will be so courteous as to answer me a question. I ask him if of late they have not made a regulation in the Department of the Interior which gives the miner or applicant in the Yukon territory, the right to inspect these public records at his own pleasure and to see whether the claim is taken up or abandoned. This question of mine is based on a newspaper rumour.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton. The hon. gentleman is quite correct. There has been such an order made. There has not been an order made that the miner shall be entitled to inspect the official records, but that he shall be enabled to get all the information in the office by paying a proper fee. That order, I may say, Mr. Speaker, was made since it was learned that there was a complaint made on that score.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. You will see, Mr. Speaker, that while as in the case of Mr. Ogilvie, and as in the case of a gentleman like Mr. Sinclair, from Vancouver, a gentleman who is above suspicion and a worthy member of the Bar of the province; while all these things have been done of late, and while the Government could possibly have escaped all this obloquy if they had only appointed such men at the outset; the charge against them is: That at the outset they were not sapient enough, or else they were so reckless or else they were so corrupt, as to appoint the men they did, and to make these regulations which brought about this sad state of suspicion, and which they now have had to revoke. Take the province of British Columbia, in which I happen to live at the present time. It is a remarkable thing that that province was so much passed over in the appointment of officials in a mining country. British Columbia is par excellence a great mining country and there are men there who have had great experience, from away back in the fifties, with what has been, on the whole, first-class mining legislation—legislation introduced there under Imperial sanction and followed up gradually down to the present time. Is it not an extraordinary thing that when this Administration was casting about for men to administer satisfactorily the mining wealth of the Yukon, they should have cast that province over wholly and absolutely? And only now, when they are attempting to sweep the Augean stables and endeavouring to overcome the force of public opinion, though without trial and investigation, lest unhappily the investigation might bring these charges too near to the ministerial head, they have had at last to resort to the province to which they should have resorted at first, and have taken, as I believe, one of the best officials they have now in the public service in the Yukon, and taken him tardily, from the province of British Columbia; and he was no horse dealer. He is an intelligent and honest man, I believe, though I have not the pleasure of his acquaintance. Now, I draw attention to this gentleman's statement, because he is a most intelligent man and a singularly modest man; and he told me a great deal more that he believed to be true, but that he hesitated to put in any shape or form, as it was not such as he could personally prove or felt warranted in making a positive statement about:

During the past year it has been impossible for ordinary people to get their claims recorded or bills of sale, mortgages and other documents put on record without waiting for days—

Mr. Speaker, we charge a fee, and every man knows a right tidy sum, for recording those documents, and we had the men there ready to do their work. Yet here is a statement which no one can gainsay:

—except by going to the "side door," as it is termed, and bribing Government officials to do the work out of office hours. Whether the work which is paid for in this way is really done out of office hours or not I can give no evidence, but if it is, all I can say is that the volume of business thus irregularly done is so great that Government officials can have little time for sleep or refreshment.

The innuendo there is plain, that that was so much the practice that there was so little done between ten and four, and so much after four, as this gentleman put it, that it is impossible to believe that the whole business was not so contrived that there was a side-door payment, while the work was going on all the time, though ostensibly you could not get it done in office hours.

The arrangements for the delivery of letters has been most defective. After the mail arrives in Dawson several days frequently elapse before it is sorted, and much ingenuity has been displayed by the officials in preventing the people obtaining their letters. The consequence is that persons who cannot afford to waste their time by waiting in a crowd of from 100 to 300 or 400 men at the post office door, trying to get their letters, go to the side door, and by paying the clerk a dollar, arrange to have their mail delivered to them when they call at a certain time after office hours. This system has become a monstrous abuse.

The whole of the water front which was reserved for the Government has been leased to Macdonald & Morrison at \$1 per foot frontage for a month. It is understood that the persons' names in the lease are mere figureheads. The whole of this frontage is relet to the public at from \$10 to \$15 per foot per month. The whole of the main street of Dawson is built upon land covered by this lease. The ground rent for any business premises is \$10 per foot per month. Saloons, etc., pay \$15 and \$18. Such a ground rent as \$10 per foot per month is a monstrous imposition upon the ordinary men of business in a place like Dawson. At any rate, if the land is worth such a rental, why was it not kept by the Government, and the money so obtained applied to improvements in the district.

All that profit, of course, has gone to the benefit of these people, who stood in, ac-

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictor).

ording to this evidence, with the agent of the Government.

But I have some more information. A gentleman who has been up in the Yukon, and who has had great experience in England and in the United States, who is an Englishman and who is interested in that country, and for this reason is not prepared to come forward under his own name and fulminate his charges against the Government, gives me this information; and, Mr. Speaker, whether his information be correct or not, I know of no reason whatever to believe for a moment that he would intentionally make a false statement, and I have known him for years. Certainly he feels strongly in regard to the condition of affairs in that country, and he has reason to feel so, if his statement to me be correct in regard to his own particular business. I am not his attorney or solicitor, but I happen to have known him for a long time. This is his statement:

Bad regulations and worse laws, ridiculous imposts upon the mining community, imposts and burdens such as foreign inhabitants of the Transvaal have never known, the appointment of officials and underlings to administer such laws and enforce such imposts, who were notoriously corrupt; favouritism in the sale of dredging and other leases, in the awarding of contracts, gross blunders in the arrangement of transport; the endeavour to force upon the people of Canada a railway contract which was a colossal deal: such are a few of the charges for which, in the next session of Parliament in Ottawa the present Ministry will have to render an account. Primarily responsible for this condition of affairs is the Minister of the Interior.

With regard to the office of Gold Commissioner and Mining Recorder, he says:

His staff was underpaid, inefficient and corrupt, complaints on all sides were constant and well grounded, gross and frequent acts of injustice to the mining communities were perpetrated daily. Admission to the recorder's office could rarely be obtained, except by payment, while further unauthorized and illegal charges were exacted for the recording and transfer of claims, and for general information necessary to the mining community.

To ascertain the title to a claim, merely to discover the name of an owner, sums up to \$15 were demanded by the clerical staff "for an abstract of title," whereas all the record books of the recorder's office should have been open to the inspection of the world, as in the adjoining province of British Columbia, where all mining matters are conducted on fair and business principles, and where the mining population is protected and contented.

Although the Government were collecting hundreds of thousands of dollars on miners' licenses, the recording and transfer of claims, taxes on boats, royalties on wood and land, duties on goods indirectly from many other sources, not one penny was spent on the improvement of roads—the streets in Dawson were a disgrace to any civilized back-woods village—the improvement of navigation of the upper Yukon, nor on any means of access to the country. The sole expenditure incurred in the official administration and policing of the country would equally

have been necessary had any such community established itself in any other part of Canada, which duties is one of the ordinary responsibilities of Government.

These statements in a sense are general.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). It is only a political philippic.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. But the philippic is based upon the very statements given by other individuals. It is a little more general; but still, does the hon. gentleman contend, for instance, that they have spent a dollar on local improvements in the Yukon or at Dawson?

Mr. FOSTER. Or one cent for sanitation.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Does the hon. Minister who interrupted me—

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I understand the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has given these statements as facts.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Anybody in listening to it can see that it is a political diatribe. I can recognize the hon. gentleman's own language in the statement.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That is quite worthy of the Minister of the Interior. He is base enough—

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Order, order.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Why did not the right hon. gentleman call his colleague to order?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). He was in order.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. He said he could recognize my language in a document which I attributed to another.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Brodeur). I would call the hon. gentleman's attention to the expression "base," which he used.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I understood the hon. gentleman took this statement down. Did he not put it into words?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I did not say anything of the kind in regard to this statement. Not an hon. gentleman with any fairness in his composition would say that I had told the House I had taken down a single syllable of this document. There is only one document I referred to as having been taken down by me from the lips of the person making the statement; and when I say by that I mean it was taken by a typewriter under my direction. I did not act as amanuensis. The Minister of the

Interior tries to avoid the force of this statement by insinuating that I have written this, that I have invented it. He tries to weaken the force of the statement that he must believe in this House, whether in his heart he believes it or not, that I got this statement from the gentleman I said I did, a gentleman interested in the business of the Yukon who writes from what he knows. It is true I said I could not vouch for the words he used, but I would vouch for this—that it was his statement and that I believe him to be a credible and reliable authority. But the Minister cannot avoid the force of the statement by any such innuendo or pretense. My statement is a fair and understandable one, and it is placed frankly before the House and before the country to show that there is more than a suspicion of wrongdoing. If you have not names signed to solemn declarations in support of specific charges, and there is a reason for their absence in the system of terrorism that prevails. Do hon. members on the Treasury benches pretend to ignore the charge that the Commissioner who preceded Mr. Ogilvie was in every respect totally unworthy of the high position to which he had been called? Do they pretend to deny the serious statements I have given on the authority of men whom I believe to be as worthy of credence as any men on the Treasury benches, and there are friends of mine there, that he was living in open drunkenness and immorality, disgracing the Queen's name and authority? Have not the hon. gentlemen themselves heard of these charges? There are friends of theirs who have gone to the Yukon. Let them consult the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison). I make no unfair charge. It is my duty to tell the Ministers what I believe to be the facts after having sifted as carefully as I can information that came to me at Victoria and at Vancouver from Liberal sources, from men connected with commerce and transportation in the Yukon, men representing great English companies, not one or two only but three. I say that the man who represented Canada was a disgrace to Canada in character and administration. That is the information borne in upon me and I have endeavoured to impress upon them that in cases where they did not have half as much information they could spend thousands in tracking down offenders against the law. Here they have a chance to bring before the bar of public opinion as well as before the bars of our courts, men, who having been placed in responsible positions have disgraced themselves and in disgracing themselves have disgraced Canada. And when I lay before the House this information, explaining that if I do not give the name of the persons from whom I received it. I believe him to be reliable, people in whose character and integrity I have every reason to trust, and the only reason for concealing the names is that which I have already explained, and even then I am frank

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou).

enough to say to the House that if they knew as much as I do about public opinion in Canada regardless of party they would not be so afraid to give the support of their names to these charges. Their fear was that the charges would come so near the Ministers of the Crown that, instead of ridding the country of the men who had done the wrong, they would have their own interests destroyed in a country in which they had invested so much money. I have more on this head. I have a letter from a member of the bar, a gentleman who voted against the Conservative party in 1896, a gentleman who sent a letter to one of the Toronto papers from the Yukon. He is not afraid of his name being used. His letter is as follows, and it is after Mr. Ogilvie's arrival:—

Mr. Ogilvie has arrived, and is fast making himself the most popular man in the Yukon. Beginning with the post office, he has appointed about eight delivery clerks, and put in 1,000 call and 200 lock-boxes. The lock-boxes rent for \$25, and the call-boxes for \$8 per annum. The post office will derive about \$13,000 per year from box rent, the public will be served, and the public tax of keeping an average of 100 men per day waiting for their mail, while wages were more than \$10 per day, will be reduced to a minimum. Putting it moderately, the change in the administration of the Dawson post office ought to be worth \$400,000 per annum to the country.

The nightmare administration of the Gold Commissioner's Office has been much improved. A few of the mining officials have taken a leave of absence for the country's good. Many of the swarm of offices that packed into this 18 x 24 foot building have been removed to down-town quarters. Many new clerks have been employed. Abstracts and information are no longer given on the side, but through the Gold Commissioner. The enormous side salaries of the clerks are passing away. But much remains to be done. Fawcett is incompetent, the Government regulations unworkable, and the records frightful. Mr. Ogilvie respects Mr. Fawcett, as we all do. Will he have the nerve to retire him? That remains; but Mr. Ogilvie has done incalculable good, even at the Gold Commissioner's Office, and he may even aid Fawcett to become competent.

Colonel Steele is also here. It is wonderful how much this stern, hard man is beloved by every man under him. He has brought stricter discipline into the already splendid police force, and, doubtless, has aided Mr. Ogilvie greatly in many matters.

J. E. Girouard, ex-M.P., is now registrar, and attempts to practice law, in defiance of sections 21 and 31 of the Land Titles Act, 1894.

I think there is a question in regard to that on the Notice paper, as to whether that is with the sanction of the Minister.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). Mr. Girouard is not ex-M.P., but an M.P.P. of Quebec.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER—

The inefficient timber inspector, Willison, has been promoted to be Dominion lands agent.

Philip Sheridan poses as Crown prosecutor. *Dubitum est*, says Wade's firm, and the local bar have protested against it being called the firm of Girouard & Sheridan, while Girouard holds the office of the clerk of the court. A Mr. Thiell is

clerk of the court, but, being without legal training, he is incompetent to take examinations, tax costs and do all that is required of a clerk of court. It will thus be seen that all of Mr. Wade's offices have, with the possible exception of Crown prosecutorship, gone to others; but we understand that he is senior member of the Yukon Council and Attorney General thereof, at a salary of \$2,500 per year, and, as his duties in such office will be small, one can see that he will not feel neglected. He is at present outside, but is expected to return. Colonel Evans's men have arrived at Selkirk, via Teslin, and two companies of them are in Dawson. With the most law-abiding people on the globe, there is no one to fight. There may be some use found for them. We have no judge.

That is before Judge Dugas arrived. He was sent up some time after Judge Maguire had left. According to the arrangements of this business Government, there was in interregnum in the Yukon territory, just as, I believe, under this business Government and the administration of the Minister of the Interior, regulations were made in January which were not promulgated in the Yukon territory until the following May. Those regulations, of course, put into frightful confusion all the conditions of property and the matters concerned with the regulations, from January until May. Questions have to be fought out at the expense of private litigants now, in consequence of the crass neglect of the Minister of the Interior—not to say that these regulations should not go into force until such a reasonable time as would give people in that district sufficient notice.

The jail is full of prisoners awaiting their trial. The docket is overlaid with unheard civil cases. Lawyers, unable to have cases tried, escape their clients' anger by avoiding them. There should be two judges in our Territorial Court, one for mining cases, and one for all others. Such a man as Wilson, of British Columbia, an old Caribou miner, now one of the leaders of the British Columbia bar, would fill the first position well. But he is too competent to suit the Laurier Government, and the position is too remote and the salary too small to suit him.

Mine Inspectors Norwood and McGregor have gone. They are reported to have done well here financially. The one need, therefore, go no more on a whaler, and the other need not rely on horse-trading for a living. The present mine inspector Madden, had something to do with Nova Scotia coal mines, and thus can say he has seen a mine before. His predecessors could not. The ever-glorious Major Walsh has gone. "Lucile" has followed him. Bliss has gone. Will the gaps in the old-time list ever be filled? Time will tell.

The Tarte-Sifton principle of making and filling offices for the benefit of the office-holders, and not for the benefit of the country, has borne plentiful fruit here. The gross evils of the system may never recur again, but the system remains in vogue.

Those mining regulations, issued on January 18th, 1898, are a fitting monument to the utter incapacity of the Laurier Government. It is interesting to note that no proviso is made as to when the said regulations were to come in force. They, therefore, came in force on the date thereof, but were communicated to the officials and miners here in May. What about rights acquired in the interim.

As to the ten-claim reservation, let me ask Mr. Sifton: Was it the ten claims above or below Discovery claim that you meant to reserve? Or did you mean to leave open four claims on one side and five on the other? Or did you mean to leave it so uncertain that no man could tell, when he located any creek claim, whether he might not be on Government ground? Thus far as to creek claims, but as to bench claims, where they are often in a block. Take a block of them, seven claims square, and tell me whether you meant to reserve any of these claims to the Government? Increase the block to thirteen claims square—now tell me, Mr. Sifton, what, if any, you meant to reserve? Confess you did not know. It will be better than to say you were "boodle blind." But it is useless to talk to Mr. Sifton. No one here has any confidence in him, except the men who engaged the services of his law-partner, Mr. Philp, when he was in here last spring. Mr. Philp works for them on the halves.

Section 10 is supposed to define the boundaries of a creek claim. It does so, but no one can apply the principle. Any one could tell when the surface of a claim rose 3 feet above a certain point, but no one can tell when the bed-rock rises 3 feet until the claim is worked out, for the aforesaid bed-rock may lie 1 foot or 200 feet below the surface. Many Eldorado claims show this to be no supposition, but a fact. With bed-rock 200 feet below the surface, stop and consider how much it would cost to define the lateral boundaries of an Eldorado claim. Section 39 says a claim must be occupied. Common sense says it ought to be worked, and to a certain amount. This same section puts an awful corrupting power in the hands of the Gold Commissioner. Again, the regulations seem to conceive that every application for a claim would be followed by a grant. Poor, simple Government. What, if five applications are made? Ought not a fee to be charged for filing each application, and, when on file, then the decision might be given and a fee charged for the grant.

What system of registration is the recorder to adopt? The Torrens system, I suppose, under the Land Titles Act, 1894; but the Gold Commissioner has not done so, and no one can be quite sure what the insane Government intend?

The royalty system is a tax on labour. A tax on the net returns, with exemptions, would be partially a tax on capital and not absolutely fitted to shut up the working of every mine, as the present system is. But, far better than any royalty system, would be a direct tax on the assessed value of each claim valued at more, say, than \$5,000. Then shutting down or cheating about the output would not evade the tax. Such a tax would stimulate the working of valuable mines. The royalty tax discourages it.

It is useless, however, to discuss mining regulations before merchants and farmers. You may take it for granted, that there is scarcely a redeeming feature in these regulations, and that up to the present time the administration of them has been worse than the regulations.

Mr. Sifton must resign. He must do more, and I think the only way to clean up the Augean stable is to sound the note for the final downfall of the Laurier Government. Events have written of it: "Mene, Mene, Tekel Upharsin." I, who have lived on the frontier for nearly six years, am forced to say that the late Administration was so bad I had to vote against it; but, after two years' experience with their successors, I begin to think former corruption and inefficiency was as nothing, compared with the present.

Dated at Dawson, Yukon, October 4th, A.D., 1898.

C. M. WOODWORTH.

I believe this Mr. Woodworth is a member of the Bar in that country, and he was also, I think, a member of the Bar in the Territories or Manitoba, before he went there.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Where did Mr. Woodworth vote?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. In the Territories, I suppose.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). His name is rather against him. They are not Liberals.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I think he found occupation at Dawson City by writing to the "Mail."

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If Mr. Woodworth, instead of attacking the Administration, was in their confidence, was a heeler and a friend, he could do as a heeler and a friend of theirs was able to do in the city of Victoria, also a member of the Bar, that is, to charge and collect a fee of \$500 because he was able, by telegram and by a letter, to obtain from the Minister of the Interior a permit for his client to send liquor into the Yukon. That is my statement.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Will the hon. gentleman tell me who the client was that got the permit?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, I will not.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Will he tell me by whom the permit was got.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, I certainly will not. But I will write to that gentleman, who is a member of the Bar, and ask him if I may give his name to the Minister of the Interior and to this House.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Surely the hon. gentleman will not make a statement without giving the name of the lawyer.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, I will. I have been telling hon. gentlemen here all this evening, on these Yukon charges, the reason why some of these names must be withheld.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). There is no reason in this case.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I may be allowed to state for the information of the hon. gentleman that the statement he has made is absolutely untrue.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am not surprised at the Minister of the Interior making such a statement, because it is absolutely impossible at this time for him to know whether it is true or not. Let any hon. gentleman look in the "Hansard" and see the position that the Minister of the Interior occupies now when he tells us

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou).

that that statement is untrue. It shows the degradation to which he has sunk.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The hon. gentleman says that this lawyer got a permit by telegraph. I say that statement is not true.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I did not say anything of the kind.

The PRIME MINISTER. Yes.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The right hon. gentleman may say "yes" and may shake their heads, but what I said is down now in "Hansard," and what I said is right by the book. It is that there is not a Liberal, not one of their followers, their supporters, the claqueurs at the present time in British Columbia, who would not believe that this gentleman was able to obtain a fee of \$500 for the simple service of telegraphing a request to the Minister of the Interior for a liquor permit.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I say they did not get a permit.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, and the hon. gentleman has grown so reckless that he has said that he had no hesitation in saying that the statement was untrue.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I was telegraphed to, but I did not send the permit.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I know that the Minister of the Interior has put himself in a very uncomfortable and disgraceful position. It is impossible for any man sitting on that side of the House, at the present moment, to conscientiously and credibly make the statement that he has made, that my statement was untrue. It may be or it may not be. If I am false to all sense of honour, it may be possible, but the hon. gentleman cannot say that that statement is untrue. He has not in the past, and he does not now possess a position in this House, or in this country, that will make his mere statement more worthy of acceptance than that of another, and least of all when he dares to impugn the honour of any other hon. gentleman in this House. This is a subject upon which his statement will fall flatter than any other. With his reputation such as it is in this House he cannot injure the position of any hon. gentleman here in any way that I know of, and least of all by giving his word against that of another. I tell the hon. gentleman that the statement I made is a statement of fact, and if he wishes to ferret it out he may do it, but at the present moment whether it is a statement of fact or not, he is not able to contradict me.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I contradict the hon. gentleman by saying that the statement he has made is absolutely un-

true. I know to what he refers. The hon. gentleman has been taken in and has fallen into a mare's nest in regard to which a boy of ten years old would know better.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** You see, Sir, the position in which the Minister of the Interior has placed himself. I gave him a hint which it would have been well for him to have acted upon, but he has been led away by his intolerant zeal, whereas his better course would have been to have remained quiescent. There is not a colleague of his that will justify him in the position he has taken.

**The MINISTER OF FINANCE.** I am a colleague of the Minister of the Interior, and what I understand the hon. gentleman to imply is that there were some improper relations between somebody in Vancouver and the Minister of the Interior whereby liquor permits could be obtained improperly. But to that the Minister has given a flat contradiction.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** And there is a rebuke to the Minister of the Interior. The Minister of the Interior would not have referred to my statement as he did if he were not a far bolder and more desperate man than my hon. friend the Minister of Finance thinks he is.

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.** The hon. gentleman says that \$500 was paid by a firm of lawyers for telegraphing and getting a liquor permit. I say that statement is untrue, because no liquor permit was ever got by telegraph.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** The hon. gentleman tries to crawl out of it by saying that it was not obtained by telegraph.

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.** The hon. gentleman has been led off on a mare's nest. A large number of people between Vancouver and here, have known for the last two months that the hon. gentleman was going to bring this charge, and if he comes out in the open and gives us the particulars, I will show him to be a man who does not know the least thing about the value of evidence.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** The hon. gentleman should remember that I have brought a good many serious charges against him to-night that he is not able to answer them. The hon. gentleman says that he has known for the last two months that I was going to make this statement about this permit. I only heard of it about ten days ago, yet he has known that I was going to bring it up for the last two months. What a splendid Minister of the Interior we have; he is a mind reader. He can read what is in your mind and what is not in your mind. However, he is now in a most unenviable position. His ignorance upon the Yukon has brought an ineffable disgrace upon the

Government. In his own province see how his party is fighting him on account of the mixing and muddling he has made even in his own party matters. Is it to be wondered at that all over the world the same voice goes up. The revolt against the Minister of the Interior is not altogether from the Conservative party; he knows that there is in his own party the same feeling, and if he thinks he is going to drive down or crush the expression of public opinion on this side of the House as he has endeavoured to do to-night, he has counted very little with his host. The hon. gentleman may be intolerant with his own party, but he cannot exercise this or any other power on this side of the House. The facts that I have mentioned to the House can be proved, and the name of the gentleman I will be able to give to the House as well as the facts. I would give it in a moment if I did not think that perhaps it was my duty first to ask the gentleman concerned, and I see no reason why he should not give his name. Traffic in liquor permits! Let us look into that, Mr. Speaker, let us inquire what mysterious visits were made to the coast; let us find out why it was that some that had permits who were not friends of the Minister had their liquor held at the boundary of the Yukon territory until the men who were his friends got their liquor into the Yukon territory. There are lots of things that are interesting and that must be inquired into by this House in connection with the Minister of the Interior and the Yukon territory.

Sir, I know men that want a fiat of justice, and probably will apply for a fiat to this Government, for a petition of right in which they will charge, and are ready to prove the last statement I made. Will the Minister of the Interior, or any Minister on the Treasury benches, undertake now, since the Minister of the Interior is very quick to ask me, will any one of them say they are willing to grant a fiat for a petition of right based on the statement I have made: That the Minister of the Interior did directly stop the entrance into the Yukon territory of liquor under a permit issued, until the liquor that came under a permit issued and given to friends of his should catch up with the other liquor and go in ahead or at the same time.

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton).** That is a statement that is utterly false.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** Ah, Mr. Speaker, the Minister says that is a statement that is utterly false.

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton).** I say it is.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** Then, if it is utterly false, there is no risk about the fiat; for if it is utterly false the claimant cannot prove it. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) say, or will any of his colleagues who have confidence in him

say, that a fiat will be granted if a petition of right is filed and the question tried out as to its falsity in the Exchequer Court ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). We do not grant fiats, on such a statement made by an hon. gentleman in the House of Commons.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) says the statement is utterly false, and although we have his colleagues pretty well arrayed there, even to the Solicitor General acting for the Minister of Justice, not one of them has confidence in him to say that they will grant a fiat. He (Mr. Sifton) has whispered to his Fides Achates, the Minister of Marine. There is not one of them who has sufficient confidence in the Minister of the Interior to say : We will willingly grant a fiat in a case like that, so that the matter can be fought out in the Exchequer Court and the truth and falsity of the charge settled there instead of being glibly tossed across the floor of this House by the Ministers.

**Mr. GEO. TAYLOR** (Leeds). Answer now.

The **PRIME MINISTER.** I say it is childish.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). I am afraid we have no confidence in my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper).

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** The Minister of Finance is afraid he has no confidence in me. I say they have no confidence in their own colleague, or if they had they would risk granting a fiat. It only allows the man who has given me this information an opportunity to prove his charge, which the Minister of the Interior hedged around with all the protection that his colleagues know so well—says is false—

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE.** Why does he not send in his application.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** I think he will.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE.** Then it will be time to consider it.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) is right ; he is an orderly and methodical man and I congratulate him on it, and he suggests the ordinary course. But I thought, Sir, that this was a good way to give the quietus to this uneasy and restless Minister of the Interior, who has been jumping up ever and anon during this debate, making most extravagant statements, and showing how ill he takes these serious indictments. I thought, Mr. Speaker, it was a good opportunity to puncture the wind bag ; I thought it was a good opportunity to see how much his colleagues believed him. He stated solemnly here that that statement was false. Well, if his colleagues believed a word that he said—and I put it most politely—they would say at once : We will grant a fiat for that peti-

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** (Pictou).

tioner, and we will settle whether or not your information is false. I dare them ; I dare them in this debate, one and all of them, to say they will grant the fiat. There is not one of them who will do it. The Master of the Administration is here and it tickles him ; he is trying to pass it off with a laugh.

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** (Mr. Tarte). Yes, I laugh at that.

The **PRIME MINISTER.** The hon. gentleman knows that we will be advised by the Minister of Justice in these matters.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** But the Solicitor General is in this House and surely he will not be passed over.

The **PRIME MINISTER.** He is not passed over ; it is not in his province.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** What has gone wrong with the Solicitor General ? Is he to be passed over ? Is he not the Irish Catholic representative in the Cabinet ?

The **PRIME MINISTER.** I did not know that my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) was putting it from a religious point of view.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** No, but I have a feeling about that department, because, for a few days, I occupied that office, and I do not like any reflection cast on the Solicitor General of Canada. I say that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) is here and the Ministers can consult with him, especially as the statement of the Minister of the Interior has been so very direct, and if they believe a word of it, there is no risk in giving a fiat. Perhaps they had better go to New York and have a Council meeting there.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). You are poaching on the preserves of my hon. friend from Leeds (Mr. Taylor). Leave that Sunday business to him.

**Mr. TAYLOR.** You had a conference there on Sunday all right.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** By the way, I do not think I should pass it over, for it is a rather curious coincidence and interesting in the history of this country. When I spoke of the Master of the Administration, it is a remarkable fact—and I do not know that "Hansard" has recorded it—that both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Public Works responded. I would like them to settle that question between them as to which is the master. It is awkward, because I have always regarded the Minister of Public Works as the Master, and he did not disavow it in the speech which he made to this House. He has accepted the title. I wish now to refer to something that the correspondent of the London "Times" wrote. I do not believe in the theory as has been suggested by some, that

it is the duty of the Opposition to hurl charges against their opponents in the Government. I am arguing to-night from another point of view, and that is that I never had to examine such a mass of testimony, or testimony which called for such a searching inquiry as this testimony in regard to the deplorable condition of affairs in the Yukon. I trust that I may have the attention of the Minister's presence for a moment. I know I cannot convince the hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches, but still when one is making charges against them it is always pleasant to meet them face to face, and I trust that when they have had their little joke they will give me their attention. I admit, Sir, that I never was in the Yukon, I admit that all my information is hearsay, but I do say it was derived from credible sources, from those whom I believe to be credible and respectable citizens—not a foreigner among the lot of my informants, all of them subjects of the Queen, and all of them men that I believe to be in every sense reliable. Now, what does Miss Shaw say—I believe she is the correspondent of the "Times"—at any rate, this is from the "Times" correspondent, of Sept. 23, and Miss Shaw went through the district. Here is what she says :

To put the position as plainly as it is daily and hourly stated on the mining fields and in the streets of Dawson, there is a widely prevalent conviction not only that the laws are bad, but that the officials through which they are administered are corrupt. Apart from the graver charges, there is much dissatisfaction with imperfections of organization, which are ascribed to inaptitude and inattention to business on the part of the responsible officers. That there are, as yet, no roads, no trustworthy mail arrangement of any kind, and no clear distribution of streets and town lots, in a town of nearly 20,000 inhabitants, are conditions which are held to be wholly unnecessary in view of the amount of the revenue derived from the mines and the fact that the town is now two years old. There can be no question that in these respects "gold fever" has had the effect of diverting energy and attention from all but mining interests. The unsanitary condition of Dawson, situated, as the town is, upon a swamp, and devoid of the most elementary provisions for cleanliness and health, is a standing menace to the community. Typhoid is permanent in the town; the death rate is abnormally high, and there are as yet no signs of any measure to be taken to avert the danger of a serious outbreak of epidemic. That mining districts cannot be surveyed, that claims in many instances cannot be recorded, that necessary information with regard to the districts already staked is not open to the public are facts which have come to be regarded by the public as so many purposely designed channels for individual bribery. A half or a quarter interest is frequently quoted as the price at which good claims can be recorded, and scarcely a day passes in which some fresh story does not become current of the number of dollars which it has cost to obtain letters from a nominally unsorted mail or to make good an entrance on business into one of the public offices.

Then, commenting on this, which is not half so strong, I submit, as the evidence I have given to this House, the "Times" says :

There are serious dangers in the isolation of such a community as that depicted by our correspondent, not the least of them being the weakness of the machinery of government and the opportunities given for the growth of unchecked abuses. Unfortunately, it appears to be only too plain, from the very grave allegations put forward by our correspondent, that the absence of control has permitted administrative irregularities to become rampant in the Klondike. The lack of roads, telegraphs, satisfactory postal arrangements and sanitary precautions in a town like Dawson City, containing nearly 20,000 people, and yielding a great income to the state, is serious enough.

That is some evidence, Mr. Speaker, from a friendly source on the whole, to the Administration of the day. The right hon. gentleman will not say that the London "Times" has not been singularly fair to his Administration from the time that he assumed office to the present day. The "Times" seems to be in regard to the home Government as well as in regard to this Government just now—and there may be some reason in it—singularly fair, and desirous of saying all that can possibly be said on their behalf; and yet the "Times," with that condition of mind and that temper was forced to make the observations to which I have referred. That was in September last. We have learned a great deal since September last. I think, therefore, my language cannot be considered a language of exaggeration when I have charged home the gravity of the condition of affairs, and the necessity, not for the sake of the Government, but for the sake of Canada's honour, of probing this thing to the very bottom. That is what we want, Mr. Speaker. If it hits the Minister of the Interior, let him go. If it hits the Government, of course the Government will go. But unless the Government fear that either the Minister of the Interior will be directly implicated—as his conduct in this debate and his attitude towards me when I was endeavouring fairly to give him the information in my possession leads me to believe to be the case—the Government ought to give us a full, fair and independent investigation. They cannot do that by Mr. Ogilvie. They cannot give us a fair investigation by any creature of this Administration. We want it by a gentleman who is as high as Parliament itself—by a gentleman who cannot be removed except by the votes of both Houses of Parliament. We want it by the highest possible commission, and not for mere party capital, but for the sake of Canada's reputation in the world; so that if there is an impression over the face of the globe to-day that the conduct of the Canadian administration in the Yukon has been more disgraceful than any conduct that ever disgraced Oom Paul or any state in the American union, then let it be said that this Parliament was equal to the occasion, and, on the motion if you like of the Government of the day, created an independent commission and clothed it with such power that it could probe the thing to the bottom, and then al-

low the law to take its course on the facts that commission might ascertain and divulge. That is the point of my long speech or the long part of my speech. I could not condense that speech. It was impossible to do so more than I have done ; and yet I have attempted condensation. I hold in my hand stacks of similar information to what I have already given. The reply may come, where I have given the information, as I admit I have done in the main, without disclosing the name. "Unless you disclose the name, we will do nothing." But in view of the argument I have made, and the precedent I have quoted, I think the people of this country will not take that as a satisfactory answer, but will demand and insist that there shall be a high-class, independent commission appointed, before which this information can be given and given in safety, and by which the matter may be probed, and probed to the bottom. I may not speak to sympathetic ears so far east from the Klondike ; but if I know the gentlemen in British Columbia who are hot adherents of the Administration, I say this. I am perhaps relying unduly on them ; but I tell you, Mr. Speaker, from what I know of public opinion there, from what I know of captains of vessels, of men who have gone into that country and come out of it, they would not be indifferent to the appeals I have made.

Mr. G. R. MAXWELL (Burrard). It is all tommy-rot.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. and reverend gentleman from Burrard (Mr. Maxwell) says it is tommy-rot. I understand that hon. gentleman is somewhat attached to the Administration of late, and I confess candidly that I was not appealing to him when I referred to the good sense of the people of British Columbia, whether they were Liberals or Conservatives. That hon. gentleman is just now landed on Deadman's Island, and on Deadman's Island I believe he will be decently interred ; and that hon. gentleman, at any rate until the Minister of Militia does, what I believe to be, his duty and cancels one of the most disgraceful documents that ever emanated from a Government office or from a town bar-room, is bound to be a subservient supporter of the Administration, and to characterize as tommy-rot anything that comes from this side of the House.

Mr. MAXWELL. No, no.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman himself knows that he has induced the Minister of Militia to put his name to the most ridiculous statement in the English language—that he has made the Queen responsible for the most horrible statements in regard to that lease, and the hon. gentleman, I am glad to say, looks ashamed of it.

Mr. MAXWELL. Not a bit.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou).

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman is forced to say that he is not ashamed. If he is not, the Minister of Militia is ashamed.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. F. W. Borden). No.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Then if neither is ashamed, I venture to say they ought to be, and I venture to say that when the question in regard to Deadman's Island is put before the House, if the Minister of Militia has the courage to answer each portion of that question, we may be able to appreciate why the hon. and reverend member for Burrard characterizes anything I say as tommy-rot. Now, I have more evidence in regard to this interesting question of the Yukon administration. I have here another document. For reasons I have already mentioned, I shall not give the name of my informant. He is in the service of a responsible body of men, he is not an American, he is a British subject. And, in writing an official letter, not to the press, but for his own purposes, he states as follows :—

It is perfectly certain that nothing but extraordinarily rich ground can begin to pay here until prices shall have adjusted themselves. The Government is enforcing the royalty on the gross output, the cost of getting gold out is at the least 5 per cent, labour is still \$15 per day, and packing costs at the rate of from 1½ to 2 cents per pound per mile. It is expected that the royalty will be removed, and it is certain that in the course of time the other charges will be greatly reduced ; but until such time comes it is useless for any one having just an ordinary rich claim to attempt to do more than represent it.

As regards the royalty, too strong language cannot be used. It is without a doubt the last straw in a country where mining is carried on under such enormous disadvantages. Many property owners have determined to do no more than the necessary representation until the tax is removed, or at all events reduced, and although Major Walsh has been heard to say he will force them to work the ground, it is the opinion of many there are not enough policemen in Canada to enforce any arbitrary regulations with public feeling as strong as it is. Major Walsh has not proved a conspicuous success so far, and he is by no means popular. The whole business of the Government wants radical alteration. It is not run on the square in any single department, and all this royalty and alternate claim arrangement appears to be a grand opportunity of which the officials avail themselves with greed.

We had to instruct the notaries to use some small cash inducements amongst the officials, otherwise the transfers would have gone through only in their regular turn, which now means a matter of two months at the least. The Gold Commissioner's office is a disgrace, and is in keeping with every other department of the administration in the country. We are fighting from this end, but we expect and know that one word from influential quarters in London will do more than our arguments will in a week. It is absolutely essential to the success of every individual and company in the country that no time be lost in removing the clauses in the regulations relating to the royalty and alternate claims becoming Government property. Granting

that the country is rich, it is not nearly so rich as Ogilvie makes it out to be, and with all the disadvantages under which we are labouring in this remote spot, and which make mining more costly than in any other part of the world, it is unreasonable to suppose that any ground can possibly stand such outrageous taxation as a royalty of 10 per cent on the gross output. The alternate claim is another unheard of thing, and will, no doubt, give opportunities to the Government officials, golden opportunities (both here and at Ottawa) for boodling, of which they are all eager to avail themselves.

With a small royalty we might, perhaps, be able to get along, provided the whole or a reasonable proportion of the revenue is collected be expended upon the improvement of the country. But to-day, as far as I can see, not one cent of the large amount paid into the treasury has come out to make things one bit easier for us. The streets of Dawson are bottomless pits of mire, and the trails are as bad or worse. The post office arrangements only enable the mail to be distributed a week after its arrival, and even then one has to take up his stand in turn and wait from three to four hours to be admitted through the door, unless a policeman can be induced for a consideration of \$2 or \$3 to take him round by the side door. Of the recorder's office I have already written, and I wish that I could use in an official letter language strong enough to express the public feeling against administration, a feeling which embraces the whole outfit, from Major Walsh downwards.

We are holding a mass meeting, not to protest against these things, but to consider them, on Saturday night, but we look for help from the outside, and we realize that what we say will carry no weight. I can assure you that John Forrest would have been lynched years ago, had he attempted to enforce any legislation of such an extraordinary kind. We know, of course, that any appeals on this matter, unless they point out that the Government is simply killing the goose that lays the golden egg, will be entirely fruitless. The people of Eastern Canada care for nothing, provided taxation for them is reduced, but they can rest assured that, unless a radical alteration is effected at once as regards the royalty, the people will see the futility of coming here, and those who are here will get out at any cost. It is neither a long way nor hard trip to get over the line on to the American side, and there are plenty going there now, but it is nothing to the stampede which will take place unless the Government will give some assurance that these things are to be amended, or, at any rate, that a commission will be sent to inquire into them.

I have written at length on this point, because it is of an importance which cannot be exaggerated. If next year we have to pay out 10 per cent of our gross output, I hold out no very bright hopes of making a brilliant success. If, on the other hand, this penalty is removed, and if the Government will give us roads, trails and something more than the promise of a railway, then with a reasonable rate of wages and reduced cost of all necessaries, we can go in and work with something more than the expectation of merely enriching Eastern Canada in general, and the friends of the Liberal party in particular. I know it is pretty straight talking, but, had you had the opportunity of sizing up the local officials, as I have done during the last month, you would have agreed with a prominent local man, who said: "They are so crooked, they will walk in a circle."

I submit these matters to the consideration of your board, and beg of them to do all they can to give the country and the individuals and companies operating in it a chance to exist.

We are trying to get up an agitation against the barbarous amendments to the mining laws, including especially the 10-per-cent royalty and the alternate and abandoned claims returning to the Government, and I assure you that, though the feeling in the place is as strong as it can be, we are having the greatest difficulty in getting the men, especially the Americans, to participate. They are all in the greatest awe of the fraud, Walsh, who was sent up with powers that no sovereign in the world possesses, and who will not move a finger to help the country or the men in it. I do hope that you at home will kick decidedly against the above shocking regulations, for a kick from you will have more effect from you in London than anything we can do here; but the question is such a burning one and of such vital importance, both to individuals and companies, that we have decided no time must be lost in showing the outside that the feeling is unanimous and that the existing state of things must inevitably kill the country. I heard a man say to-day: "I have mined twelve years in the Transvaal, and thought that the laws there were as bad and worse than they make them; but I now take my hat off to President Kruger. The Transvaal is a fool to this."

Ten per cent on the gross means the difference between a handsome profit and a loss to a good many claims. The uncertain feeling with regard to this has had a most marked effect on property. Claims on Hunker and Sulphur which were selling from \$60,000 to \$150,000, may now be bought for from \$15,000 to \$30,000. It is a great chance to pick up cheap property. I anticipate that it will still go lower, and that in sixty days there will be some wonderful bargains to be picked up, that is, assuming that the royalty will ultimately come off. If it doesn't, then mining here is going to be a tough proposition.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). What is the date of that paper?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER, 14th June, 1898. I have already intimated that any one who attempted to enter on the subject that I have taken out this evening had a very difficult duty to perform and one for which he had to ask the patience of members of the House for allowing him to go through a lot of documents as evidence of the character which I have given to-night, which is tedious. I admit to those who have to listen, tedious to Mr. Speaker, and tedious to myself.

I have not given the House all the information that has come to me; I have given the House samples of the information that is unfortunately familiar, the most of it, to those hon. gentlemen who have followed the career of the Minister of the Interior and the history of the Yukon territory since he came into that office. I think I have made out enough to establish that the present system of dealing with these matters is not at all satisfactory; that is to say, that Mr. Ogilvie is not in a position, no matter how good and capable an officer he may prove himself to be—and I believe he will prove himself to be such—I say he is not in a posi-

tion to make a thorough and clear investigation into these matters that so closely connect the Minister of the Interior and the Government with the most serious charges, charges of such recklessness, such vile conduct on the part of the officials, that it is not reasonable to presume that they dared so to act without believing that there was no danger in their so acting. The conduct was so disgraceful in the administration of the Yukon that while sickness and filth were rampant, the Christian Government of this great country, a country that the Postmaster General boasts of being part of an Empire vaster than has been, while it was drawing out of that region immense revenues and huge royalties, paid out not one dollar for the comfort or for the business of the community. These things, I submit, make out a strong and absolute case for an inquiry, a rigid inquiry; and I believe the people of this country from one end of it to the other will not be satisfied unless that inquiry is made; and unless it be shown, for instance, that I, having taken this responsible position in the debate, have been hoodwinked, have been deceived and have been absolutely deluded, and have taken such a position as not to entitle any statement I make on information hereafter to be of importance. I say that unless such an inquiry is set on foot, the people of Canada will not be satisfied. Their honour is affected, the honour of the Government of this country is involved, and we must have, and I believe that the people of Canada will demand, a full inquiry into this matter. At this hour of the night, Mr. Speaker, I shall not venture to go into some other matters which were noted by me as fairly debatable on the Address; but I will say that while I have trespassed at great length upon the indulgence and patience of the House. I have been singularly and perhaps unduly complimented by the very kind and considerate attention manifested by those hon. gentlemen on both sides who have remained until this hour.

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). It is manifestly impossible for me to attempt any reply to the lengthy speech of hearsay, mingled with insinuations which the hon. gentleman from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has given; and it is necessary, therefore, to content myself to-night with moving the adjournment of the debate. However, before doing so I may make a remark or two. I understand that my hon. friend from Pictou is not going to be in the House when it reassembles. I may be permitted to express my regret that after the language that he has used in reference to myself this evening, he is not going to be present when parliamentary rules will permit me to reply to him.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. If the hon. gentleman will postpone his reply, I will be back.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** (Pictou).

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR**. Will the hon. gentleman be here on Tuesday?

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. No.

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR**. I cannot congratulate the hon. gentleman on the nature of the speech that he has made, when he was aware of the fact that he was not going to be here when a reply could be made to him. That, however, does not particularly affect the merits of the case, although it may affect the esteem in which the hon. gentleman may be held by members of the House. I desire, further, to say, before moving the adjournment of the debate, that very much of what the hon. gentleman has insinuated, if not stated, I know to be false, I know it to be altogether unfounded. Many of the other things, of course, I have no personal knowledge of, though I shall deal with them to some extent when I have an opportunity of doing so. The insinuations which the hon. gentleman has interlarded throughout his speech, that there was some personal relation between myself and any impropriety of any official in the Yukon district, I characterize as absolutely and entirely and altogether untruthful. I give the hon. gentleman credit for having sense enough to know that they are untrue. I cannot imagine that the hon. gentleman who has been so long in public life, has not sense enough to know that a Minister of the Crown would not be improperly connected with any improper act of any officials in that distant country, if such improper act there was. He will find out before he gets through with this transaction that if he has believed what he has tried to lead this House to believe, and tried to lead this country to believe, if he has entertained that belief, he has been an extremely silly and an extremely foolish man. Now, I only want to add this: We all know that the charges which have been made in regard to the officials of the Yukon district have appertained largely to the officials of the Gold Commissioner's office and to the Gold Commissioner. We know that the charge has been that the Gold Commissioner and his clerk, to use the language of the hon. gentleman, robbed the people who went into that country and attempted to carry on mining operations, that he was dishonest, and possibly guilty of malfeasance of office—that is to say, the Gold Commissioner and his clerk, as nobody else could do it because it was mining property with which they had to deal. Now, Mr. Speaker, as I am not prepared at this late hour to go into the subject fully, I desire to call the attention of the House to this fact, that in the despatches which are before us this evening in the evening papers we have a telegraphic report which comes direct from Dawson City in regard to the operations of the commission which was issued to Mr. Ogilvie for the purpose of investigating these

charges, and before moving the adjournment, I will take the liberty of reading it.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** Does the telegram come from Dawson direct?

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.** If the hon. gentleman were here on Tuesday, he would be still more restless before I get through. I desire to read this report, because it is evident that it was not the patriotic sentiments which the hon. gentleman expressed before he sat down, that induced him to make this statement immediately before Good Friday, deliberately talking 7 hours so as to prevent a reply being made. A child of ten years could see what the hon. gentleman was doing. He desires that his speech shall go to the country without contradiction and that it shall be left uncontradicted for several days. The best contradiction that could be given the wholesale statements of the hon. gentleman is this: We have a telegraphic report. As to whether this is true or not, an authentic report will come along in a short time, and then the hon. gentleman will know whether it is true or not, but I fancy it is. The report is as follows:—

The Royal Commission of Inquiry opened on February 22. Ample notice was given, but only two series of charges were preferred. The first was laid by the miners' committee appointed on August 25th. The second, that of malfeasance in office, was laid by the proprietors of the "Nugget" newspaper against Thomas Fawcett. Both parties requested permission to withdraw the charges on the second day. The alleged reason was that the terms of the commission limited the investigation to charges concerning acts previous to August 25. The complaint of the prosecutors was that the investigation was too narrow on that account. They were permitted to retire, but not to withdraw the charges. Commissioner Ogilvie continues the investigation.

Mr. Fawcett was cleared completely of the malfeasance charge. No clerk in the Gold Commissioner's Office thus far has been incriminated.

One witness testified that he was employed by the Young Conservative Association of Ottawa to gather information for political purposes. The commission continues in session.

I move that the debate be adjourned.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

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

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** Mr. Speaker, before the motion for the adjournment of the House is carried, I wish to draw the attention of the right hon. gentleman to what is perhaps a misunderstanding, but it is certainly a very grave matter so far as it is necessary to carry out the arrangements of the two sides of the House. The hon. Minister of the Interior, who has just taken his seat, has intimated that this was an attempt

to speak up to the morning of Good Friday in order that the speech of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) might go to the country without answer. I wish to state to the House that the hon. gentleman is entirely mistaken. What occurred was this: Yesterday afternoon the Government whip, Mr. Sutherland, came over to this side of the House and stated to me that it would be agreeable to the right hon. leader of the House that we should adjourn at six o'clock, and he asked whether I would agree to that arrangement. I told him at once that so far as I was concerned I should like very much to adopt that course as I knew that a large number of hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House were anxious to leave by the evening train, but that I was unable, without consultation with my friends to make any arrangement. Before Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and the moment that the right hon. gentleman was in his place, I crossed the floor of the House and told him that I thought we should get promptly into the discussion so that the House could adjourn at six o'clock. He said to me that he did not see any reason why we should not do so, and it was arranged that some little matters that otherwise would have been brought before the House would be disposed of summarily. I understood that the House would adjourn at six o'clock. I mentioned to the member for Pictou, who addressed the House, that that was the understanding, and as six o'clock was being approached and he was about taking up the Yukon question, I said to him: "You cannot go into that because the House will rise at six o'clock." But the right hon. gentleman, after consulting with his colleague the Minister of Trade and Commerce said: "No, no; you must go on," so that I hold hon. gentlemen responsible for the continuation of this debate to twelve o'clock in violation of what I understood to be the agreement, an agreement which induced me to say to the hon. member for Pictou that he would not be able to go on with his speech. I draw the attention of my right hon. friend to this matter, because I think it is undesirable that we should not be able to place implicit confidence in each other when we make these arrangements.

**The PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). All I have to say is that I am sorry that there should have been any misunderstanding between the hon. gentleman and myself. I agree in almost everything that he has said with a few exceptions, however. It is quite true that personally I would have been favourable to adjourning the House at six o'clock. I think it would have been better under the circumstances to have done so, but I think it was made quite plain that we were in the hands of the House. I did not attempt to press my wish upon the House any further, but we thought at six o'clock that we should answer the speech of the hon. member for Pictou. I must say

that if I had supposed that the hon. gentleman would have spoken until now, I do not know that I should have taken that course.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 12.20 a.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, 4th April, 1899.

PRAYERS.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

### PETITION OUT OF ORDER.

Mr. SPEAKER. I beg to state that the petition from the municipal council of the county of Essex, praying that increased pay be granted to non-commissioned officers and men during the time of the annual drill, cannot be received because it asks for the expenditure of public money.

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 20) to incorporate the Zenith Mining and Railway Company.—(Mr. Poupore.)

Bill (No. 21) respecting the Canadian Railway Accident Insurance Company.—(Mr. Casey.)

Bill (No. 22) to incorporate the Ontario and Quebec Bridge Company.—(Mr. Casey.)

Bill (No. 23) respecting the Alberta Irrigation Company, and to change its name to the Canadian North-west Irrigation Company.—(Mr. Douglas, for Mr. Oliver.)

Bill (No. 24) concerning drainage on and across the property of Railway Companies.—(Mr. Casey.)

### THE AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Mr. N. C. WALLACE (West York). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to direct the attention of the Prime Minister to a matter which the hon. leader of the Opposition has already called the attention of himself and the House, that is, the non-reception of the Auditor General's Report. The statute provides that that report shall be presented to Parliament within one week of the beginning of the session, when the session commences after the 31st of January. It is now 19 or 20 days since Parliament was called together, and we have not yet a copy of the Auditor General's Report, which the law says should be presented within seven days.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I have only to say to my hon. friend that on the last occasion on which my atten-

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tion was brought to this matter, I explained from a letter I had received from the Auditor General, that he had commenced to deliver his manuscript to the printer on the 23rd of February, that the printer had been furnished with copy ever since, that he had completed his report, and that the whole of the report would be ready on Thursday of this week, with the exception of the part relating to the Mounted Police, and the part relating to the Department of Trade and Commerce. I understand from the Queen's Printer that he challenges the accuracy of this statement of the Auditor General. So that, so far as I can see, there is now a contradiction as to who is at fault in regard to the delay of the report. But my hon. friend will realize that the Government is in no way to blame for it.

Mr. WALLACE. The statute provides :

Such accounts and reports shall be laid before the House of Commons by the Minister of Finance and Receiver General on or before the thirty-first day of January, in the following year, if Parliament is then sitting, and if not sitting, then within one week after Parliament is next assembled.

That is an Act of Parliament which has been apparently disregarded by the Government.

The PRIME MINISTER. The keeping of that Act of Parliament is in the hands of the Auditor General.

### THE WRIT FOR WINNIPEG.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the right hon. leader of the Government if the writ has issued for the City of Winnipeg, and if not, why not ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Because, Mr. Speaker, proceedings have to be taken for the preparation of the lists for the city of Winnipeg. The lists there are more than one year old, and new lists have to be prepared.

Mr. N. C. WALLACE (West York). Are they more than three years old ?

The PRIME MINISTER. I cannot say as to that. I know that they are more than one year old, and in such a case new lists have to be issued. The documents are prepared, and I think they will be ready to-morrow.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Is not that the case in Brockville, where an election is now going on ?

The PRIME MINISTER. That is another law.

### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell (East Prince) for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton), (Brandon). It is not very often, Mr. Speaker, that there is a general consensus of opinion in Canada upon any one subject; but I think that prior to the time when the member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) made his address on last Thursday evening, there was a very general consensus of opinion throughout Canada that this debate had outlived its usefulness, and that it was time for the House of Commons to get down to business. But that hon. gentleman contrived to bring a subject into the debate and to deal with it in such a way that the continuance of the debate becomes a parliamentary necessity. The debate opened, Mr. Speaker, with a very long and very vigorous speech by the respected and experienced gentleman who leads the Opposition, and he was followed by the right hon. Prime Minister in a speech which I think both the right hon. gentleman's friends and his opponents will concede to be a speech which will live in the annals of parliamentary debate. It has been complained that the right hon. gentleman was too severe with the leader of the Opposition; but, Sir, when it is considered that for the last two years the hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition has been going through the country denouncing the leader of the Government and his colleagues and all their actions in the most unmeasured way, and with the utmost freedom of language, I think the time had come for the right hon. leader of the Government to administer a rebuke to the hon. gentleman for the utterances which he had been making and which were shown to be altogether unfounded. And, Sir, I may say that when the right hon. gentleman was delivering his address, my sympathies were with him, and not with the leader of the Opposition; but since that time, while the debate has gone on, I must confess that my sympathies have been with the leader of the Opposition; because, Mr. Speaker, when it is remembered that that hon. gentleman has served his party well and faithfully for many long years, when it is remembered that whatever faults he may have had in public life, lack of loyalty or devotion to his party was not one of them, and when it is now seen that the hon. gentleman is castigated in this House by his political opponents, and day after day goes by, and not one man on the Opposition side of the House, not one of his followers, not the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster), who sits beside him, will rise in his place to defend him, to say that he was right and that my right hon. friend was wrong, and that days afterwards it is to be left to the hon. gentleman's son to defend him, then I say my sympathies go out to the leader of the Opposition. It had to be left to the hon. gentleman's son to come to his rescue, and therefore I say my sympathy throughout is with the hon. leader of the Opposition. I would say to him, if he will not consider it impertinent,

coming from one so much younger and with so much less experience, that he has my hearty sympathy and the sympathy of my colleagues and friends on this side in his unfortunate position. I might suggest to the loyal party—that is, the party which has had loyalty for its stock-in-trade for a great many years—that loyalty to their leader would not be altogether out of place, and that they would retain at least some of the esteem of their political opponents and of the people of the country if they presented, outwardly at least, better indications of loyalty and harmony in their own ranks.

The hon. leader of the Opposition, if I may be pardoned for saying a few words on this subject, with the skill which comes from long experience, attempted, and I suppose, perhaps, succeeded to some extent, in placing some utterances which I have made upon the tariff in an incorrect position. I do not wish to imply that the hon. gentleman in any way misrepresented what I said, in the sense of giving out as my utterances what I did not say; but with that skill which long parliamentary experience has given him, he adverted to my remarks in such a way that a casual reader would naturally imagine that I had placed myself in an illogical position. I wish for just a moment or two to say a few words on that subject. The House will recollect, Sir, that when we brought down our tariff to this House, hon. gentlemen on the front benches of the Opposition denounced it in unmeasured and most vigorous terms. There is no member of this House who will not remember how my hon. friend from York (Mr. Foster) stood up, and with that dramatic power which he has so successfully cultivated, held up his hand and called heaven to witness that he stood in this House as the champion of Canadian workmen, who, by this improvident and incompetent Government, were going to be turned out of house and home. That is the position he took. He lectured us for hours upon the utter destruction which this radical and revolutionary tariff was going to bring upon this country; and there was not one indication in the position he took, at least at that time, that he in any way approved of the tariff we submitted or of the lines of policy which we had indicated. That was the position of these hon. gentlemen then. But what is their position now? Why, Mr. Speaker, the tariff has gone into effect and has been shown to be a great success. And when I stand before this House, I am in the judgment of every man who hears my voice and of the business men of this country, when I say that the sentiment of the people, the matured opinion of the people, is that the tariff has been a success.

An hon. MEMBER. No.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Yes, and these hon. gentlemen

have found that out. They have found out that their predictions have not been verified. What did they attempt to do when they were in office? For many years, the cry of high protection, extreme protection, more protection and more taxes, whenever anybody was in trouble, was the policy which these hon. gentlemen followed; but you will remember, Sir, that a few years ago the people began to cry out against that policy. Hon. gentlemen opposite found, when they summoned Parliament together, that they were getting letters from their followers and supporters saying that this policy of protection had gone too far. What was the result? It was that they were compelled to hold an inquiry upon the subject of that tariff and did hold a long and careful inquiry. If I recollect aright, the hon. ex-Controller of Customs (Mr. Wallace) and the late member for Brockville (Mr. Wood) were the two gentlemen who were sent around the country to make inquiries, and when these hon. gentlemen came back, the late Government brought down a tariff which, according to the despatches from Ottawa, given out by them was going to be reformed upon lines favourable to the consumer. That was the policy which the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) was forced to adopt by the attitude of his followers in Parliament and by the inquiries which the gentlemen associated with him in the Government had made. The hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) came down to Parliament with that policy. He was strong enough with the Government and the House of Commons to carry that policy, and I apprehend that he was even strong enough with the Senate to carry it, but he was not strong enough with the manufacturers, and the result was that he was forced in this House to modify it, item after item, until the mother of that tariff would not have known it at all as it went out of the House. His intentions were good certainly. He intended to revise the tariff upon lines favourable to the consumer, because that was the sentiment of the country, but he found he could not do it, and he failed to do it; and instead of coming down to the House and admitting his failure, he was forced to admit that the tariff he had brought down contained clerical errors. Explanations of that kind, Mr. Speaker, do not deceive anybody. We all make mistakes; we all start out to do things which we find we cannot do as we intended, and the hon. gentleman would have earned more the respect of the community if he had said that the Government was not in a position to make the changes it contemplated. These hon. gentlemen know now that that was the real desire of the people in 1894, and they know that when we came into power, without being tied to the chariot wheels of any manufacturers, we did revise the tariff on those lines. For that, they denounced this Government in Parlia-

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ment. They said that our tariff was not a success; but it has been a success, as they know. They know that the people have approved of that tariff, and they cannot take issue with us on that ground. What, then, did they do? They turned around and said that we did not change the tariff at all. But did they not know that when we laid it on the Table? I said at Perth—and that is what my hon. friend referred to, and what my hon. friend from Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), whom I do not see present, found fault with—I said that the tariff as an issue between the two political parties had arrived at such a stage that it could not be longer considered, and never, in all probability, would be considered an issue in the same sense in which it had been an issue previously; and I said that because hon. gentlemen opposite know that our tariff—a tariff revised upon lines indicating that raw materials would be made more free, and that the consumer would be considered, but in which the reductions would be made in a careful and moderate way so as not to destroy any industry—is in accord with the policy which the people have approved of. They dare not go before the people and attack us on that ground. And, therefore, they intend to come here, and they intend to go before the people of this country to show what? Why, that they did not know what they were talking about when they denounced us, and that we actually have not changed the tariff at all.

Did I mean, Mr. Speaker, that this Government had abandoned the traditional policy of the Liberal party, that we did not intend, as the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Robertson) well said, to attack the citadel of protection? Not at all. I meant that we intended to carry out the policy which we have laid before the people, and which, so far as we have gone, we have carried out carefully, consistently and as thoroughly as it was possible to do, in accordance with the well-understood wishes of the people of Canada, as they are understood by the hon. gentlemen sitting there, as well as by the hon. gentlemen sitting here, that the tariff of Canada should be dealt with upon lines more favourable to the consumer, more favourable to the extension of trade, and in the direction of removing all unjust restrictions from trade. That is the policy which this Government has laid down by the voice of its responsible Finance Minister.

Then, I pointed out also, and I take the liberty of pointing it out again, that there was another point upon which the tariff might be regarded as not being an issue. We introduced a clause providing for giving a preference to Great Britain. That clause has been attacked in a great many ways. My hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace) attacked it the other day. The hon. gentleman will get his answer in due time from the Government benches: he will get it from the gentleman most competent to

deal with the subject, and most familiar with the figures, and that answer, I apprehend, will be satisfactory to the people of this country and to the followers of the Government. But what I was pointing out was that we had introduced a clause in the tariff providing for preference to Great Britain. That clause has been denounced by hon. gentlemen' opposite. Now, are they sincere in that denunciation? I do not mean to transgress parliamentary rules by attacking the sincerity of any hon. gentleman in this House; but I think I may attack the sincerity of a party as a whole. Is the Conservative party at this moment sincere or insincere in attacking and denouncing the preferential clause of our tariff? It is an easy matter to settle that. If they were in power to-morrow, would they repeal the preferential clause? That is a simple question. I appeal to the sentiment of every man in this House, when I make this statement, that, notwithstanding all the denunciations of the hon. gentlemen opposite, if they were placed upon the Treasury benches to-morrow with a majority of four to one in this House, they would not, and they could not, repeal that clause. They could not get a House of Commons elected in Canada pledged to, or known to be in favour of repealing that clause. Then, I think, Mr. Speaker, if we have so fully, and so fairly, and so accurately, gauged public opinion upon that important phase of the tariff question as to put upon the Statute-books a provision that no political party in this country would repeal, we may regard that phase of the tariff question as being settled.

I thought that I might trespass upon the attention of the House to set myself right, in view of the remarks which the hon. leader of the Opposition made with the very laudable, and, in political warfare, very proper, intention of creating dissension in our ranks.

My principal occasion for rising to address the House this afternoon is the speech that was made by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) on Thursday evening. I need only refer to the fact that that speech was made in such a way—saying nothing further about it—as to consume an unnecessary length of time. I do not think that anybody who listened to the hon. gentleman, would have imagined that he was trying to get through what he had to say in the least possible time. The hon. gentleman laid himself open to the suspicion that, knowing, as he did, that the House was going to adjourn at twelve o'clock, and that there were to be four or five days in which there was to be no debate in this House, his purpose was to prevent any reply being made on this side of the House for some days at least. It was known also, that he would not be here to hear the reply. Now, it must be admitted that the family to which the hon. gentleman belongs, has not had the reputation of lacking courage,

and, possibly, there may be some other explanation of the hon. gentleman's course in taking that particular time to make his address. He is not here, unfortunately. But I think I am right in saying, that the fact of his not being here makes no difference to the Government, and that the importance of the question demands that, whether he is here or absent, the matter should be discussed, and discussed now.

It was well known some time ago, that the hon. gentleman would make an address on this question. It has been whispered in the corridors, talked about in the hotel rotundas, and even hinted in the newspapers. It was known also, practically known beyond dispute, that the great Conservative party had been employing detectives, sending them up to Dawson City—lawyer-detectives, I believe, two or three of them—to collect information for the purpose, if possible, of damaging this Government in the eyes of the public. And, after all that had been said, and the anticipations that were raised, I, at least, thought that the hon. gentleman, if he did not have any evidence, would have something that a lawyer might be excused for thinking was evidence, or, at least, taking as evidence. But I venture to say that nobody on either side of the House who heard the hon. gentleman's address would dignify anything he gave us with the name of evidence. It is the privilege of a member of Parliament, Sir, to listen to what an individual may say about anybody connected with public affairs. It is his privilege to come into the House of Commons, on a proper occasion permitted by parliamentary practice to rise in his place, and to tell the House what he has learned, without giving the name of the individual who had told him, without giving the House an opportunity to judge of the credibility of the individual, or what opportunity that individual had had of knowing what he was talking about. That is a privilege that is conferred, presumably, and I think necessarily, for the public good. But it is a privilege that is supposed to be exercised by the men upon whom it is conferred, with judgment, and with discretion, and with care, so that no man may be unduly scandalized and no man's reputation may be unduly imperilled by any anonymous accusation. I say nothing further than this, that I will leave it to this House, to the members who heard the address, or who have read—well, not all that the hon. gentleman said, for no gentleman in the press gallery, so far as I am aware, was courageous enough, or indiscreet enough, to take down the language of the hon. gentleman in everything he said—to the members of the House who know what he said, whether the hon. member for Pictou, a gentleman who was for years a Privy Councillor, who occupied the exalted position of Minister of Justice, has used the high privilege conferred upon him, as a member of this House, with judgment and discretion.

Now, Sir, I am not going to follow the hon. gentleman in the nature of the remarks which he has made; I am not going to denounce, or to insinuate, or to do anything of that kind; neither am I going to attack the hon. gentleman. I am going to recognize, as a responsible member of this Government, responsible to Her Majesty, responsible to my leader, responsible to this House of Commons, to Parliament and to the people—I am going to recognize the fact that a member of Parliament has made a speech attacking the administration of this Government and the administration of the department of which I have charge. I am not going to inquire particularly as to whether the member of Parliament who did that did it in a fair way, a reasonable way, or a decent way; but I am going to put the Government and myself in the judgment of this House and of the people of Canada as to whether we have fairly and honestly discharged our duties. The question is not whether the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has been discreet, or whether he has been justified in doing what he has done; the question is whether this Government has properly discharged its duty. Now, Sir, we are responsible for our mining policy in the Yukon district, we are responsible for our administration of that policy, for our administration of the affairs of that territory. Just here I want to say that I do not propose, in this address, to deal with the question of royalties or the question of the reservation of claims in connection with the mining regulations in that territory. Those are large and important questions of public policy which may well form themselves the subject of a debate, and upon which the members of this Government will be well prepared to meet our hon. friends at any time when they seek to challenge the judgment of this House. But there are other matters, details of administration which the hon. member for Pictou has brought before this House, and which now demand the special attention of the Government; but I am not going to devote, on this occasion, any time to the discussion of our policy in relation to those matters which I have referred to. We are responsible for our administration, we are responsible for exercising reasonable judgment, reasonable promptness, reasonable diligence, reasonable discretion, in anything and everything that we did. And let me say right here, that I am not going to follow a policy which has been suggested many times in the press of this country within the last two weeks; in dealing with these matters I am not going to try to justify this Government by making a comparison with the administration of hon. gentlemen opposite; I am not going to defend myself, or the action of my colleagues in endorsing what I have done, by arguments based upon recrimination. It is perfectly true that if two vices made a virtue, it would be very easy to do it; it is perfectly true that the hon. gentleman who made

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this attack upon the Government sat as a colleague of a Minister who was proven to have received large bribes; it is perfectly true that it has been proven that a large sum of public money was stolen or lost under the eyes of one of his colleagues, an ex-Minister of Railways; it is perfectly true, Sir, that scandals, gross scandals, disgraced the administration of the western country; that as peaceable a population as ever lived in Canada, upon the banks of the Saskatchewan, were driven into rebellion by the maladministration of hon. gentlemen opposite. That rebellion cost millions of dollars to put down; it cost valuable lives to put down; and, Sir, it is true, and hon. gentlemen cannot deny it, that the officers that were sent up there looted and stole from the people whom they were sent up there to protect. It is perfectly true that the settlement policy, the general administration of that western country where I have lived for the last 20 years, was described, not by a Reform paper, not by a Liberal paper, but by the leading journal of the Conservative party in the city of Winnipeg, the Winnipeg "Times"—was described in a moment of desperation at the actions of the hon. gentlemen opposite, as crass and incomprehensible from beginning to end; and it was stated in that paper, not a Liberal paper, but an organ of the hon. gentlemen, that as a result of their maladministration the trails from Manitoba to Dakota were beaten bare and brown with the wagon wheels of departing settlers. Sir, that is not my language, it is the language of the hon. gentlemen's organ, which declared that by their maladministration they had driven from the North-west—that great country—the magnificent tide of immigration which was flowing into it at that time, and which only needed to have been fostered and cared for to have filled up those western prairies. And that emigration never returned, or at least has only begun in a small degree to return since this Government attained to power. Sir, I do not mention these things for the purpose of justifying anything that I have done, or anything that my colleagues have done. If we could only justify our administration by a comparison with hon. gentlemen opposite, for my part I would be prepared to resign, and I do not think my right hon. friend the leader of the Government would care to remain in office if his Ministers had to defend themselves by comparing their records with those of hon. gentlemen opposite. Now, Sir, I am going to give you as well as I can—and I must apologize for being necessarily somewhat tedious—the facts relating to the administration of the Yukon district so far as I am able to place them before Parliament. I am not going to claim that this Government is perfect, or that I am perfect. I am not going to claim that I did not forget anything; that every letter was despatched just at the moment it would have been well to have despatched it; that I thought of everything that

was going to happen and provided against it; that I had the quality of omniscience, or the ability to see far over the Rocky Mountains from here to Dawson City, to probe the hearts of the men who were sitting in offices there, and to see, not only what they were doing, but to see their motives and what they were thinking about. I am not going even to say that we did not possibly forget some things that might have been provided for—that may be true. But I am going to say that we have exercised care, forethought, diligence, promptness and circumspection from beginning to end, in every possible respect. This statement I make to the members of this House, and when I sit down they will be able to judge whether I have proved my case or not.

Sir, to begin at the beginning, in December, 1896, I took office. I did not get settled to work in my department, practically, until the opening days of 1897. Early in that year, my attention was called to the necessities of the Yukon district. The Yukon was an unknown land at that time, nobody knew anything about it—nobody at least, except, perhaps, Mr. Ogilvie and the officers of the Government who were there. My attention was called—and I want to get this fairly before the House—to several reports or letters which had come to the Surveyor General from Mr. Ogilvie. They were not—and I have reasons for calling the special attention of the House to this fact—they were not the reports that were subsequently printed, although the reports that were subsequently printed included them. The bulk of the reports, which hon. gentlemen will remember as having been printed just after the session of 1897, were not received until the session got fairly on into June, to the best of my recollection; but before that, some letters which I think were printed with those reports had been received. On 5th March, 1897, which would be a couple of months after I had got to work in my office, the Surveyor General, Captain Deville, called my attention to the fact that Mr. Ogilvie had made a report, and the Surveyor General further called my attention to the fact that the Yukon territory had been neglected and had not received the attention that ought to have been given to it. He wrote to me as follows—but, mark you, Mr. Speaker, there was no information in the hands of this Government or in the hands of anybody which would justify the idea that there was going to be anything like an inrush of population. Though the idea of people going into the country was spoken of, it was only spoken of in the sense of a few hundred miners crossing the boundary from Alaska. The Surveyor General, on the 5th of March, 1897, a couple of months after I took office, wrote to me a letter. I will call your attention to the fact that this letter was from an experienced, capable and reliable officer of the Government, not appointed by me, but appointed by hon. gentlemen oppo-

site, and I am glad to say further that the appointment was an excellent one and one which I regard as being satisfactory in every way; a better officer I do not believe any Government could have. He wrote to me on March 5th, 1897, as follows:

A perusal of Mr. Ogilvie's report leaves the impression that if prompt steps are not taken for placing the land and mining business of the district under efficient management, it will soon be in an undesirable condition. Mr. Ogilvie's view is that the surveyor of the district should have charge of the business: his arguments appear irrefutable. The present agent—  
That was Capt. Constantine.

—himself admits that he cannot fulfil the duties of the office, and asks to be relieved. Should Mr. Ogilvie's view be adopted, no one is better fitted for the position than Mr. Thomas Fawcett; he is not only a skilled surveyor and a man of great tact, judgment and experience, but he is very fortunate in always maintaining pleasant relations with everybody. In a remote place like the Yukon district, where much must be left to the agent, suavity of manner and a conciliatory spirit are perhaps the most essential qualities.

Mr. Thomas Fawcett was employed in a temporary way on Government surveys from 1874 to 1892. The surveyors were nearly all employed in a temporary way; there are only a few that are permanent officers. I say that simply to indicate that Mr. Fawcett was to all intents and purposes a Government surveyor, although he had only been in the employ of the Government from time to time. In 1892 Mr. Fawcett was permanently appointed in the Surveyor General's branch of the department. He had passed the examination necessary to such appointment and the record of his temporary service was good. In consequence of the report of the Surveyor General made to me on 5th of March, 1897, and followed by another letter on 12th April, I caused Mr. Fawcett to be appointed, and he was sent out in time to get to the Yukon district by the first opening of the water on the Yukon River. There was no delay: he got there just as soon as it was possible for him to have got there.

Now, the members of the House understand and know that I have been accused by the Conservative press throughout this country of finding Mr. Ogilvie in charge of the Yukon district and of removing him. Members of the House know, if they have read the Opposition press, that it has been charged that I found Mr. Ogilvie in charge of the Yukon district, he having been appointed by hon. gentlemen opposite and put in charge of that district, and that I removed him. Mr. Ogilvie never was in charge of the Yukon district, and under the hon. gentlemen opposite he never had anything to do with it. They never recognized Mr. Ogilvie in connection with the Yukon district. They never paid any attention to him, and they never read his reports. Mr. Ogilvie was sent out there as topographical surveyor in connection with the boundary survey and he had no connection with the Yukon district. It

was only the ability, fairness and dignity of character of Mr. Ogilvie that caused him to be recognized by the people there as a man to whom they could go and refer any causes of dispute. The other officer in charge of the district was Capt. Constantine, and Capt. Constantine asked to be relieved. Hon. gentlemen may ask: Why did you not appoint Mr. Ogilvie in his place? The answer is that Mr. Ogilvie asked to be allowed to come back on account of ill-health, and he came back on account of ill-health. Now, to dispose of this charge, which is one of a number, I have pointed out that there is nothing whatever in the story that I removed Mr. Ogilvie from his position; I have pointed out that he never had the position in fact, and that he came back at his own request on account of failing health. Then I appointed as Gold Commissioner a surveyor. Why? Because Mr. Ogilvie, who was competent to advise the department, suggested the appointment of a surveyor; and because that suggestion was strongly supported by the Surveyor General who advised that Mr. Thomas Fawcett, a surveyor of his staff, was the sort of man that was wanted. I called upon the Surveyor General of Canada for advice, and on the recommendation of the Surveyor General of Canada I had a surveyor of his own appointed as Gold Commissioner.

Now, Mr. Speaker, they say I made mining regulations under which the records were secret. I say that I did nothing of the kind. The Mining regulations in force when Mr. Fawcett went out were the mining regulations promulgated by hon. gentlemen opposite—without change. Who made these regulations? The hon. gentlemen opposite appointed Mr. Pierce, an experienced surveyor, an able man, as able a man in his own line as there is in Canada, to prepare a set of mining regulations. Mr. Pierce was appointed Superintendent of Mines, and it was under the regulations made by him that Mr. Fawcett went to the Yukon district. There were only the slightest changes of form, and nothing as far as administration was concerned. If any change was made it was upon the recommendation of Mr. Ogilvie in regard to certain matters of detail, so as to adapt these regulations to the Yukon district, because the regulations as originally made were adapted to the requirements and conditions of the North-west Territories. In regard to the secrecy of records, whatever the practice was under the late Government, the practice was when Mr. Fawcett went out. Hon. gentlemen will remember that when he left here after the session of 1897, after this House closed, there was no information in the possession of the House which justified the Government in assuming that what was said might happen, would in reality happen. There was some information in the hands of the House and some in my hands. My hon. friend the leader of the Opposition undertook last session to show me that we did not have sufficient information, and

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he took up Mr. Ogilvie's report, which was in my hands when the House prorogued, saying there was going to be, in all probability, an influx of population into this district. I would point out to the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper), that neither he nor any member of this House can read that report and say that the meaning of it is other than simply this: That Mr. Ogilvie thought there would be an influx of a few hundred miners from the Alaskan side of the boundary. Well, that did not call for any enormous activity on the part of the Government; it did not call for anything I had not done long before in sending Mr. Fawcett and staff to the Yukon district. But immediately afterwards events began to thicken, and it became evident that something more had to be done. My right hon. friend the leader of the Government was in England, and other members of the Government were away, some of them attending the Queen's Jubilee. Other members of the Government were here, including the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), who gave the matter careful attention. And I wish to say here, that I have been most indebted to that hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright), in connection with all matters relating to the Yukon, with reference to which I wanted to apply for advice to one of more experience than myself. The Minister of Trade and Commerce was here, we held various council meetings, and we discussed the matter. In the first place, we ordered up an additional number of Mounted Police. We sent the assistant commissioner of the Mounted Police. We did not want the job for a Grit; we might have done that; I am not sure the hon. gentlemen opposite would not have sent one of their political friends had they been in my place; but we sent the assistant commissioner of the Mounted Police as being the proper man for the purpose, and we sent him upon the recommendation of the Controller of the Mounted Police. We sent him to Skagway to forward supplies over the pass. Then, as the season proceeded the idea forced itself upon our minds that there was going to be a greater rush of people than we at first anticipated. We held council meetings, we discussed the matter fully, and the judgment of the members of the Government who were here was that the proper course for us to pursue was to appoint what might be called an emergency staff of officers, that they might go up there, that they might meet the immediate requirements of the situation in the following summer (that would be last summer), and report to us what was necessary in connection with the permanent organization of the district. That was the judgment of the members of the Government at that time, and we followed that plan. Let me say, Sir, it is easy to be wise; it is easy to say what you would not have done if you had known beforehand something you did not know—if we knew what the price of

wheat was going to be a month from now we might all be millionaires—but we do not know, and so we have to depend on our judgment as to what is going to happen. When we held these council meetings we knew hardly anything about the Yukon district except what was contained in Mr. Ogilvie's report. This report gave a lot of general information, but immediately a man begins to administer, immediately a man begins to decide, he says: What about this, what about that, what about the other thing. We had nobody to tell us, there was not a man in Canada that knew anything about it; there was not an officer in the Mounted Police who had ever been there. Mr. Ogilvie was at Dawson city under permission to come out—either in Dawson City or on his way out—and we did not have any information whatever, except, as I said, what was contained in that report. It was valuable so far as it went, but there were an enormous number of things that we wanted to know and that we did not know, and that we could not get any information about.

Well, we appointed this staff of officers, and I want to call the attention of the House to the fact that when we took these steps we were generally commended by, not only our friends in the country, and not only our own press, but the press on the other side of politics. Everybody commended the promptness of the steps we had taken to cope with the situation. There were two things to which our attention was specially directed; one was the question of food. Everybody knows here that there was the most dire alarm as to what was going to happen in that district during the winter. Every one knows that there was the greatest apprehension. Why, Sir, I received telegrams from clergymen, telegrams and letters from people all over the country, privately urging me to be sure to leave no stone unturned to prevent anything in the nature of famine or distress in that country. People wrote to me who had relatives, or thought they had relatives in that district, and that was one of the matters to which the attention of the Government was directed.

Again, there was another matter which we had to consider. The population that was going in there was supposed to be a lawless population. It was known to be composed in the proportion of 91 per cent of foreigners, largely of Americans from the Pacific slope, not the class of men who are the most readily amenable to the law or to the restraints of a regularly organized system of government. American newspapers upon the Pacific coast did not hesitate to say that if the Canadian Government undertook to trifle with these men they would run the Canadians out of the country, they would put up the American flag, and we would never see any part of that country again. Well, these statements, of course, were not to be taken too

seriously, but hon. gentlemen who know something about the temper of the western miner on the Pacific slope, would do well not to neglect them too much, because things happen sometimes in very short order with gentlemen of that class. We had to consider these things when we appointed our officers, and therefore we appointed officers in consideration of all the circumstances, and in view of the possibilities with which they would have to cope. If there had been no danger of starvation, if there had been no danger of riot, if there had been an express train running a Pullman car to Dawson City, then I think the chances are that instead of the gentlemen I sent I would have got some men with other characteristics, with special knowledge of keeping mining records, and with special knowledge of mining law. My attention would doubtless have been directed to that, and I would have endeavoured to get men whose knowledge was complete on this subject, even if they did not know anything at all about anything else. But, Sir, those were not the men to do the work we had to do in the fall of 1897.

Now, who did we appoint? As the administrator of that country we appointed Major James M. Walsh. James Morrow Walsh first entered the service of the Government on the 25th of September, 1873, when he was appointed Inspector of the North-west Mounted Police. He was promoted to be superintendent on the 1st June, 1874—Superintendent in the Mounted Police is about the same rank as major in the militia. He served on the march of the police from the Red River to the Rocky Mountains in 1874, and afterwards at McLeod, Fort Walsh, Wood Mountain and Qu'Appelle. He retired on the 1st of September, 1883, and was granted a gratuity. He left a record of difficult duty well done. On it being rumoured that Major Walsh was to be appointed to the Yukon, the "Mail and Empire," in an article on the 10th August, 1897, said—would hon. gentlemen opposite please take a note of this—the "Mail and Empire" said:

If Major Walsh of Brockville should be appointed administrator as it is rumoured he will be, we may be assured that that capable and experienced officer will show himself the right man for the position.

The Ottawa "Citizen" said—hon. gentlemen opposite will see I am not quoting from Grit papers—the Ottawa "Citizen" of 1st September, 1897, remarked:

American papers are full of the praises of Mr. Ogilvie, the Dominion surveyor in the Yukon district, and of Major Walsh, who is to administer the country. These men are signal examples of a devotion to duty such as Nelson would have admired, and the English people have always been proud of, but they are not exceptional. We have many such men in Canada.

Then, I will quote the "Nor'-Wester," which is the Conservative organ in the city

of Winnipeg. This is the newspaper which seems to have regarded it as its special mission to camp on my trail ever since I have been in public life. On the 12th of August, 1897, it remarked of the appointment of Major Walsh, that "there would be no one disposed to quarrel with it," and characterized Major Walsh as "a man of western experience and sound sense." Therefore, when I appointed Major Walsh I appointed a man certified by the general knowledge of the people of Canada for the magnificent record which he had in the public service, and certified specially and particularly by our most rabid political opponents, to be the best man in Canada for the position.

Now as to Mr. Wade. It was necessary to have a lawyer to do legal work. It has been complained that Mr. Wade had too many positions. Well, we did not know what work was to be done up there, or how matters were going to develop, and we did not want to send half a dozen men up to do what would be perhaps one man's work. It was an emergency staff, appointed, as I have said, for the purpose of taking hold of matters as they might develop, and to be supplanted by a permanent staff when the development of the country indicated that such would be required. Now, it has been said that Mr. Wade was a dreadful man. The hon. member for Pictou waxed very eloquent—well, I could not call it eloquent, but he waxed very luxuriant in his language, to use no stronger term, with regard to Mr. Wade. Now, it is generally regarded in law as most conclusive when you can prove your case by your opponent's witness. The hon. member for Pictou has a brother whose name is Mr. William J. Tupper. He is, I think, the youngest son of the hon. leader of the Opposition. He differs from the hon. leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Pictou in being acquainted with Mr. Wade; he knows something about him; he has been acquainted with him for years; and, if it is any satisfaction to my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition, I have no objection to saying to him that Mr. William J. Tupper is a gentleman who is well respected in Winnipeg, and whose opinion is regarded as being of some value. At any rate, my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition cannot find fault with him, neither can the hon. member for Pictou, his brother. Well, when Mr. Wade was appointed, Mr. Wade was attacked—I am not going to say why—by a gentleman in his own party. I am not going to bring other names into the discussion, because that has nothing to do with what I am discussing now. The explanation of the attack was that the dispute was of a personal character, and what I am now giving is the opinion of Mr. William J. Tupper of Mr. Wade. In regard to the attack, Mr. William J. Tupper wrote a letter to the editor of the "Nor'-Wester," the Conservative organ in the city of Winnipeg, in which he said:

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It is nauseating to witness the attempt of the "Tribune" to belittle Mr. Wade's attainments.

He said that "Mr. Wade had made a reputation as a brilliant editorial writer," and that "his success in his profession"—that is, the legal profession—"is so well known that it cannot be questioned." I am not quoting this letter verbatim, because there are references in it to a member of the House which I do not wish to bring before the House; but if any gentleman wishes to read the whole of the letter, it is on file among the papers. I am giving the effect of the letter in regard to the character and qualifications of Mr. Wade; that is the point I am talking about. Mr. William J. Tupper further said:

He has evidently aroused the animosity of one of his party.—

Remark this in comparison with what is said by the hon. member for Pictou, who does not know anything about Mr. Wade:—

—but I believe political opponents will testify that he would scorn to do a mean action, even in the heat of battle.

He says further:

I believe the almost unanimous opinion in this province is that Mr. Wade deserves the best consideration at the hands of his party.

Now, that is the gentleman I appointed as the legal officer of the party who went up to take charge of the administration, as I have said, in an emergency way, simply. I have never heard anybody question Mr. Wade's ability; so I will not devote any attention to that.

Another gentleman whom I sent with this party was Capt. Bliss. Capt. Bliss is one of the horde of political parasites whom, it appears, I turned loose on the country. Captain Bliss was an officer of the Privy Council of some years standing; I do not know the number of years; I have not taken the trouble to get his record. When my hon. friend the Prime Minister took charge of the Privy Council branch, he reorganized that department, and Captain Bliss's services were dispensed with. At the strong request of a number of gentlemen, largely Conservatives, in the city of Ottawa, I found a place for Captain Bliss in my department. He is a Conservative in politics, and always has been, so far as I know. As an officer he had a good record in the Government service; he was found in the Government service when we came here. Captain Bliss was sent up with the party, and with him I sent as assistants two men who were designated as inspectors of mines—James D. McGregor, of Brandon, and Captain Norwood, who comes from somewhere in Nova Scotia. Mr. McGregor I knew myself. He has been denounced in this House in a way I need not refer to now. He was appointed on my own judgment, as a man who lived for many years in the same town that I

lived in, and he is a respected citizen of that town, and any person who knew anything about his character and habits of life, would know that a man like him, who had lived in the western country, who had travelled all over it for many years, who had met all classes of people, and who was a shrewd capable, resolute man, was exactly the kind of man to send with the party to the Yukon. On the recommendation of my hon. friend the Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden), Captain Norwood was sent too. He was a man who had been the captain of a northern whaler, had wintered in the northern portion of the Yukon district, knew considerable about the nature and climate of the country, and was familiar with travelling in far northern latitudes. These men were going with the possibility of having to incur great hardships and to meet exceptional difficulties.

These two men I have mentioned were sent particularly on account of their physical qualifications, their experience in rough travelling, and their ability to meet and deal with all the difficulties they would have to deal with in the Yukon district. Their particular duty was to look after the collection of royalty. Hon. gentlemen opposite and their friends said that we never could collect that royalty. I do not know whether they said so in Parliament or not, but their organ certainly declared that we could not get enough policemen and soldiers in Canada to collect that royalty. I know that, when dealing with a rough and ready man, such as a miner, a great deal depends on how he is handled; and if you send people to deal with such men who do not know how to go about the work, you will get into serious trouble. I, therefore, sent men who had the necessary experience and qualifications to deal with this class, and, without a single dispute that I have heard of, they did collect the royalty provided by law and lodged it in the treasury office. These two gentlemen were Liberals, but I do not think they were any the worse for that. I have given you the certificate of character with regard to Major Walsh's appointment, and a certificate from my hon. friend's youngest son with regard to Mr. Wade's character. I have also shown you that Captain Bliss was not an appointee of this Government at all, but a departmental officer, sent on account of two qualifications. He was familiar with the accountant work in my department, and so could keep the accounts, and, in addition to that, he was a military man, and had, therefore, a knowledge of the transportation and handling of men, and would be much more useful, in case of difficulty, than would be an ordinary clerk. These were the reasons why these men were sent, and I am in the judgment of the House as to whether they were not good. The others I do not remember, who went up in connection with the party, but they were simply subordinates.

When the party got to Skagway, it was found that the assistant commissioner of Mounted Police had not got his supplies across. I have been asked, why Major Walsh did not get through by water to Dawson City. I have just given the reason. If the assistant commissioner of Mounted Police had got his supplies across in time—even in five times as long as it took Major Walsh and myself to put them across when we were there—Major Walsh and his party would have gone on to Dawson City before the water froze. But the assistant commissioner had not got his supplies across, and it would have been madness to send this party across the mountains, without any knowledge of where they were going, without a proper amount of supplies, and when the information at our disposal was, that the people in Dawson would be starving, and that it would be little less than a crime to send one additional man there without supplies for himself. So, regardless of expense, we put the supplies across the pass ourselves, and Major Walsh, Mr. Ogilvie and myself went to explore and get some information, and, as quickly as possible, the other party went across. They started down the river, but valuable time had been lost, and the result was, that the ten or fifteen days lost in putting the supplies across by the assistant commissioner was just the time that prevented the party getting into Dawson City before it was frozen in.

I am not sure that that was an unmixed evil. On the contrary, I think it was rather providential, because, as a result, Major Walsh sent off Judge Maguire and Mr. Wade and Mr. McGregor, and the rest of the party and himself waited for some time where they were frozen in, on the banks of the river. Major Walsh then heard that a party purporting to be an American relief expedition was coming in, and from what he heard of the dangers and difficulties regarding encroachments upon the boundary, which he, the chief officer of the Government, would have been held responsible for, he deemed it his duty to go down to the boundary line to find out what was going on, and so he went back to Lake Bennett. From that time to the following spring he devoted himself to getting the supplies down to Lake Lebarge, so that they would get into Dawson City a considerable time before any supplies could get up by the Lower Yukon, via St. Michael. During that time, they put up police posts upon the line of travel, they gave supplies and shelter to the people coming out; and if hon. gentlemen opposite will look back at the press of that day, they will find it was the universal judgment that Major Walsh and his men on that trail saved the lives of hundreds of people who were coming in. Then, when the spring came and the water opened at Lake Lebarge, Major Walsh took the supplies down the river, where they had a transport. At an enormous sacrifice of time

and labour and money, these supplies were taken to the foot of Lake Labarge and brought to Dawson City in time to prevent any scarcity there, before any supplies could be got up the river for those people who did not have their supplies with them.

Up to that time there had not been in any way whatever a suggestion that Major Walsh had not performed his duty as a commissioner of this Government in a manner that was altogether above criticism. Let me now describe what happened. Major Walsh got in there on the 21st May, 1897. When you are looking back at these things, it seems a long time. Judging by the number of editorials and interviews we have had on the Yukon district, it might be fifty years ago since Major Walsh got into Dawson City, but it was only the 21st of last May he got there. Let us bear that in mind—only about ten months ago. And he got there after a winter of arduous toil, which, in all probability, has seriously injured his constitution for the rest of his life. I venture to say—and this ought fairly to be taken into consideration, when criticising these men—that there is no one of them who will not bear in his constitution the marks of the hardship of that winter as long as he lives. When I was there meeting prospectors upon the trail, meeting boats containing prospectors passing along the river and along the lake, I inquired of the people where they were going, and what they were going to do. What did they tell me? That was in the fall of 1897, when we went through the pass for the purpose of getting some preliminary information, and when our men were taking supplies through the pass so that Major Walsh and his party could get down the river. We saw those men and talked with a large number of them, and they told us that they were not going to Dawson City. In fact, it was almost impossible to find a man, in all that host of people camped along the trail and getting ready to go down, who said he was going to Dawson. These men had the idea at that time that the Dawson district was very limited, that the good claims near Dawson were all taken up, and they told us they were going to the Pelly, they were going to the White River, they were going to the Hootalinqua, that they were going anywhere and everywhere except to Dawson. And the result was that Mr. Ogilvie and I came back fully assured that there was not going to be any great number of people at Dawson. And so we came to the conclusion that the proper place for the head of the Government was Fort Selkirk, in the middle of the district, because we understood that the people were going to spread over the district and very few were going to Dawson. Mark you, that was not a belief gathered from our imagination. It was gathered by talking with the men themselves. What happened? These men were camped in the passes, and were engaged putting up their shanties along the banks of the lakes and rivers, building their boats and

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getting ready to go down the stream. In the spring they launched their boats and started. In the meantime, all winter, men had been coming out telling them of the richness of the Dawson district and assuring them that the district was extensive and that there were good claims there to be had. Moreover, these men who were going in found that they could not go off and prospect in the interior of the country the travelling in which was dreadfully difficult, and that if they left the line of travel they would perish. And so they got in their boats, twenty-five or thirty thousand of them, and went down to Dawson City. There were men, practical miners—perhaps a thousand or two thousand of them—who went to different parts of the country and spread themselves over the country prospecting. But the great bulk of the people, certainly not less than thirty thousand, went down to Dawson City. Major Walsh got there on the 21st of May. Inside of three weeks after he got there, there were twenty-five or thirty thousand people in Dawson. I want this House, Mr. Speaker, to imagine that situation—something more than half the population of the city of Ottawa set down on a strip of ground, a mile and third long by a third of a mile wide, bounded on one side by the mountains, from which the melting snow trickled down and made a dreadful mud hole at the bottom, and on the other side, by the river. Imagine, half the population of Ottawa dumped in that mud hole within three weeks—no other word can be used that will express it, they were simply dumped there. There were not houses to give accommodation to more than one-tenth of them. There was no lumber to build houses with. The ground, after you went down eight or ten inches or a foot below the surface was frozen solid, and it was practically impossible to make any drains. These people were dumped on that little strip of territory under these conditions. Were they a class of people to be readily amenable to reason or likely to listen to advice? Were they a class of people who would do just what they were told to do? I have been told that no sanitary regulations were made. Sanitary regulations were made. Mr. Wade and the officers of the Mounted Police did make sanitary regulations. They did everything possible, everything that human beings could do under the circumstances to make the people obey those sanitary regulations. But imagine twenty-five or thirty thousand people dumped in a mud hole without any facility of taking care of them, and you will have some idea of what our little handful of officers had to contend with. And this was a condition of affairs that no human being could possibly have foreseen, because these people had told me—scores of them—and had told Mr. Ogilvie also, that they were not going to Dawson at all. As proof of that, as proof that I am not giving you something that is a mere belief formed after the event,

let me point out one thing. I came back to Ottawa and consulted with Mr. Ogilvie before he went to England. We concluded that the most important thing to do in connection with the mining regulations was to provide some means whereby miners who were scattered through the country at considerable distances could register their claims. I brought the matter before Council and devised the plan whereby these men could register their claims. It was like this :

In the event of the claim being more than 100 miles from the recorder's office, and situated where other claims are being located, the free miners, not less than five in number, are authorized to meet and appoint one of their number a "free miners' recorder," who shall act in that capacity until a mining recorder is appointed by the Gold Commissioner.

Then follow the provisions as to the matters of detail. This we did because we were convinced, as I have said, that the great bulk of these people were going to immense distances and would require some method of this kind in order to enable them to record their claims. The people, as I have said, were camped along the passes and the upper portion of the Yukon. These regulations were sent out to the police officers who were travelling along these passes, with instructions to communicate the information to the people, that they might be informed of it before they started prospecting.

Now, what was the next step? A great many stories have been told as to what was done next. Mr. Ogilvie and I had returned together as far as Vancouver, and he came on to Ottawa after I did. Before Mr. Ogilvie went to England I discussed the subject with him, and I informed him that I had it in view to recommend him as administrator of the territory, to take office when Major Walsh's term was up. Major Walsh went to the Yukon district under great pressure from myself, I believing that he was the best possible man for the position. He went very unwillingly and with the understanding that I should not ask him, under any circumstances, to stay longer than a year. Before he started down to Dawson City in the spring of 1897, he wrote back to me and said he did not wish to remain in Dawson City any longer than he could help, and that he would like his successor to be sent in as early as possible. Shortly after getting that, I cabled to Mr. Ogilvie asking him to return as soon as he could, and he did return as soon as his arrangements would permit him. When he got to Ottawa his health was not the best, and it was some days before he could do business. As soon as he was in condition to do business, I consulted him and went over the situation very carefully with him. Then on the 30th June—I will ask the House to mark the date, the 30th June, just 39 days after Major Walsh had got into Dawson City—in pursuance of the understanding with Mr. Ogilvie that he should be appointed administrator in the

spring, and in pursuance of the understanding with Major Walsh that I should appoint his successor as soon as possible, I submitted a recommendation to Council asking that Mr. Ogilvie should be appointed administrator of the district.

At that time, it is within the knowledge of the House that no suggestion or complaint in regard to the conduct of Major Walsh had ever been made; and when I am told that I have been negligent, that I have been careless, that I did not appoint Mr. Ogilvie for months, I think some people have said, for years, after I should have done it, I say that I appointed Mr. Ogilvie as soon as it was possible to do so, that there was not the least shadow of delay or negligence in connection with it. The appointment was made just as soon as he came back from England, and he had been urged to come back as soon as possible, he came back as soon as his health permitted, he got away as soon as his health permitted, and he was appointed before a shadow of complaint had been made against Major Walsh or his administration. Mr. Ogilvie was appointed administrator of the district under an Act that was passed last session, providing that there should be a commissioner, and a council to assist and advise him in the government of the district. Now, I recommended to my colleagues the appointment of Mr. Ogilvie as commissioner, of Mr. Wade as legal adviser, and of Mr. Girouard as a member of the council, a gentleman who had been a member of the legislative assembly of the province of Quebec, a lawyer of considerable experience, a man of experience in public life, and consequently a most eligible man, so far as I knew, and so far as I believe at the present time, for the position of a member of the council of the Yukon District, a man whose experience both as a lawyer and a legislator would be most valuable. I also recommended Captain Steele. Who is Captain Steele? Captain Steele was an officer of the Mounted Police, than whom no better officer ever sat in the saddle, and concerning whom no better certificate of character could be required than the reputation which he enjoys throughout that western country. I must say that every information I have goes to show that he is a most valuable and efficient officer, enjoying the respect and esteem of every one, on account both of his ability and character in the position he has occupied. He was also appointed as a member of the council, and was appointed as head of the police administration, that is to say, commandant of police. In addition to these, we appointed a judge of the district. These members compose the council. Now, Sir, in addition to these I appointed, as inspector of mines, Mr. William Madden. Mr. Madden was appointed because of his special knowledge of mining. The two inspectors I had sent up before had no special knowledge of mining; it was not supposed they would require such knowledge. The special work they were sent there to do, and which they did, was work which

was not supposed to require a special knowledge of mining. But a man of ordinary shrewdness and capacity does not need to be very long in the Yukon district to know as much about mining as almost anybody else there—I may not be correct in saying as much as anybody else knows, but as much as it is necessary to know of the operations that are being carried on there, because up to this time the operations are rather crude. But we sent Mr. Madden there, giving him the important position of inspector of mines, because he had for some years been the assistant inspector of mines in the province of Nova Scotia, the oldest mining province in the Dominion; he was recommended to me for that position on account of his special knowledge, by my hon. friend the Minister of Finance. Then, Sir, I asked the Minister of Finance to select for me a financial officer to act as controller of the finances of the district. I recognized that it would be very absurd for Mr. Ogilvie to be charged with any financial responsibility, or any trouble in taking care of the accounts of the district. I saw that an especially competent officer would be required for that purpose. Now, did I appoint a man to that position who knew nothing about finances? Not at all. For that position my hon. friend the Minister of Finance recommended an employee of the late Government. I appointed him, not because I did not think that a Grit might know just as much about finances as a Conservative, because I think that the financial record of the last two years would indicate that the Grits know more about finances than the Conservatives—I am referring to the charge made, that we picked out recklessly political friends of the Government for these positions who knew nothing about the work they were called upon to discharge—I appointed him solely on the ground of fitness. My hon. friend the Minister of Finance selected a specially qualified officer of his own department, a man who has been in the service of the Government for a number of years, and who was supposed to be the best man for the purpose, Mr. Thomas Lithgow, an employee of the late Government, and he was appointed as controller of finances. Those were the appointments which we made.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when we appointed Mr. Ogilvie, did we appoint the best man for the purpose? Certainly we did not look for a man amongst those who had not been in the service of the Government. Mr. Wm. Ogilvie was first employed on survey work for the Government in 1875. He continued to be so employed until 1892, when he was placed upon a regular annual salary of \$1,800. In 1887, he was placed in charge of the topographical division and the exploratory survey of the Yukon district. We can say that in addition to Mr. Ogilvie's other qualifications he is known as one of the most competent surveyors that has ever been connected with the survey branch of the Dominion of Canada, or even of the United States,

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a man who professionally stands very high. When, last session, I recommended to my colleagues to ask Parliament to vote Mr. Ogilvie a gratuity of \$5,000 for his distinguished services, my hon. friend from Haldimand (Mr. Montague) said:

I do not object to this vote of \$5,000 to Mr. Ogilvie. I do not fancy there is a man in this House who will object to it. He has been, it seems, an incorruptible and valuable public servant, and I am sure we will all agree with that vote.

Now, that was only a few days before his appointment. He was recommended on the 30th of June, and on the 4th of July, 1898, he was appointed by Order in Council Commissioner of the Yukon territory. The Ottawa "Journal" of August, 1897, made this editorial reference to him:

While all about him on the Klondike, miners are securing fortunes, Mr. William Ogilvie, the Canadian surveyor whose reports on the district furnish almost the only authentic information concerning the Yukon, is quietly preserving order, settling disputes as to claims and boundaries, and making himself of inestimable service to the Government of which he is an employee, and on the salary of a surveyor. He has not located a single claim for himself.

That is in 1897. In the course of an article in the Montreal "Star" of July 2nd, 1898, we read this:

His opportunities to enrich himself were immense, but he availed himself of none of them; but took his small salary and did his duty, and came back no richer than if he had been keeping guard over an ice field.

The same journal, the Montreal "Star"—and the hon. gentlemen opposite will not say that the Montreal "Star" is a friend of ours now, whatever they might have said a while ago—had this to say of Mr. Ogilvie:

The country was pleased with the record of William Ogilvie in that district, no matter what his technical duties may have been.

Again, the "Star" had this to say of him: "The country was pleased with the record of William Ogilvie in that district, no matter what his technical position may have been." And the reference was quoted by the "Mail and Empire" of the 8th of that month, approvingly. The Montreal "Gazette" of the 8th of July, another Conservative newspaper, said:

When a Conservative Ministry sent Mr. Ogilvie up, the miners, though he had no authority over them,—

Because he was not given any authority; he had no official position of any kind except to make a survey.

—respected his decision as to claims, boundaries, and other disputed matters, because he was a just man who would not use his position as agent of the Government to profit himself by a dollar.

When it was rumoured that Mr. Ogilvie was to be appointed commissioner, the Mont-

real "Gazette" on the 11th of July, 1898, made this reference to him :

It is intimated that Mr. William Ogilvie will soon become the Government's chief commissioner in the Yukon country. It will be a good appointment, and a proper recognition of the services of the man whose work did most to make the Yukon known. It will also put in the most responsible position in the country a man whose character has made him respected by the people he will exercise authority over, and whose presence will be a rebuke to the claim-grabbing speculators who have been given too many positions in the gold district.

The party instinct could not refrain from getting in a crack at a Liberal Government, but at the same time, Conservative as this paper is, it admitted that the appointment of Mr. Ogilvie was a good appointment. The Ottawa "Citizen" has an interesting record on the Yukon question, if it could only be examined. It says in an editorial reference on July 1st, 1898 :

Mr. Sifton, he it observed, when he came into office, found the affairs of the Yukon in charge of Mr. William Ogilvie,—

Well, I did not; the only thing about that is that it is altogether incorrect.

—whose administration of the district under most trying circumstances was, to say the least, such as to reflect credit upon Canada.

Anything he did he did in spite of the Government.

Readers of the "Citizen" will remember the splendid tributes to Mr. Ogilvie's high sense of duty, which were paid him by such anti-Canadian journals as the New York "Sun." He had the opportunity, had he been so minded, of securing mining claims which would have made him many times a millionaire. But he not only refused to profit by the position to the extent of a dollar, but actually declined to accept testimonials which the miners thrust upon him in recognition of his thorough-going impartiality and devotion to duty. Such is the man whom Mr. Sifton found in office.

Such was the man Mr. Sifton did not find in office

It would have been a small mark of appreciation to have confirmed him in his position.

He would have been asked to stay there had he not desired to come out on account of his ill-health. As a matter of fact, it was absolutely necessary for him to come out.

It would have been but a small mark of appreciation to have confirmed him in his position, possessing, as he did, the entire confidence and respect of the mining population; but such a course did not fall in with Mr. Sifton's plans.

I quote that article for the purpose of showing that the Ottawa "Citizen," which displays in the same article its opposition to myself, approves of Mr. Ogilvie's appointment as the best that could be made. The Montreal "Star" of the 11th of July, 1898, says :

The appointment of William Ogilvie to a position of trust in the Yukon district is a step for

which the Government will be gladly given credit. It is difficult to see how they could have made a better choice. But they must be careful not to overpower him with colleagues of political claims, and with men on the make.

I have given you the list of men.

William Ogilvie is trusted because he kept his hands free of speculation when chance called upon him to play an impartial part upon that northern stage paved with temptation.

The Ottawa "Journal," on the 11th of July, 1898, starts out an article by saying :

The Dominion Government scores a big point by its nomination of Mr. Ogilvie to the important post of Commissioner of the Yukon territory.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, this is the position, so far as the appointment of officials is concerned: First, we appointed Mr. Fawcett. Mr. Fawcett, a surveyor, was appointed because Mr. Ogilvie recommended a surveyor. He was picked out from the surveyors because the Surveyor General said that he was the best surveyor to be had for the post. Major Walsh was sent out because, by the great mass of public opinion in Canada, he was regarded as the best man for the position, and our political opponents admitted that. Before a word had been said, before a syllable had been uttered imputing any failure of duty to Major Walsh, and I am not saying that anything has been said which shows that there was any failure of duty on his part, but before an objection was raised, we appointed Mr. Ogilvie. Mr. Ogilvie's appointment is admitted by the daily papers and by our political opponents, to be the best that could have been made. The hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) asks, why did you not appoint a lawyer as Gold Commissioner? I did not appoint a lawyer because the man who knew the district recommended a surveyor. I appointed the surveyor recommended as specially fitted for the post by the Surveyor General of Canada; and if the appointment of a surveyor did not turn out to be satisfactory in the light of experience—and that is the only way to consider it—if it was a mistake, it must be remembered that it was then more difficult to say that a lawyer was wanted for Gold Commissioner because complications afterwards arose that nobody anticipated, and that have rarely, if ever, arisen in any other mining country, on account of the enormous concourse of people who crowded into one spot. It was not anticipated that there would be that enormous inrush of people, or that many of them would act in the dishonest or unscrupulous way in which they did. When Major Walsh came back and discussed the matter with me, and he pointed out to me that it would be well to have a lawyer for Gold Commissioner, I recommended to my colleagues that a lawyer should be appointed. There was no delay about it. We considered the matter with reasonable promptness. I do not sup-

pose that the moment that Major Walsh got here I dashed off to the Prime Minister and said: "Call a Council meeting to appoint a lawyer." These matters are not put through in that way: they have to be considered. We offered the appointment to Mr. Gordon Hunter, a gentleman who practices, I believe, in Victoria, B.C., and we selected Mr. Gordon Hunter for these reasons: I do not think I ever saw Mr. Hunter and I do not know him, but I knew that there had shortly before been a vacancy on the bench of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, and that Mr. Hunter had been strongly recommended to the Government by many capable and reliable men as the best man in British Columbia to fill the position of judge of the Supreme Court, and I thought that a man who was qualified to sit upon the bench of the Supreme Court would make a most eligible Gold Commissioner under the circumstances existing as they did at that time in Dawson City. Mr. Hunter was obliged for private reasons to decline the appointment, and I then appointed Mr. Senkler, a barrister of Nelson. I do not personally know Mr. Senkler, but he was highly recommended to me. He is well known in eastern Canada, and I took care to write privately to leading members of the bar in the city of Toronto in whose judgment I have the greatest confidence, as to Mr. Senkler's qualifications. The testimony was universally favourable to him, and as he was strongly recommended in British Columbia, I felt that the appointment was the best that could be made. That may be regarded as having settled the question of my discretion and my judgment in appointing Mr. Senkler. That shows, I apprehend, that there was no dereliction or any desire on my part to do anything except to meet the requirements of the district, and that I acted as soon as the information came so as to enable me to do it.

Then, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Wade had come out—we had no advice that he was coming. He came out, largely, on account of injury to his health on the trip in the year before, and when he got here, he was under medical advice, and could not go back. Consequently, a legal adviser was required for the commissioner, a gentleman who would give such legal advice as counsel as Mr. Oglivie would require in connection with the administration of affairs in the district. I cast about for a gentleman to occupy that position, and I recommended to my colleagues the appointment of Mr. W. H. P. Clement, of Toronto. I do not know a man at the bar of Ontario—and the Ontario bar ranks justly high—I do not know a man at the bar of Ontario whose appointment should be more satisfactory and commendable than that of Mr. Clement. He was picked out as a man specially qualified for the position. He was a lawyer of first-class standing, a man of unblemished character, a man who had given special attention to the study of con-

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stitutional questions, and consequently, although he never was in Parliament, he was a man who had his attention attracted to questions that would naturally arise in connection with the administration of the district: he is the author of a work on the constitution of Canada. Mr. Clement is a man of recognized standing, recognized ability, and recognized character, and I have never heard any one suggest that Mr. Clement's appointment was not one of the best that could possibly be made.

These were the men we appointed in the district. As to the few minor officials we sent up, they were only a few in number, with the exception of the class of labouring men and assistants, who would be hired in this country by the day, and who are only sent out because they are difficult to get there. There is more or less difficulty about getting for the minor positions men of good standing in the east to go to the Yukon. Men of good standing and assured positions do not care to give up their business connections and possibly take the chance of wrecking their lives, unless they happen for some reason to be of an adventurous temperament, and that would not be a particularly good qualification, when we came to select such men. Mr. Speaker, we sent men in there of recognized good character. I have not heard it suggested that a single man we sent to the Yukon, down to the lowest labouring man in connection with any party that went to that district, had a single cloud upon his character before he left this country. Then, Sir, if that be the record, I want to put the Government in the judgment of the House and the country upon this point. For the last year—perhaps not for the last year, but certainly for the last six months—I have been charged, and the Government has been charged, with a grave and serious offence in connection with the appointment of officers in the Yukon district. I have been charged with the appointment of a horde of useless political parasites, of debauching and prostituting the public service of this country by the class of men I have appointed, of throwing aside old and tried public servants, and of putting the public service in that district in the hands of men who had no qualification for the position.

Now, I have read you the record of these appointments, and I ask the gentlemen of this House, if it is not so, that never in the history of Canada has a series of appointments been made with more care, and with more universal approbation as to each appointment that had been made.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Too many Tories: that is the only trouble.

Mr. FOSTER. That sticks in your nostrils.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I do not mind being attacked by the press of hon. gentlemen opposite, but it would be desirable that some little faint

regard for the facts of the case should be observed, when the discussion of these matters is going on in this House. I have not rushed into newspaper interviews to deny the statements which I have punctured one by one, as I have gone through this statement, but I have waited until I was challenged in the House of Commons to rise in my place and prove that the charges which have been made against me, in connection with the administration of my office, are absolutely without foundation. In dealing with some matters, chronology is everything, because a man may be quite free from blame, if he does a thing in dealing with matters under certain circumstances, when he might be very subject to blame for taking the same action under different circumstances. A man may be free from blame, if he does a thing on the 1st of the month, whereas, if he did the same thing on the 15th of the month, he might be subject to serious blame on account of new information being received by him in the meantime. I, therefore, want to direct the careful attention of the House to these appointments in connection with the dates. I recommended Mr. Ogilvie's appointment on the 30th June. There was no complaint of any kind that I know of against Major Walsh or his administration at that time. I had not the faintest idea that anybody had an idea that Major Walsh was not doing everything that could be done, and doing it in the best possible way, when I appointed Mr. Ogilvie, and urged Mr. Ogilvie to go forward as soon as it was possible for him to go.

It is a large task for a man to undertake the administration of a district like the Yukon. There is no man in this House of Commons to-day—not even my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper)—who has had to organize a new district, organize a government, think of everything that is to be thought of in connection with the government, take a new country and a people with nothing done, and think of everything and provide for everything. There is not a man in this House who has ever had to do it before, not one—not even my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition. There never has been a task of that kind before that one man had to take hold of. The North-west Territories had to be administered, but the administration there grew up gradually. It did not have to be made in a minute; it grew up slowly; police were sent out first, and one thing after another was done. Any such avalanche of responsibility as we have had in connection with the Yukon, never was thrust upon a Government in connection with the North-west Territories. Well, I urged Mr. Ogilvie to go quickly. I said there was no complaint against Major Walsh, and that was true. If I recollect aright, there had at that time been an article published, attacking Messrs. Wade and McGregor for having staked claims in the Yukon district, and I men-

tioned this to Mr. Ogilvie. I do not know exactly the date I mentioned it to him, but I have a strong recollection that I mentioned this to him as one of the reasons why he should go quickly, and I told him, if any ground existed that no Government official should stake a claim, he might report upon it, and deal with it. I insisted on Mr. Ogilvie going up there quickly, and I particularly mentioned the 15th of July as the date before which he should go, if possible. There were a great many things to be done, and a great many consultations to be held with the various departments of the Government. Mr. Ogilvie would come and talk to me for a while, and then he would come down to my house, late at night, having thought of something that nobody else thought of, and he would take advice with regard to these things. They could not be put in the shape of official instructions, because if these things were put in such shape, and circumstances turned out to be different after Mr. Ogilvie got there, he would be bound by his instructions, and could not act otherwise, and so his information was largely taken in the form of consultation with members of the Government. At all events, he did not get away until the 4th of August. Before the 4th of August I had gone westward, and was taking a holiday at Rat Portage. On his way west, Mr. Ogilvie stayed a day or two with me, to go carefully over everything again and to have the last word as to his administrative duties. In the meantime, newspaper articles began to appear, and I said to him: "Now, Mr. Ogilvie the Government reposes complete confidence in you; we look to you to look into those things; I do not give you a commission of investigation, but I expect you to put that service on an effective footing; I expect you to do everything that the honour of the Government of Canada requires in that district, and to do it as soon as possible." That was in conversation at Rat Portage while Mr. Ogilvie was on his way. Then, after he left, while he was on his way to Vancouver, or after he got there, and before he left for the north, thinking these matters over and feeling the responsibility of the whole situation, I feared that he might hesitate, as an officer of the Government, to assume the necessary responsibility; for we all know that an officer of the Government is not like a Minister, who is prepared to meet Parliament and justify his conduct after having done the best he could, but is afraid to take responsibility upon himself. Therefore, I sent a telegram to Mr. Ogilvie, either from Rat Portage or Vancouver, and I want my action in regard to him marked, as shown by my disposition and desire to send this telegram to him at that time. No specific charge had been made against any officer of the Government; there was nothing but these newspaper statements that matters were not in a desirable condition, and I sent to Mr. Ogilvie a telegram—and

such authority was never given to any officer in Canada before, in these words :

You have an absolutely free hand in regard to the officials. Do what is necessary to put the service on an effective footing.

What more could I do ? What more could the Government of this country do than we have done ?

Mr. PRIOR. What is the date of that ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I have not got the date, but I will look it up and give it to the House. According to my recollection, it was sent after Mr. Ogilvie left my house at Rat Portage, and before he left Vancouver, and I have his acknowledgment, since he went to Dawson City, of the receipt of this message. In making the copy of the telegram, the date has been inadvertently left off.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it has been alleged that there were irregularities in the post office in Dawson City. It has been alleged that the constables of the Mounted Police—not the commissioned officers—I do not think that has ever been alleged—that the constables who were in charge of the post office at Dawson City took bribes for the delivery of mail matter outside of regular hours. I do not remember whether Major Walsh said anything specifically about that in his official report or not. I do remember that I discussed the matter with him when he came back, that he said he had called in the officers in charge of the post office, that they had tried in every possible way, by the employment of detectives and otherwise, to ascertain if there was any ground at all for this charge ; that although it was rumoured quite commonly that that practice was going on, yet they were utterly unable to fasten it upon anybody ; that they had changed the constables in charge, thinking that might possibly have the effect of doing away with the idea, if it was only an idea, or doing away with the practice, if it was a practice. Major Walsh, as soon as he got back, recommended in his official report, that the post office should be taken out of the control of the Mounted Police, thinking they were not adapted to that kind of work ; and Mr. Ogilvie, taking the same view as that which Major Walsh had arrived at from his experience, has carried out that recommendation, as Major Walsh would have done if he had stayed there. Mr. Ogilvie, when he went back, did take the post office out of the hands of the police, and, so far as I know, no irregularities are charged as having taken place since. Subsequently, the postmaster appointed by my hon. friend the Postmaster General arrived ; and, so far as my information is concerned—and I have not heard any allegation to the contrary—the service in connection with the delivery of mails at Dawson City is perfectly satisfactory.

Now, Mr. Speaker, who was in charge of the post office ? I do not suppose that upon

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any one point in connection with the administration of the Yukon, this Government has been belaboured, and I have been belaboured and vilified, so much as on account of the post office and the method with which the post office was managed. The impression has been conveyed to the people of the country that I had sent in some more of those political parasites to take charge of the post office, and that those people, sent up there to enrich themselves at the expense of the public, were bleeding everybody. Who was in charge of the post office ? Why, Captain Harper, of the Mounted Police, who was appointed by hon. gentlemen opposite, was in charge of it all the time ; and he was sent there on the recommendation of Mr. White, the Comptroller of the Mounted Police, as a competent officer—why ? Because Captain Harper's reputation and record in the Mounted Police was without a flaw and is without a flaw at this moment—because he was a first-class, competent officer. What better could we do than put one of the very best men in the service of the Dominion of Canada in charge of that office ? And if Captain Harper in Dawson City could not find out whether his own men were taking bribes or not, and, if they were, could not stop them, will anybody in the name of common sense tell me how I could stop them here in Ottawa ? I did not know for months afterwards that the charge was even made ; I never heard of it till months afterwards, and yet I am blamed because the man on the ground could not stop these men from taking bribes. Why, Mr. Speaker, the proposition convicts the men who are criticising the administration of the district, of the absolute lack of the most ordinary common sense. If criticism is applied, it ought to be applied with some degree of judgment, and then some attention will be paid to the strictures.

In all this, Mr. Speaker, there is a question of responsibility—a question of how far the Minister is responsible for what his officials do. That is a serious and important question for the House to decide—a question that often has to be decided, and a responsible Minister has always to be ready to answer to it at all times and under all circumstances. He is there to answer or resign. Now, my hon. friend the member for Pictou, on page 775 of "Hansard," defines my responsibility as a member of the Government in the following terms :—

But I charge more against the Minister of the Interior, the responsibility for all I am going to say ; I do not wish to deal with these understrappers, I do not wish to deal with the creatures of the Minister of the Interior.

I have told you who these creatures were. And I venture to say that the expression of opinion given here is not a proper expression of opinion coming for a Privy Council to apply to these well qualified officers in the public service :

I do not wish to deal with these understrappers—I do not wish to deal with the creatures of the Minister of the Interior. He cannot in fairness shelter himself behind their misconduct; he stands primarily charged with all the rascality and all the nefarious conduct of these men.

That is the statement of ministerial responsibility which the ex-Minister of Justice and a privy councillor (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) made in this House last Thursday. "Oh that mine enemy would write a book." The hon. gentleman spoke on a similar subject before in this House, time and again, under other and happier circumstances. On page 3035 of the "Hansard" of 1895, the same hon. gentleman is reported as having said this:

Take the criticism of the hon. member for North York (Mr. Mulock), and the evidence given by the hon. member for Queen's (Mr. Davies) in regard to these details. What do they relate to?

Now, will the hon. gentlemen themselves listen to what is admitted, not charged, by unanimous witnesses, but admitted and proven:

They relate to frauds, to trickery, to deception, to stuffed pay-lists, to all kinds of false pretenses; and, if the case stood there, that the Government knowing of that, had done nothing, the case would be grave indeed against this or any Government. But what information, I ask again, has any hon. gentleman in this House on which to base a case against the Government? Do they pretend that they can make one solitary elector in any part of Canada believe that under a Liberal Government, or under a Conservative Government, under the present Government of thirteen or fifteen men, you could guarantee the people of this country against fraud and iniquity on the part of men employed by the Government?

There is a lot more of the same kind, but that, I apprehend, is quite enough. What did the hon. gentleman say in another place? I refer to this because it has a reference to the English Parliament, and it may be perhaps valuable on that account. The hon. gentleman, on page 3038, says:

And if the Government were to fall on that ground, if the Minister were to lose his standing on that ground, what would be the position of Minister after Minister in the Imperial Government? How about the Ministers who are responsible for the construction of ships, that after having been built are almost as speedily condemned? How about Ministers responsible for supplying the army with bayonets that will not stand the slightest use? How about Ministers whose departments have been investigated time and time again in reference to other matters, and who have sheltered themselves, and sheltered themselves properly, behind the advice of experts. I have heard one of the late leaders of this Government state, without quarrel, in this House, and without any difference of opinion being expressed—I refer to the late Sir John Macdonald—that in reference to matters pertaining to engineering, he went by the advice of the engineer.

I have shown that I have acted upon the best advice in every appointment I have made, and that every appointment I did make has been approved by the hon. gentleman's friend, and not merely by my-

self. And this hon. gentleman, the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) stands up in this House and says that these principles laid down in this book will apply to and excuse my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart). I am not saying they do not, I am not discussing that at all, but I am pointing out that the hon. gentleman has declared that they will excuse the ex-Minister of Railways for the fraud, deception and stealing that took place in Montreal, two hours' ride by an express train from the city of Ottawa, but that they did not apply to or excuse me for what happened in a month or six weeks at Dawson City, when no human being could know what was going on there.

I have shown why we had Major Walsh as the leading administrator, and Mr. Fawcett as gold commissioner, the latter a gentleman appointed by hon. gentlemen opposite and recommended by the Surveyor General, and Captain Harper in the post office. I did not know a syllable of what was going on, and I have the right to say to this House that these men are responsible for what was done and not myself. I said, when I started, that I proposed placing myself in the judgment of this House, as to whether there had been the least carelessness or negligence; and I leave the case with the House in complete confidence as to what its judgment will be.

My hon. friend from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) strayed into other fields, and I was sorry to find that all through his speech there ran a vein or a tone of insinuation, or trying to create the impression that there was some felony, some wrong-doing, some wickedness on my part or the part of the Government that would not bear the light of day. When a man has anything to say about me, I like him to say it out straight, and I wish to say that whenever I have anything to allege against a political opponent, I will not allege it until I have evidence that convinces me, and when I have evidence that convinces me, it will be evidence that ought to convince the House; and then I will take the responsibility of making a charge as a member of the House. I think I would be justified in not dealing with the hon. gentleman's insinuations, I think I would be justified in throwing them to one side; but I will not do it, but will make use of the knowledge I have to enable me to ferret out what the hon. gentleman pretends might have been taking place, and I will prove that there was not a solitary word of truth in the suspicion which he expressed or in the charges which he insinuated. I shall take up the liquor permit question in the Yukon. The hon. gentleman made some statements with regard to that question. In the first place, he charged that there had been gross, and he intimated, corrupt favouritism in connection with liquor permits for the Yukon district. I have said that there was not, and I shall prove there was not. On page 2434 of last year's "Hansard" will be found a statement which I

made to the House at that time of the liquor permits which had been issued up to that time. It will be found, on examination of "Hansard," last year in other places which I need not refer to, that the question came up in this House and was briefly discussed, and I then explained the position to the House. It was this: I had been informed that there was a certain practice in the department, that applications had come in the early part of the year, practically before there was any particular excitement in the Yukon district, and one or two of them, after the excitement arose, and I granted a certain number of permits. They were not granted to my political friends particularly. Of the whole lot, covering altogether perhaps 11,000 gallons, there was only one man to whom a permit was granted that I knew at all, a man from the province of Manitoba with whom I was personally acquainted, and who was a supporter of the Government. All the rest I knew nothing of, except that they were recommended by responsible people and certified to as proper persons to receive permits. I explained that to the House. I say there was not the slightest ground for saying that there was any political favour given whatever. In fact, the return shows that there was no favouritism. On the contrary, those whom I did not know outnumbered those whom I did by ten to one. I saw that applications were coming in rapidly, and that this business had to be stopped altogether, and I stopped it. I said I would not grant any more liquor permits for the Yukon territory, and I did not grant any more. I explained that matter to the House last year, as shown by the "Hansard." When I say that I did not grant any more permits, I mean that I did not grant any more for commercial use. The list that was brought down showing permits granted prior to the time when, as I said, I decided not to grant any more permits, was placed upon "Hansard" at the page referred to. It shows the permits up to August 30th, 1897. It also shows one permit for fifteen gallons of liquor for personal use, given to a man named James H. Brown on the application or recommendation of the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett), a member of the Opposition. I do not mean that as any imputation upon the hon. gentleman. I do not think there is anything wrong in the hon. gentleman's certifying to a friend of his as a reputable man who desired a permit for fifteen gallons of liquor for his own personal use, going on that long journey. I gave the permit. But this is what I want the House to be seized of: since the 30th August, 1897, the only permits that have been granted by or under my authority in any way, shape or form, directly or indirectly, up to the time when Mr. Ogilvie was appointed commissioner—from which time he is held responsible for dealing with the subject, I not even having returns of what he has done—

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are the following: James H. Brown, fifteen gallons of whisky for personal use; Dr. Rimer, a reputable physician of Aylmer, Que., who went to Dawson City and was allowed to take fifty gallons of alcohol as part of his stock of drugs; the clerks of the Bank of British North America, who were granted a permit for twenty-five gallons for the personal use of the members of that staff; the clerks of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, a similar permit for twenty-five gallons; T. Trotter, Antigonish, five gallons of liquor for personal use; total, 105 gallons. That is the list. Now, I think the House will bear me out that I have answered the accusation of favouritism. The hon. gentleman went on to make the statement that—

Mr. FOSTER. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him a question?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Certainly.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman does not wish to leave the House and the country to understand that 105 gallons of liquor is the total quantity for which permits have been issued for the Yukon district between these dates. If the hon. gentleman has not issued these permits, somebody else has issued them. I suppose he will inform the House.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I will give that. I will explain the subject to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) fully and completely. "Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice." My hon. friend the hon. member for Pictou said this:

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If Mr. Woodworth, instead of attacking the Administration, was in their confidence, was a heeler and a friend, he could do as a heeler and a friend of theirs, was able to do in the city of Victoria, a member of the bar, also, that is, to charge and collect a fee of \$500 because he was able, by telegram and by a letter, to obtain from the Minister of the Interior a permit for his client, to send liquor into the Yukon. That is my statement.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Will the hon. gentleman tell me who the client was that got the permit?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, I will not.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Will he tell me by whom the permit was got?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, I certainly will not. But I will write to that gentleman, who is a member of the bar, and ask him if I may give his name to the Minister of the Interior and to this House.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Surely the hon. gentleman will not make a statement without giving the name of the lawyer.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, I will. I have been telling hon. gentlemen here all this evening, on these Yukon charges, the reason why some of these names must be withheld.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there may be a reason

why a man who comes from the Yukon is fool enough to think that he will damage his interest by making an honest statement as to the acts of the Government; but there is certainly no reason why a member of the bar of British Columbia, who does business with the Department of the Interior, should be afraid to have his name known in connection with it.

**The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** There is no reason in this case.

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.** I may be allowed to state for the information of the hon. gentleman that the statement he has made is absolutely untrue.

I do not, of course, charge the hon. member for Pictou with insincerity, but, reading this report, it will be evident that the hon. gentleman took the ground that he had not made a positive statement and that, a positive statement not having been made, I could not deny it, there was nothing to deny. That was practically the position he took. Now, here is what he said. Is this a positive statement or is it not? Is it a statement that I could deny if I knew all the facts, or is it not?

If Mr. Woodworth, instead of attacking the Administration, was in their confidence, was a heeler and a friend, he could do as a heeler and a friend of theirs, also a member of the bar, was able to do in the city of Victoria, that is, to charge and collect a fee of \$500 because he was able, by telegram and by a letter, to obtain from the Minister of the Interior a permit for his client, to send liquor into the Yukon. That is my statement.

He could do what another man did who was able to get a permit from me—that is his statement. Well, I said then that a member of the bar did not get a permit from me. I said the statement was untrue, and I say it is untrue now, and I will prove it. Perhaps the hon. gentleman did not intend to say what he did. Perhaps he intended to do what he said afterwards he had done, perhaps he intended to insinuate without saying it, but inadvertently he said it—there is no question about that. Now I have read a list of the permits, and the question I am going to consider before this House is whether a member of the bar of the city of Victoria—I do not care how much he charged, he may have charged whatever he liked—got a permit from me upon a telegram as stated by the hon. member for Pictou. I do not know that it would be a crime if he did. If the law gave me authority to give a permit, if it was part of my official duty to decide whether a permit should be given or not, I would decide it; and if, as a matter of policy I thought it was best to give it, and if I gave it on the solicitation of a member of the bar of British Columbia, I do not know that that would be any dreadful crime. I did give some permits, but not just in that way, and I am prepared to answer for them. I do not know that there would be any crime in doing what the hon. gentleman charged, but

what I am prepared to say now is that it is not so, that is all.

**Mr. HAGGART.** Did not that party get a permit from your office in any way?

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.** I cannot find out who the party was. Tell me who he was, then I will tell you.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Name, name.

**Mr. HAGGART.** Perhaps I have not followed the debate very closely. I thought that the name of Mr. Woodworth was mentioned, and the hon. gentleman denied that he had given him a permit. I may be mistaken. Did this man Woodworth get a permit?

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.** I understand my hon. friend was not here the other evening. The name of Mr. Woodworth came in because he was the man who wrote a letter which the hon. member for Pictou was quoting. But Woodworth had nothing to do with the permit, nothing whatever. I gave last year the list of permits which I had granted, and in that list there is no permit that was granted upon a telegram from any lawyer in the city of Victoria, and I have granted no permits since—that is permits for commercial use; so where is the hon. gentleman's statement? In that list there is a permit that was granted upon a telegram from Victoria, and the telegram is here. But it was not granted upon a telegram from a member of the bar or a heeler of the Grit party; it was on a telegram from the Hon. Jas. H. Turner, leader of the Conservative party in British Columbia. If the hon. gentlemen want to look at it, they can look at it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Read it, read it.

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.** I may say in the first place that I had received, I think, three applications, one from a man named Chambers, and another from a man named Menzies, the last permit, I think that was granted—the last permit for liquor for commercial use. First, I received a letter from Chambers, then I got this letter from Mr. Turner, who requested me to give a permit to Sullivan, McLeod and McPhee. I did not know the men, I never saw them.

**Mr. SUTHERLAND.** All Tories.

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.** I suppose they are Tories. In answer to this letter I wrote to Mr. Turner and said that I regretted that I could not give the permit, that I was in great doubt about the advisability of granting any more permits, and had about come to the conclusion that I would not do it. I had also told Chambers that I would not give him a permit. Then I got this telegram from Mr. Turner, dated 21st of August, 1897:

Have had no reply to my telegram—

There must be a mistake of a day or two

about the dates of the issue of the permit. They probably refer to dates entered upon the files here.

Have had no reply to my telegram re permit to Sullivan & Co. It is urgently wanted, as last steamer sails in few days. Please wire permit to collector customs.

That would be after my answer to his letter of the 14th of July, but before he had received it. Then he telegraphs later :

Will you wire reply to my letter of 20th July ?

J. H. TURNER.

In response to either one of these telegrams, whichever I got the last. I thought the matter over, discussed it with my deputy, and solely out of consideration for the request of the Prime Minister of British Columbia, I decided to grant that permit. I said to my deputy : Well, I have told these other men—I think two of them, one certainly—that I could not give him a permit ; now I will have to give him the permit. If I give it to one man I must to the other. So I gave permits to both. Then I closed the bill, as I have said, and we have not granted a permit since for liquor for commercial use. Now I must say this, that I do not believe there is a fair-minded man upon either side of the House who will not admit that I am correct in saying that there is no possible palliation for the unfairness of the hon. member for Pictou in attacking me about a telegram alleged to have been sent, and positively refusing to give me the name of the man that sent it or the name of the man it referred to. Why, Mr. Speaker, in my department last year, I am told by my deputy, over 175,000 letters and telegrams have come in and gone out. Would the hon. gentleman expect me to remember a telegram when he won't give me the name ? Now, I will tell you what I have done. The name not being given, my secretary and my deputy have taken the directory of British Columbia, and they have looked up the name of every lawyer in Victoria. They searched the files of the Department of the Interior and they searched my private files. There is not a telegram from a lawyer there in regard to a permit that can be found.

Mr. FOSTER. That is conclusive of nothing.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. If a telegram has been sent to me by a lawyer in Victoria, and is not on the file, if I have received a telegram somewhere else, when I have not been in Ottawa, or a telegram which has been lost or mislaid, then I tell the hon. gentleman, that the man who sent that telegram got no permit in reply to it. I am not responsible for telegrams being sent ; I am responsible for the replies. There was a telegram sent from Victoria, from a lawyer—I would not call him a heeler, I would not describe him in that way ; I cannot state what the telegram says, because the information comes to me in a

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way that I cannot disclose. If the hon. gentleman had given me a name, if he will give it to me now, I will look ; I will meet him on his ground and prove that he does not know what he is talking about ; but I can only look around and see how the story got around. The law partner of the member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is the only man that the public or private records of this Government show has ever telegraphed to a member of this Government from the city of Victoria about a liquor permit. He telegraphed to one of my colleagues. My colleague asked me about it. Well, what I told my colleague is best evidenced by the answer that my colleague sent. The answer that my colleague sent was :

Saw Minister of Interior. Regret exceedingly impossible to grant permit.

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

### After Recess.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Mr. Speaker, when the House rose at six o'clock, I was dealing with the charges, or statements, of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), with regard to the administration of the Yukon, and I think I disposed of the allegation of the hon. gentleman about the telegram. I desire now to say, with reference to the statement of the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), as to a fee of \$500 having been paid to a lawyer who was described as a heeler of the Grit party, that it turns out, according to the best information I can get, after searching the public and private files of the members of the Government, that the reference must have been to the partner of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). Whatever fee may have been paid to this gentleman is not my business, and it is not the business of the Government, and it is not part of the official duty of a Minister of the Crown to regulate the fee which may be paid to a lawyer in Victoria for any business which he may do with the department. What I am responsible for is what I do, and if a gentleman telegraphs to me, I am not responsible for his telegram ; I am responsible for the answer ; and I have shown absolutely beyond any doubt, that the statement of the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is altogether incorrect. No such permit as that to which he refers was ever obtained. The only application that was made for a permit to which he could possibly refer was made in that way, was made by his own partner, and it was properly refused. It surpasses the wit of man to understand what the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) could have meant by making such a statement in this House. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) made another statement, which I

will repeat to the House, and I will let the House decide between the Minister of the Crown and the leading member of the Opposition who made the statement. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) deliberately stated that I had stopped liquor at the boundary of the Yukon so that liquor that was being taken in by friends of mine might catch up. That was his charge. So I understood it after reading the "Hansard" report, and so I understand it now. I do not think there can be the least doubt that what he charged was about what he meant. Sir, I have already stated what my position upon the liquor question was. I have stated that there were not any permits I had granted, that there were no friends who got any permits, or who were taking any liquor up there. The statement of the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is, therefore, without any foundation. I will go further, however, and I will make to the House a complete disclosure of all the knowledge I have with regard to the question, with special reference to the question of the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster)—who is not now in his place—when he asked me, if 105 gallons for which I gave permits for personal use, and druggist use, and so on, was the only liquor that had gone in. At the end of August, 1897, as I said to the House last year, I made up my mind to prevent, if possible, liquor from being sent in, and that matter was brought up in the House last session and then discussed. That resolution I adhered to up to the time when the local council took charge. Whatever Mr. Ogilvie and his council may have done since, I have no returns from them on the subject; but I have no doubt that I will be able to assume the responsibility for what he and his council have done up to this time, and may do in connection with the question. As to that, however, I have no return up to the present time. It was a matter of discussion in the House last session, that I had had an interview with the members of the North-west Government. The question as to whether they had power to advise the Lieutenant-Governor to issue permits came up, and, without attempting to come to any decision upon the legal aspect of the question, or upon the propriety of the Government undertaking to interfere and by force of its authority over the chief executive officer of the North-west Territories or its relation to him, to prevent the issue of these permits, an understanding was come to. I interviewed in the city of Ottawa the two members of the North-west Territories Government, and I stated to the House last year, if I recollect it aright—I have not seen the books of reference lately—but my recollection, as I stated to the House last session, was, that I had an understanding with the two members of the North-west Government, Mr. Ross and Mr. Haultain, that no permits should be issued for liquor for any

commercial purpose. There was something said about issuing permits to persons who might want to go from the Territories to the Yukon district, and merely wanted permits for taking in liquor for personal use, and I said I had no objection in the world to that, and we parted on that understanding. I think I stated that understanding to the House; I certainly stated it to my colleagues. I went on that understanding, and had not the least idea that the understanding was being violated. Now, Sir, I wish to state, with some degree of care, what my position in regard to that matter is, although it is not a question at all that affects my action about giving permits. I was informed, later on, that the North-west Government was issuing permits. I stated to my colleague who privately informed me of that fact, that it could not possibly be so, because I had a positive understanding with them it should not be done. My colleague said he knew it was so, and I, therefore, communicated with one of the members of the North-west Territories Government. I was replied to, to this effect: That, while it was not denied that there had been an understanding of the kind, when I parted with these gentlemen here, yet, practically this was the position taken: That, in view of all the circumstances, and what had transpired since, and the delay in getting the Yukon Government Bill through the House, they did not conceive that the spirit of the understanding required that they should abstain from issuing permits, and consequently they had gone on and issued them. Well, I cannot say that my friends in the Government of the North-west Territories were dishonest in that, but it was certainly altogether a departure from what I understood had been agreed to between us. I simply state that in order that the House may know exactly what took place. I do not accuse these gentlemen of bad faith; I have no idea they acted in bad faith; but I had a clear understanding in one way, and they, while admitting the understanding, conceived they were excused by what subsequently took place. In the month of June, of last year, there was great pressure for permits for liquor, which pressure was resisted by myself and by the Government here; but I was informed by persons coming from the coast, that there was no doubt that attempts would be made to get liquor into the Yukon, other than the liquor—

Mr. DAVIN. Would my hon. friend (Mr. Sifton) permit me? Before the hon. gentleman goes away from the arrangement made with the North-west Government, may I ask him: Does he contend that the North-west Government admitted that the Department of the Interior had any jurisdiction at that time in regard to permits in the Yukon?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I have not discussed that at all.

Mr. DAVIN. Yes, but it is very important.

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) wants to bring that question up some other time, I will discuss it. I am now discussing a question of fact, and I am not discussing in any way that legal question. I was informed that undoubtedly an attempt would be made to get quantities of liquor into the Yukon district that were not authorized by any legal permit, and, therefore, I directed that a letter should be written, and a letter was written—a copy of which I hold in my hand—on the 10th of May, 1898, directed “To the Officer Commanding the Dominion Mounted Police in the White Pass, via Victoria.” That was the place through which the liquor would go if it went at all. That officer was Major Wood; and I may say that Major Wood had supervision over not only the White Pass but also the Chilkoot Pass, which afforded access to Lake Bennett, down which any liquor would go. This letter of May 10, was as follows:—

Dear Sir.—I beg to advise you that no authority has been given to an officer of the Government to issue permits for the importation of liquors into the Yukon district, and that no statute governing the issue of permits has been passed.

That referred, of course, to the fact that the Yukon Bill had not yet got through.

The only permits which have been issued, and which can therefore be honoured, are those named in the inclosed list. I desire, therefore, to instruct you that with the exception referred to the law prohibiting the importation or sale of liquor in the district of the Yukon must be absolutely and strictly enforced.

That was strictly in accordance with the position I had taken in the House, and attached to that letter was the list of permits which I had presented to the House during the session. I think the date of presentation was later than the date of this letter. In addition to the permits mentioned in this list, some permits appeared which had been granted by the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-west Territories, and of which I had been advised. So that this list comprised at that date all the permits I had any knowledge of having been granted, and this list was placed officially in the hands of that officer, so that he might not be imposed upon by any forged permits being taken in. Then I was informed, as I have said, that other permits were being issued by the North-west Government, directly contrary to my wishes and to the well known wishes of the Government here. That is not said, however, with a view of suggesting that the members of the North-west Government, in the exercise of their constitutional functions, are in any way bound to consider the wishes of the Government here. I simply say as a matter of fact that it was done contrary to our wishes. I ascertained that the permits were being issued, and I had the North-west Government communicated with, and a list of the permits that had been issued by them was sent down to the Government here.

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Upon that I referred to the Minister of Justice the question whether these permits were good and were in force, in view of the position of affairs at that time. The Minister of Justice advised me, in the first place, that the permits were good. He also advised me, by another letter, that he was of opinion that we had power to cancel the permits if we saw fit to do so. I concluded at once that it would not be a fair or an honest thing to cancel the permits, because the people who had got them had gone to the North-west Government, had paid their money, and had invested a large sum of money on a document which was legal at the time; and I thought it would be a breach of faith on the part of the Government to cancel permits obtained under these circumstances. Therefore, at my direction, this letter was sent on the 9th of July:

With further reference to my letter to you of the 10th May last, in the matter of permits for the importation of liquor into the Yukon district, I desire to inform you that the permits enumerated on the annexed schedule have been issued by the Government of the North-west Territories, and, it having been decided that these permits should be recognized, you will therefore allow the persons mentioned in the said schedule to take in the liquor specified opposite their respective names, upon the production of the permits unexpired.

This letter was sent to Commissioner Walsh and to the North-west Mounted Police officers commanding at the following posts:—Stikine River, Chilkat, Chilkoot Pass, White Pass, Lake Bennett, Hootalinqua, Lake Tagish. I did not know where these men would be taking the liquor in, and so far as I could do so I sent the notice, so that they would not be stopped, instead of sending a notice, as the hon. member for Pictou says, so that they would be stopped. Later on, an amended list came from the North-west Government, and another letter was sent to the officer commanding the North-west Mounted Police, correcting the list, and inserting the additional permits, which were sent in the amended list. That is the history of the stopping of liquor at the coast; and hon. members will see what a ridiculous mare's nest the hon. member for Pictou has fallen into. In the first place, I had not issued any permits to my friends, consequently, there was not any liquor being taken up by them to be stopped. In the second place, the requisite permits were written pursuant to my duty as a member of the Government, to see to the proper administration of the law in the district. The House will further see, in answer to the suggestion of the hon. member for York, that the liquor that was taken in for which I was responsible, if it was all taken in—I fancy it did not all get there—amounted to 105 gallons; and the liquor that flooded the district amounted to something like 60,000 or 65,000 gallons—I have not the total. That liquor was taken in in direct opposition to my wishes and without any power on my part

to prevent it, under permit of the North-west Government.

On the subject of telegrams, to revert to that interesting subject, if the hon. member for Pictou was not referring to the Prime Minister of British Columbia or to his partner, perhaps he was referring to Mr. Archer Martin, now Mr. Justice Martin. Mr. Archer Martin, then a Liberal lawyer in Victoria, telegraphed to me on the 8th of July :

Pither & Leiser, leading firm liquor merchants here, were granted permit from Regina, May 21st, to import 2,000 gallons into Yukon, and forwarded goods charge responsible employee. Messenger just arrived from north that goods stopped by Major Steele at Lake Bennett under your instructions of May 10th and June 3rd, presumably because of conflict between Governments.

It was not in consequence of any conflict between Governments, because the first letter was written when we had not any information. The letter was written giving the information, and adding to the list as soon as we got the information.

Public here understood this matter had been amicably arranged, and that Regina permits now recognized by you. Parties interested very responsible merchants and good standing. Stoppage working great hardship and heavy loss. Would respectfully urge you wire immediate instructions Steele my care allowing permit recognition, so that messenger return by steamer sailing probably to-morrow, and party proceed without further delay and loss.

ARCHER MARTIN.

I wired this reply :

Archer Martin, Victoria, B.C.

This telegram will be authority to Major Steele to recognize permit to Pither & Leiser issued by North-west Government to take into Yukon 2,000 gallons of liquor.

That permit was not issued by me, but issued against my wishes—issued by the North-west Government for the taking into the Yukon of 2,000 gallons of liquor. That, therefore, is the complete story of the liquor question.

I am going to refer to one other matter which was not mentioned by my hon. friend in express terms, but there was a vague statement, an innuendo, in his remarks which had reference to that or something similar—I do not know exactly what it was. Before becoming a member of this Government, I practiced law in the town of Brandon. A gentleman there named A. E. Philp, was a junior partner in my office. This gentleman, like a great many others, caught the gold fever, the Klondike fever, last year, and went out to the Yukon. Promptly some of the Conservative journals in Canada proceeded to say that Mr. Philp had gone out as my partner—as my partner, mark you, Mr. Speaker—and was speculating on my behalf in Klondike gold mining. If this statement had not been made in the press, I would not have referred to it. I wish to say that while I am dealing with

these innuendos of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), that I flatly, positively, emphatically, in the most unqualified manner, contradict any such statement. I defy any man living to bring the slightest evidence of the truth of any such statement. I dissolved partnership with Mr. Philp when I became a member of the Government, and have had no business connection with him directly or indirectly, in any way, shape or form, since that time. If he went to the Klondike, he went on his own responsibility. If he got gold mines he got them the same as anybody else, and I have nothing whatever to do with that. The story was circulated at the coast that I had given Mr. Philp a liquor permit, and that he had taken liquor into the Klondike, and with that charity which covers a multitude of sins, the story was industriously circulated that I was his partner in connection with the taking of liquor into that country. Well, Mr. Speaker, he never had a liquor permit from me or my department, directly, indirectly, or in any way, shape or form, by or under the authority of any member of this Government. I hold Mr. Philp's written statement—which he is prepared to verify by statutory declaration, and which will render him liable to an indictment for perjury if not true—that he never took any liquor into the Klondike in any way, shape or form. Mr. Philp came to me one day in my office and said that Major Walsh had made an order about requiring 600 pounds of provisions for each person going over the pass ; that he intended to go up to the Yukon on a short visit—that he was just going in and out ; and that he wanted me to give him an order authorizing him to go in without the 600 pounds of provisions. I said to him : You do not need any order, the police will not stop you, you are not going as a prospector, and besides the police have not the authority to stop you. The order is, to all intents and purposes, an advisory order. If any one goes in without that amount of provisions, the police cannot prevent him as they have not the legal authority to do so. He, however, said he did not want to have any trouble with the police and asked me to give him a letter, which I did. I wrote this letter :

This will introduce Mr. Philp, who will be permitted to enter the Yukon district with such provisions he may choose to take with him, without regard to the regulations.

When Mr. Philp got to the coast, like the partner of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) and a great many other distinguished gentlemen, he desired to become interested in the bringing of liquor into the Yukon. He telegraphed me, asking me to write him that the letter I had given him should include liquor, and his request was promptly declined. I would not refer to this were it not for the evident vein of insinuation about this thing that travelled through the speech of the

hon. member for Pictou. It seemed to me to call for an answer. Friends of mine at the coast advised me that this story was going the rounds, and I promptly denied it. I have now shown exactly what the facts are. There is not a syllable of truth in it.

I desire for a moment to advert to the charge made by the hon. member for Pictou that the officials in Dawson had decamped as soon as they heard that charges were being made against them. Well, Major Walsh came home in pursuance of a letter written me that he intended to come as soon as he possibly could. Having done what he thought was necessary on arrival at Dawson, he intended to come up so as to be sure of not getting caught in there for the winter, and he came out in pursuance of that letter. Mr. Bliss, the accountant, came out to close up the accounts with the department, and Mr. McGregor came out with despatches containing official information. Mr. Wade and Mr. Norwood came out before either of them knew that any charges had been made against them. They knew nothing of any such charges until they got home. Messrs. Bliss, McGregor, Wade and Norwood are now in Dawson City, and prepared to meet before Mr. Ogilvie, the commissioner, any charges that may be made against them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) spent some time on the question of the secrecy of the records. He charged that under my administration the records of the mining bureau at Dawson were kept secret. I have adverted to the fact that these records were kept under the same regulations and precisely the same instructions as those which had been in vogue under the late Government, and that there is no shadow of ground for the suggestion that anything I have said or done or any authority I had granted was responsible in any way for the mining records being kept secret. The charge is made that information could not be got out of the office, and that in British Columbia information can be readily got. But in British Columbia upon no occasion, if my information is correct, has there ever been anything like the rush of work and the rush for the registration of claims which there was in Dawson City at the time under consideration. There can be no difficulty about getting information when you have a large office with six or seven men coming in during the course of the day to get information, and where the books and everything are in such a shape that the clerk can hand them out upon the counter and stand there while the person seeking information examines them. There is no difficulty about that, but the position in the Yukon was altogether different. From the 1st of May, 1898, to the 31st January, 1899, there were 10,543 claims registered, or an average of about forty for every working day. Remember that these applications could not be taken by everybody.

Mr. SIFTON.

They had to be taken by the clerk who knew what was going on in the office, who was familiar with the work that had been done before, and would not make the mistake of recording a claim for one man that had already been recorded by another. That was done in some cases by mistake, because mistakes cannot always be avoided. When a man came in, moreover, it was not a case of throwing down a paper as in a registry office. He had to come in and tell where his claim was, and then he had to have his affidavit drawn up and then it was sworn to. Then the clerk had to find out what claims had been registered before. And yet they registered an average of forty claims a day, even with the miserable facilities they had. And no officers could have done better.

Then, it is charged that information could not be got by those who desired it as to unrecorded ground. It was proper that it should be given out, but the reason why it was not given out was that the thing was impossible. There were, practically, hardly any of the creeks surveyed. Dominion, Bonanza and El Dorado were surveyed and the men were at work upon others. But a lot of men would stampede to a creek and then rush back to the office to record their claims, expecting the clerks to be able to say off-hand what ground was recorded and what was not. Under the circumstances, this was utterly impossible. The information could only be had as the result of a considerable amount of careful work, after the surveyor had gone upon the creek and actually surveyed and scaled it, so that the clerks could know what they were doing. I sent surveyors there last winter for that purpose. And, last year, when I was taking my estimates through the House for the Surveyor General's branch, I explained that some of the surveyors were needed for the very purpose of surveying the claims and getting them straightened out. And what happened? The hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) got up and protested against anything of that kind. I will read his remarks, they are well worth reading in view of the present state of affairs. I read this not so much to make a point about the surveying of claims in particular as to show that rules that apply in one place do not apply in another, that practice that is good in one place may not be good in another; and that if you are going to make a practice for Dawson City, you have to fit it to the circumstances you have to deal with. The hon. gentleman said:

Surely the hon. gentleman is not going to take the public funds of the country to defray the cost of surveying out mining claims in the Yukon. In British Columbia, if I take up a claim, and he takes up a claim, and if there is any clash in respect to the claim, we have got to get that settled by getting a Crown grant, after a survey for a Crown grant. We have to pay our own surveyors, the dispute can only be settled when the surveys are made, and the actual bounds are set out, not by the Government, not at the expense of the Government, but at the expense of

the holders of the claims themselves. The same in the province of Ontario. Provincial money does not survey the claims of the claim-holder in Ontario. That is all at the expense of the mine-holders, or the claim-holder himself. In Ontario you have to pay about \$2 an acre for a survey; in British Columbia you have to pay some \$500 or \$600 in order to get a survey made for a Crown grant. Surely the Dominion, in the Yukon, is not going to take the burden of surveying out individual miners' claims.

Later on, he said :

I protest, if the practice has been begun, against public funds being used for surveying claims of individual miners. Let each man pay for the survey of his claims, as is done in every mining country in the world.

If we had followed the practice laid down by the hon. member for York, trying, as the circumstances proved, they would have been worse; they would have been simply unbearable. You could get at some information about these claims if surveys had been made. But when a lot of people rushed out and stampeded an unknown creek concerning which the clerks knew simply nothing—nothing of its geography, nothing of its length, whether it was five or fifty miles, not even where it was; and when they then dash at the office to record their claims, how is the clerk to give them information? And the next day men come in and demand to know what ground is recorded. The records have not been entered up, the plans have not been made—how can you tell anything about them? The people expected that, even under these circumstances, the clerk would do everything, just as it is done in a registry office in the city of Ottawa. It is contrary to all reason, and it could not be done. The Gold Commissioner did not have sufficient accommodation in his office. But that was not his fault, nor was it my fault. I have pointed out to the House that there was no reason to suppose that this enormous rush of people would go to Dawson in the spring. We were not providing for that; we were providing for registration in other places where we thought the people were going. And the Gold Commissioner, living in Dawson City, in the winter of 1897, had no notion of what was going to happen when the water opened in the spring. He did not know until a very short time before the rush came, when some people got in over the ice and warned him. He immediately let a contract for a new building for his office. But you cannot get a new building in Dawson City all in a minute; it was a slow matter. The building was not finished until Major Walsh got there. In the meantime they were having a dreadful time with the accommodation they had. They were trying to meet the requirements of these twenty or thirty thousand people that had come in there, some thousands of whom were recording claims, or attempting to record claims, all at the same time.

Now, I want to call attention to another thing, because I think the House is entitled

to know why it is these things have happened. And I must say it passes my comprehension why men ordinarily sensible and reasonable should expect that under the circumstances that existed in Dawson for two or three months—circumstances never equalled in Canada before—everything would be done exactly as it would have been done in one of the departments in the city of Ottawa. But it seems to be held by some of our newspaper critics, and even by some hon. gentlemen in the House of Commons, that this is what ought to have been done. I wish to call attention to the fact that in British Columbia the men who stake out claims are prospectors, men who, almost without exception, are in the habit of prospecting, and I think hon. members of British Columbia will bear me out when I say that in that province a miner's stake is considered sacred, that it is a thing almost unknown for a miner's stake to be pulled up or defaced or destroyed, or for a man to come along and stake the ground that has already been staked. Why? Because the miner understands the miners' laws, and knows perfectly well that no man has any security unless he respects the rights of others. And they practically never have any difficulty in the mining offices in British Columbia. But what happened in Dawson City. We had thousands of people to whom nothing was sacred. I will lay on the Table of the House a report of proceedings which will show that one man deliberately staked ground over another man's stakes. He walked along, put down his stakes and marked his claim when stakes were there already. Then he went back to the office at Dawson City, swore that the ground was vacant, that the land was unrecorded, and got a certificate for it, though it had been staked out by another man who had also got a certificate for it.

It is beyond the possibility of dispute that there were men in Dawson City who constantly went out and staked over land that had been staked before, came in, applied to have the claims recorded, and made affidavit that the land was unrecorded. Men have gone out where claims were staked, clipped the names off the stakes, and put their own names on instead. Now, I want to ask any sensible man how any Gold Commissioner living could have kept his records right, could have got correct information and recorded every man's claim as he applied to have it recorded, under such a condition of circumstances as that. It could not be done. In justification to Mr. Fawcett—an honest man, as I believe him—I believe him to be honest upon his long record of faithful public service in this country. I believe him to be honest until he is proved to be dishonest. I will give him that amount of fair play—I think it is fair to say of him that he laboured under a most unparalleled set of circumstances, that no man ever had such frightful difficulties to cope with, and so little facilities of any kind to enable him to cope with them successfully. They were cir-

cumstances that could not be helped. I want to tell the House that there has been a story going which everybody here has read—it has gone the rounds of the press, it has been repeated in conversation, and it is something like this: That a man has gone into the Gold Commissioner's office to record his claim, that he has been told to come back next day, that he came back next day and found the claim recorded in the name of somebody else. That is given as evidence, as a proof, mind you, of the fact that the official has given it illicitly, improperly and dishonestly to somebody else. Now, I say that does not prove anything of the kind. There is not a lawyer living who has the least conception of the value of evidence, who would even suggest that under the conditions that existed there, there was even an implication of anything wrong. Why, Sir, think of the rush that was going on; I wonder that they were able to record anybody's claim immediately upon application; because when a man came in while that rush was going on, it was necessary for the clerk to satisfy himself, before he recorded the claim and gave a certificate, that that claim had not been recorded to anybody else. In a great many cases search had to be made, when the business was going on very fast, the records would naturally not be entered up, and these would have to be entered up, and unless the clerk was perfectly familiar with that particular piece of ground, he would have to scale out the creek, see the amount of ground that was there, and the number of claims that had been recorded, before he gave a certificate. In many cases he would find the record had been given to somebody else, in many cases he would find that the ground did not permit of as many claims as people were applying to be recorded. The result was, no doubt, that men came in and applied to have claims recorded, it could not be done on that day, and they were told to come back the next day, and when they came back and found they had been recorded in somebody else's name, they concluded that there had been illicit and improper dealings in the Commissioner's office, but there is no evidence of that. Now, if a man thought that his claim had been illicitly given to somebody else, his remedy was simple: He had merely to go to the Gold Commissioner and enter a protest. That has been done in plenty of cases. I have tried an appeal myself—I remember at least one case of that kind. All the person aggrieved had to do was to enter a protest, and if it was a simple case, Mr. Fawcett tried it himself; if it was a complicated case, he would call in Judge Maguire. Judge Maguire took the evidence and heard the case, heard the lawyers on both sides, certified his opinion to Mr. Fawcett, and Mr. Fawcett decided in accordance with the opinion of the Judge. When you come to examine these things, these allegations, when you look at them in the light of ordinary business, there is no evidence whatever of any impropriety or crookedness in anything that has occurred.

Mr. SIFTON.

Mr. Speaker, I lived in Manitoba during what was known as the land boom. We had a fine brick post office, with a postmaster and a trained set of officials, a great array of lock boxes and every modern convenience that can be suggested. We had a land registry office specially built for the purpose, a competent registrar, a first-class set of clerks, and books with a proper system of book-keeping in which every letter had been entered up long before the rush took place. There was no survey to be done, no trouble about boundaries, but everything moved like clockwork. Well, in the city of Winnipeg, with a brick post office and a large staff of clerks, with every modern convenience, with telegraphic and express communication with Ottawa so that anything in the nature of additional help could have been had at any time, I have seen men stand twelve hours in line in front of the post office in the city of Winnipeg, in the middle of civilization, and I have seen a man give another man \$10 to get his place in the line. I say further, that it was well known at that time in the city of Winnipeg that a man who did not want to stand in line could get his mail by paying a boy to let him in at the side door. I was a clerk in a law office at the time, and I know that was done. Yet did anybody ever hear the Government of that day charged with corruption on that account?

Mr. MCGREGOR. That was in 1882, and I have seen it myself.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I have no doubt there are many in this House who stood in that line. Did anybody ever hear the Government of the Dominion of Canada charged with corruption on that account? The thing was too absurd. But when the thing happened in Dawson City, where there was no possibility of coping with the difficulty, the Government is charged with corruption. Now, is not that the height of absurdity? When I was a law student at Winnipeg, at the same time, I have waited for two weeks to get an abstract from the registry office.

Mr. MCGREGOR. So have I, often.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The registry was thoroughly equipped with everything that modern knowledge and skill could put in the hands of the registrar, but with everything that could possibly be done to facilitate business, I have had to wait two weeks for a single abstract. But at Dawson City these gentlemen thought that if they had to wait half an hour they were being outraged and somebody was defrauding them. Now, I am only putting this matter to the House as to men of common sense. When these things happened at Winnipeg, did anybody shout about the Government being corrupt? Not at all; everybody there knew the exceptional state of affairs, knew that the officers of the Government, the officers of the land registry office, the officers of the Dominion lands office, the officers in the

post office, were all doing their best to keep up with their work, and no fault was found with them in any way, shape or form.

Mr. PRIOR. Would the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him a question? He has stated that he has known in Winnipeg men to give other men \$10 for their places in the procession. Did he ever know any man to go in at a side door and give a Government official \$10 to get his record in?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I have known of a man giving a clerk \$5 to go in at the side-door to get his mail. I did not accuse the Dominion Government of corruption on that account. I do not think the postmaster found it out at all; he did not know it.

There is another charge which has been made which I cannot fail to deal with. I have been told, and this is a serious charge, that, under my administration of the department, the law respecting the staking of claims by officials was changed, practically changed, and the hon. member for Pictou undertook to deliver to the House and to myself particularly, a lecture upon the spirit of the law and the spirit in which the law had been administered in former years. He read a clause of the Dominion Lands Act to show what the law was in that respect in regard to the Dominion lands, and he explained the honourable position of the Department of the Interior and the spirit in which the law had been administered by the late Government for years past. I do not object to being lectured once in a while—I do not object to being lectured even by a man who does not know, perhaps, as much about the subject as I do—but when the hon. member for Pictou undertakes to tell me how the public domain in the west has been administered, the only conclusion is, that the hon. gentleman has been asleep for the last eighteen years. Does he mean to tell me that the officials of the late Government have not dealt in that domain for the last eighteen years, that they have not speculated in it? There is a prominent Dominion official in the town in which I lived, who took up a homestead, a valuable property, a few miles distant, and, upon a colourable performance of the duties—there was no settlement, and he was not a farmer—he got his patent under the Government of the hon. gentlemen opposite. I will send the name over to hon. gentlemen opposite, and I will bring down the papers on file in my department, if they will move for them; but after they have read them, they will wish they had not moved for them. Does the hon. gentleman mean to say, that the spirit of the law, as they administered it, was that the men making the law, and the men administering the law, should not traffic in the public property? Does the hon. gentleman forget the grants of public land, of public property, that for years were made to the friends and intimates of the

Government notoriously? Does the hon. member for Pictou forget that the name of his own brother, Mr. Stuart Tupper, that the name of Mr. Hugh John Macdonald, the son of the late Sir John Macdonald, appeared in connection with these transactions? Does the hon. gentleman forget the grant of lands made in the Prince Albert district, the result of which was the driving of those settlers into rebellion? I think he must have been asleep for the last eighteen years, if he does not know how the public property of this country has been administered, and, if he wants to know how it has been administered, I will give him the statement of one of his own political friends. This gentleman says:

Why should I be singled out for public censure,—

This is Mr. John Charles Rykert.

—when there are dozens of members in the same House who not only have applied for and obtained limits for themselves, but sit there daily voting money into their own pockets, I cannot understand.

That is the spirit of the law, as administered by hon. gentlemen opposite. Now I will get down to particulars to show you what the practice was. I sent to the Yukon the mining regulations of hon. gentlemen opposite. So far as the staking of claims by officials was concerned, there was no change whatever made by me in the regulations, in the letter, or spirit, or practice of these regulations. It has been dinged into the ears of the people of this country for the last six months, that such a thing as Government officials staking a mining claim was never heard of until my batch of Grit officials got to Dawson City. Let us see; records are sometimes inconvenient things. My batch of Grit officials got to Dawson City in February, 1898. Who was the first Government official who staked a claim in the Yukon district? Would hon. gentlemen opposite like to know? I will tell them. The man who first staked a mining claim, as a Government official, was Captain Charles Constantine, the mining recorder appointed by hon. gentlemen opposite, and it was done in January, 1896, six months before this Government took office. It was done under the law, and regulations, and practice which were inaugurated by the hon. gentlemen opposite. Can they understand that? Mr. Constantine was an officer under the late Government. He was acting in pursuance of the instructions he got, and he was within the law, and he was within his rights. The Government had no right to say that he was wrong, because he had never been told not to do it. He staked two claims in January, 1898, and he was the mining recorder himself at that time. I do not think hon. gentlemen can find that Thomas Fawcett or Mr. Senkler, the Gold Commissioner, ever recorded any claims in their own names. More than that, Mr.

Speaker, Captain Constantine recorded something like twenty-two claims in the name of other men in the employ of the Government. The practice of recording mining claims by men in the employ of the Government was in full swing, unchecked and unnoted, before this Government came into office. Mr. Wade, one of the officials whom I sent up there, came to me, when I was standing on the quarter-deck of the "Quadra," on the way to Skagway, and said to me: "I do not think it is likely that I will have any time to stake claims; but if I should desire to do so, is there anything in the law to prevent me doing it?" I thought for a minute, and then said: "You are not an officer connected with the administration of the mining law in any way; you have nothing to do with the registration of mining claims in any way, shape or form, directly or indirectly, and I do not see anything that will prevent you staking claims." This is the only conversation I ever had with Mr. Wade on the subject, and I never had any other conversation with any other officer on the subject at all, and never gave any instructions. When I was speaking, I was speaking upon the regulations. Last winter we had down here from Dawson City, Dr. Wills, surgeon, of the Mounted Police, a political friend of hon. gentlemen opposite. When he was here, the fact was circulated that Dr. Wills had staked claims in the Yukon district. It was a matter of common talk, and it was referred to in the newspapers, but we heard no howl from the Conservative press of this country about the iniquity of Government officials staking claims, not a syllable. There was no harm in it until Mr. Wade, a Liberal official, staked a claim. That is when the enormity arose. I do not stand here to say that it is desirable that Government officials should stake claims; I put my name to a recommendation to Council to say they shall not. I have done that as the result of experience; I am not like the hon. gentleman, I am not too proud to learn by experience. And, Sir, if I am in fault in any way whatever, and if my colleagues are in fault in any way whatever, it is not for deteriorating the public service of this country, but it is for not having foresight enough to remedy the evil which was done by gentlemen on the other side of the House. My hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has made the charge—the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) vigorously seconding him—that we did nothing in Dawson City for sanitation, that we did nothing to help anybody. Now, I am going to give the hon. gentleman something to look up and I will give him a week to look it up. I want him to find for me and to cite it in this House, a case in the North-west Territories, where there had been no time for the establishment of a local administration, of any town where the Federal Government ever did anything for sanitation. I want him to cite me just one such case if he can. We

Mr. SIFTON.

I have been opening up new places in Canada for a great many years, and I want him to find just one place where, before the organization of a local governing body, the Federal Government has done anything for sanitation. I will give these hon. gentlemen opposite an illustration of what happened in the town I lived in where the very same thing happened—only the conditions were not nearly so aggravated—as in Dawson. When the town of Brandon was opened up, four thousand or five thousand people suddenly planted themselves on the side of a hill; the ladies stayed in the house and the men walked around in top boots, up to their knees in mud for a considerable length of time. We did not growl about the neglect of the Government; we did not want the Federal Government to put down sidewalks and take sanitary measures, but we met and formed a town committee and with our own money put down sidewalks for ourselves. That is what every place has done under the same circumstances. I would like the hon. gentlemen to hunt up a case where anything else has been done, except in the case of this very Dawson City. Here are the amounts which have been spent, according to our last returns, for assistance of various kinds at Dawson:

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Paid for work on Bonanza Creek trail.. | \$4,000 |
| Donation to hospital .....             | 5,000   |
| Fire engine, Dawson.....               | 2,500   |

Did the hon. gentlemen opposite ever buy a fire engine for any town in the North-west Territories? If they did I would like them to cite the case.

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Donation to the hospital .....  | \$2,500 |
| Other donation to hospital.....   | 1,000   |
| do do .....   | 1,000   |
| do do .....   | 2,000   |
| Donation to an individual to enable him to leave the Yukon owing to illness.... | 420     |
| Work on the Bonanza trail.....  | 200     |
| Another hospital grant.....   | 2,000   |
| do do .....   | 2,000   |
| Repairing roads and bridges, Bonanza Creek .....                                | 80      |
| Contribution to the fire brigade.....   | 1,000   |
| Hospital at Grand Forks.....  | 850     |
| Another hospital donation.....  | 183     |
| Treatment of indigent patients.....   | 345     |

When did these hon. gentlemen opposite pay for medical treatment in the North-west Territories?

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Another advance to an hospital .....  | \$3,000 |
| Small amount for relief .....   | 18      |
| Small amount for work in connection with the fire.....                      | 18      |
| Voted by the Council to fit up part of the buildings for an almshouse ..... | 2,000   |
| Another hospital grant.....   | 527     |
| Treatment of indigent patients.....   | 155     |
| Another grant to hospital.....  | 440     |
| Indigent patients .....   | 375     |
| do .....  | 5,000   |
| Care of indigent persons.....   | 940     |
| do do .....   | 50      |
| do do .....   | 7,000   |

Altogether, for relief, for works practically of charity and local help, there has been

spent up to the present time, no less a sum than \$44,183. Let the hon. gentlemen look up their records and show me where they ever made the faintest pretense of doing anything of the kind, and then it will be time for them to come here and talk to us about neglect. I have no record of the exact amount of relief that was given by the Mounted Police, but the Mounted Police upon the trail practically fed every one who came along and who had not food. That has been apparently a necessity of the situation and I have not felt like giving orders to the contrary. But at the present time I intend, when the spring opens, to give orders that hereafter people will have to feed themselves, and the police will stop giving out provisions, as there is no excuse for people being there, after the first month of spring without being in a condition to take care of themselves; except, of course, in the ordinary case of persons who are destitute. Up to the present time, people have made it a business—and there seems to have been nothing to prevent it—of preying upon the police for supplies, and so in addition to the amounts I have read the police have given a very large amount for relief. I beg to say further, that according to the estimates of Mr. Ogilvie which have been provided for by his council, similar assistance for local improvements and relief for the six months from the 1st of January, 1899, to the 30th June, 1899, will be no less a sum than \$83,563, most of which will be provided for out of local revenue.

Now, Mr. Speaker, who are the people that we are treating medically, who are the people that we are feeding? Who are the people that we are housing? Are they Canadians; are they our own citizens? Not a bit of it; nine out of ten of them are foreigners,—men who went there when we advised them not to go. I issued an emphatic warning last fall; I pointed out what would be the result of a great many of these people going there. And the Secretary of the Interior of the United States did the same thing. But they went there notwithstanding; every man thinks, of course, that whoever else gets killed or whoever else gets into trouble he will come back all right. However, the people went in and they are there. There are hundreds, I was almost going to say thousands of men who have spent all they had in that country, and who are not able to take care of themselves. We have been feeding and caring for and furnishing hospital accommodation for these men, foreigners who simply went in there because they wanted to carry away Canadian gold, and having no regard for us and having no regard for our institutions. I will venture to say that there has never been a district opened up on this continent where as much has been done by the Government for the people as has been done for the people in the Yukon district by the Federal Government of Canada. We fed these people when they had nothing to eat. We

sent police out to hunt for them when they were lost. We did everything for them, except to find for each one a good paying claim, and four-fifths of this row is because we did not do that. Now, I must apologize for speaking so long.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. This explanation has only got to be given once, and it might as well be given first as last while we are at it. The officers of the district have been attacked on account of what is known as the water front transaction. I will give the House the particulars of it. Mr. Wade, after going to Dawson, consulted with Mr. Fawcett, and they came to the conclusion, according to the statement given to me, that the occupation of a certain piece of the water front was inadvisable, for sanitary reasons. The people were camped along on a narrow strip of the water front; and the House will understand, without further explanation, that that was not a desirable state of things. Mr. Wade and Mr. Fawcett called for tenders for a lease of this water front upon certain conditions. There were no newspapers at the time, but they sent out word to the leading men of the town, inviting them to tender. They received the following tenders: W. Burk, yearly rental of \$3,000, payable quarterly; M. L. D. Keizer, offered an annual rental of \$120 for each 25 feet, and on the same date made an offer of \$7,500 yearly; Drunsmore, Spencer & McPhee offered a rental of \$25,000 a year, payable monthly, in advance; John Cameron offered a monthly rental of \$2,050; Morrison & McDonald offered a rent of \$30,000 per annum. Morrison & McDonald's tender being the highest, the land was leased to them. The lease was for one year, with power to the Government or its officer to terminate it on one month's notice. The streets were all permitted to extend through the water front to the river. These are the particulars of that transaction. I do not see anything on the face of the transaction that is improper. It has been intimated to the House that the men who leased this property immediately turned round and leased portions of it for very much larger sums. That is one ground of attack on Mr. Wade and Mr. Fawcett. Another ground is that the men who were on the land ought to have been permitted to have kept it for nothing. So you may pay your money and take your choice. One ground is, that they did not get enough rent for the land; the other is, that the people who were on it ought to have been permitted to occupy it without paying any rent. If they did not get enough rent, that was not their fault, because they called for tenders, and gave the lease to the highest tenderer. When Major Walsh went to the Yukon, he confirmed the transaction. I have no knowledge of anything incorrect or improper about it. There is nothing on the face of it to indicate any impropriety. On the contrary,

there is everything on the face of it to indicate that it was eminently proper, and what any reasonable man would do under the circumstances to get some revenue for the Government, and to have this piece of ground placed in the hands of tenants who would keep it in proper order. I have letters here, which I will read at a later date, showing the terms of the lease, and they show that sidewalks were to be erected on the ground and proper sanitary precautions taken. Mr. Wade, I may say, emphatically and positively denies that there was the least shadow of impropriety in any shape or form about the transaction, and he challenges anybody to call him before Mr. Ogilvie and have investigated any charge that may be made against him in connection with it. In one of the statements which was read by the hon. member for Pictou, it was stated that Judge Maguire had an interest in this transaction. Of Judge Maguire I will speak at a later date; but, in the meantime, I may state that after the hon. gentleman had made his speech I telegraphed to Judge Maguire in regard to the matter, and I have his answer, as follows:

West Prince Albert, April 1.

I have never had any interest whatever, directly or indirectly, in water front lease at Dawson.

THOS. H. MAGUIRE.

The House will note, Mr. Speaker, that the lease contained a provision that it should be terminable at one month's notice; and if the officers saw, after the lease had been granted, that what was alleged was actually taking place, that the tenants were getting \$120,000 a year, and were only paying \$30,000, they could cancel the lease at a month's notice, and they would have promptly done so. The lease came into force on the 9th of April. Mr. Ogilvie arrived back at Dawson, I think, in the latter part of September; and if Mr. Ogilvie, on the ground, thought the lease was not in the public interest, he had the power to cancel it at a month's notice; but up to the present time, he has not advised me that he has cancelled it. So my impression is that Mr. Ogilvie has come to the conclusion that the lease was in the public interest. As to the policy of the matter, whether the lease was advisable or not, no one in this House can tell. I cannot tell, nor can any of my colleagues tell. Only those on the ground can tell.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). May I ask the hon. gentleman if he will put the lease of this water front on the Table of the House?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Will it answer the hon. gentleman's purpose if I do so to-morrow when the House meets?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). No, it would not quite as well.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I will do so when I cease speaking to-night. The papers are all here.

Mr. SIFTON.

Now if the House will permit me, I am going to examine a few of the statements made by the hon. member for Pictou's witnesses. First, Major Caddell said: That three men had staked claims, and applied to record them, and were told to come back in two or three days, and when they did go back they found that the claims had been recorded by somebody else. I have already stated that in my judgment that does not afford the slightest evidence that there was any crookedness in connection with the matter. They could readily have gone to the Gold Commissioner and entered a protest, and had their protest tried like anybody else.

Dr. Leblanc is cited as another witness by the hon. member for Pictou. I presume the hon. member is quoting from an interview with Dr. Leblanc, which appeared in a Montreal paper. He stated that he had staked a claim on Bonanza Creek and lost it because he did not stand in with the officials. After Dr. Leblanc came back from the Yukon, he came to my private secretary's office, and sent word by my private secretary to me, not that he wished to see me, but to know if I wanted to see him. I asked my private secretary if he had any business with me, and he told me that Dr. Leblanc said he had no business with me, but wanted to know if I wanted to see him. I instructed my private secretary that if he had no business with me, I did not want to see him. He did not enter any complaint or suggest any complaint; and I desire to know what weight the members of this House attach to a statement of a man who, when he comes back from the Yukon district, says he staked a valuable claim on Bonanza Creek, and lost it because he did not stand in with the officials, and then comes to the office of the Minister who has the power to right the wrong, if there was a wrong, and does not take the trouble to say that there was a wrong, or to lodge a complaint of any sort.

Would any body pay any attention to a statement of that kind. If he lost a claim, why did he not say so? They must be a very extraordinary lot of people who have gone to the Yukon district. I have lived in the west a great many years, and out there, if any body undertook to defraud any one of his property, the one defrauded would very soon make a complaint; and if any man undertakes to defraud another of a homestead in the North-west Territories, what is the result. You will find a pile of papers that high, you will find that officer after officer, clerk after clerk, commissioner after commissioner, Minister after Minister has to invest that homestead matter. That is the history of the Department of the Interior. But here we are told that we should believe the evidence of a man who coolly goes to a newspaper office and says he was beaten out of a valuable claim by the officials and who never stated in the Minister's office that he had lost his claim or made any complaint whatever. Mr. Leblanc said that Mrs. Dubois lost a claim by another

person taking it up while she was waiting for a survey, and that one J. S. Murdock got it registered. So far as that is concerned, if that be the case, all that Mrs. Dubois has to do is to walk into Mr. Ogilvie's office and prove those facts and she will get her claim at once. And I have to say that Mrs. Dubois and the rest of the public in Dawson City have been notified to do that very thing, and if she has not done it, it is her own fault, not mine or the fault of the Government. Mr. Ogilvie was sent his commission, and here is a copy of the notice which he issued :

#### PUBLIC NOTICE.

To All Whom it may Concern :

By Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Canada I have been appointed Her Majesty's Commissioner to investigate and inquire into certain matters and things in such letters patent referred to. The scope of the investigation will appear from the preamble as follows :—

Whereas it appears from a report from Our Minister of the Interior of Canada that he had under consideration a communication dated at Dawson, Yukon Territory, 25th August, 1898, addressed to the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Premier of Canada, signed by G. T. C. Armstrong, as chairman, Percy McDougall, secretary, and a number of other persons professing to have been duly appointed a miners' committee at a mass meeting of the miners of the Yukon Territory, in which communication it is alleged that many of the Government officials have forfeited their claim to the people's confidence and respect by their conduct and action in certain matters. Our said Minister further observes that the committee alleges that the Gold Commissioner's office is practically closed, and has been for a considerable time to the miners who had not the means and desire to bribe the clerks in order to obtain knowledge of the record which ought to be public. It is further charged that wholesale information with regard to unrecorded ground is conveyed to certain individuals outside the office who obtain men to stake and record the ground in consideration of an interest in the same. Our Minister further stated that it is charged that dissatisfaction has arisen with respect to decisions in claim contests, particularly owing to the Crown prosecutor, who, while retained as advocate by one of the contestants, was giving legal advice to the Gold Commissioner. The Dominion Lands agent is openly charged with serious breaches of trust and malfeasance in office, and some of the officials connected with the recorder's office are alleged to be incompetent. Our said Minister further submits that it is stated in the communication that hardships have been caused to many of the claim owners owing to the want of experience of the mining inspectors. The committee further represents that the Crown timber agent has granted such concessions and laid down such stringent regulations that only a few parties have the privilege of supplying cord-wood this coming winter.

I may say, and the House will be surprised to learn, that the complaint about the cord-wood was made because Major Walsh issued an order forbidding the granting of any concessions within six miles of Dawson, and this he did in order that the people in Dawson would have all the timber within six

miles of it for their supply. The order was made for their own benefit :

On account of this and other reasons set forth in the communication referred to, a copy of which is hereto attached, the committee ask for the appointment of a commission of inquiry.

And whereas we deem it expedient that inquiry under oath should be made with respect to the truth or untruth of the foregoing charges, statements and complaints.

Public notice is hereby given that on Monday, the 6th day of February, 1899, at the hour of 11 o'clock in the forenoon, I will sit in the Court House in Dawson, for the purpose of fixing a time within which charges coming within the scope of the letters patent are to be laid before me, and let all persons desirous of prosecuting any such charges then appear and they shall be heard either in person or by counsel, as they may prefer.

After the expiration of the time to be fixed for laying charges before me I shall proceed to fix a time and place for the investigation of such charges, of which time and place due and public notice will be given.

Dated at Dawson this 25th day of January, A.D. 1899.

WM. OGILVIE,  
Commissioner.

If Mrs. Dubois has lost her claim, as Dr. Leblanc says she has, all she has to do is to walk in to Mr. Ogilvie's court and make her statement, and she will get her claim if she can prove the facts to be true. I do not see that any further action can be required of the Government.

Now, I want to take up another statement made by the hon. member for Pictou, and which I think affected the House in a certain way more than any other statement he made. Upon page 796 of "Hansard," the hon. gentleman quoted from a gentleman whose name, like most of those whom he quoted, was not given, and what I propose to do is this : I propose to take up the allegations of the corrupt acts, where I have any positive means of getting at the truth of them myself from the records in the office, and show the House the reliability of these statements. The first statement I find I have any means of checking at all—the means are not absolute, but I place them before the House as they are—is this with regard to the water front, made by this anonymous witness :

It was well understood in Dawson that Mr. Wade and Major Walsh (and it was said Judge Maguire) held a half interest in this lease.

I shall read Major Walsh's denial before I get through ; I have already read Judge Maguire's denial. Mr. Wade has denied it positively and emphatically, publicly and otherwise, and has gone back to Dawson City to appear before the Commissioner, after handing in his resignation down here. But here is the gem, I was going to say, but it is not—the gem is to come later. This gentleman says :

These claims—

R  
EDITION.

—Referring to the claims upon Dominion Creek—

—were sent out—

The House will note the language this gentleman used and which was quoted by the hon. member for Pictou :

—were sent out by the Gold Commissioner to be sold in Ottawa, supposedly at private auction, and Wade himself said, to my knowledge, that he proposed to get hold of all the unrecorded claims upon Dominion Creek. If the Government proceeded to do what they had no right to do, to deny these prospectors the right of recording their claims, they should have put the claims up at public auction, first at Dawson, so as to allow the men who had developed and improved them a chance to purchase the same, and not send them to Ottawa, where they could be disposed of at private sale to a syndicate working in the interest of Walsh at a nominal figure, which—

Says this veracious gentleman—

—I presume, has been done by this time. Certain it is that none of these claims have been sold in Dawson, where, according to law, if any public sale takes place, they should have been sold.

Now, so far as the rights of prospectors are concerned, the rule I have made, upon the information that has come to me, is this : That any man who is shown to have staked a claim upon Dominion Creek before the order was made closing the creek, will get his claim ; and if, through any cause, two men came into contest for the same claim, then the man who has staked a claim will get one of the reserve claims or one of the fractions. If he has not staked a claim before the order was made closing the creek, he will not get a claim. The order was made by Major Walsh to reserve certain claims and fractions, in pursuance of the policy of the Government, and in accordance with the regulations. So, Major Walsh, instead of doing what was stated here, either sent to me, or brought with him—I think he brought it down—the record of the claims and fractions upon Dominion Creek ; and they were brought here for the purpose of being recorded as Government property, that they might be sold, not for the benefit of Walsh or Wood, but for the benefit of the public exchequer. Mr. Speaker, you can form some idea of what the evidence of a witness is worth, when he makes a statement such as I have read. If a man went into the witness-box and deliberately made statements that he presumed a rascally transaction had been carried out, without the least knowledge as to whether it had been or not—impugning the character of a man without the slightest evidence, what possible importance could be attached to his statements ? Now, I will close this by reading the departmental letter, which shows what was actually done. Major Walsh came back and made his report. In that report, as printed, it will be found that he referred to what was done on Dominion Creek. On

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the 5th October, 1898, I wrote the following letter to Mr. Ogilvie :—

Ottawa, 5th October, 1898.

Dear Mr. Ogilvie,—

I have spent to-day in consultation with Major Walsh, your predecessor in office, and have gone carefully into the Dominion Creek matter. I am writing you now for the purpose of saying that so far as I can judge I fully approve of his action in reserving the fractions and other claims which have been reserved upon Dominion Creek. These fractions and claims so reserved have been held in lieu of the alternate claims which should have been reserved to the Government, but were not so reserved, owing to difficulties in recording. The claims and fractions reserved will be held for disposal by the Government in such manner as may be deemed advisable. My present idea in regard to the disposal of these claims is, that inasmuch as they are said to be extremely valuable, they should be advertised in London, New York, different cities in Canada, and in Dawson City, and that they should be sold by public tender to be received and opened by yourself in Dawson City some time next spring. I shall be glad to have your views upon this question at your convenience.

For the purpose of checking over the list of the Dominion Creek claims, which Major Walsh brought down, I think it will be desirable for you to send down a plan and certified list of all claims. Major Walsh expressed a fear that there might possibly be a mistake in the papers he brought down.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) CLIFFORD SIFTON

The House will judge. I have given the facts. The statement of the hon. member for Pictou's witness is, that claims were sent down here that they might be boodled in by Major Walsh.

Then, Mr. Speaker, this same veracious witness goes on to make a statement about a woman named Nellie Cashman, and another named Belle Mulrooney. It appears that Miss Cashman had difficulty in getting a claim recorded, and it is alleged that she made some improper arrangement, and that Captain Norwood, an officer of the Government, was a party to it. And a similar statement, not exactly the same, but an allegation of impropriety, is made in connection with the claim of one Talmadge. These two statements are made by the same anonymous witness as the one making the statement which I have just shown to be untrue. I have no means of knowing whether the statements to which I now refer are true or not. But I have this to say : That if the hon. member for Pictou wanted an investigation, all he had to do was to send the letter to Mr. Ogilvie, and we would have had a report showing whether the charge was true or not. I have to say, further, that Captain Norwood is there, so that, as far as he is concerned, the matter can be investigated. Moreover, in view of the statements made about other people by this same anonymous witness, I should not think that there is much probability that it will be found that there is very much in this statement of his. At the same time, I do not say that it is not true. I

have no means of knowing. Then, Mr. Speaker, we have what I call the gem of the testimony which the hon. gentleman has offered before this House. Although it is in some respects objectionable, I presume to read it. He goes on to speak of a dispute in regard to a claim between a man named Donnelley, and a man named Nelson, who had for a partner a woman named Lucile Elliott. He gives the particulars of this, which hon. members can read, and then he goes on to say :

They had no other proof to bring, and rested their point. Judge Maguire stated that unless Lucile and Andy could bring positive proof of the staking of the claim, he would advise Mr. Fawcett to non-suit the case—that is to say, dismiss it for want of any proof on behalf of the plaintiff. The case was then adjourned for one week. That night, about 11 o'clock, Lucile Elliott came up to Major Walsh's tent; he had retired; she remained until morning and was sent up the river about 8 o'clock in Major Walsh's canoe, accompanied by his private secretary, and rowed by the Government policemen. Lucile Elliott continued her nightly visits to Major Walsh during the continuance of the trial, which, it is needless to state, was decided in Lucile's favour. Major Walsh, at the time of his notorious liason with Lucile, was the Commissioner of the Yukon, with full powers to remove Mr. Fawcett, and to reverse his decisions and acts. And after the case was decided, Donnelley was notified indirectly that if he would not appeal the case he (Major Walsh) would see that he received a grant for a claim down on Lower Dominion Creek.

So, the statement is, that Major Walsh, as commissioner, had power to reverse the decision of Mr. Fawcett, that Major Walsh influenced Fawcett to give an unrighteous decision in favour of this woman, and that this woman, by her improper relations—that is the plain implication—with Major Walsh, induced Major Walsh to exercise that power. Mr. Speaker, the witness seems to forget that, in the first paragraph, he says the case was tried by Judge Maguire. So, the allegation, when it is sifted, is, that the woman influenced Major Walsh, and that Major Walsh influenced Judge Maguire to give an unrighteous decision in favour of this claim. Now, Judge Maguire would not have been any the worse man, if he had been appointed by this Government. But he was not appointed by this Government, but by the late Government. And I differ from the hon. member for Pictou in regard to the character of Judge Maguire. I think he is a most estimable man, a man of high character. I appeal to this House, I appeal to the members from the North-west Territories, to say the estimation in which Judge Maguire is held in the North-west Territories, and as a judge of the Supreme Court of the North-west Territories. He sits there now, and I appeal to you, Mr. Speaker, if it is in accordance with the proper practice of this Parliament that a statement of that kind about a Superior Court judge should be read in this House unless the man who

reads it is prepared to back it up. What are the facts? To-morrow at three o'clock I will lay the papers in this case upon the Table of this House. The facts are these: There were two certificates issued by Mr. Fawcett for the same ground. Dominion Creek was staked from what they called Lower Discovery, and also from Upper Discovery. The parties came in and applied for certificates; one was granted upon a claim staked one way, and another granted on the same claim staked the other way. The result was that they overlapped. The ground between the two discoveries had been exhausted, they overlapped, and there were two certificates granted for this particular claim. A protest was entered, the matter came before Mr. Fawcett for decision. Mr. Fawcett said it was a complicated case, and he called in Judge Maguire. The case was tried before Judge Maguire in due form of law. He heard the evidence and heard counsel on both sides. Apparently there was no official ring, because Mr. Wade was on the opposite side from this woman, he was for Mr. Donnelley in this case, and he argued it as well as he could. Judge Maguire gave a long and exhaustive written judgment in favour of this woman and her partner. Mr. Fawcett decided the case upon Judge Maguire's judgment, and signed it as Gold Commissioner. They appealed the case. Mr. Donnelley, apparently was in a position to fight for his rights. The case was appealed to me at Ottawa. Mr. Samuel H. Blake was retained to argue the case for Donnelley, and to see that he was not defrauded of his rights. I saw it was an important case, it was the first appeal coming before me, and as there were precedents to be made, and rules to be laid down as to what kind of evidence should be admitted, I called in the Minister of Justice, Hon. David Mills, and the Secretary of State, Hon. Mr. Scott, two lawyers of long experience, both as public men and as administrators. We heard the case in open court in the Railway Committee room upstairs, and the Minister of Justice, the Secretary of State and myself unanimously decided that Judge Maguire's judgment was right. I will lay the papers in this case upon the Table of the House to-morrow, and any hon. gentleman can read them for himself, and decide for himself. I say that no member of this House can conceive of a more outrageous accusation, a more outrageous proceeding than to read any such insinuation as that. Why did not the hon. gentleman write a note to me to ask if there was any ground for supposing that Judge Maguire had given an unrighteous decision? Surely that would not be much trouble for an ex-Minister of Justice, a man who knows his responsibility to Parliament and what is due a judge. Surely, before making such a charge against a judge, it would have been wise for the hon. gentleman to send a clerk to the department to look up the papers, to see what the record was, to know something about it, at least, before making such a

statement in the House. But nothing of that kind was done, and he reads an anonymous statement from a man, which bears upon its face, in the mind of any lawyer accustomed to read and analyse statements of facts, the plainest evidence of utter carelessness and recklessness, because any one knowing anything about departmental business would know that the man making that statement could not have known anything about the truth of what he was alleging. Yet the member for Pictou makes that statement without the least analysis or inquiry, and places it before this House, to stand upon "Hansard" against Judge Maguire to the last day of his life. Who can say that the man who reads that statement upon "Hansard" ten years from now, will read my reply at the same time? When you put such an allegation as that upon the "Hansard" of the House of Commons attacking a man's character, you are doing a very serious thing. Then there is another thing.

We are charged with outrageously underpaying our officials, that we sent a lot of men up there and gave them starvation pay, and consequently we could not expect them to be honest. Well, Sir, here is the list, and here are the salaries. I think the salaries are good. Mr. Ogilvie, the Commissioner, gets \$5,000. When he was employed by the late Government, he got \$1,800. W. H. P. Clement, legal adviser, gets \$2,500; Mr. Bliss, clerk of the Commissioner's staff, gets \$900, and his salary increases to \$1,200. Another clerk has \$900, another clerk \$1,200. Mr. Senkler, Gold Commissioner, gets \$4,000, the salary of a judge in the Court of Queen's Bench for Ontario. Then there are a number of clerks whose salaries run from \$900 to \$1,200. The registrar gets \$2,000; the abstract clerk gets \$1,200; the controller, Mr. Lithgow, gets \$1,500; I think he only got \$1,000 or \$1,100 formerly. Mr. Snell, a clerk in the controller's office, gets \$1,200. The head land agent gets \$1,800, another clerk in his office gets \$1,500; timber inspector, \$1,200; three clerks in Crown Timber office, \$900 each. The cook gets \$1,200, and the assistant cook, \$720. Now, be it known that the Government furnishes for these men both quarters and provisions. The most of these men were never as well off in their lives before, financially, as they are now. I do not find fault with that; I think they ought to be better off than they were before, because most of them are living away from their families, and endure considerable hardship and privation. We have made them a little better off than they were in the respective positions from which they came. There is no ground whatever for the suggestion that our officials are underpaid. Now I will prove that in this way. The officials there, the heads of the department, have hired a number of clerks in addition to the ones we sent up, and they are all getting about one-third less pay than the men we sent up; so that we are paying at least one-third more than that labour is worth in the open market

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in Dawson. I think that fact conclusively disposes of the charge that we underpay the officials. My hon. friend the member for Pictou said that we had treated Judge Maguire abominably, that he was dreadfully ill-used. The member for Pictou does not agree with the judge in that respect, because I have in my office a letter from Judge Maguire, thanking me and thanking the Government for the great kindness and consideration which had been shown to him during his period of service in the Yukon district.

Now, I am going to take up another witness of my hon. friend the member for Pictou. It is tedious, but we will go through the whole of them and see what their evidence is worth. I have gone through his statement and I find something specific, something that we can get hold of, something that we can check, and see what his evidence is worth. This is one of the anonymous statements, and, Mr. Speaker, mark this, because one has to follow it closely in order to get at the gravamen of the charge. This man, speaking of the lease of the water front, says:

According to the terms of this lease, the lessees did not have to pay rent to the Government for any of the water front until the same was occupied by their lessees, thus incurring no responsibility whatever.

Of course, if an officer of the Government had made a lease of that kind he would either be a fool or a knave; there is no doubt about that. There could not be the least question about that; he would be either a fool or a knave, because to put himself under contract to somebody else, without payment being provided for until the rent is collected, would not be a business transaction, and he would be either a fool or knave. Perhaps that language is too strong, but it would not be a business-like transaction. But, Mr. Speaker, there is not a word of truth in it. The papers are here; I will lay them on the Table of the House, and the lease is there. The lease is by letter, and there is not a solitary word of truth in the statement. I cannot take all the statements that these men make; of course there are many that are mere flourishes, mere diatribes—"Mail and Empire" editorials and Ottawa "Citizen" editorials; but here and there we come across a statement that we can get hold of. Of course, we cannot check them all; I have not the information, but I have the information to check some of them, and I am bound to say that in regard to any of them in which I have the papers I am in a position to show that they are untrue. This same unnamed gentleman who made that statement which was shown to be untrue, says that he is informed that Mr. Wade received \$1,500 for giving somebody—he does not say whom—the exclusive privilege of maintaining a booth in the Klondike. He says that he was so informed. The man who makes this statement is the man who

makes the statement that I have shown to be absolutely untrue. Of course we are unable to check his statement that he was informed by somebody else whose name was not given that Mr. Wade was bribed. But I would like to ask my hon. friend who is going to follow me, the member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), what importance he would attach to evidence of that kind.

There is another witness, Mr. Woodworth. Mr. Woodworth writes a long letter; he does not deal in specific statements, there is nothing that one can get hold of definitely, but he is very violent in his abuse of me and generally of the policy of the Government. The hon. member for Pictou was not in a position to give any information as to who Mr. Woodworth was, and apparently he had not taken any trouble to inquire. He just brings in Mr. Woodworth's letter and reads it, apparently without making any inquiry as to whether this man was a reliable man or a man of character or repute. I think that when an hon. gentleman comes in and asks Parliament to act upon the statement of somebody, he ought to take some little pains to find out what kind of a man it is whom he cites as his authority. He has given us the statements of a lot of men whose names he has not mentioned, and he wants us to take their statements because he says he made inquiry and found them to be reliable. Now, we have a man here whose name is given, and I am going to give the result of the inquiry which I have made as to whether this man is reliable or not. I find one statement here, and I want to call the attention of the House to the fact that this gentleman is a lawyer, and in speaking about a legal matter, he cannot be excused for not telling what is true. We will check up this gentleman; we will check up his reliability on a question of fact, and see what his evidence is worth. The acknowledged method of dealing with a witness is to take his statements one by one and see whether what he tells is true or not. We have not time to check up all this gentleman's statements one by one, but I have them here. Of course, he calls our officials inefficient, but this is a matter of opinion; it is not a question of fact. He says:

A Mr. Thiell—

The name is Snell; he is the clerk of the court, and Thiell is apparently a misprint.

—is clerk of the court, but, being without legal training, he is incompetent to take examinations, tax costs and do all that is required of a clerk of court.

There is a straight statement that a man who is clerk of the court is not efficient. Now, I have here an application from Mr. Snell, who is the same man, to Mr. Ogilvie, that he might be permanently appointed as clerk of the court, a position, according to Mr. Woodworth, he is not fit to fill, and which he is filling. This application to

Mr. Ogilvie has been forwarded to me, and it is accompanied by a copy sent by Mr. Ogilvie to me, of the following certificate:—

We, the undersigned members of the Bar of the Territorial Court of the Yukon Territory, beg to recommend Mr. W. H. Snell for the position of territorial clerk. Mr. Snell has filled this position most acceptably for some months past, and we most heartily and cordially endorse his application.

This is signed by a whole list of the members of the bar from Dawson City, amongst others. Mr. C. W. C. Tabor, a well-known Conservative gentleman, known, no doubt, to some men in the House; and signed amongst others—unfortunately for the member for Pictou—by Mr. Arthur G. Smith, late Deputy Attorney General of British Columbia, and now, I am informed, a partner of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper).

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Later on, we have a lengthy indictment of the whole administration of the district, and everything, from first to last, is outrageously wrong, according to this gentleman. The name is not given, but it is said by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) that this gentleman writes what is called an official letter in a business way, and that is what is quoted as an abstract from this business letter. I will not bother the House by reading it, but I must say to this House, that if any man in this House will read that letter, he must conclude that the reason why this man wrote that letter was because he was dissatisfied with the royalty. That was the only reason why he wrote it; the letter proves that; it is the burden of his song throughout. This gentleman attacks viciously the administration. Will the House believe that this general diatribe against the administration, in which Major Walsh is denounced as a fraud, was written on the 14th of June, only twenty-three days after Major Walsh got to Dawson City? Of what value can that be as a criticism of the administration of Major Walsh?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Do I understand the hon. Minister to say, that Mr. Woodworth's letter was dated in June?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Not Mr. Woodworth's letter; I got through with that. I was speaking of the letter which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) will see quoted in the speech as having been written by a gentleman on official business; the name is not given.

Mr. Borden (Halifax). What page of "Hansard"?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). The hon. gentleman will find the date given by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) as the 14th of June, at page 824 of the "Hansard." As I said,

that is twenty-three days after Major Walsh got in. He would hardly have had time to recover from the fatigues of his journey and look around the town and see what was going on. Now, Mr. Speaker, I have got through the list of witnesses, if they can be called such, that the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has presented to this House. I have not been able to check all the statements that he made, but it will be noticed that one witness repeats much the same thing, as did another in regard to certain things. Then, there are general paragraphs of denunciation, which we cannot check, and which we have no means of finding out anything about, as they are mere statements of opinion. I have gone through these statements, and I have picked out the specific statements where I had any means of checking up the accuracy of the witnesses, and, Sir, I have shown that, in every case where I have had any means of checking the accuracy, the statements are wrong and totally unfounded. I venture now to say, that the oldest member of this House will have difficulty in finding any speech that has ever been placed before the House of Commons of Canada in which statements were placed before the House for the purpose of influencing the House, where so many of the statements have been found to be totally untrue. There are three or four cases which I have no means of knowing anything about: cases in which it is said men or women had to give an interest to officials to get their claims recorded. All I have to say is, that if the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) had had the least desire to have these matters investigated, to have Parliament informed of the facts—not by mere ex-parte anonymous charges—but if he had the desire that Parliament should know whether these things were true or not, why did he not write a letter to Mr. Ogilvie, when my deputy wrote to him, asking him to send the information, if he had it, so that it might be within our power to investigate it. If he could not trust me, if he could not trust the right hon. the Prime Minister, if he could not trust Mr. Ogilvie, for fear Mr. Ogilvie might suppress it, why did not the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) write to one of the two or three private detectives which he has in Dawson City, and in two or three weeks we would have a report, and we would not be talking about hearsay, on which we can form no opinion as to whether there is any foundation for it or not.

Mr. Speaker, I forgot to mention one matter. Mr. Woodworth wrote a long letter. I hesitate to attack anybody's character, and I am not going to attack Mr. Woodworth's character; but the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has brought to this House a statement signed by Mr. Woodworth, in which Mr. Woodworth makes unqualified attacks upon the character of men who have hitherto had a

Mr. SIFTON.

good character. It was due to this House that the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) should have inquired into the character of Mr. Woodworth and his reliability and credibility, before he read the letter, and it was due to the Government, and it was due to our officials, that I should make some inquiries and inform the House as well as I can as to what is known of this gentleman. Well, I have not been able to find out much. I communicated with the hon. member for Yale and Cariboo (Mr. Bostock), in whose constituency Mr. Woodworth lived and practised before he left for Dawson. Mr. Bostock telegraphed to Mr. W. Tomlinson, of New Denver, as follows:—

What was C. M. Woodworth's reputation when at Denver?

And the reply came:

3rd April, 1899.

Hewitt Bostock, M.P., Ottawa.

Not good; very ordinary; doubtful material.

WM. TOMLINSON.

Now, of course, we ought to know about Mr. Tomlinson, as to whether his statement is good or not. And this is what is said about him: "Mr. Tomlinson is a man formerly in the British Army, and for some years back a respected citizen of New Denver. Mr. Bostock has known him several years, and will certify to his character; and the message was sent in order that it might be read in Parliament." I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, I am tiring the House.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Now, Sir, I have detailed the appointments which we made, and I think I have justified the Government in the action they took in making the various appointments. I have shown, I think, to the satisfaction, not only of members on this side of the House, but—if we could look into their hearts—to most of the members on the other side of the House, that there was no dereliction of duty on the part of the Government in making these appointments; and then I attempted to analyse, as well as I could, the evidence which the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has placed before the House. Now, when attacks were made on the administration—is the Government blamable because it did not act sooner, or is the Government blamable for not having taken the proper course to have an inquiry made in regard to this matter?

I affirm, Mr. Speaker—and I think hon. members of the House will be with me on the point—that until the return of our commissioner, Major Walsh, who was known to be on the way, and until something in the nature of a specific statement that we could take hold of was made, it would have been extremely unwise on the part of the Government to have attempted to hold an inves-

tigation. To attempt to hold an investigation when nobody would make a charge is an extremely unsatisfactory and futile thing; and the investigation at Dawson City promises to be futile, though charges have been made, because the people who have made them have apparently withdrawn them and will not go before the commissioner and attempt to prove them. When we had a commissioner in whom we had perfect confidence, and had not an opportunity to consult him, and when nobody had made anything in the nature of a specific charge, I think the House will say that the Government was certainly not blamable for not having acted sooner.

Miss Shaw's letter in the "Times" came up. It has been said that we ought to have acted instantaneously when that letter appeared. I may be wrong, but I do not take that view. The letter may perhaps have been more injurious to the Government politically because it appeared in the "Times"; but I could see no difference between a statement made by Miss Shaw and sustained by no particular evidence—in fact, by no evidence—and a statement made by any other newspaper correspondent, and backed by no evidence. After the letter of Miss Shaw appeared, the miners' complaint, which the hon. member for Pictou read, came out; and then instantly, as soon as anything in the nature of a complaint was made to the Government, the Government acted. Mr. Ogilvie was notified to proceed with an investigation. A commission was issued to him, and he was notified that the most ample notice must be given to everybody. I have read the notice issued by Mr. Ogilvie, inviting the people of Dawson City and the Yukon district to come forward and make any complaints they had to make. Here is the letter I wrote to Mr. Ogilvie, accompanying the commission, and containing his instructions:

Ottawa, 10th October, 1898.

Dear Sir,—You will receive herewith a commission to investigate charges which have been made by a miners' committee against the administration of Governmental affairs in the Yukon district. This commission has been issued in consequence of the receipt of a formal complaint, a copy of which is attached to the commission. You will at once proceed upon receipt of the commission with the investigation, and you are authorized to notify the persons who have signed the petition, wherever possible, of the time and place and when the inquiry will be opened.

Your legal adviser, Mr. Clement, will give you any professional assistance that may be required in the investigation. You will understand that any person who is charged with malfeasance of office or offence of any kind against the proper administration of the law in any department is entitled, before the hearing of the charges, to due notice of the particulars of the charge, so that he can prepare himself to meet the charge if he so desires.

As to employment of counsel, I will leave you to exercise your own judgment, merely remarking that if the persons preferring the charges desire to appear by counsel I see no objection to such course being followed. In such cases, of

course, any accused persons who desire to appear by counsel will have a similar privilege.

It is the desire of the Government that the investigation should be thorough and complete, and that each and every charge that has been made in the miners' petition should be thoroughly investigated, and that you should make a definite report, giving your finding upon the evidence submitted in support of each charge, returning your report along with a copy of the evidence.

It is absolutely necessary that your report should be in my hands before the meeting of Parliament, and I shall therefore expect you to send it out by special messenger, if necessary, as soon as the ice is in condition to permit of travel southward from Dawson City.

That is the course which the Government took in connection with the investigation. I have no report as yet of the result. The newspapers contain some reports more or less reliable. I have a preliminary note from Mr. Ogilvie, saying that the report would be forwarded in a short time, and then I will lay it on the Table, and the House will know as much about it as I.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I come to another matter. I think I shall be within the judgment of the House when I say that the House was extremely pained by the references which were made to Major Walsh in the speech of the hon. member for Pictou. Whether the hon. member conceived that those statements were true or not, the manner in which they were made was certainly most objectionable. I sent word to Major Walsh at once that these statements had been made; I told him that I thought he ought to come to Ottawa and see the official report of the speech made by the hon. member for Pictou. He came at once, and I gave him the report of the speech. He went away and examined it, and then wrote the following letter:—

Ottawa, 3rd April, 1899.

Dear Sir,—I have read Sir Hibbert Tupper's speech, in which he makes charges against the administration of affairs in the Yukon district while I was Government Commissioner.

So far as the personal charges against my character and administration are concerned, I defy Sir Hibbert Tupper to furnish a single particle of reliable evidence in support of any one of them. I further defy him to produce any person who ever saw me under the influence of liquor, either in the Yukon or anywhere else. While in the Yukon I abstained from the use of spirits and also tobacco, and my other habits conformed in every way to this abstemious course. During my stay in Dawson I lived in a tent surrounded by part of the staff and a large number of campers. My time was entirely taken up with public business, either in my office or in my tent. At 9 o'clock in the morning I walked to my office, at noon returned to my tent, at 1.30 p.m. again went to the office, and at 5 p.m. returned to the tent. This was my daily routine, so that I passed through the streets of Dawson four times every day, Sunday excepted. Every day but Sunday I could be seen by any person who had business with me, except that, of course, people had to take their turn in securing interviews. During my stay in Dawson I only left my camp after 6 p.m. three times. While I was in Dawson it was almost continuous daylight, and my tent was under full view of every one. Everybody

could see what was going on. My evenings were generally taken up with people calling to obtain information. I defy any one to truthfully say that any improper act ever took place in my camp. I challenge and defy any person to prove me guilty of any improper act in either my public or private life during my period of service in the Yukon, or of dealing in or having any interest in any mines or Government property of any kind.

I engaged with the Government, as you know, to go to the Yukon for one year only, although my commission did not so state. That was my understanding with you. During that time I accomplished all that I expected and hoped to be able to do. I laboured earnestly and conscientiously to the best of my ability to do my duty to the Government, and returned at the end of the time, bringing nothing except the consciousness of having done my best to perform a difficult and trying duty. I close by repeating that I defy Sir Hibbert Tupper, or anybody else, to prove that while I was in the Yukon territory, I was ever under the influence of liquor or was ever guilty of a single act of immorality.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. WALSH.

Sir, the newspapers have been filled with interviews condemnatory of the Yukon administration. I am not going to go through and examine them, but I am going to point out one or two things that have happened in that connection which will perhaps indicate to some extent the reason why those interviews were so plentiful and so lurid in their character. One interview of which the most is made was an interview by Captain Constantine, who was formerly in command of the police in the district under the late Government, and for some time under this Government. I think I know Captain Constantine better than any man on the other side. I have known him for seventeen or eighteen years. He is a good officer, who, I do not think, would do anything contrary to law, and am certain he is a reliable, faithful officer. He came out from the Yukon district, and an interview with him was published of a most violent condemnatory kind with regard to the administration, and much was made of that interview. And if it had been a genuine interview, the testimony of Captain Constantine would be testimony to which a great deal of credit should be attached. But Captain Constantine repudiates the whole interview. I will give you another illustration. There were two men in the city the other day named Deville and Mangold. There appeared an interview in a newspaper in which they condemned the administration in the Yukon district; but I have a letter from their solicitor, in which they say that they were never interviewed at all, but that a drunken reporter—a drunken reporter, mark you, Mr. Speaker—followed them on the streets to their solicitor's office and was ejected from the office, and then wrote this interview condemning the Government. This letter is from Mr. Latchford, a respected and well known solicitor in this city.

Mr. SIFTON.

I am not going to take up the time of the House much longer, but I have one more thing to mention. I have a lot of interviews from different people—not the kind that had been so largely circulated by the Opposition press—which explains many things; but as the members of this House have doubtless read them, there is no use in my wasting your time by bringing before you matters that are after all mere matters of opinion. But I am going to read to you from a very important document, an official report which has just been made by Mr. A. N. C. Treadgold, M.A., of Oxford University, who was sent out by the "Mining Journal," of London, as its correspondent for the purpose of making a careful and exhaustive investigation of the district. I saw him when he went out and after he came back. He called at the office in a social way for the purpose of saying a few words and offering information as to what was going on there. He is not an applicant for any concessions from this Government, in any shape or form, directly or indirectly. He is not a man with whom any member of this Government has any connection or over whom any member of this Government has any influence; but he is a man of first-class character and high scientific attainments, who was sent out there on account of special qualifications and for the purpose of making an independent report to the "Mining Journal," of London. All he says is not favourable to the Government, but that is the better evidence that his report is honest and not coloured; and I think it will perhaps give the House the best idea of the state of affairs and explain the different things that have happened in that district better than anything that could possibly be read, because the report is absolutely reliable. This is the part of the report that refers to the Administration. Mr. Treadgold says:

This is not a political pamphlet, but a report of facts observed during my stay in the Yukon, and but for the importance to capital and labour of all questions concerning the administration of the Yukon, I should not dwell on the subject. In general, it is sufficient for miners to know that the Government at Ottawa has shown all willingness to learn all it could about the new and further North-west, that in consequence the administration of the Yukon has steadily improved this summer, in spite of serious necessary difficulties. Any Government which proposed suddenly to impose upon a new country, peopled by mixed immigrants, a full civil organization would need an impossibly excellent set of officials to steer it through its first year or two. How much more is this true of a new country like the Klondike, whose population is split into so many diverse groups with conflicting interests. In one point alone do all men agree in the Klondike—the desire to possess one or many of the great prizes there offered to the individual; and from this desire spring the bitterest differences; for the great prizes are not for all, and A's gain is B's loss, if he chooses so to regard it, even in claim-hunting.

I am going to read the whole so that I cannot be accused of leaving out any part be-

cause possibly less favourable to the Administration.

Let us separate some of the groups and interests in order that what I may call the bases of argument may be clearer for future discussion of the Yukon administration. We shall find in the Dawson camp tolerably clearly defined—

1. The old-timers, used in the past to govern themselves, largely Americans, inclined to regard the incoming Canadian civil organization as needless, yet seldom heard on any subject save royalty; on that eloquent as on other "crown reservations."

Even among old-timers it was possible to trace a clear division between such as were able or forced to reside in Dawson (mine owners and saloon owners—the same man is often both) and the miners at work on the creeks, the latter always suspecting the former of getting official knowledge of new finds earlier than themselves, and ready to make a grievance of a mere suspicion.

2. The chechakos or new-comers of this year, all of course chagrined to find that the officials and old-timers had not reserved a claim for each of their 20,000 on the best part of Eldorado or Dominion, but, except for this fact, easy to distinguish into—

(a.) Australians, excellent fellows and good miners, used to laws of their own, and not always liking to have to obey the Canadian laws, complaining for some time because "they had not been told that the Klondike was mostly staked out," but after a time settling down to work, pushing further afield and doing well;

(b.) British Columbians, also accustomed to laws of their own, convinced that the Yukon ought to figure as part of British Columbia, the mining province of the Dominion; yet I never heard one of them suggest that Yukon claims (250 feet) should be reduced to the length of British Columbian claims (100 feet);

(c.) Genuine miners, of whatever nationality, in considerable numbers with genuine grievances, partly remediable, partly not;

(d.) A crowd of professional men and traders and "superior persons," all wanting claims, and expecting from the officials special facilities for acquiring claims. Some of them had been forbidden to practise law or medicine without Canadian diplomas. Many were adepts at "skinning" a new country, and hated to find that concessions from Ottawa barred their way in their quest for timber, firewood, hay, and rights of various kinds, as for telephones, ferries, &c.

(e.) Scum of all classes and trades and nations, ready to do or say anything for dollars, and for the privilege to loaf at Dawson, especially dangerous to the newspaper correspondent, whom they frequently beguiled with their loud-voiced complaint that there was nothing left for the "free miner," and that the officials kept all for themselves, &c., &c., "that the poor men had no chance of getting his letter or his record of a claim," &c., &c.

A perusal of the above will show how plentiful a crop of grievances could be collected by a correspondent with an appetite for the garbage of a mining camp, and without that power of perspective which is so necessary and yet so difficult to exercise in hurried letter-writing. I think that every correspondent who wrote upon "Yukon grievances" and "Yukon scandals" would probably write differently if he were asked to write again on the same subject. For it is beyond question that "grievances" and "scandals" were made on the outside to assume an importance which they never possessed in the Klondike

itself. If I review the facts of the situation briefly, it is because I think such a review will be useful for the future; only time and wise deliberation are needed utterly to do away with the genuine grievances of the Klondike.

These are what he says are genuine grievances.

1. Unequal taxation (the miner pays nearly all the taxes).—He was easiest to tax; money was wanted; for the rest of Canada would not consent to the Yukon's Bill, so he was taxed—the trader escapes in most cases.

2. Want of publicity of claim records (every miner) should be able to see what claims have been recorded in the district, and that with as little delay as possible.

3. Want of surveyors (the miner has to wait too long to have his claim surveyed—it is questionable whether the miner ought to have to pay the surveyor his fee, in case of a dispute about boundaries, or whether the recording fee ought not to carry with it the right to an accurate survey free of charge).

The hon. member for York has a clear opinion on that subject.

4. Certain obvious defects in the mining laws (see under "Mining Laws").

All these are matters of policy to be worked up when we have a little better knowledge of the country.

5. Want of roads (see under "The Law of Representation").

6. Want of adequate mail service and service delivery of mail (it is impossible to provide fully for such a vast crowd, but the post office was needlessly slow).

7. Want of recording officials on every creek (this would keep the crowd scattered and forestall the genuine grievance of the stakers who had to trudge so many miles to Dawson from every part of the Klondike to record claims).

This is a formidable list of grievances, and it has been duly insisted upon, and of course exaggerated by most critics. A glance at the list reveals the need of time and of a whole army of trained officials, with an unlimited purse, to do away with these grievances. As yet there has been no time, the rush of adventurers to the north passed the calculations of all those most likely to know; nobody believed that a crowd of 25,000 would make its way to the Yukon by mid-June of 1898; all the season there has been a steady influx of new officials; but it would be idle to suppose that laws or officials can be satisfactory for some time. Canada in general is only just beginning to mine, and she certainly has no trained body of mining officials from which she could have sent a complete and efficient staff to regulate in one season a huge placer mining camp like the Klondike. It is the rapid growth of the camp (from upwards of 5,000 souls in 1897 to upwards of 30,000 in 1898) that passes belief and creates suddenly a volume of business in Dawson City hard for any officials to cope with, especially for such as have to learn their business, to some extent as they go on. Canada as yet has no separate department of mines. She needs a department of mines, in close touch with the Geological Survey Department. The weak spot in the early history of the Klondike is the want at Ottawa of accurate information derived from competent geologists; but I ought, at the same time, to add that Dawson camp is not yet two years old to the outside world. Failing in accurate knowledge of the richness of the Klondike

dike deposits, all Government action at Ottawa has been speculative and hampered with the fear that other provinces of Canada might be compelled to and might not care to pay the bill for the development of the Yukon. This season two of the best Canadian geologists were sent to inspect the Klondike, and their reports will furnish new and reliable data for future action of the Government. In the above list of Yukon grievances, two stand out, not as being more important than the rest, but as being easier to remedy quickly.

1. Difficulty of recording claims and of getting to know what claims have been recorded.

2. Difficulty connected with the distribution of the mail.

I just interpolate here that I am satisfied, from my information from Dawson City, that both these difficulties have now been remedied and that there is no grievance in regard to either of them.

These same difficulties must always occur in new placer camps in intensity proportionate to the size of the camp, but the Dawson authorities showed singular inability to improve the record office and the post office. At best they were both very slow indeed, and the miner who consented to accommodate himself to their methods had to put up with great inconvenience and great loss of time. It is not too much to say that the inefficiency of these two offices was to blame for the loud talk on the outside as well as in the Klondike about "official corruption."

Now, will the House mark this :

Such talk is puerile where the character of men like Major Walsh and Mr. Thos. Fawcett is in question. There is not a man living who dare openly suggest that either of them was corrupt. At the same time, undoubted evils went long unreformed at the record office, and the Yukon miner, seeing no sufficient reason for continued inefficiency, began to suspect and even whisper "corruption," which he could never prove, to me at any rate, either in the Klondike or, later on, at Ottawa. Personally I saw but little that cannot very easily be made smooth by a telegraph wire to Ottawa, and a few changes in the mining law; the telegraph wire will do much more for the Klondike than will the incorporation of Dawson City, good though that also may be in due time. For all business purposes the Yukon remains still quite cut off from the central Government at Ottawa, in harmful isolation so far as movement of capital into it is desired. The building of the telegraph line is the first and easiest step by which the Government can foster the mining interests of a country that will amply repay it for all its care.

That is the best and most impartial view of the situation I can give to the House. It is written by a man who knows the ground, who is making a scientific report for the "Mining Journal" and making it under this knowledge—and this should be marked—that if in any respect the accuracy of his report can be impeached, his reputation is gone. Therefore, the House may place absolute confidence in his statement. It is not all favourable, but it shows that exactly what I have said is true. There had been grievances, but they could not be avoided or removed earlier, because it was necessary to have skilled men to deal with the matter, and we could not get

Mr. SIFTON.

them at once. We have sent men in there and we are getting things into shape as fast as we can.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am sorry I have detained the House so long, but I have a few words to say in conclusion. Let me point out that the work of the Government in connection with the Klondike district commenced in 1897. Practically our work commenced there when our officials got in. The first of them got in about February, 1898. Major Walsh was the only man who had any real authority to do anything, and he got in there on the 21st of May last. All that has happened in regard to which there has been any discussion has practically taken place since the ice went out of the Yukon River last spring, about ten months ago. What have we done in that time? We have taken over a country flooded by men of the most diverse character from all over the western country and the Pacific slope. It has been said that that country has been a by-word for official corruption. They forget to say that country has been a by-word with every man who has ever been in a mining camp for the perfect preservation of law and order under the most trying difficulties. There has been no crime unpunished, there has been no disorder, there has been no rioting. A New York lady who had been there, calling in my office not long since, told me that she felt safer in her tent on the trail any where in the Yukon than she did in her residence in the city of New York.

Sir, is that nothing to say on behalf of the men who have done this work? I think that it is something to the credit of the Dominion of Canada, and to the men who have gone through the arduous labour which they were called upon to do. Our men have gone there, they have struggled hard, they are struggling hard now with the initial difficulties of overcoming all these things which have to be overcome, of learning those matters which have to be learned and properly studied out in order that they may be able to deal with the peculiar circumstances of a peculiar situation. We have established a government there, we have put a local government in operation, of a bureaucratic character, it is true, but of that character because it is the only kind of government applicable to that country until we know more about it, and the population is more settled. That government is at work. I have read you a list of the operations of the Council, showing that they are going into all the details of administration, that they are trying to take care of the people and meet their wants, and administer the affairs of that district in a business-like and a proper way. The affairs of government are on a proper footing. Building accommodation has been found for our police force. From Lake Bennett to Dawson City a man can now go over the ice without spending a night out of doors, a great difference between this and last year.

When Major Walsh and myself were at Lake Bennett there was not a single post between that point and Dawson City. But at present there is a line of posts stretching through the whole district, under Canadian and British authority, so that there is no possibility of any man's life or property being in danger. Now, what have we today? We have permanent public buildings that could not have been expected to be put up last year. There is regular transportation by which proper materials for buildings can be carried in. We have roads to build, and some stretches have been built already of the most immediate necessity. We could not take an appropriation last year for the reason that we did not have information which would enable us to decide where the roads ought to be built. If we had had the money last year we would not have spent it, because we did not know exactly where the roads ought to be made, and for fear of wasting the money we should not have undertaken to expend any. We propose to ask Parliament this year for an appropriation to build a telegraph line; we propose to ask for an appropriation for a road; and I believe that seven or eight months from today, when next season closes, the Yukon district will be under a regular and proper administration of law such as will satisfy the requirements of the people of the district, and such as would serve for any province in the Dominion of Canada. One word more. I ought not to sit down without referring to the fact that throughout the speech of the hon. gentleman there has been a continuous trend of suggestions that there was some improper or corrupt connection between myself or some member or members of the Government with the Klondike district. I want to say that I challenge the hon. gentleman, the leader of the Opposition, I challenge the members of his party in this House, I challenge the members of his party outside this House. I challenge the press of his party, to produce their private detectives, to come here upon their responsibility and press their charge; I challenge the member for Pictou or any man in this House, to lay upon the Table of the House the charges that he has to make, and declare his ability to substantiate them by evidence, and he will get his investigation, and I will be able to convince the hon. gentleman who makes that charge that discretion on his part would have been the better part of valour.

**Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax).** Mr. Speaker, I certainly can congratulate the hon. the Minister of the Interior upon the length of his speech, and I can also congratulate him upon the skill with which he has evaded what was the principal part of the attack made by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). It is useless for me at this hour of the night to attempt to detain the House with remarks at any length, but I would like to say just one or two words

before moving the adjournment of this debate. The hon. gentleman has referred to the absence of the member for Pictou, and that reference has elicited a considerable amount of applause from the gentlemen behind him. I wish to remind you, Mr. Speaker, and the gentlemen on the other side, that the hon. member for Pictou, standing in his place here, proposed to bring his remarks to a conclusion shortly before six o'clock on Thursday night when he had not touched the question of these Yukon scandals at all, and he was reminded by the Prime Minister and by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, after consultation between them, that he was to go on, and he did go on in consequence of the invitation of those hon. gentlemen. We had an explanation from the Prime Minister at the conclusion of the sitting, in which, with charming simplicity, he admitted that there had been an arrangement to adjourn at six, but because it was thought best to answer the member for Pictou, he had concluded not to carry out that arrangement but to go on with the sitting. So I would remind the hon. gentlemen opposite that so far as that question is concerned they do not stand, perhaps, in the most enviable position. I do not know why the Minister of the Interior should think that the member for Pictou would run away from him. Has the hon. gentleman been in the habit of having people run away from him in the past? Perhaps he will inform us who it was that has given him the impression that the member for Pictou was trying to run away from him. I think I know the record of the member for Pictou about as well as any man in this House, and I venture to say that the day will never come when he will be afraid to meet the Minister of the Interior or any member on the other side of the House in fair debate, in this House or elsewhere. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman has referred to Conservative detectives, and notwithstanding the fact that he has given some admonition to the member for Pictou as to the caution with which he should make statements in this House, he has himself ventured to state no less than three times that the Conservative party have been sending detectives into the city of Dawson. Now, Sir, I have a statement here which shows that there is no such association now in existence in the city of Ottawa, so far as I understand, as the Young Conservative Association to which the hon. gentleman has referred. The hon. gentleman has been taken in by some one who, to use a somewhat vulgar expression, has been pulling his leg a little about this. I have this further to say, that under his hand the President of the senior Conservative Association of the city of Ottawa has stated to me that no action with respect to obtaining any information in Dawson or elsewhere in the Yukon, was ever taken by the senior Conservative Association in the city of Ottawa. As the hon. gentleman has stated three times in this House that de-

detectives have been sent into the city of Dawson, I challenge him now to give me the name of any Conservative who has sent a detective into the city of Dawson. The hon. gentleman does not answer. Last Thursday night we had statements and cries from hon. gentlemen opposite that names should be given. These charges preferred by the hon. member for Pictou were of no value unless names were given. Why does not the Minister of the Interior give these names now?

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.** If the hon. gentleman will read the newspapers published to-day, he will see that a man swore before the Gold Commissioner that he was sent up by the Young Conservative Association of Ottawa.

**Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).** I am glad the hon. gentleman has said that. What are we to think of a witness who says that he had been sent up by the Young Conservative Association of Ottawa, when there has been no such association for 15 years? I have repeated to the hon. gentleman the statement of the president of the senior association, that no such person was sent, and that no such action was taken. The hon. gentleman did not use the word "detective"; he used over and over again the word "detectives." Will the hon. gentleman give me the name of the Conservative who sent detectives into Dawson City?

**Mr. SUTHERLAND.** The hon. gentleman's partner in Dawson City was one of them.

**Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).** I am asking the hon. Minister of the Interior; I am not asking the Liberal whip behind him. But it does not matter whether he gives it to us or not; he will not deny it. I was asking the hon. Minister of the Interior to give me the name of the Conservatives who sent detectives there.

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.** I said that I was informed that the Ottawa Conservatives or members of the Conservative party had sent detectives to Dawson City. I am informed that that is the case, and I believe it to be true. The hon. member does not know anything about it and does not believe it. I do not care whether he believes it or not. I am informed that it is true, and I am perfectly satisfied that it is.

**Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).** The position taken by the hon. Minister of the Interior the other evening and again this evening, was that statements should not be made in this House without proof. The statement the hon. gentleman now makes is that he does not care whether I believe it or not. This is a matter of good taste which I will leave to the judgment of the House. I have asked the hon. gentleman for the names and he is unable to give me them, yet three times in the course of this debate he has ventured to make a statement which now he is unable to substantiate by any data whatever. So much in regard to that. There

**Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).**

is another matter in regard to which I would like to say a word or two, the telegram incident which the hon. gentleman desired to drag as a red herring across the trail in order to obscure the real issue in this case. The hon. gentleman has talked about good taste, but he ventured to bring into this House the name, by a direct reference, of a gentleman who is not a member of this House, but who happens to be the law partner of the hon. member for Pictou, without the slightest provocation and with the sneering remark that possibly he would not say that he was a Liberal heeler. It was a most discourteous and uncalled for reference to a gentleman who had nothing whatever to do with these Yukon scandals. That name was brought forward by the hon. Minister of the Interior maliciously and impertinently and without any possible provocation at all, for no purpose whatever, except the purpose of casting some discredit upon that gentleman or upon the hon. member for Pictou. I have known the law partner of the hon. member for Pictou for a good many years, and I can refer the Minister of the Interior to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries in regard to him. I can tell him that there are a good many people in this country who believe that the position of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries in this House and in this country might have been a different one if it had not been for the aid that gentleman afforded to him in times past. I can tell the hon. Minister of the Interior that the reputation of that gentleman will not suffer by anything he can say because the insinuation—and the hon. gentleman has talked glibly about insinuations—the insinuation which the Minister of the Interior desired to be put upon this gentleman, if it meant anything, meant that the law partner of the hon. member for Pictou, was the person referred to as a man who had received \$500 for applying for a permit. If it did not mean that it was impertinent and uncalled for, and if it did mean that, I venture to think, that the reputation of the law partner of the hon. member for Pictou, will compare at any time with that of the hon. Minister of the Interior.

**Mr. TAYLOR.** Who is the law partner; what is his name?

**Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).** I do not propose to go into names; I propose simply to deal with the obvious reference which has been made by the hon. Minister of the Interior, an impertinent reference, introducing into this debate the name of a gentleman who has no connection with the subject of this debate. In regard to that telegram incident, the hon. gentleman has not met the point at all. The point of the charge of the hon. member for Pictou was that a Liberal in Victoria or Vancouver had been paid \$500 for his influence in getting a liquor permit. The hon. member for Pictou said that that permit had been obtained by letter or by telegram, and the Minister of the Interior

harped on the word telegram. Does it make the slightest difference to this House whether a telegram was sent or not, and yet, for half an hour, we heard the statement of the hon. Minister of the Interior that no telegram had been received. It matters not a bawbee whether the telegram was received or not; that is not the gravamen of the charge. The gravamen of the charge, which the hon. Minister of the Interior is unable to deny, is that a liquor permit was obtained by a Liberal solicitor in Victoria, and that he received \$500. Is the hon. gentleman in a position now to say that the firm that he mentioned, the firm of Martin & Co., did not receive \$500 for obtaining a liquor permit? Is he of his own knowledge able to say that, because that is the issue between him and the hon. member for Pictou?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Will the hon. gentleman repeat that?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). If the hon. gentleman will persist in reading newspapers and making me repeat this question again and waste the time of the House, I cannot help it. What I ask the hon. gentleman is this: Whether he is able to say of his own knowledge, because that is the point—

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I do not think it is.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax)—that no firm in Victoria received \$500 for applying for and obtaining a liquor permit from the hon. gentleman's department?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I never said anything of the kind.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). No, he did not say it, but that was the issue with the hon. member for Pictou when the hon. member for Pictou got up in this House and stated that that had taken place, and the hon. Minister of the Interior ventured to say that it was false. That is the issue between the two gentlemen.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Perhaps I am not hearing the hon. gentleman aright. Is the hon. gentleman saying that a lawyer in Victoria telegraphed to myself and got a permit?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). What I was saying was that the issue between the hon. member for Pictou and the Minister of the Interior was this: The hon. member for Pictou said that a legal firm of Victoria had received \$500 for applying for and obtaining a permit to sell liquor in the Yukon.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I say they did not; I say that statement is untrue. Let us get to the issue right now. I say it is untrue. They did not get \$500 for applying for and obtaining a permit. They might have applied for it, but they did not get it. That is what I am responsible for. I say that this quibbling is all

nonsense. I do not care whether a lawyer gets \$500 or not, and I cannot know whether he got it or not.

An hon. MEMBER. Do you believe it?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I do not care whether a lawyer, or any one else, got \$500, and I do not know. I say, nobody got \$500, and telegraphed to me, and got a permit. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) understand that?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) still harps upon the word "telegraph".

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Or letter.

An hon. MEMBER. Or in any other way.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Or a letter.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) say, that no firm in Victoria ever applied and obtained a liquor permit?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). A law firm?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Yes.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Applied for, and got, a permit?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). A law firm, for another person.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I do not understand.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). He is very hard of hearing just now.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). Shame.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Well, I will not wait for the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) to answer; he can think about that, and answer it after four days. He has been four days preparing his answer now.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I am trying to find out if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) is making a quibble to try and catch me in some way I do not know.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I have denied the statement point blank, in every way, shape and form. There is not a syllable of truth in it, in any way, shape or form, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) can quibble, and twist and turn words until he is black in the face, but there is not a single, solitary word of truth in it, and I defy him to prove it, or anybody else. I say this, Mr. Speaker,—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). I say, that the gentleman—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). All right. I say, that a gentleman of the hon. gentleman's standing, receiving a positive point-blank denial, ought to be above quibbling in this House about a thing of that kind.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). The hon. gentleman tells us sometimes—

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) is not increasing the respect of the House for him.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) tells us sometimes on this side of the House, when a civil question is asked of him, that we are getting restless; but, Mr. Speaker, who is getting restless now?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). I leave it to the judgment of the House as to who is getting restless now. I put a very direct question to this hon. Minister, and I am not afraid of the judgment of this House as to where the quibbling is. Licenses were granted, both by this Government and the Government of the North-west Territories, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) has stated to this House, and the fact is—as I understand it, and he will correct me, if I am wrong—that the licenses issued by the Government of the North-west Territories were not recognized by his officers except by his direction, and I am including both these classes in the question which I put to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton). I ask him again to state, of his own knowledge, that no legal firm in Victoria received \$500 for procuring either a license or a consent in respect to a license. I venture to think that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) could not, and would not, undertake to say that, because it would be in the knowledge of this House that he could not know these things of his personal knowledge, and that was the issue between the Minister and the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). As to whether that sum of money had been paid, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) may tell us that the issue is something else, but those who heard the statement of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), and heard what took place the other night, know what the issue was. The issue was exactly what I have stated, and that issue the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) has not met, and cannot meet to-night, or at any other time.

Now, Sir, we have had some discussion about the puerile nature of these charges that have been made against the administra-

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax).

tion of affairs in the Yukon district, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) has vouchsafed to us a good deal of information with regard to these matters, but I will give him a little information, if the paper is at hand, with respect to some transactions in that Yukon district. What I propose to read, Mr. Speaker, is, I find, not quite at hand, but I will have it before the conclusion of my remarks. What I was about to say is, that, as I understand it, this very case of Mrs. Dubois which was referred to by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton), has already come up before Mr. Senkler, the man recently appointed, and it was distinctly sworn to by Mr. Murdock, a witness, on the stand, that he had an arrangement with one of the officers of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton), that that officer for recording that claim should get one-third of the claim, which was a valuable one. That officer registered the claim for Mr. Murdock after it had been staked and recorded by Mrs. Dubois.

Mr. **COWAN**. What was the name of the officer?

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). The name of the officer is Mr. Hurdman, and, as I have found the paper I was looking for a moment ago, I shall read the evidence.

An hon. MEMBER. What paper?

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). It was reported in the "Klondike Nugget" of the 28th January, 1899.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). Hon. gentlemen opposite smile. Have we not had a good many references to newspapers by the Minister of the Interior this afternoon? Have we not had a good many laudatory expressions from newspapers respecting the administration of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton)? I ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton), who, no doubt, has seen the statements of these proceedings in this newspaper, if he will venture to say that they are in any way substantially incorrect. If hon. gentlemen opposite are not able to say that, it is hardly worth while to smile about it.

Mr. **SUTHERLAND**. Would the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) allow me to ask him a question? Does he know that the officer referred to was promptly suspended by Mr. Ogilvie, on the evidence being given?

An hon. MEMBER. He was.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). I will ask another question. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland) know that this officer has been reinstated?

Mr. **SUTHERLAND**. I do not.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). Well, I happen to have some information on that point. I do not vouch for the correctness of the information; I may be right or wrong about

it; but I have been informed that this officer has been reinstated. Now, here is the evidence. This is not, mark you, a comment of the paper, but it is what purports to be a report of what the evidence was on this trial:

Mrs. Lena M. Dubois was sworn, and said that she had staked the claim in dispute on September 27th at 5 p.m. Upon application to Hurdman, the bench claim recorder, she had been assured that the claim could not be recorded until surveyed, but that he would hold the claim for her until such survey was made. She said further, she lived in a cabin where she could see the claim, and could have seen Murdock if he came there, but she had never seen him in her life. There were men in cabins all about the claim who would look out for her, if a stranger appeared to stake the ground over her. Some time ago two men stopped where she was and asked where the claim was. They looked for the stakes but could not find them.

J. F. Murdock was sworn, and said he staked the said claim on October 8th, and recorded it on the 11th at 5 p.m. He put in four stakes and they had not been seen by him since. He had no witnesses to the operation of staking. Mrs. Dubois' stakes were not there. It was about 5 p.m. in the evening when he staked, and he used regulation sized stakes picked up about claim No. 70 on Bonanza below. Mr. Bard drew out of the unwilling witness that he had an understanding with Mrs. Crane that she was to get a half interest for the information she gave him of the claim. He gave her a third interest. It was at this point that the good work of Mr. Bard showed itself, and Mr. Senkler, as an honest man, insisted on the questions being answered.

I should state that Mr. Bard was the counsel for Mrs. Dubois.

"What became of the other two-thirds?"

"I control them," Murdock answered.

"Have you got that two-thirds yet?"

The witness did not want to answer, and replied that he had sold another third.

"Who to?" asked the inexorable Bard.

The witness again did not want to answer, and Joy, his attorney, tried to shield him from the damning admissions he must make. Again he was compelled to answer, with downcast face, "Hurdman."

"What was the consideration?" asked the unrelenting Bard.

Murdock hesitated, and replied, "I don't think I have to answer that."

"No, you don't," interjected his attorney, appealing to the Gold Commissioner. But he had to answer, nevertheless.

"I sold it to him for \$25."

"So you sold him a third interest in a valuable claim for \$25?" repeated Bard.

No answer.

"Did you get the money?"

Joy broke in with "I don't think the witness should be made to answer this. This is not an investigation into the acts of officials?" Again the witness was forced to reply.

"No, I did not receive any money from Hurdman, and haven't yet. The witness here shamefacedly admitted he had given a third to Hurdman some ten days after recording, but knew of no reason why he should. He admitted he would rather have retained the third, in fact would liked to have retained the whole claim. He had no understanding with Hurdman about giving him a third. Considered his right, which he had

used up, was worth \$1,500. Did not answer at first as to why he gave away \$500, or one-third of his right. Afterwards the witness admitted, "I thought it a good plan to do so, because I thought we were to do business together again in future."

And I understand, as I said before—I do not vouch for it—that this Mr. Hurdman, although suspended after this investigation, has been reinstated, and is now one of the officers of the Department of the Interior in the Yukon district.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Has the hon. gentleman who addresses the House as a lawyer, acquainted himself with the result of that investigation by the commissioner, and is he able to state whether after that investigation this gentleman was found guilty or innocent? And if he has not ascertained it, has he the assurance to stand here and leave that charge against that officer to go in "Hansard"?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I am reading evidence which has been given on oath in a case tried before the Gold Commissioner, Mr. Senkler. It is immaterial to me which way the case was determined. I am reading the evidence of Mr. Murdock himself, the claimant, who was forced to admit, against his own interest, the existence of this corrupt arrangement with that official; and I say that it does not make the slightest difference after that admission, whether the case was determined one way or the other by Mr. Senkler. Mr. Speaker, at this hour of the night, I presume it will be hardly advisable, in the thin condition of the House, to continue to speak, and, therefore, with the permission of the Prime Minister, I would like to move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The PRIME MINISTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 11.45 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 5th April, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Mr. J. SCRIVER, (Huntingdon) moved:

That the time for receiving petitions for Private Bills be extended to Thursday, 20th April instant, and the time for presenting Private Bills be extended to Thursday, 27th April instant, in accordance with the recommendation of the Se-

lect Standing Committee on Standing Orders, as contained in their second report.

Motion agreed to.

#### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 25) to confirm an agreement between the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the Hull Electric Company.—(Mr. Poupore.)

Bill (No. 26) respecting the Columbia and Western Railway Company.—(Mr. Sproule.)

Bill (No. 27) respecting the Richelleu and Ontario Navigation Company.—(Mr. Préfontaine.)

Bill (No. 28) respecting the British Columbia Southern Railway Company.—(Mr. Prior.)

Bill (No. 29) to incorporate Le Chemin de fer de Colonisation du Nord.—(Mr. Fortin, for Mr. Bourassa.)

Bill (No. 30) respecting the Atlas Loan Company.—(Mr. Ingram.)

Bill (No. 31) to amend the Winding-up Act.—(Mr. Fortin.)

#### RAILWAY PASSENGER TICKETS.

Mr. BEATTIE moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 32) intituled: "An Act to amend the Act respecting the sale of railway passenger tickets."

He said: This Bill has reference particularly to the Detroit and Windsor ferry boats. Under their charter with the Government they are obliged to sell ten tickets for a quarter, but they will sell to parties who cross frequently, and who buy a dollar's worth at a time, tickets at the rate of 1½ cents apiece. On excursions, holidays and other days, ticket scalpers will buy a dollar's worth, and then get boys to stand at the gates of the ferry and sell those tickets to passengers at the rate of two for five cents. By this means, the company lose a great deal of money, and wish to be placed on the same footing as railway companies under the Railway Act, by which Act no one is allowed to handle tickets except authorized agents.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

#### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell (East Prince) for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). Although it would be somewhat difficult, Mr. Speaker, to answer a five or a five and a half hours speech in any moderate length of time, I shall endeavour, as this debate has been fairly well protracted already, to condense my remarks as much as possible. Before beginning them, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of the Interior to the fact that the documents which

MR. SCRIVER.

he laid on the Table last evening do not contain the lease to which he referred, but are only papers containing the negotiations for that lease. And as the hon. gentleman undertook to lay the lease on the Table, we would be very glad indeed if he would do so.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). The papers which I put on the Table of the House comprise all the information in the possession of the department, and I believe that the two letters constitute the lease. I do not believe there was any formal lease drawn.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). In that case I certainly misunderstood the hon. gentleman, because, from the tone of his remarks last evening, I judged that a formal lease had been drawn up, and it seems a rather remarkable thing that in connection with a contract dealing with a sum of \$30,000 a year, no formal lease should have been drawn up. I understood the hon. gentleman last evening to state that a formal lease had been drawn up. I understood him now to correct that, and to say that these documents which have been laid on the Table, constitute the only lease that has been drawn up in respect of this rental of \$30,000 a year.

With respect to the defence which has been attempted by the hon. Minister of the Interior, I venture to think that he has not very well met, in some particulars at least, the charges of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). Now, what, generally speaking, were the charges made by the hon. member for Pictou and in respect of which he produced at least some evidence, certain specific evidence, made by reputable people, before this House. The charge was, in the first place, that officials had been sent to the Yukon district by the department of the hon. gentleman and that they had been sent there under improper conditions. In the second place, that after charges had been made with respect to the conduct of those officials, any investigation by the department of the hon. gentleman was unduly delayed. In the third place, that no sufficient investigation has been ordered or had up to the present.

How has the hon. gentleman met those charges? He met them, in the first place, by saying that this was an emergency staff which he sent into the Yukon, and I shall quote his own language on that point:

If there had been no danger of starvation, if there had been no danger of riot, if there had been an express train running a Pullman car to Dawson City, then, I think, the chances are that instead of the gentlemen I sent, I would have got some men with other characteristics, with special knowledge of keeping mining records, and of special knowledge of mining laws.

So, it seems that this staff of officials, whose competency has been so successfully attacked by the hon. member for Pictou, is not the staff which the hon. gentleman would have selected if he had had a freer

hand. Well, now, I would like to know what a Pullman car or express train has to do with the characteristics of the staff which the hon. gentleman sent into the Yukon. The hon. gentleman did not make that very clear to my mind. He had the whole resources of the Dominion of Canada at his back. He had, as he himself explained, a unique condition of things to deal with. He says that he did not know, in 1897, but he certainly did know in 1898, what he was going to have to deal with there, and I would like to know what there is in the excuse the hon. gentleman has put forward to this House as to the competency of the officials he has sent there. But that is not the worst of it. The hon. gentleman sent these officials into the country under these unique conditions, as he admits, with the express permission to deal in the mining claims which it was their business to administer. And what is the excuse the hon. gentleman pleaded for that? His excuse is that at the time when he came into office there were regulations made by a Tory Government which had preceded him. Why, I should think that if the hon. gentleman is at all candid in what he has stated to the House on previous occasions, that very fact would have made him suspicious of these regulations, and that his first step would have been to look into them. But whether he had just cause of suspicion or not, he knew that these regulations were to be put to a test they never were put to before, owing to the unique conditions under which that country was to be administered. And yet he sent these officials into that country with that permission. Now, what information had the hon. gentleman with regard to mining lands in the Dominion of Canada at this time? He had, in the first place, the regulations of the statute relating to Dominion lands, which statute provides:

No person employed in or under the Department of Interior shall purchase any Dominion lands except under authority of the Governor in Council, or shall locate military or bounty land warrants or land scrip, or act as agent of any other person in such behalf; and no person so employed shall disclose to any person, except his superior officer, any discovery made by him or by any other officer of the Department of the Interior, or any other information in his possession in relation to Dominion lands, until such discovery or information has been reported to the Minister of the Interior, and his permission for such disclosure has been obtained.

And the hon. gentleman ventured as one excuse to this House the fact that he knew that that Land Act had been violated in the past. That was a wonderful excuse to give as a reason why the provisions of the Act should not be applied to the Yukon territory. The hon. gentleman who, I must presume, looked into the matter, turned to the statutes of Ontario, and what did he find? Investigating the matter in such spare moments as he could obtain in the

intervals of dealing with the Mackenzie & Mann contract, he found in the Consolidated Statutes of Ontario of 1897, a section which has been in force in that province, I believe, for many years, and which provides that no officer appointed under the Act shall purchase or be or become proprietor of or be interested in Crown lands or mining claims, and any such purchase or interest shall be void; and if any officer violates the provision of the section, he shall forfeit his office and be liable to a penalty of \$400, to be recovered by action by any person suing for the same. That is the statute of the province of Ontario, a province that has had to deal with mining regulations and mining rights for years. The hon. gentleman disregarded not only the statute of the Parliament of Canada, but also the statute of Ontario, and sent his staff of emergency officials into that territory with full permission to stake claims. Now, if the hon. gentleman had seen fit to fulfil his duty, he might have looked to the province of Nova Scotia, which is one of the earliest provinces of Canada to pass mining laws and to have mining claims worked successfully. If he had looked at the legislation of that province, he would have found the following in the statute of 1893, chap. 2, sec. 14, a statute which, I may say, I was instrumental in having passed:

From and after the passing of this Act no person holding the office of Provincial Secretary, Attorney General, Commissioner of Public Works and Mines, or any office or employment under the Provincial Government or under any department thereof, the duties of which are usually performed in the building at Halifax known as the Provincial Building, shall, while holding such office or employment, directly or indirectly, apply to the Department of Mines for any mining license or mining lease, or act as agent for any other person in the making of any such application.

And the penalty for the violation of that statute is a fine of \$400 and forfeiture of office. Now, I venture to submit to you and to the House that under these circumstances, it was an extraordinary act on the part of the hon. gentleman, in sending this emergency staff of officials into the Yukon district under the unique conditions which he knew would prevail, to give them full rights and liberty, regardless of their duties as officers, to stake claims in competition with the men for whom they were administering the laws of Canada. Now, so much for that point—and I may have to deal with it a little further later on; but, as I said, I will endeavour to condense my remarks as much as possible.

The next point made by the hon. member for Pictou was that the investigation which should have been made into the charges which were heralded all over this country and over two continents months ago should have been made promptly and at once. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) claims in his speech that his department acted with great

forethought, diligence, promptness and circumspection. Charges were made, as the hon. gentleman himself admitted, before the 15th day of July, 1898, because he said that he fixed on that date as the date on which Mr. Ogilvie should leave for the Yukon; and he says that before that date it came to his knowledge that charges or complaints had been made against Mr. Wade and against Mr. McGregor. And, Sir, up to the 1st day of February, 1899, no person had been authorized to investigate these charges. That is the position of the hon. gentleman with regard to the delay. How does he answer that? He tells us that after Mr. Ogilvie had been despatched to the Yukon, while that gentleman was on his way there, he sent him a telegram, the words of which he gave, and which were substantially these: "You have a free hand." Now, I ask any lawyer in this House: What would be Mr. Ogilvie's power of investigation under a telegram announcing to him that he would have a free hand? Does the hon. gentleman say that on such a telegram Mr. Ogilvie would have the power to subpoena a single witness or that he would have the power to administer an oath to a single witness?

Does he say that he had power, under that telegram, to hold any investigation whatever, any investigation that would be worthy of the name? The only thing Mr. Ogilvie could do under that telegram would be what any private person could do, ascertain what information he could by inquiry in the Yukon district, and report to the hon. gentleman. Why, Sir, the hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches were not so slow as that, when it was a question of issuing a commission to deprive a Tory office-holder of his office. The hon. gentleman says that you cannot run and get a Council meeting at once. Did he have to delay from July until February to get a Council meeting? Council meetings were called pretty promptly for other purposes, but the hon. gentleman, it seems, could not get a Council meeting to deal with this matter between the 15th of July, 1898, and February, 1899. Sir, I say, that under the circumstances, when these charges were ringing over two continents, when they were ringing throughout Canada, when Liberal journals, as well as Tory journals, were speaking of them, there was most criminal and scandalous delay on the part of the hon. gentleman. I say, it was most unfair to the officers themselves, because we have not pretended that all those officers were guilty of any wrongful act; we have not pretended it for a moment; but these charges were allowed to go during all these months without any investigation, and innocent men had attached to them the odium which should properly have fallen, perhaps, on some of the men who were guilty, if they were really guilty, therefore, in justice to the country, in justice to the officials, in justice to the hon. gentleman's Government, and in

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justice to himself, I say, that the delay during those months was scandalous and shameful.

Now, Sir, what is the next point that the hon. member for Pictou made with regard to this matter? The next point he made was, that no efficient investigation has been ordered, or has been had, up to the present time. And what is the investigation which has been ordered, and which has been had, up to the present time? The investigation which has been ordered, is an investigation by Mr. Ogilvie under letters patent, or a commission issued to him for that purpose, and sent to him in the Yukon district. Now, the hon. gentleman has told us about the ability of some of those gentlemen whom he sent into the Yukon district, and he has specially mentioned the ability of Mr. F. C. Wade his fidus Achates and his political companion in the province of Manitoba. No one on this side of the House has disputed the ability of Mr. F. C. Wade as a lawyer. But when these charges were made against Mr. F. C. Wade, and when the hon. gentleman knew his ability and capacity, does he suppose that this country will be deceived by the investigation which he has proposed into the conduct of that gentleman? He sends a commission to Mr. Ogilvie, and Mr. Ogilvie, under his instructions, sends out a hand-bill, and hand-bills are posted over the Yukon district, and miners are asked to come in. Well, does the hon. gentleman suppose that Mr. F. C. Wade is going to be caught by any such investigation as that, if he has really been guilty of any wrongdoing in the Yukon. There is an old saying about catching a bird by putting salt on its tail. I do not think Mr. Wade could be caught by any salt which Mr. Ogilvie could throw upon him under those conditions. One of those miners, forsooth, is to come in, and without counsel, or at his own expense if he does provide counsel—is to come in before Mr. Ogilvie and challenge the acts and the administration of Mr. Wade and ask for an investigation into those charges. Why, Sir, the miners would have to come in one by one; there could be no investigation worthy of the name under conditions of that kind. And before whom is the investigation to be held? Before Mr. Ogilvie, a man who has had no legal experience or legal training. I have never attacked Mr. Ogilvie in this House, nor has any gentleman on this side of the House ever attacked him, so far as his honesty and integrity are concerned. We have bestowed praise upon him for what he did in the Yukon in the past. The hon. gentleman spent fifteen or twenty minutes here yesterday in defending Mr. Ogilvie from charges which had never been made against him. Now, Sir, what I say with regard to Mr. Ogilvie is this: His executive capacity as administrator in the Yukon remains to be proved, but I trust it will be proved and that he will be able to deal with the conditions up there. Up to the present time he has not shown

that he is able to deal with the responsibilities the Minister has thrown upon him. But a man without any legal training, a man with no counsel to assist him, except so far as he may obtain, from time to time, the assistance of Mr. Clement, is instructed to go there and press these charges, with no detectives employed, with no satisfactory efforts made to get at the truth. The investigation which the hon. gentleman has proposed into the acts of these subordinate officials is an investigation which is not worthy of the name. Further than that, what do we observe? We observe that an investigation is to be made into the conduct of an intimate friend and confidant of the Minister of the Interior by the servant and employee of the Minister of the Interior; not only that, but by a gentleman, I believe, who is connected with the Minister of the Interior. Now, under these circumstances, does the hon. gentleman suppose that Mr. F. C. Wade has ever had any very great apprehension of the discovery of any wrong-doing by him, if he has been guilty of any wrong-doing? Does he imagine that Mr. F. C. Wade has been trembling in his shoes during all this time? Why, Sir, to show how Mr. F. C. Wade regarded the matter, it has been charged in a newspaper, conducted by a gentleman who sits behind the hon. the Minister of the Interior, that as late as November last, Mr. F. C. Wade was in the province of Manitoba, writing editorials in praise of the Minister of the Interior, giving an example of how the officers of the present Government refrain from any exhibition of offensive partisanship. Now, that will give to the House an idea of how much Mr. F. C. Wade dreaded any investigation which could be made before Mr. Ogilvie.

Now, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I need not dwell in greater detail on these points, but I think it is my duty to refer, to some extent, to the charges which have been made and to the evidence which has been given in support of those charges, as disclosed in the speech of the hon. member for Pictou. But, before coming to them, I would like to point out to the hon. gentleman, that the charges of the hon. member for Pictou have not been so lightly regarded by some organs of the Government as they seem to be regarded by him and by some hon. gentlemen behind him. I refer to an editorial in the Toronto "Globe" of the 1st instant, in which the following language was used:—

He—

That is, the hon. member for Pictou.

—may, it is true, draw a distinction between Mr. Ogilvie's position as commissioner and his position as investigator, but no one will deny that an inquiry by a man who is admitted to be thoroughly upright and thoroughly acquainted with the country, and with mining, might be extremely useful. We do not say that an inquiry of another kind may not be necessary.

The organ of the hon. gentleman recognizes, if he does not recognize, that the investigation that is now supposed to be going on, is not the investigation which this House calls for and which this country calls for, and in the same article it says:

The Government has already, without any demand from Parliament, and without requiring specific charges, ordered an inquiry by an official whose integrity has passed into a proverb. But we do not say that the matter shall end there. Mr. Ogilvie's work will be of great value, but we are quite willing that if any mistake be made, it shall be made on the side of too much investigation rather than too little.

In dealing with this question I would point out the remarkable statement of the Minister of the Interior that the task of organizing the Yukon district was a task such as no man ever undertook before, or language to that effect, yet he expects Mr. Ogilvie without any previous experience in organization, having only the experience of a surveyor, to undertake that herculean task and also to deal with all these charges which have been sent broadcast through the country. Does not the hon. gentleman think that he is taxing Mr. Ogilvie a little too much? If this task of organizing and administering the Yukon is a task almost herculean in its proportions, how does he expect that Mr. Ogilvie can give the time and attention which are undoubtedly necessary to make any thorough or satisfactory investigation of these charges. Is it a wonder that the hon. gentleman's organ has stated that some other inquiry will be necessary and that the matter should not end there?

Now, the conditions under which this territory was administered by the department of the hon. gentleman were undoubtedly unique in one way. I do not understand that it is a fact that the greatest rush of mining population, that was ever known, was made into this region. I understand that quite as heavy a rush was made into the province of British Columbia in the early mining days, and, I also understand, and the fact has been stated in this House and has not been contradicted, that when the administration of British Columbia was conducted in those days under the direction of the Imperial Government, no such scandal, no such complaints, no such charges were ever heard of in the mining history of that province. The hon. gentleman seems to think that it is impossible to accomplish the administration of this district without the charges and scandals that have arisen. I point the hon. gentleman to the experience of British Columbia in that respect, and I ask him, or any hon. gentleman on the other side of the House, why the experience of British Columbia should not have been repeated in the Yukon district? Now, the conditions were unique in this Yukon district. We know, Sir, that in the colonies of the Empire, among strange people, among barbarous people, among people who have

very little idea of right and wrong, British law and British practice have been recognized in the past as about the highest type of administration that the world has ever known. We know that British justice and British administration have been proverbial among the silent, sullen people of whom Kipling speaks. We know that the eyes of the whole world were directed to the administration of law in the Yukon district by the discovery of gold there, and that therefore it behooved the hon. gentleman, having regard to the standard which had obtained in the past, under such circumstances, to exercise the utmost care. What was the result? The hon. gentleman knows the result; the whole country knows the result. Canada received an advertisement, it is true, so far as the Yukon district was concerned, but it received an advertisement, in Canada, in the United States and in England, which will be a reproach to this country as long as these words are remembered. Now, I venture to think, Mr. Speaker, that this was not necessary, and that for the reasons which I have already given, the hon. gentleman might have administered this district with different results and upon different principles. What are the charges which have been made by the hon. member for Pictou as to what has taken place in the Yukon district? The charges, briefly summarized, may be said to be these:

1. That a notorious system of bribery among Government officials has been rendered necessary by the inability to otherwise procure them to perform their duties.
2. That blackmailing by officials of persons applying to record claims has prevailed.
3. That unfair and fraudulent use has been made by officials of knowledge acquired in the discharge of their duties.
4. That the Gold Commissioner's legal adviser accepted retainers from persons contesting claims before the commissioner.
5. That the Dominion Lands agent has accepted retainers to procure grants issued by himself, and used the police to dispossess squatters of these lands.
6. That the Dominion Lands agent, as well as other officials, was interested in the grant of the water front.
7. That unsanitary conditions have unnecessarily prevailed in the district.
8. That defective postal accommodation and arrangements have prevailed.
9. That there has been an abuse of liquor permits.

The hon. gentleman has endeavoured to deal with some, but not all of these charges, and we were told the other evening by the hon. gentleman that there was a great lack of evidence on our part, that no specific and no sufficient data had been given by the hon. member for Pictou. I wish briefly to run over in the hearing of the House the particulars of the charges which have been made by the hon. member for Pictou, and which have been supported by evidence to which I will refer later on. We have specific charges. Some of them are as follows:

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1. The corrupt leasing of the water front to Morrison & Macdonald by private contract, in disregard of the rights of the squatters, and at a yearly profit of some \$80,000 or \$90,000 to them.
2. The charge that Mr. F. C. Wade and other Government officials are interested in that grant.
3. The retainer of Mr. Wade by the applicants for that lease and the payment to him of a large retainer.
4. The retainer of Mr. Wade by persons having claims contested before the Gold Commissioner, whose legal adviser he is.
5. The case of the miners William Huslig, Arthur Brown and John Statton.
6. The case of Dr. Leblanc.

The hon. Minister of the Interior endeavoured to deal with that by telling us that Dr. Leblanc visited his office and sent him a note asking whether the Minister desired to see him. The hon. gentleman says that he sent word out asking if Dr. Leblanc had any business with him, and then he says that Dr. Leblanc went away. Well, that seems a rather curious transaction, and it reminds us a little of the misapprehension which prevailed between the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) and Mr. Hamilton Smith last year. It seems certainly, to say the least, a singular thing that Dr. Leblanc should take the trouble to come to Ottawa, go to the hon. gentleman's office and go away without seeing him. However, we are bound in all fairness to accept the statement of the Minister of the Interior in that respect. Then the next thing is the experience of Capt. Caddell, the case of Mrs. Dubois, the case of squatters on Dominion Creek, the case of Nellie Cashman, the case of Lucile Elliott vs. Andrew Donnelley, with which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) dealt last evening; the case of the two Swedes who applied for a license to put a log boom into the Klondike, with which he did not deal, and the case of the miner Talmadge, with which he did not deal. I will not weary the House, Mr. Speaker, by going over these charges and repeating them; they are spread out with distinctness and impartiality in the "Hansard," as given to the House by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper. But I will refer the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) to the persons by whom these charges were made, and I will ask you, Mr. Speaker, and the hon. gentlemen of this House, as to whether they are not supported by sufficient witnesses to have justified an investigation long and long ago. In the first place, they were specifically stated by thirteen representative men appointed by a mass meeting of miners; these gentlemen's names are given and they are attached to the memorial presented to the Government in August last. As I am informed by my hon. friend from Glengarry (Mr. McLennan), a mass meeting of about 10,000 people elected these thirteen men. These charges are given fully and distinctly in that memorial, and although they are given fully and distinctly, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) has waited from August until February of the present year, before he put it in the power of Mr. Ogilvie to investigate these charges. Fur-

ther than that, Sir, I will mention now lest I forget it, that when the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) did send out that commission, he limited Mr. Ogilvie's investigation, as I am informed, to charges made before the 25th August, 1898. That is rather an extraordinary state of affairs. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) knows, and the House knows, that this mining population is a moving population, that men who were there in August and before August, 1898, may have scattered all over Canada and the United States, or Australia or other continents, and yet, instead of sending that commission out with power to investigate all charges past, present or future, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) sent his commission out in such form that Mr. Ogilvie, as advised by Mr. Clement, has decided that he has no power whatever to investigate charges made after that date, and has expressed his surprise and regret that the commission to him should have been limited in that way.

Now, Sir, charges have been made also by the correspondent of the London "Times," in the most specific terms. It is true that the correspondent of the "Times" did not give names and persons and dates, but so far as the charges are concerned, so far as the nature of the charges are concerned, in the months of August and September last, the London "Times" both in the columns of its correspondence and its editorial columns, gave the particulars of these charges. The next witness to whom we can refer and whose testimony is given in the speech of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), is Mr. M. E. C. Woodford, against whom I have not heard the Minister of the Interior make any charge of unfairness or incompetency. The next witness is Captain Caddell, the next witness Dr. Leblanc, and the next witness C. M. Woodworth, as to whom the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) has produced a telegram. The hon. gentleman read a telegram with regard to Mr. Woodworth to the House, and he says that the telegram which was received in reply was sent for the purpose of being read in the House. If it were, there is nothing in the telegram as sent and which the hon. gentleman read, to indicate that, but whether it was so sent or not I venture to think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) will require to bring forward something other than a telegram of that kind, before he can do away with the effect of the charges made by these witnesses. In the next place, we have the statement of Mr. McCook, the United States Consul, and of Mr. Dunham, the United States agent, and the statements made by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper on the authority of four gentlemen, whose names it is true he has not given to the House, but whose statements he has read to the House, and whose statements are of the most damaging character, so far as the administration of the Yukon is concerned.

It was said that the statements of my hon. friend from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper)

ought not to be regarded because he did not give the names of those witnesses, but I venture to think that the hon. member for Pictou satisfactorily explained his position in that respect, and I venture to think also that his word to this House, standing in his place as a member of this House, should have had some regard in that view. We know that members of this House have made representations to members of the Government with respect to the conduct of office holders in this country. We know that members of the Government have declared the policy of the Government to be this: That if any statement of fact of that character was made by a member of Parliament to the Government, the Government would act on that, and without giving the accused party any right to reply would dismiss him from office. Well, Sir, if the word of a member of Parliament is useful for a purpose of that kind, I venture to think it is also useful and ought to be regarded when a member of Parliament stands in his place, and makes the statement which the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has made. Sir, I have a slight addition to make to the statements concerning the administration of the Yukon, and I would like to ask the indulgence of the House for a moment while I read one or two statements which have been sent in since the hon. member for Pictou left Ottawa, and which have been received by other members of this House. The statement which I now propose to read is a statement made by a gentleman whose name will be given, and who can be produced whenever the Government will direct any proper investigation into this case. He says:

What we must have is a thorough investigation before a judge, and the witnesses questioned by a lawyer who thoroughly understands the case. There are a lot of men who will not come forward and volunteer testimony, but if they are put in the box they will tell it as it is. If I am subpoenaed I am not going to swear a lie. Now, take the conduct of Wade. He was Crown prosecutor, registrar, agent and the devil knows what he was not—he has now left. McGregor, his health was not very good, and he got out. McGregor was mine inspector. There was Norwood, collector of royalty; he admits himself that he made those pay that he could scare and squeeze, and others he let go and they never paid. Then McFarlane, assistant timber inspector—he came out—in fact, they are all out. In fact, Wade was there for Wade, Craig for Craig, Boulton for Boulton, and Fortune for himself. These men were all under Wade and Fawcett. These men would get together and induce Fawcett to issue some outrageous order and then, after it was issued and posted, they would tell him that it was all wrong and contrary to the mining law, and then he would cancel it and they would get in their work.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) spent a good deal of his time in defending Mr. Fawcett against alleged charges of dishonesty. I think all the statements read by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), with the exception of one, stated that

Mr. Fawcett was weak and not dishonest. The thing that was complained of was his incapacity, his inability to stand up against those able and clever men whom the hon. Minister of the Interior sent into that district. The witness continues as follows :

Take the case on Dominion Creek. The first man to discover gold on a creek stakes it, and that is called "discovery," and he gets 500 feet, and when claims are staked thereafter they are numbered 1, 2 and 3 above or below discovery, as the case may be. For some reason or other on Dominion Creek there were two "discovery" claims. Consequently Fawcett got all muddled up, and they had to call one "New Discovery" and "Old Discovery." Consequently, a man by the name of Donnelley, who had worked a claim for three months, went to get it recorded and found that Lucila Elliott had recorded the same claim the day before. Fawcett decided that he could not take any cognizance of Donnelley's claim, as Lucila Elliott was the first to record it. This created considerable friction, and so Fawcett shut up the creek and set about to make a new survey. About the first week in July there was posted up on the Gold Commissioner's door a notice saying on the 10th July Dominion Creek will be open to prospectors to locate claims, and parties wishing to locate claims must get a permit from the Gold Commissioner's office, and must work the claim 16 days and find a good prospect of gold before his claim will be recorded. You could not get a permit before, and if you went without a permit you could not stake any claim. The miners objected to this. The regulations say that if you pay \$10 you are a free miner and can stake a claim anywhere. In the meantime, Mr. Wade, Mr. Craig, and Mr. Boulton began peddling these permits out in advance for \$100 or \$50, and pocketed the money. On the 7th, Wade spoke to Fawcett and said they had made a mistake, and called a meeting to discuss the matter. At that meeting Major Walsh, Wade, Fawcett and two or three others attended, and after discussing it for a while, came to the conclusion that it was contrary to the mining regulations, and that they revoke the order; and consequently on the 10th it was legal for anybody to go without a permit or anything else. In the meantime, Lucila Elliott got a permit, and some of the miners got her drunk and got the permit from her. Then the question rose, who issued this permit? It was signed by Fawcett, and he said it was given on the order of Major Walsh. Walsh said Fawcett was a liar, but Fawcett said it was on Walsh's verbal order.

So much for that statement. Then, there is another point. This witness says the soldiers were entirely unnecessary. He says :

Capt. Starnes wrote to the Government, pointing out the difference between the mounted police and the soldiers. The police can take a man without warrant or anything else, but the soldiers cannot do anything unless the Riot Act is read. These soldiers were sent in by the Stikine route, and they made a contract with the Hudson's Bay Company to carry their supplies from Glenora to Teslin Lake at 40 cents a pound, while they could have been taken by the White Pass for 7 cents a pound. 150 of the soldiers are now at Tagish, where there are about 20 poor miserable Indians and one white man. The other 50 have gone to Dawson. This will cost the Government at least \$300,000. The miners object to having soldiers. The miners as a rule are a very

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independent lot of men. They do not object to policemen, but they do to the soldiers. They say that instead of spending this money on soldiers, why did not the Government improve the road from Dawson to Bonanza, Eldorado and other creeks. As it is now, it is simply a marsh. Also do something to improve the navigation in the rivers. Something should be done at the White Horse Rapids, Five Fingers, Rink Rapids and Thirty-Mile River.

Further, he says :

Dr. Leblanc, he is a respectable man. He could give you some information. He has a partner named Metcalfe. They have some claims, and Dr. Leblanc wanted an abstract of title, as he was going to London to sell them. He went to the office to get these abstracts, but he could not get near them, so he came to me and said, "You know these fellows; I want to get out by the next boat; can you get me the abstract? The fee is \$2.50, and I have seven claims, or \$17.50;" he said, "give them anything they want." His friend went to the side door and saw Boulton, and said, "I will give you \$40 for those abstracts," and he got them at once. And the Doctor went out by the boat. \$17.50 went to the Government and \$22.50 to Boulton. Suppose you land at Dawson and you want to stake a claim. You go up the creek and you will find stakes like a graveyard, with four or five stakes on each claim, and you don't know what is taken and what is not, but a go-between will say to you, "I have a friend in the Gold Commissioner's office; I will get a plan of what is staked and what is not for \$25." Then you can go with your eyes shut, stake your claim and get it recorded without any trouble. The officers in the Gold Commissioner's office know whether a claim is a good one or not. When they hear of a good claim, and if there is an unstaked piece near it, they will say, "Give me a half interest and I will put you on to a good thing." Or, if he does not know much about it, he will say, "Give me \$15, \$20 or \$25, and I will tell you where there is a vacant claim." This, of course, goes into the clerk's pocket. There is more money taken in at the side door than at the front. The trouble is the men are underpaid.

That statement is made by a witness who has given his name, and says he is willing to testify, and will come forward and testify, if an investigation is ordered. Now, my hon. friend from the city of Victoria (Mr. Prior) has taken a good deal of interest in matters pertaining to the Yukon district, and he has brought to me, for the purpose of having their statement taken, two men who are now in Ottawa, Mr. Allen and Mr. Semple. These gentlemen are here in connection with the administration of affairs in the Yukon district; and, at the request of my hon. friend, who knew I was accustomed, as a lawyer, to taking statements of this kind, and possibly could do it more efficiently than he could, I took, in his presence, a statement from these men, whose names are known, and who say, that what they state to me has already been stated by them in the public prints in the city of Dawson. After their statement was taken, I read it over to them in the presence of the hon. member for Victoria. Wherever they suggested any change, or were not certain and positive, I corrected the statement; and

wherever there was any doubt, I gave the administration in the Yukon the benefit of the doubt. I took the statement from these gentlemen as I would take a statement for the purpose of dealing with a witness in court. I tried to take a fair, accurate and impartial statement from them, and I will read to you what they told me in the presence of the hon. member for Victoria :

The administration of the Gold Commissioner's office has been notoriously corrupt since we have resided in Dawson. We have resided there since 10th June, 1898. We cannot believe it possible that Mr. Fawcett was ignorant of what was going on. There would be three or four hundred men standing in line in front of his office waiting to record their claims. They would wait before the office for days, sometimes as many as ten days. While the men went to their meals, and over night, and on Sundays, their places were retained by checks issued by a policeman. Such a check entitled a man to resume his place on returning. There were two side doors to the office, one marked "Private," the other marked "No Admittance." It was possible to obtain admission to the door marked "Private" by payment of a bribe of \$5 or \$10, and to obtain admission to the door marked "No Admittance" by payment of a bribe of from \$15 upwards.

Twenty-five dollars was the average bribe for this door. The men who obtained admission by this system of bribery got their claims recorded ahead of the men who remained in line before the front door. The \$25 door was higher-priced because more expeditious. The man who got his claim recorded first had the registered title.

The hon. gentleman will see the significance of that. The hon. Minister of the Interior told us that some of these miners disregarded the staking, and would go on staking over again and at the same time he told us they were a most law-abiding people because they paid this royalty without any demur. According to his own account, however, they sometimes disregarded the staking. Suppose two men have staked the same lot, one goes and stands in line four or five days, and is the man who actually staked the lot first and who was in line first. He does not know about either of the side doors, or if he does he has not the money to spare to get in. But the man who staked after him knows about the side door, and gets in, has his claim recorded, and gets the registered title, leaving the other man, if he has the legal right, the doubtful advantage in the meantime of a lawsuit. That statement of the facts will show to the House how scandalous it was that such a system as this should have prevailed for any length of time whatever in the Yukon district under the administration of the Department of the Interior.

The money was paid to the guard at the door. The deals to get in in this way were usually made the night before.

I cross-examined these gentlemen about that. I asked them: Do you mean to say that a man would go and get a ticket to enter this door as he would buy tickets for a theatre. Oh, no, was the reply, business

was not done in that way. You would not see the men inside in the office, but you would see the guard or some understrapper at a restaurant, and the arrangement would be made to come to the door the next day and pay a certain sum and get in. That is the way it was done. It was kept secret as far as it could be kept secret.

The officials inside the doors were E. D. Boulton, mining recorder, and C. F. Hurdman, bench claims recorder.

Hurdman is the same man concerning whom I read the evidence last evening—the evidence of Mr. Murdock, who swore that he got his claim recorded by giving Mr. Hurdman one-third interest in it, which interest he valued at \$1,500. Does any hon. gentleman suppose that Hurdman or Boulton, inside the doors, did not know something about this. Is it not a fair inference from the payment of that money to the guard that the men inside, without whose connivance surely this could not have been done, not only knew of the transaction, but shared, to some extent at least, in the proceeds.

Boulton and Hurdman were still in office when we left Dawson City on the 29th January last.

The hon. Minister of the Interior says that the administration of his department has been characterized by diligence and progress, and yet this sort of thing has been going on since last May. I say that, not on the unsupported statement of the men who used that language to me, but on the statement also of the thirteen miners elected by a mass meeting of ten thousand men and on the authority of the correspondent of the London "Times," whose statements on that subject have been read to this House and were known to the Minister of the Interior in the month of July and August last, and yet the hon. gentleman has the courage—I will not use any stronger term—to stand up in this House and tell us that the administration of his department has been characterized by diligence and progress. The statement continues as follows:—

Dr. J. L. Gibitz can give evidence of having paid money directly to Mr. Boulton for admission through the side door to record a claim.

Dr. Gibitz is now in the Yukon, and his testimony can be procured.

W. C. Wilkins can give evidence of money paid to Hurdman for a similar purpose. John Donnelley paid \$4 to get in the side door, after waiting three or four days in line, and found his claim had been recorded to another while he was waiting. John L. Hersey paid \$20 to get in the side door to record a claim.

Hon. gentlemen will see that these charges do not lack the quality of being specific, and do not lack names. They are specific, and the names are given, and the names could have been procured by the hon. gentleman months ago. It was not necessary

for these two gentlemen to come to the city of Ottawa and come to my room in my hotel and give that statement to me. If the hon. gentleman had wanted to get information on this subject, if his administration had been characterized by the diligence and promptness to which he vainly lays claim, that information could have been in his possession in July, August or September last.

Another man, whose name is withheld at his request, paid \$400 to an employee occupying an official position for inside information from the Gold Commissioner's office.

And I am told that this man—and I give it for what it is worth—if a proper tribunal, untrammelled by any of the restrictions I have already mentioned, is appointed, is willing to go before that tribunal and give that information on oath.

Opposite 49 below discovery on Bonanza Creek a miner was cheated out of a rich find by the connivance of officials in the Gold Commissioner's office. The name will be given, and evidence produced, when a proper investigation is ordered.

Mrs. Dubois was deprived of a claim by one Murdock with the connivance of an official, Hurdman, in the Gold Commissioner's office. Hurdman got one-third interest. We understand that Mr. Senkler has restored the claim to Mrs. Dubois.

That is a matter about which I spoke last evening. I read the evidence, as to which the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries asked me for some information.

The case of Mrs. Addie Butler, on Gold Hill, at junction of Bonanza and Eldorado creeks, is an extraordinary one. She holds a certificate of record for a full relocated claim 100 feet square, against which there are three additional certificates of record fractionizing the claim, in violation of departmental instructions. This case is complicated, but can be presented fully before a proper tribunal of investigation.

This business of fractionizing is an improper violation of departmental regulations for the purpose of cutting across a person's claim and taking out a particular portion of that claim where the paying streak is supposed to be, after the first person owning that claim has to some extent developed it. I do not pretend to understand the case fully, because I saw it was too complicated for me to explain to this House without diagrams and without going into the matter more fully than the time at my service would permit.

J. F. Riley, clerk for Inspector of Mines Madden, is located at Bonanza Forks, and is an employee of the Government. He staked and recorded on October 10, 1898, a fraction of 24,164½ square feet, the legal staking being 10,000 square feet. He holds a certificate of record for this in direct violation of the regulations. A copy of the abstract of title is in our possession,—

And is in the city of Ottawa—

—and can be produced. We have in our possession passes in use in the Gold Commissioner's  
Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

office for admission by the side door. They are stamped with the office stamp "Interior Department, Yukon Territory," and are initialed by officials.

What do hon. gentlemen think of that—passes for admission at the side door which these men say are in their possession, and can be produced? Passes to enable men to go out of line, to go to this side door, and, for a pecuniary consideration, to get admission to that door and record their claims before the men who remain in line and try honestly to get their claims recorded.

Respecting the grant of the water front, the facts as stated by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper in his speech are believed to be correct by the people of Dawson. So strong has the feeling become that the tenants have not paid rent since the commencement of the year. The streets are in a frightful condition in Dawson in the summer. No sanitary arrangements have been provided by the Government, with the exception of three outhouses, which have been in a most disgraceful condition. Typhoid prevailed last summer, and promises to be an epidemic this summer. As to mail and postal accommodation, it is enough to say that from close of navigation, about 1st October, to about the middle of January, no mail matter, except official matter, arrived at Dawson. In other words, the general public during that period received no mail through the Post Office Department.

That is exactly contrary to what the Postmaster General stated the other evening. But I have more evidence with regard to that, which I will produce at a later stage of my remarks, which absolutely supports what these gentlemen have stated.

We have heard that the November and December mail will not come in until navigation opens. During a considerable portion of this time—

That is, between the 1st October and the middle of January—a portion of the time while the lakes and rivers had been closed.

—hardly a day has elapsed that private parties have not arrived at or left Dawson.

Now, it would strike one as peculiar, if private parties could arrive at and leave Dawson, that the mail could not arrive at and leave Dawson. Official mail, as I understand from these gentlemen, and as I have stated, has been transmitted by the Mounted Police, but not the regular mail for the public. It has been transmitted in the manner which is shown in what I am now about to read from the same statement from these two gentlemen:

Hardly a day has elapsed that private parties have not arrived at or left Dawson carrying letters at from 50 cents to \$1 each. People are glad to pay this to get their mail carried. We have read over the report of the interview with us in the "Citizen," and it represents correctly our views.

That is a statement with which I will not weary the House. It appeared in the "Citizen" on Monday or Tuesday morning, and it contains general charges, but does

not enter into particulars in the way I have dealt with them in this statement. Then the statement concludes, as follows:—

With very trifling exceptions, what we have stated to you has been published in our newspaper, the "Klondike Nugget," and none of the officials charged have taken any action against us.

So, they are not stating behind the back of these men anything they have not already stated in the Yukon before their face.

Now, Sir, I have another document, which has been placed in my hands, and which bears date as late as 1st March, 1899. It is a letter written by a man whose name I will give. His character, respectability and trustworthiness can be vouched for by the hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. McLennan). He is Colonel McGregor, late of Glengarry and now of Dawson, president or vice-president of the miners' committee elected at the mass meeting, to which I have already referred. In a letter addressed to the hon. member for Glengarry and dated, as I have said, 1st March, 1899, he makes the following statements. They are statements, I think, which had already been made in the miners' memorial in August, and I read this letter to show, that up to the present time this gentleman has seen nothing which would induce him to change his views:

You have no doubt been informed through the press and otherwise long before now of the overstrained relations that exist between the representatives of the Government and the public in the Yukon territory. For some time during the past summer the situation threatened to be serious. Several mass meetings were held in Dawson to consider what steps could be taken to bring about a better order of things. At one of those meetings, attended by about 10,000 people, representing all enlightened nations, a committee consisting of twelve members entitled "Miners' Committee," was appointed for the purpose of making some effort to relieve the distressed situation. This committee prepared a memorial and mailed it to the Premier under date of August 25, 1898.

There was postal communication up to that time. The letter must have reached the Government, I suppose, about the middle or towards the end of September.

In reply, a commission, named a "Royal Commission," was sent in here to Mr. Ogilvie, the commissioner of the Yukon territory, to investigate alleged charges of bribery, corruption and fraud on the part of the officers of the administration of the Yukon, as set forth in our memorial. This commission arrived here five months after our memorial was received at Ottawa, and Mr. Ogilvie acting under instructions from his legal adviser, Mr. Clement, ruled that no matters occurring subsequent to the 25th August, 1898, the date of our memorial, can be investigated by this commission.

I inclose a copy of the "Nugget" newspaper, which will give you more light on the matter. I intended many times to have written you describing the situation, but failed. I hope, however, to be able to keep you better posted in the future. I have been secretary and vice-president of the Miners' Association for some time past. At present I have full charge as president.

Messrs. Armstrong and MacDougall, who are associated with me, are from England. \* \* \* The camp would be a pretty good one if the administration of affairs was what it should be. But it is almost impossible for a man to do anything unless he is in with the official ring of corruption and fraud.

Now, Sir, that gentleman, who is a responsible man, who is vouched for by an hon. member of this House, whose name has been given to this House, gives you his view of the condition of the administration of the Yukon, and that is a condition of affairs which has existed, as I have already pointed out to the House, not for a few days, not for a few weeks, not for a few months, but for many months, for nearly a year; and yet the Minister of the Interior stands up in this House and lauds the energy, the diligence, and the promptness with which he dealt with these matters. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman seems to think that an efficient and business-like way of dealing with a condition of affairs like that, is to send a commission to Mr. Ogilvie, already overburdened by the work of the Yukon, directing Mr. Ogilvie to post hand-bills calling upon the miners to come in and make their charges. Why, I am almost tempted to say that an investigation of that kind before Mr. Ogilvie against Mr. F. C. Wade is very much like an investigation of the hon. Minister of the Interior by the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Sifton). Mr. Ogilvie, the servant and employee of the Minister of the Interior, investigates Mr. F. C. Wade, the chosen friend, the political friend, the man in close confidence with the Minister of the Interior, and the country is to expect that from that investigation, taken in that way, carried on by miners at their own expense, any satisfactory result could possibly be obtained, even if the worst possible scandals had been prevalent in the Yukon. The thing seems to me, and I have tried to view it in a reasonable light, to be absurd, to be impossible. You cannot satisfy the country by any investigation of that kind. What the country wants is an investigation which I will describe to the hon. gentleman, an investigation such as that which is referred to in the "Globe" newspaper which I read a while ago. Take the very best man in Canada, the very best judge, if you like, in Canada, the man against whose ability, against whose fearlessness, against whose integrity there cannot be the faintest suspicion—that may be true of Mr. Ogilvie—but a man further who has judicial training and knowledge of law, and the experience which will enable him to do this work; then employ counsel to accompany and assist him as to whose good faith and ability, and experience you have no doubt, and send this gentleman into the Yukon, and have an investigation to clear, if you like, these gentlemen, as I hope that they will be cleared. But until that is done, I venture to say that the country will not be satisfied, and that some gentlemen, at least, on

the other side of the House who have some ideas on this subject, will not be very well satisfied. The fortunes of the Minister of the Interior and the fortunes of Mr. F. C. Wade may be of importance to the Minister of the Interior, and even to the Liberal party, but I tell the right hon. the Prime Minister that there is something of more importance to the Liberal party than even the fortunes of the Minister of the Interior or of Mr. F. C. Wade, and that is the honour of the Liberal party, and the honour of this country, and the necessity that charges of this kind made by responsible people, and in responsible journals, and heralded for months throughout the length and breadth of this land, should not be put aside with any such formal investigation as has been suggested by the Minister of the Interior, an investigation, as I have already pointed out, which does not even extend beyond the 25th day of August, 1898. Now, the hon. gentleman told us of the great activity he has displayed in looking up certain information with regard to the permit referred to in the speech of the hon. member for Pictou. He has had the legal directory of British Columbia gone over, and he has had the indexes of the 190,000 letters gone over to obtain information on this subject. If the hon. gentleman had exhibited a little of that diligence, a little of that persistence, and a little of that activity with respect to this investigation, the country would have been a little better satisfied. If the hon. gentleman had even done with regard to this investigation what he did with regard to the alleged election frauds in the province of Manitoba, the country would have been better satisfied. The hon. gentleman made a very skilful speech last evening, and one of the most skilful things with regard to that speech was that he did not attempt to answer the hon. member for Pictou with regard to the comparison that he instituted between the vigour of the hon. gentleman with regard to the prosecutions in Manitoba, and his inaction with regard to these scandals. Not one word from beginning to end did the hon. gentleman give to the House with regard to the challenge made in the most direct manner by the hon. member for Pictou. Did he, I wonder, in the interval, in the four days which elapsed between the speech of the member for Pictou and his speech, make an investigation as to whether Mr. Perdue has paid back that \$228. Nevertheless it might have been of some importance to this country that he should have employed some of his clerks to investigate that question, rather than do the work which they did do to enable him to make an impertinent allusion to the law partner of the hon. member for Pictou. What do hon. members on the other side of the House think with regard to that? The facts with regard to Mr. Perdue were stated by the hon. member for Pictou, who read the evidence from the report of the committee substantiating what he said.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

Mr. Perdue drew a draft on the hon. Minister of the Interior and that draft fell due, I think, about the 30th June, 1898. On the same day, the Minister of the Interior was hurrying up the Department of Justice to have an Order in Council passed for the purpose of paying out to him the sum of \$6,964.41 to enable him to pay advances which he had made to legal gentlemen in the province of Manitoba, in respect to these prosecutions. Among the bills charged up and paid was one of \$541.15, being the account of Mr. W. E. Perdue. Now, at this time, Mr. Perdue's account had not been taxed and the hon. gentleman had accepted a bill from Mr. Perdue for the amount of that account as he had retained Mr. Perdue; and he desired to reimburse himself, through the Government of Canada, for the liability which he had so contracted. The draft upon which the hon. gentleman became so liable is to be found at page 147 of the ninth report of the Committee on Public Accounts. It is as follows:—

Three months after date, pay to the order of myself \$541.15/100 (five hundred and forty-one 15/100 dollars), and charge to account of

W. E. PERDUE.

Following that:

Accepted payable at the Bank of British North America, Ottawa.

CLIFFORD SIFTON.

This draft fell due on the 30th of June, and on that date a great many messages were sent backward and forward in order to have the Department of Justice hasten this Order in Council. The Order in Council was made and the sum of \$6,964.41 was paid out to the Minister of the Interior. The work was done altogether behind the back of the Department of Justice, so far as the officials were concerned, although it was done, I believe, with the knowledge of the late Minister of Justice, Sir Oliver Mowat, but it was altogether under the direction of the Minister of the Interior, and he assumed personal liability. He paid out this sum of \$541.15, and he took up the draft which he had accepted. What happened afterwards? The Minister of Justice insisted upon having these accounts taxed by the Department of Justice; they were taxed by the Department of Justice, and Mr. Perdue's account was taxed down to the sum of \$313.15 after he had been paid \$541.15. The Minister of Justice approved of that taxation, as stated on oath by his deputy. Now, Sir, although that money was placed in the hands of the hon. Minister of the Interior for the sole purpose of making advances in connection with bills properly chargeable to the Government in connection with this prosecution, I do not find any evidence in this report that Mr. Perdue has ever paid back the balance of \$228 to the consolidated revenue fund of Canada, and I do not find any evidence that the Minister of the Interior has paid back that sum. The net result of the transaction

is that the Minister of the Interior has relieved himself of the payment of a draft, accepted by himself, for the sum of \$541.15 for services performed by Mr. Perdue and Mr. Perdue has got that money in his pocket, while the officials of the Department of Justice, with the approval of Sir Oliver Mowat, have decided that Mr. Perdue should have received only \$313.13.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). He does not hear that.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Would it not have been well for the hon. gentleman—

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Where is that money?

Mr. McMULLEN. Where is the Onderdonk money?

Mr. BENNETT. Where is your laundry bill?

Mr. COCHRANE. Where are all the principles that you advocated when you were over here?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Would it not have been well for the hon. Minister of the Interior to have employed some of his industry, in the days which elapsed after these charges were made, in discovering whether the consolidated revenue fund had received back this \$228? Would it not have been well to have set in train some action by the Government which would have led to the restoration of that sum? I only refer to this in passing; it is only an incident, but it is an incident that might better have demanded the attention of the hon. gentleman than the fact that the law partner of the hon. member for Pictou had sent a telegram for a liquor permit. In respect to this matter of the payment to Mr. Perdue, he had been distinctly challenged across the floor of the House and he did not say a word in his five-hour speech in reply to the hon. member for Pictou. But for the purpose of gratuitously drawing in a reference to a gentleman, who, I venture to think, has as good a standing as himself, he sent his clerks searching through his files and triumphantly announced to the House, as an answer to all these scandals, to this disgraceful state of affairs in the Yukon, that the law partner of the hon. member for Pictou had telegraphed to him for a permit to take liquor into the Yukon. What a complete answer it was, and how satisfactory it is to the country. It is almost as satisfactory as the investigation seven months after the charges were made before a subordinate of the hon. gentleman and against an intimate friend and political confidant of the hon. gentleman. One is just about as satisfactory to the country as the other, and I think hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House will come to that conclusion before this debate is finished. But this is only an incident. There is an application of these Manitoba prosecutions which may be made and, I think, may be

made, not greatly to the advantage of the hon. Minister of the Interior. Seven months elapsed after these charges were made before Mr. Ogilvie was directed to make any investigation in regard to them; three days after the election of 1896 took place the hon. gentleman instructed Mr. Howell, of Winnipeg, to telegraph to the Pinkerton detectives—three days in one case and seven months in the other. The hon. gentleman may congratulate himself in regard to his promptness and diligence in respect to the Manitoba prosecutions, but I think a delay of seven months hardly justifies him in boasting to this House of his promptness and diligence in respect to these Yukon scandals. I put that to the hon. gentleman in all fairness, in all candour and sincerity, and I put it to the Prime Minister of this country who will have to answer for these things to this House and this country. Why, Sir, the comparison is monstrous when you come to look at it. The Minister of Justice in this country has stated, in a letter which was read by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), that this Government has nothing to do with the administration of justice in the province of Manitoba, and that that function properly belongs to the province. No evidence was given to the Government of Canada of anything having taken place improperly in the province of Manitoba, except a vague charge of suspicion by a gentleman who is not a member of this House. And yet the Prime Minister said what? He said:

We will most willingly furnish the necessary funds for the service, in order to carry on the work in which you are engaged.

And the Prime Minister did not wait for a letter; he sent these instructions by telegram on the 24th July,—the Minister of the Interior having already on the 26th day of June, and while the Government of Sir Charles Tupper was still in power undertaken to carry on these prosecutions, and the Prime Minister pledged the Government of Canada under these circumstances to carry them on. And yet, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton), employing detectives for that purpose, and on the credit of the Government of Canada—according to the sworn testimony of the man whom he employed—sending out Pinkerton detectives within three days, employing the time from June to December in fishing—I am using exactly the words of Mr. Howell—under these circumstances the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) has the hardihood to tell this House, that he was prompt and diligent with respect to these Yukon scandals in sending a commission there seven months after the charges were made known.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I am anxious to get the hon. gentleman's charge. Do I understand him to say that it was seven months after the Minister of the Interior received the miners' complaint that he issued the commission to Mr. Ogilvie?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I do not know when he issued his commission to Mr. Ogilvie.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I thought the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) said seven months.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I will tell you—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am merely asking for information.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). And I will give it to you. I stated that the Postmaster General of Canada has said, that during last summer the postal facilities between Dawson and Vancouver were perfectly unimpaired, and there is evidence that when the public mail was not delivered the official mail was delivered. Now, I say that the Minister of the Interior has stated that before the 15th July, 1898, he knew of charges or complaints against Mr. Wade and Mr. McGregor, and, Sir, these charges and complaints which were made public in the journals of this country at the time were infinitely of graver import than anything the Minister (Mr. Sifton) had before him when he directed an inquiry into these Manitoba prosecutions. And I say, that for seven months after that time, this matter remained without investigation. Some of that period undoubtedly would have been taken up in communicating with the Yukon, and in sending a royal commission; no doubt about that; but what I desire to point out to my hon. friend is this, that that period did elapse, and that that period elapsed although the Postmaster General has stated that post office communication was uninterrupted during that period. Suppose, for the gratification of my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) I should strike off two months, and say that such time would necessarily have been employed in making any further investigation into the matter and in sending the commission forward, still, I think, I have a pretty liberal margin of allowance when I have three days in the one case and five months in the other; when I have in the one case the Minister of the Interior dealing with a matter as Attorney General of Manitoba, at the cost of the Dominion Government, for the purpose of securing evidence to fight election petitions, and in the other case I have grave scandals brought to his attention before the 15th of July, 1898, and no action, no effective action taken upon these scandals by an investigation until the month of February, 1899. Does the hon. the Minister (Mr. Sifton) think that this country will regard it as a satisfactory answer to that charge, that the law partner of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) telegraphed him for a liquor permit. Sir, I do not think the country will regard that as a satisfactory answer.

Now, Sir, I have dwelt for some considerable time upon these matters in connection

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

with the Manitoba election fund, so-called, but I do not wish to weary the House because the matter has been fully gone into by my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), and the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) in the course of a five hours speech has not given one syllable of an answer to that portion of the charges set forth by the hon. member for Pictou. I repeat again, that I think one of the most skillful things in the reply of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton), was his complete ignoring of those charges, skillful for the reason that he had not any answer whatever to them; and for the reason further, that when his activity for the purpose of injuring political opponents in Manitoba, is contrasted with his inactivity when his political friends are in question in the Yukon, the comparison is so striking that no member of this House could fail to be moved by it. I am very sorry that I have been wearying the House for so long.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I know that this debate has been protracted, but I must submit to you, Mr. Speaker, and to hon. gentlemen on the other side, that it is a difficult thing to answer a five and a half hours' speech in an hour and a half, and I will just be as short as I possibly can. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) derived a great deal of consolation from some statements which were made by Mr. W. J. Tupper with regard to his friend Mr. Wade, and deservedly so, because any statement made by Mr. W. J. Tupper, or by any other member of the family of my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) is undoubtedly entitled to great weight.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). However, Sir, I observe that it is only when it suits his purpose that the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) is inclined to attach that great weight to statements made by members of the family of my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper). The circumstances with regard to that particular matter, so far as I understand them are, that when Mr. F. C. Wade was attacked by a member of his own political party, Mr. W. J. Tupper, with that generosity which is not very often found perhaps in the ranks of hon. gentlemen opposite, came to the rescue of his political foe, Mr. Wade, and wrote a letter in a Manitoba newspaper, endeavouring to save Mr. Wade from Mr. Wade's political friends. And, Sir, that is the thing out of which the Minister of the Interior derives so much consolation. Does the Minister of the Interior suggest to this House, that because Mr. W. J. Tupper, animated by these generous feelings under these circumstances, saw fit to write a letter in defence of a man who is his personal friend; that this is an answer which the country or this House will accept to the charges made against Mr. F. C. Wade in the Yukon. If the hon. gentleman thinks that,

he will probably come to a contrary conclusion before this matter has been finally dealt with.

Now, the hon. gentleman derived a great deal of consolation from the very generous suggestion, which he elaborated at some length, that no one on this side of the House had seen fit to stand up in defence of the hon. leader of the Opposition against what the hon. gentleman called the severe handling of the Prime Minister, except the hon. member for Pictou. As a matter of fact, member after member on this side of the House said all that was necessary, and more than was necessary, in defence of the hon. leader of the Opposition. The very first man who spoke on this side of the House, my hon. friend from York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) said all that was necessary, and more than was necessary on that point; and he was followed by at least two men, the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) and the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler); and other members of this House did the same thing. The hon. gentleman was just about as accurate in that statement as he was in his statements regarding some other matters, as I will point out further on.

The hon. gentleman told us that 20,000 men had been dumped in a mud hole at Dawson, and that his department had a great deal of difficulty on that account; and he tried to induce this House to believe that it was not fully known to his Government before the summer of 1898 that that rush was going there. Why, Sir, all through the session of 1898, it was dinned into our ears as the excuse for the Mackenzie & Mann contract, that this rush was coming—that so enormous a crowd of men were going into that district that they would starve unless that railway was built. The hon. gentleman, whether he saw that they would starve or not, certainly saw that they would not perish from thirst, if the records of the liquor permits count for anything; and he asked this House to pass the Mackenzie & Mann Bill, for what purpose? For two purposes: first, to provide food and sustenance for the enormous crowd going in; and, secondly, for the purpose of dumping there 20,000 more. That is the position the hon. gentleman occupies. He wanted this railway built in order that people might flock in there, and he comes afterwards and tells us that this rush of 20,000 people into the district took him by surprise.

The hon. gentleman also tells us about his sanitary arrangements and his expenditures, and reads us a long column of figures, going down to items of \$5, and protracting his speech to five hours and more. But he does not tell this House what he told the Young Liberal Club of Stratford this year, that he had \$1,530,000 of revenue from the Yukon and a surplus of about \$800,000. Yet he did not do one single thing, so far as the statements of these witnesses show, to improve the roads or the river approaches to

that city. And, by the way, the Postmaster General has made a statement in regard to the postal facilities which I will deal with a little further on. He has told us that the mails went in and out with the most astonishing regularity. I will read statements to this House—I have read some already—showing that the reverse is the case. The hon. Minister of the Interior states that it is merely a pleasure trip now to go to Dawson City and to come out. If it is, why were the mails delayed from the 1st of October until the middle of January, and then only letters received, while tons of newspapers remained on the way. If the statement of the hon. gentleman is true, he has placed the Postmaster General of this country in a most embarrassing and humiliating position, because over a route by which it is a mere pleasure trip to go in and out, the hon. gentleman has been able to send no mails except official correspondence for a period of between two and three months.

My hon. friend the Minister of the Interior tried to shelter himself with respect to this matter by some language which he read from the "Hansard" of 1895, uttered in this House by the hon. member for Pictou, and I will take the liberty of referring to that language:

If the case stood there, that the Government, knowing all that, had done nothing, the case would be grave indeed against this Government or any government.

The hon. gentleman passed over that language very lightly when he read; but that is the exact language which hon. members on this side of the House are ready to stand or fall by, and the hon. member for Pictou will not take back one word of that, I venture to say, when he returns. In the words of that language, as this Government stood still for seven months and did nothing, the case is grave indeed against this Government.

The hon. gentleman also made the statement that only 105 gallons of liquor had been imported into the Yukon since the 50th of August, 1898, under his permits. Now, I have seen a startling account of 60 tons of liquor which were carried into the Yukon country on the 16th of September, 1898, and I would like to ask the hon. gentleman, as this was a public matter, whether or not those 60 tons of liquor were smuggled in, in defiance of his permits? Sixty tons would weigh considerably more than 105 gallons, and I think the hon. gentleman will not succeed in his attempt to delude this country with the idea that only 105 gallons of liquor have been imported into the Yukon under permits issued by him since the 30th of August, 1898. It may be that permits covering only that quantity have been issued by the hon. gentleman's Government since that date; but I venture to think that a great deal of liquor has gone in on permits issued previously and on permits sanctioned by the hon. gentleman's Government—on permits which would not have been recognized by his officers except under his direction.

The hon. gentleman told us of the great difficulties under which his administration laboured in the Yukon with respect to the recording of claims; and he said that the average number of claims recorded was forty claims a day for every working day. Well, I must say it did not strike me, notwithstanding the elaborate description of the hon. gentleman of what it was necessary to do to record a claim, that forty claims a day were a very great average. I would have thought that 100, 150 or 200 claims a day might have been recorded, if a proper staff, a competent staff, such as the resources and experience of this country would have enabled him to provide, had been provided. What does the hon. gentleman go on to say? He says there were miserable facilities for dealing with these matters. But why did not the hon. gentleman, out of this \$1,530,000, provide proper facilities? Why is he at the head of the Department of the Interior, why were the officers in the Yukon, except for that purpose? He says further there was wretched accommodation, so far as buildings were concerned. Then why did he not provide proper accommodation? Why was not that done at once? I do not see that he advances his position by telling us there were miserable facilities or wretched accommodation. The question still remains: Why did he not provide proper facilities and accommodation? The hon. gentleman also derived a great deal of apparent satisfaction by stating to this House that the Dominion Lands Act had been violated, and that he would hurt some one's feelings on this side very much if we would see fit to move for certain unnamed papers which he would bring down. That strikes me as an extraordinary answer to these charges. He stated in the opening part of his speech that two vices did not make a virtue, and he was not going to justify himself by a reference to the Conservative Administration. Yet, immediately afterwards, he spent twenty minutes by the clock in attempting to make that justification, and afterwards, in the latter part of his speech, he went on to tell us that the Dominion Lands Act had been violated under the Conservative Administration, and that that was to him a complete justification for this shame and humiliation to Canada which has been spread abroad over two continents. He derived also a glow of satisfaction from saying he did not know how many men were lined up at the Winnipeg post office in the days of the boom in that city. An hon. gentleman on this side asked him whether he ever knew of any officers of the Winnipeg post office being bribed, and the hon. gentleman was equal to the occasion. He had seen \$5 given. He knew the amount, and as soon as he was asked the question, he replied as I have stated, and an hon. gentleman behind him called out in effect that that was a complete justification. If an official of the Winnipeg post office was

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bribed in 1882, that, no doubt, in the opinion of hon. gentlemen on the other side, is a most perfect justification for the system of bribery which has been practised in connection with this Yukon business. He even went to the trouble of turning up an old "Hansard" and referring to Mr. J. C. Rykert's speech in this House. Well, I did not have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Rykert, and have only a very vague recollection of what took place with regard to him, but my recollection is he did not remain very long in this House. My recollection is he did not remain seven months in this House after the matter was brought up, and I think that reference to Mr. Rykert was a most unfortunate illustration for the hon. gentleman. The hon. gentleman told us that he put his name to a recommendation that his officers in the Yukon department shall not be allowed to stake claims. He did not favour this House with any statement as to when his name was put to that recommendation. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will do so now, if he is doing me the favour of attending to me.

An hon. MEMBER. Speak louder.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I shall speak as loud as I can. Will the hon. gentleman inform me at what date he placed his name to the recommendation that officers of his department should not be allowed to stake claims. He does not appear even to hear that. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, you can make him hear.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. FOSTER. If you have a deaf man there, let some one stand up and answer for him.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Let the hon. gentleman go on with his speech and he will be answered.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I beg the right hon. gentleman's pardon if he thinks I am out of order.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Yes.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I want to deal with the hon. Minister fairly.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I think that the reference to the deafness of the hon. gentleman was out of order.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I did not refer to his deafness.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman is not obliged to answer any question that is put.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I sincerely trust the right hon. Prime Minister will not think I am unfair about this. I was trying to get an answer to what I thought was a legitimate question.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). If the hon. gentleman will allow me, he is generally courteous, and I give him credit for that quality at once, but my hon. friend (Mr. Sifton), he knows, is afflicted with deafness, and cannot, when a question is put, understand its tenor unless he can follow the trend of the speech.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Will the hon. gentleman accept this assurance, that I am the last man in this House who would be willing to make any allusion to any physical infirmity; and I think he will also give me this credit, that when I was speaking to the Minister of the Interior, I raised my voice, which had become somewhat tired, and spoke as loudly as I was capable of doing. I may have been mistaken, but I thought the hon. Minister of the Interior heard me. If he did not hear me, I will withdraw anything that may have offended the susceptibilities of the Prime Minister or the Minister of the Interior.

Mr. FOSTER. At the same time we might have the answer.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). You will have it in the proper time.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The question has been explained, I presume, to the hon. Minister of the Interior, and he does not see fit to give me any satisfaction on that point, so I will venture to make a few comments with regard to it. This recommendation was made either before or since the 1st of January. I select the 1st of January merely as a convenient date. If it was made before the 1st of January, has the hon. gentleman any particular reason for limiting the inquiry by Mr. Ogilvie to matters antecedent to the 25th July, 1898? Does he not know that the cry still goes up in the Yukon that the officials of his department are staking claims, and if this recommendation was made long ago, why is it that the hon. Minister limits this inquiry to the 25th August, 1898? On the other hand, if the recommendation has been only recently sent to Council by the hon. gentleman, why did he delay so long in making it? Does he not know that the responsible correspondent of the London "Times," in the columns of that paper, and the London "Times," in its editorial columns, dealt with the matter? And when the matter was brought to his attention in that way, and also by the memorial of these miners in September last, dated in August last, did he not think it worth while to at least look at these statutes which I have brought to his attention, statutes of Canada, Ontario and Nova Scotia, and put his recommendation at once before Council to stop an iniquity of that kind which was being carried on? The hon. gentleman does not give me any information on the subject, and I leave it to the judgment of the House, under these circumstances, whether he has dealt fairly

with the House and with me, who have been trying fairly to follow him with respect to information on that point.

Now, the hon. gentleman produced—and he attached some importance to it—a telegram from Judge Maguire, stating that he was not interested in this water front lease. Well, let us concede that Judge Maguire was not interested in this water front. No man on this side of the House imagines or believes that everything that has been suggested in these charges is true. But what most of us believe is this—that it is impossible that so many charges of so grave a nature could have been made by so many independent persons, unless there was truth in some of them. And the hon. gentleman tells us that Mr. F. C. Wade has denied that he was interested. He has not placed Mr. Wade's telegram—if there was any telegram—on the Table of the House. If Mr. Wade's denial is not of a more conclusive nature than Major Walsh's denial, perhaps it might not avail very much, because those who followed intently and carefully Major Walsh's so-called denial, will recollect that it amounted rather to a challenge to prove, than to a denial of what had been stated. Now, does the hon. gentleman think that a telegram from Mr. F. C. Wade, even if he had laid it on the Table of the House, which he has not done, would satisfy the country with regard to this matter? If he does, or if the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), or any gentleman sitting behind him holds such an opinion, I venture to say that he has reckoned without his host. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) tells us, that the House was very much pained by the reference made by the hon. member for Pictou to Major Walsh. The reference made by the hon. member for Pictou was with respect to certain acts of Major Walsh in connection with a person who had a claim, then being prosecuted before one of the subordinates of Major Walsh, and I do not see any particular reason why the House should have been pained. At all events, hon. gentlemen on the other side, who were shocked and pained at that, were not very much shocked and pained when they greeted with loud applause the—I hardly know how to characterize it; let us say, the attack of a most scandalous character which was made by the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis), a few nights ago, upon the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin). A most insulting insinuation was made by that hon. gentleman against my hon. friend from West Assiniboia, and made for no other purpose than to insult that hon. gentleman, and to attempt to degrade him in the eyes of this House. Were hon. gentlemen opposite pained at that? Was the Minister of the Interior pained? I think not. There were loud hand-clappings, and poundings of desks, and bolsterous applause and laughter. So, with hon. gentlemen opposite, as to this matter of being pained,

it seems to depend altogether upon whose ox is gored. If it is on this side of the House, they are all merry; if it is on the other side of the House, they are, every one of them, pained.

Now, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) has seen fit to attack some of the statements made by the hon. member for Pictou, on the ground that charges stated to him by persons whose names he has not given, contained inaccuracies in respect to the complicated mining regulations which he has promulgated in that region. But I think that I can show inaccuracies and contradictions in the hon. gentleman's own speech, which, if applied in the way he applies this to the statement of the hon. member for Pictou, would render his speech of little value. He has told us, for example, that Judge Maguire tried, and that the Gold Commissioner decided, the case of Elliott vs. Donnelley. Well, now, I have had some experience in the courts of this country for something like twenty years, and this is the first time that I have ever heard of one judge trying a case and another judge giving a decision. What the hon. gentleman meant, no doubt, was, that Judge Maguire sat as legal assessor, assisting the Gold Commissioner. But instead of stating that, he barely informed the House, as the statement will be found at page 896 of "Hansard," that Judge Maguire tried the case and that the Gold Commissioner decided it. The functions of assessor are well known to any child in the law. The assessor does not decide the case. The nautical assessor—and the legal assessor is the same, I think,—sits in an advisory capacity, and the person who gives the final decision may or may not see fit to be guided by his advice. But one man tries the case, and the same man decides. So, the hon. gentleman does not seem able to deal with these mining regulations much more effectively than the persons whose statements he has criticised so severely. There is another curious circumstance, which, perhaps, is capable of some explanation by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), if he proposes to deal with this matter. We are told by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton), that Major Walsh informed him, that he desired to be relieved when his term of office expired. And in his letter, if I caught the contents of it rightly—and if I did not, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) will correct me—he stated, that his term was one year. By reference to "Hansard" of 1898, page 479, I find these questions and answers with regard to Major Walsh. The question is asked:

"What is the date of the appointment of Major Walsh, administrator of the Yukon district?"  
"Fifteenth August, 1897."

"For what period is the appointment made?"  
"No specified period."

I do not know which is right and which is wrong. I assume that the right hon. Prime Minister who gave that answer, was

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right, because he looked into the question at the time and came down to the House prepared to answer a question. If so, let the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) not boast very much more during this debate, that he is extremely accurate himself, and let him not think to lecture others.

Now, Sir, I do not know that there is anything further with regard to this particular matter that I am called upon to inflict upon the House; but there are one or two other matters as to which I would like to say a word or two, because I had really intended to speak of them in this debate, and not of the matter which I have taken up at considerable length this afternoon. The Prime Minister and other gentlemen who have spoken in this House, have dealt with the question of Senate reform, and resolutions have been introduced into local legislatures, the legislature of my own province and the legislature of the province of Ontario; and I believe they would have been introduced into the legislature of the province of Quebec, except for some hitch which unfortunately took place. So far as I can understand these resolutions, they seem to me of a somewhat extraordinary character. In effect they amount simply to this: That if a Government measure is introduced into the House of Commons and passes by a greater majority than the majority by which it is defeated in the Senate, the House of Commons is to prevail and the Senate is to count for nothing. That is about the substance of it. I do not think, as has been said by gentlemen on this side of the House, that any precedent can be found for a provision of that kind. In fact the hon. gentleman's attitude with regard to the Senate reminds me to some extent of the account of the American humorist, Artemus Ward, of his attempt to reorganize Betsey Jane, his wife. He explains that having come home on one occasion, after he had been endeavouring to improve the constitution of various persons by drinking their health pretty frequently, he decided that it was necessary to reorganize Betsey Jane. I hope that the right hon. gentleman will not feel annoyed if I mention him in connection with the great American humorist because that humorist was a very clever man and a very good speaker; he used to humbug the people a little, sometimes, it is true, but I know my right hon. friend never does that. I do not suppose that the Senate would be annoyed at being compared to Betsey Jane, because Betsey Jane had not so much to say as Artemus Ward had, but she attended strictly to business. Now, Mr. Ward's record of that event is that he went into Betsey Jane's room, and waved a horsewhip several times over her, and announced to her: "Betsey Jane, it is necessary that you should be reorganized." Then follows a hiatus in the account, and he says, in conclusion: "I dreamed that night that some person had laid that whip over me several times, and in the morning I found that she had done so."

I trust that the attempt of the hon. gentleman to reorganize the Senate may not result in any such disastrous consequences as befell the great humorist to whom I have referred.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the fast Atlantic service, which is of great importance to my own constituency, has been adverted to, and I can only say, as other members have said, that I regret very much that the action which the Government took in 1897 has resulted in the failure and disappointment which are now apparent. The Government at that time took upon themselves the responsibility of saying that they were thoroughly satisfied that Peterson & Tate were in a position to carry out this contract so far as financial ability was concerned. They were warned by my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition that the terms upon which they were making that contract were not such terms as would enable it to be carried out. They took this responsibility upon them after full warning, and they are now in this position, that after waiting two years we have nothing from Messrs. Petersen & Tate except a demand that they should get back the £10,000 which they deposited as security, and be relieved from the guarantee for £10,000 which they delivered to the Government. Now, I am informed that the price of the material for the building of steamships and the cost of labour have very materially advanced in the meantime, that it costs something like 25 per cent more to build a steamship now than it did then. The result is that not only will the Government have to come back to the terms which were suggested in the first instance and which were to have been carried out by the hon. leader of the Opposition, but if this service is to be carried out at all, they will have to give better terms; so that after two years of delay and disappointment with respect to this project, a project so dear to the hearts of all those who desire to promote intercourse between this country and the mother country, we are in a worse position than ever.

I may also say in passing, in answer to the challenge of the Minister of the Interior with respect to the trade policy of this Government, that if we ever have to deal with the preferential tariff, we will endeavour to deal with it in such a way that our imports from the United States will not advance by leaps and bounds while our imports from the United Kingdom remain comparatively stationary. Whatever we do, we will deal with it in such a way that a result exactly opposite shall be attained, when the country sees fit to place us in power, which I trust and believe will be at an early date. Now, with regard to some of the administrative methods of hon. gentlemen opposite. My hon. friend, the leader of the Opposition constructed an elevator in the city of Halifax a good many years ago, when he had the honour of filling the position, I think, of Minister of Railways and Canals, and that

elevator was an object of great derision to the Liberals of Nova Scotia. In fact, if I am not mistaken, the hon. gentleman will correct me if I am in a non-political and non-partisan speech which the right hon. the Prime Minister delivered in Halifax at the opening of an exhibition, he referred with some degree of scorn to this elevator, and incidentally also, I think, to the effects of the National Policy, although it was not understood that the speech would be of a political nature, and perhaps the hon. gentleman did not intend it to be so. The city of Halifax, on the 4th day of June last, thought this matter of so much importance that they voted \$50,000 for the purpose of assisting to rebuild that elevator, which had been destroyed by fire, and I brought it to the attention of this House and of the Government on the 8th of June, 1898. I pointed out to the Government, and a delegation from the city of Halifax pointed out to the Government immediately afterwards, the great importance of having that elevator ready for the ensuing winter's business. Was it not ready for the ensuing winter's business? No, Mr. Speaker, it is not ready yet. I am speaking in the hearing of my hon. colleague from Halifax (Mr. Russell). I do not know when it will be ready, but this I do know, that I have been informed by men who profess themselves competent to judge and who are friendly to this Administration, that there would not have been the slightest difficulty about having that elevator ready if steps had been taken properly and in time. I do not say whose fault this is; whether it is the fault of the Government or its officers or its contractors, but I put the statement to the right hon. Prime Minister that this is a grave fault, and in contrast with the administrative methods of the late Government when dealing with a similar matter in 1881. I extract the following from the report of the Minister of Railways and Canals, volume 15, No. 5, 1882:

The property at Halifax purchased for the new deep-water terminus came into possession of the railway in the month of July, 1881, and the work of preparing it for the winter's business was at once commenced. To connect it with the Inter-colonial system a track was laid on the eastern side of Water Street, from the freight yard near North Street, as far as the wharf formerly known as the Cranite wharf. \* \* \* The necessary sidings were laid, a wharf 800 feet long and 80 feet broad was constructed, and on it a large warehouse 46 feet wide and 400 feet long. The whole was ready by the month of November, and the premises were used last winter for the passenger and freight traffic by the British mail steamers.

Now, I desire to bring that to the attention of the right hon. gentleman.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Does that include the elevator?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I am informed that it includes work very much more than that involved in the construction of this elevator, and I am so informed by gentlemen

who, I think, are as competent to judge in this matter as the Minister of Finance.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That is, that the work is more important than the elevator, and that there could have been no difference in the time; will the hon. gentleman give me the name of the man who says that the elevator could have been constructed in that time?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I will not give the hon. gentleman any name, because I did not suppose that I would ever mention the matter again, and I did not ask permission to give the name. But I can assure the hon. gentleman that the information has been given to me by a person whose authority he will not deny, and I venture to think that the hon. gentleman will find it difficult to say that the work, which I have detailed here, is either of less magnitude or less importance than the work of constructing this elevator during the past year.

Now, I did propose to say one or two words about some principles which were laid down by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), in regard to the use of logic in politics and trade, and in regard to consistency and sincerity in public life. The hon. member for Labelle delivered a very charming speech to this House, and I can only say that I would give a good deal if I had the command of language in my native tongue that that hon. gentleman possesses. He expressed himself splendidly in English, and exhibited a remarkable command of language in, what is not to him, his native tongue. But he did advance some extraordinary ideas; he advanced the idea that logic is a bad thing in politics and trade. I know that the hon. member for Labelle has a logical mind, and I cast about me for some reason as to why he should have come to that conclusion, and I am led to believe that it was the result of his visit to Washington as secretary of the commission. It can only be attributed to that. These American people are not devoid of logic; they have logical minds and they knew, when these gentlemen went there, to deal with them, that these same hon. gentlemen, when on this side of the House, had gone to them previously and given promises to make a better trade arrangement with the United States than hon. gentlemen now on this side of the House would consent to. They also knew that the right hon. Prime Minister of this country had made some very generous and off-handed statements immediately after he came into power. They were logical; when they came to negotiate they brought these things up and it was that which gave the hon. member for Labelle his dislike for logic. The hon. gentleman is not in the House; I wish he were here for the purpose of correcting me if I am wrong, but I venture to think that if he were in the House he would corroborate what I have said. The right hon. Prime Minister, very properly, went to that hon.

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gentleman and congratulated him immediately upon the conclusion of his speech. I am sure he did this because he well knew what was in the mind of the hon. member for Labelle when he gave voice to these sentiments. The hon. member for Labelle gave rather a curious definition of sincerity, and at the risk of wearying the House I will refer to it. It is really one of the most delicious bits of logic, when you come to apply it, that hon. gentlemen, in this House, ever had the pleasure of listening to. But before coming to that he says:

The people are merry; my Government is safe.

He was no doubt thinking about some of those gentlemen in the Yukon when they thought of this investigation that is going on. These people are merry: "We are safe," they said. Now, the hon. gentleman defines sincerity in this way:

Of course, if sincerity meant a direct and constant relation between intention and words and actions, very few men indeed would be called sincere, and still fewer political parties would be sincere. \* \* \* In my humble judgment sincerity is the direct relation between thought and word, between thought and action at the moment the word is uttered or the action is performed.

How delightfully that will suit all conditions and circumstances. The right hon. Prime Minister, for instance, announces to the people on the 22nd of June, 1896, that he is going to kill protection; on the 24th of June he announces to them that he will cut off a portion of the nail of its little toe. According to the hon. member for Labelle, the right hon. gentleman is sincere and consistent. There is a direct relation between thought and word and action in each case. On the 22nd there is a direct relation between thought and word and action, and on the 24th. It is all perfectly clear. The hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) introduced a motion into this House declaring that it is improper and wrong and immoral to make appointments from members of this House to judicial or other positions. There is a direct relation between thought and word and action. Then he sits at the Council chamber and draws up Orders in Council appointing a dozen members of this House to such positions. Perfectly consistent, perfectly sincere! There is a direct relation between thought and word and action in each case. What a light this throws upon the policy of the Liberal party. The hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) has the eternal gratitude of the country for making this statement. I have not heard anything approaching in frankness the statement of that hon. gentleman (Mr. Bourassa) during my short experience in political life, but I hope that hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House will emulate the frankness of the hon. member for Labelle, and will give us these statements from time to time in such moderate doses as we are able to stand.

But the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) must not press this doctrine too far. Suppose, for example, some one should give him a thousand dollars to hold in trust and pay the interest to some person, and he should engage to do so. There is a direct relation between thought and word and action. He says: I will undertake the trust, and I will pay the interest, and he takes the money. But suppose that after twenty-four hours he comes to the conclusion that he will spend the money himself for his own purpose. He does so. There, also is the direct relation between thought and word and action which my hon. friend's definition requires. However, the difficulty would be, if my hon. friend (Mr. Bourassa) undertook to apply this doctrine in practical life instead of in practical politics, that he might be visited with some unpleasant consequences at the hands of the courts of justice. Therefore, it is perfectly apparent that the doctrines upon which the Liberal party have proceeded are not doctrines which are in all respects capable of being applied to the every-day transactions of life. Now, with respect to this so-called merriment which the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) says exists in this country, I can tell him that in some portions of my own constituency at least, it does not seem to exist to any particularly marked degree.

Mr. DAVIN. It does not exist in the North-west Territories.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I have gone amongst some of the fishermen of my constituency, and they have been considering the question of tobacco, upon which this Government increased the duty. The fishermen found the tobacco cost them one or two cents additional for the fig or plug, as they call it, and they were very much dissatisfied with it, but the manufacturers decreased these figs or plugs to a smaller size, giving the fishermen a smaller fig for the same money as the larger one cost before the tariff was raised. Among the fishermen in the province of Nova Scotia these are known as "Fielding figs" or "Laurier plugs." I can tell my hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) that some of these fishermen are not quite as merry as the constituents in the province of Quebec, when they go in to buy these same figs and plugs.

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

### After Recess.

#### SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 3) respecting the Canada Accident Assurance Company.—(Mr. Monk.)

Bill (No. 4) to incorporate the Canada Plate Glass Assurance Company.—(Mr. Monk.)

Bill (No. 5) to incorporate the Alaska-Yukon Railway Company.—(Mr. Logan.)

Bill (No. 6) respecting La Banque du Peuple.—(Mr. Préfontaine.)

Bill (No. 7) to incorporate the Northern Telegraph Company.—(Mr. Bostock.)

Bill (No. 8) respecting the Atlantic and North-west Railway Company.—(Mr. MacPherson.)

Bill (No. 9) respecting the Calvin Company (Limited).—(Mr. Britton.)

Bill (No. 10) respecting the Nisbet Academy of Prince Albert.—(Mr. Davis.)

Bill (No. 11) to confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of Thomas Robertson.—(Mr. Robertson.)

Bill (No. 12) to confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of George L. Williams.—(Mr. McCarthy.)

Bill (No. 13) respecting the Home Life Association of Canada.—(Mr. Cowan.)

Bill (No. 14) respecting the Quebec Steamship Company.—(Mr. Malouin.)

Bill (No. 17) respecting the Ottawa and Gatineau Railway Company.—(Mr. Champagne.)

Bill (No. 18) respecting the Ottawa Electric Railway Company.—(Mr. Belcourt.)

#### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). Mr. Speaker, I was dealing with a statement made by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), that the people are merry. I do not know on what ground the hon. member would suggest that the people are in a more merry condition now than they were some years ago. The only thing that has occurred to me, on thinking over the matter, is, that the taxes which were formerly wrung from the pockets of the people of Canada are now made by the Government. The Minister of Public Works has explained that. He has said: "We have made a large amount of money last year, and we are going to spend more this year, because we are going to make more." This may be a matter of satisfaction to the hon. member for Labelle, and may have caused him and his constituents to indulge in this merry mood. The hon. gentleman described himself as a moderate protectionist, whatever that may be; and the right hon. Prime Minister immediately went over and bestowed on the hon. gentleman his congratulations. So, I suppose we may assume that the right hon. Prime Minister is also a moderate protectionist. Therefore, we, on this side of the House, are able to extend to the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) our most hearty congratulations, that he should sit at the feet of this new Gamaliel—that the slayer of protection should sit at the feet of this moderate protectionist. Now, I do not know whether or not all the hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House from the province of Quebec were elected as moderate protectionists. I

am inclined to think that, possibly, some of them may have been elected as free traders. and in that case I am reminded of a passage in an old French opera which a friend of mine used to recite, or, rather, sing, to me in former years, and which went somewhat in this way, if my friends from the province of Quebec will pardon my very faulty pronunciation :

Barras est roi, Lange est sa reine,  
Ce n'était pas la peine, ce n'est la peine,  
Ne pas la peine, assurément,  
De changer le gouvernement.

If a free translation, such as the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce sometimes gives us, were made of that passage, it might be rendered into English in this way :

The manufacturer is king—protection is queen ;  
It was hardly worth while to change the Govern-  
ment.

And some of these free traders from the province of Quebec may perhaps sing that strain, although my hon. friend from L'abbé thinks they are very merry. As has been said, hon. gentlemen on this side of the House may congratulate the Government, that they have not had the courage of their principles in Opposition. We are glad that they have adopted the policy of protection, and we intend to support them in it. So far as tariff reform is concerned, the tariff, if it has been reformed at all, has been reformed only in the way described by one hon. gentleman on this side of the House as the attachment of a very slight piece of fringe to the old garment. Now, in speaking of free translations, I am reminded of a free translation which the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce on one occasion gave. In referring to my own province, he was good enough to speak of it as "arida leonum nutrix—the dry nurse, aye, and the wet nurse of boodlers." I would like to ask the hon. gentleman, what he thinks of this Liberal Government as a dry nurse, or a wet nurse, of boodlers, in view of these scandals in the Yukon. I suppose, the nurse is probably wet enough to suit the hon. gentleman's taste, in view of the number of liquor permits which have been granted by his Government.

Now, I regret very much to have detained the House at such great length ; but I wish to deal with one other matter, which I neglected to deal with in the proper place, that is, the question of mail facilities in the Yukon district during the past year. The Postmaster General, who, I regret to see, is not in his place, made this statement in the House, referring to the Mounted Police. He said :

They have brought the mails out in about ten days from Dawson City, and I believe have made equally good despatch in, when the condition of the ice enabled them to do it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I would remind the hon. Postmaster General that the Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

"Globe" correspondent at Dawson City tells an exactly opposite story.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The "Globe" correspondent makes no such statement.

Let us see who is right, my hon. friend the Postmaster General or the hon. member for Pictou. If the Postmaster General would be good enough to consult the "Globe," of the 6th March, 1899, at page 9, he will find a letter, dated 21st January, 1899, from its correspondent at Dawson City, in which the following statement is made :—

The incoming mail service continues to be marked by its infrequency. With the exception of a small bag of letters, chiefly delayed summer mail, which arrived here on December 6th, and a bag of purely official letters, which came in on January 1st, no mail has reached Dawson City from the outside since September last.

I leave it to the House whether the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) or the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) was right as to the facts. This letter was dated 21st January, 1899, and the correspondent of the "Globe"—who I understand is also the private secretary of Mr. Ogilvie—states that, with the exceptions mentioned, no mail had come in since September last.

I would direct the attention of the hon. Postmaster General, if he were here, to a letter bearing date 31st December, 1898, from the "Globe" correspondent at Dawson, which appeared in that paper on the 26th February, 1899—56 days after it was published. This is the mail which goes out regularly every ten days. I would direct his further attention to a letter dated 30th December, 1898, which appeared in the "Globe" on the 1st February, 1899, 50 days after its date ; and if he will examine both those letters, he will find, by referring to the terms in which they were written, that they were mailed at the time each of them was dated. That is not all. If he will refer to the "Summerside Journal," published in the province of Prince Edward Island, of the 29th March, 1899, he will find there a letter dated 15th January, from Mr. Gordon W. Dawson, of Hunker Creek, in the Yukon, to his brother at Augustin Bay, P.E.I., in which Mr. Dawson says that he received on the 1st January, 1899, two letters from his brother in Prince Edward Island, dated respectively 31st May, 1898, and the 1st September, 1898. Now, what do hon. gentlemen think of the postal facilities in the Yukon and of the statement of the hon. Postmaster General that the mail has gone out regularly every two weeks. There was received in this city yesterday a letter from Dawson, signed by Arthur G. Smith, addressed to Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper. That letter came out in fairly good time—it was dated 7th March, and it got here yesterday—fairly good time compared with the others. The first sentence of that letter is this, and I draw the attention of the House to it :

I received yesterday—

That is on the 6th March—

—your letter of October 19th, inclosing a memo. from Mr. Moses Paterson.

That is the way in which the correspondence of business men, between Dawson and Vancouver, is conducted under the administration of the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock). Will the hon. gentleman venture after these instances, which are only a few out of many, to undertake to say that his administration of the Post Office Department and the postal condition in that country is anything else than a shame and a disgrace to Canada, particularly in view of the statement made in this House by the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), on the responsibility of his position as a Minister of the Crown, that it is merely a pleasure trip now to get in and out from Dawson City to Vancouver.

Mr. Speaker, I am reminded in this connection that this disgraceful condition of affairs, so far as postal facilities are concerned, exist under an administration which takes \$1,530,000 out of that Yukon district, with a surplus of about \$800,000 for the purposes of postal accommodation or any other service to which it might be usefully applied; and with this surplus of \$800,000, of which the hon. gentleman boasts, the Government ventures to leave the postal facilities in the Yukon country in that condition. I trust we may be able to hear from the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison) before the close of this debate with regard to his view as to the postal facilities, because I understand he was in the Yukon district for some time, and has had some personal experience—what it may be, I do not know—with regard to this matter.

I have just one further matter to refer to before concluding, and it is this. In common with a good many other gentlemen who have spoken in this debate, I have ventured to deplore the attitude which public men in Canada, Liberals in politics,—some of them in this House, some of them not—have taken during the by-elections. I regret that it has been openly put by public men in Canada to constituencies that the question of getting their right, their legitimate and just share of the public revenue of this country is to depend on whether they elect Government supporters or not. I cannot imagine anything more degrading to public life and politics in Canada than some things which have been said by Liberals in Canada during the last three years on that subject. I ventured to make an application some time ago of Liberal ideas, as set forth by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) to practical every-day life; and I would like to ask how the ideas of some public men in Canada on this subject would answer, if they were applied to practical every-day life. How would it do, for instance, if the directors of a corporation in this country should go out to the shareholders of that company and say to them: Vote for us as directors, because if

we are elected directors, we will not give dividends to those who voted against us. And how would it do, supposing they were elected directors, if they attempted to put that into operation? Would they not render themselves amenable to the public courts of the country? And would any hon. gentlemen on the other side, would the hon. gentleman who follows me—if any should follow me—point out to me how the Government of Canada is anything less the trustee of the money of Canada than the directors of a corporation are the trustees of the money of that corporation. How dare any hon. gentleman on the Treasury benches venture to tell any constituency of Canada that the due of that constituency, that its share of the public revenue and money of Canada is to depend on whether or not it elects a Government supporter to Parliament. They are not responsible to the criminal law or any other law, it may be true. They cannot be made responsible, under the constitution of the country, because they are the executive of the country. What effect should that have upon them? It should make them all the more scrupulous and careful. The fact that they are not under the restraining hand of the law should make them all the more scrupulous and careful, but instead we have had over and over again in this country, during the past two years, such expressions used by Ministers and their supporters as "cold justice" and "warm sympathy." If you elect a member of the Government you will get warm sympathy, but if you elect a member of the Opposition you will get cold justice; and every one knows, who is not a fool, what that particular expression means and what you are to read between the lines. And I say, Sir, that it is degrading to public life in Canada that any such promise, or any such intimidation—for it is used both as a promise and as an intimidation—should be held out to any constituency by any public man. I regret to say that it has been so held out. If we are to believe newspaper reports which have not been contradicted, it has been held out in Canada on more than one occasion within the past two years. Hon. gentlemen will remember that they have some duties with regard to this country and with regard to public life in this country other than those that are directly connected with administration. They will remember that thoughtful men, who have considered these subjects admit that while there is a great deal to hope, there is also something to fear, both in this country and other countries, for democracy and for representative institutions. Representative institutions in this country or any other country can have no solid basis whatever unless they rest upon a fair and honest public opinion; and every time you make a promise like that to a constituency in Canada or elsewhere, you are doing something to degrade public opinion. And, speaking for myself, I think that

any Government in Canada or in any of the provinces of Canada might very well consider this—that there is something in politics and in public life in Canada and England and in every colony of England which means more to the Government and to the country than holding power. It may be an honour to a Government to be deprived of power; it can be no honour to any Government to hold power by such means as these. And, so long, Sir, as I have any place in public life, I will uplift my voice against the bribery or intimidation of constituencies by such means as these; and I trust and believe that, in expressing the opinions which I have on this subject to-night, I am not unsupported by some hon. members on the other side of the House.

Mr. D. C. FRASER (Guysborough). Mr. Speaker, we have listened with great pleasure to the closing remarks of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden). I cordially agree with him, and so does every hon. member on this side of the House. But it is truly edifying, at this late day, to have a purist like this appear among the Opposition. He came too late to do the greatest honour to his party or himself; and I can tell him that if he perseveres very long in the enunciation of such principles, he will find himself not here; he will find that the genial spirits whom I shall speak of directly in regard to the same matter will make it hot for him, as being one with whom they cannot consort and from whom they cannot receive instructions, and will politely inform him that this side of the House is the proper place for him if he intends to remain in public life.

This debate has been continued for a long time. I find, for example, that the Government supporters have taken 277 columns of "Hansard," while the Opposition have taken 553 columns. That means one of two things—either that it took hon. gentlemen opposite longer to answer the speeches made on the Government side, on account of the matter contained in them, than it did those on the Government side to answer their opponents, or these hon. gentlemen on the other side have begun, like their great ancestors, to think that they shall be heard for their much speaking and hope to induce the country to believe that, after all, they have grievances. It is rather amusing to see how this printers' space is divided. For example, the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) began with sixty columns. He was followed by the ex-Finance Minister (Mr. Foster) with forty-two columns. And it went on with various changes until we came to the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), who, panting for glory and aspiring to leadership when the present leader of the Opposition is gone, thought he would make his record one better, and so filled sixty-one columns. And now this has been in-

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

creased by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) to 100 columns. The shortest speech made by any hon. member on the other side was that made by the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler), who, with the captivating air (to some unthinking people) of neutrality, fairness and non-partisanship, deplored the condition of the House and how some hon. gentlemen occupied the time of the House. But he ended with one of the slyest digs—as these Conservative Independents are apt to do—at the Premier, who, he would have us understand, is the worst sinner of all. And he looked rather as if he really mean it. Like the knight of the rueful countenance, he thought he could lecture others, and he lectured this House upon their duty, and ended, as I have said, by a reference to the Premier. It may be very well for us to understand here and now what the effect of the present change of this debate is. It started in an entirely different way, and not until the hon. member for Pictou spoke did the matter of the Yukon come up. Nobody could sit here last night and view hon. gentlemen opposite without pity. I never saw such a looking lot of objects in my life after the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) had battered, shattered, pounded and pulverized them. Macaulay, speaking of a similar incident among the Tories—and I can surely be pardoned for referring to this from the great historian—tells us: "The jaw of Peel fell, the face of Twisse was as the face of a damned soul, and Herries looked like Judas taking his necktie off for the last operation. Hon. gentlemen opposite felt that their case was gone, and the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), when he rose, showed himself in an entirely different character from his real nature. He was angry. He attempted, like a school-boy, to scold. He felt, good lawyer as he is, that he must throw up his brief. But he saw what he thought was an opportunity and moved the adjournment of the debate. In the watches of the night he was somewhat strengthened, because the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior), who seems to be the Yukon coach for hon. gentlemen opposite, discovered the Yukon "Nugget" men, and brought the hon. gentleman in contact with them. These are men who left their country after making charges which they did not press. Then, the hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. McLennan) thought that he would help also, which he did by giving the hon. gentleman a new letter. And we are able to judge how weak the case of the hon. member for Pictou was when we find that the only effective thing in the speech of the hon. member for Halifax were these two letters, one from the editors of the "Nugget" and one from the friend of the hon. member for Glengarry.

Now, what is the character of the charges generally, before I come to them specifically? All the charges of the hon. member

for Pictou, and supplemented by the hon. member for Halifax, are vague charges, with few names given, but without that definiteness that would make a charge at all; in other words, they are nameless, largely accusations against officials of dishonesty, or of a breach of the seventh commandment. That is the sum total. Some of the officials took money, and Major Walsh violated the seventh commandment. It may be well for the hon. members to study that commandment; I commend it to their careful consideration, from the leader of the Opposition down to the member for Assiniboia (Mr. Davin). Let us not forget, Mr. Speaker, this one fact, that, after all this scurrying to and fro of last summer, the charges have come down to two, which have been answered, and to which I will come directly. It may be, perhaps, a matter of some importance for us just to see how the Conservative party stands, and what their previous record since 1886 shows them to have done. After they were beaten at the elections, their conduct reminds me of the picture drawn by Milton, in his "Paradise Lost," of a certain being looking around and seeking where he might find opportunities of wreaking his vengeance. And so we discover that the hon. gentlemen opposite, being Trinitarians, no doubt, agreed upon a trinity of slander against persons, and upon a trinity of party warfare in order to defeat the Government. And who are the parties they singled out to be specially attacked? The hon. the Minister of Public Works is the first. Of course, they felt that anything they could say about the Minister of Public Works must be true, because he had got his training among themselves, and they felt that a bare statement was all that was necessary to make the world believe that he must be wrong; and I think myself, that if he had followed the training which he had received, he must be wrong. Is there a member in this House, or is there an elector in the Dominion of Canada, who does not see the whole trend of that attack? Is there a child in this country who does not understand their object in speaking of that hon. gentleman as the master of the Premier? They hope to strike at the Premier through him, and in that way they also hope to strike at the Premier's French friends in Quebec by attempting to show that this country is ruled by the French. Is there any other point in saying that the Minister of Public Works is the master of the Premier? Everybody knows that he is not, that he neither assumes it, nor is the Premier the kind of a man to have a master. We all understand that perfectly. But they think that, by attacking the Minister of Public Works in that way, they will at last get some people to think that matters are going wrong. Then, the second man they have singled out is the Minister of Railways and Canals. They have singled him out because he had been associated

with Conservatives: he had some Conservative members with him in the New Brunswick Government. From his association with Conservatives, they thought there must be something wrong about him, and ever since that hon. gentleman took office, there has been a continued fire of slander and vilification against him down to the present time. The third gentleman who is made their particular object of hatred is a well-known Liberal, the hon. the Minister of the Interior. Now, they knew very well that it would not do at first to attack a man who had received his training in the Conservative party, or a man who had associated with the Conservatives, and they directed their attack altogether against these two men. Now, they must attack a pure Liberal, and if ever the Conservative party in the west had cause to hate any man, they had cause to hate the Minister of the Interior, for he flogged them and beat them there as no man had ever done in the west before; hence their anger against him. But, after expending alternately their rage and anger upon these men, what do they do? They bring to bear their trinity of party warfare in an attempt to overthrow the Government. The first thing they did was to say: We will capture the provincial Liberal governments of the Dominion of Canada. The leader of the Opposition, with that ability for which he is known, said: I will be the first in the ranks, I will fight first, I will fix Nova Scotia; and he did fix it—for us. He went to the country, and three solitary Conservatives were returned. As a countryman of mine said, in talking about their defeat: "They have not got enough to form fours." And the ex-Minister of Finance thought he would take a hand, while the leader of the Opposition was taking a well-merited rest, enjoying the luxury, the almost heavenly luxury, of a trip to Italy, sailing in gondolas, walking over scenes made immortal by the pen of Byron, looking at the mountains, and enjoying the scenery of Italy, which, I am informed on reliable authority, is the finest country in Europe to visit. What said the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) while his leader was away? Go to now, the leader is away; we will build a party in New Brunswick. During the absence of my leader I will show him that success is not dependent upon him. I will take New Brunswick in hand, I will show that the Conservative party there in local matters can be triumphant, and I will crush Mr. Blair in his own province. And so, a convention was called at Moncton. There was a little murmuring, but I understand that the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Hale) promised to deliver over his county, and that the hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Ganong) insisted that they should have a party contest at once, because he was going to deliver over Charlotte to them. Other members also made the same promise.

I am informed that the hon. member for Kent, N.B., (Mr. McInerney) was ready to deliver over the goods. Well, they met at Moncton and gave out a short platform. The election was held, and the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) did not get on any better in that election than the leader of the Opposition did in Nova Scotia. I think it will be found that he had about the same ratio in opposition in New Brunswick as the leader of the Opposition had in Nova Scotia. They tried it in Ontario, and they failed. There was failure in all the provinces. Previous to that they had tried another scheme. They said: We know what it is to have scandals proved against us, and we were defeated on them. Let us try to raise scandals and not prove them, and perhaps we will affect the Liberal party. The first thing they did was to say, that there was the worst kind of robbery and jobbery about the transaction of the Minister of Railways and Canals to bring a railway into Montreal. They moved that sprightly and agile body beyond to open an inquiry into it. A committee was struck. The chairman was not there on the day that he was required, and I understand the committee never materialized. No meeting was afterwards called; the session closed and the great infamy of the Liberal party was not exposed. Promptly when the House met last session a committee was called for by the Liberals in this House, an investigation demanded, and what was the result? Our young and sprightly friends would not move in the matter at all, and from one end of this country to the other there is not an intelligent man but knows there was nothing in the charge made, and that it does not apply to the hon. Minister of Railways or to the Liberal Government for doing what ought to have been done long ago,—securing a direct connection, from Montreal to the sea, for the Intercolonial Railway and giving to the service of the Intercolonial Railway a reputation that it never had before. Failing in that, what did they do? They said: There must be something in that Yukon business; how can it be otherwise. This is a rich country. And they would reason out in this way: Do you think it possible for them to be honest and not to make something out of it? Did we not do it? There must be something wrong in the Yukon. We will strike at the Minister of the Interior and the Yukon combined. As the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) said, in one of those moments in which his honesty got the better of his discretion: We on this side of the House do not believe all that is said about the Yukon, but surely when so much is said, there must be some truth in it. Yes, fling dirt and some of it will stick. I am sorry the hon. member for Halifax is not in his place.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Yes, he is there.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

Mr. LANDERKIN. He is hanging down his head.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I want here and now to understand whether or not I understood the hon. gentleman that he meant to say that, after the Minister of the Interior knew of things being wrong in the Yukon, seven months were allowed to elapse without anything being done.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I do not know what the hon. gentleman understood me to say, but what I said was that the charges, or some of them were known to the Minister of the Interior, according to his own statement before the 15th of July, 1898, and that no power to investigate arrived at Dawson City until some time in February, 1899, as I understand.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Now, I understand that the hon. member for Halifax has the speech of the hon. Minister of the Interior before him, so that I will have to depend upon what I understood him to say. There were some vague charges in the newspapers but there was no statement made to the Minister, or to the Government, until August, last year. August 5th, 1898, is the time at which the miners' petition was dated.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I may tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fraser) that I have the speech before me and that I examined it with some care upon this point. He said, charges were made which induced him to hurry Mr. Ogilvie off to the Yukon.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Rumours; but there never was a charge made.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Complaints, he called them.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Complaints in newspapers, and then he took cognizance of them, but I want to say that the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) was not as fair as he usually is when he said that he took no action until after the lapse of seven months. Listen to the dates: On the 5th of August, 1898, the miners' petition is dated, and if the hon. gentleman is correct as to the time it requires to come from Dawson City here, he will see how long it took to reach Ottawa. The commission to Mr. Ogilvie was issued on the 7th of October following. Now, where are the seven months? Is the hon. Minister of the Interior to be held responsible for the time at which the hearing is made? The hon. member for Halifax is too good a lawyer to say that you must take the time a case is tried as opposed to the date of the issue of the writ. There are only two days more than one month, after the first statement was made and put in writing in the city of Dawson, until the commission was issued. Is it a fair, is it a legitimate kind of warfare to repeat that seven months elapsed, because

it must be remembered that anything said previous to August 5th in regard to the administration is to be found only in the newspapers.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Does the hon gentleman say that the commission was issued to Mr. Ogilvie in October?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). In October.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Then it was in Mr. Ogilvie's hand in October.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I did not say that, but I did say that it was issued in October. When a writ is issued you must take that date. It was sent out specially as the Minister of the Interior showed last night. It is not fair warfare, and I ask any intelligent gentleman in this House if, when the first protest of the miners was dated in Dawson City, August 5th, and the commission to investigate was issued on August 7th following, there was any loss of time? Where is all this talk about delay? Is the Minister of the Interior, after issuing a commission, to carry it into Dawson City; is he to be held responsible for the date it reaches there and the time at which the investigation is made in the progress of events, and will it be considered proper and honourable warfare to attempt to say that for seven months he said and did nothing? Surely if the facts are strong enough, it needs no attempt to bolster them up in that way. Could any Minister do more than the hon. Minister of the Interior has done? Is anybody to listen to all kinds of reports that are published in the newspapers? I venture to make the assertion that, if members on both sides of this House had to listen to, and be judged by, what is said in the newspapers of both sides, about themselves and about their party the jails would be full and the gibbets would be ringing with corpses. These newspaper statements are very easily made. Does the hon. member for Halifax think that it is the business of a government, not a Liberal Government, but of any government, to notice all that appears in the papers? I do not care how respectable a paper is. One week after the complaint was received the commission was issued. The hon. member for Halifax is a lawyer, and I venture to say that, excepting cases of arrest when a man is about to leave the country, that he never averages, in issuing his writs in a year, seven days taking one with another, after the client comes to him and gives him the facts about issuing his writ. The commission was sent, and yet most of the time of the hon. member for Halifax was taken up with that one strong point that he thought he had discovered, the weakness of which was exposed by the hon. Minister of the Interior. Listen to the reports in the papers! Listen to what is read here when men are ashamed to give their names! A government is to be blamed because it does not at once issue a royal commission when any understrapper, when

any penny-a-liner puts anything into the paper he likes against a member of the Government:

And shall we trust such critics?

No; as soon seek roses in December  
Frost in June.

Hope, constancy in wind or corn in chaff,  
Believe a Tory or an epitaph.

Or any other thing that's false

Before you trust the Tories out of office, sore.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) feels now, I know how laboured his effort was. I have heard him with much pleasure, when he had a case, present it so clearly to the judges as to receive their approbation and the approbation of all who heard it, but he will pardon me the personal reference when I say, that I never saw him appear to such poor advantage as to-day, when with the brief of all the members on his side of the House but relating to a question beyond his ken, he attempted to defend the Government.

An hon. MEMBER. The Opposition.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I am partly correct. He did not attempt to defend the Government, but he succeeded in doing so admirably. Balaam-like he was sent to curse, but he could not help blessing. Now, Sir, one must understand something about the Yukon country before he can rightly appreciate the difficulties in the way of the Government, and in that connection I need not attempt to add to what was said by the Minister of the Interior. That speech of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) will remain not only as his vindication and the vindication of the Government, but it will appear as well as the basis of the history of that country. To listen to hon. gentlemen opposite one would think that everything ought to go as smoothly in the Yukon as it does in Ottawa, or Halifax, or in Montreal. If the commission was issued a week after the complaint was made, and was sent by a special messenger to Mr. Ogilvie at Dawson—and the Government not only gave instructions direct in that commission, but, as I shall show in a moment, gave larger powers, as the Minister said, than ever a commissioner received before, for he was given powers not to deal with charges generally but specifically, and by telegram he was told to deal with officials in the Yukon—surely the hon. gentleman must admit that action was taken in fairly good time. Here was a country 4,000 miles from the base of operations, a country not only without a railway, but without a road and without a telegraph post, and having no means of communication except the primitive manner of carrying the mails on foot. Would the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) censure the Government because they had not, with divine prescience, seen everything beforehand? Is there a business man in Canada who after five or ten years conducting his affairs has not discovered that he made some mistakes, and is that business man to be censured for dishonesty because he had not the gift of seeing things beforehand. I see

my hon. friend from Northumberland (Mr. Cochrane) smile. He is in a smiling condition now, and well might he be after the events of the last week.

Mr. COCHRANE. That is the most sensible remark that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fraser has made to-night.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Do these hon. gentlemen opposite want to apply the same rules and regulations to the Yukon as they would to an old settled part of the country? What did the Government find when they began to deal with that territory? It was part of the North-west Territories, and they found the law of the territories applying to it, and it is rather extraordinary that hon. gentlemen opposite should find fault with the Government for following the existing law, which they themselves had placed on the Statute-book. What could the Government do but apply the existing law to the Yukon Territory? Was the Government, without knowledge, without experience, and without knowing the existing state of things to change the law which governed that country? What would have been said of the Government if they had changed that law without the knowledge which would have enabled them to pass a new law. If they had done that I think I can hear hon. gentlemen opposite blaming them for not following the law, and blaming them for changing the law without sending men in to inform them of the conditions of the country. Did not the Government do well to say: We will apply the law which we now have relating to that country, and we will learn by experience what changes shall be made. But the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) asks: Why did the Government not look at the law as it existed in Ontario and Nova Scotia; and he read the Dominion Lands Act to sustain his argument, but he forgot to state that there is not a word in that Act, so far as I remember, which relates to minerals. The hon. gentleman referred to the mining law of Nova Scotia, which was changed in 1893, but the hon. gentleman in all fairness should have stated, that that change was made on account of a certain act which occurred in the Halifax office, where an official took advantage of the law as it stood and attempted to take a claim from another man. I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) was engaged in that case. Although that law existed in Nova Scotia for a considerable length of time, it was never thought necessary to change it, and it was not changed until from experience they found that it could be violated. The legislature of Nova Scotia did not change that law long before, because it was not known that it could lead to such results, and so, when the violation of the law became apparent, the legislature of Nova Scotia took advantage of their knowledge and acquired experience, and made it a better law. Is the Government of Nova Scotia to be censured

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

because they did not change that law before they knew that it was open to such abuse, and is this Government to be blamed for not changing the law relating to the North-west Territories before they know what the facts were concerning its operation. Sir, this Government took the only proper and sensible course under the circumstances. Mr. Fawcett and Major Walsh were sent to the North-west Territories. Now, Sir, hon. gentlemen opposite are very fond at present of talking about any expenditure of money because they believe that it will gain them a little popularity in the country, and if this Government had sent a large force into the Yukon, entailing large expense, these hon. gentlemen opposite would doubtless clamour against the Government on that ground. Sir, the Government acted like prudent business men. If a man was going to lumber in that unknown country, would it be wise for him to send at the outset a hundred men with provisions for that number, when all he could employ was twenty men. Would he not be foolish to incur all the expenditure before he obtained knowledge as to what lumber was there and how many men he could use in cutting it. Acting upon their then knowledge the Government appointed the best men as they thought, and as were recommended to them. Let me state here, lest I should forget it, that the hon. member (Mr. Borden) has altogether lost the point of the reference of the Minister of the Interior to Mr. Rykert, for the hon. Minister was not trying to hold that up as an argument why any wrong-doing should be atoned now. Mr. Rykert's whole argument was this: "I have been caught; I was not as smart as the other members were who have escaped; but I want to say that there are many men there who are as guilty as I am; but they are not caught, and they are voting themselves money all the time." That was his defence, and it was a perfectly good defence; and he, being with the Conservative party, I have no doubt his evidence was good on that point—that he must have known whereof he affirmed. But the hon. member forgot to say that in 1896, when the great Liberal-Conservative party buckled on their armour to disperse the Liberal hosts, Mr. Rykert was chosen as the Conservative candidate in Lincoln to run for an election to this House, from which he had been expelled. This shows the close connection that existed between him and his party. If he spoke the truth before, the Conservatives should not have nominated him; but I take it that though he did speak the truth, they decided that after all he was not too bad a fellow for them.

Now, coming particularly to what the hon. gentleman has said, I may perhaps be pardoned if I go backwards. I deplore what he has said about promises; but I want to call his attention to the fact that his moral indignation was excited, and his righteous fury burst upon all and sundry

because of what he himself said, if newspapers are to be believed. Would it not have been wiser for the hon. gentleman to say, Mr. A. said so-and-so, and Mr. B., at such a place, said so-and-so? But no; the whole evidence must depend on what some newspaper said. I am bound to say of newspapers that no man in this country respects newspapers more than I do. In my political life, limited as my experience has been, they have done me more than justice. As a matter of fact, they are fair and they want to do the right thing. But there is no party in this world but has in it writers who are anxious, being just politicians of the first water, to make more of what was said than was said, and sometimes to give actual colour, and to represent as having been said what was not said at all. And to say that we are to listen to these, and to say that members of the Government or members on this side said so-and-so, is surely not an argument becoming a House of Parliament. I know that these things have been said; I have heard them said. I might refer to one thing that was said by the leader of the Opposition, who is not now in his place. He went to my county during the last election, and showed the advantageous position in which they would be if I were not returned. He showed that he would be across the island, and his son would be in the next county to me, and claimed that their wish should be his direction, and he ended just as he only could end, by saying to them, "Guysborough has been too long out in the cold." Could any words uttered by man be plainer? I am not going to say that that is a reason why a member of the Government or anybody else should say so now; but I do say that if that is their strong argument, the previous actions of their party ought at least to make hon. gentlemen opposite modest in rising in righteous indignation to attack others. In the county of Guysborough \$1,500 was voted for a public work when a strong case was made out, and the late Sir John Thompson saw that the fishermen needed the work so badly. This was all ever voted, while the county sent an opposition member. Go to Moncton, which you find represented by the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell), and you find there one of the finest buildings, built in a county that sent a man to oppose the Government. Ought the Government to have acted on the same principle as the previous Government? Not at all. It may be said that the building was necessary. I assume that it was, or it would not have been built.

**Mr. POWELL.** I may say that the contract for the erection of the station at Moncton was entered into before the late Government gave up their offices, and not only was the contract let, but the erection of the building was entered into before the present Government came into power.

**Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).** I am informed to the contrary, but I accept the hon. gentleman's statement. The hon. Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) can tell the hon. gentleman that there was no contract; but we need have no words about that. I have known cases where works were begun in a county, and because the county did not send a man to support the Government, the works were never carried out, and have not been yet. In the county I represent, in 1882, the dredge was working at a certain place, and the day after the election, because the county sent a Liberal to Parliament, the dredge was taken away, and it never came back. But I am not, as I said before, making these statements in order to justify similar conduct on the part of this Government; but I am making them to show that on this point at least, hon. gentlemen opposite cannot have very much to say. One of the largest grants ever given for public works in Nova Scotia was actually given to Cape Breton, which is represented by the hon. leader of the Opposition. Everybody knows that by all systems of warfare you ought to weaken the strongest man in the party opposite. The Government were not wise in doing that if they acted on the principle that the hon. gentleman speaks of, for they ought to make the leader of the Opposition as weak as possible, and show to the constituency that that man, though leader of the Opposition, could get nothing. It might be said that they wanted to placate him. I admit that might be said in the case of a weak Government; but with a Government who are dealing with a disorganized and a quickly vanishing party there would be very little sense in doing anything like that. It might also be said that it was done to gain the good-will of the hon. leader of the Opposition, and thus keep him in a place in which, I am informed on credible authority on the opposite side, he is not wanted as much as he once was. Whether that is the case or not, I leave it for hon. gentlemen to settle. But there was no reason except this, that the work was one that ought to be done, and the present Government declared that they would not do violence to the country by neglecting to have necessary public works done in constituencies simply because those constituencies were represented by men opposed to them. I therefore join with the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), and fully endorse his ethical views; but I suggest to him that when he is giving no names, in the meantime he should devote his missionary efforts to his own friends to cure them of their past and prepare them for a better future.

It is not my purpose, Mr. Speaker, to defend the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa). I, in common with all the members of this House, enjoyed that portion of the speech of the hon. member for Halifax as much as any one could. I will

leave that hon. member at a fitting time to sustain his thesis and defend it in this House. Nor am I going to speak about Halifax matters nor upon the question of Senate reform. That matter has been spoken to so well by others, and will be voted on so strongly in this House, that it needs not my humble voice to say aught for or against it.

The hon. gentleman, in attempting to break the force of an attack that ought not to have been made in this House, but which was made on Major Walsh by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), asked: What did hon. gentlemen opposite do, when the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) attacked a member of this House? Well, Mr. Speaker, if it was the truth, they did right. But there is this distinction to be drawn between the two cases. The hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) stood before the man he was attacking. That man, the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), was here in his place to defend himself. But Major Walsh is not in this House, and cannot say a word here in his defence; and a member of Parliament who takes advantage of his privilege to attack a man who has not a seat in this House, and cannot answer him here, ought to have a case so strong as to amount to a demonstration. Is the case of the hon. member for Pictou so strong as that? Let us see how Major Walsh is spoken of by one who, to say the least of it, cannot be accused of being in favour of the Government. I hold in my hand a letter from a man who is out there, and I only refer to this to show that the information of the hon. member for Pictou could not possibly be correct and sustained. This letter was written by Mr. Robert Barrow, of the city of Hamilton. I do not know the gentleman or anything about him, but he writes a very good letter, to which he signs his name, and I set this letter against the charges read in this House by a member of Parliament, and which were made by underlings and understrappers. Mr. Barrow says:

Regarding the recent utterances of Sir Hibbert Tupper on the late administration of Major Walsh in the Yukon district in 1898, it is the duty not only of a Christian but of an honest man to throw some truer light on such imputations. In August, 1897, I was appointed on the Yukon party then being sent to Dawson, reaching there October 11, 1897. According to the instructions of the department, I remained with the party till May, 1898, but then left, as I felt relieved of my duties by the personal and mutual animosity existing between myself and the commissioner.

It was, therefore, with very sore and anything but lenient feelings I observed the actions of the Government, and on that account was very much on the alert to seize on any faults. The three months remaining, which I spent in Dawson, included, with the time already in the Government's employ, most of Major Walsh's administration.

That is, the time he was employed out there with Major Walsh covered three months,

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

and embraces Major Walsh's term in the Yukon.

Yet in this time, spent in the most varied employments, which led him into contact with a very wide range of people, there never was an action of the commissioner's which could be regarded other than that of a perfect British gentleman, courteous, but certainly rather reserved. Such was my observation, encamped not 200 yards from him and in full sight. Such was the opinion of all I had occasion to speak to or listen to. This in spite of the natural bitterness arising from the maintenance of the royalty laws.

I am not here giving the testimony of some unknown man who is ashamed to give his name to the world, but that of a citizen of Hamilton, who signs his name and can be called as a witness.

It should be known in the interest of truth and impartiality, my politics are independent, and the information given is absolutely gratuitous, nor does the fear of enmity from any or all the Conservative party, nor the expectation of any reward from the Liberal party, influence the calling of this forth. Sufficient will it be if the cause of truth is maintained.

Then follows a not flattering remark concerning the hon. member for Pictou, which I will not read to you.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Read.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Perhaps, it is as well the letter should be read in its entirety and put on record in "Hansard."

At the same time we cannot but express our deep sorrow that such calumnious assertions have been made by Sir Hibbert Tupper, for however false and shallow such slurs are, and worthy, as has been said, of the fights of old tomcats, a stink always remains, as the skunk's, for while many are able to grasp the rubbish floating on the surface, few care to search deeper to find the real pearls.

With much curiosity, then, not only as being a phenomenon, but as being the means of gaining valuable yet hitherto completely unknown knowledge, we wait the presentation of those mysterious yet respectable persons, who have misled so far or tempted to such rashness the hon. member for Pictou.

ROBERT BARROW.

All I have to say is, that this letter, coming from this man, who, I am informed by the hon. member for Hamilton, enjoys a most respectable character in the city of Hamilton, is much stronger than any evidence the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has produced in support of his assertions. The hon. member for Pictou spoke of Major Walsh in the most contemptuous terms. He suggested that Major Walsh kept courtesans and violated every rule of decency, and that he went so far as to use his influence with a judge appointed by hon. gentlemen opposite, to obtain from that judge a decision in favour of a woman of the pavé. I submit, that the hon. member for Pictou himself violated all the rules of decency that ought to govern members speaking in this House, when he made assertions of that kind. It was neither dignified

on the part of the man who made them, nor respectful to this House, that had to listen to them. We may fight our political battles, we may differ from each other in politics, we may use strong expressions as to other men's conduct, but the man who so far forgets himself as to bring on the floor of this House such charges against a man who is not here to reply, evinces thereby a sense of the weakness of his own case that in itself is sufficient to brand his assertions as slanders of the vilest character. That Major Walsh may have made mistakes, that Mr. Fawcett may have made mistakes, that Mr. Ogilvie may have made mistakes, or that any other man out there may have made mistakes, I do not deny, for I have no evidence to the contrary; but until evidence to the contrary is produced, I, for one, am not going to accept statements or charges against any man until his case is tried. Just fancy the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) rising before a judge and saying: I have read in the "Morning Chronicle," or "Herald," that there are some places open in this city at night that should not be open, or that a citizen of most respectable reputation was found under circumstances that seriously prejudice his moral standing before the community, or that a witness, whose name I will not give, has told me that a most flagrant violation of the criminal law was committed the day before yesterday, or that half a dozen people are stated to have violated the criminal law, not only in its ordinary sense, but in some of its most stringent provisions, and, therefore, I call Your Honour's attention to these facts as evidence that the city officials are not doing their duty, that there is something wrong in the moral tone of the community, or else these men would have been arrested. And I fancy the judge quietly saying: Sir, the courts are open, have him indicted, expose these people. Am I to be expected to listen to the like of this? Why, my dear Sir, I have sometimes to throw down the paper lest I have to read these scandals. You are not going to take up the time of the court and make me feel bad for this. Here is a man sent specially into the Yukon, whose character has been as highly spoken of by hon. gentlemen opposite as it has been from this side, to hear these cases about officials. I want to call the special attention of the House to the telegram to which the hon. Minister of the Interior referred, but of which he did not make as much as he might have done. Not only was the commission issued and given to Mr. Ogilvie, but, lest there should be any mistake, lest any official might plead any right he had, a telegram which went far beyond the commission, was sent to him. The commission was specific. A complaint had been made and the commission was appointed to deal with certain things. It gives Mr. Ogilvie certain power and indicated the scope of his authority. And, for the ground it covered, it was

a complete authority. But the Minister of the Interior, about the time the commission reached Mr. Ogilvie, sent him the following telegram. I am informed that this was sent early in August:

You have an absolutely free hand in regard to officials. Do what is necessary to put the service on an effective footing.

Now, an honest man gets that, and he goes out to Dawson City and respectable men come to him with complaints of stealing on the part of officials. He has his authority to deal with such cases—not merely to hear the cases, but to deal with the officials in the interest of the department. Does any one believe that Mr. Ogilvie would not dismiss a man against whom anything had been proven? Let hon. gentlemen opposite take whichever horn of the dilemma they please. If Mr. Ogilvie is honest, the cases can be dealt with satisfactorily, because he has the power. If he is not honest, he has got dishonest since he went out there. Now, I ask in all fairness, what can be said against a Government that gives that full authority to a man to deal with officials wherever there is anything wrong? Is the Minister of the Interior to be spoken of as one who, for seven months did nothing, when we find that in a very few hours he issued this commission and followed it by the telegram to which I have referred. Is there any man in Canada who would believe that there is anything wrong so far as Mr. Ogilvie is concerned? Now, I do not remember exactly when Mr. Ogilvie reached Dawson City. I think, perhaps, he must have reached there some time about the end of September or the 1st of October. Now, when he got there I assume that he went about his work. Mr. Fawcett had been doing some business out there. The Minister of the Interior does not often split hairs as he attempted to do in regard to Judge Maguire. Here is what the Minister of the Interior said:

All the person aggrieved had to do was to enter a protest, and if it was a simple case, Mr. Fawcett tried it himself; if it was a complicated case, he would call in Judge Maguire. Judge Maguire took the evidence and heard the case, heard the lawyers on both sides, certified his opinion to Mr. Fawcett, and Mr. Fawcett decided in accordance with the opinion of the Gold Commissioner.

Let us see what was done in this special case. I have to leave the hon. member for Halifax to decide the question of law between himself and Judge Maguire, who I must assume, was a competent man, seeing that he was sent to the North-west Territories by a Conservative Government. Mr. Maguire gave a judgment in the particular case in question. If he was only called in as you would call in an accountant to say what amount was due, would he give a judgment? It may be said that Mr. Justice Maguire did not understand his duties, but he went into the case like a judge.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fraser) permit me. I understand that he was called in, as an assessor always is, in order that the judge might have the benefit of his opinion. Very often that opinion is in writing. Take, for instance, the case of a nautical assessor called in by a judge in admiralty. His opinion is an advisory opinion and may be followed by the judge or may not. All I said was that Judge Maguire did not try the case, but sat as assessor and gave an opinion.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). But he was there and heard evidence. The great cry of the hon. gentlemen against Mr. Ogilvie was that he was not a lawyer. But he had the advantage of having Judge Maguire to assist him. Is it likely that he would act contrary to the decision of the judge who was called in? Is it not mere playing with words to attempt to show that because he was called in as assessor, the man who was to give the decision was without the benefit of legal knowledge. Is not this the most natural way of doing things in a new country, and is it not proof of the wisdom of the Minister of the Interior in appointing a man there who knew all about the country, because he knew he could get assistance in the interpretation of the law and could get from the judge what would be equivalent to a judgment on the case?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). On the contrary I venture to submit to my hon. friend that what he has just stated is not the law. It has been decided by the Court of Appeal in England that the opinion of an assessor cannot be looked at by the Court of Appeal, because it does not form any part of the judgment.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I am not attempting to argue this as the hon. gentleman and I would argue it in Nova Scotia. But I say it is playing with words to say that it was not the judgment of Judge Maguire. That judgment did not go to England. Judge Maguire was the judge who heard the evidence and gave the judgment. It surely is not reasonable to say that this man was sitting as an assessor, and therefore his decision is no good. It was so good that Mr. Ogilvie took it, and three lawyers, all of very good reputation, decided that it was right as approved by Mr. Ogilvie. Now, if I understood the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) aright, when he arose, after the disturbing influence of the speech of the Minister of the Interior, and wanted to say something was wrong, because a witness in that particular case said so—if I am wrong the hon. gentleman will correct me.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The witness whom I quoted was not in that case, I think. It was in the case tried before Commissioner Senkler.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Well, all the same I want to be corrected if I am

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

wrong, because, as I said, no man can remember even in that case. If I understand the argument of the hon. gentleman, it was this: A man said so and so there, and the case is not yet decided; the case is subjudice, yet to be heard. A witness swears to a certain thing for one party, and the hon. member thinks he has an argument, and that before the case is heard, and before the testimony of that man could be disproved.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). If the hon. gentleman will permit me—I know he does not want to misstate the matter to the House. The evidence of the witness which I read was evidence of the party who said it, and was given against his own interest, and, therefore, as I submit, to the House is entitled to be relied upon.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Not necessarily. Of course, prima facie, if a man gives evidence against himself, it is good evidence, there is no question about that. But there are two things against the hon. gentleman. First, he has only a newspaper report of it, and he is going to found an argument on a newspaper report of evidence which might have been disproved by respectable witnesses before the trial was over. Let us introduce a bill at once that any evidence given by any man that suits any particular person interested in it, shall be taken as true, notwithstanding the judgment of the judge and jury to the contrary. You cannot build up a case like that, it is unfair to the Government, or to any other person. You cannot claim that any evidence of that kind is entitled to consideration. The hon. gentleman also has something to say about their being no junior Conservative Association in Ottawa, and that the senior Conservative Association did not send any man. Now let us see how that stands. I am ready to believe that there is no junior Conservative Association in Ottawa. There is no junior Conservative Association anywhere now, because they have found that it is not just the best place to be. But the hon. gentleman's evidence amounts to this: A man on oath said he was sent up by a certain association in Ottawa. Now, the hon. gentleman leaves no room for making a mistake as to the name of those that sent him. In his view it is a complete answer to hold that because a newspaper report says that this man swore that he was sent up by a certain association, when, as he says, he is informed there is no such association as was named; therefore, he is a liar. He said it under oath, mind you, he said it against his own interest, he was to get from one paper \$225, that he never got, and shielded himself by saying that he was sent up by the junior Conservative Association of the city of Ottawa. Now, does the hon. gentleman think it is an answer to what that man has said, to say that there is no junior association in the city of Ottawa? He never sifted evidence like that before; he never had to, because he never produced

evidence like that himself, and he would say that no other man could get such evidence into court, consequently he had to apply different rules altogether. Now I am bound to assume that this man was sent up by somebody, or else he is a perjurer. He is out there now, and there is a judge to try him for perjury. It may be difficult to get evidence, but I am showing how unsubstantial is the evidence that is attempted to be brought. Nor let it be forgotten that so far all the evidence is unimpeached. The hon. member says, and there may be something in the statement, that we should send a judge, the best judge up there. I do not think it ought to be a matter of great difficulty for Mr. Ogilvie, with his experience, if three witnesses come in and stated that they paid Mr. Burton \$20 to get in at a side door, and if the other man does not say a word against it, it would not be difficult for Mr. Ogilvie to conclude that he is guilty. I do not think it requires a judge of a national reputation to decide a case, if the evidence is there to prove that a man gave an official money to obtain his rights. Where are the nice distinctions of evidence? Where is the question of pleading? It is simply this: I. A. B. say that B. C., an official of the Government, took money from me, and I will prove it by other witnesses. Does the hon. gentleman seriously say that a Canadian Lord Herschell should be sent out to hear cases of that kind? Does he say that the people of Canada will expect nothing else in consequence of the unsworn and unsubstantiated statements that are made by nameless traducers? I know the country does not think that. I know, as he well knows, that in cases of investigations, for example, the loss of a vessel, a judge is never called in to hear evidence of what happened. A number of men who understand a vessel are called in. Most of us, whether we are lawyers or merchants, have intelligence enough to know how much evidence it requires to show that a man stole money. We do not need all the paraphernalia of a court. You would think that at Dawson they have a court-house and all the splendid equipage laid out ready to receive a judge, and that there were men there skilled in evidence, who can by heart repeat every section of Taylor on Evidence. No such a thing. It is a mining camp where men just tell what they know very quickly. You do not need to go around the bush at all to get the evidence of a miner. If he had to pay money he will say so, and there is an end of it. Mr. Ogilvie is there ready to receive that evidence, if it is forthcoming. Is there any man in Canada who will say knowing the reputation of Mr. Ogilvie, a man who went into that country and worked for the Government honestly, who never took up a foot of land, and who came out just as he went in, with nothing more but his salary—will any one say that he is not a good man to inquire into and give a decision

in matters of this kind? No, Mr. Speaker. the charge was begotten of a desire to raise a case not in the interests of the country. I remember when we in our places in Parliament made a statement that such and such a thing was true, and the evidence was heard and the case was proved, we were called traducers of our country, we were called unpatriotic. But hon. gentlemen opposite, take the unsubstantiated newspaper reports of men who have an interest in making accusations, and take them as true, and from one end of Canada to the other attempt to spread the report that there is corruption in the Yukon. Is that patriotism? Would not a man want at least to have the proof given? I was amused at the question of that telegram that came up and the righteous indignation of the member for Halifax that the name of the partner of the member for Pictou should be mentioned. Now, I want to say that I think this is the hugest joke that was ever got off by the Opposition. All that they attempt to fasten upon the Minister of the Interior is in relation to what, as a matter of fact, took place in the North-west Territories, that is where the license was given. But they heard there was something wrong, a lawyer got some money, they said. I heard it when I was out there. I heard that this partner got the permit to sell liquor. When I was out in the west a member of Parliament came to me and said: "Do you know what the Conservatives are saying now?" "I do not," I said, "I do not care very much either." "They are making the charge that you are out here to get your share in a liquor license, and that you are in with a man of another name altogether in that country."

Mr. PRIOR. I understood that it was a chief justiceship that the hon. gentleman was there for.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I did not need to go for that. Of course, you heard it from the same source, and it was not true. So little does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) know about the question that he does not know that there was no vacancy in the office at all, and that the chief justiceship had been filled a year before I was out there. He got some information from an ignorant man who did not know that there was no vacancy in the chief justiceship, and he did not take the trouble to make himself acquainted with the facts. I commend to the people of British Columbia an hon. gentleman who knows so little in reference to his own country. This is a joke on the hon. member. The attempt to fasten this charge upon the Minister of the Interior, I heard in the North-west Territories. The whole transaction came from the North-west Territories. Hon. gentlemen in this House know it, but they are not manly enough to stand up and say that they made a mistake. If the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) will say that the hon. member for Pictou

(Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is correct and that he can prove the statements he has made, and I venture to say without having had any communication with the hon. Minister of the Interior, that he will apply for a committee and give him an opportunity of proving them. If the hon. gentleman is wrong in this matter, he should be manly enough to say so, and to admit that there is nothing against the Minister of the Interior. I do not say this because the member for Victoria is bringing this charge—I am talking generally.

Mr. PRIOR. As you usually do.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I am not speaking specially about the hon. member for Victoria or giving any information about him, and therefore I talk generally, otherwise I would have nothing to say. Hon. gentlemen see that they are wrong in their statements about the Minister of the Interior, and they should say so. It must not be forgotten that there was nothing wrong in the Minister of the Interior getting that telegram. The hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) used the word "telegram," but the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) interjected the word "letter"—he wanted to fix up the evidence. The statement of the hon. member for Pictou was that a man was paid \$500 by somebody out there for getting, from the Minister of the Interior, a permit to take whisky into the Yukon country.

Mr. PRIOR. I think the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) did not make the statement that a permit was got from the Minister of the Interior direct, but that after it was got from the North-west a telegram was sent to the Minister of the Interior to allow it to go through.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). We must go to the record. I am not dealing with the explanation of the hon. gentleman. I am only mentioning the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) supplementing the statement of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) with the word "letter."

Mr. PRIOR. The hon. member for Pictou mentioned the word "letter."

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). The gravamen of the charge is that \$500 was paid by a lawyer in Victoria, and that that was for getting, not a permit issued by the North-west Territories, or coming to Ottawa and asking the Minister of the Interior to allow the liquor to go through, but that the Minister of the Interior directly gave the permit and that \$500 was paid to a man in Victoria for getting it. The hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) attempted to take refuge by saying that it is monstrous that the name of the partner of the hon. member for Pictou should be mentioned. I do not know that there is anything divine about humanity like that. It was not monstrous that the hon. Minister of the Interior should

be charged by the hon. member for Pictou that a lawyer, a friend of his in Victoria, had got \$500 for getting a permit to sell liquor. Nothing wrong in that; no name mentioned; nothing wrong in that at all! This is Conservative warfare. But it is wrong when the Minister of the Interior searches diligently through the records to find if such a telegram came and finds only a telegram from the partner of the hon. member for Pictou—it is monstrous that he should mention that in this House. Did ever any person witness such a humiliating spectacle as that! The hon. Minister of the Interior must be left under the charge of the hon. member for Pictou upon a simple denial of the fact. When the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) mentioned a letter he showed that the evidence was weak, and he foresaw that while it might be said that the hon. member for Pictou had said that a telegram was sent he did not use the word "letter." It is nothing that these hon. gentlemen should have besmirched a member of the Government by charging him with doing something wrong, but it is monstrous to say that the partner of the hon. member for Pictou sent a telegram.

Mr. PRIOR. He is a good Grit.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Certainly he is a good Grit; at least he was before he associated with bad companions in Victoria, but I am afraid that the truth of the proverb has been verified, that evil communications corrupt good manners. Where was there anything wrong in that? Was that anything that any hon. gentleman should not have done in his own defence, and was it criminal for the partner of the hon. member for Pictou to send that telegram? Is there anything in that telegram asking for a liquor license? Must it be covered with a moral pall for fear that somebody will come forward and ask for it? Is that the reason that the hon. member for Halifax says it is monstrous to mention his name? The fact of the business is this: The hon. member for Halifax sees the weakness of the position in which the hon. gentlemen are placed. The hon. member for Pictou should not have communicated a fact he got from his partner about sending a telegram, to this House. If there is anything wrong in it, it is babbling abroad the fact. The hon. member for Pictou disclosed it here, and the hon. Minister of the Interior is not to be blamed for saying, "Your partner sent me a telegram." Where did the statement come from? The hon. member for Pictou made the statement. In this matter, the Opposition were in such haste to try to get something against the integrity of the Government that they failed to take the necessary precautions to see that their evidence was well sustained. And it would have kept them from the humiliation in which they stand before this country if they had got the hon. member for Halifax to investigate this charge, because

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

if they had, there would have been none of this nonsense before this House. Some one says that the hon. Minister of the Interior gave a permit to his partner. The next man says the same. A lie has no legs and off it goes. The member for Victoria (Mr. Prior) says it is very bad; these are terrible things; such things were not in vogue on so small a scale in my day. The hon. member for Halifax took up the time of the House over a question of a \$228 payment in Manitoba, and he waxed warm over the fact that that \$228 had been paid out in some way or other. The hon. leader of the Opposition called out "hear, hear," looked around and asked: "Where did that \$228 go, if I had not something to do with it?"

Two hundred and forty-eight dollars; just think of it! Two hundred and forty-eight dollars is the measure of the stealing of the friends of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), even according to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden). I tell the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), that if that man came here, and carried it away, and refused to give it, he could not enter the first form of a Conservative kindergarten of politicians and hold his place. As every hon. member of the House knows, and as every hon. member on the other side of the House showed last night, no case has been made out against the Government, and the supplementary evidence obtained by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden), last night and this morning, has not added any strength to the contention of gentlemen opposite. And what does that supplementary evidence mean? It simply means, that two foreigners, who have gone into the Yukon, have made a statement to the hon. member, that such and such is wrong. If I remember aright—and, as I have not the paper here, and do not wish to do an injustice, I state I speak from memory—in last Monday's "Citizen" one of these gentlemen gave specific charges, which he said they presented before Mr. Ogilvie. What will be thought of men who make a complaint before Mr. Ogilvie in Dawson City, and come four thousand miles to Ottawa, at the instance of the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior), to have an interview with the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) to try to make out a case. If I were to draw inferences from slander's shadowy reasons, I would say they were sent for, in the first place, by opponents of the Government, and, in the second place, that they could not prove their case in Dawson. I will not say the first, for I know nothing about it; but I will say, that it was a godsend for the hon. member for Halifax that he got even this much information to enable him to attempt an answer to the Minister of the Interior. It was a fortuitous circumstance that brought them here, whoever brought them here, for it gave him (Mr. Borden) the only plea he could advance to-day. I know, Sir, that in a mining country you can get

more dissatisfaction and more men who want to almost raise an insurrection against the existing law than you can in any other community. The hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) told us, that the statement of these men was, that the miners are opposed to the soldiers. Of course, they are. They are opposed to any authority.

Mr. PRIOR. No, sir.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Canadians are not; but what do you expect from 90 per cent of a foreign population? Now, Sir, let me for a few moments follow up what the Minister of the Interior said last night. Sir, the spectacle never was presented in any new gold fields in the world, of forty or fifty thousand men going into a country, without railroads, without telegraph communication, over a trail, and only a single murder was committed in the whole district since the present Government took charge of the administration there. The world has never seen anything like that, and to the soldiers belongs at least some of the credit. I did not go into Dawson, but I saw their work, and I saw the Mounted Police, and a better set of men never were in the employ of any government, or men who were more highly spoken of. I met an American, who told me, that it was a pleasure to cross the supposed American boundary line into Canada, because on British soil he found protection and justice. In view of all that the Government has done in that country, will it be contended that they should be blamed because some other things were not done, and done, mind you, within a year? Such a contention is absurd. These hon. gentlemen opposite want the work of years to be performed in a moment. Speaking reverently, I believe they would complain because the creation occupied six days, and contend that it should have taken less time. In a new country government is gradually evolved. The opinions of the people differ. I venture to say, that not a dozen men who went into that country held similar opinions, and I believe also, that the controlling motives in the hearts of the foreigners was to get all the gold they could any way and every way, and to attain that object, if British rule could be set aside, it might be set aside. The Mounted Police, and the soldiers, and the judge that was in that country, taught them such salutary lessons as the old Chief Justice Begbie taught the same class of men in British Columbia. They were taught that, wherever they set their foot, whether in the beautiful province of British Columbia, near the coast fortifications, where the guns could be brought into play, or whether on the Yukon, 700 miles from the coast, wherever they set foot on British territory, British law and British order reigned supreme, and, Sir, to this Government is due that fact. I do not admit it, but, for the sake of argument, I will admit that some officials have committed acts they ought not

to commit, and that is the whole burden of the charges made. I ask men of reason, if, without specific charges and without any method of proving them, the head of the department should be blamed for every act, however suppositious, that may be committed by an official. Sir, the universal testimony I found at Skagway, and from Skagway down to British Columbia—and I met hundreds of miners—and the universal verdict was: Mr. Fawcett is an honest man; Mr. Ogilvie is an honest man. When the Government provided two such men in the best interests of the country, I ask you, where does the blame lie?

Mr. PRIOR. How long has Ogilvie been there?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Mr. Fawcett went there in 1897; Mr. Ogilvie is there now.

Mr. PRIOR. Oh, yes.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). These are the two men I said were honest.

Mr. PRIOR. Mr. Ogilvie had not the power until lately.

Mr. LANDERKIN. No, nor you have not the power you had then.

Mr. PRIOR. We will get the power in good time.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I tell the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior), that these gentlemen had the power of the law. These gentlemen opposite have not cast even a semblance of suspicion on the honesty of Mr. Ogilvie or Mr. Fawcett. Mr. Ogilvie knows more about the Yukon than any man in Canada. He is honest; he has got the fundamental principle of a judge in his honesty; he has got a qualification above all others that fits him for the position. But, Sir, even in the face of such facts, gentlemen opposite have called men and women into play and quote their statements of various kinds, and on these general and unsubstantiated statements they have attempted to show that the Yukon is badly and immorally governed. I am reminded by an hon. friend, that no charge has been made against the honesty of Major Walsh: not a word has been said against his honesty. Now, Mr. Speaker, that being the state of things, I ask any man if the position of the Government is not impregnable. We must understand that we ought to deal here, not in supposition, but in fact; and if hon. gentlemen opposite think they are conserving the best interests of their party and the country by continuing after so little has been discovered, we can only say to them if that is your method of enlightening the country, and the country is with you, we are quite satisfied and you may continue at it as long as you like, but every day you are losing ground. I say the people of this country are not going day after day to listen to

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

long speeches on this question when no definite charge is made or is attempted to be made. The people of this country are very long-suffering to listen to the speeches that have been made, and they will be long-suffering in listening to mine, although it will not be very long. But they live after the flood, not before. In the days of "Hilpa and Shallum these speeches might be light reading;" but in these days, when things move so quickly, they are nothing but a drug in the intellectual market. When hon. gentlemen come to specify charges, let us have them; but to spread over all these days what hon. gentlemen have said, I conceive does them no benefit whatever. They are the judges, not I. I am sure that when the hon. member for Halifax gives his own opinion, or says that the evidence is the evidence of So-and-so, it will be regarded with the greatest possible respect in the province from which he comes. But I want no better reading to justify the Government than his own speech as the best that was made in an attempt to show that the Government were not acting as they should. Before I leave this branch, I want again specifically to say that when the Government got the first charge, dated the 5th of August, at Dawson, and on the 7th of the following month issued their commission, they acted with the greatest possible haste, and did all that any reasonable man could ask any Government to do. And now the matter is in the hands of Mr. Ogilvie; we shall have his report; and I submit to hon. gentlemen opposite that at least they might lay the foundation of some intelligent discussion by waiting until that report is forthcoming.

In closing, I want to refer to one or two other matters that have occupied our attention during this discussion. I remember when the tariff was brought down. It seems that the whole discussion in the House and the country is that the Liberals have not kept their promises.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Hon. members opposite say "hear, hear." Well, I want to emphasize what the Minister of the Interior said about the way the tariff of the present Government was received when it was brought down. Are hon. gentlemen opposite more intelligent now than they were then? At that time there was a universal chorus that the tariff was going to kill the industries of Canada. Did hon. gentlemen raise that cry with a political purpose or in ignorance? They can take either horn of the dilemma. We were told, for example, that certain industries in the county of Pictou would be closed up; and the mournful tale was told that the iron works in New Glasgow would be closed up. I tell you that the first year of the working of the new tariff, so far as the works in New Glasgow are concerned, was the banner year of their history. In that year they manufactured more goods than in any year before, and this year

will be better than the last. One case of that kind is better than a hundred fancies. We laid down our platform, and our platform is our platform still, whatever individual members of the House may say. What did we say in that platform in reference to the tariff? We said that the tariff should be based, not upon a protective principle. We said that the tariff should be changed. We did change the tariff.

Mr. PRIOR. How much?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Enough to show the people of Canada two things—first of all, that we had kept our promise; and second, that we had opened the avenues of trade as they had never been opened before. The hon. member for Annapolis (Mr. Mills) is saying something. Why, Sir, there never was such a year in his county as there is this year. They are actually going to start a hog factory of some kind down in his county to put up pork. We said we would improve farm property; did we do it? There is not a man in Canada but will say we did it. We said we would increase the commerce of the country; did we do it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Yes.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Last year surpassed all previous years in Canada's history.

Mr. PRIOR. You did not do it.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). We increased the immigration, so that the Toronto "Mail" had to say that the exodus was a thing of the past. We said we would do it, and we did it. We said we would not discriminate against Great Britain, but would do the very opposite. We did it. There are four things we did. If hon. gentlemen are still not satisfied and unbelieving, we said we would turn them out, and the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior) knows that we kept our promise.

Mr. PRIOR. The first time in 18 years.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I admit that no Government can make full prosperity in any country. We said so when in Opposition, and we say so now. We said all a Government could do was to lower the tariff, in the interests of the many, and open up the avenues of commerce, so that there would be the fullest possible commerce between this country and the old world, and we did it. We did not say that we were going to give full crops. Hon. gentlemen opposite said they had done so; and when the Colorado beetle came here they said it was Mackenzie's fault, and when it went away, they said they had sent it away. Suppose we had been defeated in 1896, in the state of things that existed under Conservative rule, and they were returned, I think I can hear them saying: "You know how the country was everywhere depressed; a general feeling of insecurity existed; the crops failed; we were in a wretched position, and, gentlemen,

what happened? As soon as the country learned by our victory that the incubus of the Liberal party was removed, it sprang into activity; the sunlight glinted on every blade, the rain fell in refreshing showers, and the kindly mother earth opened her bosom and gave us the best crops we ever had." They said it before, and I see no reason to believe that they have changed their methods. Were they honest when they said they did it? I have listened in this House to speeches by the hour, in which it was shown the crops were better than ever, that there was more money in the savings banks and all that sort of thing.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. They said the National Policy made the hens lay bigger eggs.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Well I do know that a Conservative, who was filled with the idea of selling eggs in England, did make the suggestion that he could start a lucrative trade in that business. He said he would take hens over with him in the steamer and he would have a spring nest, so that when the hen laid an egg, the egg just touched a spring and went down to the bottom where the hen could not see it, and when the hen saw no egg, it would think it had laid none and would keep on laying. While I lay down the proposition that no Government can make good times in the country, never in the history of Canada or of any other colony, has there been such an advance in trade and commerce as there has been in this country in the last two years. Hon. gentlemen opposite said that things would go to the bad, that our workmen would be thrown out of employment, and that we would become impoverished. But I was delighted to hear my genial and kindly friend, the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) tell us that the last two years were banner years in business in his province. That is the National Policy for you revised. Now, while the Government cannot give us good times, we said we would move in that direction, and let me read to you what our leader said at our convention before our platform was adopted. He said:

I say the policy should be the policy of free trade such as they have in England.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). That "hear, hear," came just a little too soon. The hon. gentleman never read the speech.

But I am sorry to say that the circumstances of the country cannot admit that policy at present in its entirety.

Say "hear, hear" now.

But I propose to you from this day henceforth it shall be the goal to which we aspire.

Now, we have made a change in the tariff. Have hon. gentlemen opposite read the history of the mother country? Do they know anything about the free trade movement in England? It took more than twenty years

before the protective system was done away with in England and they obtained free trade as it is there now. If hon. gentlemen opposite were students of their own country's history, they would see that the British Parliament acted exactly as we are doing. We are moving in that direction, and each successive revision of the tariff is in that direction.

Mr. PRIOR. Does the hon. gentleman mean that this Government is going to take twenty years to have free trade?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I shall be perfectly happy if in twenty years we have free trade as they have it in England. If we move in this new country as fast as they did in the old country I shall be perfectly satisfied, and I trust that my vigour shall be sustained until that day. When that time comes—and hon. gentlemen opposite think the state of things will be something awful if it will come in twenty years—there is no man opposite me who will not be ashamed that his grandchildren should read his name as that of one who spoke of protection as the principles which should govern any country. We are moving in the direction of free trade, perhaps not as quickly as I would like. I may be too radical, but so long as our progress is forward and in the direction of the goal spoken of by my leader, I am going to follow him.

Mr. MILLS. Are you going to take a step forward this year or simply to mark time?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Mark time—no man but a Conservative out of office has the leisure now to mark time, he is so busy in this country. In that direction I say they moved in England until the goal of free trade was reached, and in that direction we are moving here. The hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) told our manufacturers that they must see to it that their houses are put in order. I know there are men who may think that some of us are too radical and want to move forward too quickly, but believing, as I do, that free trade principles, when applied, are productive of prosperity and believing that the changes made in the tariff of Canada during the last couple of years are in the best interests of Canada, I am prepared to move forward in that direction and in that direction only. I would walk backwards or crab-like if I did anything else. If the Liberal party only moved forward at a snail's pace rather than going back to the miserable retrograde policy of hon. gentlemen opposite, the end ultimately would be reached. So long as we are going forward, I shall do all I can to help on that advance. We are advancing materially, and is it not better that we should go on in that direction than in the other? But I want to make the statement emphatically that our pledges have been fulfilled to a certain extent, according to the time at our disposal; and if I should

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

find that the tariff was destined to remain even as it is now, that we have reached a point where we could sit down and say this is a perfect tariff for Canada and in the best interests of the workingmen, I should despair of my country, and leave it to others who would undertake that task to settle with themselves, their consciences and their countrymen, as to whether or not anything we have yet done is a full measure of what this country demands. Let there be no misunderstanding about it. Under the impetus of that movement forward, trade has expanded at an extraordinary rate. The efforts of the Government to give facilities for cold storage, the opening up of the route to Montreal whereby last year's traffic was the largest we have yet had on the Intercolonial, and this year's promises to be larger still, the fact that our canals are deepened, thus enlarging our water ways by which the products of our country can be taken to the ocean more profitably than they can be through the United States—all these are steps forward for which any man, acting in the best interests of his country should feel grateful. On account of all these things, I am with the Government as far as they have gone, and I am with them in the desire to go further as they will, and thus we will progress on the same lines as those on which the mother country has reached such an advance in her commercial career, until such time as we reach the same goal. What have hon. gentlemen opposite to say to the remarkable change in the trade of this country that we have witnessed since this Government took office?

Why, Mr. Speaker, the Conservative party in June, 1896, were in such a condition that, if it could live and hold power, one might well despair of this country. They had control of the ship of state—to put it in their own words, for they are always fond of talking about the ship of state. Now, I was born by the sea, I have gone to sleep with the music of its waves, and I know something about shipping. Here is the Conservative ship of state. Six months before they had the old captain, Sir Mackenzie Bowell aboard. The ship was sailing gallantly and the Conservatives everywhere were talking joyfully of the great ship of state. But one day the jolly boat was lowered and seven of the crew got into it. Down they went, down the side of the ship, and away to shore, and as they went they put out their tongues and shook their fingers at the captain, shouting "Imbecile! Imbecile!" And the old man, walking the deck shouted, "Traitors! Traitors!" And away goes the jolly boat towards shore. Down the shore is seen a man coming, and the old captain knows him and shouts, "Weldon, are you an A. B. seaman?" "Yes," "Come aboard." "Skinner, are you a good seaman?" "Yes." "Come aboard." "Billy Smith, of Ontario—

Some hon. MEMBERS. "Blair."

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). No, Blair was not asked. They knew too much for that. I do not know—my recollection is not quite perfect—but I think the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior) was one of the jolly boat crew that went ashore. He knows more about that than I do. The old captain was walking up and down with gray, dishevelled locks. And when the hon. member for Victoria and the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster), heard that A 1 seamen were ready to go on board, what did they do? They slunk into the jolly boat and rowed back to the old ship of state. And the "old man" took them up. But he did not give them any breakfast that day. He lessened their drinks, and did two or three things to bring them to their senses, and declared, "I would not take you aboard but that the interest of my employer demands that I should go on without trouble." And to this day, I understand, the old captain has not spoken to some of the traitors. Shortly afterwards the old captain is got ashore, I do not know how—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Marooned.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). That is a good word—he was marooned, and the present leader came on board. There was rejoicing and hope rose high. The captain was going to get good booty, prizes were going to be equally divided, and the crew were to have abundance of provisions and spoil. And now she is moving, moving. And on that fatal day in June, 1896, she is coming on steadily. About five o'clock what do we find? The lead is thrown, and the cry is heard—sixty fathoms of water. Again it is thrown—forty fathoms. A man who knows anything at all about the sea knows that when you come down in a short time from sixty fathoms to forty fathoms there is danger. The captain will not have it, but declares: There is 150 or 200 fathoms under this good ship of state; we are all right. They are still sailing on until about seven o'clock in the evening, and are nearing, nearing the shore. But all seems well, and the hon. member for Victoria, who is a good singer, is singing:

Sailing, sailing, over the bounding main,  
For many a stormy gale shall blow ere the  
Grits get in again!

But suddenly the cry is "We've struck!"  
"We're on the rocks!" "We're lost!" The  
voice lowers and the dying sounds were:

Sailing, sailing, she'll never stand the strain,  
And many a year will pass ere we are ever in  
office again.

And there is the great Conservative ship of state. She is worm-eaten, barnacled, water-logged; the sails are all patched, and they have been attempting to sail with the jib aft.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I think I hear the hon. member for Annapolis (Mr.

Mills) speak again. And he is the first man to laugh at what he says—I suppose, nobody else would. Now, what is the effect of this wreck. Every doctor here knows, if there should be one in this Chamber, will say, that I am correct in stating that a fearful shock of that kind produces what is called general paresis, the results of which are very striking—loss of faculties affecting the body and jumbling the speech with the thoughts; extravagant ideas of wealth and influence—they think they are still in power. People afflicted with this disease occasioned by shock, are often seen in the asylum. They think they are kings and queens and have millions of dollars—a fearful disease. They are troubled with physical weakness—some members actually get tired after they have spoken six hours. The most peculiar thing is that it produces a chattering without the sufferer being able to put forth any effort so far as the intellect is concerned. That accounts for much that we have heard in this House. Now, the Liberal party took office. They found three deficits and they met them. They found a country being depopulated. The "Mail and Empire" is authority for the statement that the exodus is a question of the past and that people by the thousand are coming into this country. Much has been said about some of the men coming to settle amongst us. We hear some criticisms about the Galicians and the Doukhobors. All I know is that men who come here to escape the tyranny of Russia and who on their landing present the spectacle witnessed by the people of Halifax must be good citizens. What did the people of Halifax see? A down-trodden race of fine physique and splendid character, who, as they came into the harbour of the city of Halifax, and when they saw the land, although it was not as inviting from an agricultural point of view as the great western prairies, fell upon their knees and thanked their Creator that they were in sight of a land of liberty. Give me men of that stamp and I will trust this country's destiny, for they are men who understand the relation of things. They are coming in large numbers, and next year, it is said, we shall have many coming from the United States. The Liberal party found trade languishing, and trade has gone up by leaps and bounds. To-day the banks tell us there never was anything to compare with the amount of money they handle, and the savings banks tell us the same thing. Trade is everywhere bouyant, and the people are hopeful. The hon. member for Halifax twitted the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) because that hon. gentleman said that when the people were merry the country was easily governed. It is perfectly true. The unfortunate position in which hon. gentlemen opposite found themselves was that, owing to their own interference with trade, trade in 1896 was not as prosperous as the people desired. The

men of this country understand themselves. When the farmer who tills the soil, the man who works in the mine, the man who labours in the forest—when these find employment the country is happy. We have learned a great lesson. There are some who think that tall chimneys are the glory of the country.

Give me the farmers having good crops. I care not for anything else, because, when they have good crops and are well paid for them, you need not look much further after them. This country is in that condition. The Liberal party not only did that, but they found the country almost in a state of religious war, so that actually some of the best men in the Conservative party had to leave it, notably—pardon me for making the reference—the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace). We found this country in a state that any man who loved it ought to regret. The Liberal party said: We will settle that question, and we did settle it. I want to say here now what I said to my constituents, that there is not a heart in Canada who should not be grateful to Almighty God that that question was nipped, as it was, at its inception. I do not say that because my Catholic friends were on the other side. I would say it, and fight in the same way, if the Presbyterian Church or any other church tried to do the same thing. This Canada is broad enough for all classes and all creeds. All I have to say is, that, when the electorate of Canada, at the last election, settled that question, put it in the power of the Government to settle it, as settle it they did, they conferred upon Canada a lasting favour, and every man that voted for this party against influences so strong, has earned for himself the gratitude of the people of Canada. We now can move on without any more fear of ever having this question thrust upon us.

Then, what more happened? The Premier went to Great Britain, and that visit did more to make Canada known and respected, did more to bring her resources to the attention of the people of Great Britain, did more to commend this country to them as a place for the investment of their wealth, than all the acts and the words of the Conservative party ever effected since its existence. We presented this spectacle, that from the throes of an election in which an attempt had been made to raise the cries of race and creed, we gave an object lesson to Great Britain, we showed that we could send home a Frenchman and a Catholic as our Premier to tell them that we had no narrow views upon those questions in this country. We told them more than that: we told them, that so beneficent were the laws that she had given to this country, and so well administered, that our French brethren were as law-abiding and as loyal towards Great Britain as those of her own blood, as those who had descended from that island, the only island that is named among

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

the nations of the world as being the island of islands. More than that, we presented the spectacle of having a French Premier—I won't call him a French Premier; hon. gentlemen opposite may use the phrase; I call him a Canadian Premier of French extraction—going over to Paris, and what did he say in Paris? He made a speech in Paris that was remarkable. He did not speak in Paris differently from what he spoke in England; he did not speak in Paris differently from what he spoke in Canada. He told the people of Paris, in as pure and perfect Parisian as they ever heard, that the French people had not the genius to form colonies and to govern them like Great Britain. A French paper said: Mr. Laurier is correct; we have to bear it. We have not learned, as Great Britain has learned, to plant our colonies and to conduct them successfully, as she has done. So that, whether at Paris or in London, he stood up as a man who commanded universal attention. Not only was Canada better known in Great Britain through his influence, but the attention of the people of that country was drawn to Canada as never before, and they began to study it as a field for immigration and a field for the investment of capital. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that these two things give the Liberal party in Canada a title to the gratitude of its people. This party has settled racial and creed cries for ever, and we showed that, as a self-governing country, we could send home, as our representative, a man who was the pride of both races. On those lines, and those alone, must we proceed in this country, if we are going to succeed.

But hon. gentlemen opposite say that we spoke against expenditure when we were in opposition. We did. This is the position we took: You spend too much money, because much of it is wasted and defrauded from the country. But we never contended that we should not spend money that we could afford to spend in Canada, if it was spent honestly. That is the position we took. We say now that we have a country of boundless wealth, and a population that cannot be surpassed, and we must see to it that our money is not spent in the interest of political partisans, or to fill the coffers of the political boss, but in the interest of all Canada, in a way that will accrue to the country as a whole. We believe that every avenue of trade open to us in any part of the world should be utilized to the greatest possible advantage of this country, because when we have peaceable caravans of commerce going through the country, or covering the oceans with the sails of our ships, we have that which makes a nation. We have opened up trade with Great Britain, we have given her a preference that is bringing articles from Great Britain, and that will increase such importations to a still greater extent. We have shown a disposition to recognize Great Britain as our

friend. Hon. gentlemen opposite were always talking of their loyalty and of their attachment. What did we do? Recognizing that Great Britain had done so much for us, recognizing that a boy born in Canada 200 miles from the centre of civilization, if he happened to be in Africa, or Turkey, or Russia, or in any other country in the world, English guns, the English navy, English soldiers and English money were at his back as much as if he were born in Great Britain. So we said to them: We will give you a preference. You have done much for us, we will show our gratitude by making that preference in your favour, believing that it will bring good results to both countries. We did not talk in empty platitudes about our attachment to the Empire, but we showed by well defined actions what we meant, and what a response came from the mother land! Never in the history of an English colony was there such a universal chorus from the heart of Great Britain in appreciation of what we had done. These are a few of the things that we have done, and these are in the line of other things that we shall do. We shall not, I trust, be deterred by the empty speculations of hon. gentlemen opposite, and the assaults that are made upon the Government by raising cases against the departments where no ground for them exists. We shall answer them as they were answered yesterday in a manner that has never been surpassed in this House. When the Liberal party came to power we found the country depopulated, an exodus ever increasing; we found men in power who had no conception of British principles or of British fair-play, and we gave in return efficient and honest Government. Every day brings further evidence of the gratitude of the people of this country, not in French Quebec, as it is called, but in all British Ontario and elsewhere. These hon. gentlemen opposite are so little heeded; their efforts are so little recognized that an intelligent populace listens to them with laughter, mingled with scorn, and whenever the occasion returns, as it will again return, the people in the interest of an ever-advancing prosperity of this country and good Government, will unite to sustain the present Administration.

Mr. PRIOR moved the adjournment of the debate.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I do not wish to press my hon. friend (Mr. Prior), if he desires to move the adjournment of the debate, but as the hour is early I am sure the House will be glad to listen to him. I would like to say this to the hon. gentleman: He is a reasonably old member of Parliament; the debate has been prolonged now for a great many days and it seems to me that as one of the leading gentlemen on the other side of the House, he ought to be able to give us some indication as to when hon. members propose to bring it to a close. If

he cannot do it now I think he ought to be prepared to give us some assurance on that subject to-morrow. I will ask the hon. member to say that he will find out something about the matter and inform us of the intention of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition on that subject to-morrow. I have no desire to press him at this moment to go on.

Mr. PRIOR. I am unable to tell the hon. gentleman whether this side of the House will then have got in all their work, but I will see the hon. leader of the Opposition to-morrow and ascertain what information he can give me.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright) moved the adjournment of the House.

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

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 6th April, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 33) respecting the Nipissing and James Bay Railway Company.—(Mr. Bertram.)

Bill (No. 34) respecting the Pontiac Pacific Junction Railway Company.—(Mr. Hughes.)

Bill (No. 35) to incorporate the Edmonton and Slave Lake Railway Company.—(Mr. Hughes.)

Bill (No. 36) to amend the Criminal Act, 1892.—(Mr. Britton.)

Bill (No. 37) to amend the Naturalization Act.—(Mr. McInnes.)

Bill (No. 38) respecting the attachment of salaries of public officers and employees of the Government.—(Mr. Richardson.)

### THE READING ROOM.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to draw the attention of the Government, and especially of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) to the unsatisfactory condition of the reading room with regard to light and ventilation. The reading room is a place where a number of members go to look over the papers, but frequently it is almost impossible to read the print on account of the imperfect lighting, and besides the atmosphere of the room is anything but agreeable

owing to defective ventilation. I am sure it is quite sufficient to draw the attention of the Minister of Public Works to this matter in order to have the present condition of the room remedied.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am sorry the hon. Minister of Public Works cannot be in his seat to-day owing to indisposition, but I shall inform him of the remarks of my hon. friend.

#### THE CLOSING OF THE DEBATE.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am sorry that the hon. leader of the Opposition is not in his seat, but perhaps the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) is in a position to give some information as to when we may expect the close of this debate.

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) I must ask my right hon. friend to renew his question before we rise at six o'clock, when the leader of the Opposition will be in his place and can give him the information.

#### TROUBLE AT SKAGWAY.

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) to a clipping which is going the round of the newspapers, indicating that serious trouble has arisen near Skagway between the Canadian police and the United States Customs authorities over the refusal of the Canadian police to allow liquor, attended by United States officers as convoys, to pass the summit, and that in retaliation the United States Customs authorities have refused to pass any liquors in bond through from Skagway. Has the hon. Minister any authoritative statement to make with reference to that?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). I have heard nothing so far, but I shall make inquiries.

#### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell (East Prince), for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria). On my way up to the House just now, I was overtaken by a friend who asked me whether it was true that I was going to speak this afternoon. I informed him that I was afraid I should have to inflict myself on a suffering House, and he said: Well, I hope you will rise to the Imperial standard. What is the Imperial standard, I asked. He replied: Speak for ten minutes, and say something. I should be very glad, indeed, Mr. Speaker, if

Mr. SPROULE.

I could rise to that standard, but there are so many questions of vital importance to the country, on which I am certain everybody in Canada wishes to hear something from hon. members, and also because I owe it as a duty to my constituents and myself to give my views on certain matters under debate, that I am afraid I shall have to take more than ten minutes, but I assure hon. gentlemen that I shall be as brief as I possibly can.

My hon. friend from Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) last night answered the hon. member from Halifax (Mr. Borden)—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Tried to.

Mr. PRIOR. I accept most willingly the correction. The hon. gentleman spoke after the hon. member for Halifax and tried to answer a speech that I think has been very seldom equalled within the walls of this House. It was a masterly effort, I consider, from whatever standpoint you take it. The hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), as we all know, is a gentleman who always makes an amusing speech. He is always good-tempered and people like to listen to him, and he is never more amusing than when he is most vehement and denunciatory. But it seemed to me last night that the hon. gentleman, knowing he had such a weak case, out-Heroded Herod and put more vehemence than ever into his muscular contortions, evidently considering that loud denunciations of the Opposition would satisfy the country just as well as would the making out of a good case for his own side. In the first place, he said, and in this he was very emphatic, that the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) had hammered and smashed and pulverized and flattened out the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). Well, Sir, the hon. gentleman evidently, judging by the way he waved his muscular and manly form about, considered he was doing the same thing to the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden); but I shall leave it to this House—to this side anyway—whether I am not right when I say that if those two speeches from the hon. member for Pictou and the hon. member for Halifax are not flattened out more than we have heard already, we have nothing to fear from the verdict of the electorate of Canada.

Sir, this debate began as a debate on the Speech from the Throne, but it seems to me that latterly we have heard very little about anything but the Yukon. I intend saying a few words on that subject, but before doing so, I wish to deal with some others. I am free to declare that it is a great undertaking for a man like myself—only a humble business man, with no legal training—to follow in the wake of four legal lights. That Yukon matter has been discussed pro and con by four able lawyers; and my experience in life has taught me that to tackle one lawyer is a pretty serious matter, but to take part in a scrap with four is considerably more dangerous.

Before I commence on the subject of trade, I would like to mention a little matter referred to by the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser). I am sorry to say, that during his speech I got a little tired, and I was dozing a little—and so were some hon. gentlemen on his own side of the House. But suddenly I was awakened by my hon. friend on my right, who nudged me and said that something he was saying was intended for me. Well, I woke up and heard the hon. gentleman giving us a most dramatic account of a shipwreck. At first, I thought I must be in a theatre, hearing about the *Superba*, where the shipwrecked mariner was telling of the frightful hardships and disasters he had undergone. But when I collected my senses, I found the hon. gentleman was trying to explain to the House about a shipwreck of the ship of state that had occurred, and he said that the hon. member for Victoria had jumped into the jolly boat and made for the shore along with the rest. Well, if the hon. gentleman meant my humble self, as the member for Victoria who jumped into the jolly boat, I can only say that at that time the captain of the vessel had never asked me to come under his command, or had only just asked me to do so, but I had not gone on board. I was simply passing my examination to show my qualifications for the position, and I am glad to say that I passed the examination successfully. Now, Sir, I bring this matter up to show that I am not the only man who forgets. I stated that, when he was in Victoria, he was on the lookout for the chief justiceship, and the hon. gentleman said that I was a year out. Well, if I was a year out, that does not make much difference in the fact. He was looking after it and expecting it, anyway.

Mr. FOSTER. Looking after it still.

Mr. PRIOR. Now, I want to say a word or two in regard to the speeches that have been made by some hon. gentlemen on this occasion. I am afraid that, after following such able debaters as the hon. the leader of the Opposition, the ex-Finance Minister, and other gentlemen of equal talent in this House, I cannot say anything new. But I could see with my eyes that the speeches that have been made by members on this side of the House have hit the Government side very hard indeed. Sir, we had a proof of it from the right hon. leader of the Government, we had an exhibition from him that, I think, was unparalleled during the time that I have been in the House. He has always been noted for being suave, polite and sunny, but I must say, that I think the leader of the Opposition hit him in the raw and this you could see by the faces of hon. gentlemen opposite. Although some of their papers are very prone to say that the leader of the Opposition is getting old, and senile, and in his dotage, yet we find that he has still the vigour, and

the strength, and the ability to find out the weak spot in the armour of the Government. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman who moved the reply to the Address from the Throne, deserves my congratulations for the marked ability he has shown, and, as the leader of the Opposition remarked, I think he is an acquisition to the House. Still, I think that he made some mistakes in his speech. I noticed, for one thing, that he took credit, and the credit is also taken in the Speech, for the total stoppage of the exodus from this country. Well, Sir, it is a very hard thing for anybody, for even a Minister of the Crown, to be able to say whether the exodus has been stopped or not. We can only go by what we hear from the different districts, and especially from the amount of settlers' effects that are passed through the customs by people who declare that they are going out of the country. Now, I find that last year \$870,000 worth of settlers' effects went out of the country, a sum very little less than it has been for years and years past. Now I take up the Montreal "Daily Star," and find in it an extract from a paper in Bangor, Maine. This paper stated, the other day :

This is the season for the annual migration of Canadians to the United States, and dozens of them pass through Bangor on every train from the east. Within the last few days the second class travel has been exceedingly heavy, but on Tuesday all records were broken, when 120 men, women and children, from all parts of the lower provinces, arrived here in two cars. Their stay was short on account of the lateness of the train, and they were in Bangor only for the brief time occupied in switching cars from one train to another.

Now that shows that the exodus from the lower provinces, at all events, has not been stopped, and it seems to me most extraordinary that the hon. Minister of the Interior, who must have known this, should have seen fit to place it in the mouth of His Excellency the Governor General in the Speech from the Throne. Hon. gentlemen opposite have laid great stress upon the fact that at the present time Canada is prospering, that there is great prosperity in Canada from one side of the continent to the other. There is no doubt about that; I do not think that any hon. gentleman on this side of the House will deny that. There is prosperity, I am glad to say, the whole world over—in Great Britain under free trade, in the United States under protection, and in Canada under protection. I think, also, that any gentleman who is unbiassed, of course like myself, will see at once that it is through no action of the present Government, but from causes altogether outside of any governmental policy, that we now enjoy prosperity in Canada. Those hon. gentlemen were fortunate enough to get into power just at the time when Canada and the whole world were on the eve of a period of prosperity. We have had years and years of depression, not owing to

any fault of any Government, but owing to national causes; and how they can take credit for the prosperity of this country, except in so far as they maintained the policy of the former Government, I cannot understand. Sir, the present Government undoubtedly gained thousands and thousands of votes over the whole of this Dominion by the promises they made to an unsuspecting electorate, that if they were successful in reaching power, they would give the country free trade, they would economize, they would reduce the national debt, the artisan would have to put his hands into his pockets for money very much less frequently than he had done in years past. They preached this doctrine from every hustings, and from every platform; but, at the same time, they took very good care to go around to the back door and tell the manufacturers that they had nothing to fear, that, although they were going to get into power on a free trade cry, on a promise to cut off every bit of protection, still, they were going to look after their friends, as they called them, the manufacturers. Well, Sir, if those hon. gentlemen had been men enough to stick to their promises and to keep their pledges, do you believe for one moment that we should see what we see now? Should we see the hon. member for Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost), the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood), all gentlemen having large manufacturing interests in this country, who are undoubtedly satisfied with things as they are at the present time—do you think that we would see these gentlemen now supporting this Government, if hon. gentlemen opposite had kept their pledges? Why, Sir, we know perfectly well that their policy would have been the ruination of the manufacturers. Let us see for a moment what these pledges were. Last night, when I asked the hon. member for Guysborough whether they still intended to take up free trade and have it in twenty years, he said they did, and that they would do very well indeed if they got it in twenty years. My hon. friend from Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost) and my hon. friend from Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) will have made a pretty good fortune before twenty years are up, and so they have nothing to fear; but I think the electors of Canada will look upon it in a different way. The right hon. Prime Minister, speaking at the Liberal Convention, said:

I submit to you that the ideal fiscal system is the British system of free trade. \* \* \* I submit to you, therefore, that the system of protection which is maintained by the Government, that is to say of levying tribute upon the people, not for the legitimate expenses of the Government, but for a private and privileged class, should be condemned without qualification. Let it be well understood that from this moment we have a distinct issue with the party in power. Their ideal is protection, our ideal is free trade.

Well, Sir, this is their ideal of free trade  
Mr. PRIOR.

which they may get to in twenty years. The resolution moved at the convention has been read before but I think it cannot be impressed too strongly upon the minds of the people of Canada and I will read it again:

We denounce the principle of protection as radically unsound, and unjust to the masses of the people, and we declare our conviction that any tariff changes based on that principle must fail to afford any substantial relief from the burdens under which the country labours.

This issue we unhesitatingly accept, and upon it we await with the fullest confidence the verdict of the electors of Canada.

Well, Sir, the electors took them at their word; they put them there and I hope they are satisfied, but I very much doubt it. At Newmarket, in 1893, the right hon. Prime Minister said:

I will not be satisfied until the last vestige of protection has been removed from the soil of Canada. Our great reform is to put away from the soil of Canada the last vestige of protection.

Mr. COCHRANE. Who said that?

Mr. PRIOR. The right hon. leader of the Government at the present time.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). That is something new to me.

Mr. PRIOR. The hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) says that the tariff has been a great success. I do not doubt it, but I do take issue with him when he says: "We have changed it." Why, Sir, the hon. Minister of the Interior said, at Perth, that the tariff was a question that was settled and was now a dead issue because the Liberals had succeeded in solving this great question, and that the tariff was one that their opponents, if they got a chance, would not change. Why, Sir, why should they change it? It is their own tariff.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). You should be satisfied with it, then.

Mr. PRIOR. The Minister of Finance, speaking on the 5th of April, is reported in "Hansard" to have said:

We wish to guard against frequent changes in the tariff, against tariff tinkering; but let us be careful how we convey the impression to the public, because we do not mean it that we regard the tariff as final. Let it not be supposed that the tariff is settled for ten years, or even for five years. So long as there are high duties there must be demand for tariff changes. Nothing is settled until it is settled in accordance with right, and so long as there are high duties we may expect agitation for reduction. I am afraid there is no rest for the protected manufacturer. I am inclined to think, Sir, that he will find eternal vigilance to be the price of his protection.

Here we have a case where one Minister says the tariff is settled and another Minister says the manufacturers will never have any rest because the tariff will be changed. Who is right? How do they reconcile these two statements? I may say

that I am afraid the hon. Minister of the Interior will get the worst of that. If the hon. gentleman was right in saying that they settled the tariff, let us look for one moment at the alterations that they have made. I am willing to take the figures that have been quoted in this House by my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) and my hon. friend the ex-Controller of Customs (Mr. Wallace) in this House, because, I know that they never quote figures here that they are not perfectly sure of. They stated in this House that the alterations in the duties, that the present Government had made, did not amount to more than one-half of one per cent on the total. This is a magnificent change to make in the tariff by hon. gentlemen who have stumped the country up and down, denouncing the men in power, at that time, as robbers and scoundrels, great and small. We find that the duty on imports for home consumption in 1896 was 30·07 per cent, while in 1898, after these hon. gentlemen had been in power for two years, it was 29·43 per cent, or 64-100 of one per cent less. On dutiable and free goods, because of course they will say, look at the amount of free goods coming in, in 1896 the duty was 18·28 per cent and in 1898 16·95 per cent, which shows but a gain of 1·33-100 of one per cent. I am not going into figures very much, but I would like to say that that shows a very small percentage of alteration to make all this fuss about. Not only have they not lowered the duties very much, in fact they have lowered them very little, but one instance that was brought to the attention of the House by the hon. ex-Controller of Customs (Mr. Wallace) was cotton goods. If there is an article that hon. gentleman got excited about when they were in Opposition and in regard to which they denounced the Government for assisting the extortion that the cotton manufacturers were putting upon the poor people of this country, it was the article of cotton. What do we find? We find that since these hon. gentlemen got into power they have not lowered the duty on cotton, but that they have increased it from 30 to 35 per cent. There is no doubt about that, and I am afraid that that must be a little by-play of my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) who seems to have great influence in these quarters. Some mention has been made about a tollgate and I am inclined to think that there is a tollgate in Canada as my hon. friend here says. We, of course, are not satisfied on this side of the House, but, are the people satisfied? Some hon. gentlemen say "yes." I read the other day an article in a paper, and I must say that it struck me like the voice of one crying from the wilderness.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). In the wilderness?

Mr. PRIOR. Yes, it was in the wilderness; it was the voice of the hon. member for Lisgar, (Mr. Richardson). I do not mean to say that Manitoba is a wilderness, but hon. gentlemen, on that side of the House, when they hear one Minister saying one thing and one another in regard to the tariff, must be lost in the wilderness—in the political wilderness. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Richardson), writes in a most dramatic style, a style, I know that will appeal to the people of the great North-west, and I will read a little of it. He unbosoms himself to the right hon. leader of the Government in the following terms:

You probably know, Sir Wilfrid, that the agriculturists of Canada, and particularly of Manitoba and the North-west were not fully satisfied with the measure of tariff reform granted them in your 1897 revision of the tariff.

You doubtless know that they were justified in expecting great things in this direction from the speeches which you and your lieutenants made throughout the country on the subject during the time you were in opposition. \* \* \* But, all the same, public expectation has not been satisfied.

He goes on to say:

Remember, Sir Wilfrid, your promises; remember the past, and strike blows for your country that will put old Tubal Cain to the blush.

Remember, Sir Wilfrid, that for every monopolist and manufacturer you may offend, you will win a thousand friends among the agriculturists of the Dominion.

Strike for the settlers.

Strike for the agriculturists.

Strike down protection.

That is from an hon. gentleman who sits behind the right hon. leader of the Government and who votes for him straight every time, yet this is in his paper in which he appeals to the right hon. leader of the Government and he wishes the people and the country to hear his voice.

Sir, we were told that we should have less taxes, and I believe it was the present Minister of Justice who said that if the people put the Liberals into power they could do with at least \$3,000,000 less expenditure in the year. In view of this we certainly expected that hon. gentlemen opposite would keep at least some of their promises, and certainly that one with regard to economy. During the first session of this Parliament when we spoke about economy, we were met by the cry from the Treasury benches: How can we economize in view of the legacy of debt you have left us, and as hon. gentlemen on this side of the House thought that perhaps there might be some show of truth in that they were not insistent, but as year after year went on, they naturally thought that surely those old debts must have been paid off. What do we find now? Three years have gone by since these gentlemen took power and still the taxes are increasing, still they are putting their hands into the pockets of the people deeper and

deeper. The taxes in 1898 were not a few hundred thousand dollars more than when the Conservatives left power in 1896, but they were \$2,300,000 more. It is all very well for hon. gentlemen opposite to say that there has been more trade, but that is no argument, for the fact remains that this increased taxation has been taken out of the pockets of the people. Then again, gentlemen opposite, when the Conservatives were in power, told us it was a monstrous thing that Canada should have such a great public debt. Well, in 1896 the net debt was \$258,497,000 and in 1898, under the control of these gentlemen, it is \$263,956,000 or an increase of \$5,459,000. That is a pretty good showing for gentlemen who preached all over the country that they were going to economize. Of course, we do not expect the blush of shame to come to the cheek of gentlemen opposite, but we would think they would at least attempt to offer some excuse for this. One would imagine that the hon. members of the Government and the Liberal members of Parliament who preached all over the country that the debt would be decreased, should now offer some excuse for their extravagance. Sir, the only excuse I have heard, either publicly or privately, is : Well, we are in power and you are out ; what are you going to do about it ? That is about as far as they can get in the shape of an apology. It would seem from the utterances of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) that he hopes by large expenditures to hold the reins of power for a long time. That hon. gentleman (Mr. Tarte) admits that the expenditure has been large, but he has also stated : Wait till you see what we shall do next year. His policy is to get as much money as he possibly can and to expend it all. I am informed that at a banquet held last night in the Russell House, Ottawa, the gentleman who was in the seat of honour, spoke eloquently for about fifty minutes and the trend of his remarks was : Sir Wilfrid, Sir Wilfrid, take every dollar you can out of the treasury, and do not leave a cent in it, for the fellows that come after you. That may be all right for the present, but I do not think it will go down with the electorate of this country.

The question of preferential trade will be treated of by gentlemen who are better qualified to speak on the subject than I am ; but I may remark that the preferential trade inaugurated by these hon. gentlemen opposite has not been a success, and has entirely failed to benefit Great Britain as they say it was intended. Although that preferential policy is in full force, we find that of the imports coming into Canada, 72½ per cent still comes from the United States, and only 17¼ per cent from Great Britain. Sir, the right hon. the leader of the Government made a great mistake when he did not get a quid pro quo from Great Britain for his preferential trade. I do not believe that Great Britain would have objected to give it, and

Mr. PRIOR.

I do not believe that anybody in Canada would have hesitated to take it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as to the plebiscite and the policy of the Government anent that. It appears to me that the action of the Government on this matter has been one of the most heartless cruelty, and I cannot look on it in any other light. The Government had no right to lead the temperance people of this country on as they did, unless they intended to give them fair-play. The prohibitionists, whatever we may think of them individually, are a body of men who are actuated by the purest motives ; men who have this question at heart, and who firmly believe that prohibition would be for the benefit of their country. They are actuated by no selfish motives and their object, in the light they see it, is the welfare of the community. But what have we seen ? These gentlemen put their faith in the Government and they believed the promises made to them time and again, notably by the Premier at Winnipeg, and they went into the contest, believing that if they had a majority in the country, a prohibition law would be enacted. But, Sir, they were stabbed in the back by this Government, some of the members of which stumped the province of Quebec from one end to the other in an effort to defeat prohibition. After the promises made by the Government to the prohibitionists it was an extraordinary spectacle to see several of the Ministers attempting to defeat prohibition in their province. At Winnipeg, the right hon. the leader of the Government stated :

He would pledge his honour that as soon as the Liberals came into power in Ottawa they would take a plebiscite of the Dominion, by which the party would stand, and the will of the people would be carried out, even were it to cost power for ever to the Liberal party.

In view of what has since occurred, what does the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) say to that. Can he still retain his seat in the Cabinet as a prohibitionist, and one of the very foremost of them ? How can the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) sit down as he did last night, without saying a word on this subject. Why, Sir, if my memory is correct, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fraser) stood up in this House, his manly proportions filling the Chamber, to second a prohibition resolution, and yet, he concluded his speech without ever referring to the subject, and then he sank into an inert mass.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. PRIOR. Yes ; because the thought struck him at once : If I say a word about this prohibition question it may hurt the feelings of my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works. Sir, I am astonished at the conduct of the hon. member (Mr. Fraser). I used to look upon him as a magnificent standard-bearer, a man of vast proportions, and a living example of what a magnificent

man can be grown without drinking beer. I have been brought up in England, where I was born, to think that a man never could be worth much unless he got plenty of beer when he was young, but there is a magnificent sample of the contrary in the person of the hon. member for Guysborough. I hope before the session is over that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fraser) will see his way to give some explanation of his conduct on the matter of prohibition and will not neglect it as he did last night.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I was trying to make an Imperial speech yesterday ; I could not speak on every subject.

Mr. PRIOR. I hope that we shall hear from him, and that he will show some good reason for being silent last night.

The next matter I wish to say a few words upon is the joint commission that has been sitting in Washington. I am very sorry that the negotiations were not brought to a conclusion before this House met. However, I think it is hardly fair to say much about that matter until we know what has taken place, which the right hon. leader of the Government does not see fit to tell us. The constituency of which I have the honour to be one of the representatives is deeply concerned in the subjects of the Behring Sea sealeries and the Alaskan boundary. Although there were rumours on the coast that our commissioners were going to give away our right to seal on the high seas for a monetary consideration paid to the sealers for their sealing schooners, I cannot believe that is true. I sincerely hope it is not. I am one of the strongest believers in the policy that if the sealers' business is ruined, they should be compensated ; but, Sir, under no circumstances could I agree to the rights of the general Canadian public to fish on the high seas being given up for any consideration whatever. In regard to the Alaskan boundary, that is a question which above all others should be settled. We are bound to have trouble sooner or later unless it is, and I feel sure that the hon. gentlemen who are on that commission will do their best to have it settled. At the same time, I feel that they have to a certain extent given their case away. I remember the right hon. leader of the Government getting up in this House and stating, or words to this effect, that he could not see what claim we could have to Skagway and Dyea, as they had been in the undisputed possession of the Americans for so long a time. The offer of arbitration from the American commissioners was one which no self-respecting man or country could for one moment accept, and I am very glad to see that hon. gentlemen opposite did not accept it. But I do think that the give-and-take policy of the right hon. gentleman made the American commissioners braver than ours. They are great bluffers on all occasions. If this commission meets again, as I hope it will, I sin-

cerely trust that the Alaskan boundary question will be brought to a successful issue for Canada.

I notice an omission from the Speech which I was very sorry to see. There was not a word in it in regard to strengthening the militia of Canada. As we see Great Britain putting forth her best efforts in building ships and strengthening her army, and getting ready for the day which any man, however peaceful his inclinations may be, must see must come sooner or later, I did think that Canada, having, as the right hon. gentleman once said, woke up one morning and found herself a nation, would be willing to assume the responsibilities of a nation ; and no one can deny that one of the responsibilities of a nation is to get her armies in such a condition that she can take care of herself. Canada must do her share ; and I am convinced that the feeling of this Dominion from east to west is in favour of such being done. I am sure it gave great pleasure to every man who belongs to or is interested in the militia of Canada to read the most excellent report of the new Major General, Major General Hutton. I think the country ought to be congratulated on having such an experienced officer to command our forces. From what I can hear of that gentleman, I do not think that a better man could have been selected for the position. We have had good men here before ; but I say, without fear of contradiction, that I believe we have never had a man who combined in such full degree the attributes requisite in a commander of our militia forces. I am glad to believe that the hon. Minister of Militia and the Major General are of one mind on almost all subjects pertaining to the militia, and I feel convinced that if the Minister, in making out his estimates, will call for all the money required to put our militia on a proper footing, this House and the country will back him up. I know that Ministers of Militia, time after time, have brought in estimates far in advance of what has been allowed ; but the time has now come when, I think, the Government should forego some expenditure on other matters and let the militia have a show. I know, from what the hon. leader of the Opposition said yesterday at a meeting, that he is in favour of that, and I am sure that hon. members on this side of the House generally and the country are in favour of it. As I shall have to speak on this matter again when the Estimates come up, I shall say no more upon it at present.

I am sorry the Minister of Public Works is not in his place. I am informed the hon. gentleman is not well to-day. I am very sorry, because I wished to say a few words in regard to an incident which occurred between himself and myself a few nights ago. However, the right hon. leader of the Government is of the same nationality, and he will no doubt pay attention to what I say. The other night the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) was twitting the Minister

of Public Works about flying the French flag on a yacht he was on when in Quebec waters. The hon. Minister of Public Works said in reply :

The French flag is in nearly every home in the province of Quebec. On more than one occasion I have witnessed the touching sight, in the houses of my French countrymen, the portrait of the Queen wrapped in the French flag. I have expressed elsewhere, and I express here, the earnest desire of a British citizen at the same time, that the two flags of Great Britain and France may always float together in the breeze in friendship and amity.

Mr. PRIOR. No, Sir ; no, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, I did make that remark ; but I said so because I thought he meant that the two flags should be flying in amity and friendship on his yacht.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. PRIOR. That is all right. Hon. gentlemen may jeer just as they like.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. That is too thin.

Mr. PRIOR. I am asked time and again to accept the assertions of hon. gentlemen opposite, and I think I have a right to ask that they will accept mine at the present time. That is what I understood the hon. gentleman to mean. Surely no man in his sober senses or at any time would be such a fool as to say he wished to see France and England at war. What I contended and what I still contend is this, that a Minister on an official yacht in the Dominion of Canada should fly the British flag and the British flag only as an official flag. I may say this also, notwithstanding the jeers of hon. gentlemen opposite : Is there any reason why I should not appreciate the French character ? Is it because I am a Britisher ? I have the greatest appreciation of the French and the French Canadians. I have read history, and I know how they have fought with us in the past, and if any trouble arose I believe the two races would again fight together ; but I say that the hon. Minister of Public Works, as an official, has no right to give those two flags the same standing on his yacht. He may have his house covered with French flags, and I would be only too glad to salute them. Any man may fly what flags he likes, but not as an official. I do not know whether he flew the British flag or the French flag at the mast-head. He says that he flew the British flag in the place of honour, and I am bound to accept his statement ; but some of the newspapers supporting him have said he did not, but that he went down to Quebec and flew the French flag and no English flag was to be seen. If that were the case, I say it was wrong.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman, especially when the Minister of Public Works is not present, ought not to qualify his acceptance of a personal statement made by the latter. I understand the hon. gen-

Mr. PRIOR.

tleman to say that the hon. Minister of Public Works declared that he flew the British flag in the place of honour, but the hon. gentleman, after accepting that statement, went on to qualify it, which I think he should not do.

Mr. PRIOR. I accept what the Minister of Public Works said, but with regard to what I said I want to set myself right. I do not want to apologize at all, I do not take back one word of what I said, and while I do say that the French flag can be flown by anybody, just as the German or the flag of any other country, no official of the Government has any right, when representing the Government, to float the French flag and not the English. Canada is big enough for two or three countries, but there is room for only one flag in this country. I know that French Canadians are sensitive on the subject, but so are Britishers. The sensitiveness is not all on one side. This is a British country, and in it the British flag should have the foremost place. I know that our French Canadian compatriots think in the same way in their hearts, but we know what the motive of the hon. Minister of Public Works was in flying the French flag. He did it to make a little cheap popularity for himself. He quoted Her Majesty the Queen as having expressed the wish to see the two flags always flying side by side. But I would ask, does she fly the French flag from the Castle of Windsor ; and I would say that, while as a private individual the hon. Minister has the right to fly what flag he likes, as a representative of the Government the case is different.

Mr. BOURASSA. If the hon. gentleman will allow me, when he made the interruption that he has just quoted, he was referring to the general statement made by the hon. Minister of Public Works that a British citizen would like to see the English and French flags floating together, and not to the special statement of the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), that he had both the French and English flags floating on his yacht. The interruption came after this sentence uttered by the Minister of Public Works :

I have expressed elsewhere, and I express here, the earnest desire of a British citizen at the same time, that the two flags of Great Britain and France may always float in the breeze in friendship and amity.

Mr. PRIOR. No, Sir ; no, Sir.

The interruption of the hon. gentleman I have just read was therefore not intended to apply to the special case of the Minister of Public Works, but to the general sentiment to which he gave expression when he quoted this desire that the two flags should always be seen floating together.

Mr. FOSTER. I think that your ruling, Mr. Speaker, ought to be given now on the question whether an hon. gentleman has the

right to impugn the statement of my hon. friend as to what he meant to say by the interruption quoted by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa).

Mr. SPEAKER. If any objection were taken, I would have given a ruling.

Mr. FOSTER. None was taken in the other case, because the hon. Minister of Public Works was not present.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member who had the floor (Mr. Prior) gave way to the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), who made a statement in interruption, which was rather long, but the hon. gentleman gave way to him.

Mr. FOSTER. If you will allow me, Mr. Speaker, that is not my point, but my point is that when the hon. Minister of Public Works was not in his seat and my hon. friend had the floor, my hon. friend made a certain statement to which you objected, because at some previous time the hon. Minister of Public Works had said it was not so. Now, my hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) gets up in his seat and promptly impugns the truth of a statement made by the hon. member (Mr. Prior) a few minutes ago, but you, Mr. Speaker, did not call him to account.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member will understand that the gentleman who has the floor said that the Minister of Public Works, who is absent, said a certain thing. I have no recollection of what the Minister of Public Works did say, but accepted as what he did say the statement made by the hon. member who has the floor.

Mr. PRIOR. It is in "Hansard."

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman who has the floor said that a certain fact was denied by the Minister of Public Works, and accepted that denial, but then he went on, I thought unfairly, to qualify the denial of the Minister of Public Works. Then the hon. member for Labelle, with the permission of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior), interrupted him, and read the quotation from "Hansard," which may be correct or not. The hon. gentleman can say whether it was correct or not. For my part, I do not know.

Mr. FOSTER. I know that my hon. friend is quite able to take care of himself, and that you, Mr. Speaker, are quite able to take care of the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) in his absence.

Mr. SPEAKER. I am quite sure that is the case, just as I would take care of the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) in his absence. I do not wish any insinuations to be made, and will not permit them to be made.

Mr. FOSTER. I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, if you will allow me—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. SPEAKER. Unless it is a question of order which the hon. member wishes to raise, he has not the right to address the Chair.

Mr. FOSTER. No, it is not.

Mr. SPEAKER. Then the hon. gentleman is out of order.

Mr. PRIOR. I think there is a great deal too much trouble made out of this and I would not have referred to the matter at all, were it not that the French newspapers in Quebec are making a handle of it, and I thought it due to myself that I should explain the matter. My hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) simply read what I read from "Hansard," but I do not think that any hon. gentleman who was present on the occasion could imagine for a moment that when I made the interruption, which the hon. member for Labelle quoted, I was thinking of anything else but the flying of the French flag from the Government yacht. I do not think any one would be so silly as to imagine that I or any one else would desire to see the two nations at war. I must say that I appreciate the French character as much as any man in this House. I have personal friends among my French compatriots, and esteem them too highly to give utterance to any sentiment that would hurt their susceptibilities, and especially to any such foolish sentiment as the one ascribed to me. I think a great deal too much is made of this thing, and only wish the hon. Minister of Public Works were in his place. I am afraid I have been talking too long, but there is one subject I would like to mention before sitting down, and that is the Yukon trouble.

Mr. McNEILL. I rise to a point of order. I would like, Mr. Speaker, to have your ruling upon the point as to whether it is in order for an hon. member of this House to rise in his place and to call in question the truth of a statement made by another hon. member of this House. My hon. friend said that he did not mean—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. McNEILL. I think the Speaker will call me to order if I am out of order. The hon. member (Mr. Prior) said that he did not mean a certain thing by a certain interruption he had made. An hon. gentleman from the other side (Mr. Bourassa) then rose and read an extract from "Hansard" to show that my hon. friend did mean that thing which he said he did not mean. I want to know whether that is in order.

Mr. SPEAKER. It is not in order to refuse to accept the statement of an hon. member who makes it of his personal knowledge. If the hon. member who has the floor (Mr. Prior) says that he meant some—

thing else by the interruption which the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) quoted, and if the hon. member for Labelle refuses to accept that explanation, of course he is out of order, but I have not heard that yet. I leave that question entirely to the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior).

Mr. PRIOR. Well, Mr. Speaker, there is one other question I wish to bring before the House before I sit down, and that is the Yukon question. The hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) spoke at great length, and I must say with great ability from his standpoint, on this matter; but it seemed to me that he was making a defence of his conduct to his own party rather than to this House or the country. There is no doubt that hon. gentlemen on that side felt very nervous before the hon. Minister got to the end of his speech. His whole speech seemed to me a piece of special pleading, but there is one thing I did notice in it, that throughout he never once denied that there had been crookedness in the Yukon administration.

He made all sorts of excuses for the men he had sent up there, but he never once said that these men or their subordinates had not been guilty of the grossest negligence, of the grossest bribery and corruption with which they are charged. The son of Mr. Ogilvie, the commissioner of the Yukon, is in Ottawa, at least I saw him here a day or so ago. Will the hon. Minister state whether he has brought any information on from his father in regard to any of these charges that have been made?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I saw Mr. Morley Ogilvie for a few minutes only. He had no information whatever as to the investigation. I think I am correct in saying that he left before the investigation opened. I cannot speak positively as to that.

Mr. PRIOR. I am sure that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) will be able to get some valuable information from Mr. Morley Ogilvie, whether he has brought it from his father or not. Now, hon. gentlemen on that side of the House say they want specific charges, that there is no use in saying this or that wrong has been committed—they want specific charges. I think my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden) gave them some pretty good specific charges yesterday, and I think I shall be able to give one or two more to-day. After going over that speech, a speech which was a splendid effort, as I said before, I heartily endorse everything he has said. Now, I have lived on the coast for the last 26 years. I have lived among miners since I was 13 years of age. I was on the Alaskan coast many years ago. I am in contact with miners going to and coming from the Yukon day in and day out, from year's end to year's end. I think I am qualified, therefore, to give some information on this question.

Mr. PRIOR.

Sir, we are asked: Why do not miners come forward and make specific charges? Well, anybody who knows the ordinary honest miner knows that he is the last man in the world to desire to get another into trouble; that he would even suffer himself; he would rather be swindled out of a few dollars than make a complaint or go to a lawyer. But there is a general tendency among the whole of them to denounce the action of the officials in the Yukon country. They are not Americans only who make these charges; many of them are British subjects. I feel quite sure of this also—that the charges that have been made have frightened the Government a good deal. Those hon. gentlemen are not feeling so happy as they profess to feel. Why, we see even the "Globe" newspaper, their official journal, getting out thousands of copies of the Minister's speech to distribute to the country newspapers. They know the speech of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), have gone like wildfire all over the country, and have gained great credence too, and they are doing their best now to offset the effect of those speeches as quickly as they possibly can.

The Minister of the Interior says there has never been any such rush as there was into the Klondike, and that, therefore, he ought not to be held responsible for any mismanagement. I do not know that there has ever been quite such a rush, but in the early sixties there was nearly as big a rush to the Cariboo country, a country that was as hard, and, many miners have told me, harder, to get into than the Klondike has been. Were there any scandals in the administration of the Cariboo? I never heard of any. The gentlemen sent up there were men of probity, experience and high standing. They took charge and administered the government of the country amongst thousands and thousands of miners from the States and all over, just as rough, or possibly a rougher crowd than those who went into the Klondike, and I have yet to hear the first charge against officials who went into the country in those days. The hon. Minister also said that the Government had done everything that could be done for the miner, that they have fed indigent and starving people, that they have given large sums of money to hospitals, and many other things of that kind. If they were doing so much for indigent and starving people, one would think that they would be able to feed their own clerks. As a matter of fact, in the fall of 1897, seven clerks, who were sent up from here to Mr. Fawcett's office, when they got there found they could not get food enough, and Mr. Fawcett sent them down to Fort Yukon in American territory, where they were kept the whole of the winter by the American trading companies there. That does not look as if the hon. gentleman had very much to give away to the indigent and starving. He tells us that he spent \$44,000

in donations to hospitals and other charitable expenditures. I do not think he can take much credit for that, for every cent of it came from the pockets of the people there, and some \$1,456,000 besides, the total amount collected being about \$1,500,000. Then, again, the hon. gentleman, I am told, offers to incorporate Dawson. Well, the people do not want any incorporation now. Under the terms offered, I am informed, the Government take all the money that could be collected, they take the licenses and the police fines, which cover nearly everything there is. Of course the people could assess themselves on their real estate and personal property, but they will not do that when this other revenue is taken from them. The hon. gentleman also said there was no secrecy of mining records. I agree with him. I am informed on all hands, and have heard the same thing for months, that there was no secrecy of mining records to the man who went to the side door and paid a good stiff fee, but the honest man who went to the front door and stood in line expecting to get information had no more show to get it than I have of being Premier of Canada.

Now, the charges made by the hon. member for Halifax can be substantiated, I am perfectly certain, if a commission is granted. I will say this—that since the first day of January, 1899, things have been different. Since Mr. Ogilvie took charge, I believe, men can go there and get the information to which they are entitled and can file their records without having to pay an official. While on the subject of Mr. Ogilvie I may say that I have yet to hear from any man of any nationality a single word against the honesty, probity and integrity of Mr. Ogilvie. I also wish to say that I have heard very few complaints—complaints that I thought had any justification—against Mr. Fawcett personally. But there were hundreds of complaints against the officials in his office. And I contend that if a man placed in that position does not see to it that his subordinates carry out their duty in a proper manner, he must be held responsible, just the same as I contend that the Minister of the Interior is responsible for all these scandals, being the head of the department. Sir, it is not a question of what is being done now. These charges have run from one end of the world to the other, and it would be very curious indeed if no alteration were made in the way these things were being conducted. The question is what was done in the past; that is what we want to know. The hon. Minister has sent out a commission to Mr. Ogilvie to inquire, but he has limited his scope to matters arising before the 25th of August, while it is since that time that many of the transactions concerning which charges were made have taken place.

I would like to ask the hon. gentleman also, why, when he was sending officials into that country, he did not think of the experienced men who have lived in British Columbia for many years. If he wanted

to get a staff to send there of men who had been in the habit of dealing with miners, mining records, mining claims and mining camps, why did he not send some of his agents into British Columbia, where men are to be found by the dozen who are capable and experienced men, and in every way fitted for these positions. If he had done that, if he had taken men from British Columbia—and I think we had a right to expect he would have taken some of them—there would not have been one word of these scandals; I feel convinced of that. Now, let us see what these officials have been doing. Let us take the record office. The Minister of the Interior says that the officials he sent up there were all of good character. Well, they might be. I have here a statement made by a man who says that if a commission is appointed, such as is asked for, a thoroughly independent commission, a commission of judges, of men who are in no way under the control of the Government, he will come forward and take his affidavit and swear to this information. I will do as other hon. gentlemen have done before: I will not give his name, but I will guarantee—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. PRIOR. That is all right. Hon. gentlemen know that is the correct way, that I should not disclose the name now. There are too many men who have come to Ottawa, and preferred charges, and gone away satisfied. I do not intend that should happen in this case. The Minister of the Interior is pretty clever: he knows how to fix them.

An hon. MEMBER. He cannot be very respectable, if he is a man of that kind; but that is what you are depending upon.

Mr. PRIOR. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, there are a good many gentlemen on the floor of this House that have been fixed in some way or other.

Mr. FOSTER. A great many more want to be fixed.

Mr. PRIOR. I wish to state that the Mr. A. J. Kellum who is mentioned in this statement, is stenographer in Wade, Clark & Wilson's law office. The Mr. Wade mentioned as belonging to this firm, is the Mr. Wade who was the Crown prosecuting attorney. Now, Sir, I will read the statement. If the Minister of the Interior wants specific charges, here is a specific charge, and I will give him my word, that if a commission is appointed, this man will come up and swear to the charge. I am fully aware that it is a cowardly thing for a man to stand up on the floor of this House and make a statement that he cannot substantiate. I am fully aware of the responsibility a man takes, when he makes such a statement, and I am perfectly willing to take that responsibility in regard to this statement:

On August 28, 1898,—

And that, you will observe, is three days after the date on which Mr. Ogilvie has a right to inquire into the charges.

—I went into Wade, Clark & Wilson's law office on Front Street, Dawson City, having been informed that claims could be obtained in that office without the necessity of going and staking upon the creeks at all, full lists of vacant ground on various creeks being then in that office. I saw Mr. Kellum personally, and stated to him that a friend of his and mine had informed me that he could locate me on Dominion Creek. This being in the morning, I was told to return in the evening at 6.30, which I did, and was again postponed till the following morning, and then again until evening, when I called again. During my visit that evening another party was called in by Mr. Kellum, and told in my presence that he, the visitor, must immediately go to Dominion Creek—

Where that trouble was, you will remember.

—and stake a claim, the last one that was left in that creek. The visitor could not go himself, but was to provide a substitute at 7 a.m. next day. After the visitor withdrew, Mr. Kellum said, "You have overheard the conversation we have first had, so that you see I cannot fix you a Dominion, but I can put you on No. 1 below, on Gold Bottom Creek." This I agreed to accept. Having no witness to this conversation, and deal being made, I insisted upon a partner being admitted with me to the transaction. This was agreed to, and I left the office and obtained a friend to come in as partner in the deal. I signed a power of attorney to Mr. Kellum for a half interest in claim No. 1 below, on Gold Bottom, and this power of attorney was witnessed by my partner,—

The name is given here, which I will not read.

—who as my partner signed a separate power of attorney giving the one-half to Kellum, and this was signed by myself as witness.

What the miners call a double cross.

These powers of attorney were carried in by Kellum to Wade, Clark & Wilson's private office, and there filed in our presence. Our instructions were—

And I want hon. gentlemen opposite to listen to this.

—to proceed at once to the claim, which was then owned by another man, but had not been represented, and put upon it false stakes with false names, and the ground becoming vacant September 1st,—

This is dated on the 28th of August.

—and the ground becoming vacant September 1st, we were to go to the gold recorder's office, set our watches by the time there, and at midnight of August 31st change the names on the stakes to our own real names, and come back to Wade, Clark & Wilson's office, and they would do the rest, viz., attending to the recording, and shouldering any expenses that might be incurred in any lawsuit or otherwise.

Now, Sir, that is a specific charge, made by the man who went himself, who took in a partner and signed a power of attorney to the claim which was in Wade, Clark &

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Wilson's office, and can be got at any moment, when there is a commission appointed. Sir, that is not the only one. If that commission is appointed, there is no doubt about it, there will be dozens and dozens of similar cases.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The statement seems incomplete. Did he carry out this nefarious transaction?

Mr. PRIOR. No, he did not.

Mr. FOSTER. Does that make a difference?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I asked the question because I did not know whether he did. Some conversation took place in the office, and I wanted to see whether it was acted upon, and the hon. gentleman says it was not.

Mr. FOSTER. Would that make a difference in the crime?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Was Kellum a Government official?

Mr. PRIOR. No, he is not. I will just explain to the hon. gentleman—I am glad he asked that question—that Kellum is not a Government official, but he is a stenographer of Mr. Wade, who was Crown prosecuting attorney, who also acts for miners, besides attending to his own business. But any gentleman can see that this man could do nothing, if Wade, Clark & Wilson had not had what they call a pull with the mining recorder.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I want to ask the hon. gentleman—he knows I do not ask for any improper reason, but just to get the truth—does he know that Mr. Wade was not in Dawson City at that time?

Mr. PRIOR. I do not.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He was the only Government official that was connected with the office, I understand?

Mr. PRIOR. I could not tell you; I was not there myself. Certainly, Mr. Wade is at the head of that firm.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. If there is anything improper, we want to get at the truth, if there is any semblance of truth in the charge.

Mr. PRIOR. Yes, that is the truth. Now, there is another case, about Mr. E. D. Boulton, who is now mining recorder in the Gold Commissioner's office. Here is an affidavit from a man—it is not sworn to, but he is willing to swear to it—who says:

I will take any commission to claim No. 45 above on Bonanza Creek, and show them the staking of E. D. Boulton's name on Hillside claim opposite No. 45, and on the right limit of the creek dated July 9, 1898, and prove by any number of witnesses that E. D. Boulton was never out of the city of Dawson on that date.

Hon. gentlemen who know anything about it know that when a man stakes a claim he must go himself, put his stakes in, put his name on the stakes, and then go to the mining recorder's office and take the oath that he has done so. Here we see, if this is true, that this mining recorder is supposed to have gone there and has taken oath that he was there when he was not. In regard to side doors, I need not go into that now, for enough has been said about it, except that I heard it from dozens and dozens and hundreds of miners, and I believe my colleague from Victoria, who is sitting here, will back me up in saying that it is almost impossible to get anything done unless you bribe the officials. I am informed that Mr. Ogilvie stated to some gentlemen whom I know, and if I am wrong I will apologize, but I believe it fully, because I heard it from some miners, that a man approached him when he was going up there and asked him to give him a position in the mining recorder's office. He said that he would not ask him for any salary; let him get in there and he would make enough without salary.

In regard to the post office, the Postmaster General stated that the mail was carried regularly. Now, I know for a positive fact that it was not. I had in my hands, not many days ago, a letter from a man living in Glenora, who, writing to a friend in Ontario, said that it was outrageous the way that mail was being left at certain places. He said that at Glenora the post office building is two feet deep in letters and papers, that the postmaster keeps a saloon and a store, and that it is utterly impossible, unless you are a miner who spends a good deal of money in his saloon, to get a single letter or paper from him. Here is a clipping I got out of a paper of March 4th, and it is a paper that hon. gentlemen see fit to sneer at—the Klondike "Nugget." It says:

The thousands of people who have been disappointed by the non-receipt of letters which they know have long been on the way to them from the States, will be interested in learning that the accumulated mails of September, October, November and December—or at least a considerable portion of it—has at last been gotten under way, and is now en route to Dawson.

Then it goes on to state how a private individual had to appeal to Mr. Fletcher, the post office inspector, to be allowed to take the mail that the proper postal officials could not or would not take up there. It says:

Hastily securing several sacks of private mail, Mahoney commenced picking up deserted mail at Skagway. An American officer accompanied the party as far as Tagish, to verify the weights of the American mail picked up. At Linderman and Bennett and at Tagish was found enough mail to make a grand total of 2,200 pounds. Some of it had been cached under an old boat on Lake Bennett; some of it was lying at road houses; some of it was at stores, but the bulk was cached away at police stations. All but some 600 pounds was Canadian mail.

So that Mahoney brought it up there when the other men could not do so. There is no doubt about it that mail came out from Dawson by private individuals, or that mail went in by private individuals. This mail could not be got unless by paying \$1 a letter, sometimes a little less and sometimes a little more, but, while these private mails were sent out upon all occasions, from the 5th of October to the 15th of January, no public mail whatever by the Postmaster General's route came in except official letters of the Government. I just remember the case now of a man who knew that his relations in England would be writing to him regularly. He went day after day to get his letters at Dawson City, but he was told that there were none for him. At last a chum of his said: "Why don't you pay your dollar like a little man and get your mail." He went up and paid his dollar at the restaurant across the way where some of the demi-monde go. My hon. friend the member for Kings, N.B. (Mr. Domville) shakes his head at that.

Mr. DOMVILLE. I say they never paid a dollar over there.

Mr. PRIOR. He got a letter next day, another one next day, and another one until he got all five letters at \$1 a letter. They were not in consecutive order, because they had been lying there for weeks. The failure of letters to come in has been the cause of tremendous hardship to men up there, not only hardship, but tremendous financial loss, because drafts never got in and agents of companies expecting and waiting for instructions from firms in England, were put to thousands of dollars of loss by not having the information that these letters contained. That disposes of the recorder's office and the post office.

Let me also speak in regard to the customs, and I am glad to see the hon. Minister of Customs is paying attention. It was a common occurrence to have men come to my office about goods, because I do a good deal of outfitting there, and say that they could not possibly afford to buy goods from me because they could, as they said, get their American goods cheaper in Seattle. "Yes," but I said, "you have to pay the duty." "Oh, the duty; we will soon fix that." And so they did. It was a common practice—they told me—I do not say it prevails now, for them to get their goods through at a small sum compared with what they should have paid. I will give you one instance—the case of a man called Charles Beam. He went out, and at Log Cabin was stopped by the collector and showed the goods he had that were dutiable. The duty came to \$350. This is what I am informed by a man who says he knows the facts of the case.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). About what date would it be?

Mr. PRIOR. I do not have it down here, but this man told it to me. It is within

six months, I think. He said the duty came to \$350. The collector's name was Thorne; he was the collector or the collector's subordinate, and he says he gave him \$5 and a flask of whisky, and that this man passed his goods through for \$150. The duty which he should have paid was \$350, but by giving a \$5 bribe and a flask of whisky, this custom-house officer passes his goods for \$150.

Mr. MAXWELL. Would the hon. gentleman kindly give me the name of that man again?

Mr. PRIOR. I was informed that it was a man by the name of Charles Beam.

Mr. MAXWELL. No, but the name of the customs official.

Mr. PRIOR. I am told that his name is Thorne.

Mr. MAXWELL. I do not think that there is a man of that name there.

Mr. PRIOR. I do not know the facts personally. This is one of the cases that have been told me, of thousands that have been drummed into our ears of the same kind.

As to the Mounted Police, there were but 190 of them patrolling 600 miles, and they are doing it efficiently, but even they have fallen into temptation. In passing boats they have to look into them for whisky. I am told that it is nothing to give the police \$5 and once you give them that your boat goes through, and I heard of one sergeant who said that he did not want any softer thing than that, that he did not want to go out of the Yukon; he was satisfied.

Let me in conclusion say a word about the military expedition to the Klondike. I may be wrong in my impression, and perhaps some of my colleagues may not agree with me, but I do not believe for one moment that it was ever necessary to send the militia into that country. I am credibly informed that the cost for getting these men into Fort Selkirk and Dawson will amount to at least \$1,000,000. We had already there 190 policemen, and any one who knows these miners knows that the best way to keep them in good order is not by putting hundreds and hundreds of soldiers around them. The miner as a rule is the most orderly man in the world when he gets on British territory. If you go to Skagway they are a disorderly lot, shooting and robbing all around, for they imagine they are on American soil—although I contend they are not—but if you take the same men on British territory, you at once see the difference, for there they have not a word to say and do not even want to carry a pistol. In Rossland at the beginning there was as hard a crowd of men as you would come across in any mining community, men who crossed the border from Montana, but when they got into Rossland, one policeman kept 8,000 of them in just as good order as we are sitting in

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here to-day. It was the fear of British law kept them quiet. As I have stated, our militiamen were sent to the Yukon at the expense of \$1,000,000, and barracks were built for them at Fort Selkirk. They did not build their own barracks as the policemen did—so I am informed—but they employed men at \$1.50 an hour to do the work. If I am wrong in this I shall be glad to hear it; I was informed \$1.50 an hour, but we will say \$1 an hour, and I have also been told that these barracks will cost in the neighbourhood of \$125,000.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). My hon. friend (Mr. Prior) will be glad to know that the barracks will not cost probably \$30,000, although they are worth probably considerably over \$100,000.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the basis of valuation?

Mr. PRIOR. Were they built by the soldiers?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. They were.

Mr. PRIOR. I am very glad to hear it, but I was told that the soldiers complained that they had nothing to do. We have 125 soldiers at Dawson and 73 at Selkirk, and I think the Government must have come to the same mind as I have on the subject, because I understand from the newspapers that they are bringing these soldiers out again. With regard to the water front lease in Dawson, I should like to ask the Minister of the Interior, where is that lease, for he certainly did not put it on the Table of the House.

An hon. MEMBER. He said there was nothing but a letter.

Mr. PRIOR. Then if there was nothing but a letter why was there not a lease for such an important transaction as that, because \$30,000 a year even in the Klondike is not a bagatelle. It has been proven beyond all doubt that the gentlemen who took the lease sub-let it for at least \$120,000 a year, thus making \$90,000 on the bargain, and is it not reasonable to ask: Why did not the Government take advantage of the value of the property and get the \$90,000 a year in the treasury?

I do not know anything in regard to the liquor permits, except that I know that members on the other side and other supporters of the Government have been hawking them around in British Columbia for a long time, to the highest bidder. There was no trouble in getting a permit as long as you went high enough for it. I do not know whether these permits were issued by the Minister of the Interior or by the North-west Territories authority, but there they were. Sir, I stated before that I knew perfectly well the responsibility I took in making these charges. I do not wish to hurt any

man's character, I do not wish to hurt any man who is an official in the Yukon territory, but I think it is high time that it should be proven clearly, either that those officials were negligent and corrupt, or that there is no truth in the charges made against them. And, Sir, for that reason, I cannot see why the Government do not grant such a commission as has been asked for. The hon. gentleman from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) mentioned a case in which he asked for a fiat, and stated he would be responsible that the gentleman who got that fiat would prove his case. You would think that the Government would jump at an offer like that, but they have not done so, and the inference is that there must be some truth in the charge.

Mr. McINNES. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) pardon me for a moment. He said a few minutes ago that some members of this House from British Columbia hawked around permits for liquor to enter the Yukon. If he said so, and I think he did, I would like him to be a little more specific.

Mr. PRIOR. I said they were in possession of liquor permits that were being hawked around in British Columbia.

Mr. McINNES. Pardon me. You said certain hon. members of this House from British Columbia hawked around liquor permits.

Mr. PRIOR. I do not think I did, but if I did, I did not intend to. I intended to say they were in possession of liquor permits that were being hawked around in British Columbia, and I stick to it. They were; I know it for a fact.

Mr. GIBSON. Name.

Mr. PRIOR. Let me say in conclusion that the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) thought he made a point last night when he stated that Messrs. Allan and Semple of the Klondike "Nugget" had left Dawson, and had not waited to prove the charges they made against officials to Mr. Ogilvie. I am informed by these gentlemen that they made these charges in November, December and January, and that although they did not leave until the 28th of January, these charges were not taken up then. Some charges that they and others had made were withdrawn for the simple reason that the alleged offences took place after August 25th, and they were precluded from being heard by the terms of the commission. I am aware, as a good many hon. gentlemen here are aware, that the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison) has been to the Klondike. I have never been there myself, but that hon. gentleman (Mr. Morrison) has been there, and he is a member of the Government party, and a gentleman of the greatest probity and fairness. I will not ask him to answer me now, but I say, that if that hon. gentleman (Mr. Morrison) would state in this House, or state privately to the Government, that during his sojourn in the Yu-

kon he did not hear these complaints, or that he heard nothing either from his friend, Mr. Paterson, or anybody else about this corruption that was going on, I shall be quite satisfied to withdraw a good deal of what I have said. I am fully convinced that that hon. gentleman (Mr. Morrison) is not in a position to say to the contrary, and if he does say anything he will tell the Government that whether the head officials were corrupt or not, their subordinates were guilty of the grossest and most outrageous corruption that has ever taken place in the history of Canada.

Mr. LEIGHTON McCARTHY (North Simcoe). Mr. Speaker, I do not rise to reply to the remarks which have been addressed to the House by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior), because my position in this House prevents me, in a sense, from replying on behalf of one party or the other. It had been my intention to remain silent during this debate, and also during this session, believing that by reason of my youth it would be more becoming that I should remain silent, and listen, and endeavour to digest what I expected I would hear fall from the lips of the oratorical giants on both sides of the House. But, Sir, by reason of the prolongation of this debate it seems to me impossible that I should carry out that intention, and, therefore, I venture to address this hon. body, not without a good deal of fear and not without much trepidation. Sir, before my entry into this House I had thought I was coming to an assemblage of great deliberation, and coming to a place in which I would listen to dignified and relevant debate. In some instances hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House have given us food for thought; but, Sir, I was astonished to find, during the course of this debate, that in a great number of the speeches a mud-slinging competition had apparently been entered upon. That was not what I anticipated when I entered this House; and for that reason a considerable amount of the fear I entertained on coming here has vanished. There are some members of this House who do place their country before any party; and if we had more men of that kind, a great deal of useless expense would be saved to the country. While a good many of the speeches delivered upon one side of the House and upon the other have afforded food for thought, on the other hand we have had long-winded orations, which I submit should not be indulged in, if I may be allowed to say so. The fact that so many hon. members' seats have been vacant during the delivery of those speeches proves that they are of very little benefit to this House, and that they can only be delivered for the purpose of being used as campaign literature. I submit, if, as a young member I may do so, that the country would much more highly appreciate the efforts of hon. gentlemen on both sides of this House if they confined their remarks to shorter

periods, and discussed measures and not men, and allowed the debate to be conducted in a more dignified and relevant way.

Now, Sir, perhaps this House will think that I should not have made these remarks. I make them, not at all for the purpose of reading hon. gentlemen a lecture, which would be most unbecoming in one of my age, but simply for the purpose of stating to this House and the people I represent the impressions made upon my mind in the first days of my parliamentary duties.

The reason why I made up my mind that it was necessary for me to make some remarks on this debate, was the fact that the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) the other evening made some reference to the by-election in which I was elected, and to the harbour of Collingwood, which is a part of my constituency, I deemed it only right that I should also state my position to this House and to the country, because I find that my position is being criticised not only in the press of my own province of Ontario, but also elsewhere. I have no fear of fair criticism; but I think it is only right—and this debate is the only occasion on which I shall be enabled fully to do so—that I should place my position before this House and the country, in order that any criticism that may be meted out to me may be fair criticism, based on facts as they exist, which I do not suppose hon. members are possessed of at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a good deal about the conflicts and disputes and difficulties of parties, on both sides of this House during this debate, going back to 1863. We have heard of those difficulties, those blunders, and those disgraces which have, if I may be permitted to say so, perhaps disgraced both parties. But, Sir, in all these discussions it occurred to me that while we do look back to the past, it would perhaps be much more beneficial for the country if we devoted ourselves to the present. It matters not much to us now, what was done or what was not done by Sir John Macdonald, by George Brown, or by Alexander Mackenzie, or who or what clung to their skirts, we see the result of their works, we revere their names as statesmen who spent their lives according to their respective lights for the advancement and welfare of a loved country. But what we have at the present time to deal with is the present welfare and advancement of this country, looking to the future with confidence; and if we all, on both sides of the House, devoted our attention to that end, I submit, with all respect to hon. gentlemen, that it would be for the best interests of this country. It could not be expected of me, perhaps, to appreciate those past issues, for I could not, if I so desired, palm myself off as an antiquated politician. Indeed the main charge which I had to contend with in my constituency last December was that I was too young.

Mr. McCARTHY.

Our chief concern, I say, should be the best interests of this country at the present time. We all know that times are ever changing, and that which was of the greatest advantage to us ten years ago may be of the greatest detriment to-day. This country is growing apace, and with that growth we must keep up. Notwithstanding the great conflict, in which I do not take part, between the parties as to whom is due the credit, we are all united on this one fact, for which thank God, that this country is progressive and prosperous. It is also admitted on both sides of this House that this country has resources of which there is not the equal on the face of the earth, and that we are only on the eve of the discovery of what our absolute resources are. Having that knowledge, I venture to predict that if this country is not choked and throttled by party strife, in this despicable desire to gain office, it will progress and stride forward with unprecedented rapidity.

Now, Sir, owing, as I said before, to the somewhat unique position which I occupy in this House, I may perhaps be allowed, even at the expense of wearying some hon. members, to state the position which I occupied in December last in the by-election, and which I now occupy. The question of the tariff, in fact, almost all possible questions, have been referred to in this debate. Let me, therefore, deal with that question. I appealed to my constituency upon a platform of principles which was formulated and advocated by the late member for North Simcoe, whose seat I now occupy. That platform is known; but I read it in order that there may be no doubt about it:

1. To support such a tariff as will—

(a) Relieve the consumers and especially the agricultural classes from the burdens of taxation which excessive protection imposes.

(b) Effectually and speedily accomplish the downfall of the combinations and trusts which exist among many manufacturers, whereby competition is prohibited and monopolies flourish.

(c) And give the preference, wherever practicable, to the mother land, and also to such countries, and more especially to the United States, as are willing to join in fair trade relations.

That policy was endorsed by the constituency of North Simcoe in 1896, and again in 1898. The forerunner of that policy was a resolution which was moved in this House in 1893 by the hon. member for North Simcoe, the late Mr. McCarthy. That resolution is to be found at page 2341 of the "Hansard" of 1893, and I shall read it in order that there may be no doubt as to its purport:

Moved by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Hodgins:

That Mr. Speaker do not now leave the Chair, but that it be resolved:

That since the introduction of the protective system sufficient time has elapsed for the establishment and development of such manufacturing industries as under existing conditions can be

successfully carried on in Canada. Moreover, many manufacturers, sheltered behind the rampart thus erected, have formed combinations and trusts which prohibit competition and create and maintain monopolies.

That the existing tariff, defensible only as a protective measure, has proved in many instances oppressive and burdensome to the great mass of the consuming classes, and especially to those engaged in agricultural pursuits, is unfair and unequal in its incidence, and has been productive of discontent verging on disloyalty among those who suffer from its injustice.

That sufficient reason has been adduced or exists requiring investigation respecting the foregoing facts, which are notorious, nor justifying delay in the passage of remedial legislation, which is imperative.

That, in the opinion of this House, the tariff ought to be at once amended in respect of the matters herein indicated, and also by the substantial reduction of customs duties in favour of the United Kingdom, in whose markets all Canadian products are admitted duty free, and of those rations which under treaty obligations with Great Britain would be entitled to the same advantages, graduated, however, so as not unnecessarily to prejudice the business of the country nor to do wrong to those who have imported and paid duties in accordance with its provisions.

That is all that is of importance in the resolution to this debate. It came before this House on the 14th of March, 1893, and was debated at length, with the result that it was defeated by a large majority. We found the hon. members who now support the Government supporting that resolution, and those in opposition, the Conservatives, voting against it. What I desire to point out is this, that it formed the foundation of the tariff policy upon which I stand and was at that time supported and endorsed by the Liberals and voted against by the Conservatives. That being so, what position do I find myself in? I told my constituents clearly that that was my platform, that I would vote according to these principles and that policy, I cared not with which party it led me to vote. If it led me to vote with the Government, I would vote with them. If they led me to vote with the Opposition, I would support the Opposition. What is the situation at present? It is somewhat unique, so far as the contentions of the two parties are concerned. The Government say: We have adopted that policy. It was so stated in this House, and in the debate I have referred to, the right hon. leader of the Government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) endorsed every clause of that resolution, save and except that part which referred to preferential trade. Then, what do we find? We find the Opposition during this debate shouting "thief" at the head of the Government, and alleging that the Government have stolen their garments. The conclusion to be deduced must be that all parties stand upon common ground. I am not concerned at present with pledges broken or unbroken. I only say that wherever that policy and those principles lead me, there my vote will be cast, irrespective of party. There is no doubt that the Government

have, as they say, adopted this policy. There may be, and there seems to be, a doubt in the minds of the Conservatives as to whether the Government has carried out that policy; but I can only say that if the Government have stolen the clothes of hon. gentlemen opposite, they will meet with the same justice as was dealt out to the Conservatives at the last general elections. Can it be considered that the Government of this country would be so foolish as to steal the garments of hon. gentlemen opposite who were deposed because they did not give the country what it wanted. However, my position is that I will oppose any Government or party that does not live up to the principles embodied in that resolution.

Now, Sir, to some gentlemen who have spoken to me with regard to the position which I occupy, and who have given me to understand that it would be entirely wrong on my part to support the Government on any occasion, all I can say is that I do not see why, if the principles which my lamented uncle supported and which I support, are adopted by the Government, I should leave those principles as if they were a plague ship, simply because of that fact. I cannot see the thing in that light, and with all deference to the opinion of those gentlemen who have thus spoken to me, I must maintain the position I took in my constituency and on which I was elected.

The main complaint of the Conservative party, as far as I can gather from this debate, so far as the tariff is concerned, is that the Government have not given this country free trade. But I cannot complain of that. I do not think that at present free trade is feasible, and therefore I do not complain. But what I do say is that we should have an era of freer trade, and it is to that extent that this resolution goes and to that end this policy looks. I have no doubt that this subject will be further discussed during the session, and therefore shall not dwell at further length upon it, but will remain satisfied having stated the position I occupy. Let me, however, say this much further, that so far as preferential trade is concerned, I am ultra in that respect, because I believe that it is of vital importance that the preferential trade should be created and put into effect as soon as possible, for to that it seems to me we must look in order to create some degree of independence, or a greater degree of independence, so that we may be in a position to demand from our neighbours in the south the fair trade relations we have a right to expect from them by reason of this friendliness which exists between them and our mother land. But, above and beyond all, is it not to our interest that we should be more closely joined together to the mother country and be bound by links which should join together all the parts of this great empire and make us still more closely a part and parcel of it?

The next question upon which I took a

stand in my constituency, and on which I shall take a stand in this House is :

That I would endeavour to prevent in the establishing of provinces in the territories, the enactment of any organic law which would recognize any racial distinction or privilege, and would oppose any endeavour to create any language other than the British an official language in such newly created provinces.

This has been before the House on several occasions, but I have not heard any reference made to it during this debate. The hon. gentleman who preceded me did speak about the differences between our French Canadian fellow-citizens and those of British origin. The position I take is that we should endeavour to prevent, in the establishing of provinces in the territories, the enactment of any law which would recognize any racial distinction or privilege. I would oppose any endeavour to establish any language other than the British as the official language in such newly created provinces. I desire to say that the hon. gentlemen who first advocated that policy never had any enmity to our French Canadian fellow citizens, nor have I. I have the greatest respect for them. They have the right to speak the French language in this House and in the legislative halls of their own province, but I cannot conceive how any hon. gentleman can argue or maintain that in the creation of new provinces in a British speaking country, any language should be the official language of that newly created province other than the British. That question, as I understand it, does not at present receive much favour in this House, but I predict that the sagacity of the man who first introduced it and his clear foresight are about to be proven.

If that great North-west is to be filled, as we are seeking now to fill it, with thousands of Doukhobors, thousands of Galicians, and a prospective immigration of thousands of Finlanders, together with the populations there now of various nationalities, I ask this House and I ask the people of this country : How can the people in that North-west country be assimilated unless they have one official language? That is either right or wrong. I have no enmity, nor had my late uncle any enmity to the French Canadians. But it is because he saw the requirements of this country for the future, he saw that if this country was to be settled by people such as those now being brought in, it would be necessary that there should be but one language and that language the British. I, therefore, desire to take my stand, irrespective of party, declaring that if any Government or any party that would seek to place upon the Statute-book of this country any enactment creating an official language other than English, I will oppose that party or that Government. I trust that this question will never become a disturbing question in politics : I trust that the better judgment of hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House will prevail and that the question will be

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adjusted without difficulty. But my position is taken, it is distinct and plain, and there I will stand should this ever become a disturbing question. Why, Sir, is it not perfectly evident that if one foreign nationality in that country were entitled to their language as the official language, there would be no just ground for refusing the same to other immigrants ; and so we should be asked to create five or six official languages, which would be simply and absolutely impossible.

Then, Sir, the next question upon which I took a stand was that which is commonly known as the Manitoba school question. I shall not have much to say in regard to that. In my platform I declared as follows :

I would oppose any interference by the Government or the Parliament of Canada in the public school law of the province of Manitoba, the constitutionality of which has been conclusively settled by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

We are told that the question is settled, and, although that does not seem to be universally accepted, I think none can doubt that it is, at least, settled for the present. The doubt seems to be whether it is settled once for all. I hold that the people of this country must feel that to the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and his Government is due a great deal of praise for the removal of that vexatious question from the arena of politics, where it caused so much friction and strife. Now, it is stated by some members of the Conservative party that the question is not settled, notwithstanding the speeches made by different Ministers to the contrary effect. What does that mean? Let me recall to mind for a moment the position of hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House on this question after the last general election. We know that at that time this was a burning question. In the province of Quebec, as I understand it, hon. gentlemen who support the present Government had pledged themselves to vote for the Remedial Bill, but told their constituents that they expected that if their party were returned to power they would be able to settle the question. On the other hand there were Conservative members from Ontario and the west, a great many of them, who were pledged, no matter who was in power, to vote against the Remedial Bill. Had the Conservative party been returned at the last election and had the leader of that party fulfilled the pledges he gave and reintroduced the Remedial Bill in this House, what would have been the condition of affairs? Many hon. gentlemen would have voted against the Government who had been elected to support it generally, while hon. gentlemen elected to oppose it would have been found voting with it. Whether the argument of some hon. gentlemen is right and this question is not settled, or whether the Government is right and it is settled, it certainly is settled for the pre-

sent, because we find nothing upon the records which would lead one to believe that it is to be reintroduced in this House, and I should think, in view of the direful results of attempting to coerce that province, no political leader of any sagacity would again attempt it. Whether it is settled or not, I wish to state my position clearly and beyond peradventure of a doubt. If remedial legislation is introduced in this House for the purpose of coercing the province of Manitoba, I will be found unalterably opposed to it.

There is another question upon which I took a stand. That question is referred to in the Speech from the Throne—the Redistribution Bill. The platform issued on which I stood declared as follows on that subject :

To require in the readjustment of the constituencies that the distribution of seats shall as far as practicable be based on equality of population, county and city boundaries being taken as the natural limits of electoral districts, with equitable divisions thereof where the population entitles the city or county to two or more representatives.

Now, that is the position I will occupy in this House. It is not necessary to debate the question at this stage. The Minister of Justice, speaking in the Senate, stated that it was the intention of the Government to confine themselves to county lines. That is in accordance with the plank in my platform, and it is the principle I will vote for. be it with the Government or with the Opposition.

These were the principles, this was the policy of the late hon. member for North Simcoe. I fought for those principles and they were dear to me in his lifetime. I need hardly assure hon. gentlemen that they are dearer a thousand times now. I have a certain pride in being an independent, based upon principles upon which I was elected, and I have to thank the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) because he was, to a certain extent, helpful to me in the campaign I fought last December. He came to Toronto and delivered an address which was reported in the "World" on the 29th November, 1898. He said—and I agree with him to the uttermost :

A man might be independent, however, and a party that would veto independent thought was doomed to speedy death. Independence in a party put new life into it, as the blood puts new life into the body.

That was of great assistance to me. The remarks were all the stronger for the experience of the hon. gentleman, because he had a good deal to do with the independent men in the Cabinets that were so frequently formed prior to the last general election.

It was with great pleasure I listened to the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) the other evening upon the transportation problems which are now agitating this country. It is of vital importance to us that that question be handled promptly and

speedily. The hon. gentleman announced that it was his intention to improve our waterways in order to accomplish that which has now been proven capable of accomplishment. Mr. J. R. Booth, who built the Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound Railway, has demonstrated to us that we could, through the Georgian Bay, control the trade, not only from the North-west of our own country, but from the North-western States of our neighbours to the south of us. But what hitherto has been the result? The result has been that the trade and commerce of our north-western country has gone by way of Buffalo. I say that we should all unite for the purpose of diverting the course of trade from that port and ourselves secure the benefit of the carrying trade to and from these people who are settling in our western country. Not only should we do that, but we should aid and assist to divert and capture that trade from the Western States, as it has been shown we can do. Now, the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) the other night criticised the expenditure on the Collingwood Harbour in these words, speaking of the Minister of Public Works :

When he came down to the House a couple of years ago and stated that a contract was being entered into for \$144,000 for that work, I then asked him, and the "Hansard" will bear out my statement, whether that was to complete the work. Why, Sir, what was the result? The \$144,000 that had been spent in the Collingwood harbour might as well have been thrown into the sea. And to-day the Minister of Public Works will and must come down to this House, in fulfilment of the pledge that he has made, and ask this House, in order to follow up that work and make it accessible for the boats sailing on the upper lakes, not merely to expend \$144,000, but \$1,000,000, before that work can be consummated.

Mr. BENNETT. Hear, hear.

Mr. McCARTHY. The hon. gentleman reiterates his statement. Now, in the first place, he must know that that statement is incorrect. If any hon. gentleman in this House knows it, he knows it, because, on referring to the "Hansard," he must have found that the contract was not to be completed until the end of the present year. The fact is that that work is not completed, and that \$144,000 is not expended, and he goes on and says it will take a million dollars to consummate it. I am afraid the hon. gentleman has been carried away by his jealous feelings. I would submit to him that there will be sufficient trade for all the ports on the Georgian Bay, and we need not be jealous one of the other; but let us work together for the advancement of our country, but being guided by any picayune spirit at all. I think his wild statement can be accounted for by reason of his interest in his own harbour of Midland, which has given him a jaundiced view of the matter. He says it will take a million to consummate it. I say I hope it will take but a small additional expenditure to do it, and that consummated it must be. Sir,

the hon. gentleman was a supporter of the Government during the last Parliament, and during previous Parliaments, who had made it their policy to deepen that harbour. This \$144,000 that he now criticises as being wasted, was voted and tenders were asked for that work prior to the going out of the late Administration, and the present Minister of Public Works did nothing more than let that contract upon the tenders which were advertised for by the late Administration. I was pleased to see that the present Minister of Public Works had made up his mind to pursue the policy of the previous Government in this regard, and I adopt it most cordially. In another respect also I was pleased to see that the Minister of Public Works had adopted the policy of the late Administration, but I did not hear the hon. gentleman criticise that, and I do not think he will do so; I refer to the Trent Valley Canal. That affects both our constituencies, and I think we will both be pleased to see that work completed in order that this transportation trade may be increased and pass through our own country.

Then, the hon. member for East Simcoe undertook to explain to this House what occurred in the by-election in North Simcoe. That being somewhat personal to myself I desire to make a few explanations. The hon. gentleman told the House that Mr. McMullen had gone up there, which I believe, from the newspaper reports, to be true. He says:

The Conservative party in the riding stood on one side and left the hon. gentleman who represents the riding and the Liberal candidate to fight it out. Notwithstanding that there was no candidate in the field in strong opposition to the Government, notwithstanding that while in the local election a short time before some 5,000 votes had been polled, there were on the same lists a little more than 3,000 votes polled on this occasion.

The hon. gentleman's innuendo would be that the difference between 3,000 and 5,000, or to be more correct, the difference between 5,209, which was the actual number of votes polled in the local election, and the 3,359 cast in my election, would represent the Conservatives of that riding as numbering 1,850, or a minority in the riding of 1,509. Now, I do not think the hon. gentleman's friends in that riding would be flattered, although he has flattered them to a certain extent, because he has claimed twice as many as they polled at the general election in 1896, which was 875 votes. Now, according to these figures, there were 1,805 Conservatives who stood aloof. But I desire to be perfectly fair with the hon. gentleman, and I point out that his innuendo from the figures is all wrong, and the reason for the small vote polled in that constituency was, as he well knows, due to a terrific snowstorm that raged there for eight days, so that the roads and railways were impassable, and voters could not be got out

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in the townships, while the towns polled a normal vote. But, to be perfectly fair, let us consider the figures he has seen fit to mention. Supposing there were at the local election, as my hon. friend has pointed out, 5,209 votes polled, he might have gone on and told you—but perhaps that did not suit his purpose—that the Conservatives polled out of that number of votes, taking from the ridings of Centre and West Simcoe in the local House the towns and townships in the riding of North Simcoe, 2,503 votes. On that basis the hon. gentleman will see that they stand in a minority of 203. But it is only fair to state that the Conservatives were opposed by Independents and Liberals. The gentleman who ran as a straight Conservative in West Simcoe was opposed entirely by an Independent, and the gentleman who ran in Centre Simcoe was opposed by both a Liberal and Independent, so that the vote, so far as party is concerned, does not give sufficient information to allow one accurately to judge what the result of that vote was as regards party. But why the hon. gentleman saw fit to refer to these matters I know not, unless it was for the purpose of concealing the position which the Conservatives in that riding took in my election. Now, what position did they take? We speak of the Conservatives in that riding as the straight line or the machine Conservatives, who we thought numbered about 875, and that was the exact number that were polled in the last general election for the Conservative candidate, Mr. Lennox. They held a convention at Stayner a short time before my election, and they passed a resolution which I will read, and I ask hon. gentlemen opposite who agree with me on certain questions, and who perhaps do not agree with me on the tariff questions, to listen to the position which their friends took in that riding:

That whereas there are now two candidates in the field seeking the support of the electorate of North Simcoe, one of whom, Mr. James Martin, is the nominee of the Reform party at a convention called for that purpose, and the other, Mr. Leighton McCarthy, announces himself as an independent candidate, though having, there is good reason to believe, the support of the Government, and has refused to accept the suggestion that he allow his name to come as a candidate before a convention of Conservatives for this riding, or to be even an independent Conservative candidate; and whereas the present parliamentary contest is a by-election, it is therefore resolved that the Conservatives of North Simcoe, for the reasons stated, do not at this late hour nominate a candidate to contest the riding at said by-election; also, that as neither of the candidates now in the field in any sense represent the views of the Conservative party, this convention does not express any opinion as to how or for whom Conservatives should vote at such election, but declares that each member of the party is at liberty to exercise his franchise on behalf of either of the said candidates or not to vote at all, as to such member shall seem best.

That is the position which the straight line

or machine Conservatives took at that convention. Now, the hon. gentleman's friends did vote in that campaign, and they voted as was insinuated in that resolution they should vote—they voted for the Liberal candidate. Their support of that candidate did cause a considerable amount of difficulty, and I would say also that, in that riding, these gentlemen seemed to think that they had—I do not say that it was against me personally, but against the name that I bear—some vindictive desire to satisfy. Then, also, I may remark, that my Roman Catholic fellow-citizens whom I never have harmed in any way, thought that they had some imaginary wrong to right, and they joined in this combination. Hon. members will say: "How in the world were you elected? I reply, by the honest, true, independent men who worked for me, and supported me upon that occasion, and to whom I am truly and deeply indebted. I have stated my position at this length that this country and this House may understand it. I am perfectly willing that the votes which I give in this House shall be criticised, upon the basis which I have stated, I was not elected to represent any party; I received no aid from any party in my election. I represent no party, not even a third party, and I propose to exercise the independent freedom my constituents have bestowed upon me, recognizing that to them I am responsible and to them alone. One other question, Mr. Speaker, calls for my notice, and it is that I see, in an article in the "Mail and Empire," a criticism in regard to the seat which I occupy in this House. As I say, I am responsible only to my constituents. I did not ask or apply for a seat at all, but what would be more fitting than that I should be placed beside my hon. friend (Mr. Stubbs) who was elected upon the same principles and the same platform as myself, and who, being an older parliamentarian than myself, is an hon. gentleman from whom I can seek advice. But, Sir, above and beyond that let me tell this House and this country that the side of this House that was good enough for Dalton McCarthy to sit upon is good enough for me.

Mr. J. ROSS ROBERTSON (East Toronto). So far as I am concerned, this debate might die a natural death if I did not feel it to be a duty to express my appreciation of the great service which the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) rendered to this country by his attack on official wrongdoing in the Yukon. It was not my good fortune to hear the reply of the hon. Minister of the Interior, but I have read the speech of that hon. Minister, as reported in the Toronto papers, and also in "Hansard," and I cannot but think that he failed utterly to vindicate his own wisdom or the honesty of the officials chosen by him. In fact, the speech of the hon. Minister of the Interior leaves me very much in the posi-

tion of the judge who was listening to the lawyers, who were trying to prove, in a celebrated election case, that the respondent had no personal knowledge of the bribery which was used in his behalf. The judge said, "You might as well push a man into Lake Ontario and tell me that he was dry when you pulled him out, as to tell me that this respondent could be in the midst of such a seething mass of corruption and yet have no knowledge of these transactions." The speech of the hon. Minister of the Interior leaves me in the position of that judge in regard to these officials in the Yukon. I cannot for one moment believe that there could be so much smoke without some fire. I may say that I am thoroughly in sympathy with some phases of the Government's Yukon policy; I believe in the principle of the royalty, and also in the theory that the Yukon should pay for the Yukon. For that reason, I opposed last session the attempt that was made to turn the Yukon over to Mackenzie & Mann. The imposition of royalty on the gross output was a sound departure, but still a departure, and the Government should have been careful in its choice of agents. I cannot see that the hon. Minister of the Interior was particularly careful; he seems to have treated the whole Yukon as a wrecked ship to which he fastened all the barnacles to be found in Manitoba politics. I am free to confess that at first I thought the appointment of Major Walsh as administrator was a good one. I admit now that I was possibly mistaken, and yet I hope that Major Walsh will be able to disprove the charges that have been made against him. It would be unjust to expect the hon. Minister of the Interior to make no mistakes in his choice of men; his great mistake was in his settled policy of trying to bludgeon down every complaint that came from the Yukon. I did not agree with the hon. member for Pictou in condemning the activity of the hon. Minister of the Interior in the pursuit of the Manitoba rascals who are charged with stuffing ballot-boxes. I must say that the activity of the hon. Minister of the Interior towards the alleged rascality of his enemies in Manitoba is in marked contrast with his apathy towards the alleged rascality of his friends in the Yukon. The demand for specific charges and the names of complainants should, in my opinion, never have come from the head of a department which is on trial. The men who were branded as cowards, thieves and cut-throats did not go out to the Yukon to purify public affairs; they went out to look after gold, and this Government should not ask them to stop looking for gold in order to prefer charges against evil-doers in the country's service, at their own risk and at their own expense. These men are helpless unless there is a power here at Ottawa which can lay hold of their oppressors. The hon. Minister of the Interior has not helped them very much

by his policy of holding a sort of Civil Service examination on every man who complained by looking for proof of good character from every complainant, when he should have been asking proof of good conduct from every accused official. The hon. Minister of the Interior had a chance to disassociate himself from the acts of his officials. He could have said to the country: "Whatever is wrong is going to be made right, and my policy is that no guilty man shall escape." This was not the policy of the hon. Minister of the Interior. The victims of wrong-doing in the Yukon were discouraged rather than encouraged. The hon. Minister of the Interior, he had his chance, but he failed to take it. He might have relieved this Parliament by making an investigation that would have been thorough and searching. The way that hon. gentlemen opposite have received the name of Mr. Woodworth shows the sort of justice that would be dealt out to any of those men that complained.

The present Government through the mistaken policy of the hon. the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) is identified with a corruption which robbed men of their rights and of their money, and with the terrorism, which would have robbed them of their characters if they had dared to make protest. If there has been any unfairness to officials in the Yukon, the blame rests entirely on the shoulders of the Minister of the Interior, for it was his duty to move at the first whisper of wrong-doing. I agree with the hon. gentlemen opposite who think that it is a fearful thing that the innocent should be accused, but, Sir, it is just as deplorable that the guilty should be shielded. I do not think that any gentleman on this side of the House is open to the charge of wilfully accusing the innocent, but I am afraid there are gentlemen on the other side of the House who are excusing the guilty. I am much mistaken if the demand of the country for the truth as to all these proceedings in the Yukon can be suppressed by the tactics of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). An investigation conducted by the friends of that gentleman (Mr. Sifton) under the control of the Minister may suit his followers—I admit that they are not as scarce as I would like to see them—but there is a public opinion which demands more than an inquiry by Wm. Ogilvie, with limited powers. Such an investigation may be very good as far as it goes, but there is great need for an inquiry sufficient to show the whole truth about the proceedings in the Yukon. This inquiry, when it comes, should not stop short of showing how so many members of the Black Horse Cavalry from Manitoba got so very rich in a very short time on very small salaries. I have no more to say, Mr. Speaker, further than to express the hope that this investigation will be proceeded with, and that the Yukon business will not be allowed to rest until the whole truth is fully brought up.

Mr. ROSS ROBERTSON.

#### LENGTH OF THE DEBATE.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Before you leave the Chair, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition, if he is in a position to give us any information as to when he expects this debate to close?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. So far as I am able to judge from the number of gentlemen whom I know are anxious to speak at some length on the subject, it will not be possible to close the debate this week.

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

#### After Recess.

Mr. G. R. MAXWELL (Burrard). Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to take any part in this debate, but as the leading representative of the Conservative party in British Columbia has spoken, it would not be courteous, I think, if some member from that province did not reply to his strictures upon the policy of the Government. The speech of the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Robertson) delivered before recess, was a speech that may be characterized as one full of wormwood and gall. Short though it was, it was full of bitterness, full of audacious assertions, and it was not difficult for one to interpret the reason thereof, because it was manifest to all, that the speech was inspired by the hon. gentleman's intense dislike to the hon. the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). The speech we heard this afternoon from the young member from North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) was one that was listened to with great pleasure. With his fine voice, with his ideas clearly arranged, and with the eloquent language with which he clothed them, we can congratulate ourselves in having an acquisition in the shape of ability to the debating power of this House. We are proud, I think I may say we are all proud, that the name of "McCarthy" still remains in this Parliament of Canada.

Sir, I wish to discuss very briefly a few points before coming to what may be called the main theme of the debate. There is a good deal of similarity between parts of the speech of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) and the speech of the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior). Both started out pretty much in the same lines with a condemnation of the policy or the lack of policy on the part of the Government. The hon. member for Pictou began in a very bitter mood; he became more bitter as he proceeded, and he reached the apex of bitterness at the close of that long and dreary address. He was very bitter towards the Prime Minister because of some adjectives which the right hon. gentleman had applied to the leader of the Opposition; he evidently disliked these adjectives and gave

what might be called a very smart lecture to the leader of the Government. Now, I have noted in a way, just a few of the flowers of rhetoric indulged in by the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) in that remarkable speech. Referring to the honoured followers of the Government, he calls them claqueurs. The right hon. the leader of the Government is charged with being incapable and his policy described as one of incapacity. The Liberals are represented as going down into depths of degradation. The servants of the Government are called harpies, hangers-on, heelers, corrupt officials, licensed thieves, understrappers; one is described as a drunken reprobate; another is characterized as a horse stealer—or a horse dealer. I beg your pardon—and he is put in comparison with a lawyer. Now, Sir, I do not know very much about the respective merits of a horse dealer and a lawyer, but it seems to me that a horse dealer is just as likely to be as honest and upright a man as any lawyer in Canada. Referring to the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) said: "The Minister of the Interior is base enough;" and referring to a particular subject, he says: "It shows the degradation to which he has sunk."

Now, if there was anything wrong in the language employed by the Prime Minister, surely the hon. gentleman does not strengthen his case by employing language more strong, and by gathering together a collection of adjectives expressive of the most contemptible designations which he could apply either to individuals or to a government. It only shows, Sir, how very difficult it is for a man to practice what he preaches.

**Mr. POWELL.** An open confession is good for the soul.

**Mr. MAXWELL.** I know hon. gentlemen opposite are not in the habit of preaching, hence they do not realize the difficulty of it. I say, the hon. member for Pictou made a very strong arraignment of the Government for its policy, or lack of policy, and the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior), in pretty much the same strain, gave expression to his views.

One characteristic keynote ran through all, that was, the broken pledges of the Government. Now, I do not know for what reason hon. gentlemen should dwell so much upon what they call broken promises. The hon. member for Victoria told us that we had made certain promises and that they had not been fulfilled. Now, I think it is patent to every individual who wants to be fair, that a man may make a promise with the very best intentions, and may find it very difficult to fulfil that promise in a day, or in a week, or in a month, or in a year. I can remember a particular promise of which I have read, and which has been pretty much studied by me, made by the Almighty Himself to an individual, and fifty years afterwards that promise was

still unfulfilled; but before he died the promise was verified. Now, it is just the same with a party as with an individual. Undoubtedly, we made promises, but I hold that, ever since this Government came into power, it has been earnestly and faithfully attempting to carry out those promises; that a great many of them have been carried out, and, if life is continued to this Government, as I have no doubt it will be, every promise and pledge made to the people of Canada by this Government will ultimately be fulfilled. It seems to me a very senseless way of criticising a government, to make statements that cannot possibly be verified; and when any one says the Government has not kept its promises to the people, the people will realize that that is not a correct statement.

Now, I will just give you a few samples of some of the promises which the Liberal party made to the people, and on which, no doubt, the people returned them to power. There was, for example, the Franchise Act. No hon. gentleman opposite will deny that there was a distinct pledge, or promise, on the part of those now in power, that if they were returned to power, they would abolish the old Act and go back to the franchise of the respective provinces. I will not say, at this particular point, whether that was wise or unwise. Sufficient for me to say that it was a distinct pledge, and that the pledge was carried out in its entirety, and to the satisfaction, I believe, of the people of Canada.

Then, there was the Superannuation Act. Hon. gentlemen who know the record of the Liberal party of this country, know that it felt deep dissatisfaction with the Superannuation Act, as it formerly existed. The question with me at the present time is not so much with regard to what abuses crept into existence, or the amount of money that may have been given away by this Government or by the old Government. Sufficient for me to state that this Government gave a distinct pledge to the people, that if returned to power, the old Act would be abolished, and if the principle of superannuation were maintained, a new state of affairs would be brought into existence. Every man knows that that pledge has been carried out in its entirety and with satisfaction to the people.

Then, again, there was the plebiscite. Hon. gentlemen opposite know that that also was a distinct pledge made by this Government to the people of Canada. The question is not prohibition or no prohibition. Hon. gentlemen know that in a great party there must be room for different ideas and opinions with regard to such a question; and, while it is true we have on this side men who are pledged to prohibition, men who are heart and soul in sympathy with every effort that is being made to remove intemperance from the land, yet the distinct pledge of the Government to the people of

Canada was, that they would give them an opportunity to express their mind as to whether they were or were not in favour of the prohibition of the liquor traffic. It is mere quibbling to say that the Government has broken its pledge. I hold, and my statement is warranted and cannot be denied, that, in the plebiscite which has just passed, the Government fulfilled its pledge in its entirety to the people of Canada.

Then, with regard to the commission at Washington. Hon. gentlemen know that that was also a distinct pledge made by this Government to the people of Canada. They said that if they had the opportunity, they would put in motion the machinery by which mutual discussions and arrangements might be had between the two countries for better trade relations. The question here is not whether that commission has been a failure or a success. We have simply to see what was the promise made by the Government, and whether that promise has been carried out or not. Now, you know it has been carried out. We know that the commissioners have been appointed, and that they have been in conference for many weeks, and even months, trying to bring about a better condition of affairs between the two countries; and I cannot help saying that we have something to learn with regard to true Imperial politics. I was very glad to hear the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior) introduce that phrase in his speech this afternoon. You know very well that, when matters affecting the British Empire are under consideration in the British House of Commons, at least so far as its foreign relations are concerned, both sides of the House say to the Government: We will give you a free hand; we will sustain you in every effort you are putting forth for the maintenance of the Empire; we will drop party politics; we will stand right here and stand at your back, and make those with whom you are contending and discussing, realize that they are discussing, not with a party, but with the whole British Empire. I would like well that, so far as this commission is concerned, we would rise above the mere question of party advantages or considerations, and would make the citizens of the United States and the commissioners who represent these citizens, realize that our men are not merely the representatives of a party, but representatives of the whole Dominion, in so far as these negotiations are concerned.

With regard to the Senate, hon. gentlemen know, Mr. Speaker, that with reference to that also there was a distinct pledge made by this Government to the people of Canada. The question is not as to the nature of the change or improvement proposed. It is not a mere question as to how the change proposed may succeed or anything like that, but the question is simply, does the Government intend to carry out the pledge made to the people to reform the Senate in some

Mr. MAXWELL.

way. We know that legislation or at least some sort of machinery has to be set in motion this session. What for? To carry out as far as we possibly can the pledge which this party made in the years gone by. Here let me say that I cannot but regret the utterance of the right hon. Prime Minister while I respect his caution and admire and respect his love for the Senate simply because it is an institution of the country at present; for my feelings are in sympathy with all those who want its abolition instead of amending or patching it up. So far as I know the feelings of my people, they are in favour of doing away with it altogether and giving the money spent on that institution at present to something more needful and beneficial to the country than it is to-day. We are told that the Senate is a watchdog, but I will not insult the dog by calling it after the Senate.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think I must call the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that it is not in order to speak disrespectfully of another House.

Mr. MAXWELL. Then I withdraw the expression. I did not think I was doing anything wrong or else I would not have used it. The expression "watchdog" has been often used with regard to the Senate, and I thought it was perfectly in accordance with parliamentary speech. However, we all know that the watchdog is of great service and that his services are respected and honoured, but I do not know that the Senate has performed equal service, according to its opportunities, compared with those which that noble animal performs for those whom he serves and loves.

Now, the question of the tariff has also been brought very conspicuously before us in this debate. The hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior) told us that we promised free trade. I think that is one of those statements that cannot possibly be verified, so far as the party as a whole is concerned. The question of free trade and protection is one of those questions which divide men, and men even in the one party have their different ideas and opinions concerning it. So far as I am personally concerned, brought up as I was a free trader, and in the British Empire, realizing the advantages of free trade, I cannot but believe that under similar conditions the same policy would have the same good effects for Canada as it has had for the British Empire. Of course we know that it took the British Empire a long time to come to the stage of free trade which now exists in that prosperous and mighty Empire, and it is sufficient for me, in harmony with the views of my hon. friend from Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), if we go forward, no matter how slowly, in that direction and towards that goal which it is our noble ambition to reach. Whenever the fetters that shackle trade will be broken and we shall have the same freedom in trade

that we have in thought, we shall have made the same advance in material progress as we have made since that time in spiritual progress, for I cannot but believe that when freedom of thought came to this earth, this earth sprang into new life and has since that period made more progress than perhaps during the whole previous time of its existence. So when the shackles are taken off our material life and when trade has the same open free channels that thought has to-day, I cannot but believe that there will be a commercial renaissance that will be equally beneficial to all concerned, not only in Canada but the wide world over. So far as this tariff is concerned, the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior) said that he was not very sure as to whether things had been prospering or not. That is to say, he was not very sure as to whether the exodus, for example, had stopped, or as to whether there was a great deal of improvement made as has been stated. Well, the proof of the pudding is the precin o't; and we have the foundation to-day of a growing time, not only in the different parts of Canada, but in British Columbia. Why, if we had to-day a census taken of that province, we would, I think, be entitled to perhaps four more members in this House than we have at present, showing, I think, very clearly a wonderful development and progress—not an exodus of people going out but a crowd of people coming in—and, I think, proving conclusively that at least the changes which have been made in the tariff and the policy of this Government have not been detrimental to the commercial interests of our great province and of our west. The hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior) asked the question: Are we satisfied? I wonder where the man is to be found who is satisfied. Do we realize for a moment what satisfaction means? Why, the man who is satisfied is a dead man. Satisfaction is always an evidence of senility, of decay, of growing old, of not being able to be active and diligent in service. One of the noblest instincts or one of the noblest emotions planted in the human heart or mind or soul is not satisfaction but dissatisfaction, and so long as a man is dissatisfied with what is and ever yearning and looking forward to what will be and what may be, there you have a man that will be progressive, active and diligent, and will bring forward the reforms that are yet to glorify our age and the time which is coming. No, we are not satisfied, we are still living and breathing and looking forward to greater and better things for Canada than she has had yet. Because we are dissatisfied, we shall so act and influence thought and action with regard to the things we see that are needed, not now perhaps, but in the good time coming, that dissatisfaction will be one of the most important factors in promoting change, in developing progress and in making reforms.

Now he says that we made a promise to economize. I wonder what man ever eco-

nomized that had plenty of money to spend. There is only one man that I know of who economizes, and that is the miser; and no man on earth is more despised than the miser with his money. A young man, for example, starts in life with \$40 a month. If he is a wise young man, he will not spend that \$40 a month, but will save something out of it and will suit his expenses to his income. When he gets \$600 a year, he will spend more, and, perhaps, save more. When he gets a \$1000 he will spend more and save more, and when he gets \$5000 a year, he will spend more than at any previous time in his life, if he is a growing intelligent man. And, so, when the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) says: The money is coming in, and I am going to spend it, I say he is perfectly right. The people of Canada do not want a miserly Government. There are so many important things to be done. Why, the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior), I have not the slightest doubt is in sympathy with an effort being made in his own city to press upon the Government a spending of over a million dollars upon the wharf there. And yet he wants this Government to economize. He also made a very intelligent and very appreciative appeal for the militia of this country; he wanted the Minister to spend more money on the militia. And yet he wants the Government to economize. I say that, as long as the prosperity of this country brings money into the national exchequer, so long as there are public works to be built, so long as the public works will be helpful to the commercial life of our nation, just so long do I want our Government to spend every cent that the people of the country are giving them—and to spend it in such things as will be beneficial to the people. There is only one thing that this side of the House does not want the Government to do, and that is to let the money of the country be stolen or plundered. Spend the money fairly and squarely. I am perfectly certain of this—that if the Government spend the money wisely and honestly, the people will pay no attention whatever to the cry of economy or the cry of extravagance. Sufficient for them will be the fact that the money is being spent in the interest, for the betterment and for the true advancement of Canada.

Now, the Government made other promises, and I am very sorry to say that these promises are not as often mentioned, perhaps, as they ought to be. There is a large class of people in this country that, perhaps, we do not take into consideration as much as we ought to do.—I refer to the working classes. I am glad to say that this Government has done something which I know appeals to the sympathy of a large portion of the people of Canada. If there is one thing, Mr. Speaker, that the working classes of this country are opposed

to, it is what is called combines. We, more or less, believe in competition. We are supposed to believe, at least, that competition is the great law so far as trade is concerned. Combination is another law, we might say, which has started out to make it evident that there can be no real true competition in trade or business at the present day. Rightly or wrongly, the working classes of this country have got it into their heads that these combines are detrimental to their best interests, that they create another tyrannous horde, and that their tyranny will be used when the time comes for crushing their independence. Now, I am glad that this Government has put it upon record that where these combines are made, the class of goods made by that combine shall be placed upon the free list. Then there is the question of the sweating system. I am sorry that the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) is not here this evening, that I might speak in his presence a word of commendation for his worthy and noble efforts in connection with his department at least, in which he has provided, there shall be nothing of this system, a system that means the degradation of the labourer, that means poverty that oftentimes results in crimes against the children of the poor labourer. Then, there is the question of day labour. The hon. member for Pictou, last session tried to quibble with the Minister of Public Works on the question of day labour. I believe in day labour, as I believe also in the contract system. Plenty of work in this country can be done well by day labour. Perhaps, there is no question in which the working class are more interested than this question of day labour. I believe day labour is better than any kind of labour, that if men have time to do honest, fair and square work, it will be done better than under the contract system. I commend the Government to the working classes because of their partial adoption at least of the principle of day labour. Then there is the matter of the union label: I think this also passed through the House last session, but, Mr. Speaker, owing to the good offices of these venerable gentlemen a short distance off, this demand made by the Trades and Labour Councils of Canada was balked and defeated. But I know that it will not end there, that the matter will come before us again; and I am glad that this House at least has put itself on record that it is heartily in sympathy with putting these labels upon the products of our labouring man, to be a sign to all men that the workman that produced the goods is honestly paid, and at such a rate as to give him a decent competence in life.

Let me now call your attention for a short time, to the Yukon. Referring to the speech of the hon. member for Pictou, I wish to make just a slight reference to a matter in which I am personally concerned.

Mr. MAXWELL.

The hon. member for Pictou, like Goliath of Gath of old, made some statements that I may call, without offence, swaggering statements, to which I took exception, with regard to mail matters in Dawson. I said:

My hon. friend is not the only one on the coast that has communication with Dawson City. I have had letters every month from Dawson City for the last four or five months.

The hon. member for Pictou then gave me this slap:

And that is an answer to my statement that the service in general has been absolutely unsatisfactory and disgraceful, and that it is known to the hon. gentleman's constituents. The hon. gentleman, perhaps, is prejudiced a little by his relations with Deadman's Island, which is a matter of interest between him and the Government, and a matter that will bear further investigation.

Mr. MAXWELL. I will be ready for you when you come on.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I think the Minister of Militia and Defence will not be quite as ready as the hon. gentleman. The member for Burrard (Mr. Maxwell) was ready, no doubt, long ago, when he happened to be fortunate enough to induce the Government to perpetrate one of the most extraordinary frauds upon the people of Vancouver that was ever perpetrated on any people in this country—the hon. gentleman was ready to push the Minister of Militia and Defence into that position.

I need not refer to his other statements, perhaps stronger even than this one. I simply call your attention to this because I wish to say in a more gentlemanly way than he has put his statement, that there is not one single word of truth in what the hon. gentleman says in reference to myself or the hon. Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden) in connection with Deadman's Island.

I want just to say here without discussing the question, that there never was a fairer, there never was a more honest thing put through the Department of Militia than was this leasing of Deadman's Island. I want to say this in a general way, that nothing that the Government of Canada has ever done for the city of Vancouver will be half so advantageous to the commercial prosperity of that city, than the leasing of that island for commercial purposes. I want to say, further, that whenever the hon. gentleman is ready to go on and to substantiate these extraordinary statements, I am quite prepared to show this House, Mr. Speaker, that everything that was done was done above-board, was done in an honest, fair and square way, that I am not ashamed of what I have done; in fact I may say that had I the chance to do it again, I would do it with a perfectly clear conscience that I was acting in the best interests of my constituents.

Now, I think it was evident to all who were present that evening and listened to the speech of the hon. member for Pictou, that it was what may be called a dead set upon the Minister of the Interior. It is not neces-

sary for me to make any measured defence or any special pleading on behalf of that hon. Minister. The brilliant parts which he has displayed in the Government of Manitoba, the magnificent way in which he has handled the Department of the Interior—because I defy any man to point to anything he has done that he has not done well and in the interests of Canada—the magnificent speeches he has delivered in this House, especially the magnificent speech he delivered the other evening, all these things put together are evidences to every honest and unprejudiced mind that in the hon. Minister of the Interior we have a man of great parts, a man of great ability, and one well able to fulfil the task which the Prime Minister has given him to do. Mr. Speaker, it was not difficult, I think, for any one who listened to that speech to see that there was animus in the attack, and the reason of that attack is simply this, that on some previous occasion when something was done in Manitoba that perhaps should not have been done, the Minister did what he possibly could to ferret out those who had been culprits in the matter. Now, I think hon. gentlemen will agree with me that there is perhaps nothing that we should guard more sacredly and inviolably than the ballot box. I do not care whether one side or the other is concerned, it is a matter in which both parties are interested, it is a matter that concerns the wish and the will of the people; and anything that interferes with the ballot box which contains the mind and the will of the people, interferes with that which should be sacredly guarded and preserved by both parties in this country. I am not going into the question at all as to the rightness or wrongness of that discussion; but I say that if the Minister felt in the first place that a wrong had been done, that the ballot boxes had been stuffed, that the opinion of the people had been stifled, that a great crime had been committed against the people of Manitoba, apart from politics altogether, I say it was his bounden duty, and the bounden duty of all, to join in any effort that might be put forth to find out who those culprits were and to bring them to justice as speedily as possible.

Now, Sir, I will refer to a matter which was mentioned by the hon. member for Pictou in connection with Yukon matters. I have here a letter from the Deputy Minister of the Interior, dated the 2nd of December, 1898. I do not know that it has been placed on the "Hansard," but I think it ought to be. I suppose the letter is similar to the one which the hon. member for Pictou received from the Interior Department:

Sir,—You are no doubt aware that statements have been made very freely in the press for some months past impugning the conduct of officials charged with the administration of the affairs of the Government in the Yukon district. Some time since a statement signed by certain persons claiming to represent a miners' institute or committee, was placed in the hands of the

Minister of the Interior, and thereupon a commission was issued to Mr. William Ogilvie, the commissioner of the district, authorizing him to make an investigation into the truth of the statements made in the complaint, and also to inquire into other complaints that may be made respecting maladministration of officers of the Government. It is apprehended that great difficulty will be encountered in making an investigation by reason of the vagueness of the charges which have been made, and the difficulty of getting information as to any specific acts of wrongdoing, should such have taken place. As a public man resident in British Columbia, it is possible that you have been made the recipient of information which would be of value to the department and to Mr. Ogilvie in conducting the said investigation, and I am therefore directed to request that if you are in the possession of any information whatever showing or relating to any specific acts of malfeasance of office on the part of any officer of the Government in the Yukon district during the past two years, such information may be forwarded to the department in order that it may be sent to the commissioner for examination and report.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES A. SMART,

Deputy Minister of the Interior.

I am informed by the Minister of the Interior that a similar letter was sent to all the members of the House of Commons and of the Senate living in British Columbia. Now, I want to put this fairly and squarely to hon. gentlemen opposite: Why should this question of corruption, or supposed corruption, on the part of officials in the Yukon, be made a party question? Why should a matter affecting the well-being, not merely of a party, not merely of both parties, but affecting the well-being of the people of Canada, be dragged into mere party politics? Why should it be so handled, and bandied about and discussed by us as party men? Why should we strive to make party capital of a matter that it should be the combined interest of all to see thoroughly investigated and thoroughly sifted? Now, it seems to me that if ever there was an honest effort put forth by a Minister to lift a question out of the sphere of party politics, to make men feel that it was not a matter of party politics, such an effort is evidenced in the letter which was sent to all the members of the House of Commons and to all the Senators in British Columbia. I think that is the best evidence which the Minister could possibly have given to us that he was anxious to have these cases examined, that he wanted the co-operation of both parties in British Columbia to get at the truth of those statements, and hence that this evident desire was not merely the glorification of his own party, but the well-being of Canada.

Now, I want to say a few words with regard to the men who went up to the Yukon first. I may say that, living in Vancouver, I had the privilege and the honour of becoming acquainted with every one of these officials; not only that, but I had the privilege of travelling with them from Vancouver to Skagway. I had also the privilege of

staying with most of them in Skagway for quite a considerable period. I gave my impression of these men—I am scrry I have not a copy of it here, so that I could have given it as I wrote it at the time—but I gave my impression of these men when in Vancouver, stating what I thought as to their fitness and adaptability for the onerous duties which had been entrusted to them. In so far as Major Walsh is concerned, a charge has been made by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), referring to his drunken habits in the Yukon. I will only say that, neither in Vancouver, nor on board the "Quadra," nor at Skagway, where we were brought into the closest possible contact with him, and where, perhaps, if he had been in any way disposed to that crime or sin, or whatever you may call it, we would have known it. I never saw Major Walsh taste one single drop of intoxicating liquor. I think it is generally regretted by all that this charge was made by the hon. member for Pictou. I do not think that, even if Major Walsh were an inefficient officer, it was necessary to drag this painful charge into this debate. For my part, I can only say, that I can hardly imagine and that I can hardly believe that the charge is true. From what little I saw of him, from what little I know of him, and from what I have heard from men who have known the gallant Major for over twenty years, I have the greatest difficulty in accepting or believing this serious charge. But I will say this, Mr. Speaker, in appeal to hon. members opposite, and in appeal to the world outside, that there was once a certain occasion, mentioned in a Book that we all admire and that we all revere, of a particular woman who was brought before the Master of us all, who was hounded into His presence by those who professed to be the purest men of their day. You remember the stinging words that came from the Master of us all, when He said: "Let him that is without sin cast the first stone." Or, Mr. Speaker, if you should prefer that I appeal to human judgment, there is one man to whom I am indebted for many a thought and many an inspiration—one who has touched the human heart perhaps more sensitively than any other man that ever lived, and that is Robert Burns. Face to face with such a charge as this, I can only repeat these lines:

Then gently scan your brother Man,  
 Still gentler sister Woman;  
 Tho' they may gang a kennin wrang,  
 To step aside is human;  
 One point must still be greatly dark,  
 The moving why they do it;  
 And just as lamely can ye mark  
 How far perhaps they rue it.

Now, there was one man more in connection with that expedition, and that man was Mr. William Ogilvie. I remember, at that time, a great deal was being said in the newspapers about that gentleman. I may

Mr. MAXWELL.

say that I lived in the closest intimacy with him, because I found him to be a most congenial companion. During the six or seven weeks of that expedition, I had the best opportunity of knowing his mind, and later on, of entering into his thoughts and aspirations, so far as the Yukon country was concerned. In a letter which I wrote to the newspapers, I gave the following description, which I think to be a true description of Mr. Ogilvie:—

So far as the Yukon country is concerned, there is one man who, more than all others, deserves the thanks of the Canadian people. It was my privilege when in his company during the late expedition for nearly a month, and had, as you can imagine, the best of opportunities for studying his character. Mr William Ogilvie is, as his name would naturally suggest, a Scotchman, or rather, as my friend the new Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia would say, he is an improved Scotchman, having been born in Canada. He is a Canadian from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. He is full of Canada. He loves it, admires it, and no man can be more enthusiastic over it than he is. There are few men who have seen so much of it—who know so much about it, and therefore he can, with more reason than most men, praise it. He is a wonderful man. It is impossible for one to come in contact with him without being impressed. Though born in Canada, he speaks Scotch even more perfectly than many who have been born in the land of the heather. He has a fund, an inexhaustible fund, of Scotch stories—in fact, all kinds of stories. Wit and humour lurk in his eyes, and are ever flowing from his lips. He is a splendid mimic. Yankee, Scotchman, Irishman, Frenchman—all in turn are faithfully delineated. He is a perfect entertainer. Metaphorically speaking, you could sit at his feet night after night, and he would keep you laughing till the tears run down your cheeks, and till your sides were sore. Nothing pleases him better than to get a few chosen spirits in some quiet corner, and regale them with his side-splitting mimicry. Not that he thrusts these on you; no, no; but when you have once got the "scent of blood" nothing delights you more than to get him to open up his rare wallet. Many a time while sitting at the table in the boat, all at once you would be startled with a loud explosion of laughter. After you had recovered yourself for a moment one would say, "Oh, that is Ogilvie," and true enough it was. A more companionable man one could not imagine, or one more fitted to wile the hours away, and banish dull care could hardly be found. Withal he is most unassuming. He hates to speak about himself. He is cautious—very canny. There is nothing of the blowhard about him. What he has suffered or endured on those lonely travels of his one never gets to know. He never magnifies himself, or what he has done. He has all the simplicity of a good and a great man, and he is just such a man as inspires you. Having known him, you could never doubt his word. You would believe it with all your heart. I have said that he is a Canadian; the future, I believe, will amply testify that he was a great Canadian, an honest Canadian, and I can't help saying that he is one of whom every Canadian should be proud. For over twenty years he has given his splendid services to this country, and that too for a miserable pittance, considering what he has had to do and how he has done it. Sir Charles Tupper, the other day, said no more than what was true when he said that Mr. Ogilvie

"has brought to his duty great intelligence and thorough untiring industry; but his straightforwardness and honesty have given to Canadians the most unbounded confidence in any statements he places before the country." Such is the man, then, who speaks about this country, and to whom we have to look for light and guidance.

Now, I wrote that letter to the press, descriptive of that gentleman, and I can only say that these words are true, and I believe that, in so far as the ground was covered, exactly described his moral and intellectual make-up. I remember well, Sir, the time that that gentleman came back from the Yukon, and when it became known all over Canada that, in the presence of gold, he absolutely refused, as an employee of the Government, to appropriate any of that gold to himself, how all praised him.

I remember that, at a lecture given by Mr. Ogilvie in Victoria, the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) spoke and hinted that it was almost a shame that Mr. Ogilvie had not been appointed in the place of Major Walsh, as administrator of the Yukon. Sir, I rejoiced when Mr. Ogilvie was appointed; but no sooner did the Minister of the Interior place him in that onerous and honourable position, than we began to hear the following statements:—

Sifton's appointment of Mr. Ogilvie to the position of administrator of the Yukon has been commended.

It is believed that the new administrator is an honest man.

But Napoleon is again true to the family.

Mr. Ogilvie is like too many of the new office-holders—one of Sifton's relatives.

Is that fair-play? Is it fair to Mr. Ogilvie? Here is a man who was praised up to the very heavens as honest and incorrupt; praised as a model man to all Canadians, wherever they might be; and yet, no sooner was he appointed to that office, than insinuations are sent out, that because he happened to be some fifty-ninth cousin of the Minister of the Interior, it was hardly possible for him to be honest or to discharge his duties, because of that supposed connection. Sir, no matter to whom Mr. Ogilvie is related, I believe he is a man of sterling qualities. He is one of these men—a type, perhaps, not too common at the present time—who, no matter where he may be placed, will do his duty to his country, will render justice between man and man, and will try in every way possible to promote peace and good-will.

It has been charged against the Government, that they should have drawn upon British Columbia laws and regulations for information as to the way in which the Yukon should be administered, and we are told that there was no excuse for the Minister not having provided in advance for the prompt discharge of the mining business in the Yukon, because, it is said, that what was done in British Columbia, should have been done in the Klondike. I have gone to

the trouble of making inquiries in regard to mining matters in British Columbia, and I have here a statement of the Minister of Mines for that province. Hon. gentlemen will remember that, from the 1st of May, 1898, to the 31st January, 1899, over 10,500 claims were registered in Dawson City, or about forty for each working day. Now, what does the statement from the Minister of Mines for British Columbia show? It shows that the greatest number of claims entered in any mining recorder's office in British Columbia was recorded in the office at Nelson; but the number was only 1,545 for a year, or an average of five a day. In other words, the work of the busiest mining recorder's office in British Columbia was, when compared with the mining office in Dawson City, as five to forty. Let us look at the other British Columbia offices. At Skeena there were 31 claims recorded in the year, not as many as in one day at Dawson. At Quesnelle 264 were recorded; at Omineca, 119; at Kamloops, 365; at Yale, 119; at Simelkamen, 288; at Vernon, 84; at Osoyoos, 496; at Kettle River, 563; at Grand Forks, 860; at Windermere, 417; at Fort Steele, 682; at Revelstoke, 187; at Lardeau, 407; at Trout Lake, 371; at Slokan, 498; at Slokan City, 356; at Ainsworth, 939; at Goat River, 233; at Arrow Lake, 254; at Trail Creek, 1,045; at Nanaimo, 570 at Alberni, 441; at West Coast, 114; at Clinton and Lillooet, 471; at Victoria, 104, and at New Westminster, 316. In other words, in 28 mining recording offices in British Columbia the total number of claims recorded in twelve months was 12,139, whereas, in nine months in the single recording office of Dawson, the number of claims recorded was 10,543.

Fault has also been found with the Minister of the Interior because, on the suggestion of Mr. Ogilvie, and on the strong recommendation of the Surveyor General of Canada, a surveyor was put in charge of the mining business. We are told by hon. gentlemen opposite that the Gold Commissioner and recorder should have been a lawyer, and, in almost the same breath, we are referred to British Columbia for an example of how government mining business should be administered. I have no objection to lawyers. They are just as capable as other men in this community, but I hold that other men are just as capable as lawyers, and I do not see why all the good offices in this country should be given to one particular class more than to another. Although Mr. Ogilvie may not have a legal training, he has that sound common sense which is as good as any training a man can get. It is Heaven's own training, and I believe that Mr. Ogilvie can see the right and the wrong of a question just as well as any lawyer in the Dominion of Canada, and that is not saying anything disrespectful of the lawyers. We are told by these gentlemen opposite, that British Columbia is to be our ex-

ample, and that we are to do what British Columbia does. But, Sir, there is not a single lawyer employed by the Government of British Columbia in the recording of mining claims. It has also been charged against the Minister (Mr. Sifton), in connection with these charges of maladministration at Dawson, that he sat in his office and did nothing until months had elapsed, and he has again been found fault with, that the orders which were given to Mr. Ogilvie, were not explicit or extensive enough. These gentlemen opposite ask for a commission. I might mention that the date of the miners' complaint is the 25th August, 1898, and that complaint was received and recorded at the Department of the Interior on the 6th of October, 1898. The Order in Council for a commission was passed on the 7th October, 1898, and the commission issued on the 7th October, 1898. You have the commission issued on the 7th of October, the very day after the complaint was received at Ottawa. I would like to know how it was possible for any human being to be more active or diligent with regard to these complaints, with a view to having the thing remedied, if it could be remedied, than was the Minister of the Interior? We are told by these gentlemen on the other side of the House, that administrative authority is not as good as a commission. Well, it is not very difficult to see that a man who has administrative authority has far wider and larger powers than a man who is simply under a commission. A man who has administrative power, has complete charge of all the officials, and if he suspected a man of doing wrong, he could dismiss him; whereas, in the case of a commission, a man might be charged, but if there was no legal evidence to prove his guilt, that man might remain where he was and the commissioner would have no power to remove him, even though he suspected and believed that the man was dishonest. Therefore the Minister gave Mr. Ogilvie both authority under a Royal Commission to investigate, and the most ample administrative power, and I say that the Minister, in giving Mr. Ogilvie such administrative power, gave him complete control, to do what he liked so far as those officials were concerned, and did more for the purity of administration in that country than he could do by appointing any possible commission with simply legal powers given to it. Now, I know Mr. Ogilvie, and I have talked with him in regard to these charges; and I can say this without in any way letting out private conversation, that he went up to that country thoroughly imbued with an honest and earnest intention of removing any official he could suspect of doing anything wrong; and I am glad, Mr. Speaker, that hon. gentlemen join with us to-day in saying that since he assumed office these charges have practically ceased. We have heard no complaint to speak of since that time, and I believe there will be

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no complaint so long as he is in that country, because he is just the man to mix with men; he has a deep and profound sympathy with the miner; he knows his troubles, his weaknesses, his hardships, and his discouragements. He can, therefore, enter into the deepest sympathy with the miners, and through his sympathy he can wind those men around his heart, and make them feel that, although he is the administrator, he is a man and a brother to them.

The hon. member for Victoria referred again to British Columbia. What he says about the miners I have not the slightest hesitation in corroborating. The hon. Minister of the Interior referred to the enormous rush which took place to Dawson City, and the hon. member for Victoria gave us the impression that there was also a very great rush into the Cariboo district in the early sixties, or the later fifties. Now, in Bancroft's history of British Columbia, on page 469, I read that in 1858 the population of British Columbia was supposed to be 17,000, in 1859, 8,000; in 1860, 7,000, and in 1861, 5,000. Again, on page 481, it is said:

Exploration in 1862 was nevertheless vigorously prosecuted by an actual mining population estimated at 5,000 in Cariboo district.

Now, you see that while there was an important influx into Cariboo at the end of the fifties and in the beginning of the sixties, yet the number was comparatively insignificant, compared with the tremendous rush into the Yukon district a short time ago. Besides, how much easier was it for the Government of British Columbia, then at New Westminster, to handle those men than it was for the Minister of the Interior to handle the population in the Yukon district from Ottawa, so much farther away, so much more difficult of access, and so much harder to have communication with. We are also told that there was no danger of any particular trouble in Dawson City because in Cariboo, where this great rush was, everything was comparatively placid and peaceable. Now, Bancroft, at page 430, tells us:

The miners of Cariboo did not like Mr. Justice Begbie's methods of construing their mining laws, so they met in mass meeting on the 23rd of June, 1860, and denounced him, after which they felt better, although the Chief Justice still lived.

It has been said that we have no account of any rascalities in Cariboo or British Columbia compared with the reports that have come from Dawson City. But there is a great difference. There were no newspaper men and women running up to Cariboo in those days; there were no political parties in those days sending men to Cariboo to find out the weak spots in the Government's administration of the country, as there are to-day. The whole country was shut in, and practically only miners were there. Hence, while I know there are many rumours and stories of crimes having been committed in those days, yet we have no

official knowledge of those things, no newspaper clippings, no correspondence of the "Times." Everything is inclosed in the obscurity of the distant past. But I will tell you that British Columbia is not exactly so pure as the hon. member for Victoria would like us to believe. In the last three years three of the leading officials of the British Columbia Government have been put into the New Westminster penitentiary for the embezzlement of public funds; but no man in British Columbia ever thought of accusing the Government of British Columbia because of the weaknesses of those men. And even if it might be proved that some poor official in the Yukon district, perhaps under pressure of the very man who is squealing now against him, took money and entered into interests with him—I say even if it might be proved that officials in that far distant country did wrong, why should we blame a Government so many thousand miles away from the country? Why should we hold the Government responsible for these things? Why should we not, as sensible men, realize that there will be good men and bad men in every service, and in every branch of industry? And just as it is impossible for the employer of labour to control all his employees, so it is absolutely impossible for any Government to have continual range over the men in its employ.

Now, the hon. member for Victoria says the hon. Minister of the Interior should have gone to British Columbia for his men. Well, I do not see but what it is a mighty good thing he did not go to British Columbia for more men. I do not know that it is any particular advantage to a man to be sent up to the Yukon. A man may be decent down here, like Mr. Fawcett, a man held in the highest respect, esteem and honour by his associates, and no sooner does he go up to Dawson and get into the employ of the Government, than he suddenly becomes transformed, and evil things are charged against him. Why, I think it is a god-send to the people of British Columbia that a great many of them have not been sent to the Yukon, because they have at least their reputations where they are, which I do not think they would have if they had gone to the Yukon. But the Government has not been so neglectful of British Columbia as the hon. member for Victoria suggests. The inspector of customs to-day is from British Columbia; the Gold Commissioner is a British Columbian; two of my own constituents are on the staff of Mr. Ogilvie; and several more I might mention who have been recognized by the hon. Minister of the Interior; and I am glad to say that these men are all doing their duty honestly, faithfully and well, and are a credit both to the province from which they came and to the Government for which they are working.

Now, reference was made to the mail facilities in that country. The hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior) gave us some com-

ments to-day regarding the mail service. I made a statement to the House when the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) was speaking with regard to my letters from Dawson City. I have some 300 or 400 of my own constituents in Dawson to-day, and the surrounding district, and have pretty good communication with them. I write often to them, and they to me, and I have this to state with regard to the mail service. The letters received by the hon. member for Grey (Mr. Landerkin) show no deficiency in the mail service. A letter dated Dawson City, August 10th, 1898, was received September 14th, 1898. A letter dated September 14th, 1898, at Dawson City, was received here October 19th, 1898. A letter dated at Dawson City, October 2nd, was received here November 1st. A letter dated at Dawson City January 31st, 1899, was received here March 6th. Letter dated at Dawson, March 7th, 1899, received here April 4th, 1899. Letter dated at Dawson, November 25th, 1898, received here January 2nd, 1899; and I hold in my hand two envelopes that arrived just two or three days ago, the letters taking about the same time to reach here as those others I have mentioned.

The hon. member for Victoria, (Mr. Prior) likewise brought up the question of the customs. I remember that gentleman sending to me—I think it was from the same gentleman he mentioned to-day—a letter complaining that men were getting their goods through the customs there without paying for them. Now, I just happened to have a conversation with an inspector of customs not long ago who had inspected these offices, and he told me that he had made a comparison of the amount of money that had been collected there with the goods that had gone through, and he said he could honestly say that if any had gone through free they must have been very few indeed, and he had perfect confidence in the integrity of the customs officials at all the different points on the borders of the Yukon territory. I think I have gone over pretty much the charges which have been made, so far as the Yukon matter is concerned. I will only say this in conclusion, that it is all very well for us to sit in this House or in our comfortable homes and criticise men who are in these distant parts. We cannot have any idea of the difficulties which these officials, as well as these miners, have had to encounter in these early days in Dawson City. It is very easy for us to sit in this House and criticise the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), who besides the great department of which he is in charge, had this work suddenly thrown upon him that demanded the employment of all the powers of his mind and heart in order to meet the demands which that country was making upon him. I do not say that mistakes have not been committed or that even wrongs may not have been committed in Dawson City, but I think we ought to have

sufficient confidence in our Government and our own citizens, because these officials are Canadians like ourselves. We ought to have sufficient confidence in our brethren, in our Canadian citizens, to believe that wherever they go they do not go as understrappers, as hirelings, as men who are going to disgrace the provinces from which they come, the countries which they serve or the country of which they form a part; but that it is their aim and the noble ambition of every Canadian, no matter where he may be, to do his part honestly and well. We ought to be thankful that we have had such a young man in this office as the Minister of the Interior. There is no man in this House but who must have noticed the wonderful accuracy of his details and the way in which he had command of this whole intricate and vast subject and the skilful manner in which he handled these details, and I think it must be apparent likewise that he spoke with a single desire to give all the information he had at his command, and that he has acted also with the evident desire to, as far as he possibly could, to probe these matters to the very bottom, so that confidence might be reposed in these men and in the administration of the Yukon district.

Why, Sir, we have two men here now from Dawson City connected with a newspaper. I must admire their self-sacrifice in coming such a distance to tell the Government what is needed up there. It seems to me a piece of great gall—I do not know if that word is parliamentary—for two Americans, who are not citizens of Canada at all, but American citizens, to come here to the capital of Canada in order to dictate to the Government of Canada what ought to be done up on the Yukon. Why, I have listened in this debate to hon. gentlemen talking about the Yankees and the commission, telling us about their cuteness, how they would not give up anything, how they would fool our commissioners, and so on to the end of the chapter. Yet here we have the same men consorting with two Americans, pumping all the information out of them which they possibly can, and what for? For the purpose of damaging their own Government in the eyes of the world. I mean no offence to these American gentlemen, but I would believe a Canadian any day before these Americans. I say again I will stand by my own countrymen before these Americans, and I believe we ought to say to these men: If you have charges to make, go the right way about it. It seems to me a very curious thing that all these charges should have come in the one direction. It is a marvellous thing this day in Canada that all these affidavits should go to the one side of the House. I have gone out to ship after ship that has come from that district; I have gone to hotels to converse with these men; I have tried in every possible way to get an affidavit from any man who came from Dawson, declaring, under his own signature, that he

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is prepared to state so-and-so with regard to these officials. But not one affidavit could I get from these men. If they are honest in their desire to get these corrupt officials rooted out, root and branch, why, in the name of heaven, did they not, in some way or other, give those members supporting the Government these charges, so that they might put pressure on the Government, if necessary, in order to get at the facts of the case brought to their knowledge. But not one charge has been got. It is remarkable, it is unprecedented, that these gentlemen should come here to clamour for changes. I do not object to their doing that, but why in the name of common sense do they go to the members of the Opposition? If they wanted to be honest and fair and to act at all in the interests of that country, why did they not go like men and put their complaint right into the Government, and before the members of the Government, and say: Gentlemen, do your best for that country. But no, as if they were political partisans, as if they were allied to the party opposite, as if the party opposite could accomplish the reforms they desired, as if the party opposite had the power to do what they want, they go to them. They consult with the hon. member for Victoria and others on that side, and never come near those who are responsible for the government of the country; and anxious to do their best for that country. It is strange, unparalleled, unprecedented, and I shall stand up every time for my Canadian brethren, and I believe there is not a Canadian up there who is not as honest and upright as any American or Australian to be found in that country.

I can only say this in conclusion—that I am sorry in one way that these charges have been made, I am sorry there was any necessity for making them. But hon. gentlemen know very well that they do not need to go to Dawson to get charges against public officials, for that is part of our own common political life. Were we to believe all the stories of political partisans, how many corrupt officials have we in our service, how many members of that service have done things they should not have done, how many of them have interfered in this, that or the other thing. I hope the time is coming when both sides of this House will have confidence in the civil servants of this country, that the time will come that we shall realize we have a body of men who, when they entered the service of this country, entered free from all partisan feelings and with the noble desire to do their best for the country irrespective of which party may govern. I hope the time is coming when a purer thought will possess us, when a broader feeling will possess our hearts, and when, no matter how far Canadians are severed from one another we will have more faith in them than to listen to stories from "Nuggets" or from wandering pilgrims from the ends of the earth; that, though, we may not know these officers, the

fact that they are Canadians will be enough to cause us to believe that they will not knowingly do any thing to besmirch the fair name of fair Canada, and so have confidence in them until it has been proved that they have done wrongly.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). Mr. Speaker, the debate has been a long one, and I promise the House that I shall not consume very much of its time in referring to a few points that have been discussed by hon. gentlemen from various constituencies sitting on the other side of the House. I shall not consume a great part of that time in referring to what has been said by the hon. member for Burrard (Mr. Maxwell). He has given us, in some respects, a charming mixture of poetry and essays, partly his own and partly taken from others. He has expressed his very warm approval, as we would expect him to do, of the Government which he supports. He has entered a warm defence for a gentleman upon whom, so far as I know, no attack has been made in this House. But, outside of these matters, he has contributed, I venture to submit to him, very little to the debate upon the question under consideration. The hon. gentleman began his address to the House by declaring that this Government would keep its promises, and this while the echoes of the statements of the First Minister and his colleagues and supporters had scarcely died away in the Chamber that the Government promises had been kept and that the policy which they outlined to the people had been implemented by legislation in this House. The hon. gentleman stated that one of the promises of the Government was to take a plebiscite upon prohibition; and the hon. gentleman stated, very properly, that that promise had been implemented by the Prime Minister and his colleagues. But the hon. gentleman from Burrard forgot to state that, joined to that promise was another one made definitely and distinctly on every platform where the right hon. Premier proclaimed his policy on prohibition, namely, that he would give an opportunity to the people of Canada to express their opinion, and after they had expressed their opinion, the Government would stand by that opinion, even though it cost the Liberal party power in this country. The hon. gentleman forgot to say to the House, what the House already knows, that according to the statement of the Prime Minister, a private arrangement was entered into by him and his associates in the Liberal convention of 1893, by which it was privately agreed—and the agreement was never published to the electors of Canada—that a majority of all the voters of Canada would be required before the sentiment in favour of prohibition should be formulated in a statute and prohibition granted. I am not here to enter a plea for prohibition. I think it is a very grave and serious question, one which this Parliament if it attempts to deal with it, will have

difficulty in handling without interfering a great deal with the finances of the Dominion. But that is neither here or there when we come to the question as to whether the Prime Minister and his colleagues have carried out their promises. I am bound to say, and I believe the hon. member for Burrard will agree with me in the statement, there is not a temperance man in Canada who was given to understand by himself, by the Prime Minister, by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), which is par excellence the representative of the prohibitionists in that Government—I say there is not a temperance man in Canada who was given to understand that his side would be required to poll a majority of the electors upon the lists. I am here too, to say, Sir, that upon an old list, such as that upon which the plebiscite was taken it would be impossible for one party, if parties were at all equally divided, to poll half the votes upon the list. The whole vote would be naturally not more than half upon such a list.

Now, just a word to the hon. gentleman as regards his advice for broader politics and the discussion of larger and greater affairs in this Chamber and against violent attacks of partisanship. It is too bad, in my opinion, that the hon. gentleman did not arrive in Parliament earlier. It is too bad he was not here to give advice to the hon. gentlemen who now sit upon the Treasury benches and their supporters, who, I fancy, will admit for themselves that, during the years and years they occupied places on this side of the Chamber they were as violently partisan as any party ever was or ever will be in Canada. I am here to say, too, that there never was an occasion during which I had the honour of a seat in this House when every possible thing that could be turned to political advantage by the right hon. gentlemen and his followers was not readily taken advantage of in order to injure the Government which I supported, and of which, later, I became a member.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Maxwell) upon the tariff question gave us some splendid generalities and a lot of the same kind of philosophy which the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) has so eloquently commended to this House, and also a wealth of beautiful illustration. But all through this wealth of illustration and all through the glittering generalities of this philosophy there shines out the one bald, bold, bare fact—that the hon. member for Burrard is a free trade member supporting one of the strongest protectionist Governments that has ever existed in the Dominion of Canada. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman has discussed the question as to whether this Government is an economical Government and has denounced economical Governments as miserly and as Governments which should be banished from the sight of the people altogether. The hon. gentleman need not give any such note of warning to his friends on the Treasury benches.

They will, I venture to say, in the history of this country, never be regarded as a miserly Government, because, if we are to take their couple of short years in office as a guide, they will never economize sufficiently to bring down the wrath, the splendid Liberal wrath, of my hon. friend from Burrard upon their heads in that connection. The hon. gentleman declared that this Government had done a splendid thing in introducing legislation against combinations in trade in this country. Well, Sir, all but the hon. member for Burrard had forgotten that such legislation was introduced. I venture to say that there is scarcely a gentleman behind the Government, except the distinguished member for Burrard, who has thought of that legislation since it passed; I venture to say that through all the industries of Canada and in the business world of Canada, thoroughly was understood the desire of the Government and the aim of the Government in passing that legislation, and it is as inactive, it is as dead and as buried, as any statute that ever was passed in the Parliament of Canada during all its history. Does the hon. member for Burrard tell me that combinations do not exist in trade at the present time? If so, the hon. gentleman is supremely innocent, and at the same time—and I say it with no desire to be offensive—he places himself in a supremely ridiculous position, because, under the sight of the Ministers, under the sight of the members of Parliament, combinations do now exist. I do not say that they are always bad, but combinations do exist in very many portions of Canada, notwithstanding that statute which I have declared is a dead letter, and which the hon. gentleman himself knows to be a dead letter.

The hon. gentleman referred very properly to the difficulty of governing a country so far distant as the Yukon from the seat of Government. There is no hon. gentleman in this Chamber who does not appreciate that difficulty which the Minister and the Government had in that regard, and so far as I have heard, there has been no malicious desire to attack the Government because of those difficulties, to attack the Minister of the Interior because of those difficulties; but the desire has been to ask the Minister of the Interior to give an investigation of the charges that have been widespread in almost every portion of Canada, and which cannot but effect the fair name of the country and the success of Canadian enterprise and Canadian institutions in that new territory. Sir, I have just this remark to make with regard to those charges. First of all, we have the statement, the admirable statement from his standpoint—and I am not going to say that the speech of the Minister of the Interior was not a strong speech from his standpoint—we have the speech of the Minister of the Interior, and his whole ground from start to finish in dealing with this matter, is that the charges are not specific, and in consequence the Government

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is not authorized to make an investigation in a formal way such as was suggested by the hon. member for Pictou. Now, Sir, I submit to the Minister of the Interior, and I submit to his colleagues as well, that if the charges as made by the hon. member for Pictou were not specific, such cannot be said of those charges reiterated by so distinguished a member as the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), and by the equally distinguished member the senior member for Victoria (Mr. Prior), who spoke this afternoon upon the floor of this House. I submit in all earnestness to the Minister of the Interior that we have confidence in his statement, we must have confidence in it until we are shown that that confidence is misplaced; we accept the statement which he made in the closing part of his speech that if these charges were made definitely and specifically he would be the first man to ask and to order an investigation in a full and complete manner. I submit that I am well within the judgment of this House, and especially of the lawyers of this House, in saying that these charges as made by the hon. member for Halifax, and as made by the hon. member for Victoria, are specific, whatever may have been the charges made by the hon. member for Pictou when that hon. gentleman brought this matter into the House. Now, Sir, an elaborate defence was made by the hon. member for Burrard of some supposed attack upon Mr. Ogilvie, the Gold Commissioner. I have sat in this House during a great portion of this debate, and I have read those portions of the debate which I did not hear, and I have heard no attack upon the character of Mr. Ogilvie whatever. Hon. gentlemen upon this side of the House have the warmest feeling for Mr. Ogilvie. They know that, uncorrupted and incorruptible, he performed a good work for Canada in placing those magnificent gold fields before the sight of Canada and of the world. But to say that Mr. Ogilvie is an intrepid explorer, to say that he is intrinsically a good and honest man, is not to say that he has those legal attainments, and still more, it is not to say that he has those powers to summon witnesses necessary for an investigation of so grave and serious charges as have been made against the officials of the Department of the Interior in the Yukon territory. That was the fault found with the Minister of the Interior in connection with Mr. Ogilvie, but no attempt whatever was made on this side of the House to cast reproach upon the character or the habits of Mr. Ogilvie in any particular whatever. Some one has suggested, the hon. gentleman says, that he is a relative of the Minister of the Interior. Well, Sir, we are broad enough upon this side of the House to believe that that makes no difference whatever. He was prominent in the service of this Government before the Minister of the Interior became a member of the Government. It is not a question as to who Mr. Ogilvie is related to, but it is a question as to whether he has the

legal attainments and the powers under his instructions to investigate properly and fully, as they ought to be investigated, these grave and serious charges upon the fair fame of Canada's rule in that Yukon territory. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman made a reference to the Senate, and the Speaker of the House very generously and very properly sustained the dignity of the House in asking that hon. gentleman to retract the statement which he had made, or the comparison which he had made between the Senate and dogs. Sir, I prefer to take the opinion of some of the hon. gentleman's leaders upon the Senate of this country rather than the opinion that he expressed in that reference to-night; I prefer to take the opinion of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who, in the confederation debate, expressed his pride and his pleasure that the framers of that scheme had stuck to British institutions and to British practices, and in this our legislature, the legislature of the new Dominion of Canada, had retained all those safeguards which had been thrown around legislation in the old country, which legislation had protected the rights and the liberties of British subjects through all the years.

Sir, it is necessary to say a word or so upon the criticism, or answer, of that hon. gentleman upon the question of Senate reform, which has been brought to the attention of the country by the right hon. First Minister, and to the attention of the House, by his speech, recently made in this Chamber, in which he dealt with that subject. I desire to say, that the criticisms of some of the opponents of the Senate point to the fact that the Senate is an accident in the institutions of Canada. But, first of all, perhaps I had better say that I am gravely doubtful, as a great many members of this House are gravely doubtful, and I think the vast number of the people of Canada are gravely doubtful, whether the Government are very much in earnest with regard to this proposal or not. It appears to me, Sir, like firing a great many fireworks with the pleasurable hope that it may alarm gentlemen who sit in another Chamber of this Parliament, that they may not come into collision with the majority in the House of Commons upon a Bill—perhaps I had better say, the Bill—which is promised in the Speech from the Throne which His Excellency gave to Parliament at the opening of this session. I read the speech of the right hon. Prime Minister, in answer to the leader of the Opposition, who had mentioned the late Hon. Sir George Cartier, who had been a battler for the rights of his province and for the perpetual protection of those rights, when the discussion of the confederation scheme was under way. I read the speech of the right hon. the Prime Minister, in reply to that, and I learned in that speech that, while the late Sir George Cartier did not say much upon the Senate question, the leader of the Opposition was invited to read

the speech of the late Sir A. A. Dorion, who had spoken on the question; and I learned from the speech of the right hon. Prime Minister that the speech of Sir A. A. Dorion, in strength of foresight, in knowledge of what would take place, under the federal constitution as then proposed, exhibited the greatest ability and the keenest foresight and knowledge of the future of any speech that was made upon the question of the Senate during these deliberations. Feeling that I had in it a very well of information, from which I could gather knowledge of this subject, I re-read, as I had read before, the speech of Sir A. A. Dorion upon this question. I concur, of course, in all the kind things that the right hon. gentleman has said of that hon. gentleman; I concur entirely in the compliment he paid him as to the high place he occupied in public life, and as to his high place in the confidence and esteem of the people of Canada. But I am here to say, Sir, that the right hon. gentleman who leads the Government never made a greater mistake in his life than when he selected the speech of Sir A. A. Dorion as a basis upon which the Senate of Canada should be criticised in this debate. Now, I submit that a genuine, honest critic of the system which was about to be introduced, which was about to be carried out as the constitution of Canada, should be looked for at least among the men who had confidence in the general form of the scheme of confederation, and who criticised the details of the scheme from the standpoint of friendship, rather than from the standpoint of hostility. Let us see what Sir A. A. Dorion's position upon the Senate of Canada was, and I am here to say to-night, with Sir A. A. Dorion's speech before me, and with that the statement of the right hon. Prime Minister, that his foresight was the keenest of all in respect to what was about to take place, when the scheme of confederation was adopted—I am obliged to say, in the light of that speech—that not one single thing that was prophesied by that gentleman has ever come to pass in the history of the Canadian confederation. First of all, he was opposed to representation by population, and pictured the evils which would come from that. Next, he was opposed to confederation, from start to finish. He said in 1856: "I had set my face against it;" in 1861: "I still stood against it;" and in the confederation debate to which I have referred, this gentleman, whose judgment is said to be the best upon the scheme of the Canadian constitution, says that:

No word which I have ever written or ever said can be taken to mean that I was in favour of confederation at any stage.

He was in favour, it is true, of a union of Upper and Lower Canada in the form of confederation; but then, mark you, he was not in favour of the confederation as we have it now, but with the amplitude of power with the local legislatures, and that

there should be merely delegated powers to the central Government—a sentiment which there is not a member of this House will subscribe to upon the present occasion. Then, Sir A. A. Dorion made another statement in that debate :

I am opposed to a confederation in which the control of the militia, the appointment of judges and the administration of justice will be under a central government.

Does the right hon. gentleman subscribe to that doctrine? Does he say that it was an unwise policy to have the militia under the control of the central federal Government? Does he say that it was unwise to have the appointment of judges taken out of the hands of the provinces and put into those of the stronger federal Government? Yet, with that keen foresight and knowledge of what was about to happen, he quoted Sir A. A. Dorion to us, though he was opposed to the principle of confederation under the proposed constitution. Then, he was opposed to the Intercolonial Railway. Does my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) subscribe to Sir A. A. Dorion's feelings upon that occasion? He said that the Intercolonial Railway was merely an attempt to grab by the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada large sums from the public Treasury of this country. When he had discussed the Intercolonial Railway upon that basis, he declared that this confederation scheme was one of the worst schemes ever brought before the House and that, if it should be adopted, without the sanction of the people, the country would never cease to regret it. That was the opinion of a gentleman whose opinion the right hon. Prime Minister desires to have followed, in regard to confederation, and we are asked to accept his opinions in regard to some of the details of that scheme.

How far was the hon. gentleman to whom he referred, correct in his vision of the future? He tells us, during the confederation debate, that the extension of Canada westward, so beautifully pictured by the then Richard John Cartwright, so beautifully pictured by the Hon. George Brown, and so beautifully pictured by Sir John Macdonald, was a farce, an absurd dream, that men then living would never hear of again.

Sir, it was not a farce, it was not a dream, and Mr. Dorion, I am glad to say, lived not only to see that the appointment of judges by the federal authority was a good thing, but sat here as a Minister of Justice to appoint those judges, and afterwards occupied a high and distinguished place upon the bench of his native province—lived long enough, too, to see the very last westward province enter the Canadian confederation, forming a solid dominion from sea to sea. Knowing that these were his opinions, let us see what that gentleman said with regard to the Senate of Canada, because it is his opinions given there that the right hon. the Prime Minister asks us

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to so seriously consider. First of all, Mr. Dorion declared in that debate that race and creed would not be respected in the selection of senators, no matter who made a statement to the contrary; and I am here to-night to ask Catholics and Protestants from the province of Quebec, and I am here to ask English-speaking members and French-speaking members, to deny if they can the statement that I make, that in all the years since that confederation was adopted, sacredly always has been regarded that convention of the constitution and the promise of the fathers of confederation, that race and creed should be respected in the selection of members to the Upper House of the Canadian Parliament. Then, Mr. Dorion says once more :

I venture to say that before a very short time has elapsed, a dead-lock will arise, and such an excitement will be created as never was created in this country before.

Sir, I now ask the members of the Government whether that excitement has arisen? I ask the Minister of Finance whether that excitement prevails? I ask the right hon. the First Minister—and I am sorry he is not here—whether he can to-night honestly say to this Chamber and to the people of Canada, that the man whose foresight and whose wonderful knowledge of events that were about to happen was correct when he said that within a very few years such excitement would be raised between the Senate and the House of Commons as never was raised in this country before.

There have been differences of opinion between the Senate and the House of Commons, and those differences have existed under Conservative rule, as they have existed under Liberal rule. They have existed upon serious questions when Conservatives were in power. There are men here who remember, only a few years ago, when Sir John Macdonald sat in his place as Prime Minister of this country, that a Bill which he regarded as the most important part of the policy of the Government of Canada was defeated by a majority in the Senate, and Sir John Macdonald accepted the position, and we heard from him no murmurings and no mutterings such as these gentlemen opposite make against the Senate that opposes them. The Senate has opposed hon. gentlemen opposite since they have been in power this time, and how? First, they had the opposition of the Senate upon the Drummond Counties Railway. Now, after all, is it not true, throwing aside all charges of dishonesty, throwing aside all charges of incorrect conduct, are we not compelled to admit, and are not the members of the Government compelled to admit, that by reason of the blocking of that first deal and the making of a better deal, at least half a million dollars was saved to the people of Canada.

Then, we had a difference between the

Senate and the Government upon the Yukon matter, and the First Minister, with his hand upon his heart, has said in this Chamber, that no greater crime was ever committed against the liberties and the property of the people of this country than the defeat of that Bill by the Senate of Canada. Sir, if I were allowed to say so, I would say that the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) is a magnificently dramatic actor, for I am here to-night to state that the Government of Canada did not have exceeding grief at the defeat of that Bill, and I am here to say that whatever may be their grief, still less is the grief of hon. gentlemen behind them. When that Bill went to the Senate of Canada the majority of that body was divided between two loves; first, their love for the Conservative party of Canada, and next their love for the interests of Canada. I am here to-night to say that the Senate stood by the interests of Canada; I am here to say that they committed no crime against the country, and I am here to say still further that the Senate did the worst possible thing for the Conservative party of Canada, because the Conservative party would ask no better thing upon which to go to the electors than the accomplishment of that Yukon policy of the Liberal Government. Well, the Liberals were in power between 1873 and 1878, and the Senate was in conflict with them then. They were in conflict with them upon the Nanaimo Railway scheme, and is there a gentleman in this House from British Columbia who will stand up now and say that the Senate were not right on that occasion. The Senate was also in conflict with the Liberal Government on the Bill which they passed to make an exception of Prince Edward Island. While that Government accepted for the Dominion elections the franchises of all the provinces as that upon which the members were elected to the legislative assemblies, in the case of the province of Prince Edward Island—for a purpose best known to themselves—they passed an Act in this House declaring that in that province the franchise to be adopted in the election of Dominion members should be the franchise used in the election of members to the legislative council, and the Senate of Canada rejected that Bill, and they properly rejected it.

The Senate rejected another Bill in those days; they rejected the Bill introduced by Mr. Cameron, the late hon. member for Huron. There was a township of very strong Reform proclivities which had already done its service in the general elections in another constituency, and this was a Bill which removed that township into the riding of Mr. Cameron where a by-election was about to take place, in order that this strong Liberal township might again do its duty for the Liberal party. That Bill was known as the Tucker-Smith Bill, and the Senate of Canada rejected it,

and properly rejected it. The Senate of Canada was right. There was an appeal to the people—an appeal upon these questions as well as upon other questions which had been in discussion between the two parties—and when the Senate of Canada and the Liberal governing power of Canada stood before the electors, the country declared by a large majority, that the Liberal Government was wrong, and that the Senate was right. But let us apply Mr. Dorrion's prediction, that a deadlock and such excitement as the country has never seen will ensue; let us apply that prediction to the present time. Where is the excitement? It is around the Council Chamber in this country. It is in the hearts of hon. gentlemen opposite; it has filtered to some of the local legislatures by order of the master of the ship; it has gone out to some of the Liberal associations, by reason of the good things that are in view; but I submit to hon. gentlemen in this House and to the Government especially, that no real excitement against the Senate exists to-day in Canada. In his address the other night, the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) declared that 95 per cent of the electors of his province were against that second chamber. I admit the ability of the Minister of Public Works; I admire his pluck in climbing to that high and commanding position which he occupies among his people in the province of Quebec; but in the midst of all that admiration, I may be permitted to question whether, upon the floor of this House he is entitled to speak for 95 per cent of the people of the province of Quebec. If he is, it is remarkable that the people of the province of Quebec do not pursue that policy nearer home, when it is within the bounds of their power, by destroying the Legislative Council which exists in that province?

Well, Sir, from time to time we have heard certain objections to the Senate. In 1875 the present Minister of Justice moved a resolution that in the opinion of this House the Senate should be reformed; and what was the opinion expressed by one of the fathers of confederation upon that resolution in the great Liberal organ of this country? The "Globe" of March 30th, 1875—and I commend this to the members of the Government—says:

His act is midsummer madness, and some of our representatives ought to be warned against constitution mongering.

Resolutions have from time to time been passed in some of our provincial legislatures on this subject. In 1894, I think, a resolution was passed in the Legislature of Manitoba, and I want to show you where that resolution pointed. It did not point in the direction of the scheme which is to be submitted by the Prime Minister of this country. It pointed against life membership and against the system of appointing senators.

In 1888 the Legislature of Ontario passed a resolution which did not point in the direction which has been discovered by the Prime Minister, a direction which no man ever discovered or thought of before; but it made the suggestion that one-half of the senators should be elected by the Legislatures of the various provinces. Now, Sir, what is the scheme of the right hon. gentleman who leads this Government? In the campaign songs this was sung:

Let every Liberal be brave,  
And true to duty's call:  
The useless Senate we will send  
For ever to the wall.

Is the right hon. gentleman sending the Senate for ever to the wall? I am prepared, Sir, to show that if his scheme is carried by the Imperial Parliament, he will be for ever sending the Senate of Canada to the wall. What was the objection to the Senate made on the platform by hon. gentlemen? The objection was to the cost. What is this proposal? This proposal is to retain the cost, but to abolish the power. This scheme of the right hon. gentleman continues the cost of the Senate, and still give the patronage of Senatorial appointments to the Government of Canada, but clips the powers of the Senate, so that it might as well be abolished. Sir, one of the gentlemen on the other side of the House made this statement:

I do not feel like supporting a change such as is proposed, unless it is a step in the total abolition and destruction of that body.

The hon. gentleman need not worry or trouble himself; for once this scheme is adopted there never will be any trouble about the Senate expressing its opinions or exercising its powers, because powers it will have none, as I shall be able to show. What is the scheme? The scheme is that if there is a dispute between the two Houses upon a Bill, there shall be a joint vote of the two Houses; and if the Senate is defeated on that joint vote, the Senate must give up its contention, and the contention of this House must prevail. Well, Sir, is the opposite to be true? If the Senate is defeated and must give up its position, what about the House of Commons being defeated and giving up its position? Will the hon. gentlemen, if defeated by a combined vote of the House of Commons and the Senate, resign their positions or appeal to the country? "Not at all," says Mr. Mills in an interview; "that would be an entirely different thing." In other words, that would be a defeat of the Liberal Government, which these gentlemen would not care to have brought about. Their schemes is to clip the wings of the Senate and destroy its power; but when the Senate is too strong for them, they will not permit the Senate to retaliate on them in the same way. Well, Sir, why have we not the scheme

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which the Minister of Justice brought forward a few years ago for the appointment of senators by provincial legislatures? I fancy that has been discussed, and how it would operate. Ah, they say, there is the province of Manitoba; give its legislature power to elect senators, and there is the grave and impending danger that Hugh John Macdonald may be in control of the province of Manitoba very shortly. In the province of British Columbia, a coalition Government exists, with the Hon. Joseph Martin as the leader of the Liberal contingent; and fancy the Minister of the Interior entrusting the appointment of senators to him. There is the North-west Territories, but there is a government there elected in spite of the opposition of this Government. In the province of New-Brunswick there is a coalition Government. After all the boasting of the hon. gentlemen opposite of the defeat of the Conservative party in that province, in the recent campaign, I am told that there is a House there supporting the coalition government, the members of which House, quite a majority of them are members of the Conservative party of this country. Then, Sir, in the province of Ontario there is a Liberal Government which from day to day does not know what may happen, and which dreads the voice of the people of the province. What is the only example to which the right hon. Prime Minister has gone for a defence of this proposition for a joint vote? He goes to the new constitution adopted by the Australian Confederation, where he says they are going to have a joint vote of the two Houses. It is quite true that under Clause 57 of the Australian constitution, provision is made for a joint vote of the two Houses; but the positions are entirely different. In Australia the second chamber is elected directly by the people; and not only that, but it is arranged in that constitution that when there is a difference between the popular assembly and the second chamber, there shall be an appeal to the people; and if after that appeal to the people, the difference still exists between the two Houses, there shall then be a joint vote of the two Houses, and a decision on the question. So that hon. gentlemen will see that there is no comparison at all to be made between the proposal of the right hon. gentleman and the clause in the Australian constitution to which I have referred.

Well, Sir, I can fancy hon. gentlemen going to the Imperial Parliament and asking for this change to be made. What will their case be in England? It will be this: We made arrangements at confederation; we entered into a solemn compact at confederation, and we now desire to break that compact and those arrangements. It was said that race and creed would be regarded in the selection of senators, and we are bound to admit that that was done.

An hon. MEMBER. No.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Some one says "no," but I do not think that he voices the opinion of hon. members on that side when he makes that statement. Our opponents, they will say, were in power for 26 years out of the 32, and they have placed their adherents and supporters in the second Chamber, and therefore we want it changed. I submit that that would not be a very strong argument upon which to go to the Imperial House, but would rather be a condemnation of these hon. gentlemen who, during 32 years, have only been able to secure the confidence of the electors of this country for six years of that time. They will say to the Imperial House: The Senate opposed us when we were in power from 1873 to 1878, and the Imperial House will ask them: What was the result when you appealed to the country? And they will then have to reply that the result was unfavourable to Liberal contentions. And when they say there is a difference now, if I judge the sentiment rightly of those men who gave us the constitution of Canada, the Imperial statesman will say to these gentlemen: You had better wait and see what the people say on this question before you come and ask us to decide so important a question in the political life and history of your country.

Now, I come to speak, for a moment or so, upon a matter which was raised by the hon. gentleman who has just spoken and by other hon. gentlemen in this House. They said that the Government made a pledge to abolish the Franchise Act and that they have carried that pledge out. Sir, we admit they have, we know that they have. But I cannot congratulate them upon the result of their work, and I venture to say that these hon. gentlemen do not feel like congratulating themselves. For if ever there was a Franchise Act placed upon the Statute-book of Canada regarding which the people do not know where they are at, it is the Franchise Act of hon. gentlemen opposite. Why is there not an election in the city of Winnipeg to fill the vacancy caused by the lamented death of our late colleague, Mr. Jameson? Winnipeg is an important city in the life of this country, and why has not this vacancy been filled? Because under the blundering Franchise Act of hon. gentlemen opposite, it is impossible to hold an election there. Sir, I submit that under the Franchise Act, which was placed upon the Statute-book of this country by the Conservative party, whatever its faults may have been, there never was a time when an election could not have been held to fill a vacancy in any constituency. We are told that there has been some discussion as to a general election. Hon. gentlemen who sit in the Cabinet will know whether that is true and whether it was discovered that no election could be held because of that wonderful Franchise Act which hon. gentlemen to-night have taken the pains to claim credit for having

placed on the Statute-book. We are told by the hon. member for Burrard (Mr. Maxwell), and in the Speech from the Throne—and it is the only measure which has been promised in that speech—that a redistribution Bill—not a gerrymander, mind you, but a fair-minded Distribution Bill, which any one can accept and which any one can favour—will be submitted to the House this session. Hon. gentlemen opposite want us to accept in advance the conclusion that it will be a fair-minded, generous, impartial Bill. Sir, we have seen these hon. gentleman at work before. We saw what they did in the Tucker-Smith Bill and what they did in the province of Ontario. And I am here to say to-night that right in the midst of a discussion on the best contrived political gerrymander that was ever placed upon the Statute-book of any province or of the Dominion, we had the members of a Liberal government declaring that it was an honest, fair-minded, impartial measure, so I submit that we ought to take the statements and confessions of hon. gentlemen opposite with a very large grain of salt indeed. And what do we find? We find it said in the press of British Columbia that the hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Mills, has been addressing circulars to Liberal associations in the province of British Columbia. What for? Is it because he has not quite all the data upon which to go? What data, pray? The boundaries of the constituents? These are contained in a very excellent atlas prepared at the expense of this country. The population, do you say? This is to be found in the census and in this atlas as well. What other data then is required? I am afraid, Sir, that it may be political data; and if it is political data, I respectfully submit to this House that the sources from which it is required will be sufficiently biased to prevent, if it is acted upon, as fair-minded and impartial a measure being submitted such as we should like to see on this side of the House.

Now, I come to deal for a moment or so, with some of the contentions which have been made by hon. gentlemen opposite regarding their expenditure. I am not going to criticise the size of their expenditure. I said in this House years ago, as I have said always upon the platform, that as this country grows, its expenditure is bound to increase, though I never dreamed it was going to increase, as it has recently under hon. gentlemen opposite. But I am here to say this, that when hon. gentlemen opposite now say that they are keeping the expenditure within the closest possible bounds, they are declaring in the strongest possible tone that they were either saying what they did not mean, or talking about what they did not know when they said that the expenditure under the Liberal-Conservative regime was exceedingly too large and ought to be reduced. Why, I need not repeat the story. The hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMul-

len), the hon. member for North Wentworth (Mr. Somerville), all of whom did splendid, vigorous work for their party, used to shed tears as big as marbles over the wasteful extravagance of the Conservative Government of this country.

An hon. MEMBER. Crocodile tears.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Well, I am not going to say they were crocodile tears, because that would be imputing dishonest motives, which I do not desire to do; but if they were not crocodile tears, they belong to the same general family and answer practically the same purpose. But what are we told by these hon. gentlemen? They ask us: What are you finding fault with our expenditure for? We are deepening the canals of this country and we want you to understand that. And the naïveté and the innocence of the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) was admirable and beautiful to behold when he stood up in this House, the other night, and said to us: We are deepening the canals of this country, and I want you to say whether you are opposed to it or not. Bless his innocent heart, the canals of this country were being deepened and completed long before he, in his wildest dreams, ever thought of being Minister of Public Works. What are the facts? The Sault Ste. Marie Canal was completed, the Welland Canal was completed, and three-quarters of the St. Lawrence canals were completed, and the Minister of Railways and Canals in that Administration (Mr. Haggart) tells me that contracts were let for nearly all the balance when the Conservative Administration went out of power in 1896. And yet hon. gentlemen opposite say to us: We have evolved a new policy from the mass of corruption and inability to deal with public questions which you exhibited; we are deepening the canals of this country. The Minister says: "Would you stop this work and turn our trade over to Boston and New York?" No! Nor to this side of the House does there belong a gentleman who once declared at an American banquet and to Americans, "Our policy, the Liberal policy, will give you the trade of half a continent." Not only did hon. gentlemen opposite find a good deal of fault with the expenditures of money in connection with the canals, but they opposed in toto the building of some of the most important links in that canal system. I happened to have a seat in this House in 1887, and I remember when that most important link was proposed by the present leader of the Opposition, I mean the Sault Canal, which gave us a waterway independent of the United States, as we had a railway independent of the United States, the completion of which work enabled us to snap our fingers later when the threat of non-intercourse was held out, and I remember hearing the present Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), the hon. member for North Norfolk

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(Mr. Charlton), the present Judge Lister, then a member of this House, declaring that this was useless expenditure. And I have lived, though still a young man, to see these hon. gentlemen base their pride of Government upon the fact that we have a magnificent canal system, and that toward the conclusion of the work they have been permitted to do something for the completion of the system. What is the speech of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) in answer to all these charges. He says: We have received a deputation asking for millions here, we have received a deputation asking for millions there; we have had this scheme laid before us and we have had that scheme laid before us. I would like to ask hon. gentlemen will they oppose them. We are not here making the financial policy of this country; hon. gentlemen opposite are responsible for that; it is for them to say what expenditures it is wise to make. But I am here to say to hon. gentlemen opposite that the warning issued by the Toronto "Sun," and published commendably in his newspaper by a member on the other side of the House is a warning that the members of this Government ought to take to themselves, and especially ought the Minister of Public Works to do so:

The promoters of the schemes are in many instances rich and wealthy men, with ample resources at their command, but are their own capital and resources to be put into these profitable enterprises? Not for a moment is such a thing to be thought of. The country must furnish the money required for these schemes. And so it comes to pass that the air is filled with clamorous demands for grants from the Treasury and as brazen-faced a force of buccaneers as ever pillaged a country is now moving on Ottawa. Sir Wilfrid Laurier will have to fight a harder battle than did Alexander Mackenzie if he keeps the Treasury intact.

Sir, that is by an independent writer in the press and appears in the Toronto "Sun," and is copied commendably by the member who sits on the back benches among hon. gentlemen opposite and who publishes the Liberal organ in the city of Winnipeg. I submit that it is no wonder, in view of these schemes and in view of the statement of the hon. Minister of Public Works that the hon. member for North Norfolk not later than last session stood up in his place and said in effect: I confess I stand somewhat appalled by the magnitude of the increases that have taken place.

Well, Sir, we recently had a very pleasant visit from the Minister of Finance to the city of Toronto. We are delighted to have him go to Toronto, delighted to have him go to the various provinces of this Dominion. The oftener he goes and the further he goes, the surer will he be that he was wrong in a certain policy that he advocated in the province of Nova Scotia by the sea. We had that hon. gentleman discussing financial questions. And what was the boast he made? Amidst the cheers of the Young

Liberals who treated him well, and I am glad they did, he used the words upon the postage stamps of this country, transforming them for his own purpose, and declared: We are going to give the people of this country a larger surplus than has been.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). Vaster.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. The word is a little more comprehensive, and I accept the correction with great pleasure. How does he do it? We do not forget the debate of last session when these gentlemen brought down their Estimates showing items which, from time immemorial had been charged to consolidated revenue, now charged to capital account. Thousands upon thousands, and thousands upon thousands of dollars covering items the like of which had never been charged to capital account before, by a stroke of the pen had been turned over to capital account column in order to relieve the consolidated revenue account, and the hon. gentleman as result has "a vaster surplus than has been." We told the hon. gentleman at that time, that, for all time he was destroying the figures of the public accounts for purposes of comparison. And he told us then: Nobody would take advantage of a thing like that. He forgot, and unintentionally I am sure, he declared upon the increased capital charges and declared consolidated revenue charges, that he had a vaster surplus than had been in the Dominion of Canada. What more did he do? In order to strengthen his position a little more he dragged in what he called the Supplementary Estimates of the late Government of 1896. And then, to show himself to be eminently fair he made a certain reduction. All over the country these Supplementary Estimates have been talked about. I want to say to-night that the Conservative Government of 1896, and I am speaking in the hearing of the leader of that Government (Sir Charles Tupper) never for one moment considered a supplementary estimate around the Council Board of the Government of Canada.

Mr. **McMULLEN**. Hear, hear.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. I make that statement. There were a good many men around that board, and I fancy that every one of them will bear me out. I will tell hon. gentlemen what we did do. The Minister of Public Works in that Administration had various applications from different portions of the country for the expenditure of public money.

Mr. **McMULLEN**. Hear, hear.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. And I think that in that regard hon. gentlemen opposite have had no reason to feel slighted. It does not need any particular approval for that statement from any hon. gentleman on the other side of the House. The Minister of Public Works of that day made this statement publicly, and

if he were permitted he would make it again to-day, that he made a list of every one of these requests, in order that they might be considered by his colleagues, but made no recommendation with regard to a single one. That is the list which the Finance Minister of Canada has declared to the Young Liberals of Toronto was the Supplementary Estimates of the Conservative Government in 1896.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. Did I not give the reasons.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. My hon. friend says he gave the reasons. I understand, that he read a letter from the present leader of the Opposition, in which he stated to some gentleman in the country, that he sent him a copy of the Estimates, or something of that kind, and that the expenditure he asked for was in that copy. I do not know what the present leader of the Opposition had in view with regard to that particular item; the Minister of Public Works may have decided that that item was an item which should be passed; but I am here to say, that those Supplementary Estimates were never considered in Council, that not a single item, so far as I ever remember or know about, was considered by Council, and, consequently, they have no right to pronounce them the Supplementary Estimates of the Conservative Government for 1896.

Well, Sir, I want now to speak a word or two upon another point. The Speech from the Throne is an exceedingly peculiar Speech; it is the most peculiar Speech that has ever been made, I think, from the Throne in this country. I analysed that Speech for a few moments. It contains five lines of the usual reference to the Estimates, it contains five lines of the usual expression of the pleasure of His Excellency in meeting the members of Parliament; it contains seven lines of promised legislation for the benefit of the people of Canada, and it contains sixty-seven lines of congratulation to hon. gentlemen opposite for the manner in which they have created and built up this great Dominion of Canada. The address of the Prime Minister was along the same line: about five lines of promises of what he was going to do; about seventy-five lines, or in that proportion, of the grand things that he and his smiling colleague, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, had done for the Dominion of Canada. Among some of the things which he claimed credit for, he said: We have brought about a splendid system of cold storage for Canada. Well, Sir, the Prime Minister does not seem to keep a very good record of agricultural matters. A few months ago, the Department of Agriculture, by arrangement with the Department of Agriculture of the United States, removed the quarantine between the two countries, as regards the removal backwards and forwards of cattle, and immediately the Prime Minister rushed off into a

by-election, and declared that they had obtained free trade in cattle between the United States and Canada. Now, Sir, notwithstanding the fact that every member in this House who has kept a record of the Agricultural Department, knows that the Conservative party introduced the cold storage, we have seen the right hon. the First Minister standing up in his place and bravely saying to the farmers of Canada, in answer to the challenge of the leader of the Opposition: We have brought about the system of cold storage for Canada. Now, Sir, I am here to-night to say, that Canada owes a debt of gratitude to Professor Robertson. Professor Robertson is one of the most valuable employees that Canada has ever had. Professor Robertson, years ago, discussed this matter before the Committee on Agriculture, and I see before me members from the other side of the House who took an interest in that question of cold storage, and discussed it in the Agricultural Committee; and after it was discussed before the committee, it was adopted by the Department of Agriculture. The next thing we shall hear will be the Government of Canada declaring that they started the dairy industry in this country. I am sure that I can appeal to my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to say that we bad Tories did something for the dairy industry of Canada. My hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries nods his head, as I knew he would, for I have the figures under my hand, showing that, under the guidance of the Department of Agriculture in this country, first, under Sir John Carling, next, under Mr. Angers, next, under Mr. Ouimet, acting in his place, and then under myself, this is what was done in the little province from which the Minister of Marine and Fisheries comes. In 1892, there was one dairy station in Prince Edward Island. That was built by some people at New Perth, and the Government of Canada loaned them the machinery. In 1893, Mr. Robertson, under the direction of the Department of Agriculture, took hold of the promotion of the dairy interests in the province of Prince Edward Island, at the request of our friends from that province, and at the end of the year we had eleven dairy stations managed by the Dominion Agricultural Commissioner. In 1894, we had 16 cheese factories and 2 creameries; in 1895, we had 28 cheese factories and 2 creameries; and the province, which in 1892 had not exported a single pound of cheese, was able, as the result of our efforts in that province, to send out to the markets of the world no less than \$50,000 worth of the best cheese that was ever sent from the shores of Canada. Following these experiments in dairying work, came the cold storage. We made arrangements for cold storage in 1895, when that system began. We had cold storage arrangements on the main lines running into Montreal on the Canadian Pacific Railway

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and the Grand Trunk Railway, the people paying the ordinary freight and we bearing the expense of cold storage. We had arrangements made with the Montreal Freezing and Cold Storage Company for chilling products at the port of Montreal; we had refrigerator departments in steamships running from Montreal to Avonmouth, Liverpool and Glasgow. In 1896 my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Finance, for me, as Minister, and arranged by me, made a contract, signed in my absence by himself, for increased cold storage facilities in 1896, under which it was provided that butter should be carried across the continent for ten shillings per ton, in addition to the ordinary freight, and that cheese should be carried for five shillings, and we made arrangements in that year for three steamships to be fitted up with 2,000 cubic feet of cold storage space in each. But then we were only beginning; we were only laying broad and deep the foundations of our policy. In 1894, only 32,000 packages of butter went from Montreal. In 1895, our cold storage began to have its effect, and there were 69,664 packages exported, and in 1896, from the port of Montreal, no less than 157,321 packages of butter went in cold storage across the water to Great Britain; or in three years, under the late Government, there was an increase of 500 per cent in shipments of butter from the port of Montreal. Extension was our policy in every direction, and we had these two things closely connected, namely, a fast steamship line and the cold storage arrangements. Sir, where is our fast steamship line to-day? Less than three years ago a contract was signed and arrangements were made with the most responsible parties, by which, giving them \$750,000 a year as a bonus, they should put on a first-class fast line of steamships between this country and Great Britain, with cold storage facilities. Hon. gentlemen opposite came into power, and what is the result? It was too costly; they did better, they said; they had a contract arranged with Petersen & Tate, and I am told that Petersen & Tate never had the financial strength to carry this thing through. What did the right hon. Prime Minister say in 1897? On the 13th of April, the Prime Minister said this, speaking from his place in this House:

A strong board has been organized; the capital has been underwritten. We have reason to believe that the vessels will be under construction by July 1st, 1897.

July 1st, 1897, has gone; July 1st, 1898, has gone; July 1st, 1899, has nearly come, and we have the right hon. gentleman speaking in his place in this House only a few days ago, making this statement, and I submit it to the hon. gentlemen who think that there is something in the fast line policy of the Government:

We intend to take it up at sometime, sooner or later, and rather sooner than later.

Sooner than later! I do not see my hon. friend from Quebec West (Mr. Dobell) present. We do not know whether he is upon this side of the ocean, or whether he is upon the other side. But I submit, Sir, that it is cruel to have his pet scheme of bottle-necked slips bottled up in a heartless statement such as that made by the right hon. Prime Minister of this country.

Now, just for a moment, a word or two further, and then I shall be done, in regard to a statement which was made by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), whose candour was admired, as was the beauty of his English and the splendid nature of his diction when he spoke to this House. I must express my pleasure at listening to a Frenchman delivering a speech in faultless English in the House of Commons as that hon. gentleman did only a few days ago. But while I admired the beauty of his diction I did not admire the cruel and heartless stab that he gave to the Government when he said, in drawing a picture of the anxiety and terror and fear that filled the minds of Canadian business men, between that eventful 23rd of June, 1896, and the day when they brought down their trade policy, he said, Sir, that when their policy came down the people of Canada "breathed a deep and happy inspiration of hope and relief." A deep and happy inspiration of hope and relief! The feeling that ran through from man to man and town to town and province to province, was that in the Parliament of Canada no truer words were ever spoken of the feelings of Canadians when that policy came down, under the directing hand of the hon. Minister of Finance. In English what do they mean? They mean that there was a happiness widespread and universal when it was known that hon. gentlemen had refused to do what they said they would do. Robbed of the beautiful diction of the hon. member for Labelle this was his statement in plain, cold, ordinary English words. Well, Sir, the hon. member for Labelle, I fancy, said more than he intended to say. "He builded better than he knew." I fancy that he went just a little further in his condemnation of hon. gentlemen than he had intended to do, and I will tell you what the hon. gentleman did. He gave a reason for the prosperity of the present, and he gave a reason, and a true reason, for the retardment of prosperity in the past. During eighteen years we had the hon. gentlemen, then on this side of the House, attempting to destroy the fabric of industrial protection, and I am here to say that the Canadian people never will know how much the progress of Canada was retarded, how many industries were kept out of this country, how many millions of dollars were refused to be invested by reason of the fact that these hon. gentlemen might possibly some day get into power and carry out their promises. So I say that the hon. gentleman builded better than he knew, and said more than he intended to say, when he declared

that from the Atlantic to the Pacific, when it was known that these hon. gentlemen had refused to carry out their promises, there was an inspiration of relief and hope, breathed by the people. Sir, we are glad that that hon. gentleman was enabled to say that. There is not a member on this side of the House who regrets that hon. gentlemen went back upon their promises. We know that if they had kept them it would have meant immediate defeat for them and victory for us, and that the destruction of that policy would have set the country away back in the list of nations, but for the sake of the country hon. gentlemen sitting upon this side of the House are glad that they refused to carry out their promises, and I am here to say, still further, that if they have made a mistake in taking down a duty where they ought not to have taken it down, we will support them in putting it up again; we will support them in closing every hole and putting up every fence rail that has fallen, if it is necessary, for the protection of Canadian industries and for the upbuilding of the industrial life of the country. Well, Sir, I may tell my hon. friend for Labelle that there was another deep inspiration of relief and hope that filled the hearts of the people of this country and it was when these hon. gentlemen came back from Washington without making a treaty destructive of the interests of Canadian confederation. During all the time they were at Washington there was a fear, a deepening and strengthening fear, that the old man of the sea who had ridden on their backs in the election campaign and whose cry for the destruction of protection rang throughout the country might cling to some of his delusions as the measure of the privileges to be conceded and go in for a policy that might be destructive of Canadian interests. There was a deep inspiration of relief and hope when they came back from Washington without making such a treaty as the one to which I have referred. It is natural, Sir, that there should be some wriggling on this question, but let us drop it. The fact is that hon. gentlemen opposite promised to destroy protection; there is no use in denying that. The fact is that they have retained protection and that that is the policy of the party at the present day. It is true that we have had the spectacle of the right hon. Prime Minister declaring that the policy of unrestricted reciprocity came from this side of the House and from the Conservative party in this country. There never was a more ridiculous statement made in Parliament or in the politics of Canada, except, perhaps, it be the statement of the hon. Minister of the Interior, which justifies his pronouncement at Perth that the trade question had become a dead question, because he said the Conservative party had gone over to them and their contention on that question. And where is the Goliath who once declared that come what might, so long as it should be necessary to labour, he, for one,

would nail his colours to the mast and would stand for ever for unrestricted reciprocity? Meekly he comes down now to the House of Commons of Canada and says: After all—and I am quoting from the speech of the Minister of Trade and Commerce—after all there is not nearly so much feeling in this country for reciprocity as there was twelve years ago. But that twelve years was an unfortunate slip, because years ago they were not advocating reciprocity. Twelve years ago they were under the leadership of Mr. Blake, who sent that celebrated circular to the manufacturers: that they need not be afraid, that there was a consonance between himself and the hon. member for South Oxford, and that free trade was absolutely impossible in Canada. But after that, and up to the very verge of the election we had the Minister of Trade and Commerce advocating the destruction of protection, and advocating the policy of reciprocity with the United States as the only thing which would preserve the industrial life in Canada.

We have had some variety of opinions from these gentlemen opposite. We have had Mr. Bourassa declare that he was for moderate protection, and I was amused to hear how beautifully the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) said "hear, hear," to that, and smiled all over. It was a revelation worth travelling across this continent to see the genial smile of that gentleman (Sir Louis Davies), who declared in 1894 that the next fight in this country would be between free trade and protection, and he had nailed his colours to the mast and would stand by free trade. Then we had the congratulations of the leader of the Government to the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), who had announced that he was a moderate protectionist, while we still heard in this Chamber the echoes of the Prime Minister when he sat in Opposition, that his labours would be for ever, if necessary, to uproot the last vestige of protection. And all this time the Goliath from the Trade and Commerce Department was sitting, vainly endeavouring to read a book—it looked to me like Dean Swift's description of the Academy at Legado, where the professor taught his pupils to extract sunbeams from cucumbers—and the hon. gentleman who is Minister of Trade and Commerce seemed to be endeavouring to extract from the statement of the hon. member (Mr. Bourassa), which to him was a cold cucumber of disappointment, some of the sunbeams of satisfaction which the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and the Prime Minister seemed to enjoy. Then, we had the mover of the Address declare that there were some men who still hugged their delusion as to the value of reciprocity with the United States, and we had our warrior friend from Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), with happiness and with smiles upon his face, who, with the ability for which he is well known, and with his splendid voice and his

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splendid strength went from end to end of this Dominion, from the Atlantic coast upon the east to the Pacific coast on the west, telling how gloriously he was in favour of free trade. But what did he tell us last night? He said: After all we have got the platform; we have not got free trade, but we have the platform the Liberals laid down in 1894. Glorious possession! The hope of their ever getting free trade is gone, but the platform remains, and tells what the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) spoke upon, and what he advocated in the various provinces of confederation. But still there is hope, for the hon. member (Mr. Fraser) said: We are coming to it even at a snail's pace—and that satisfied him. The gentleman who took the pains to travel clear to British Columbia to help hoist the protectionist Government, meekly smiles his approval, that at a snail's pace we are coming to it. And a snail's pace it is. The duty was about 30 per cent when the Conservatives went out of office; in three years hon. gentlemen opposite have reduced it by one-half of 1 per cent. I figure out that that snail's pace will take 120 years to bring us free trade. Long before that my hon. friend (Mr. Fraser) and myself will be resting where the wicked cease from troubling, where the pursuit of free trade and protection and the desire for public office and emolument do not exist; and where the weary will be for ever at rest.

Another thing, Sir, we have had boasts upon the other side of the House that there is prosperity. I am glad to be able to say that there is prosperity, and my hon. friend from Victoria (Mr. Prior) to-day, instead of expressing wonder that there was prosperity, happily put it when he said: the wonder would be if there was not prosperity. We are in the midst of prosperity upon every side. Surrounding countries are prosperous, and why should not Canada be prosperous? There was a time, Sir, when these conditions were reversed. The mover of the Address drew a beautiful picture of the United States before this Government came in, as a ship in the stream of progress, going with fearful force down that stream, while Canada was a little barque lying in the eddies, instead of being carried by the current swiftly and forcibly. That simile tells of another condition and of another time. In 1893, in the United States of America, her industries, her financial life, her commerce, were in the stream of destruction, so to speak. And during that year Canada stood prosperous and happy, with her financial institutions solid, with her people prosperous. The reason she did stand so was told by the financial journals of the great republic to the south, and it was that Canada had protected her interests, and stood by herself, looking after her trade and her people. In that direful year for other countries, where would Can-

ada have been if we had followed the advice of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and of the Prime Minister of this Government, and joined hands with the people of the United States, whose ship of commerce and prosperity was being dashed mercilessly against the rocks of destruction, while Canada's barque of prosperity was quietly moving along the course which her statesmen had charted out for her.

Well, Sir, what have hon. gentlemen opposite done for prosperity? I ask the Minister of Marine what have they done to give Canada prosperity? Is it the increase of our trade with the United States—imports instead of exports? Is it the decrease of a half per cent in the tariff that has given us our great prosperity? Is it because we have increased expenditure? Is it because we have gold discoveries in the Yukon—these discoveries are not the results of the Government's action. The mover of the Address said they were an accident, but they were not an accident even. They are the result of the policy of the Conservative Government in establishing a Geological Survey, which sent men out to discover these rich mineral-bearing areas within the borders of our land.

My hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries knows that many a time we were under fire by reason of the expenditures we were making in connection with that same geological survey. Now, I am here to say, as was said by the hon. member for Victoria today, that the only thing the Government have done to bring about prosperity in this country is their wise refusal to undo what the Conservative party did while in power; and I want to ask the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to stand up now, if he will, in the face of Parliament, and say that one-half of that prosperity would be existing if we had free trade as the hon. gentleman advocated it before the election of 1896. The hon. member for Labelle, with that candour which he exhibited in this House, agrees with me entirely; for he says that since the policy of the Liberals has been established, that is, the policy of adopting our policy, there has been full confidence that whatever party may be in power, the trade and industries of this country are safe; and I tell hon. gentlemen opposite that there never before was a time in our history, from 1878 to 1896, when the people of this country did feel that their trade and their industries were safe, no matter which party was in power.

Now, Sir, I have detained the House much longer than I expected or intended to do. I do not intend to detain it a moment longer. I am sorry I have spoken thus long, and I trust that hon. gentlemen will pardon me for taking up so much of their time. The interest of the subject, however, and the broad field which the expression of the views of hon. gentlemen opposite presented must be taken as my excuse.

Mr. A. CAMPBELL (Kent, Ont.) Mr. Speaker, I am sure that every member of

the House will be pleased with the address which has just been delivered by the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montagu), it is so different from the addresses of other hon. gentlemen on that side of the House to which we have been compelled to listen. The hon. gentleman has not used such strong language as was indulged in by other hon. gentlemen on that side. His adjectives have been very moderate. He has confined himself to the question he undertook to discuss; and, although his views on these questions do not commend themselves to my judgment, yet I think no fault can be found with the manner in which he has discussed them. He has, of course, travelled over a good deal of ground that has been travelled over by other gentlemen in the last few weeks. We have had the changes rung on the old cry that we have not carried out our pledges. We have been told that we promised a reduction in the expenditure of this country, and that we have increased the expenditure. First, let me call attention to the fact that we denounced the extravagant expenditure of the Conservative Government. We not only did that, but we proved to the satisfaction of the people of this country and the members of this House that it was a most extravagant and corrupt administration. We did not deal in generalities, as hon. gentlemen opposite have been doing. For instance, we pointed to the Curran Bridge in Montreal, where hundreds of thousands of dollars of the people's money was stolen right under the eyes of the Minister of Railways. We pointed to the scandals at Quebec, where over \$1,000,000 of the people's money was wasted. We pointed to the Tay Canal, where \$500,000 was wasted, with a return of only \$126 a year of revenue. We pointed to the scandals in connection with the St. Charles Rapids, the Galops Rapids, and the Langevin Block in the city of Ottawa, where \$450,000 of the people's money was stolen. We pointed to all these things, and said: This Government is unworthy of the confidence of the people of this country; they are not conducting the affairs of the country as they should be conducted, and the amounts they are spending are being stolen and wasted, instead of being expended in the interest of the country." I defy hon. gentlemen opposite to point to one single expenditure in the interest of the people of this country which the Liberal party ever opposed or censured. We pointed to these cases in which the public money was being wasted in hundreds of thousands of dollars, and we said that it was an extravagant Government, and that the expenditure was too large. In the case of the Langevin Block, a contract was let for the work, and it should have been completed for \$450,000, but over \$800,000 was wasted on that work. The Curran Bridge in Montreal, within a few hours railway ride from Ottawa, and with telegraph and telephone connection, cost this country several hundred thousand dollars more than it should have cost. Therefore, I think

we were justified in making the assertion that the late Government was spending too much money. Now, the charge has been made that this Government is spending too much money; but hon. gentlemen have not been able to point to one single case in which fraud or corruption has taken place under this Government. As the hon. member for Haldimand very properly said, as the country grows and increases in population, and the resources of the country are developed, the expenditure will naturally go up, and we must continue to expend larger sums of money than we have been expending in the past; but what the people demand is that every single dollar of that money shall be expended justly and honestly, and in the public interest. They do not find fault with the Government for constructing a public work if that work is required and is going to benefit the people. The people of the Dominion demand that the Government shall be up to the times. So I say that in all the public undertakings of this Government, in the construction of public works which the interest of Canada requires to be constructed, although the money expended may be large, if it is spent wisely and in such a way that it will return four-fold to the people, they will approve of the expenditure.

The hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), in his closing remarks, wanted to know, if in one single thing this Government had done anything to increase the prosperity of the people of Canada. Well, I think I will be able to show that their whole administration, from the very time they took possession of the Government benches until this day, has been one that will commend itself to the people, that has restored confidence to the people of this country, that has given them life and encouragement, and has had the effect of expanding the imports and trade of this country as they never were expanded before. Why, the very moment this Government took office, the people knew that we had business men at the head of business departments; they knew that order would be restored where chaos reigned before. They knew that the Administration was one which would conduct the different departments of Government in the best interests of the country, which would give encouragement to the people; and then, as time rolled on, and the acts of the Administration were brought to public view, this confidence increased to an extent hitherto unknown.

The very first measure which the Government brought down commended itself to the people of this country; it commended itself to them in such a way that their opponents, although they discussed and tried to make light of it, never dared to move a motion of want of confidence in the Government. I refer to the settlement of the Manitoba school question. Although our opponents haggled and wriggled at it, and tried to create a false impression concerning it, yet not one man among them dared to rise and move

a vote of want of confidence in the Government for the course they pursued. The settlement of that question alone gave confidence to the people of this country. It removed a brand of discord that for five years was a burning question, dividing the people into two hostile camps, and which, if it had not been checked, would have brought about the destruction of this great confederation. But, thanks to the administrative ability of the right hon. First Minister and his able colleagues, that question was settled in such a way as to command the support of the people.

Then, in the revision of the tariff, which, when brought down, was denounced as ruinous to our manufacturers and workmen, proved, as time rolled on, to be in the best interest of the country, and so gained the support of the people as to induce hon. gentlemen opposite to change their tone and say to us: Oh, you have stolen our clothes. Stolen their clothes, forsooth, Mr. Speaker. Why, the old ragged garments, patched and mended, crawling with vermin, not a rag man within forty miles would touch, they were so old and dirty, unless they were first fumigated. Now, Mr. Speaker, the tariff has been changed, and changed to the great benefit of the people of this country.

The hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) censured the Government for the manner in which they have dealt with the iron duties. Why, if there was one feature about the tariff that ought to commend itself to the support of the people, it was the change in the duties on iron and steel. These raw materials, iron and steel, are the natural raw materials of every manufacture in this Dominion. Every mechanic's tool, every machine that the agriculturists use, every implement that enters into the life and industry of every business establishment throughout the country, has for its raw material iron and steel; and will you believe it, that under the old tariff the duty on these raw materials, so necessary to the life and prosperity of business, was nearly 50 per cent? Is it any wonder, then, that our great manufacturing establishments were almost paralyzed? Why, I was talking, the other day, to a manufacturer in the city of Toronto, who manufactures radiators, and he told me that since the introduction of this tariff, since the duties on these raw materials were so largely reduced, he was able to expand and swell his exports, so that even in far-off Russia the public buildings are now being heated by radiators made in the city of Toronto. The hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) made the argument, that because we imported a little more iron and steel from the United States than from England, we were favouring the United States by our reduction of the duties on those particular articles; but he did not tell the House, although the duties were reduced on iron and steel coming from the United States, they were still further reduced on iron and steel coming from Eng-

land. And where the duty on pig-iron was reduced from \$4 to \$2.50 a ton coming from the United States, it was also reduced, under the preferential tariff on iron and steel coming from England, to \$1.75 a ton, or thereabouts. So that, instead of giving a preference to the United States, we have not done that at all, but have given instead a preference to England. We reduced the duty because the reduction was in the interests of our people, as it would have the effect of building up the manufacturing interests of the country and of giving to every agriculturist cheaper ploughs, hoes and cultivators, and cheaper tools to our mechanics. And so, Sir, as you go all through the different lines of manufacture, you will find that the reduction of the duty on iron and steel has been one of the greatest factors in increasing the prosperity of the people. Take the great Massey-Harris Company, in Toronto. They have expended this last year no less than \$269,000 in enlarging their establishment, and the other day they raised the wages of the 1,500 men they employ in the city of Toronto 10 per cent all round, and they are now so crowded with orders that they almost have to refuse them. They are sending their machines to all parts of the world. This establishment has been largely aided and increased by the business-like way in which the Government has reduced the duties on iron and steel. But the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), pointing to England, said: You have taken cotton fabrics, printed, dyed, &c., which we import in large quantities from England and in very small quantities from the United States, and you have raised the duty from 30 per cent to 35 per cent. Is that so? True, the duty was raised to 35 per cent; but England got a reduction, under the preferential rate, of 25 per cent, and the English goods only pay now 26½ per cent, while the American goods pay 35 per cent. We have, therefore, increased the duty against the Americans and reduced it in favour of the English exporters; and, instead of the old duty of 30 per cent on goods from England, the duty is now only 22½ per cent. Take all the other lines we import from England. Under this tariff we have cut down the duty from 35 per cent to 26½ per cent, and from 30 per cent to 22½ per cent.

This preference to England is another thing that has contributed to the prosperity of the country. There is also the fact that we have revised that tariff so as to reduce the duty on many articles, which has had the effect of encouraging and helping the manufacturers and also of giving cheaper goods to the consumers. And I hold that it was the business-like way in which the Government went to work to revise the tariff that contributed in such a marked degree to the prosperity of the people. The hon. member for Haldimand referred to the deepening of the canals and said that before the Conservatives went out of office the Welland

Canal was finished and the St. Lawrence canals were about three-quarters done. I admit that the Welland Canal was completed and we had the St. Lawrence canals with a depth of 9 or 12 feet, and work for deepening them to 14 feet had been begun. But how was the work being carried on at the rate they were going, it would be ten years before it would be completed. What a stupid, silly policy that was. You might have a canal 100 miles long, but until you have it completed no part of it would be of use. This Government saw at once that there was no use fiddling along that way, that it would cost no more to deepen the canal in two or three years than to take up ten years in the work.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Not so much.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Not so much, quite true. And so, like business men they let the contracts for the completion of the work in the shortest possible time. And, anticipating the completion of these canals, trade is being naturally diverted, and this also has contributed to the prosperity of the country.

But referring back to the revision of the tariff and the preference to Great Britain, I venture to say that is one of the greatest things that ever occurred in the history of this or any other British province, and has contributed in a larger degree than anything else to increase our prosperity. I can give an instance of its beneficial effects in my own business. I have been all my life in the milling business, shipping a good deal of flour to the old country. Canadian flour was not very well known in England, and that was true of Canadian goods generally. Parties to whom we shipped always demanded that we should brand our sacks "Made in America." They said that Canadian flour was not known. But after our honoured Premier went there, and after this tariff was brought down, there came flashing under the ocean to us: "Brand your sacks no longer 'Made in America,' but brand them henceforth 'Made in Canada.'"

Mr. BEATTIE. You might have given the name of the firm.

Mr. CAMPBELL. You would not know them. The firm is Farquhar Brothers, of Glasgow. For the last few weeks a good many statements have been made in this House without giving any names. I think I shall be able to give authority for anything I say. I have given this one instance that came under my own observation. I know the facts, because I received the cablegram myself. It indicates the good feeling that we know arose in England when the preference was given by Canada. Manufacturers in other lines have told me of similar experiences. Canada was never known in England as it has been since that preference was given. Canada had opened the door; Canada had started the ball rolling, and was the first colony to give a preference to Eng-

land. The sympathetic announcement of this went like magic throughout the British Empire and Canadian goods were bought and given the preference. And if we can get the preference in such a market that is an enormous thing. That is the reason why our exports have sold so well in Great Britain; that is why there has been such a demand for Canadian goods. And this has all been brought about, I believe, by the preference given by this Government.

Reference has been made to some things that the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) said, for instance, that he was following the Government though the Government were going slowly. I need not deal with these matters, for the hon. member for Guysborough is able to take his own part. I wish to refer to a few things that the Government has done, and, in my opinion, done wisely. A good deal has been said about the Franchise Bill. The hon. member for Haldimand said we never had such a voters' list as we have to-day, and he pointed to the city of Winnipeg where we could not hold an election because of what he would have us believe to be the outrageous, terrible Franchise Bill. Well, the Franchise Bill simply provides that the voters' list shall be the voters' list of the municipalities and if the list is more than a year old, then there must be a revision before an election can be held. The old Government would have held an election in Winnipeg on a list ten years old. If we had the old Franchise Bill to-day it would be a monstrous shame and a disgrace to hold an election in Winnipeg on a list three or four years old. So, all that is necessary is to revise the list which you would have to do, or, rather which you ought to do even under the old Franchise Bill. The writ, I believe, has been issued, and the election will be held, and the new Liberal member will come down and take his seat before this session closes. Then, in reference to the Redistribution Bill, the hon. member for Haldimand was very sensitive. The very thought of it is like flaunting a red flag in the face of an angry bull. Hon. gentlemen opposite knew what they did, how outrageously and scandalously the constituencies in the province of Ontario were cut up. They judge us by themselves. I think we had better leave the Redistribution Bill alone until it is laid on the Table of the House. I believe it will be a fair and honest Bill, I do not want to see anything else; I think that in reference to the constituencies of this country there will be no undue advantage taken. I am satisfied that we should set an example to our friends on the other side as to how these things should be done. I wish to say, Mr. Speaker, that so far as I am concerned I believe there never was in this country or any other country a Government that, in the short time they have been in power, have made such a grand record for themselves; there never was a Cabinet called

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to office, many of them new in their positions, many of them taking charge of great departments involving an enormous amount of work and details,—there never was a Cabinet that have been called upon to face such enormous and difficult questions as this Cabinet have had to face since they came into power. The opening up of the Yukon territory, the development of the Kootenay district, the extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal, the deepening of the canals, the negotiations in reference to cold storage—all these undertakings have taxed the ability, the ingenuity and the skill of Ministers, and would require their whole time, whereas some of them have been called away for months negotiating treaties, and consequently may have left their business somewhat neglected. Another thing. I think that great credit must be given to the hon. Postmaster General for reducing the domestic rate and giving us penny postage. Why, Sir, when hon. gentlemen opposite were in office they were always flaunting their loyalty, but they used to charge ten cents an ounce to carry a letter from here to England, whereas if they sent it from here to San Francisco, it would go for three cents. They were charging for sending a letter from Toronto to Liverpool ten cents an ounce, whereas the same letter would go to San Francisco for three cents. When this Government came into power they saw that was an injustice, and the Postmaster General has succeeded in establishing penny postage between Canada and England and nearly all her colonies, thus cementing and binding more closely together the mother land and her colonies. It is one of the most important events that has ever taken place in the direction of increasing the fellowship and good will between England and her colonies. Reducing the domestic rate from three to two cents, cutting off at once  $33\frac{1}{3}$  per cent of the cost of postage, has been an enormous undertaking, a work that will receive the support of the people of this country, although the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) denounced it and said the people would condemn it. I venture to say that neither he nor any other gentleman on that side will dare to get up and move a vote of censure on the Postmaster General for what he has done. These are things that have given a high sounding name to Canada, and have brought Canada into great favour in the British Empire; they have brought the people of Canada into closer touch with England and with all her colonies, and have contributed in a great degree to build up a British sentiment that we all hope will grow stronger and stronger. I say, Sir, that in the two or three years that this Government have been in power, they have effected more solid, wholesome and satisfactory achievements for the benefit of the people of

Canada, than any other Government have ever done, and the result of the by-elections all over the country show that the people appreciate these things. Wherever you go the people are satisfied, they have confidence in this Government, they know that this Government is an honest straightforward Government, that they are conducting the affairs of the country in an honest and straightforward way.

All these fireworks we have been hearing about for the last few days as to the maladministration of the Yukon, why, Sir, I am astonished that men of common sense, men of good judgment, would think for a moment of making the charges that we have heard made regarding the Yukon. What did the Government do? They are suddenly called upon to administer law and order in a country 4,000 miles away, where it was almost impossible to get in, without railways, without telegraph or postal routes where it took months to reach, a country that we did not know anything about, that no living man knew anything about except, perhaps, Mr. Ogilvie; the Government are suddenly called upon to administer law and order there while a rush of miners were going in and locating claims. It is natural that some confusion, some disorder, probably some irregularities, might occur under such circumstances. But what does the Government do? The Minister of the Interior, as soon as the first note came to him that there were irregularities going on, issues a commission to Mr. Ogilvie, a man in whom everybody in this country has confidence, a man who stands at the highest pinnacle of fame, a man who is, no doubt, one of the ablest men that could be sent in there; the Minister of the Interior gives this man a commission to investigate every charge and to punish and remove any official that may be found guilty of corrupt acts. Then he asks every one who has any charges to make against the officials of the Yukon for crimes or irregularities, to communicate with him. Could any Government do more than that? Is it possible to conceive of a course more likely to receive the sanction and commendation of the people? It has been pointed out that Mr. Ogilvie is not a lawyer. What of that? Mr. Ogilvie is a man of good common sense, and I would rather have a man of good common sense than half the lawyers in this country. It is not a difficult task for a man of good common sense and good judgment to go up there and find out whether an official has been guilty of taking money for letting people in at the side door, or giving out information which he should not have given. It does not require a lawyer to ascertain whether such a charge is proven or not. Mr. Ogilvie is there to investigate all these charges, and if irregularities have been committed, I am sure the offenders will be brought to punishment. So I think that so far as the Yukon territory is concerned, the Government deserves great commenda-

tion. It is a fact that in that far-off region, although miners are going in there by the thousands, although there is a rush from all parts of the world, although there are scarcely any means of getting into or out of that country except over one very difficult pass, yet I am told that in Dawson City law and order are as well maintained, and life and property are just as safe, as they are in the main streets of the city of Ottawa to-day. Is not that something to be proud of? Is it not something that the people of this country ought to be proud of that we have been able in so short a time to establish a government there under which law and order have been maintained, claims have been registered, hospitals have been erected? The Government have contributed \$44,000 to maintain hospitals and charitable institutions, and to open up roads. Next year, I believe, there will be more money spent, and the local machinery of government will be very greatly improved.

I say, Mr. Speaker, that I am satisfied that, if there is anything that ought to receive the commendation and will receive the commendation of this country, it is this: You may talk as long as you like, until you are black in the face, but you cannot make the people believe that while you indulge in vague charges, in hearsay, in the evidence that comes from some Yankee skedaddler who comes down here with a cock-and-bull story, that there is any foundation for these accusations. Why did not this man go before the commissioner in Dawson City and make his claims known. If he has got any evidence that crimes have been committed, why does he not go before the commissioner and tell his story?

Mr. COWAN. He ran away from him.

Mr. CAMPBELL. He ran away, and he has come down here to consult the Tory Opposition. He wanted to give them a little ammunition, and goodness knows they need some ammunition. I never saw a party so bereft as they are of ammunition. If it was not for the complaints that these skedaddlers from Dawson City brought down here, hon. gentlemen would not have anything to talk about. It has been a Godsend to them that these complaints have come to them. Statements of that kind, I think you will admit, are not worthy of much credence. If these men were sincere and honestly anxious to prevent corruption, if corruption has been practiced, if they wanted to put a stop to crime, they would go to the commissioner who has authority to hear their complaints, or if having come here they had gone to the Minister of the Interior and laid their charges before him, so I am convinced that the Minister would have taken prompt action.

Mr. HENDERSON moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 12 o'clock (midnight).

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 7th April, 1899.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### PETITION OUT OF ORDER.

**Mr. SPEAKER.** I beg to state that the petition from the municipal council of the county of Dufferin that 25 cents per day per man be granted to the non-commissioned officers and men during the time of the annual drill, cannot be received because it involves the direct expenditure of public money.

### OFFICIAL DEBATES OF THE HOUSE.

**Mr. JAS. SOMERVILLE** (North Wentworth and Brant) presented the second report of the Select Committee appointed to supervise the official report of the debates of the House during the present session, as follows:—

Your Committee recommend:

1. That Mr. Albert Horton, one of the members of the present staff, be promoted to the position of chief reporter.

2. That the services of Mr. J. A. Pelland as translator of the official report of the Debates be dispensed with, and that he be paid the amount which he, similar to the other members of the staff of translators, is entitled to receive for services up to the 13th instant.

**Mr. SOMERVILLE** moved:

That the second report of the Select Committee appointed to supervise the official report of the Debates of this House during the present session be now concurred in.

**Mr. C. BEAUSOLEIL** (Berthier). I object to this report being taken up to-day. I want the ordinary notice to be given.

**Mr. SPEAKER.** It cannot be taken up to-day, objection having been raised.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE** (Sir Richard Cartwright). Before the matter is disposed of, I would remark to my hon. friend and other members in the committee to whom has been entrusted the task of supervising the report of our debates, that it appears to me that very great and unnecessary delay has occurred in the publication of the revised edition. Now, our rule, as I understand it, is that if hon. gentlemen do not choose to return their revises within twenty-four hours, the Debates Committee will proceed to publish the revised edition of the day's "Hansard"—a very wholesome and a proper rule, and one that, I think, the committee ought to comply with. I applied for a revised copy of my own

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speech and was told that the revised edition had not been published, because some hon. gentlemen had not handed in their revises. I think that that is unreasonable.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER** (Cape Breton). I understand the hon. gentleman to mean twenty-four hours after the copy for correction is in the hands of the Speaker.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE.** Of course, that is only reasonable. It appears to me that after the copy for correction has been twenty-four hours in the hands of the hon. gentleman who has delivered the speech, if it is not convenient for him to hand in his corrections, the committee ought to proceed with the printing of the revised edition.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** It ought not to block the "Hansard."

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE.** Yes. I would call this matter to the attention of the committee.

**Mr. SOMERVILLE.** That point was under discussion in the committee this morning, and it was decided to change the notice at the head of the unrevised edition so as to say that the revised edition "shall" instead of "may" be printed without further delay. The delay in the revised edition has been caused by the fact that members of the House who have delivered speeches have retained the proofs, and, of course, the printer cannot go on until he has the proofs returned. Some members not only received the first proofs, but called for the revised afterwards. As I say, the committee after discussing the matter, have decided to make it an imperative rule that every speech must be revised and sent to the "Hansard" office within twenty-four hours after the proofs are in the hands of the members; and, if it is not sent him, then the editor of "Hansard" has the instructions of the committee to immediately send his proofs to the printer with instructions to print the revised edition from the unrevised copy.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** I would call the attention of the committee to a point in connection with this that I think requires some notice. The copy of the unrevised report is sent to the member who makes the speech. I must say, so far as I am able to judge, the report is a remarkably accurate one. But I find that in the revised edition a large number of mistakes occur—owing, I suppose, to the neglect of the proof-readers—that are not in the first copy at all. One naturally only thinks of getting the corrections made that he makes in his speech, and does not expect that in the reprinted copy changes will appear that he has not marked. I think attention should be called to the matter so that these changes should not be made in the "Hansard" as first published.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE.** I can corroborate what my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) says. I have

an illustration under my hand. I find that one very important sentence, which was correctly rendered in the unrevised edition of my speech is omitted in the revised edition.

Mr. THOS. S. SPROULE (East Grey). To any one who has looked over the "Hansard," it must be apparent that many of the corrections we make do not appear in the revised edition. I do not wonder that some hon. members wish a second opportunity to make corrections, seeing that, through carelessness or haste on the part of the printer or proof-reader, corrections made in the first place do not appear.

Mr. T. CHASE CASGRAIN (Montmorency). If the House will bear with me for a moment, I would call the attention of the committee to the fact that the translation of the "Hansard" in French is very far behind. The speech made by the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) is only partly translated. This speech was delivered fifteen days ago, and, of course, all the subsequent speeches are not translated at all. We really require this French edition of "Hansard," and I think we should have it earlier.

Motion (Mr. Somerville) withdrawn.

#### FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 39) to provide for the issuing of railway passes to members of the Senate and House of Commons.—(Mr. Bostock.)

Bill (No. 40) to amend the Criminal Code, 1892, with respect to combinations in restraint of trade.—(Mr. Sproule.)

Bill (No. 41) in further amendment of the Trade Mark and Design Act.—(Mr. Bertram.)

#### INQUIRY FOR RETURNS.

Mr. T. C. CASGRAIN (Montmorency). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I beg to call the attention of the Government to the following papers, production of which was ordered last session, and which have not yet been brought down; Papers relating to the dismissal of one Napoleon Alain; papers, statements of account, &c., in connection with Roberval pier; correspondence, bills, &c., between the Government and Mr. Chas. Russell, London, and statements of account rendered by Mr. Chas. Russell. These were ordered on the 31st of March last. Then, correspondence relating to postponement of the Queen vs. Coulombe; papers, statements of account, &c., in connection with building of wharfs at St. Méthode and Mistassini, which were ordered on the 18th of April last session. I would ask that these papers be brought down as soon as possible this session. I might give a list of the subjects to my hon. friend.

#### SCHEDULES TO THE FRANCHISE ACT.

Mr. H. A. POWELL (Westmorland). Before proceeding to the Orders of the Day, I

would like to call the attention of the First Minister to section 36 of the Franchise Act passed last year, a clause of which reads as follows:—

It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to prepare as schedules to this Act the oaths in the form required to be taken by voters at elections held under the authority of this Act.

The Act as published has no schedules. I would ask the hon. gentleman if schedules have been prepared in accordance with the Act, and if the Government is prepared to have them given to the country in time for the elections that are coming on?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am sorry I cannot give at this moment any information to my hon. friend. I will take note of his question, and I will endeavour to have the answer at the next sitting of the House.

#### ALASKAN BOUNDARY—MODUS VIVENDI.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to call the attention of the right hon. leader of the House to a statement which appeared in a number of papers in Washington, D. C., on March 29th:

The modus vivendi to be recognized in the Alaskan boundary and proposed by the United States, has been referred to the Canadian authorities as well as to the British Foreign Office, and until word comes from both quarters it will not be known whether a modus vivendi is to be established. The impression prevails, however, that as soon as Canada has expressed approval the British Foreign Office will speedily give assent.

I would ask if there is any foundation for the statement that a modus vivendi is being considered, and that there is a prospect of its being shortly arranged?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). No, there is not the slightest foundation for the statement. There is no modus vivendi now pending or being discussed between the two Governments.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. None been proposed?

The PRIME MINISTER. Nothing has been proposed, nothing has been done since two years ago when we agreed upon a provisional boundary on the summit of Dyea and Skagway, that is to say, between the end of the Lynn Canal and Lake Bennett. That was recognized as the provisional boundary two years ago. Then certain arrangements have been made with regard to bonding privileges to be mutually given by the two countries. Since that time there has been no modus vivendi, or any proposition to that effect, so far as I have been informed.

#### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell (East Prince) for

an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the Session.

Mr. D. HENDERSON (Halton). It is not my intention at the present time to continue the discussion of the question raised a few days ago by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), which was so ably supported by him in a speech of great length, and answered by a laboured effort on the part of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), whose arguments were in return combatted by the able, logical and conclusive reasoning and evidence produced by my hon. friends from Halifax (Mr. Borden), from Victoria, B.C., (Mr. Prior), from East Toronto (Mr. Ross Robertson) and others. It is not my intention at the present time to deal further with that matter, but to await the decision of the Minister of the Interior who has promised to make those on this side of the House who have referred to this question, feel sorry that they have done so. I wish to wait and see whether his promise in that relation will be any better kept than many of the promises of the Liberal party in the past. Neither do I propose wasting the time of the House in endeavouring to reply to the remarks of my hon. friend from Kent (Mr. Campbell), who spoke briefly last evening. He seemed to be very well satisfied indeed with the Government of the day; in lauding the Government he said that never had any Government presented such a record. Well, Sir, if he is satisfied with the record of extravagant expenditures, broken pledges, railway deals and Yukon scandals that have been referred to in this House during the past ten days, then I am prepared to leave the matter with him, feeling sure that his constituents will call him to account for his statement in that regard. My purpose this afternoon, without detaining the House at any great length, is to refer more especially to the resolution which is more directly before the House, the resolution for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in answer to his Speech from the Throne. The Speech, I may say, in itself is alike brief in volume as in matter. However, brief as it is, we find in it something in which I dare say we can all agree. The Speech refers in opening to the large degree of prosperity which prevails in this country. We are indeed glad to join His Excellency in congratulations in regard to the large degree of prosperity that prevails in the country. Were we on this side of the House to adopt the arguments and the tactics of hon. gentlemen on your right, when they were sitting on this side of the House, we must show that the country was not prosperous, but we who are sitting on this side of the House now do not adopt nor ever have adopted, the plan of running down the country by calling out blue ruin and belittling Canada in the eyes of the people of the world. It was a favourite argument of hon. gentlemen opposite, espe-

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

cially of hon. members from Western Ontario, to quote largely from the statistics of the Ontario Bureau of Industries to show that because farm values, farm lands, farming implements and farm stock had decreased in value from year to year, the country was all going to ruin, and that the farmers were year after year becoming worse off. Were I to adopt that plan and quote from the same statistics I might show that instead of prosperity prevailing throughout this country, blue ruin indeed prevailed, because I have information that since hon. gentlemen opposite came into power, farm values have decreased to the extent of no less than \$5,000,000. However, I do not put that forward as an argument that the farmers of western Ontario are not better off, or as well off, at any rate, as they were before. I think the argument is very largely a fallacious one, as the whole thing depends upon the whim of the assessor, who goes through the country valuing the land, as to whether he gives it its actual value or gives it a depreciated value in order to reduce the taxes asked. The right hon. First Minister has been good enough to say, in his address, in reply to that of the hon. leader of the Opposition:

What is the use of trying to show the cause of prosperity? The prosperity is here.

We admit it. We are glad to admit it, and we join in the congratulations of His Excellency. The right hon. First Minister says further:

Whether the policy was inaugurated at one time or another, certainly the policy which exists to-day must be held, in some measure, to account for the present condition of affairs.

Well, Sir, I am glad indeed that the right hon. First Minister has been frank enough to make that statement. The policy which exists to-day is the policy that, in 1878, was inaugurated by the late Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald, was endorsed by the people of this country in 1882, was re-affirmed by the people in 1886, and again in 1891, and I may say further endorsed by the people in 1896, because the Government at present in power have no mandate from the people to change that policy. When they secured the Treasury benches in June, 1896, they did not attain to power by reason of a desire on the part of the people that the great trade policy of the country should be changed. They attained power entirely on another question; hence I say that they have no mandate from the people to change that policy. So that the policy which must be credited with this prosperity, as admitted by the right hon. Prime Minister, is simply the policy of the Liberal-Conservative party, and which has been the policy of that party for the past twenty years. The Speech from the Throne speaks of the various evidences that this prosperity does exist. It gives us as an evidence the expansion of trade. What political party, in this country, has done more than the

Liberal-Conservative party to expand trade ; not only foreign trade, but the great inter-provincial trade which we are apt, too much, to overlook. The Liberal-Conservative party in power built the great Canadian Pacific Railway, connected the Atlantic with the Pacific by an iron road and the working of that company has been extended far beyond the regions of Canada, has gone out to China and Japan, and, if all reports are true, very shortly we may see a fast Atlantic line of steamers under the control of the same company, organized and set afloat by the great Liberal-Conservative party of this country. Hence, I say, we have ample evidence that whatever expansion of trade we have, is largely due to the working of the policy of the Liberal-Conservative party. The increased revenues of the country are given as another evidence of prosperity. Well, Sir, the same policy that expanded the trade of this country, the interprovincial as well as the foreign trade, has had to do with these increased revenues. We can well understand why from 1893 to 1896 the revenues of the country were not as large as they might otherwise have been. During these years the Liberal party were aggressive ; they were declaring from one end of the country to the other that if they ever succeeded in obtaining power, a great change was to take place in the fiscal policy of the country, that instead of the protective system, a system of free trade was to prevail. What was the result ? Capital was withdrawn from active work, men were afraid to invest their capital ; it was placed in the banks where it remained dormant, and this country, to a certain extent, became stagnant during these years, but, when the Liberal party did attain power, and when, in 1897, they brought down their new tariff, and showed that they dared not carry out the promises that they had made to them, but that they were bound to observe the mandate of the people, that they were forced to continue the protective system, confidence was restored, capital was set loose, and the revenues of the country were proportionately swelled. We are told also that another evidence of the prosperity of the country is the cessation of the exodus. We admit that from 1873 to 1878 there was an exodus of the people to the country to the south of us. But in 1878 a new policy was inaugurated, a policy which was destined to give employment to the labour of this country, and from that time forward the train of migration set in the other way. Once you get emigration to start in a certain channel, it is a very difficult matter to bring about a change, but that change having commenced with the introduction of the National Policy, has continued from year to year, and I am glad indeed that now the gentlemen who had advocated free trade, and who were opposed to the National Policy are admitting that the exodus has al-

most entirely ceased, and that so much credit for that is due to the Liberal-Conservative party.

In regard to the joint high commission, I have little to say, because so little has been made known to the people of what took place at Washington. We must await the result and deal with the matter when it comes before us. Hon. gentlemen tell us that some progress has been made. I simply desire to say that if there is one thing that gave relief to the people of this country, more than another, it was that the fact was disclosed that the commission at Washington had absolutely and utterly failed to obtain a reciprocity treaty with the United States. A feeling of relief from one end of this Dominion to the other went abroad and I have no doubt that that in itself will be sufficient to add something more to the prosperity of the country.

In regard to the reduction of postage, I have nothing to complain of. Personally, I am satisfied that the measure was a very good one. However, I can scarcely join with the Government in the statement put into the mouth of His Excellency, when they say that this change was made to the satisfaction of all the people of Canada. I conceived that that change was hardly satisfactory to one large class of the people, because the agricultural classes of this country derive almost no benefit from the reduced postage, while they in turn will be called upon to pay their share of the deficiency of the postal service.

With regard to the Bill promised in the Speech from the Throne, with reference to the re-arrangement of the electoral districts, I am prepared to leave that question alone for the present, and to wait until the Bill is brought down. Personally, I do not feel so much concerned about it, because I have the honour of representing a county which I defy hon. gentlemen opposite to gerrymander. Were they to take one township from it, they would destroy its symmetry, and were they to add one township, the result would likewise be symmetrical destruction. I have the honour of representing the most compact little county in the Dominion of Canada, and therefore I feel assured, that, whatever hon. gentlemen may do under this Bill, I do not think that, at any rate, they can touch me. The right hon. the First Minister has given us a very solemn promise indeed, that this Redistribution Bill shall be equally fair to the Opposition as to the Government. I am glad he has made that promise ; indeed it is more than a promise. Had it simply been one of those promises that these hon. gentlemen opposite from time to time gave the people, I should have placed very little confidence in it ; but, Sir, the right hon. gentleman closed that promise with a solemn "So help me God," and in doing so he raised his right hand in that form which Presbyterians know is the most solemn oath that a man can take. It is,

therefore, more than a promise, on the part of the Prime Minister; it is a solemn oath, and therefore I believe the right hon. gentleman will carry it out.

The Speech from the Throne may be described as being more remarkable in the main for what it does not contain than for what it does contain. In fact, it discloses what we might call a negative policy—a policy of dead issues; and I propose for a short time to review some of those dead issues. As the Government did not give us a policy, it may be well for us to examine into what they did not give us. The first of these dead issues that I desire to refer to is that of the tariff. The Minister of the Interior—who I am sorry is not in his place to-day—disclosed to the people at Perth a short time ago that the tariff now was a dead issue. Sir, to my mind, it is a very lively issue, and so long as there is a Conservative party in this country, it will be a lively issue. Protection has been the policy of the Conservative party; it is the policy of the Conservative party still. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) has endeavoured to explain away his statement by saying that the Conservative party had come over to the way of thinking of the Liberals on the tariff, and in that respect it was a dead issue. I can assure the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) that he is very far mistaken indeed, and therefore I will pass from that issue and deal with some of the other issues which seem to be dead to the Liberal party in this country. Reciprocity is another dead issue with the Liberals, and, as an evidence of that fact, I read in the recent speech of the Prime Minister the following words:—

If we know the hearts and the minds of our people at present, I think I am not making too wide a statement when I say that the feeling of Canada to-day is not in favour of reciprocity.

I am glad indeed he has come to that conclusion, and am sure the people of this country are glad that the right hon. gentleman has made that announcement, because, as I have said, a sigh of relief came over the people of Canada when the commissioners returned from Washington and acknowledged that the United States would not grant them reciprocity.

Preferential trade for Canada is another of the dead issues of the Liberal party. Only a few years ago, when the right hon. gentleman was seeking power at the hands of the electors of this country, preferential trade was a fairly lively issue, and the right hon. gentleman—then Mr. Wilfrid Laurier—addressed the electors in London, Ont., and promised that when he reached England, preferential trade for Canada would be one of the very first demands he would make. But, Sir, no sooner had he landed on the shores of England, than he forgot his promise. There was held before him the glittering Cobden Club medal, and he knew, if he

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got a preference for Canada in the markets of Great Britain, that medal could not be worn on his manly breast. The Prime Minister had a choice between Canada and the Cobden Club medal; the Prime Minister chose the medal, and the people of Canada have to suffer to-day in consequence of it. It is now a dead issue, so far as hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches are concerned, and I presume it will remain a dead issue until they are supplanted by hon. members on this side of the House, when that question shall again become a very lively one.

Another of the dead issues is, I am glad to say, free trade. It has died hard, but it has died surely. We have it announced by members supporting the Government in this House, that even the principle of free trade is no longer an issue with the Liberal party. The other day the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) declared himself as a moderate protectionist, and that, whilst it might be well to talk about free trade, it was not at the present day a practical question. The hon. member for Hochelaga (Mr. Préfontaine), discussing this question—not in the House, but at a banquet in Montreal—stated that he never had been a free trader, or at least never in practice. Neither in practice nor in principle are many of the hon. members on the other side of the House free traders now. Moderate protection is the policy best suited for this country; moderate protection is the policy of the Conservative members in this House, and I am glad to know that moderate protection is so rapidly becoming the policy of the Liberal members. The hon. gentleman from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) speaks with no uncertain sound on this subject. I quote from his speech the following:—

I say, Sir, that the only actual possible policy for this country, and I am not ashamed to say it, is a policy of moderate protection.

The Conservative party in this country never held any other policy than that of moderate protection. There are no extreme protectionists in Canada. We did not ask for a 50 per cent tariff to protect the interests of this country; a 30 per cent tariff has been found admirable, and I say, therefore, we have no such thing in this country as extreme protectionists—moderate protection being the principle advocated by the Liberal-Conservative party. The hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) further said.

What I state here frankly is, that I ran in my county as a moderate protectionist, or rather I said to my electors, that I did not believe in any theories in matters of trade, but I believe in facts, I believe in figures, and I believe in any Government that would give to my country the policy that was required for the moment, and not the policy that might be required fifty years hence.

Well, Sir, if this policy of free trade is not to show itself again for fifty years, it is a matter of gratification indeed to the people of this country. He adds further:

Let the men of the future explain the proper policy for the future of Canada. I have hope enough in my countrymen of any race and of any language to feel sure that when fifty years will have passed upon this country, they will know how to deal with the tariff of that future day.

I am glad indeed, Sir, to hear words like these spoken, because nothing will tend more to advance the interests of this country, to stimulate its trade, and to encourage men to invest capital here, than to know that the hydra-headed policy of free trade is not to be heard of again for the next fifty years.

Well, Sir, we have a few more of these dead issues. Free trade as it is in England is not now spoken of by one single member of the House. We hear not a word about it. Neither do we hear about commercial union, nor about continental free trade, nor about unrestricted reciprocity. These have all been buried, and I hope they will remain long for a resurrection.

Another of these dead issues, issues which were formerly the stock-in-trade of the Liberal party of this country when in opposition, is the independence of Parliament. I believe the hon. Postmaster General introduced a Bill into this House on the 26th of February, 1896, making it illegal for a member of the House to accept a Government office until a certain period had elapsed since he had ceased to be a member of the House, and in supporting this measure, used the following strong language:—

If the Government of the day can dangle public offices before their followers, and induce a few, and perhaps an increasing number, to aspire to those positions, they become mere parasites upon the Administration.

Well, Sir, when we look at the formidable list of parasites, we wonder if this is really a dead issue. Let us see where a number of these parasites have gone. Some of them have been elevated to the Senate. We find such honoured names as Mr. King, of Sunbury, and the late Mr. Béchard, made senators; Mr. Forbes transferred to a judgeship; Mr. Devlin given an immigration agency; Mr. Lavergne given a judgeship; Mr. Langelier given another judgeship; Mr. Fiset elevated to the Senate; the late Mr. M. C. Cameron made a governor—we find no fault with that; Mr. Lister made a judge; Mr. Choquette made a judge; Mr. Yeo made a senator; Senator McClelan given a governorship; Senator McInnes given a governorship, and Sir Oliver Mowat, the oldest parasite of the lot, transferred to Government House in the province of Ontario. The independence of Parliament an issue with the Liberal party to-day! It is as dead as a door nail. How many more parasites there are on that side of the House it is difficult for us to tell. I presume, as the session goes on, the policy of still more effectually destroying this old principle of the Liberal party will make its appearance, because I understand there are at the present time

some valuable positions, such as the Montreal postmastership and others to be filled. Who the lucky parasites are to be is yet in the dark, so far as we are concerned.

Then, Sir, we come to another of these dead issues—something that has been entirely forgotten by the Liberal party, something that they seem never to think about—the purity of administration. Oh, how they used to howl about purity of administration! You never hear it spoken of now; it is not in their vocabulary. It is a dead issue, as dead as can be. I remember reading a speech of the Hon. Mr. Laurier, delivered in Lindsay in 1896, when he certainly used very strong language. He charged the Government of the day with gross and corrupt acts. He said:

One of the lawyers in the Cabinet was Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, drawing a salary of \$7,000 a year. Sir Hibbert has an assistant at \$4,000 a year. Then we had until the other day a Solicitor General at \$5,000 a year. Sir, they pay over \$100,000 a year in extra legal fees. This expenditure is corrupt and indefensible.

If it was corrupt and indefensible at that time, is it less corrupt and less indefensible at the present time? If this expenditure was uncalled for in 1896, how are hon. gentlemen going to justify it in 1897? Because in 1897, in the Administration of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, we find that an increased amount was paid for lawyers' fees over that which was paid in 1896 by the previous Government, notwithstanding the fact that we still had a Minister of Justice drawing \$7,000 a year, a Deputy Minister drawing \$4,000 a year, and a Solicitor General drawing \$5,000 a year; and, Sir, if the Auditor General's Report, which has been kept back now for three months beyond the time when it ought to be laid on the Table of the House, was before us, we would know what the amount is for 1898. But until that is disclosed by the Government placing that report upon the Table, God only knows what the amount is.

Let me draw attention to one or more of the recent acts of purity of administration that have been enacted by the Government. Only a short time ago an election was held in the county of Huron, in western Ontario. At that time it was suddenly discovered that a very large expenditure was required on the Goderich harbour, and the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) found his way there to see what amount would be required for the completion of that harbour. A short time ago a writ was issued for an election in the riding of Brockville, and all at once it was discovered by the Minister of Public Works that a new drill hall was required there; and the Minister will doubtless be on hand to tell the people of Brockville how much money he is prepared to spend on a new drill hall in that town, on condition that a supporter of the Government is returned for that riding. I need not refer to the Yukon scandal and other acts of what these hon. gentlemen call purity of administration. I think I have given you sufficient to show

that this issue is as dead as it possibly can be.

Then we have another dead issue—the abolition of the superannuation system. That was a phrase fondly used in former days by hon. gentlemen opposite, but it seems that the batteries of Wellington have been silenced, as we hear not a word in defence of the Government, notwithstanding the fact that there were placed on the superannuation list last year not less than 96 names, entailing an expense of \$31,438 yearly on the taxpayers of this country. That assuredly is another dead issue.

Still another dead issue to which I will refer is economy. We scarcely hear the word now from hon. gentlemen opposite. It was their stock-in-trade in by-elections, in general elections, and at all times, in season and out of season. At the convention held in 1893, the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) gave this plank a place in the platform of the Liberal party. He said :

We trust that the platform of a revenue tariff, accompanied by the promise of economy, will enable us to send you a substantial delegation to the next Parliament of Canada.

Well, Sir, on the promise of economy the people took these gentlemen at their word. They did send an increased delegation. But what was the result? Has economy been practised by the present Government? Is there any evidence of it whatever? Let us examine the records of 1896 and 1898. We find that, notwithstanding the fact that the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), in bygone years, told the people that an expenditure of \$38,000,000 was altogether too large in a country like this, whilst the expenditure on revenue account for 1896, under Conservative rule, was \$36,949,142, in 1898 it suddenly reached the large sum of \$38,832,000, an increase of upwards of \$2,000,000 in two years. The hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), speaking in his place a few nights ago, challenged hon. gentlemen on this side to say what items of expenditure we did not approve of. My reply is, that we on this side are not responsible for the expenditure of the country. But if the hon. gentleman wants us to name one item, I shall name one. The Conservative Government made an agreement before they went out of power, for the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway for a bonus of \$1,650,000. The present Government disregarded that agreement, and made one by which they engaged to pay \$3,630,000 for the same work. Not only that, but they agreed to throw in a quarter million square miles of coal lands for the benefit of the "Globe" newspaper.

Let us for a few moments look a little more particularly into this matter of economy. The hon. Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding), in Toronto the other night, spoke of the large surplus which he claimed to have during the past fiscal year. The total expenditure on consolidated fund account for

1898, as I said before, was \$38,832,000. But the hon. gentleman very carefully kept out of sight the fact that, in addition to that, he had expended on capital account the large sum of \$4,143,000, making a total expenditure on consolidated fund account and capital account of \$42,975,000. The total revenue from consolidated funds amounted to \$40,555,000, showing, therefore, a deficit of \$2,420,000. In other words, all the revenues of this country during the last fiscal year were expended by the Government, and they besides have borrowed money and expended, in addition to all the revenues of the country, the large sum of \$2,420,000. Now, if this plan of dealing with figures is adopted, it is simply a matter of book-keeping as to how large a surplus the hon. Minister of Finance may have. Had he charged \$5,143,000 to capital account, instead of \$4,134,000, he would have had a surplus of \$2,723,000, instead of \$1,723,000. Had he added \$10,000,000 more to his charges of capital account, making the expenditure on that account \$14,142,000, he would simply have had a surplus of \$10,000,000 more than that claimed by him. His figures are, therefore, entirely misleading, and it is well the people should study those accounts and ascertain for themselves the question as to whether a surplus did or did not exist.

Another dead issue of the Liberal party was a reduction of the annual expenditure. I desire to refer to the fact that, with regard to the expenditures of bygone years, we were told that \$38,000,000, or \$36,000,000, whatever it might be, was far too much, and that, when the Liberals came into power, that expenditure would be reduced by \$1,000,000, or \$2,000,000, or even \$4,000,000, as set forth by the present hon. Minister of Justice. Instead of that, however, the expenditure has been increased from \$36,449,000 in 1896 to \$38,432,000 in 1898 on consolidated revenue account, showing an increase in two years of \$1,883,000. This issue in the platform of the Liberal party is, therefore, as dead as many of the others.

Another dead issue is the reduction of taxation. When the Liberals obtained power, taxation was to be reduced; but, like all their other pledges, it has gone the other way. In 1896 the revenue derived from customs and excise was \$27,759,285, but in 1898 it had reached \$29,576,455, or an increase of \$1,717,170. Their customs taxation alone—and perhaps this is a better way of illustrating the matter—shows the same record of broken pledges. In 1894 the customs tax per head of the population of this country was \$3.86; in 1895 it was \$3.52; in 1896 it was \$3.94, and in 1897, \$3.82. But in 1898 it rose to the sum of \$4.22, notwithstanding the pledges of hon. gentlemen to your right, Mr. Speaker, that the taxation should be reduced. The taxation of 1898 over that of 1894 was 36 cents per head of the population of this country, equal to \$1.80 per family of five. The taxation of 1898

over that of 1895 was 70 cents per head, or \$3.50 per family of five. The taxation of 1898 over 1896 was 28 cents per head, \$1.40 for every family of five. The taxation of 1898 over 1897 was 39 cents per head, or equal to \$1.95 for every family in the Dominion. And yet, Sir, these are the apostles of reduced taxation.

Another dead issue is that of reducing the national debt. We hear no more now of the national debt of this country being reduced, though formerly that was one of the great planks in the Liberal platform. That was one of the issues put before the people at every hustings and at every meeting where politics were discussed, and when the platform of the Liberal party was framed in 1893, they said: "We cannot but view with alarm the large increase of the public debt." Well, what are the facts? In 1896 the gross debt of the Dominion was \$325,717,537, but in 1898 that had risen to \$338,375,000, or an increase in the gross debt in two years of \$12,658,447, and an increase in the net debt of \$5,459,000. Where this increase has been expended is a matter now to be inquired into, and we are not aware that that large increase has been expended on public works in this country. The Liberal-Conservative party, when in power, were able to show that they spent larger sums on public works than were included in the increase of the national debt, and that, therefore, they not only had expended the increase of the national debt, but a very considerable amount taken from revenue account, on public works and railways. The present Government has failed to show how this large sum, nearly \$5,500,000, has been expended, notwithstanding their promised reduction of the national debt.

And another dead issue, and one that, I presume, will remain dead for some considerable time, is the reduction of the number of Cabinet Ministers. We count them over. We find that the number is as large as ever, in fact I might almost say, that it is a vaster number than has been. However, "vaster" is the policy of the Liberal party, and they intend to continue in it, whether in providing office for their friends or in providing penny postage.

Another dead issue, Sir, is one that was a live issue years ago amongst the Liberals of this country. Oh, how they hated the title of a knight! Refusal of knighthood was one of the issues that was a live issue with the Liberal party. When they were formulating their policy, one of the speakers at the Liberal convention was good enough to say—and he won applause by saying it—that the holders of titles were a be(k)nighted lot. Another gentleman afterwards wrote a pamphlet on "Loyalty." And he made a statement that "Canadians are sensible enough to place small value upon the Downing Street titles and decorations which are offered to our public men." I find no fault with these gentlemen for accepting any honour that Her

Majesty Queen Victoria chooses to offer them. But what I do find fault with is that they should denounce others from one end of the continent to the other, and, when they have an opportunity turn round and accept the same honour themselves. I congratulate the right hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier. I congratulate Sir Louis Davies, I congratulate you, Sir James Edgar, on receiving these titles. I am pleased to see you wear them with such honour. But it has never been a part of our policy to say that such titles should not be given to public men in this country.

Well, Sir, we come to another dead issue, and probably of all the issues that were alive with the Liberal party during the last two or three years, this is the deadest of the lot—if one thing can possibly be deader than another. This is buried beyond all possibility of resurrection, for the right hon. First Minister in his speech to the House the other day declared, that now, henceforth and for ever it never should have a place in the ranks of the Liberal party. I refer to the question of prohibition. But, Sir, I must say that the Liberal party treated this dead issue with very much more respect than they did many others of their cast-off issues, for they gave it a most respectable funeral, at a cost of a quarter of a million dollars to this country. Sir, I propose to devote a little time to this question, and to see where the Liberal party stands with regard to it at the present time. I desire to refer you to a motion that was made by the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), who, by the way, whenever prohibition is mentioned, seems to be absent from his place in this House. The hon. gentleman, in 1893, when the platform of the Liberal party was framed, proposed this motion. He said:

I propose to read the resolution which will bring about this result, and which pledges the Liberal party, if returned to power, to give the people of Canada an opportunity to express their views upon this question, and the Government in power must necessarily carry out the expressed will of the people. There is no doubt that this is what the Liberal party would do, for we know their pledges can be trusted.

They knew it then. We know now that their pledges cannot be trusted. A deputation at Winnipeg waited upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1894, and he replied as follows:

He would pledge his honour that, as soon as the Liberals came into power in Ottawa, they would take a plebiscite of the Dominion, by which the party would stand, and the will of the people would be carried out, even were it to cost power for ever to the Liberal party.

This was the strong language the hon. gentleman then put forth. He was endeavouring then to win the votes of the people. He won the votes of the people, and he tells them now that he is not prepared to carry out his promises. To a deputation representing the general conference of the Methodist

Church, March 4th, 1898, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in reference to the proposed plebiscite, said :

If the plebiscite meets with the support of the majority of the people, those who find themselves in the minority will have to concur in the verdict of the majority.

What stronger pledges could be given to the people than were embodied in these declarations and resolutions? Yet, Sir, what is the result? We are told that because only 23 per cent of the electorate of this country voted in favour of prohibition, the Government cannot undertake to supplement it by prohibitory legislation. I am not here to say what the policy of the Government on that question should be. Hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches are alone responsible for the action that will be taken in this House on that question. We on this side of the House are powerless to deal with that question. We are fewer in numbers, and it has been declared by the hon. First Minister, on his side of the House, that that question shall now, henceforth and for ever have no place in the ranks of the Liberal party. Well, Sir, he has told us that because 50 per cent of the electorate did not vote for prohibition, he cannot introduce a prohibitory liquor law. I would like to know whoever thought that 50 per cent of the electorate could be obtained for any measure. Is there any hon. gentleman in this House who polled 50 per cent of the electorate in his county? I will take the Ministers of the Crown, who are strong in their constituencies, who usually run in constituencies that are politically strong in their favour. Was there one of them who obtained 50 per cent of the electorate? Not one. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louls Davies) came the nearest to it; he polled 44½ per cent of the electorate in his county. The First Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), with a majority of over 2,000, only polled 44 per cent of the electorate of his constituency. The Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) polled 44 per cent; the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden) polled 43 per cent; the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), backed up by the temperance sentiment of his county, which he now casts to the winds, polled 44 per cent; the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell) 40 per cent; the Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) 40 per cent; the hon. member for Chambly and Verchères (Mr. Geoffrion) 40 per cent; the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) 40 per cent; the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) 36 per cent; the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) 37 per cent; and the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), in the general election of 1896, 36 per cent. Not one of these men, strong men as they were, running in counties largely Liberal hives, counties that were almost sure to elect Liberals, reached the figure of 50 per cent. And yet these hon. gentlemen, sitting securely in their seats and holding their positions to-day and holding power by virtue of 28 per cent of the elec-

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torate of this country, say they are not going to grant prohibition to the temperance people of this country simply because they did not succeed in polling 50 per cent of the electorate of the country.

They say that 23 per cent is too little. Well, does 23 per cent represent the temperance sentiment of this country? We are told that in Quebec three-fourths of the province is under prohibition, or under an option law, notwithstanding the fact that the vote was very largely against prohibition in that province. Then we are told that in many other parts of the country Liberals voted against prohibition in order that the Government might not be put in a hole. Sometimes they charge the Conservatives with having voted for it to put the Government in a hole. I do not know to what extent the latter was the case, but I have reason to believe that many temperance Liberals throughout the country voted against prohibition because they wished to save the Government from the embarrassment of passing a prohibitory liquor law. I know some voters came to me and asked my opinion about it. I told them they need not concern themselves about putting Sir Wilfrid Laurier in a hole, because, from my personal knowledge of that gentleman, he was capable of crawling out of any hole the people could put him in, and he has succeeded in doing so. But I wish more particularly to draw the attention of the House to the secret arrangement which was made to defeat the will of the people of this country. I will give it in the right hon. gentleman's own language, so that I may not misrepresent him. Speaking from his place in the House only a short time ago, the Prime Minister said :

What is the history of the plebiscite? We did not make a pledge to the prohibitionists as a class, as a body, as an association. We made a pledge to the Liberal party. We made that pledge in 1893. \* \* \* Of course, it was attended by Liberals who were prohibitionists, as it was by Liberals who were not prohibitionists. \* \* \* When we put that plank into our platform, there was an implied agreement between the members of the party who believed in prohibition and those who did not believe in prohibition. The implied agreement on the part of those who did not believe in prohibition was that if the voice of the people spoke unmistakably, if it should be shown that the great majority of the electorate were in favour of prohibition, then those who did not believe in it would surrender their views to those of their brothers, and would work honestly for the success of that policy. On the other hand,—

And mark this more particularly. Here is an agreement that was made on behalf of the prohibitionists, on behalf of gentlemen like the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint), the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), and leading prohibitionists on that side of the House, who were bound by the solemn agreement that was made by their leader in that convention.

—On the other hand, there was an engagement—

Not implied.

—on the part of those who believed in prohibition, that if the voice of the people on the subject should not be of sufficient strength to warrant the adoption by the party of the policy of prohibition, they also would square their views to those of their brothers, and we would hear no more of that question in the ranks of the party.

Now, henceforth and for ever, the question of prohibition has been removed from the ranks of the Liberal party, and it is not a matter of surprise that the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), who spoke, as he always does, with great fluency and energy the other night, never referred to the question of prohibition.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Well the hon. gentleman allow me to say that I did not think it necessary to refer to every question. He shall hear from me on that question.

Mr. HENDERSON. No doubt the hon. gentleman's constituents will answer him on that question. He is one of those hon. gentlemen who put party before prohibition. He leaves the question of prohibition to be discussed some later time, and the question of free trade must always have precedence with him. And from the leader of the prohibition party on that side of the House, the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint), we have not heard a word. Have we heard a single gentleman on that side of the House say a word on this question, on behalf of that large section of the people throughout this country who, year by year, have been demanding prohibitory legislation? I remember in bygone years, when those gentlemen were sitting on this side of the House, they brought down a resolution and declared that the country was ripe for prohibition. Mr. Speaker, it just depends upon whose ox is being gored. They thought then they could hurt the Government of the day and embarrass it by the resolution which they introduced year after year, but now when the question comes home to them they abandon it and declare through their leader, that now, henceforth and for ever, that question shall never again have place in the ranks of the Liberal party. "A dead issue," sure enough. As I said before, it is so dead that the Liberal party have declared that it shall have no resurrection. So much then for the dead issues. I propose now to deal with some of the great achievements of the Liberal party, and in doing so I shall refer to the words of the right hon. gentleman who leads this Government. In answer to the leader of the Opposition, he said:

First, let me tell the hon. gentleman that we have reformed the tariff.

This was the great achievement of the Liberal party. Not only does he say they have reformed the tariff, but he says:

We have reformed the tariff to the great satisfaction of the majority, both of the producers and consumers.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I take issue with the hon. gentleman on that point. I admit that he speaks with great influence, knowing the number of followers that he has behind him, and that he may make a declaration without considering whether it is right or wrong. But I do not believe that that is the sentiment of the people of this country; I do not believe that the people of this country ever said or ever will say, consumers and producers, that the changes made in the tariff were to the satisfaction of all parties. Let us look for a moment at the tariff on agricultural products, and the agricultural industry is one of vast importance indeed. Taking into consideration only the seven months preceding the 31st of January, 1899, we find there was an increase of \$170,000 worth of breadstuffs imported into this country over the seven months of the preceding year; we find there were \$100,000 worth of provisions, including meats, imported into this country during the same seven months over the importation of the seven months of the previous year. During the same period there was an increase of \$2,850,000 in the importations of Indian corn, an article which is grown largely in this country. In 1897 there were twenty-four million bushels of corn produced in the province of Ontario alone, having a value of \$10,000,000. Notwithstanding this fact, we find that the hon. gentlemen on your right have introduced a policy by which they have invaded the market of that \$10,000,000 worth by an increased importation of \$2,850,000. Is it in the interest of the people of this country that \$3,120,000 worth of agricultural products produced in this country should be forced out of a market where a preference is given to Canadian products into a market where no preference is given or even sought for?

Let us look for a moment at some of the manufactures of the country. Take, for example, cotton. I hold that whatever policy reduces the labour of this country and deprives the workingmen of their day's work and of their day's wage, is not in the interest of the people. During the year ending June 1st, 1897, there was imported into this country \$4,051,000 worth of cotton goods. During the year ending June 31st, 1898, cotton importations had increased to \$4,691,000, or an increase in one year under the new policy, the reformed policy, the deformed policy, as I would call it, of \$640,000. During the seven months preceding the 31st of January, 1898, there were imported of cotton goods \$2,646,000 worth, while for the same period, ending January, 1899, there were imported of cotton goods \$3,385,000 worth, or an increase of \$739,000 in seven months alone. In the month of January, 1898, there were imported into this country of cotton goods \$642,000 worth, and in the same month of

1899 \$726,000 worth, an increase, in one month, of \$84,000. Eighty-four thousand dollars in one month would be more than \$1,000,000 for the whole year. Let us look for a moment at the effect upon raw cotton. During the seven months ending January 31st, 1898, there was imported in raw cotton \$2,716,000, and in the same seven months ending January 31st, 1899, there was imported in raw cotton \$1,692,000, or a decrease of \$1,024,000 worth. What does this mean? It simply means that the artisans of this country were deprived of the labour and of the wages that would accrue therefrom in the manufacture of \$1,000,000 worth of cotton goods inside of twelve months. It means that the artisans of this country, the men who are working for a day's wage, and who are depending upon their day's wage to support their families, have been deprived by this deformed policy of the Government of the manufacture of \$1,000,000 worth of raw cotton into the manufactured article during these seven months. Is that a policy that can be said to be satisfactory to the people of this country? I trow not. If men are to be deprived of their day's work and of their day's wage where does the satisfaction come in? Let hon. gentlemen, if they dare to appeal to the great electorate of this country, make this question plain to the people, and I believe that the day is not far distant when an answer will be given that will tell the right hon. Prime Minister that his reformed tariff is neither satisfactory to the consumer nor to the producer. Provided the consumer obtains his goods at any less price it might be said that there is some satisfaction in it. I take issue there; I say, and I speak with some knowledge of what I say, that a man cannot buy one yard of print in this country, Canadian-made print, or the best print we have in the country, one fraction of a cent less than what he paid for it a year ago. The consumer, the person who uses these cotton goods does not get a reduction in price. It is not sufficient, but yet it is sufficient to deprive the workmen of the labour of manufacturing these goods and the wages that accrue from that labour. The same thing applies to the importation of hides and skins. I take a special interest in that industry because, in the county I have the honour to represent, there is one of the largest tanneries in the Dominion of Canada. I do not mean to say that they do less work there than before, but I am speaking of the whole country. There were \$78,000 worth of hides and skins brought into the country during the seven months to which I have referred, less than were brought in during the seven months of the previous year. The workmen in these tanneries who have to convert these hides and skins into leather have less labour and less money and less in the wages that would accrue to that labour. I know that they have not only less labour, but I have personal knowledge that they have lost part of their wages. A few months after the

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Liberal party assumed power, I know of one large firm that took advantage of the cry of the Liberal party that duties were to be reduced, and that they were going step by step towards free trade, to tell their workmen that they must submit to a reduction of 15 cents per day, or \$50 per year. That state of affairs exists to-day. The employer of labour, although the duty on that class of leather was not reduced, has reaped the benefit of what he did in 1896. The workmen have to suffer severely from the loss which was brought about, mainly by the declaration of the Liberal party, that they were approaching free trade, and that it would be the policy of this country. The same things applies to other articles. Thirty thousand dollars worth of bicycles were imported during the seven months ending January 31st, 1899, over the same seven months of previous year. One hundred and fifty thousand dollars worth of earthenware, \$352,000 worth of glassware, and I commend that item to the attention of the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser). In musical instruments we imported \$34,000 worth, paints and colours \$60,000 worth, paper and envelopes \$100,000 worth, carpets \$150,000 worth, manufactures of leather \$56,000. I speak more particularly of these two items of leather and manufactures of paper, because I have the honour to represent a county in which there is a factory turning out a large amount of paper, another one turning out large quantities of leather manufactures, and still another one turning out large quantities of yarn in which there was an increased importation during the seven months of \$56,000. I feel keenly the effect of the policy of the Government on these various products, because it affects directly the constituents that I here represent, and I hold it to be my duty to speak on behalf of workingmen in that county who are suffering by a large depletion of their wages simply because of the abominable policy introduced by the present Government or the change that was made by the present Government. The right hon. First Minister said that the cordage business is now prosperous. I presume the hon. gentleman got his information from Mr. Hobbs, of London. It was prosperous for him, but was it prosperous for the farmers of Ontario? We found that during the harvest men were going here and there trying to get 50 pounds of twine or any quantity, and wondering why they could not get the cordage to bind their grain. The fact of it was, that the insane policy of the Government which had taken the duty off twine, closed up large factories in this country, brought about too small an output—not more than half sufficient to bind the crop of this country—created a corner in twine so that the price went up rapidly from day to day; in the course of a few weeks its price of 7½ cents had reached the sum of 15 cents per pound, and the farmers of Ontario were compelled, many of them, to

pay the larger price in order to obtain sufficient twine to bind their grain. Fortunately, the foresight of many farmers in Ontario had enabled them to provide for themselves. Many of them had remnants carried over from the previous year—probably fifty or seventy-five pounds—and others again had placed their orders early in the season, and had obtained a sufficient supply to enable them to tide over the difficulties. But others were found wanting, and were compelled to submit to the extortion of such friends of the Government as Mr. Hobbs, of London, and pay the extreme price of 14 cents or 15 cents or 16 cents a pound, for an article which under the Conservative Government could be bought without any difficulty, year after year, for 7½ cents a pound. Let us see what the full effect of this Liberal policy would have been had it not been for the foresight of the farmers in providing twine, some of it the previous year or some of it very early in the season. Let us suppose that these men had been able to corner the twine a little sooner and taking advantage of the policy of the Government had forced the farmers to pay the larger price of 14 or 15 cents per pound for their entire requirements. That would have resulted in a clear loss of over half a million dollars to the farmers of Ontario. With an average of 4,000,000 to cut and bind at two pounds of twine to the acre, 7 cents per pound of an increase would have drawn from the pockets of the farmers of Ontario no less a sum than \$560,000.

Another of the achievements which the Government claim is that they have established cold storage. The right hon. Premier says:

We have established a complete system of cold storage for the transportation of perishable goods, and in this alone we have rendered to the people of Canada the most signal service.

Well, Sir, let me say a word about this establishing of cold storage. In the city of Toronto we have an industrial exhibition, a very large institution indeed. People come from the United States and all over Canada, and I dare say from other countries, to visit that exhibition, which is well worth seeing. A directorate, capable of managing a large industrial exposition, has charge of it. They furnish all the requisites, everything is prepared to open the exhibition, and the directors, in order to give it a good start, invite some gentlemen to come and declare the exhibition open. Sometimes His Excellency the Governor General, sometimes the lieutenant-governor of the province, sometimes I dare say the leader of the Government at Ottawa, or some other prominent gentleman is invited to open the exhibition. And when he comes there, after having been suitably entertained, he is put upon the platform and he is told to touch a button that will put the whole machinery of the exhibition in operation. Now, that is just what Mr. Fisher did, when he became Minister of Agriculture. All he had to do was to touch the button, every-

thing was ready for him, the previous Government had worked out all the details and had put the whole system into operation. But because Mr. Fisher only touched the button when he came into power, he says: We did it, and the leader of the Government claims for the Government that they have established a system of cold storage. Why, they are entitled to no more credit for that than I am.

Another achievement of the Government is that they have extended the Intercolonial Railway to the city of Montreal. Whether or not that is an achievement that the country will endorse, I am not prepared to say. I am not sure but that the country will yet say, that there was no need for extending the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal, and that there was no advantage, especially no advantage at all in keeping with the expenditure accruing from that enterprise. When we decide upon a system of Government management for railways it seems to me—and now I am only speaking for myself—that then it is time enough to consider such projects. If there is an argument at all in favour of extending the Intercolonial Railway from Lévis to Montreal, the same argument ought to impel the Government to extend that railway to Toronto, because Toronto is becoming the great centre of commerce in this country. And if the policy is right that the Intercolonial Railway should be extended to Montreal, to Toronto, why not to Winnipeg, why not to Vancouver. Where are you going to end? Let me ask: Was the Intercolonial extended to Montreal in the interests of the country or in the interests of the friends of the Government? I fear it is not the interests of the electorate of this country that were consulted. In fact the electorate of this country never was consulted, and the Government have no mandate from the people to extend that railway from Lévis to Montreal. But, Sir, instead of considering the interests of the people of this country, they placed first and foremost the interest of their friends in Montreal and elsewhere, who were interested in a broken-down road, known as the Drummond County Railway.

Now, Sir, I shall conclude by dealing for a few moments with the question of Senate reform. This issue is not mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, and very wisely so, no doubt. I dare say it was left out because the right hon. gentleman knew that if he did put a paragraph in the Speech from the Throne approving of a reform of the Senate along the lines which he has pointed out, then the Address in reply which we are now considering would not receive the sanction of the Upper Chamber. Sir, why have we a Senate at all? Did the fathers of confederation make a mistake? Were they not as wise as the men of the present generation? I think they were. In those days we had men of ability, men whose judgment we could rely on, and time has shown that these men were equal to the task they undertook. They were men of foresight and they gave

us two Chambers in the Parliament of Canada to administer the Government of this country. It was then contended that the smaller provinces would not be justified in going into confederation unless they had their rights and privileges guaranteed by an independent body outside of the House of Commons. That principle was conceded by men like the Hon. George Brown, by men on both political sides. It was not a question on which the fathers of confederation were at issue, they agreed upon it and gave us the Senate to protect the smaller provinces. Now, Sir, we are a confederation of only a little over a quarter of a century old. In another quarter of a century the great North-west will be filled up by millions of people, I have no doubt, and then the province of Ontario will be one of the smaller provinces. On behalf of the province of Ontario, I protest against the destruction of the power of the Senate, or its abolition. In the interests of the province of Ontario I ask that the Senate with all its present powers, should be preserved, not only to conserve the interests of the smaller provinces now, but to conserve the interests of the larger provinces of the present day, which may in the course of 25 or 30 years be amongst the smaller provinces of this Dominion.

The question of what the Senate has done to deserve being abolished, or being beheaded, or having its powers destroyed, has been referred to in this House from time to time. I do not purpose to make any extended reference to it; but I think the Senate of Canada has shown its usefulness in more ways than one. It did, no doubt, during the past thirty years, throw out some sixty-five Government Bills. For which of these Bills is it to-day to be destroyed? Is it to be destroyed for the good it has done, or for the harm it has done? And for which of these Bills is it to be destroyed? The right hon. First Minister, speaking a short time ago in this House, said the greatest crime that was ever committed against Canadian interests was the rejection of the Yukon Bill; and for the rejection of that Bill the Senate is to be destroyed. I believe I speak the sentiments of the large majority of the people of Canada, when I say, that one of the greatest services the Senate ever performed to the people of this country was when it rejected that Bill. Sir, the question of a Senate for the Dominion of Canada reminds me of a speech delivered a few nights ago in this House by one of the members for Toronto, in which he stated that, had we had in the province of Ontario since confederation a second Chamber that province would be in a very much better condition than it is to-day. That is my opinion. I hold to that opinion honestly and conscientiously. I believe that, had we had a second Chamber in the province of Ontario, to check hasty, extravagant, reckless legislation, that province to-day would be a richer province and one with better laws—laws that would not require the judges to

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be called in every time you wanted to read two or three lines, to tell you what they meant. The province of Ontario at confederation had a full purse provided by the Dominion of Canada, with large subsidies and large trust funds, bearing interest, and sufficient to enable the province to carry on its own affairs. During the first years of confederation that province was able to save large sums of money, which were invested at interest in order to provide for the time when the capital of the province, in the shape of its timber, would be sold off, and the revenue somewhat depleted, and thus stave off the day of direct taxation. But we have no Senate, and the government of the day was rampant with the revenues and resources of the province; and to-day, with the province loaded up with a debt of \$5,000,000, the government is driven to the terrible necessity of putting through a Tax Bill to tax the widows and orphans of workingmen to pay the interest on the borrowed money. I challenge any hon. gentleman to deny it. That is the record of the Government of Ontario; but that government, for its acts, will have to answer the people of Ontario. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. G. W. GANONG (Charlotte). Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to cover all the ground that has been covered by the hon. gentleman who has preceded me; but I purpose touching upon two or three points that were brought out, particularly by the right hon. First Minister who, I presume, represents the opinions of the Liberal party in this House. Sir, since the election in 1896 this country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, has been looking, and, I regret to say, looking in vain, for some evidence of those brilliant parts that have been attributed to the right hon. leader of the Government that are of some practical value to the country. I do not dispute that the right hon. gentleman has brilliant parts, and that he frequently gives us a display of them. I do not think any gentleman in this House will deny the brilliancy of a certain character exhibited by the right hon. gentleman on the floor of this House, whether that brilliancy has been of any practical advantage to this country or not. I do not, however, purpose to demean myself by taking the same position which the right hon. gentleman took in his brilliant exhibition of vituperation against the hon. leader of the Opposition. Certainly, Sir, if the right hon. gentleman who leads this Government can afford to send such material forth to the public, the hon. leader of the Opposition can well afford to allow him to give this exhibition of a brilliant failure to meet the logical facts and arguments which were presented to the House by him and the gentlemen who followed him. I say, I do not purpose questioning, but rather affirming, that the hon. leader of this House has many brilliant parts. He can produce a brilliant rhetorical effect, more particularly if he is given

time in which to prepare for it. He has a brilliancy of imposing postures, and a brilliancy of graceful, emphatic and studied gestures, all of which are used to the best effect, but whether with any advantage to the country, I leave to the judgment of this House. They are, Sir, very much of the sky-rocket style—graceful, soaring, of brilliant colours, which fade away into nothingness, of no value, and having no effect whatever for the purpose for which they are intended. The people of this country have about tired of these exhibitions of sky-rocket gymnastics by political acrobats. It is about time we had a change, and the people are demanding it. They want the right hon. leader of this House to deal with the varied industries of this country on a more practical basis—on the basis on which he appealed to the country before 1896, and on which he obtained power; and not to shirk the issues and responsibilities that he is called upon to represent after having attained power. This class of performances we have had ever since the show began in 1896; but the people of this country have the right to demand, at least, one thing, that the performance should be as advertised prior to 1896. Since the curtain rose in that year, we have had a succession of three or four acts. The first act in the show was certainly very disappointing, and the successive acts of 1897 and 1898 were no improvement. But, Sir, the display of 1899 has proved a greater farce than all those that have preceded it, and the people of the country are praying that it may be the last act in the farce. They have been simply playing as opportunist actors who have travelled and tramped this country for years, regular travelling troupes, crying death to the protective policy which the Conservative party introduced into this country. During all these years they were declaring that, when they came into power, they would destroy that policy, root and branch, but when they did obtain office, they did not dare to touch the principles they had decried for so many years.

We had a little talk from our hon. friend from Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) the other night, who expressed the hope that free trade would eventually come. Well, at the rate it is coming to-day in this country, the hon. gentleman will live to the age of Methuselah, and even outlive that age, ere he will see the first vestige of what he is hoping for.

Hon. gentlemen in this House and the people of this country have heard the Liberal party in their tramp through this country bewailing the extravagance of the late Government. But, Sir, they had hardly reached power before they forgot all their wailings and forgetting their pledges to reduce expenditure from \$1,000,000 even to \$4,000,000, they found that they had made a mistake in their figuring, and instead of decreasing it they have succeeded in increasing our expenditure from \$1,000,000 to \$4.

000,000, and the end is not yet, if we are to believe the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte). We heard these gentlemen, while out of office, crying out for purity of government, but we have found them, since they got into office, doing their very utmost to cripple perhaps the only two powers that have any control over them, namely, the Auditor General and the Senate—the only two powers that will probably prevent these opportunists from despoiling the treasury and perpetrating such frauds as were intended by the Drummond and Yukon deals.

They went about crying out for independence of Parliament, year after year, yet the very moment they came into office, they forgot their pledge. Have they been independent? Why, they do not know the significance of the word. For on the seats even now at the back of these hon. gentlemen are supporters of theirs who hold promises of emolument from this Government. And I notice there are ten or twelve faces missing on the opposite side of the House of former members who have secured comfortable positions. There is, for instance, the present Judge Lister; there is also Judge Lavergne; another one is Judge Langelier; another one, who could not float his little scheme down in Quebec for the establishment of an abattoir, has become Judge Choquette, and others have succeeded in being translated to seats in the Senate. There are others who hold promises of places and emoluments now supporting hon. gentlemen opposite in this House, and yet these are the hon. gentlemen who talked incessantly about the independence of Parliament. But we do not hear much from them on that subject now.

These hon. gentlemen also went from one end of this country to the other decrying the Conservative party for trifling with the great question of prohibition, which has been agitating this country for years. The party to which they belong, on that warm summer's day in July, in this city, referred to, I think, by the hon. Minister of Agriculture, passed a resolution by which they determined to put themselves on record. And it is worthy of note to see how these gentlemen are shirking that issue to-day. They claim that it is not a party question. Why, then, in the name of heaven, did they put it in their party platform? To-day they are shirking that issue in every way they possibly can, in order to avoid what they know will be the ultimate result, their defeat by the temperance party of this country. They gave out at that convention, and in speeches subsequent to it, every assurance that one honourable should require of another, that if the majority voted in favour of prohibition, a prohibitory law would be enacted. But having hoodwinked the temperance people to vote for them and place them in power, they now turn round, and from this brilliant actor, the right hon.

gentleman who leads them, the prince of the realm of farce, the temperance workers of this country are told that the Government were simply fooling them, that there was an implied understanding or agreement among the Liberals that even if the people polled on this question as large a majority as placed the Government in power, that even if they polled a vote of 616,252, they would not give prohibition at all. There is nothing in any of their statements to show that they had any intention of giving prohibition, even if 75 per cent of the enrolled votes were polled for it. Their plebiscite was simply a subterfuge in order to catch the temperance vote. And just in connection with this, I would ask permission to read a little item from a newspaper that cannot be considered other than a Liberal organ. Evidently this implied understanding or agreement was not kept a secret exactly, for if we are to believe the suggestions given by this item, there are other parties in the country who received the tip as well. Let me quote from the Montreal "Witness" of March 30th, 1899:

We have, however, from other sources, ground for surmise that some other Ministers understood the conditions of the plebiscite contest to be impossible ones. The Roman Catholic clergy of this province had been universally informed from some source, which they regarded as definite, that no legislation would follow. The Archbishop of Montreal, when asked for his support to the prohibition cause, commenced his reply by saying "There will be no law." That was practically his answer, and he treated any further discussion of the question of prohibition as purely academic.

We also have the fact that of the seven Ministers of the Crown from the province of Quebec, at least two or three of these hon. gentlemen either spoke or worked against prohibition previous to the vote on the plebiscite, and the very Minister whom the temperance people in this country expected to take a stand as a man should take it on this particular question, who had been advocating prohibition almost from his childhood up, and who spoke in its favour once or twice, I believe, in this House, was boosted off, if I am not mistaken, to Europe, in case he should stick his feet into the mud as the right hon. leader of the Government did in his speech the other day. The other gentlemen who advocated that great cause, being, however, a little more wary, were allowed to remain at home, and do what good they could by helping the Government to defeat the prohibitionists. There are in this country 278,478 voters, representing the most intelligent classes in this country, progressive, law-abiding citizens—yes, and I believe there are many thousands more belonging to the same great army. Personally, I would like this House to dissolve and appeal to the country on that question, and I believe that the prohibitionists would return so large a representation to this House that no Government would dare to do otherwise than

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pass a prohibitory law. I believe that nothing has done so much to weld together the better classes of the people, the people who desire to obtain the highest standard of morality, than this conduct of the present Government. These people, representing this great moral force, will in the future demand their rights and demand them in an unmistakable manner. They do not represent simply 278,478 citizens, but, in this great fight for the interests of Canada, they represent the masses of the women and children of this country. They represent not only 248,748 voters, but four and a half millions of Canadian citizens. If this Government or any other Government think they can ignore that class, they make a mistake, the biggest they ever made in their lives. These people demand that their homes shall be protected. The mass of the people are fighting for principle, whether a few politicians are or not. This Government has been playing fast and loose with the temperance people ever since 1893, and none except those who are in the ring know how many there are that are guilty of this villainy. Now, Mr. Speaker, this is not the class of performance the country has been looking for. But hon. gentlemen opposite will claim, just the same, that they have been carrying out their pledges, while all the time they have simply been dodging issues and repudiating pledges, never attempting to meet any argument on the floor of this House.

I do not purpose going into the details of the extravagance and mismanagement of this Government that have so worried the Prime Minister and the gentlemen sitting behind him. They worried the Prime Minister so that it took all his energy to get up that sunny smile on an average of once a day—he could not keep it all the time. I simply propose to refer to two or three points in this brilliant apology for things left undone. The right hon. leader of the Government said, in referring to the defeat of the Yukon Bill, that it was the greatest crime ever committed against Canadian interests. Mr. Speaker, in this country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the people do not look upon that as the right hon. gentleman does. They think that if it were a crime, the citizens of Canada are prepared to shoulder it, and will regard it, and history will record that in that year, 1898, such crimes were but an evidence of the highest virtue. The hon. gentleman had his redress. If he is not guilty of the crime, he is guilty of being an accessory after the fact. He has had over a year to repair that crime, and has he ever made a move? If he felt that it was a crime to defeat the Bill—there was hardly a man behind him thought so—why did not he appeal to the country, get the voice of the people on it and come back here and determine whether it was a crime or a virtue? Why has not the hon. gentleman ever asked for a tender since that time? Tenders have gone out of

style. I know, with the Government; but they have not gone out of style with the people of this country. The hon. gentleman has had a year, and in that time we have not heard a word of the requirements of this Teslin Lake Railway or tramway of 150 miles. Why did he not bring it up in the caucus of his party. There is not a doubt that if he had he could not have got twelve members behind him who would dare to appeal to the country on that issue. While the sigh of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) was long and loud over the defeat of his pet scheme, gentlemen who went into the Senate Chamber when it was determined that crime should not be committed, know that the sighs of relief from other hon. gentlemen on the same side drowned those of the Minister of the Interior. Why, Sir, if a business man came to you and made such a statement as the right hon. First Minister made in this House, knowing the facts of the case, which have been published to the country, while your innate courtesy might prevent you from saying, Thou fool, you would have no difficulty in determining what class of people the man belonged to, just the same. Why were there no tenders for this important tramway? Well, there are two reasons, I think. One reason is that the hon. the First Minister has a Napoleon in his Cabinet, and that Napoleon has recently taken to issuing atlases. We saw a sample of one of them; how many more there are we do not know. But the Prime Minister would naturally be careful until he knew whether a new atlas giving away the Yukon country had been issued. The Minister of the Interior was willing to give away our claims on the coast, and the First Minister did not know until the atlas was out, whether we owned anything there or whether the Minister of the Interior had given it away. But there is probably another reason why this infamous Bill was not resurrected, and one much more likely. Some people do, after a considerable length of time, learn wisdom. These gentlemen have been learning a little within the last few years, but it took them eighteen years before they learned their A B C. They learned some wisdom from the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair); they learned that a Drummond County Railway Bill was presented, that a revision of that Bill saved this country \$500,000. Of course, that is a crime in the eyes of hon. gentlemen opposite, but if you appeal to the great electorate of this country, I think it will be considered one of the highest virtues. And, Sir, I believe that the people of this country to-day are behind the Opposition and behind the sentiments that defeated that infamous Bill for the Yukon Railway. The hon. First Minister, taking his cue from the Minister of Railways and Canals, concluded that he would not take any chances of having a railway built for a million acres

of land for which he was willing to give 4,500,000 acres. In his eyes this may seem a crime, but it would be more in accordance with his pretensions of honest administration if he had called openly for tenders, so as to determine what amount this railway was worth.

Now, there is another point in the speech of the First Minister that I wish to refer to, and it deals more particularly with the plebiscite. With your permission, I will read one paragraph of the speech:

That is the problem now before us; and I do not hesitate to say, Mr. Speaker, speaking here with the authority which I hold from my position, and as I hope with the confidence of my party behind me,—

Do you suppose the right hon. gentleman ever made a speech in this House when he did not know he had the party behind him.

—that the voice of the electorate which has been pronounced in favour of prohibition is not such as to warrant the Government in introducing a prohibitory measure. Moreover, there was not a man living who expected, at the time the plebiscite was taken, that the duty would be imposed on the Government of introducing a prohibitory measure unless at least one-half of the electorate recorded their votes in favour of that policy. Sir, was there any other view expressed? Was the view expressed, before the plebiscite was taken, that the question should be decided upon a comparison of the votes recorded on one side with those recorded on the other? If such a view was expressed, I never heard it, and I do not believe it was expressed.

Well, now, I wish, before I pass along, to quote a supporter of the First Minister when the plebiscite Bill was before this House. In replying to the member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), the Minister of Railways and Canals made these, which I think quite important statements. In regard to the question of voting, the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals said:

I think that if my hon. friend who has charge of this Bill were here, he would point out to the hon. member for Haldimand that it would be more in accordance with the fitness of things that the same constituency which has the right to choose the representatives of the people in this House should also pass upon the question of prohibition.

And, notwithstanding the fact that there are a majority of members in this House to-day who are elected by constituencies that voted for prohibition, still the hon. gentleman refused to pay any attention to the prohibition vote.

Then the Minister of Railways and Canals further states:

After all, the potential voice is the voice which is expressed by the representatives here, when we finally come to deal with this question.

The potential voice does not amount to anything on the prohibition question, but the potential voice is all-important when it gives these hon. gentlemen office. Now, Sir, the right hon. gentleman must have been

out of town during all this time. He says here "not a man living." Why, is it possible the First Minister consulted every man in Canada? If he was not satisfied when he made that speech, he has been satisfied since that there are good live men in this country who do not agree with him, and he will be better satisfied after another general election. What a history it will be to write of this innocent, both abroad and at home, so ignorant of the conditions in this country. Then he says:

These are some of the opinions which I claim are entitled to some respect.

They would be for gentlemen who had supported him at this convention. He selected three or four Ministers, I believe, and one hon. member of this House, to prove that every man in Canada agreed with his contention. He goes on to say:

I know that there are some people who believe that, notwithstanding all this, there should be a prohibitory law.

This is an absolute denial of the former statement in the same speech. Now, Sir, if the hon. gentleman has any doubt that there are some people still alive who do believe that, here is another minister who does not agree with the right hon. gentleman. He is not a minister of the Crown but a minister of the Gospel, I believe. The Reverend G. C. Huxtable, of the Methodist Church, in a letter to the Montreal "Witness," says:

The plebiscite was a mockery pure and simple, a political dodge, and a fraud of the worst magnitude. I have been a Reformer all my life. I gave my vote in the last election for Sir Wilfrid; but I will regard it henceforth as a duty I owe to my conscience, my country and my God, to withhold from him my support.

Then there are others. I hold in my hand a resolution of the Dominion Alliance which I will put on the "Hansard" in order that hon. gentlemen may have it for future reference. This resolution was adopted by the Executive Committee of the Dominion Alliance on March 14, 1899, and I believe this was one of the societies that had some influence, apparently, in inducing the First Minister to take up this plebiscite, fancying that if he could merely hoodwink them, he could carry the temperance vote in the country, which no doubt he did. This is the resolution:

Whereas the Dominion Parliament has at different times declared that prohibition is the right and only effective remedy for the evils of intemperance, and that Parliament is ready to enact such legislation when public opinion is prepared to sustain it, and

Whereas the Dominion Government and Parliament ordered a plebiscite to ascertain whether or not the people are in favour of prohibitory legislation, and

Whereas the electors of Canada were led to believe that the Government and Parliament of Canada intended to be governed in their legislative action by the mandate of the people thus invited, the Premier and other members of the Government having definitely declared that the Government would give effect to the will of the

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people as expressed in the proposed plebiscite, and

Whereas the plebiscite so ordered resulted in a substantial majority in favour of prohibition of all the votes cast in the whole Dominion, including an overwhelming majority of the votes polled in all the provinces but one, and a large proportion of all the possible votes in these provinces, and

Whereas the Prime Minister of Canada has stated on behalf of the Government that in the opinion of the Government, the expression of public opinion recorded did not represent such a proportion of the electorate as would justify the introduction by the Government of a prohibitory measure, therefore

Resolved, that this meeting desires to express its strong dissatisfaction at the refusal of the Government to carry out the promise to take such steps as would give effect to the expressed will of the people, and earnestly calls upon the representatives of the people in Parliament to accept the mandate of the electorate, and carry it out by enacting such prohibitory legislation as will fairly embody the will of the people as expressed at the poll.

That a copy of the foregoing resolution be sent to every member of the Dominion Parliament, along with a statement to be prepared by the President and Secretary of this Alliance, calling attention to the magnitude and character of the prohibition vote, and the duty it imposes upon the Parliament and Government.

The hon. gentleman, no doubt, has a copy of that, and by this time he probably has some idea that the temperance people of this country did not expect to have to poll more than one-half the enrolled vote in order to get a prohibitory law enacted. All the information, apparently, so far as any evidence has been produced, or so far as we can find from members of the Government, was given to some inside ring, we do not know whether there were ten, or twenty, or thirty, and in addition was given to the Catholic clergy of the province of Quebec. The hon. gentleman will remember, however, in the debate on the Plebiscite Bill, when pressed by the leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster), for a more definite reply in regard to the majority that would be required, how exceedingly evasive he was. While at that time it might seem desirable as party politics, in the light of his more recent statements, we certainly can now understand how evasive his answers were. During the campaign when I gave what little assistance I could in my county to one of the most prominent Liberals and one of the greatest temperance workers in this country, I was proud to be able to quote the right hon. the First Minister, and when even some of his own party would come to me and say it was a fraud, I would show them his statement on this question, and I read from the "Hansard" to prove it; not only did I read his statements but those of the Minister of Agriculture as well. The people in my constituency voted in good faith, believing in the honesty of the statements made by the leader of the Liberal party and by his colleagues. I quote the hon. gentleman's words which I will give to this House:

I have often said, and I can only repeat, that when the will of the people has been affirmed, as it will be affirmed, one way or the other, then the Government, every Government, must be prepared to abide by the consequences.

I had still some faith in the honour of the leader of the Government, and in his honour as a man, although he had repudiated every pledge in the platform of 1893. I could excuse the hon. gentleman for having done that, for having repudiated the pledges by which he got into power, for we know well enough that behind him there is a crying horde who are constantly after him. On one side there are the protectionists, the member for Colchester (Mr. McClure), the member for Kent (Mr. Campbell), the member for South Waterloo (Mr. Livingston), the member for Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost), and the member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa)—or is he a new convert?—the member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), and last but not least, the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Public Works. There was some excuse for him going back on his pledges of tariff reform, and fighting shy of his free trade speeches. There was also some excuse for him going back on the question of the independence of Parliament of which we have evidence in the appointment of Judges Lister, Langelier, Choquette, Lavergne, and others. These gentlemen have simply gone to their rewards, and there is some reason because we know there are hon. gentlemen over there who are simply waiting to be translated. There may also be some excuse allowed to the hon. gentleman for his twistings and turnings and backslidings upon a great many other questions, under pressure from his followers. But when it came to the great moral question of prohibition the people had a right to expect that that hon. gentleman would treat them in a fair and candid manner. We had a right to expect that honour would assert itself outside of the knightly honour that is presumed to go with what some hon. gentlemen of the Liberal party have called the honour that goes with tinsel titles. But, Mr. Speaker, I propose again to refer to this prohibition vote. The hon. gentleman plainly stated that if the vote was against prohibition that he would end it. Why did not the hon. gentleman just as frankly state that it did not make any difference what vote the people gave, that that ended it any way? He should have told the people that all over the country just as plainly, that was the whole purpose of it. He knew at the time the compact was made that unless 616,925 people voted for prohibition he would not touch it at all. If the hon. gentleman would be frank enough he would go further and say that by this impossible condition it was implied that the Government would never touch the question, and the people would forgive him perhaps for a few of his faults. When this question came up in the House, when the Bill was

brought in the first time, one of the followers of that hon. gentleman, I believe it was the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) opposed it, although I am inclined to think that he did not vote on it at all, but he opposed it because it was foreign to the traditions of the British nation. Well, Sir, it is foreign without any doubt, but the right hon. First Minister knew that when he introduced the Bill, and he knew further that in all those countries where the plebiscite system prevails, such as Belgium, Switzerland and France, under no circumstances was any question submitted to a plebiscite vote in which half of the electorate ever voted on that question. He knew from the start that the conditions were absolutely impossible of fulfilment. The Montreal "Witness," which is a friend of the Government, says further in regard to this vote:

A majority of all the voters upon the list on one side of any question is an unheard-of thing. To get a majority for prohibition would require not only that the vote on an abstract question should be as full as in the best contested personal elections, say seven-tenths of the registered electorate, a thing utterly beyond precedent in votes of the kind, but it would require that of the vote so polled the prohibitionists should get over five-sevenths, or seventy-two per cent.

The hon. gentleman has said that if there was a negative vote that ended it, but according to his plan submitted to this country and to the implied agreement among his own followers, any vote that would be cast would be a negative vote. But are we through with this question yet? It is wearying to the Government, but you will find that we are not through with it. We shall see ere long another foreign invasion to let themselves down easy. Before long there will be some good supporter of the Government say: "Let us have a referendum," and I should not be surprised if they were to resort to that as an easy attempt to get the Government out of a corner. "Let us have a referendum; let us pass a law under which the several provinces can determine for themselves whether they want prohibition or not, let us pass a law allowing them to adopt it." That is probably the plan our friends will adopt to get out of it. I do not know, I am sure, what the opinion of other temperance men may be, but so far as I am concerned I should oppose it from the start. A referendum giving such powers to each province would be nothing more or less than an enlarged local option law: a referendum would put the several provinces in this country in about the same position that the state of Maine is in to-day, a state to which hon. gentlemen refer when they wish to give the prohibitionists a slap. I would oppose a referendum that would place us in the same position as the state of Maine. The effect would be to place the several provinces in a relation to the Federal Government similar to that occupied by the state of Maine in regard to the Federal Government of the United States. For a fee of \$25 any man in the state of

Maine can obtain a license from the Federal Government to sell intoxicating liquors. That is in absolute conflict with the law in Maine, and when these two laws come into conflict the result is to bring the prohibition law into disrepute. The hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) has a great facility for obtaining taxation, and it would not be very long with such a condition of affairs as would exist under a referendum to introduce a similar condition into this country. It is only a few years ago that the great temperance bodies of St. John met together and framed a law in regard to licenses. They carried this law to the Government, then led by the hon. Minister of Railways, and what did he do? Passed a law in conformity with the request of the people of St. John? No, Sir. He had never discovered before the license system that they had in St. John gave so large an income, and the result was that he framed a law to suit himself so that the local government could obtain from St. John about \$20,000 of their license money. The hon. member for St. John (Mr. Ellis) knows that as well as I do. So that there would be no difficulty in soon bringing these two laws into conflict were the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals still allowed to have a seat in this House. What a history of duplicity there has been in regard to these statements. In the light of these recent statements I would like to quote a little further. In introducing the Bill the right hon. Prime Minister said:

Sir, this Bill has been brought down in this form for good and obvious and certain reasons.

Can any hon. gentleman in this House now doubt that the good and obvious and certain reasons were to relieve the Government of their responsibility and to defeat the purposes of the temperance party?

At last we are taking a practical step—the first serious step that is to be taken if prohibition is to become law. At present the only thing we want is to have the honest expression of the people—

Did he want to have an honest expression of the people?

—on this question; and we have provided for obtaining this expression by disentangling the question from every other consideration, and by asking every man who comes to the poll to say whether he is in favour of a prohibitory law. The hon. gentleman stated that there would be a certain majority in other provinces. All that remains to be seen. I do not know what that vote will be—

And then his frankness came out:

I do not care.

And it is quite evident, from the action of the right hon. the Prime Minister and his Government since the plebiscite vote was taken, that none of them cared what the vote might be.

I simply claim this for the Government, that they have honestly—

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I wonder if there is an encyclopædia within reach of this House, that it might be sent over to the First Minister to let him know what that expression means.

I simply claim this for the Government, that they have honestly redeemed the pledge they made to the people, that they would endeavour to obtain—

How obtain?

—without favour to anybody—

The record shows that they have favoured somebody, and favoured a large proportion of the people.

—and without fear of any consequences,—

That is all right; they had no reason to fear the consequences.

—obtain an honest expression of the opinion of the people on this important question.

They had no cause to fear any consequences, for they put up a job on the prohibition people in this country. Then, the right hon. gentleman said further:

But, Sir, I place myself and the Government in the judgment of the people—

And, Sir, they are in the judgment of the people to-day:

I place myself and the Government in the judgment of the people of this country, those who are in favour of prohibition and those who are not in favour of prohibition, and I ask them if the Government had not acted in this matter as sincerely and as honestly as it was possible for them to act.

The Lord help the possibilities of their being honest and sincere. Why, Sir, in every hamlet and town, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, they are hearing of the judgment of the people on their acts. Every temperance organization knows they have been betrayed. Allow me to quote from the temperance organ in Nova Scotia, the organ, I believe, of the Sons of Temperance. Referring to the Prime Minister's recent announcement on the plebiscite, it says:

And so, after Sir Wilfrid has given us the plebiscite, and has put the country to the cost of a quarter of million of dollars, and the people have given a very decided answer to the question that was put before them, he coolly tells us that a prohibition measure will not be introduced by the Government into the Dominion Parliament. The man who is supposed to be guided by the expressed will of the people, and to lead a responsible Government, has declared that the expression of public opinion recorded at the polls in favour of prohibition did not represent such a proportion of the electorate as would justify the introduction by the Government of a prohibitory measure. And yet those who are opposed to prohibition are in much less proportion to the entire electorate than those who are in favour of prohibition. Has it come to this, that bribery, rum, &c., are going to govern this country, and that majorities consisting of the intelligence, moral excellence and truest patriotism are to be coolly ignored?

I believe the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) is getting the judgment of

the people, and getting it, as the street Arab would say, right in the teeth. Mr. Speaker, the prohibition party in Canada have had some reason to doubt the First Minister, because three, at least, of his Ministers worked in the province of Quebec against prohibition. But there was one, one little saint, with a halo almost grown, that the prohibitionists thought they could trust. But, Sir, the halo is not in sight any longer, nor is the Minister in this House who was presumed to wear it. I refer to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), and it was the Minister of Agriculture in whom the temperance party in this country had some little faith. Why, did he (Mr. Fisher) not tell us that in the Liberal convention of 1893: that it was the glory of his life that he had that plank put in the Liberal platform? Was it not he who, on the second reading of the Plebiscite Bill, said:

I feel keenly the honour and responsibility resting on me in having full charge of this Bill, because for many years I have been earnestly active in the work of the prohibition cause in this country, and I feel, in the progress of the cause, the introduction of this Bill marks a very decided step in advance.

Well, Sir, it will take longer for him to make the temperance people of this country believe that that was a step in advance, than it will for the hon. member for Guysborough to get free trade. And the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) said further:

It was in 1878 that the Canada Temperance Act was adopted by this Parliament, and it is worthy of note that the gentleman with whose name this Act has always been connected, the Hon. Senator Scott, is again to-day a member of the Government which is responsible for the introduction of this Bill.

And still they are shirking the responsibility, and they now claim that the Government is not responsible for it, although it is a plank in their platform. Again, he (Mr. Fisher) states:

During the years from 1878 to the present time the question of prohibition has been frequently before this House, being brought to the attention of hon. members usually in the form of a general resolution in favour of the total prohibition of the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in Canada.

By whom, I would like to ask, was that resolution brought forward in this House. It antedates the time I had the honour of a seat in Parliament, but I believe it was brought forward by a prominent Liberal from the maritime provinces, a gentleman who represents that constituency down at the southern end of Nova Scotia, called Yarmouth. It was by him that this resolution had been brought to the attention of this House from year to year, and in the same form, and by the same party, and for the same purpose. Well, Sir, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Flint) is not dead. He still has the honour of a seat in this House, and he has not yet been translated, but I have no

doubt that a judgeship will be found for him, and that very readily, if he attempts to bring in any similar resolution this session. Why, Sir, he is still as young as he ever was, and feeling as young, if one can judge by these youthful gyrations he has been attempting to make during the last year or so. The fact of the matter is, that a great many of these gentlemen opposite who are longing for office, are so happy under the Liberal rule that it makes them dance. Last year, at a meeting of the Alliance, it was suggested to the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) that it was desirable that he should bring forward this resolution; but he would not touch it. Oh, no, he said; the Government have a Bill of their own now, and it might interfere with that. He did not want to do anything to frustrate what the Government might be disposed to do with regard to prohibition, for they had put it as a plank in their platform. This year he need not fear that trouble: everything has gone overboard, down to the bottom of the sea, and he has an excellent chance for exercising the rights he formerly assumed. But, Sir, I fear that this gentleman (Mr. Flint) wobbles—and I use that word advisedly, because it was used by a gentleman from the province of Nova Scotia, and who is a great temperance worker. At the Dominion Alliance a short time since, I think the gentleman applied the word to the Prime Minister; and, although I may be incorrect in that, he at all events said that either the First Minister or the Government had wobbled on this question.

The hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) was the author of what I believe was known as the Flint resolution, which has occupied, every year, I believe, as much of the time of this Parliament as those other great questions that were brought forward—the amendment to the Criminal Code and the Sabbath Observance Bill, which we have heard so much of, but which the hon. First Minister himself quietly sat down on last year. Now, I had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the Dominion Alliance about ten or twelve days ago, at which the question of the plebiscite was discussed from the Alliance standpoint. The hon. member for Yarmouth gave expression to his views, and I wish to give them to the House, as I think they should be placed on "Hansard" for future reference. I will read from the report, which is substantially correct, as I believe the hon. gentleman himself will acknowledge:

T. B. Flint, M.P., said that he had been disappointed in the result of the plebiscite. He had expected a larger vote in its favour. Members of Parliament were only influenced by the vote of their own constituents. They cared nothing for the feelings of people a thousand miles away. He would have been gratified if the Government had brought in a prohibitory measure, and had appealed to the country on that basis.

It was not a question of principle at all with

the hon. gentleman that afternoon; it was a question of what would suit his Yarmouth constituency. Now, Sir, I am not prepared to say that the hon. gentleman was a member of that great aggregation in 1893 of the talents of the whole country, such as they existed in the Liberal party, but of which this country has not a very high opinion today; but I think he must have been, and I will give you the reason. If not, it looks as if he must have had a straight tip on the question. I notice that he did not speak on the plebiscite Bill until it was almost running away from him. He allowed it to pass its first reading and its second reading without speaking; but, just as it was about going to its third reading, the hon. gentleman got on his feet, and I ask you to look at the wording of his remarks, which show where the hon. gentleman stood at that time:

It may be possible that a majority of the whole electors will express their views in favour of a prohibitory law as asked in the plebiscite question, and at the same time it is quite possible, and in my opinion highly probable, that the majority of Parliament may dissent from the view of the majority of the electors.

I do not wish to do an injustice to the hon. gentleman, who has, so far as the public know, stood for temperance principles for many years, and whom we have always regarded as a true friend of the temperance movement; but I will ask you to parallel this statement with that of the First Minister in regard to the majority, and you will note a family resemblance that is unmistakable.

I have, Sir, referred to the Alliance meeting of last week, and wish for a few moments to do so again. As a prohibitionist on principle, not because my constituents demanded it of me, I attended that meeting, as I try to keep in touch with the movement. We had some spirited addresses there; but, by the way, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) was conspicuous by his absence, as he was last year. A majority of the members of the House who attended that convention, owing to the preponderance of Liberals in this House, were Liberals, and I purpose giving you their names as reported: Senator Yeo, G. R. Maxwell, A. J. S. Copp, P. Macdonald, J. G. Rutherford, W. B. McInnes, Thomas Bain, J. Scriver, H. J. Logan, W. S. Calvert, Thos. O. Davis, Bell, T. B. Flint, T. Christie, J. C. Campbell, F. K. Erb, Robert Beith, John McMullen, Robt. Holmes, Frank Oliver, R. L. Richardson, J. L. Bethune, John Tolmie, Leonard Burnett, Firman McClure, Jas. B. Brown, McIsaac, James Sutherland; in all, 28 members of the Liberal party were represented at that meeting. We had some speeches there. Mr. Spence, the secretary of the Alliance, moved a resolution which read as follows:

That in the opinion of this meeting the results of the recent plebiscite are such as to call for the enactment of prohibitory legislation.

That resolution, I believe, was seconded by a member of the Liberal party, the hon. member for Argenteuil (Mr. Christie). This naturally brought out a good deal of discussion, and we heard, I think, from the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver), the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis), the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint), the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure), the hon. member for East Huron (Mr. Macdonald), and the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Holmes). We also heard from a Conservative, who was more frank than some of the Liberals. He stated that he was very glad indeed to see this resolution brought forward, for it placed the temperance party and the Government in their proper light. I read from the report:

A. Broder, M.P., said that to ask Liberal members to vote for such a resolution was to ask them to declare their want of confidence in the Government. He thought that was a good idea. It would show who among them were willing to sacrifice their party for principle. The proper thing to do was to place the responsibility where it belonged, upon the Executive of the country.

Well, it looked different after that; and, Sir, there was scarcely time enough to write a resolution before we had an amendment to it. The resolution looked like a vote of want of confidence in the Government, and those 28 gentlemen did not feel like voting want of confidence in the Government—not at all. I want to give Mr. Spence credit, for I have heard him maligned to some extent by people outside, and I do not think a gentleman who would write a resolution like that and put it before the Alliance can be accused of very much duplicity. But we had some amendments to the resolution, brought forward by the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure) and seconded by the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver). These were the amendments:

Whereas,—

I always like to have a lawyer make a resolution, he can get so many 'whereases' into it.

Whereas, in the opinion of this meeting, the vote polled by the electors of Canada in favour of prohibition at the recent plebiscite was so large and influential that Parliament should not ignore the demand thereby made for prohibitory legislation;—

Very much milder than the original, you see.

—and whereas, the Government has declined to introduce and become responsible for such legislation; therefore be it

Resolved,—

What?

That a committee of seven be appointed by this meeting to decide upon a plan of action whereby the views of those in favour of prohibition may be brought directly before Parliament at this session.

The chairman ruled that those entitled to vote on the resolutions were members of the committee who had been appointed by the Alliance, and all members of Parliament who were prohibitionists. The amend-

ment was then put and carried by a show of hands, 29 to 11, and so far as I could see, the members who voted for that, every one of them, were Liberals. Now, Sir, everything up to that time was going as smoothly as possible. They had avoided the question of a vote of want of confidence in the Government. They had slid off into a committee of seven, but the music then began to play and the whip of the Liberal party put in his voice. What did he say? He said he had come to see what was going on and he took a hand in the affair. The report says:

Mr. James Sutherland said that neither the resolution nor the vote was an honest expression of opinion. The whole proceedings were farcical. The same kind of thing had been going on year after year, and he was tired of it.

How much that hon. gentleman has ever done for the cause of prohibition or how much he has had the weight of it on his shoulders, I am sure I do not know, but I can assure the hon. gentleman one thing, it is not prohibition that makes a man tired, but the want of it that gives one that tired feeling.

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

### After Recess.

#### SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 8) respecting the Atlantic and North-west Railway Company.—(Mr. MacPherson.)

Bill (No. 20) to incorporate the Zenith Mining and Railway Company.—(Mr. Poupore.)

Bill (No. 21) respecting the Canadian Railway Accident Insurance Company.—(Mr. Belcourt.)

Bill (No. 22) to incorporate the Ontario and Quebec Bridge Company.—(Mr. Belcourt.)

Bill (No. 23) respecting the Alberta Irrigation Company, and to change its name to "The Canadian North-west Irrigation Company."—(Mr. Douglas.)

Bill (No. 25) to confirm an agreement between the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the Hull Electric Company.—(Mr. Poupore.)

Bill (No. 27) respecting the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company.—(Mr. Préfontaine.)

Bill (No. 28) respecting the British Columbia and Southern Railway Company.—(Mr. Prior.)

Bill (No. 30) respecting the Atlas Loan Company.—(Mr. Ingram.)

#### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

Mr. GANONG. When the House rose after recess, I was referring to the pre-

sence of the whip of the Liberal party, the hon. member for North Oxford (Mr. Sutherland), and his statements before the Temperance Alliance. I say, Sir, that considering the fact that the hon. gentleman representing North Oxford (Mr. Sutherland) has never been known as an ardent prohibitionist, and considering that the meeting was called more especially for those members of Parliament who were prohibitionists, his presence at that meeting was a great surprise. But his presence for the purpose he avowed was a piece of the most brazen effrontery. What was his purpose as stated? Nothing more or less than to indicate to the Liberal members who were there that the whip of the Liberal party had his eye on them and they had better be careful what they did. Now, Sir, that was not the only case in which the whip of the Liberal party has used his power. During the speech of the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) the other evening, when he was pressing the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) with some questions, the whip of the party, dreading lest the Minister of Agriculture should get on his feet and make some mistakes from a party standpoint, as the leader had done, slid into the chair beside him and advised him to keep quiet and take his gruel—which he did. Where, Mr. Speaker, oh, where, are these ardent prohibitionists that were assembled in that little room upstairs the other day? I cannot give any definite reason why they are not here, but from appearances and from the action of the whip of the party the apparent reason is that they are looking after the loaves and fishes that have been promised by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) rather than after temperance questions to which formerly they seemed so attached. The fear lest they may lose some public grant or some promised offices under this Government has kept them very quiet indeed. Why, the fact is that this debate would have passed without a word from an individual member of the Liberal party attending that Alliance had it not been that the Opposition party felt it their duty to the country to place the facts more fully than they had previously been placed before the country. It is true the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) has spoken; but he fought shy of the prohibition question. He never mentioned it in the course of his abusive speech directed against the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin). We did have a few words from the hon. member from Burrard (Mr. Maxwell) the other night, to which I will probably refer a little further later on. But they have all been fighting shy of this question. I would like to know why the hon. member for Saskatchewan did not mention it. Was it that he, like his leader, knew that the Bill that was conceived in 1893 was stillborn. Certainly that was the fact of the case. Then we had a speech from the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure). If any two gentlemen on the Government

benches ever put in an uneasy half hour, they were the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) during the early part of that speech, when the hon. member for Colchester dealt with the temperance question. The two Ministers never winked or blinked, they kept their eyes so steadily on the member (Mr. McClure). But soon their anxious moments were over for eventually the hon. member turned and whitewashed the whole party. But I can tell the hon. member that the class of whitewashing used will not stand before the storm of protests coming up from every part of this country. The hon. member for Burrard did the same old job. And where are the rest of them after the flagellation they had received from the whip of the party. Are they like sheep waiting for the Minister of Agriculture, who plays bell-wether to the party, to jump the fence first. If they are, in my opinion they will wait until the millenium. Why, Sir, that hon. gentleman has been conspicuous by his absence ever since this matter came up. Does he suppose for a moment that his followers on the temperance question propose to put themselves on record, when the one member of the Ministry who should have been the first man on his feet in this House to defend his position, the Minister of Agriculture, is silent? Now, Sir, if you hear any more speeches, I will call your attention to the fact and hope you will note it particularly, if they touch on the temperance question, it will be the same old pail, the same old brush and the same paint used by the hon. member for Colchester. Now, the Minister of Agriculture made a few statements in this House to which I would like to call your attention. He was referring to a time that antedated the introduction of the Plebiscite Bill, and he said :

But at no time has the House of Commons deliberately and definitely declared that prohibition should come in force in the Dominion of Canada.

What is the inference from that? That the time had come now when this House will take up this question of prohibition. And when, I ask? Let me reply to that question with the words of the Minister himself. He said :

When the vote has been given to the people of the country, and they have declared their will in respect to this question, it will come back again to the floor of Parliament, and will have to be dealt with again by the representatives of the people.

And I would like to call your attention again for a moment to the similarity between that and the words of the First Minister previously quoted :

I have often said, and can only here repeat, that when the will of the people has been affirmed, and it will be affirmed one way or the other, then the Government, every Government, must be prepared to abide by the consequences.

Mr. GANONG.

If these were not concocted in the same head, they were at least concocted in the same room, the two heads being there together. Now, I can tell the hon. Minister of Agriculture that this question is back on the floor of this House. He has not been here enough to know whether it is here or not, but it is. I would like to ask him if he is prepared to stand up and be true to the temperance party that he claims he has been true to for so many years, or will he get up and repudiate his leader? Let us see what action this hon. gentleman will take. Why, in my opinion, he will sit with the same sickly smile of despair that he wore the other evening when questioned by the hon. member for East Grey. Does he dare to stand up in this House before hon. gentlemen representing Dominion constituencies, and say that we, as a political party, by implied agreement, robbed you as no highway robber would do, of your highest right of a citizen, which is your right of franchise? What difference is there between robbing a man of his right to the franchise and his right to enjoy the results of his franchise? If the temperance party in this country has been betrayed, as they believe themselves to be, judging by their resolutions passed throughout the country, there, sitting in the seat of the Minister of Agriculture, is their betrayer, as truly a betrayer as was Judas of old.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the hon. gentleman is going a little too far when he compares a member of this House to Judas of old, and unfavourably to Judas.

Mr. GANONG. There is some difference, it is true, in regard to the conditions, for in the one case it was for a few pieces of silver.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member will be kind enough to withdraw the expression, and not qualify it.

Mr. GANONG. I submit to your ruling. But, Sir, I must say in regard to the Minister of Agriculture, that at least he has taken a very unusual stand on this question. He has placed himself in opposition, at least so far as we can judge, to the temperance party in this country. I am disposed to leave the question to the bar of the people to decide whether he has been just and true to the temperance party, or whether he has been true to the party who have given him a position and a salary of \$8,000 a year. Now, the First Minister, in referring to some trade relations with the United States, made some remarks that I wish to refer to. He said :

I have no right to speak of what took place in the commission, but I have a right to refer to what is now in the minds of the Canadian people—and if we know the hearts and the minds of the people at present, I think I am not making too wide a statement when I say that the feeling of Canada to-day is not in favour of reciprocity.

Who is this "we" that the right hon. First Minister talks about? Is it the delegation

that went to Washington to negotiate a treaty, or is it the Liberal party of Canada? I prefer to think it is the party of howlers who have been over the country for the last 18 or 20 years, and who have just awakened to the fact that this country of ours was not in accord with them during all that time. This party of "we" have just found out that Canada does not care anything about reciprocity. Well, if the Canadian people do not care anything about reciprocity with the United States, they necessarily care for just what we have been doing, that is, protecting the industries of Canada, protecting them from the one country from which we have reason to fear competition, the country that is producing goods of a similar nature to those produced by our Canadian factories, our Canadian farmers and our Canadian fishermen. Now, I wonder if the First Minister will follow the example of the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) and rise up in this House and say: I too am a protectionist. Why, I admire the pluck of the hon. member for Labelle. He has youth on his side, he has intelligence, and when he comes into contact with the industries of the country, he is frank enough to say that we have a country that we should protect, and that we should look after its interests instead of the interests of the country to the south of us. I only wish we had more hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House who would be half as frank as the hon. member for Labelle. He has less of that prejudice, he is less guilty of those sins that I referred to a while ago, he is less guilty of the crime of trying to ruin the fair name and the credit of Canada, than some of the Ministers who visited Washington on this delegation. Why, these Ministers are remarkably young, they are mere children, apparently, in a business way, and it is surprising what a long time it has taken this business Government to learn what the business brains of this country have known for the last 20 years, but they have only found out within the last few months. They are like children who have been playing for years with an air bubble; at last it has burst and they find that there is nothing in it. For years their sole aim has been to discredit this country, and more particularly to discredit everything that was done by the late Conservative Government, not desisting when they knew that by so doing they were injuring the credit of the country. For 18 or 20 years they have been flying in the face of public opinion, and have only awakened to a knowledge of the truth within the last few months. There is an old adage which says that "curses like chickens come home to roost." The Government roost, since they returned from Washington, is full, especially is it full since the return of the delegate who went abroad to obtain bottle-necked ships. Now, I will read a couple of clippings in order to give some backbone to the hon. gentlemen opposite and keep them up to the point assumed by the First Minister when he spoke. Here

are two opinions given by two daily papers in the United States with regard to this question of reciprocity, two New England papers, which one might naturally expect would favour reciprocity, as they have all along been looking for the advent of a Liberal Government to power who would make Boston the great city of the northern part of this continent. The Portland "Advertiser," referring to the possibility of reciprocal trade between the United States and Canada, says:

But what if Canada does not want it? Premier Laurier, speaking in the Parliament House at Ottawa, a few days ago, threw upon the reciprocity idea some particularly cold water. He said Canada did not now greatly desire reciprocal trade; that the time had passed when she depended upon the American market and would have given anything for it, and that the cold storage system had given them a new market in England. If we are to regard him as speaking sincerely, and as voicing the present feeling of the Dominion, there seems little hope in that direction.

Commenting on this, the Boston "Herald," another prominent New England paper, says:

We imagine the Canadian Premier felt disheartened when he returned to Ottawa, after the adjournment of the Joint High Commission. If he did not entertain feelings of this character, he was more sanguine and optimistic than were, we fancy, his American associates on the commission. To have confessed that an effort which he had made a part of his policy, even before his party was successful in the last national election, had proved a failure, would have been politically indiscreet, and, more than this, would have been distinctly premature, for the reason that the Joint High Commission had simply postponed its session, with the intention of coming together again next August. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was compelled, by the decision reached at the time of adjournment, to consider the entire question in suspense, as, indeed, it is, and yet with such a cloud of doubt hanging over it as to make it expedient for him as Premier to prepare the way for an admitted failure of the effort.

Such is the opinion of some of the American papers in this connection. Before 1896 the Conservative party, finding that it was utterly impossible to establish any reasonable trade relations with the country to the south of us, planned and worked out the plan, to make this country more independent of the United States. The late Finance Minister (Mr. Foster) went to the West India Islands. How the Grit papers did complain of the expenditure, but the fishermen along the shore of the Atlantic seaboard know that no act of the late Government ever did them more good than the visit of the late Finance Minister to the West Indies with the result of opening up markets to their products. They also established a plan for the development of the farming industries in regard to cold storage, which, however, the Liberals claim as their pet scheme. The Liberal-Conservative party have some business men amongst them, which I regret the Liberal party do not seem to possess. They knew that certain lines of goods required to

be placed in cold storage to be carried across the Atlantic, and that the less the time that they were in cold storage, the greater advantage would result to the shipper in consequence of the better state in which these products would reach the market in the old country. Keeping that consideration well in mind they made an arrangement in connection with the fast Atlantic line project for cold storage sufficient to have taken care of all the products of this country for years. But the very moment that the Liberal party came into power they cancelled that contract, as is well known to this country, and made invalid all the work of the Conservative party with the result that though to-day we have some cold storage—the same old plan instituted by the late Government—it takes from two to five days longer, with just that much more loss to the shipper, by the reason of the fact of the goods arriving in a worse condition. That is but one sample of the mistakes made by this Government. There was a time some few years ago, about 1896, I believe, when the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell), refused to ride in the same carriage with the right hon. Prime Minister; at least it was so reported. I believe that when that hon. gentleman arrived here the other day, to confess his failure to establish a fast Atlantic line, it was in the heart of the right hon. Prime Minister to wish that he never had agreed to ride in the same carriage. He has discredited this country; he has discredited the Government, and he has discredited his own ability as a business man by his failure to accomplish what he attempted. In my constituency where fishing is a very large industry and where that business, directly and indirectly, involves an annual amount of \$1,500,000, the statement of the right hon. Prime Minister, giving the death knell to the possibility of obtaining a reciprocity treaty, will be received, I am sure, with very great sorrow, or very great surprise, at least. The people there will, however, have gotten over a certain illusion, that they had for years, that the Liberal party was their friend, that the Liberal party was the party for free trade and the only party which could possibly obtain reciprocity in the products of their fisheries. Now, Sir, the conditions along the Atlantic seaboard are such that there is a large percentage of the electorate in many constituencies who are fishermen, and nearly all these fishing stations are represented in this House by Liberals, such, for instance, as the county of Yarmouth, the county of Guysborough, the county of Shelburne, the county of Digby and others. Why? Simply because they have been misled by the leaders of the Liberal party, during the last fifteen or twenty years, into believing that they were the only party by which the negotiation of a reciprocity treaty could be accomplished, and that the Liberal party was the proper party for this country. All will admit, Sir, in that section that a fair reciprocity treaty, by

which the products of our fisheries would be admitted into the United States market, on the same conditions as products of United States fisheries in our markets, that the fishing business could be prosecuted in Canadian waters by American fishermen, on equitable terms would be satisfactory to them and would be an advantage but they have been misled, as I say, by the party leaders and the party press. Among the hon. gentlemen who have been over the maritime provinces, talking of reciprocity and of free trade, there is not any one sinner greater than that one from the maritime provinces who occupies a portfolio in this Government; I refer to the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies). This may have been an expensive lesson to our fishermen, but I think it will be a good one. If the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has come here from Washington, imbued with the same idea that the right hon. leader of the Government has expressed, it will be a profitable thing for Canada. He has been an expensive member for the country at large, and it will be a great thing if he will only stay at home and attend to business as he should attend to it and look after the interests of the fisheries. Now, Sir, as this farce is over that they have been attempting, and now that they admit that no free trade is in sight, for a hundred or two hundred years, at least, that no reciprocity treaty is possible with the United States, these sturdy sons of toil will demand an accounting from these hon. gentlemen who have been misleading them for the past years. These are not the men who change their politics, as some people do, for the loaves and fishes; they are the men who change their politics on principle, and when they find that they have been misled they will know better than to trust the same old party that has misled them, the second time. Well, Sir, a Liberal Government is in power; that is a fact. We have heard the right hon. First Minister say: "We are here and you are there." It covers every argument that the hon. gentleman has produced in three years in this House. But what have we? We have no reciprocity treaty for the fishermen; we have no reciprocity for the farmers if they desire it, which I doubt very much; we have no enlarged market for the produce of the fisheries in the east, but we have a lessened market, since they came into power, on account of the absorption of Porto Rico into the Union. We may well say, where are they at? No free trade after three years, and none for one hundred or two hundred years to come; no appreciable reduction in the average duties after three years, but a higher per capita of customs and excise taxation than under the Conservative Government of 1896, for in 1896 the per capita of customs and excise taxation was \$3.91 per head, and in 1898, \$4.22. Again, there is a much higher duty than under the Conservative Govern-

ment on some of the greatest staples used by the fishermen. What has happened? Have the heavens fallen, or is it simply that the gods of the Liberals have become deaf and dumb—perhaps they may have gone to sea in those bottle-necked ships. Before June, 1896, "free trade as in England" was proclaimed by the Liberals in every maritime province constituency. I had one gentleman come into my county, and he is a great talker—I presume that is the reason the Minister of Railways paid him so well when he sent him out as a commissioner. I presume he was in the secrets of the Government, and everything that could be given him from headquarters was given, for he came down to the county, and he said: We will give you free trade as it is in England. Look, you are getting 12 pounds of sugar for \$1; we will give you 50 pounds for \$1. Have the fishermen seen 50 pounds of sugar for \$1? Are they getting the same amount of sugar for \$1 as they did under the Conservative tariff? Well, I rather guess not. That gentleman's statement should have been correct. He was sent out by the Liberal party to preach Liberal doctrine, he got into some difficulties about his statements either with his party or with the Minister. Now, Sir, what are the facts? The facts are, that there is scarcely a staple used by the fishing industries of the maritime provinces that is any lower to-day than it was under the Conservative Government; and in the case of sugar, that was going to be as free as it is in England, these gentlemen opposite have raised the duty 26 per cent. Tobacco is an article which is largely used by the fishermen of the maritime provinces—though they are a very temperate class of people, as shown by the plebiscite vote—and the duty on tobacco has been advanced 56 per cent under Liberal rule. Have they reduced the duty on other fishermen's supplies? No, Sir. Rubber boots, oil clothing, condensed milk, baking powder, furniture, and nearly all the unenumerated class of goods which formerly came in at 20 per cent, have the same old rate of duty. The actual facts are, that the fisherman of to-day, under a Liberal protective tariff, is paying more than he did under a Conservative protective tariff. But what about oil? The oil duty, according to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) was the greatest curse. He (Sir Louis Davies) is not in the House to-night, but it would make no difference, if he were. He would smile just as blandly as he did when the question of reducing the oil duty came up last year. You can watch him from year to year, and he has the same bland smile. These gentlemen reduced the duty on oil by a cent a gallon; true, but the oil is dearer now than it was before. I suppose that is all right under a Liberal Government, where business is business. They made it possible for a giant monopoly to come in, and notwith-

standing that monopoly clause which they passed at the second session of this Parliament, and which was, as they said, to frighten all these bloated manufacturers so that they would not dare to combine to raise prices, notwithstanding that, the monopoly has control of the oil market of this country, and has advanced the price from 1 cent to 2 cents per gallon more than it was under the tariff of the Conservative party. Why, Sir, in the United States they talk of toll-gates at which are collected fees from the greatest monopoly in the world. I trust that no hon. gentleman in this House will receive very much toll from that monopoly; but if they do not operate the monopoly clause, and that very soon, they will have some difficulty in making the electors of Canada believe that some one's fingers are not being greased. We have in the maritime provinces to-day a protective tariff that is making the cost of living higher than it was under the Conservative Government, and yet these gentlemen have not given us a single new market. They are more liberal in robbing the fishermen than ever the Conservative Government was. Where to-day is the patron saint whose agonies for the poor people of the maritime provinces were so frequently heard of in 1896? Why, Sir, his lamentations were deplorable then, but no longer do we hear his wailing and howling along the Atlantic seaboard. Then it sounded—well, I do not know; perhaps I should not compare it to what I purposed doing—but, Sir, it seemed to one who was accustomed to it, like the howling we sometimes hear from a hound who is baying at the moon. The hound has no idea that he will obtain the moon, but he is looking for his bone, and, when he gets the bone, he is satisfied. It is very much so with the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. He did not get the moon, as every one knows, but he did get a star, and whether that has succeeded, in connection with the bone of \$8,000 a year, in satisfying him so that he will not say anything more in connection with the tariff in the maritime provinces, I know not; but if it has, it will be a happy thing for the country. I would like to ask the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) if, since he has succeeded in disabusing his mind of the idea that reciprocity was in sight, he is prepared to protect the fishermen of the maritime provinces and not issue any more licenses to American fishermen to steal our fish, as they have done in the past. I endeavoured to get some information from the Minister last year, but it seems he knows less about that than he does about some matters outside of his department. I asked him, on what general principles the licenses for weirs were issued in the maritime provinces. I endeavoured in every way possible to obtain the information, but he either did not know or he was not disposed to give it. I now ask the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) to answer to

the House and to the country. Why, I have received a letter to-day stating that American citizens have come in and taken from Canadian citizens the right to build weirs along the shores of the Atlantic seaboard. I have here the names of four or five weirs along the shore of the county of Charlotte which are said to be in Canadian waters, but which are owned and controlled by American citizens, who have no right to take up the weirs of Canadian fishermen and deprive them of the possibility of earning a living for their families. The product of these weirs goes directly to the cities of Eastport and Lubec, in the United States, and if the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) would condescend to visit these waters and look matters over, so that he could intelligently deal with the question, it would be a great advantage to a very large Liberal clientele who voted for the Government down there last time—whether they ever will again, I do not know. I refer to the weir owned by Miller & Pike; another by Miller & John Tucker; another owned by Brown & Pike & Kennedy, and another one by Lampson, Pike & Houghton; and I want to put those names on record, so that the Minister may look the matter up. Well, Sir, if the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) and his colleagues would use a little better judgment in the expenditure of public money, if they would make some endeavour to afford a little better protection to the fishermen in the maritime provinces, whose whole dependence is on the fisheries, and whose wealth consists of their fishing boats and their fishing gear, and induce these people to stay at home and enlarge their business, instead of frittering away the public money on Doukhobors, Galicians and Finns, it would be a great deal better for this country. Hon. gentlemen spend money in bringing to this country a class of citizens whose scale of living is so low that they are of very little advantage to the country, while on the Atlantic seaboard we have a class of citizens than whom there is no higher class in the Dominion of Canada—a class of men of good habits, who buy the best of everything, and will have it, who are hardworking and frugal, but who live well, because they work well. If hon. gentlemen would give a little more attention to the citizens we have, and to the development of our interests along the Atlantic seaboard, instead of sending one man to Ireland to get rid of him, and another to another portion of the country to get him out of the way, it would be a great deal better for the general interests of this country. So passeth away, Sir, the hopes of these poor hard-working fishermen into the glory of a star. I do not accept the statement attributed to the right hon. the First Minister, that a Liberal is born. I do not believe that a Liberal is born, any more than I believe that a Conservative is born

Mr. GANONG.

a Conservative. I note a little contribution on this point, which, with your permission, I will give to the House:

To poets being born one hardly can object,  
In fact it rather seems 'bout what we might expect.  
But Sir Wilfrid now asserts (an anomaly if true),  
He says a Liberal's born, a Liberal through and through.  
What are we now to think 'bout Cartwright,  
Blair and Tarte?  
They were not Liberals born, but had a change of heart.  
They cannot claim the Grits as their dear kith and kin,  
As, like the Ethiopians, they cannot change their skin;  
But if not Liberals born, they've travelled long that road.  
It may be, after all, like Topsy, they just grewed.

Sir, I believe that when the electors shall have been called upon, the good sense of the farmers, the manufacturers, the mechanics, and those engaged in the fishing industries, will show the right hon. First Minister that a Liberal is not always a Liberal born; but that gentlemen who have been long with the Liberal party, and have been endeavouring to find some excuse for staying in it, will, after the present session of Parliament, realize that the progress of our country has been with the Conservative party, that all the hopes of the future of our country lie in the genius of that party for constructive legislation, and that it is the only political party in Canada to-day on whose promises they can rely.

Mr. H. A. POWELL (Westmoreland). Mr. Speaker, the debate that is before the House has dragged to a considerable length. The hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) undertook to count the number of pages of "Hansard" that embraced the speeches of hon. gentlemen opposite, and instituted a comparison between them and the number of pages comprising the speeches of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House. I do not know, Sir, that that was a very useful occupation for a man of his pretensions to engage in; but, Sir, it was certainly a pleasant one, and I might say of my hon. friend as Longinus, the celebrated rhetorician, said: "A man of genius, employed in the accomplishment of little things, is like the sun in his evening declination: he preserves his energy, but retains his magnitude, and pleases more, though he dazzles less." There was one flight of that hon. gentleman's oratory to which I desire to call the attention of the House. The hon. gentleman professes to be a nautical man, and with that technical knowledge characteristic of a gentleman who has spent much of his time upon the sea, he depicted the ship of state, as she was managed and navigated by the late Conservative Government. After he had followed her voyage, he was horror-stricken to see the ship of state waterlogged and sunk. Well, Sir, if

the ship of state is to-day floating quiescent upon the surface of the waters, well, but I can assure the hon. gentleman that his party's buoyancy is the buoyancy of putrefaction, and its levitation is the levitation of rottenness. The hon. gentleman might have gone further in his comparison. He said that the crew had deserted the ship—they had taken to the long boat. I think, if the hon. gentleman's power had been equal to the full truth, he would have said that when the crew had deserted her, the ship of state had fallen a victim to pirates and buccanners. The hon. leader of the Government, in a speech which he delivered at the very opening of this debate, devoted his attention very largely to apologetics. Outside of his apologetics, he took credit to his Government for three or four acts of administration. In the first place, Sir, he took credit for Imperial penny postage and for the reduction of the domestic rate of postage. In the second place, he took great credit for preferential trade. In the third place, he took credit for the agreement entered into with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the lowering of the tariff on freight from the west. But his main purpose seemed to be a very congenial employment with him—a denunciation of the leader of the Opposition, clothed in terms of invective which were not characteristic of the right hon. gentleman, as I have been led to form an opinion of his character. I think the invective was unworthy of him. It was unprovoked, idle and puerile. In singling out objects of attack in the long lifetime of the hon. leader of the Opposition, he might, at least, have had the courage to tell exactly what is consonant with history, instead of drawing upon his imagination for his facts.

Leaving the leader of the Opposition, I will direct my attention for a few moments to these various claims which hon. members on the Treasury benches urge for the support of the country, and for a certain meed of credit.

Well, so far as the Post Office Department is concerned, if there is a department of administration in the Government of this country or of any country that should not be put forward as one to which any honour or credit should attach, it is certainly that having the administration of the postal affairs of this Dominion. From the first time when the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) took hold of this department, from the time when he violated the amenities of gentlemanly life by publishing to the county the volume of the private and confidential letters which he found in the archives of his office, down to the time when he made himself ridiculous in the eyes of Europe and the whole world by promulgating a decree which he had not the slightest jurisdiction to issue, nothing but blundering and mismanagement have characterized the administration of his department by that hon. gentleman. With respect to the postal service of this country, the right

hon. leader of the Government took a great deal of credit for its administration and for the reduction in postage. I make bold to say, Mr. Speaker, that this claim put forth by the hon. Postmaster General, and backed by the authority of the right hon. leader of the Government, is a purely fictitious one. On being examined, it dissolves into thin air. The contention is this, that the hon. Postmaster General, by judicious management, by economical administration, succeeded in reducing the deficit from \$699,000 in 1896 to the small deficit of \$47,000 in 1898. But if we examine the records, what do we find? We find that if that hon. gentleman had done nothing, if he had allowed matters to remain as he found them, if he had not undertaken a single reform, the revenues of the country would have left, not a deficit of \$47,502, but a deficit of some \$18,600 only, or the deficit would have been smaller by \$28,000 than it actually is to-day. How does this come about? Why, it has been pointed out again and again to these hon. gentlemen that the deficit was decreased by the abnormal increase of the revenues of that department through the issue of Jubilee stamps; and in proof of that contention, we need only refer to the statistics of the department during the present year. Since the 1st of July, 1898, to the 1st of July, 1899, the revenue of that department fell off no less a sum than \$130,000 below what it was last year. And during January past, 1899, it fell off in no less an amount than \$40,000, compared with January last year. And during February last it fell off to the amount of \$69,362 below the receipts of February, 1898. When we take these facts into consideration, and look forward, allowing the decrease of revenue for the whole year at the present rate, the deficit, instead of being, as the right hon. leader of the Government affirms, less than it was during the last year of the Conservative Administration, must be to the amount of \$200,000 or \$300,000 more.

Not only is this the record of that department, but I claim that the hon. Postmaster General has starved the postal service of the country, and in proving that contention I have simply to take a summary of the years from 1891 down to the present. I shall not weary the House with the details of the figures, but shall simply say that the Conservative Administration, during those seven years, added post offices to the services of the country to the amount of 173 on the average annually, while during the past two years that hon. gentlemen opposite have been in power, counting to the end of the last fiscal year, their average increase of offices has only been about half as much, or ninety post offices per year. In order that we may look at this a little more carefully, I shall take the province of Ontario as a typical instance. The increase in that province of post offices in 1894 was forty-four; in 1895,

thirty-six ; in 1896, forty-seven. These gentlemen came into power. Now, look at the method by which they reduced the deficit. They did not increase postal facilities proportionately to the increase of population. In 1897 they only increased the post offices of Ontario thirteen, and in 1898 fifteen, or about one-third the annual increase under the preceding Government. I might go through the different provinces and show the same result, but these facts are sufficient to explode the claim put forward by the hon. gentleman as to the judicious and economic management of his department. The deficit during the present year must amount to at least the sum of \$800,000.

Now, the hon. leader of the Government claims that the Government is entitled to a great deal of credit for having reduced the postage of the country from 3 to 2 cents. How credit can be fairly claimed for this fact, I fail to see. Why, if there is a great virtue in doing that, there would have been double the virtue had it been reduced from 3 cents to 1. But I find fault with this reduction. Were I asked what special taxation would bear most equitably on the people, I would select this postage tax. How do I make that out? Well, I took the trouble in my own constituency to have an individual go to the different merchants and firms in the parish in which I reside, and take from their cash accounts the exact amount for postage that they paid out last year. Taking that as a fair criterion of the whole Dominion, I find that this relief of taxation, amounting to \$800,000 annually, would place in the hands of about 3,000 people—merchants and persons whom I may call artificial persons, such as corporations—fully one-half of the amount of that reduction. That is, the Postmaster General has taken \$400,000 from our taxes, and put that amount into the pockets of 3,000 people, and that deficiency resulting is made up by a tax on tobacco, which falls upon the shoulders of the people of this country, rich and poor, dollar for dollar.

The second fact which the hon. gentleman assumed to be a subject for congratulation was the fact that they had established preferential trade. Now, there is no such thing in Canada as preferential trade. The Canadian merchant has not preferential trade, the English market has, but the Canadian has not. But it is claimed the preference granted to England has proved a great boon, and the right hon. leader of the Government, in his anxiety to show how favourably this had affected the interests of the merchants or manufacturers of Great Britain, adduced certain statistics and claimed that those of the hon. leader of the Opposition were wrong, by which he supported his contention that England had not benefited. The language of the leader of the Government, however, was not as strong as we might have expected.

Mr. POWELL.

"We know," he says, "how difficult it is to change the channels of trade, how difficult it is to get people to go into new operations. Sir, at all events, I say that the door has been opened, and that trade at this moment is flowing into it."

Well, this declaration of the right hon. gentleman is calculated to astound any man who has examined the facts. Either the right hon. leader of the Government understood the force of what he was saying or he did not. If he did, he was stating deliberately to the House what was not a correct representation of the facts. If he did not, then in his position of leader of the Government, he was venturing upon an assertion having attached to it all the weight attaching to utterances of the First Minister, while he was utterly regardless as to whether that statement was true or not. What are the facts? So far from the hon. gentleman's statement being true, the fact is that at the very moment the hon. gentleman was making that declaration the contrary was the trend of events. The latest statistics upon which I have been able to place my fingers are found in the "Canadian Gazette," which contains an abstract of the trade returns of Great Britain. They show that in February, 1899, there was a decrease of imports from England to Canada amounting to £46,091, or 13·98 per cent as compared with the imports for the same month of the previous year. And our exports to England for the month of January show a decrease from £310,000 to £240,000, a decrease of 22·56 per cent. Taking the two months of January and February of the present year, we find that our English imports compared with our English imports of the same two months last year show a shrinkage from £651,000 to £611,000, or 16·07 per cent. The exports of Canada to Great Britain show a shrinkage from £637,000 to £469,000, or 26·33 per cent. So far as this preferential tariff is concerned, a comparison showing the effect upon the trade of Great Britain and other countries will be interesting. If you will take the last trade returns, ending 30th June, 1898, you will find that the duty on British imports, all told, was 20 per cent. On goods from Australia, the percentage is 6·3 per cent ; but for the British empire generally the percentage of duties is 20 per cent ; whereas in the case of our neighbours to the south of us, who are not supposed to be favoured by this tariff, the percentage on total imports is only 12·6 per cent. And so, instead of favouring the manufactories of the mother country above those of other nations, we find that even the Turk, the Japanese and the Chinese have greater favours extended to them than have the merchants and manufacturers of Great Britain.

Again, by a process of jugglery, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) so increased the duties on articles coming from England that when the subtraction was made on account of the differential duty of 25 per cent, the

goods come in substantially at the same duty as before. In this connection I refer to the table of figures so carefully prepared by the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy). That hon. gentleman has made an elaborate calculation on this point and finds that, leaving out of account the article of tobacco, the decrease in duties on articles covered by preference would, on the basis of the last year of Conservative rule, be \$679,357, while the increase of duties during the same time would amount to \$795,591, making a net increase of \$116,000. But, how has this affected the trade of the country? The increase has borne severely upon the man in moderate or humble circumstances. In the readjustment of the tariff, according to the hon. gentleman's calculation, which I have no doubt is correct, for I have tested it in many particulars, 80 per cent of the total increase or \$630,000 was imposed upon 20 staple articles of consumption—I am leaving out entirely the article of tobacco.

The next point for which the hon. gentleman claimed credit for at the hands of the House and the country was the Canadian Pacific Railway agreement. The hon. gentleman ventured the assertion that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company had decreased their tariff in order to favour the western farmers, to an amount equal to 25 per cent. Now, Sir, that hon. gentleman, from the high position he holds, from his long training in political matters, from the discussion of financial matters, on the floor of this House, should have known better than to venture upon such an argument. If there is one fact that is known to the economist of to-day, if there is a fact known to the merest tyro in railway matters, it is that on the long haul from the west to the east, there has been, during the last ten or fifteen years, a most marvellous reduction of tariff. Without regard to the contract at all, even supposing that in other respects it was not objectionable, I claim that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, in its own interest, would have made that reduction; and, I have no doubt, that that reduction was made in its own interest and in its own interest alone, without regard to and independent of any contract with the Government. I have here a late work on the subject "The economy of rates under private and Government control," by Kirkman, who is quite an authority on this matter. It contains a table setting forth the through rates for freight on what we may call the great trunk railways of the continent. The traffic of the grain region of the west is brought to the Atlantic slope largely by the Canadian Pacific, the Grand Trunk, the West Shore, the Pennsylvania system and the Baltimore and Ohio, the Erie and the New York Central. If hon. gentlemen will look at the rates of these companies they will find that there has been a remarkable decrease within a very short time. Let me give some of the figures showing some of the reductions made. Here are the rates of the Canadian Pacific Rail-

way. They fell, between 1884 and 1892, no less than 34 per cent, or from 1.45 cents per ton per mile to 0.86 cents per ton per mile. Why, Sir, if that absolute decrease had been maintained down to the present time, instead of having a reduction of 25 per cent, there would have been a reduction of almost 50 per cent. I may say, that in the railway returns published by Canada, these statistics are not given, and were the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) present, I would call his attention to the great desirability of adding this feature of tonnage mile rate to the statistical tables in the annual railway report, so as to base figures that will enable the public to judge to some extent the earnings of our roads on each ton of freight transported over our railways. We are limited at present to figures that will enable us to learn the earnings per train mile. What the people want to know is the earnings per ton per mile for transportation. But to continue the discussion of the reduction of rates—take, for instance, the New York Central line. This line has reduced the rates between 1892 and 1897 no less than 7 per cent.

The Erie railroad, another great trunk line which bears the grain of the west to the seaports for shipment on the Atlantic coast, shows a reduction a great deal more than that. Take the Baltimore and Ohio from 1892 down to 1897. During the five years their rates decreased from .65 of a cent to .54 of a cent per ton per mile, while the Pennsylvania Railway, from 1892 to 1897, reduced their rate from .65 of a cent per ton mile to .47 of a cent per ton mile. These are greater reductions in fact than the Canadian Pacific Railway made under this agreement for which they were given some two or three millions more than was necessary under the contract that was entered into by the old Government. Now, I have taken particular roads. In order to be perfectly fair I will give you a summary of the facts which are contained in a report of the Inter-State Commerce Commission of the United States. We will take the North-west system. From 1890 down to 1896 the general rates over all that system decreased from .70 of a cent to .61 of a cent per ton mile; on the Northern system, which would embrace such lines as the Delaware and Hudson, the New York Central, the West Shore, the South Shore, and other lines, they decreased their rates during that time from .83 to .67 of a cent per ton mile. Reduction is the universal feature of railway rates. This, I should think, effectually disposes of the claim that is made by the First Minister. I recognize the fact that if the Government have been instrumental in bringing about this great reduction they have conferred a boon upon the western country, a great boon indeed. When we recall the fact that in the year 1874 the great state of North Dakota did not export a solitary bushel of grain for consumption, and within the first five years,

after the opening of the railways, it put into the markets of the world tens of millions of bushels of grain, then we will have some idea of the benefit this Government would have conferred upon the people if they had procured this reduction of rates. But these rates reduce naturally and from commercial causes. It is the interest of the railways to make them as light as possible consistent with making a profit. The net income of a railway does not depend so much upon high rates as it depends upon the amount of traffic passing over the line, and the interest of the Canadian Pacific in having their lands settled, in having increased revenue, in meeting competition, will call for and secure reductions of rates in the future as they have in the past.

The next point to which the leader of the Government directed his attention was the plebiscite vote. I think if there is one particular phase of the administration of hon. gentlemen opposite which is worthy of strong denunciation, it is their policy with respect to the plebiscite. When the leader of the Government, from his place in Parliament, informed this House, and through the Press Gallery informed the country, that if there was a majority of the electorate of Canada in favour of prohibition he would give them prohibition, that promise was interpreted as the language is interpreted under ordinary circumstances. Now, what do we mean by a majority of the electorate of the country? We mean a majority of the polled votes of the country. That is the understanding in every country with representative institutions. But the hon. gentleman bases his claim chiefly upon the fact that the majority was not sufficiently large. Now this is a matter of policy which it was well to have announced to the prohibitionists of the country before he brought down his policy and agreed to submit the plebiscite to the people. The hon. gentleman is, to my mind, very evasive in his arguments. The submission of the question of prohibition which was to be answered categorically, yes or no, calls for consideration of the significance to be attached to the answer. The prohibition of intoxicants may mean one of two things in this country. In the first place, since liquor is an article upon which we impose a customs duty, the prohibition of the liquor traffic would mean an interference and a very serious interference with our fiscal system. The answer may be significant from this standpoint. But prohibition is not only an interference with our fiscal policy, but it is an interference with individual liberty. A man in voting nay to that question, might be voting that he was opposed to an interference with individual liberty; by voting nay he might also mean only, as I have intimated, that he was opposed to so radical an interference with the fiscal system of the country, or he might mean both. Now when the right hon. gentleman says

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that the province of Quebec voted almost unanimously against interference with personal liberty, I tell the hon. gentleman that he is wrong, that the statistics do not bear him out, that he is making a very grave reflection upon that province. This vote is susceptible, as I say, of either one of the two constructions I have suggested to the House. Now when we look at the province of Quebec, what do we find? I take the statistics given by the Minister of Agriculture, who I notice during this debate does not seem to frequent the House very much. I notice a remarkable synchronism between the absence of the Minister of Agriculture and the disciple of Esculapius who seems to be in the Government to care for the physical ills of its members. I was informed the other day that the absence of these two gentlemen together from the House was the result of a violent dislocation of the backbone of the Minister of Agriculture owing to the remarkable contortions he had gone through on the temperance question. Well, Sir, I will take the figures given by the Minister of Agriculture. He said that these figures were perfectly reliable, and I have no doubt they are. In the province of Quebec there are 923 municipalities outside the cities and larger towns. They have in that province a local option law, the municipalities have power to prevent the issuing of licenses. Now as a matter of fact this province, which the right hon. leader of the Government would have us believe is entirely opposed to prohibition, is so favourable to prohibition that out of the 923 municipalities in that province, in 603 the sale of liquor is entirely prohibited. Then when you take into consideration the further fact that in the cities which only contain 400,000 out of 1,600,000 of the province's population, there was a large minority vote polled for prohibition, these two facts show that the province of Quebec in respect of that phase of prohibition which interferes with the personal liberty of the subject, is more favourable to prohibition than any province in the whole Dominion. Then if this Government was looking for enlightenment as to the feelings of the electorate on the grave question of interference with personal liberty, they had a conclusive answer from the province of Quebec. The hon. gentleman cannot shield himself behind the vote as polled. Let us see: they ask for over 50 per cent of the registered voters. Does not the hon. gentleman know the course of history. At a time when the democracy of Canada, or at least a portion of Canada was heaved, as it never was heaved since, when the little province of Nova Scotia, fired by the electric eloquence of Joseph Howe, was ready almost for rebellion, an election came on and the polled vote was only 73 per cent of the registered vote; and yet this hon. gentleman asks the temperance people to give him a majority of over 50 per cent of the registered vote. Then, again, I find that, in

the election of 1891, the total popular vote was only 64 per cent of the total registered votes of Canada. The leader of the Government has called on the temperance people to perform what is an absolute impossibility—I care not how favourable the country may be to prohibition. I shall not weary you with going further into the different elections, but about 65 per cent would be a fair average, taking by-elections and general elections, of the percentage of voters recorded who exercise the franchise on election day. I remember, on one occasion the Liberals claimed that the Conservatives were exercising the functions of government and conducting the administration of affairs with a numerical minority of the electorate at their backs. Whether that was true or not, I do not know, but I remember the contention being made; yet no one suggested they resign. A greater interference with the fiscal laws of this country than prohibition would involve was introduced by the Government with a very much less percentage of the registered vote than 50 per cent. In 1878, when a radical change was made in the fiscal policy of the country, when we were departing entirely from the old policy of the late Minister of Finance (Sir Richard Cartwright), and adopting a stringent protective policy, had the Government of the day 50 per cent of the electorate at its back? No, Sir. During the session when changes were made in the late protective tariff by the present Government—I admit that they were not very serious changes—had the Government a mandate of 50 per cent of the recorded electorate to make these changes? They had not. Therefore, Sir, in whichever way we look at it, the contention of the hon. gentleman, the First Minister, is little better than a subterfuge. If we are told it is an interference with the fiscal system, the hon. gentleman is simply talking what is constitutional rubbish. And he rests his objection on the province of Quebec having spoken against interference with personal liberty. The facts I have given show him to be in error in his premises.

Another matter that the hon. gentleman referred to was the matter of Senate reform. I shall not dilate upon this question to any great extent, for the simple reason that when the Bill comes before the House, I presume most of the hon. gentlemen in the House, including myself, will express their opinion upon it. But when I heard the leader of the Opposition, of whom his followers boast as a man possessed of an immense range of knowledge, I am rather astonished to find how the right hon. gentleman defends the contemplated Act in respect to the Senate. He says: "We want to make the Senate a responsible body." A gentleman who claims that every institution should be amenable to the people, and should have the people as its direct and immediate control, is simply putting forward a contention that is opposed to the existing systems of every country possessing constitutional

government on this globe. It may be news to some hon. gentlemen in this House but it is not new to legal gentlemen in this House, that, above this Parliament and above every local legislature in Canada, controlling them, saying that their most solemn enactments may be a nullity, and rendering them a nullity in their judgment, saying to local legislatures, as it has unquestionably the right to: You have no right to do what every lawyer knows they have right to do—sits the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Higher than Parliament, higher than the people of this country, higher than the local governments of this land, than the local legislatures, standing in the supreme position of responsibility to nobody, is the Privy Council of the British Empire. This Parliament may pass an Act which may be perfectly within its jurisdiction; it may be carried across the water and a perverse judgment can be given, and there is no way to punish the men guilty of this outrage: they are responsible legally to nobody except to their God and their conscience. The check upon them is the moral check of intelligent popular opinion. And now, having referred you to the case of the Privy Council, let us look to the republic to the south of us. Is the Supreme Court of the United States responsible? Has it ever been suggested by the most democratic of states that this court should be responsible legally to anybody. The great strength of that republic, the permanency and the stability of the relations between the affiliated governments and the federal power is due to the irresponsibility of the Supreme Court of the United States. And if hon. gentlemen point out to me, that that court was constituted and that that policy was adopted at a time when the principles of responsible government were not as fully acted upon as to-day, when the principles of democracy were not as widespread and as universally acted upon, I reply, that the federal system could not exist without it. Again, take the case of the state of Massachusetts. Some fifteen years ago, if I recollect the date correctly, that state desired to control the railways of the country—that is not exactly in point, but the illustration is used simply to show the force of popular opinion acting morally and not legally. They constituted a railway commission, and that commission had power to summon before it every railway president, every railway official, every railway employee, operating within the commonwealth of Massachusetts. But the commission had no power given to enforce their decision. Their was no executive power reposed in it whatever. It simply investigated complaints and proclaimed to the people what, in their opinion, was a correct course to pursue. What was the effect? I have mentioned this to show that it is not direct responsibility to the democracy, or the electorate, that is the great safeguard of liberty; it is responsi-

bility, not to them as voting machines, not as political powers; it is responsibility, to the enlightened popular opinion, and that opinion was so strong in the commonwealth of Massachusetts and controlled so effectually the railways of the commonwealth, that you may search over the railways on the continent of America, or Europe, or Asia, or Africa, if you will, or the far-distant colony of Australia, for a better system of railways, for one that is more sensitive to popular sentiment, and you will search in vain. Now, what is urged? Although ours is a written constitution and is a statutory constitution, so far as it fails, whatever constitutional principles prevail in England prevail here. What should these hon. gentlemen do? The Senate will be responsible to popular opinion, and no Senate that exists in the United States, or in any other country, can for one moment resist popular opinion. And if these hon. gentlemen opposite had a show at all of sincerity, if they meant what they said, if they were honest in their views, if they were guided by a high spirit of patriotism, and not by a spirit of party, instead of denouncing on the floors of this House and on the hustings of this country a body of gentlemen as mere partisans and party claqueurs, they should appeal to the voice of the people in respect to these questions. They should utilize the constitution that we have, conforming to that which they as sworn Privy Councillors are bound by their oaths to conform to, and Canada would hear a great deal less of that anarchical cry which may be a very serious plaything in its effect upon a democratic country. As I have said, what further remarks I have to make upon that question, I shall reserve for another time. I am pleased to see that the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) has not joined in this appeal. I do not know what he will do hereafter, but up to this particular stage he has not taken any part in it. The hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) has fallen from grace so remarkably in respect to the principles of free trade, that I "hae ma doots" about him in the future. I imagine that that hon. gentleman is not entirely at home in the seat he occupies—I do not mean that he wants another seat in the Government—but in the position in which he is placed by the action of his colleagues. I believe that he is sitting somewhat disgruntled, and that he feels like the Grecian warrior, that the time will come, although now muttering in his tent, when he will destroy the Trojan ships. That hon. gentleman must feel that his present position is out of harmony and inconsistent with the position he previously occupied. To those other hon. gentlemen in the Government I would not appeal. They have had their ethics proclaimed by the hon. gentleman from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), not to mention the author of that peculiar theological and moral dissertation we had

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yesterday, the hon. gentleman from Burrard (Mr. Maxwell), who may be the spiritual adviser of the Government. But there was a time in the history of this country when the voice of Sir Richard was the voice of wisdom and of power. It was paramount through the whole region of Gritdom, and influential also throughout a considerable portion of Torydom as well. It commanded that respect that attached to Poor Richard, celebrated in the early literature of the United States. But, Sir, that day has gone by. The hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) is now shorn of his glorious locks. I do not mean that he is the victim of some modern Delilah, but, Sir, he is in this position that his friends throughout the country in the Conservative ranks, that the staunch Liberals throughout the country who are men of principle, say of him for sitting quietly in a position which smothers his principles: "But yesterday and Sir Richard might have stood against the world, now sits he there with none so poor as do him reverence."

The next particular point, Sir, to which the leader of the Government directed himself was a somewhat violent attack upon the present leader of the Opposition, Sir Charles Tupper. So far as his vituperation is concerned, I shall say little, but here is a fair specimen of it in the last speech which the right hon. gentleman delivered:

Sir Charles Tupper has shown himself once more, and perhaps more than ever, that he is as reckless, extravagant, unreliable, ever ready to pander to passion and prejudice, ever ready to gamble away the most sacred interests of his country for the chance of a party advantage.

Sir, I would have said nothing on this score were it not for the remarks of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), who told us that there was no one of those gentlemen who sat behind Sir Charles Tupper who dared utter a word in his defence, or who felt like incurring, as the Minister of the Interior supposed, the odium attached to a defence of the leader of the Opposition. The leader of the Government in referring to the leader of the Opposition, claimed that upon two occasions had he wrecked Governments. He said that in his early history Sir Charles Tupper had become a member of the Government of Mr. Johnstone—I shall not refer to the historical slip in calling him Sir William Johnstone. I am astonished that the leader of the Government should make such an assertion, but he made it, and it is far from the truth. Let us look for one moment into the history of the leader of the Opposition, because these attacks upon him render it necessary that some one upon this side of the House should lay the facts before new members who are not acquainted with his history. In 1855, Sir Charles Tupper, then Dr. Tupper, was returned for the county of Cumberland, and it was no ordinary contest that

was then waged in that county. It was a contest as historic in the province of Nova Scotia, as was the Clare election in the history of Ireland. Sir Charles Tupper was opposed to no mean antagonist; he was confronted with no vulgar foe, for the gentleman whom he met eye to eye and point to point was no less a warrior than the Hon. Joseph Howe. They clinched in battle, and the gentleman who rose victor from the fight was Sir Charles Tupper. He then went into the House, where he found that his party was a very small minority indeed. By his energy, by his statesman-like breadth, by his tactical skill, in a short space of two years he drove from power the idol of the Nova Scotia people, and he and his leader, Mr. Johnstone, were installed as directors of the affairs of that province. For the space of two years that government existed. On the completion of the parliamentary term the Johnstone Government was obliged to go to the country and was defeated by a majority of two through the anti-Catholic cry. Mr. Howe came in, taking advantage of sectarian prejudices—taking advantage of one of those tornadoes of passion that are roused by religious demagogues. But in 1863 the people regretted their action. Dr. Tupper was triumphantly returned to power, and defeated for ever the great tribune of the people. He retained power until he left the local for the federal arena in 1867; his government was never defeated. The right hon. gentleman is wrong; no government Sir Charles Tupper ever led in Nova Scotia was defeated. In 1867, the present leader of the Opposition came to the arena of federal politics, and I shall speak a moment later in respect to his career here. After he came to Dominion politics, what was his influence in Nova Scotia? There is no man knows as well as the senior member from Halifax (Mr. Russell) the truth of what I am saying. It is a remarkable fact that of all the names that are glorious names on the honour roll of Nova Scotia, there is scarcely one who was his political enemy when he entered public life that to-day is—or at least before his death—was not his strong political supporter. Who comprise this cloud of witnesses I shall summon up? The first one is 'nomen venerabile' in Nova Scotia, the Hon. William Young, once chief justice of the province. Then follow the Hon. Sir Edward Kenny, the Hon. Sir Adams Archibald, the Hon. Jonathan McCully, the Hon. Joseph Howe, the Hon. A. W. McLellan, the Hon. James McNabb, the Hon. Samuel Chipman, the Hon. Samuel Creelman, the Hon. Benjamin Weir, the Hon. Michael Tobin, the Hon. Mr. McKinnon, the Hon. Hiram Blanchard, the Hon. Joseph Fulton, James Fullerton, and George Hibbert, every one of them with the exception of two members of governments that had been opposed to Sir Charles Tupper. By his acknowledged statesmanship, by his great

administrative ability, he so commanded the respect of the electorate of his native province, that these men boldly stepped out of the ranks of Opposition and came to his support, and lived or died his supporters. But since he came to this arena what is the right hon. gentleman's record? I make bold to say that when the history of this Dominion is written, when, free from the haze and disturbing medium of party prejudice, the unbiassed historian of the future records the development of this Dominion, as he looks back over the long list of honoured names who have been the fathers and benefactors of our country, and thinks upon those men who have done acts that will remain, not through party puffery, but because they have left their deep impress upon the country, the man who, next to our honoured chieftain, and who more even than our late honoured chieftain, so far as practical work is concerned, shall stand above them all, I have no hesitation in saying shall be the man who bears the name of Charles Tupper. I was astonished that the leader of the Government should have made this attack. Hon. gentlemen behind him may indulge in elaborate panegyrics upon him; they may get off essays worthy of graduating school girls, full of rhetorical flowers, and thus seek to elevate their chieftain in the eyes of the country. But I ask them—I ask the hon. member for Kamouraska (Mr. Carroll) and other hon. gentlemen on that side of the House—to put their finger upon a solitary enactment of Parliament to which is appended the name of Wilfrid Laurier, from 1874, when he came into Parliament, to the present day. Did I say there was not a solitary act? I am mistaken; there was one. The hon. gentleman brought an Act into the Parliament of Canada to define what a barrel was. That, Sir, is his sole triumph in the arena of legislation. Outside of that, has the hon. gentleman ever put forward a policy that he carried through? Has he ever nailed his flag to a spar without cutting down both the 'spar and the flag? And these hon. gentlemen talk about the leader of the Opposition being sterile! I am perfectly astonished that any such charge should be made by a man who is himself a sterile æsthete, dandling in his lap, Sir, the posthumous child of a Conservative Government, and counterfeiting the very joys of paternity itself. Slander is a policy which has delighted hon. gentlemen opposite. It would be better if they would come out and fight in the open. Since 1855 down to the present day has Sir Charles Tupper been before this country. That is a long period—44 years. During that time he has been slandered by cowards; he has been abused by hirelings in the press. I ask, Sir, was there ever one of those who rushed from their kennels to bark at his heels who dared to face him in fair, manly fight? Was there ever a slanderer who dared append to his slanders his signature? Was there ever a newspaper that charged him with an act of corruption but sneaked into its cell with the most abject

apologies when threatened with prosecution in the courts of the country? This is the man they abuse, and I am astonished at a gentleman like the right hon. leader of the Government imitating the tactics of these people. Why, Sir, on what shall that hon. gentleman's fame rest? What shall be his monument? What is his political record? What is he as a political personality? Why, Mr. Speaker, the hon. leader of the Government—examine him well—is a mere phosphorescent glow hanging over the resting places of decaying policies and putrescent promises. I was rather surprised at the hon. member for Burrard (Mr. Maxwell) standing in his place here the other evening and comparing the present political situation to the renaissance. Well, Sir, the renaissance, as I understand it, indicates a period of European history in which there was a revival of religion, art, poetry and letters; and if this is a re-renaissance, then, Sir, all I have to say to the hon. gentleman is that if we are to judge it by the principles laid down by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), it is not an advance on lines of political morality, while, if we are to judge it by the statement of the hon. member for Burrard, it is not an advance on the line of religion. Why, Sir, the hon. member for Labelle—and I join in the pæan of praise as respects his mastery of a tongue that is not his vernacular. I was very pleased to hear it. I wish some of us English-speaking people could obtain the same mastery of the beautiful language that is his mother tongue. But while I praise his language I have not respect unto his ethics. What does he say? He says that in modern politics there is no place for logic, no place for consistency, that this is a great danger to public life.

Mr. BOURASSA. If the hon. gentleman will allow me, I make no restriction of time. I say the politics of all time.

Mr. POWELL. The hon. gentleman says he was referring to politics of all time. The suggestion was as to the politics of the present time. He says there is no place in politics for sincerity, and sincerity is a menace to the state. But the high-water mark was reached when the hon. member for Burrard rose in his place—I was almost going to say with a temerity that has been unequalled from the days of Celsus down to Robert Ingersoll—and said: "You cannot hold this Government to its promises, because Jehovah did not keep His. He promised a man something, and the man died 50 years afterwards, and the Lord did not keep His promise even at that time." Now, Sir, what would these hon. gentlemen have us to do? We must overlook the inconsistencies of the Government, we must overlook their breaches of faith. Everything we prize as pure, as heroic, as noble in politics, is to be put aside as out of place. And in the spirit of this Grit renaissance we are worshipping the gods of insincerity, of inconsistency and of untruth. Mr. Maxwell justifies mendacity

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and asks this House and the country to admire the splendid personality of the leader of the Government. Let us trust the country will prize his virtues as they conform to the old traditions, and not to the vagaries which gentlemen claim, however truthfully in this case, to be the dominating characteristics of the Liberal party. I am not going to dwell upon this matter. I shall not take the stand taken by the hon. gentleman from North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) and lecture the House. The House requires no lecturing. If these hon. gentlemen opposite have settled down to this view of political ethics, I cannot hope to enlighten them.

Convince a man against his will,  
And he will hold the same opinion still.

Leaving this subject, I do in this House protest and before this country will protest against introducing into public life in this country a low ideal of politics which will debase our public men, our political parties, and our common country. We should have high ideals. I will tell the hon. gentleman from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), I will tell the hon. gentleman from Burrard (Mr. Maxwell), we have higher traditional ideals in this country. We are the people who have, so far as the French are concerned, the high ideals of old France, and so far as the English, Irish and Scotch elements are concerned, the high ideals which lead us to venerate men like Burke, and Peel, and Chatham, and Washington, and Lincoln. And what are we asked to do by these gentlemen opposite from Labelle and Burrard? We are asked to discard for ever these high ideals and set up as objects of worship, as our political gods, the ethical deformities of Mr. Tarte and the back-boneless lubricity of the leader of the Government. I shall now direct my attention for a moment to the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries whom I see taking his seat.

Mr. BERGERON. He came in a little too early.

Mr. POWELL. I had thought that if there was one man in this Dominion who would have respect unto his high calling, it would have been that gentleman who, such a short time ago, received at the hands of a person on behalf of his sovereign to be placed upon his breast the emblem of honour and chivalry. I can tell him, Sir, that the word of a knight, down through the ages, was most sacred. But what about this gentleman. Why, Sir, the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) while an election was on in the maritime provinces, with that volume of speech which characterises him, with that vehemence of utterance which always marks his periods, took the platform and made the welkin ring, from one end of the maritime provinces to the other, with a denunciation of the Tory party and their protective policy, and he called upon them to turn their faces to the south and enter upon a commercial policy

that was to enrich his fellow-citizens of Prince Edward Island and the sister provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. That gentleman pointed out the glories that existed under the old reciprocity treaty. He told the people: You never obtained such high prices for your oats and potatoes and other agricultural products as you did during that time. I congratulate the hon. gentleman that our commissioners failed in obtaining reciprocity. I do that from the bottom of my heart. I do not take protection by halves, I do not complain of a tariff being too high, I do not care how high it is, that tariff is never too high in this country, providing its result is to create manufacturing industries in the country and give employment to labour and wealth to our citizens. So long as it does that, I do not care whether it is 25 or 50 per cent, or whether it amounts to an embargo such as was placed on British goods in the first history of the United States. This was the first measure that drew them to turn their attention to the policy of creating manufacturing industries and laid the foundations of the greatest industrial Empire of time.

It has leaked out concerning this commission that during the session at Quebec, when mutual concessions were being talked about, that the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) rose in his place in that commission, so thoroughly imbued with the important subjects that were before him, so thoroughly saturated with the magnificent desirability of bringing peace and harmony to two Empires. So appreciative of the great destinies which hung upon his judgment, so thoroughly inspired by lofty Imperial ideas, that he startled with his last conceptions the American Commissioners. Standing up with his overwhelming sense of responsibility, he did not say: I refuse to interfere with the integrity of the British Empire—I refuse for Imperial considerations to cancel our gratuity to Mother England or to impair her interests, in any way, but in the great comprehensiveness of his intellect, in the acumen of his thought, in the breadth of his sympathies, his knightly form trumpeted forth: I cannot make this concession as we may lose three constituencies.

Mr. DAVIN. He added that he would lose his own.

Mr. POWELL. Yes, but he has lost that any way. Turning our attention to reciprocity, since the right hon. leader of the Government stands up in his place in this House and says that Canada is no longer in favour of it, that there is no party that any longer desires it, to discuss it might be discussing matters of somewhat antiquarian interest. But I will direct my attention to that hon. gentleman's favourite fetish. In the province of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island away back in 1865, there is no question but reciprocity was a great boon to the farmers of those provinces. Why

was it a great boon? At that time the magnificent railroad system of the United States had not developed its through lines, in freight traffic these railways had not more than pierced the barriers of the Alleghanies, they had not reached the immense grain growing areas of the west, and those immense products of western industrial energy were not brought into competition in the markets of the east with the products of the east. We had cheap transportation—water transportation—the cheapest of all, and the western countries were actually debarred from entering into competition with us at all. At that particular time, the most skilled and productive labour of the United States was withdrawn from the farm, and the young men were upon the field of battle. Then we competed and competed successfully in the eastern markets of the United States. But since that time, things have changed. Bessemer, with his steel rails, and the improvements of steam engines, and the consolidation of railway systems have had the effect of so lessening the cost of transportation that the west is brought into competition with the east, and we have no longer any opportunity of controlling the eastern markets. The hon. gentleman was enamoured of the glorious market of sixty millions to the south of us. Mr. Speaker, that sixty-million market is a perfect myth. I challenge the hon. gentleman who sits in his seat to mention a single great staple agricultural product of which the United States do not only produce more than they require for their own consumption, but of which they do not have surplus which they place in the English market, and there compete successfully with the products of the rest of the world. I may take one of the greatest products of his own province, oats. The United States send fifteen times as much oats to the English market as we do. Of wheat they send more than we do. Of beef and pork they send more than we do. Under the wise policy of the late Government in respect to bacon and hams, in shutting out the corn from the great republic to the south, which had the effect of deteriorating the quality of pork, we built up a magnificent trade, which I am afraid, if the reports that I see in English journals are correct, will soon be destroyed, owing to the fact that corn-fed pork is now getting access from Canada to English markets and destroying our reputation as producers in that line.

Mr. MCGREGOR. You do not know what you are talking about. Corn-fed pork is the best.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. COPP. That is right; it is the best.

Mr. POWELL. I am not going to discuss the question with the hon. gentleman, who says I know nothing about it. I recognize that under the brow of Apollo opposite there

resides all the wisdom of this House ; there is everything that human power and ingenuity can pack within the cranium which incloses his brain. I think it would be advisable for the hon. gentleman who bears the name of Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden), who is a disciple of Esculapius, Hippocrates or Galen, to exercise his scalpel and relieve the pressure upon this hon. gentleman's cerebellum.

Now, so far as reciprocity is concerned, the time may come—one cannot predict what can take place in a decade or two—when, with the filling up of the west, we shall find a market in the United States. But that will be when they have a population to consume all their agricultural products, and, like England in the beginning of this century, commence to import food stuffs from foreign countries. But during the decades between now and then, the hope of this country is in the great market across the water, the English market. And, Sir, it is greatly to be regretted that at an important crisis of the history of this country, at a time when English opinion had responded to the appeals of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, the late Sir John Macdonald, Sir Charles Tupper and others, when Mr. Chamberlain was willing to have a conference upon this matter and had declared: We must make mutual concession; when the feeling was growing in England that against her were set up the hostile tariffs of the world, and that, if she was to run her commercial course with the same success in the future as in the past, she must make common cause with her colonies—I say, it is to be regretted that on that occasion the leader of the Government went into that conference, and, to the astonishment of Mr. Chamberlain, to the dumbfounding of his Canadian constituents, the right hon. leader of the Government, with the echoes of his own pre-election declarations ringing in his ears, that he was as good a friend of preferential trade with Great Britain as the present leader of the Opposition, threw away an opportunity and let go a chance which may never recur. For, in these modern times, the world moves rapidly, channels of trade are being opened and appropriated, and once the current has set in one direction, as the leader of the Government himself has said, it is not such an easy thing to divert it. It is greatly to be regretted that, on that important occasion, much as I respect the leader of the Government, and worthy as I think him to represent this great Dominion in the most magnificent pageant of modern or ancient times, greatly as his personal and æsthetic qualities fitted him for the position—it is to be regretted, I say, that there was not at that time at the helm of affairs of Canada a man with a wide grasp of commercial facts, a man with a full appreciation of the commercial wants of the country, to establish relations which would inspire our farmers

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to greater efforts and bring riches to the farmer's home—and every student of economics knows that, if you enrich the farmers, you stimulate every industry in the country—it is deeply to be regretted that at such a time our late great leader, Sir John Macdonald, or that other eminent man, Sir George Cartier, was not alive and in control of our affairs. Many of us sighed “for the touch of a vanished hand and the sound of a voice that is still.” These men not being available, it was a regrettable thing that the leader of the Opposition was not in possession of the reins of power. Had he been in control, there would have opened up a career of commercial prosperity, to last some decades, which would be a real boon to the people of the Dominion, and we would not be asked to content ourselves with the fantastic and auroral policy of hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. J. McALISTER (Restigouche). Mr. Speaker, I desire to move the adjournment of the debate.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I hope the hon. gentleman will not insist upon that motion, because, if he does, the Government will be obliged, under the circumstances stated by the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), not to assent to it. That hon. gentleman stated that there were many members on his side of the House who desired to express their views upon the important questions which have been before the House, and he hoped the amplest opportunity would be given. The Government desire that. It is still early, not yet half-past ten, and I do hope the hon. gentleman will be ready to go on.

Mr. WALLACE. There is such a thin House, and it is usual on Friday night to adjourn at an early hour. I think we should adjourn.

Mr. McALISTER. Mr. Speaker, I have listened attentively during this debate to the charges made by the leader of the Opposition and other hon. gentlemen on this side of the House against the Government. I have also listened to the arguments of hon. gentlemen opposite and the answers they gave to these charges, and, so far, I have failed to hear one satisfactory argument or answer made to the charges brought against the Administration. It is true, that several lines of defence were resorted to. One of the hon. gentlemen opposite took one line, and another took a different line. Though it was difficult, if not impossible, to reconcile these, there was one thing they all agreed upon, and that was, that the Government have kept their pledges. Well, Sir, if the Government have kept their pledges, I think hon. gentlemen on this side, as well as on the other side, have learned within the last few days something which they failed to learn during the last three years. One hon.

gentleman on the other side would get up and state that he was a free trader, and yet the policy of the Government was suitable to him, because the Government turned their face in the direction of free trade, and consequently they kept their pledges. Another gentleman states that he was a protectionist, that the policy of the Government was perfectly satisfactory to him, and therefore the Government kept their pledges. Sir, the pledges that were made by the hon. gentlemen when in Opposition were very numerous indeed. They made promises and pledges from every platform in this country, as well as on the floor of this House. They made promises and pledges which were recorded in that memorable convention held by the Liberal party in 1893. Why, Sir, that platform was built up with pledges. Let me mention a few of the pledges that they made, and show how they have kept them. One pledge was purity of administration. They condemned corruption in every shape and form. A short time after they came into power we find the leader of the Government up in Brant at a by-election. The Government was very much afraid, there was danger of losing that constituency, as they had lost it at the general election. The leader of the Government speaking there, advised the electors to return a Government candidate, as it would be better for them to do so; if they did not return the Government candidate, they need expect nothing from the Government but cold justice. And still this was not corruption, this was only purity of Administration. An election was held a short time ago in Lévis, and we see the Minister of Public Works making promises in every direction. Those who supported his candidate were to be rewarded by getting public works and public improvements in the town or county—not for the purpose of corrupting the electorate at all, but only to purify the Administration. Later on there was an election in Nicolet. The leader of the Government and the Minister of Public Works both appeared on the scene and made promises. Railway subsidies were promised and other public improvements. A little later there was an election in West Huron. The Minister of Public Works found it necessary to go up there, and other members of the Government found it necessary to go up there. Promises were made, harbour improvements and other public works were started in the county of Huron. This had to be done to save the country, yet this was purity of Administration. An election was held in Wright County a year or so after the Government came into power, when it was found convenient to get men from the county of Wright to work on the Western Block. The workmen of the city of Ottawa had no vote over in Wright, and consequently it was necessary to get men from that side to work in Ottawa on the Western Block. In fact, so many men

were seen working there for a few days before the election that it was said they had been crowding each other out of the way. But on the day of the election these men all disappeared, and they were not seen there any more. Local elections were held in the province of Ontario in 1898. The leader of the Government, speaking at a public meeting held in the Russell Theatre, told the electors in the city of Ottawa that it was necessary to support the Liberal Government in Ontario because if it was defeated the Government on the hill would lose its right arm. The last week of the campaign this House had to be adjourned in order to give the Ontario supporters of the local government an opportunity to go up there and save the right arm of the right hon. gentleman. While that election was going on, the civil servants were warned that it was necessary for them to support the local government, otherwise it would be worse for them. Threats were made, and still this was purity of administration. Wellington Street down here being under the control of the Dominion Government, was the scene of great activity on the day before the election. Men were employed there in every direction, more men than were ever seen on the street before. It was even necessary that men should go into the square below the Parliament Buildings here the night before polling, and move snow from one place to another. Now, there is a vacancy in the constituency of Brockville. The hon. Minister of Public Works discovered all at once that it was necessary to put up a drill shed there. The people of Brockville were given to understand that they needed a drill shed, and the drill shed would be erected. Still hon. gentlemen opposite, when in Opposition condemned corruption in every shape and form and advocated purity of administration. At this convention a demand was made for the strictest economy. The increase of the public debt was alarming to them. But we find to-day that the gross debt of the Dominion of Canada, instead of being reduced, has increased between \$12,000,000 and \$13,000,000 during the two first years of their Administration, and we find the net debt increased between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000. To-day they are not alarmed at seeing the increase of the debt, and from what we can learn, there is no likelihood of any decrease in the expenditure or in the public debt. The Minister of Public Works, speaking at Valleyfield a short time ago, said: It is true the Government spent a good deal of money last year, but wait and see us next year. We shall have made more money, and we shall have spent more. This declaration came from a member of the party that were very much alarmed at the increase of the public debt and of the public expenditure during the Conservative Administration. The hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell), speaking last night, said that the Liberals while in

power did not condemn expenditure, not at all; what they condemned was extravagance. They did not condemn beneficial expenditure or expenditure where it was necessary; that was all right. Well, Sir, let me read the words of the resolution passed at this convention:

We cannot but view with alarm the large increase in the public debt and of the controllable annual expenditure of the Dominion, and the consequent undue taxation of the people under the Governments that have been continuously in power since 1878; and we demand the strictest economy in the administration of the Government of the country.

There is nothing said here in favour of beneficial expenditure. They condemn large expenditures in toto without discriminating between extravagance and necessary expenditure.

Another pledge made by hon. gentlemen while in Opposition was that lands should be for the settlers alone and not for the speculator. Last year we had an attempt at the most gigantic speculation and the most gigantic swindle that was ever sought to be perpetrated upon any country. Hon. gentlemen opposite went back on that pledge, as they have gone back on every other pledge that they have made. It was all very well, so long as the personal or political friends of hon. gentlemen opposite should get a good contract and be benefited by it. These gentlemen were going to get 4,000,000 acres of land to build a small piece of tramway 160 miles long from Glenora to Teslin Lake. It was not shown, to this House or to the country, that this tramway was going to be of any practical utility at all; it was not shown even that the route was practicable. The only provision made in the contract was that when this piece of tramway was built, the contractors, Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann, were to get 4,000,000 acres of the richest mineral lands in the whole Dominion. How were these gentlemen to select these lands? Were they to take the lands as they came? No. They had the privilege or option of selecting them in blocks, three miles square, at any time they should see fit within three or six years from the time of the completion of the contract. Hon. gentlemen say that they could not get the land until the road was built. No, they might not, but they had the right to pre-empt any part or the whole as soon as the contract was entered into. I am told, by a reliable authority, that these gentlemen had an offer of \$10 an acre for the whole 4,000,000 acres, which, at \$10 an acre, would make \$40,000,000, yet hon. gentlemen opposite maintained, while in Opposition, that they were going to introduce purity of administration, and that land would only be given to the settler, not to the speculator. I was sorry to hear the right hon. First Minister condemn the Senate for rejecting this Bill. He said it was a crime on the part of the Senate to reject it. I do not think the right hon. leader of the Government would appear upon any

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platform, before any intelligent audience in this country and say that the action of the Senate was a crime.

Another pledge made by hon. gentlemen opposite was that they would introduce free trade. Well, I do not know whether we have free trade or not yet. Some hon. gentlemen say we have; others say we have not and I do not know whom to believe. The hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell) said that this tariff was the handiwork of this Government. If it is the handiwork of the present Government, I suppose it is complete. The hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) says that he is a free trader, but as the Government turned their face towards free trade he was satisfied. The hon. Minister of the Interior says that the tariff is a dead issue, but he found that that remark gave offence to a certain portion of his constituents and therefore it was necessary for him to qualify it in some way. He said, afterwards, that what he meant was that it was a dead issue between the two parties, and that the Conservative party had come over to the Liberal side. "But," he said, "the citadel of protection must be stormed; we are going to destroy that citadel. We have been attacking it with pop-guns heretofore, but we are going to attack it, later on, with heavy artillery and destroy it completely." The Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) speaking down in New Brunswick, a short time ago, said that free trade was the goal at which the Government hoped to arrive before very long. The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), about the same time, speaking at Valleyfield, said that the tariff was settled. He told the manufacturers not to be alarmed at the threats made by the Liberal party to destroy protection. He said: "Trust me and you are all right." He said that the manufacturers did trust him, and he saw a great increase in the manufactures of that place. While the right hon. leader of the Government, himself, was preaching free trade, was denouncing the National Policy in all its moods and tenses, was characterising it as slavery and robbery, he felt that it was necessary to keep the manufacturers in line, and whatever he said in public against protection, yet it was prudent to have some secret understanding with the manufacturers that they were not to be afraid that the National Policy would be disturbed. We find that a short time after the present Government came into power, in fact almost immediately after, a firm in Toronto, Messrs. Gunn Bros & Co., writing to the right hon. leader of the Government, congratulating him upon his victory, as follows:

Dear Sir,—Allow us to congratulate you on your great victory. We will require a new version for the old statement, "A prophet is not without honour in his own country." In the last two elections we supported Conservative candidates on account of their trade policy. Pre-

vous to that we had been Liberals. During this campaign you were good enough to say that if your party was elected the trade policy would not be materially interfered with. We accepted this statement, and gave the Liberal candidates our support. We know there were many Liberals who left the ranks in former elections on the tariff issue, but returned to their "first love" on your assurance that there would not be much change made in the tariff.

You have a large field of good men to select your Cabinet from, and we believe your good judgment will enable you to secure the best without fear or favour.

Wishing you good health and every success in your endeavour to make Canada a great nation,

We are,  
Yours truly,  
D. GUNN BROS & CO.

That was a letter of congratulation sent to the right hon. leader of the Government upon his accession to power, and the tenor of that letter shows clearly what promise or encouragement the right hon. gentleman had given these parties before they supported the Liberal candidates. They said they supported formerly candidates representing protective principles, but they were assured that protection would not be interfered with, and, therefore, they supported the Liberal candidates. Yet in the face of all this hon. gentlemen tell us that they have kept their promises.

Another pre-election pledge made by hon. gentlemen opposite, while in Opposition, was that when they came to power, public contracts would only be let by public tender. They condemned the letting of public contracts without public tender. But, Sir, we find that, last year, when military supplies were required to the amount of some \$32,000 for the Yukon, a contract was given to the political and personal friends of the Government, without any public tender at all. But that was all right; times changed, everything changed, and what was a fault in the late Government is a virtue in the present Government. We find, also, that a dredging contract was given to Mr. Gauthier, at Coteau Landing, in the St. Lawrence River, involving an expenditure of \$21,000, without any public tender. Mr. Gauthier was not a public contractor at all; he was not a man who had any experience in doing work of this kind; he had no dredge, no appliances of any kind, but he got the work, simply because he was the friend or a near connection of the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), and it was discovered that it was necessary to give him this contract without public tender for fear that some others might tender below him. This gentleman never did any of this work. He farmed it out and he found that in a few months he had made sufficient profit out of the contract to enable him to take a trip to Europe, and to take with him the son of his benefactor. Another contract involving the expenditure of about \$20,000 or \$30,000—I think the whole expenditure made in Goderich harbour last season was about \$60,000—

went to a gentleman up there who is a newspaper man, who has no experience in work of this kind either. This gentleman, Dan McGillicuddy, is the editor of a newspaper. While in Opposition he was a true patriot; he devoted his whole time and attention to public affairs, to looking after the interests of the country, not his own interests, for he condemned corruption and maladministration on the part of the late Government. When a change of Government took place this gentleman discovered that, perhaps, it would be in the interest of the country that he should have some office from the Government. I do not know, that at that time he looked for any public contract, but he thought perhaps that an office from the Government to him would be in the best interests of the country. A postmastership in Goderich became vacant a short time after that, and he expressed his willingness to accept it.

However, he did not get it, and the fact of his not getting it gave such a shock to his patriotic constitution that he took kicking fits. He kicked so hard some times that the hon. member for that county, the late Mr. Cameron, who happened to come in his way got two or three hard kicks. Still, there was no danger apprehended while the Government was safe, although he did come in contact with the member for the county. Finally, this poor man's complaint got worse, and he began to give the Government some hard kicks, and therefore, it was deemed necessary that something should be done for him. A specialist in that complaint had to be sent to see him. The Minister of Public Works was sent up. The remedy he applied, namely, a fat contract, turned out to be effectual, and in a short time after this gentleman got completely over his kicking fits. There are numbers of other similar cases to which I may refer, but I will not weary the House by repeating them now.

Another promise that was made by the leader of the Government and by several other gentlemen opposite when they were in opposition was with regard to the plebiscite. That was a plank put in their platform at that memorable Liberal convention of 1893. Some hon. gentleman on the Liberal side of this House, particularly the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint)—whom I am glad to see now in his seat—were very ardent prohibitionists while the Conservative party was in power. That hon. gentleman (Mr. Flint) moved a resolution, year after year, to the effect that the country was ripe for prohibition. But when the Liberal party came into power, we never heard a resolution moved by that hon. gentleman in this House, and so far as I remember we have never since heard his voice raised in this Parliament in favour of prohibition. The hon. member for Burrard (Mr. Maxwell) told us last night, that the Government had fulfilled their plebiscite

pledge. He said that the Prime Minister promised a plebiscite, but never promised prohibition, and therefore, when the plebiscite was taken his promise was fulfilled. But the circumstances surrounding the promise of the Prime Minister are somewhat mysterious. After this plebiscite plank was put in the platform of the Liberal party, prohibitionists throughout the country were delighted. Delegation after delegation called upon the then leader of the Opposition, and congratulated him upon his courage, and upon his honesty, and manliness in putting this plank in his party platform. They said to him: Now, when you come into power we expect to get prohibition; and the right hon. gentleman would tell them always, that if he came into power a plebiscite would be taken, and if the people were in favour of prohibition they would get it. He told them that if it was found upon a plebiscite being taken, that the people were in favour of prohibition, this promise would be immediately implemented by legislation. Well, the Liberal party came into power in 1896. A session was held a short time after their Government was formed, but there was nothing said about the plebiscite, the excuse being that it was a short session and there was not time to introduce a Bill. The session of 1897 came on and the prohibitionists were getting restless; they expected from the Government that this promise would be carried out, and the Bill would be introduced. But the right hon. the leader of the Government at that time had to go to England to the Diamond Jubilee, and the excuse then given for further delay was that no plebiscite Bill could be introduced in the absence of the Premier. In 1898, the third session after they came into power, when every excuse was exhausted and no other possible excuse could be given for any longer delay, the long promised Plebiscite Bill had to be introduced.

That Plebiscite Bill was framed, and I am told that it was revised and re-revised. That Bill gave some hon. gentlemen opposite many a restless night and many a restless hour. But finally they did agree upon a skeleton of a Bill, which was presented to this House. That Bill simply provided for the taking of a plebiscite. It was silent as to what would follow in the event of a majority vote being cast in favour of prohibition. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) and the leader of the Government were questioned time and time again by the leader of the Opposition and the ex-Minister of Finance, as to what the Government proposed to do, if, upon taking a plebiscite, it was found that a majority vote was cast in favour of prohibition. They were just as vague and indefinite in their replies as they were in everything else. They said the will of the people would be carried out; but there was nothing said as to what was to constitute the will of the people. Well, Sir, after

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the vote was taken, prohibitionists felt that they were going to have prohibition. They felt that, a substantial majority having voted in favour of prohibition, a prohibitory Act would be introduced. At the time the vote on the plebiscite was about to be taken it was said by a great many individuals, some of whom were favourable to prohibition and some opposed to prohibition, that it was not the intention of the leader of the Government to introduce a prohibitory Act, no matter what the vote was, but that his whole intention was to deceive the temperance people, and, therefore, that their labour was all in vain. A gentleman belonging to Montreal, or to the Eastern Townships, Major Bond, an active prohibitionist, prepared a circular, which he distributed among the people during the campaign, a copy of which I hold in my hand. I propose to read a few selections from it to show how Major Bond regarded these statements, and how little attention he paid to them. It showed the confidence he had in the leader of the Government. In one part of his circular Major Bond says:

It is claimed that, even if the plebiscite be carried, the present Administration has no intention of giving effect to the vote by parliamentary action. It is difficult to conceive any greater insult to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Let us examine the facts.

The Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the Liberal party, who were then out of power, preparing for a general election, recognized among the electors an important body known as prohibitionists, and placed among the political measures upon which he was to appeal to the electors, the following proposition:—

Then, after reciting the prohibition resolution that was passed here at the Liberal convention of 1893, he goes on:

Furthermore, Sir Wilfrid Laurier has given, in connection with this proposed policy, repeated assurances, of which the following is the most notable:—In reply to a deputation of Winnipeg prohibitionists, Mr. Laurier is reported to have said: "He would pledge his honour that, as soon as the Liberals came into power at Ottawa, they would take a plebiscite of the Dominion, by which the party would stand, and the will of the people would be carried out, even were it to cost power for ever to the Liberal party."

The Liberal party was duly elected, and the Hon. Mr. Laurier made Premier. Up to the present he has literally fulfilled his promises, and the plebiscite unhampered is before the people. If the electors of Canada now show that they want prohibition, is it even decent to assert that this gentleman of untarnished reputation would stoop to the position of a petty-fogging politician and virtually say:

"It is true I promised an Act, it is true I had an estimate of \$250,000 passed, and have expended the same on the plebiscite, but it was only to hoodwink you—I have changed my mind; I think we had better go on as we are."

Does any sane man think this possible of Sir Wilfrid Laurier? Does any one believe that, assuming such a position were possible, the Hon. Sydney Fisher would remain in the Cabinet one day after such a decision had been announced?

Well, Mr. Speaker, if the gallant Major is of the same opinion to-day as he was at the time he prepared this circular, I think he will have great difficulty in finding many sane people in the Dominion of Canada.

The right hon. leader of the Government stated in this House, in his reply to the leader of the Opposition, that there was an implied agreement between the prohibitionists and those against prohibition, at the time this plank was put in the platform. that, unless a majority of the electorate of the Dominion declared themselves in favour of prohibition, no prohibitory Act would be introduced. This was the first intimation this House or the country had of any such agreement. A short time after the plebiscite was taken—I think it was about the first week in November—a delegation of prohibitionists called upon the leader of the Government, and asked him, if he intended now to implement his promise with legislation, say that a substantial majority had declared themselves in favour of prohibition. What did the hon. gentleman tell that delegation? He told them that he was very much impressed indeed with the manner in which they presented their case, that he would lay the matter before his Council, and that he would communicate their decision later on to Mr. Spence, the secretary. Now, Sir, if there was an implied agreement, as the Prime Minister stated, why did he not say to those prohibitionists at that time: "Gentlemen, I regret very much that I am unable to give you any prohibitory law, because there is an implied agreement between the prohibitionists and the anti-prohibitionists who attended the convention, that, unless a majority of the electorate of the Dominion declared by their vote in favour of prohibition, no prohibitory law would be enacted." If the right hon. gentleman had treated them courteously, or with common fairness, his duty was to have told those people that he could not give them a prohibitory law. But, Sir, instead of that, he wanted to humbug them a little more. He wanted to gain still further time. It seems perfectly clear, that the hon. gentleman had his mind made up at that time as to what he would do; but it is equally clear, that he had not decided what course he would adopt, and, therefore, that time was necessary for him to consider what further means he could devise to hoodwink them most effectually.

Now, if this agreement did exist, I think that the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) is placed in a very unpleasant position indeed, and I am sorry to see he is not in his seat to-night. I do not wish to reflect upon his conduct or impute improper motives to him at all, but I think that the facts of the case, the action of the Minister of Agriculture towards the prohibitionists in this question have been such as to require some satisfactory explanation at his hands. Why, if this agreement did take

place, was it not his duty to have told the prohibitionists at the time the plebiscite was being taken: "It is not sufficient for you to get a majority of the votes cast, but you must get a majority of the total registered vote of the Dominion." He did not do this. He got honest men and women involved into a contest, involving expense, loss of time and worry; a contest which he must have been satisfied would result in no benefit to the cause of prohibition. You know very well, Sir, that a contest of any kind is not conducive to good feeling between the opposing parties, but on the contrary is calculated to create friction and hostilities between them. Well, the hon. gentleman took the stump, he took a very active part in the prohibition campaign, he canvassed apparently with great sincerity, but notwithstanding all that, if he knew of this agreement and kept it in the dark, he was treating prohibitionists with great injustice. But it was not the prohibitionists alone who were put to this trouble and expense. Those opposing prohibition also entered into the contest, too, and spent money and time to no purpose, they, too, were deceived. The whole country was deceived. Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars of the people's money was spent for the purpose of deceiving prohibitionists, and for that alone. On the other hand, if there were no agreement, then what opinion must the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) have of his leader, who stated on the floor of this House that such an agreement did exist. I think that the prohibitionists throughout the country will require a more satisfactory explanation from the leader of the Government and from the Minister of Agriculture as well than has yet been given, before they will be satisfied with the course of the Government as to their honesty and sincerity in this matter. The right hon. leader of the Government, in announcing his decision, said that he could not give prohibition because the majority of the vote was too small. The total vote cast for prohibition being something less than 23 per cent. Well, if we are to accept that argument, why the present Government themselves are not properly holding power in this country. They did not get a majority of the votes on the electoral lists. Not only that, Sir, but they did not get a majority of the vote cast. They are holding power to-day, by not only a minority of the electors on the lists, but a minority of the vote cast. Prohibitionists, after the election was over, naturally expected that a prohibitory law would be introduced. They relied upon this because under our system of Government, municipal, local, Dominion or otherwise, a majority of the vote cast decides the question at issue; a majority of the total vote on the registered list is not required, and, therefore, they would naturally expect that if a majority of the vote cast was in favour of prohibition, that such was

sufficient to entitle them to a prohibitory law, that is in the absence of any expressed declaration to the contrary.

Another promise made by hon. gentlemen opposite when they were in opposition was that they would give this country reciprocity with the United States. Hon. gentlemen opposite declared from their seats in this House, time and again, and also from the public platform, that the only salvation of the country was reciprocity with the United States. They charged the late Government with gross negligence in not obtaining such. Why, they said: "Let us into power, and we will obtain reciprocity. It is not only not possible, but quite easy. We have the promise of the Government of the United States that when we come into power reciprocity will be granted. This promise was made, time and again, by some hon. gentlemen opposite. We find that in 1890, I think the present Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) and the right hon. leader of the Government were down in St. John, N.B., and there spoke of reciprocity. They told the people that it was easy to get reciprocity. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries is reported in the St. John "Telegraph"—the leading Liberal organ in the province of New Brunswick, as having said:

Mr. Davies said Mr. Foster had stated that the time had come when we might cease to hope for trade concessions in the United States; and if there were a fool in this audience who was prepared to accept such a statement, Mr. Davies said it was useless for him to listen longer to what he was saying. On the other side, the Liberal party said: There was no such thing as despair.

I think the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) and some other gentlemen opposite have discovered that there is such a word as "despair" in their vocabulary, and I think they frequently used that word, with other strange words when the blizzard struck them on their return from Washington. Some time after this meeting in St. John the Conservative Government, then in power, sent delegates to Washington to endeavour to get a treaty with the United States. They failed. But when we look at the difficulties they had to contend with we cannot wonder that they failed. The feeling between the two countries at that time was of a most unfriendly character. The American Government treated our delegates by times with scant courtesy. In addition to that, every time an effort was being made by the Conservative Government to obtain a trade treaty with the United States, it was found convenient for some hon. gentleman opposite to make speeches both in the United States and in this country which tended to mar the success of negotiations then being carried on. I had one or two extracts from such speeches which, I am sorry to say, I have mislaid. But I can give the substance of them. At

Mr. McALISTER.

this meeting in St. John the Minister of Marine and Fisheries reflected very severely upon the conduct of Canada and England towards the United States during the late war. The right hon. leader of the Government, speaking in Boston, used much stronger language. He said there that the conduct of England towards the United States during the civil war was unfriendly and unfair, and he, as a British subject, condemned that action. We find the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) on one of these occasions speaking on unrestricted reciprocity, said: "If we discriminate against Great Britain we have the right to discriminate; we owe Great Britain nothing but charity for her atrocious blundering against our interests; there never was a time when Canada could not have bettered her position by joining the United States." And the leader of the Government, speaking at Valleyfield a short time before the general election of 1896, said:

We will get a treaty with the United States if we can, and if England objects we will consider her objection. Let Lord Salisbury take care of the interests of England and we will take care of the interests of Canada.

These were the utterances of hon. gentlemen opposite when an honest effort was being made by the late Government to get a reciprocity treaty with the United States. In the face of all this, is it any wonder I ask that the late Government failed to obtain reciprocity with the United States? We find that hon. gentlemen opposite failed at a time when the prospects of obtaining reciprocity never were so good in the history of the two countries. When the delegates of the Conservative Government returned from Washington and met Parliament after the negotiations of 1892, they laid everything before the House with a report of all proceedings. They did not obtain an adjournment in order to give them an opportunity to keep their mouths closed or to conceal anything that took place. But what did we find? Some hon. gentlemen then in Opposition, but now in power, condemned their action, and accused them of insincerity in their efforts to obtain a reciprocity treaty. Why, Sir, one gentleman said they were in the hands of the manufacturers, their masters, these scoundrels great and scoundrels small, controlled the Government, that the Government dared not do anything that was contrary to their interests. After the delegates returned, when the discussion took place in the House, some hon. gentlemen even accused them of falsifying the record and making false statements as to what had taken place at that convention. At the risk of wearying the House I will read a statement of the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries. I do not imagine that it will be edifying to the House, as hon. gentlemen have heard it before. But it seems to me that hon. gentlemen opposite since they have gained places on the Treasury benches, are

sorely afflicted with loss of memory, and I wish to remind them of their utterances while in Opposition :

Does any one suppose that our natural products alone could be a basis of an interchange between us and the United States? The thing is ridiculous. If we are honest and sincere in the desire to renew our trade relations with the United States we must give and take. We must certainly include manufactures in any such treaty, as everybody is aware except the hon. gentleman, although I believe he wilfully misrepresents the policy of unrestricted reciprocity when he stated that the revenue we would lose offered an insuperable obstacle to its adoption. This result can be obtained by those whose hearts are in the business. We do not talk in regard to this matter without some knowledge of the views of the gentlemen across the line. Their conversations have not been limited to those which they have had with hon. gentlemen who have gone to Washington. We have the opinions expressed by their statesmen in Congress, we have their opinions expressed in the press, and many of us have had the privilege of conversing with many of their leading men.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. DAVIES. I suppose by the cheers of hon. gentlemen opposite, that is considered a crime, and that those hon. gentlemen would not discuss any of these questions with leading men in the United States if they met them. I have discussed these questions with them, and I have not found one of them who is not amenable to reason. I have found a disposition on their part to negotiate with us on fair and honest lines. I have not found that any of those objections that the Finance Minister considers insuperable have come from them. They certainly did not come from Mr. Blaine, but they were suggested by the hon. gentleman and his colleagues with the desire to damn this policy in this country and to make it impossible to be carried out. In fact, the hon. gentleman was not there in the interests of the people of Canada, but was there in the interests of his masters, the manufacturers. He durst not attempt to negotiate a treaty which was contrary to their interests, but he might have stated to Mr. Blaine: We are representing, primarily, the manufacturing industries, we will subordinate to them, as we have in Canada the farming, mining and fishing industries, and if we cannot negotiate a treaty in favour of the manufacturing industries, we cannot negotiate one at all. If he had done that, no doubt he would have failed, as he has done, in negotiating a treaty, but he would have saved his consistency, and he would have saved us the humiliating spectacle that Canada has presented, of Ministers going to Washington in March and coming back after a few minutes' interview, and going again in October, and coming back with their thumbs in their mouths and saying that no treaty could be negotiated with the United States. I say that the spectacle presented is the most humiliating that could be exhibited in this or any other colony. I warn this House that there never has been an act of the Government of Canada so calculated to promote disloyal sentiments in this country as the step which the hon. gentleman has taken. If he satisfies the people of this country that his statement is true, if he convinces the people of the maritime provinces that the door is closed, and that while they retain their political autonomy they need never hope again to negotiate a reciprocity treaty with the United States by which their products can go into that country, he will have done more to promote an annexation

sentiment in this country than anything which has before taken place. But, Sir, I thank God, that in my belief, at least, his statement is not true. I believe that this dishonest negotiation which has gone through with, was understood by Mr. Blaine as well as it was understood by the people of this House. Sir, the record of the hon. gentleman and his party was known at Washington before he ever left Ottawa. It was known that he did not intend to negotiate a treaty upon a basis that would be accepted by the Washington Government, and that he had proclaimed the fact from his place in the House time and time again. It was known that he held power by virtue of a compact with the manufacturers, that he was to protect their interests, that those interests must be paramount, and that no treaty should be negotiated with a man holding that position. Sir, we do not hold that the door is closed. We have good reason to know better, not only from the official statements made in Congress, not only from the articles in the newspapers, not only from the constant flow of our people back and forth from the United States, but by conversations which we, individually, have had, and, I speak for myself, which I, individually, have had with a large number of leading statesmen from the United States, all which facts cause me to believe that it is quite possible for an honest man, who goes there with a sincere desire to promote a fair treaty, to negotiate one in a very short time.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce also spoke on the question at the same time, and, in the course of his remarks, he said, speaking of the ex-Minister of Finance :

The hon. gentleman and his friends knew perfectly well that the United States would insist, and they have a perfect right to insist, that if they extend the hand of good-fellowship to us, if they give us this great privilege, as a great privilege it would be, we on our part should have sufficient decency and self-respect not to turn Canada into a smuggling base to the detriment of the United States. Now, Sir, I will tell the hon. gentleman that, for my part, I think he has misunderstood and seriously misinterpreted what has passed. Possibly we may be in a position to judge of that before we are much older. I have no doubt that the United States Government, or their representatives, would insist on the two things I have enumerated: first of all, that the reciprocity should be genuine, one under which they would obtain advantages as well as give them; and, secondly, that we should take care that Canada should not be a smuggling base. Beyond that, for my part, notwithstanding the statement of the hon. gentleman, I have very grave fear that he most seriously misrepresented the whole nature of the conference. And I have no doubt at all about this, Sir, that any Canadian delegation that goes down there with a clearer and more honourable record than these hon. gentlemen are able to bring, any Canadian delegation that are able to say to the United States: "While we desire to retain our own autonomy, we are honestly and sincerely desirous of living on friendly terms with you and giving you something in exchange for what you give us," will not find any insuperable difficulty in obtaining reciprocity with the United States.

Mr. WALLACE. Farrer, for instance.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I have no doubt that he would make an infinitely better negotiator than any or all of the gentlemen who went there. Now, Sir, I am glad for one that the hon. gentlemen have shown their hand at last. All through

this controversy we have been hampered and entangled by the assertions made by their followers, if not by themselves, that they were most earnestly desirous of negotiating a reciprocity treaty. Sir, no man now can pretend that they either desire or hope to obtain reciprocity with the United States. It is perfectly plain and clear, that so far as these men are concerned, all hope has departed. They cannot, they will not—I do not believe, Sir, that they ever had the desire or the power to negotiate a reciprocity treaty on any terms that would be acceptable—because, Sir, I know who stands behind the throne, I know who control this Government.

Mr. Speaker, I say, that with such statements before the United States Government and people, it would have been very difficult indeed for the late Government, if not absolutely impossible, to obtain a reciprocity treaty with the United States, no matter what the feeling between the two countries may have been. Now, hon. gentlemen opposite have had an opportunity to see what honest men, men who sincerely desired to obtain a reciprocity treaty, could do. They went away to the United States with a great flourish of trumpets; they went away buoyed up with high hopes of success; they went away with the expectation of returning with a reciprocity treaty with the United States, and of being able to say to the Conservative party: "See what we have" obtained, and see what you failed to do. Is it any wonder, then, that when a reference was made by the leader of the Opposition to the failure of the joint high commission, he touched hon. gentlemen in a tender spot? Is it any wonder that they were humiliated, and that they returned from the United States to Canada, to use the expression of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, "with their thumbs in their mouths"?

The right hon. First Minister says that they find now Canada does not want reciprocity; they find that Canada can get along now without the United States; that we have cold storage, and that we are in a better position to get along without any trade relations with the United States than ever we were before. The credit for having introduced this cold storage is claimed by hon. gentlemen opposite, but, as the ex-Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Montague) said last night, this system of cold storage was introduced by the late Government, and the gentleman who deserves the most credit for it is Professor Robertson, who holds the same position today that he did then, and whatever success has attended cold storage, has been largely due to that gentleman. I remember that, when the cold storage system was mentioned in this House by the late Government before it was introduced, it was sneered at by hon. gentlemen opposite, as they sneered at every progressive measure introduced by the late Government. While the right hon. leader of the Government says that he has discovered now that the country does not want reciprocity, the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) ad-

mits that reciprocity with the United States would be of great benefit to this country. At the outset he lays the blame of the failure largely upon the Conservative party. He says that it was their fault that the joint high commission did not succeed, but he did not tell the House, or the country, in what way the Conservative party were to blame for it. Later on, he lays the whole blame of the failure upon the form of Government in the United States. He says that, if the United States had the same form of government as we have in Canada, it would not only be possible, but easy, to obtain some satisfactory treaty with the United States. He says that this abominable Senate of the United States requires two-thirds majority vote before any treaty, agreed upon between the respective delegates and submitted to the Senate, can be passed, and he lays the whole blame for the failure upon the iniquitous form of government which exists in the United States. Well, Sir, I think, judging from this, that we may expect that the negotiations for a treaty are at an end. If the form of government in the United States is the real cause of this failure, there is no prospect whatever of a change of government taking place in the United States, at least in the near future. We have not heard of the state legislatures in the United States passing or introducing any legislation for Senate reform since our commissioners returned; we have no evidence that the President of the United States has expressed any dissatisfaction with the constitution of the Senate of the United States; and, this being the case, I think we may consider all negotiations for reciprocity with the United States at an end. The adjournment may have been very convenient for hon. gentlemen opposite. It gave them an opportunity of keeping their mouths closed, because, as the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce says: "The matter is sub judice, and we returned to Canada with our mouths closed." It may be very convenient indeed for these hon. gentlemen to keep their mouths closed. Possibly, they intend to keep them closed until an appeal is made to the country, and another election held. Then they will be compelled to open their mouths and tell us what took place at that conference, just as the right hon. First Minister was obliged, in the end, to state to the temperance body what the decision of the Government was on the prohibition question. Hon. gentlemen opposite have frequently reminded us of the prosperity that prevails throughout the length and breadth of Canada. We on this side are as much rejoiced at the prosperity of Canada as they are, and I hope that prosperity will long continue, whether gentlemen opposite are in power or not. But, Sir, there were times before when the country was as prosperous as it is now, but then the Liberals sang a different song. There were periods of prosperity between

1878 and 1896, but the Liberals would not see it. On the contrary, they said the country was going to ruin, that farm property was depreciating from ten to sixty per cent in value, and that nothing but bankruptcy stared us in the face. They decried the country in this way, even though at the opening of every session of the local legislatures, controlled for the most part by their political party, the Speech from the Throne referred to the prosperity prevailing. The Liberal press throughout Canada told the people that the Conservative party were driving the country into bankruptcy, that our taxes were getting higher, that our people were leaving the country. Blue ruin was preached from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Sir, there are periods of depression in the history of every country as well as periods of prosperity, and we know that the greatest depression that ever visited Canada was between the years 1874 and 1878 when the Liberals were in power. Strange to say, they then disclaimed all responsibility for the depression, and when those representing the industries of the country waited on the Government controlled by the same hon. gentlemen asking for some measure to relieve the want that prevailed, would tell them that the Government were but flies on the wheel and could do nothing to relieve the want. Now, Sir, they have another cry, they claim credit for the prosperity which exists. When in Opposition they denounced the National Policy as a curse to the country, but that same National Policy is in force to-day, and hon. gentlemen opposite claim that the prosperity is due to them. They brought prosperity with a magic wand. Let me tell them that one cause of our present prosperity is that there is no longer an Opposition in this country to decry it and preach blue ruin. Why, Sir, from 1878 to 1896 you could not take up a Liberal newspaper that did not display in black headlines: "The country going to ruin." "Our young men leaving for the United States." These hon. gentlemen and their press declared that the United States was a better country to live in than Canada, and no one could cross the border on business or pleasure but he was not set down as leaving the country. I remember on one occasion the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) taking up the greater part of a day in trying to prove that the American farmer was more prosperous than the Canadian farmer, and yet this very hon. gentleman was one of the delegation selected as one of the joint High Commission. Surely the Government must have known that the United States Government would treasure up all the utterances of these very gentlemen while in Opposition, and that when they asked for a fair measure of reciprocity they would be confronted with their own statements. They knew that the United States representatives naturally would ask the Canadian commissioners if they were honest in their statements, then if they were,

then it was no benefit to them to trade with a country that was so poor as Canada was described to be; and on the contrary, if they were dishonest in their statements, then the Americans had no guarantee that they would be honest in any treaty they made with them. Why, Sir, when in 1893 a great wave of depression swept over the United States and other countries, it was the wonder of the world that Canada was making progress, felt so little depression, the depression then existing. When any hon. member of the Conservative party referred then to the depression existing in other countries, they were chastised by the hon. gentlemen opposite for daring to say that other countries were not as prosperous as Canada, and when they referred to the prosperity of Canada, they were equally denounced. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) was in these days not satisfied with preaching blue ruin in Canada, but he felt obliged to carry his unpatriotic crusade abroad by writing letters to the press of Great Britain. There is no doubt that when depression does exist in a country it creates dissatisfaction, and the people naturally look for the cause of it. When they see the Government blamed day after day for this depression they doubtless would think that the Government was responsible to a certain extent, and believe that a change of Government was necessary. Writing to the London "Economist" in 1892, at a period when every one knew the country was prosperous, the Minister of Trade and Commerce wrote as follows, and for fear of wearying the House, I shall content myself with merely giving extracts from that article. He wrote:

But it is not quite equally well known on your side of the Atlantic that it has become painfully apparent for some time back, to every one who has taken pains to examine the evidence which has accumulated upon the subject, that, even in that comparatively short space of time, this most ill-advised policy has resulted in a tremendous exodus of the very choicest portion of the population of Canada, and in a very grave depreciation in the selling values of farm lands and of town and village property throughout all the older sections of the Dominion, including Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

This has been accompanied, as is usual in such cases, by an immense increase in the aggregate indebtedness of the Dominion in the shape of large additions to its federal, provincial and municipal debts, and also the mortgage debts incurred for the construction of railroads—by far incurred by private individuals and liabilities the greater part of all which obligations are held abroad.

Briefly, in these thirteen years there has been a great displacement in wealth, caused mainly by artificial legislation, but (as regards the older provinces) absolutely no increase at all of the collective wealth of the community. Two or three cities, and perhaps a score of towns, have increased considerably, and a few hundred individuals (who have been privileged to tax their fellows for their private advantage) have grown rich by this system of legalized robbery; but the great mass of the population, and notably the agricultural class, are distinctly poorer and less

prosperous than they were twelve years ago.

As to the amount of taxation, the agricultural class have been simply bled white.

It would be well if this were all, but unfortunately, the economic results of the protective system adopted by Canada in 1879, grievous as they are, fade almost into insignificance compared with the moral and political pollution it has brought in its train.

In the second place, by making it the direct personal interest of a considerable number of active business men, many of whom are wealthy and all of whom have the control of large sums of money, to support a Government which gives them a free hand to tax the rest of the community for their special benefit, you lay broad and deep the foundations of a colossal system of organized corruption, in the face of which honest Government becomes an impossibility.

In such a case bribery becomes a pure matter of business routine.

The Government gives the protected manufacturers the power to tax the people for business purposes of their own, and the protected manufacturers in turn, whenever called upon, assess themselves in whatever amounts the Government require in order to enable it to carry on the elections.

The thing is done openly and shamelessly by both parties to the transaction. Prior to the general elections of 1882, 1887, and 1891, Sir John Macdonald and his colleagues deliberately called the protected manufacturers together, and demanded and obtained from them such sums as they deemed necessary for the purpose of debauching the electorate, pledging themselves in return not to alter the tariff to the detriment of the said contributors, which contract was faithfully carried out and impudently avowed.

Still further on, he says :

But, in truth, the question between the two Canadian parties is in reality an economic one, and in the long run resolves into this : Shall Canada be governed for the people of Canada, or for the profit of a few hundred protected manufacturers, backed by a subsidized press and a purchased majority in the legislature ?

To talk of loyalty in such a connection is little short of political blasphemy, and I can only express my surprise that such a shallow subterfuge should have obtained even a momentary credence in the mind of any Englishman of even average intelligence.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what object could the hon. gentleman have in having such a letter as this published abroad ? Was it not to injure this country in the eyes of the world, and particularly in the eyes of financiers in England ? He knew well that about that time a loan was likely to be applied for. Was that letter published in the interest of the taxpayers of this country ? Was it published in the interest of the agriculturists, who he said were bled white ? No ! If loans could not be floated on favourable terms, if our credit were depreciated in the money markets of England, I am very much afraid that the Minister of Trade and Commerce, in the spirit of mind in which he was at that time, would not have been very much disappointed. And yet in face of all this,

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that hon. gentleman has the audacity to stand up in this House and accuse the leader of the Opposition of having violated his oath as a Privy Councillor. I say if the hon. gentleman did not violate his oath as a Privy Councillor when he wrote that letter, we have yet to learn the proper definition of that term.

Now, Mr. Speaker, just one remark more and I am done. We have heard a good deal said by hon. gentlemen opposite, time and again, about race and creed prejudices and passions. I am very sorry indeed to hear such subjects mentioned in this House and in the country. The hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), in speaking the other night, referred to the Manitoba school question, and accused the Opposition when in power of endeavouring to raise religious cries throughout the country ? I fail to see, Mr. Speaker, how they did it in connection with the Manitoba school question ; and I observe that when that question is mentioned by an hon. gentleman in this House, it gives hon. gentlemen opposite great pain. When the hon. member for Guysborough the other night referred to it in a way which I say was not honest, hon. gentlemen opposite applauded. The right hon. leader of the Government himself refers very often to race and creed prejudices and passions. He expresses great regret that such should be raised ; but he never mentions the persons who do it. I say that "La Patrie," the organ of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) has done more to stir up religious strife in this country than any other organ in the whole Dominion ; and, so far as I have seen, the right hon. leader of the Government has neither condemned nor disapproved of such utterances. The Minister of Public Works the other night, in the course of his remarks, said that certain Conservative newspapers had declared that Sir Wilfrid Laurier should not be Premier of Canada because he is a Frenchman and a Catholic. All I can say is that I never saw or heard of it before. I would be very sorry to think that such was the case. I would be very sorry that any person in the whole Dominion would give expression to such sentiments or hold such views. This great Dominion is composed of people of all creeds and nationalities, who enjoy equal rights and privileges. No man can claim the highest or any position in the gift of the country simply because he happens to belong to a certain creed or a certain nationality. Neither does the fact of his belonging to such stand in the way of his attaining to such a position. Sir, it is the duty of every citizen of Canada to frown upon anything that may arouse religious strife in the country. It is their duty to do all that in them lies, not only to stamp out anything and everything which may tend to turn race against race and creed against creed, but to promote that unity, that harmony, and fraternal spirit which should characterize a free people.

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS** (Mr. Paterson) moved the adjournment of the debate.

### REPORTS.

Report of the Department of Marine for the year ending 30th June, 1898.—The **Minister of Marine and Fisheries** (Sir Louis Davies).

Partial Report of the Auditor General for the year ending 30th June, 1898.—The **Minister of Finance** (Mr. Fielding).

**Mr. FOSTER.** May I ask my hon. friend what proportion that is of the whole report?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE.** The document has just been handed to me, and I know that my hon. friend's desire is so great to see it that I have not had an opportunity to examine it. But there is a very goodly supply there.

**Mr. FOSTER.** I hope my hon. friend will convey the information gently to the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) as soon as possible.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 12.10 (midnight).

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 10th April, 1899.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

### PRAYERS.

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 42) respecting the Portage du Fort and Bristol Branch Railway Company.—(Mr. Poupore.)

Bill (No. 43) respecting the Canada Southern Railway Company.—(Mr. Ingram.)

Bill (No. 44) to incorporate the Alaska and North-western Railway Company.—(Mr. Sproule.)

Bill (No. 45) to incorporate the St. Clair and Erie Ship Canal Company.—(Mr. Sproule.)

Bill (No. 46) to incorporate the Arthabaska Railway Company.—(Mr. Lavergne.)

Bill (No. 47) respecting the Brandon and South-western Railway Company.—(Mr. Morrison.)

Bill (No. 48) to impose certain restrictions on immigration.—(Mr. McInnes.)

Bill (No. 49) to amend the Chinese Immigration Act.—(Mr. Maxwell.)

### DISTRIBUTION OF POLITICAL SPEECHES.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER** (Cape Breton). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, seeing the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) in his place, I would like to say that I am informed that large parcels of speeches, rather, I should say, of the speech delivered by the right hon. the First Minister, are being sent to the postmasters with instructions to deliver them where they think they will do the most good. I may just say that I have no objection to that speech being circulated as widely as possible, but I do not think the postmasters are the proper people to perform that work.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). I quite agree with the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) that the postmasters are not the proper persons to distribute political speeches. I am not aware of any speeches being sent to them with any such instructions. I am quite satisfied that no such circumstance has happened as my hon. friend has referred to.

**Mr. LANDERKIN.** The old things have passed away.

### THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I desire to call the attention of the House, and particularly that of the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) to a question which he brought the other day to the attention of the House. The hon. gentleman called the attention of the Government to a paragraph which was then largely circulated in the press to the effect that the American authorities had asked for a provisional delimitation of the boundary between Alaska and Canada. I now must qualify the statement that I made at that time; I must say to the House and to the hon. gentleman that a proposition has been made in that direction and an answer given, but unfortunately the negotiations are not so far advanced that I can lay the papers before the House.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** I am very much obliged to the right hon. leader of the House for the information he has given, and I would like to call his attention, at this moment—because it may at a later period not be practicable—to the question as to whether, pending the delimitation that would take place, a fixed regulation should not be made that would ensure the greatest possible facilities in bonding across the country, either inward or outward. I merely draw the attention of the right hon. gentleman to this matter because it is possible that a suggestion of that kind may

be open now, when it could not be done later.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. J. DOMVILLE (King's, N. B.) Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to draw your attention to the following paragraph, published in the "Mail and Empire" on Friday, the 7th of April, as follows:—

Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper told Parliament of the charges made against Major Walsh, and the major has replied to them strongly and forcibly, as he had the right to do. But it must not be supposed that Sir Hibbert was the first member of Parliament to mention these accusations, which the major pronounces unwarranted. The first assailant of Major Walsh, the originator of the accusations, was Lieutenant-Colonel Domville, M.P., Mr. Sifton's supporter from King's, N.B. Lieutenant-Colonel Domville was at Dawson last fall, and while there was interviewed. It was through this interview, given to a Seattle paper, that the attack upon Major Walsh was made. If Mr. Domville has a charge to prefer against Major Walsh, why does he not, as a member of Parliament, make it in Parliament, instead of spreading it before the country in newspaper interviews?

I desire to say, Mr. Speaker, that any interviews purporting to come from me I officially denied when I arrived from Dawson. I made no charges against Major Walsh; all I said, in the newspapers, was that if there were any accusations, it would be time enough to pronounce an opinion upon them, after an investigation might be held, if these charges were found correct. I now take the opportunity of saying that whoever charged Major Walsh with being drunk or with drinking was a base slanderer.

#### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell (East Prince) for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention, in rising to address the House upon this occasion, to go over all the points that have been discussed, but I shall confine myself, more particularly, to just one subject. I recognize the fact that many, if not all of the subjects, that have been touched upon, will be up for consideration at what I may term a more convenient season, that is when they will be specially and individually before the House and will be discussed upon their merits. I therefore will not attempt to deal with the criticisms of those gentlemen who alluded to the finances of the country. We hope to have the pleasure, before many days, of hearing the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) state clearly,

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correctly and concisely the healthy state in which the finances of this country are. I have no doubt that members of this House will be able to possess their souls in patience for a few days before they learn what, I have no doubt, many of them know already, perhaps all of them know already, that never perhaps in the history of Canada was its financial position in such a condition as it is to-day. That will, no doubt, be pleasing to hon. gentlemen opposite, who have thought that this Government have been somewhat reckless in its expenditure, and that they have not decreased the taxation as they should have done. I repeat, that it will, no doubt, be pleasing to them, and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) will be able to assure them, that he has met all the liabilities incurred on consolidated fund account during the past year, and has had about one and three-quarters millions dollars of a surplus. I suppose it will be still more interesting to hon. gentlemen opposite, when the Minister of Finance points out, as he perhaps may, that there is a possibility, if not a probability, that he may have double that amount of surplus next year.

I shall not, Mr. Speaker, allude to the question of the Yukon administration which has been brought into this debate. We have heard the charges made, and we have heard the answer of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) whose department was more particularly attacked. So far as that is concerned, the people have taken cognizance of it, and I judge from the newspapers, that the further attention of the House is to be specially drawn to that subject, so that, consequently, I need not deal with it now. So with reference to the plebiscite, so with reference to the Redistribution Bill, so with reference to the Senate, all of which have been discussed in this debate; measures will be introduced, these subjects will be brought up separately, and they will receive the attention of members of the House then. I do not know that I would have spoken at all at this time, were it not for the fact that my attention has been called to an article written with reference to the speech of the ex-Controller of Customs (Mr. Wallace), an article which appeared in a Toronto paper. That article was copied into one of the Ottawa city papers from the Toronto "Telegram," of which the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Robertson) is the editor and proprietor, I believe. That gentleman is an independent member of this House; he is not one of those who are tied to the Tory chariot wheels—at least, he tells us he is not—and so I find, from this article, that he is fully convinced that the speech referred to has proven that the Government were guilty of a fraud, not merely upon the people of Canada, but also upon the people of England. The language used by the newspaper of the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Robertson) is:

One of the strong points in the record of the Laurier Government is its so-called preferential tariff in favour of British goods. The Government was pretty nearly deprived of this strength by the unanswered speech of N. Clark Wallace. Silence was the Government's only answer to Mr. Wallace's contention, that the whole Fielding tariff was a juggle, which could not but work out to the disadvantage of British products and to the advantage of United States products. Facts and figures supported Mr. Wallace at every point where he insisted that the Fielding tariff had raised the old National Policy duty on British products, so that the preferential reduction of 25 per cent brought the rates down very little or not at all below the level of the old National Policy tariff on British goods. And Mr. Wallace showed that every change in the Fielding tariff affecting United States products gave a real advantage to our neighbours across the line. Altogether Mr. Wallace's was the most damaging attack which has yet been made on the supposedly strong point in the Laurier tariff policy, and the country can only infer that Mr. Wallace's exposure of the preference as a hollow sham was unanswered because it was unanswerable.

That is the opinion, expressed through his newspaper, of an hon. member of this House who claims to be an independent member. It would not have surprised me, if I had found those sentiments written in one of the avowedly Tory organs, but I must confess, that until I read that article, I had not supposed that those who had examined the matter in the light of facts—as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Robertson) informs us he did—would have considered that speech at all unanswerable, but would rather have thought, as it struck me at the time—and as it struck, I think, every hon. member of this House who gave it consideration—would rather have thought, that the deductions drawn by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) from the figures, were not deductions that could fairly be drawn, and that the proper conclusion to be derived lay in the very opposite direction. Sir, I intend to confine myself exclusively to discussing this tariff question, and I am bound to say it is difficult to argue and debate the subject with our Conservative friends opposite. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that you, sitting in the Chair, taking no part in the debate, and listening to the arguments that are being advanced, as you see gentleman after gentleman on the other side of the House rise and make their speeches on the tariff—I feel, Sir, that you must be struck with amazement at the contradictory positions these gentlemen assume—I do not say, contradictory one from the other, but contradictory in the very utterances of the gentleman who for the time being has the floor. It cannot have failed to have occurred to you, Sir, that, from the leader of the Opposition down, these gentlemen opposite have invariably contradicted themselves in the most flagrant manner. Their attention has been called to the prosperity which is upon the country now—that prosperity of which the leader of the Government spoke, while he was yet leader of the Opposition, when he ventured to sug-

gest, if not to prophesy, in the city of Toronto, that while it might be necessary for the Conservatives at that time to endeavour to prove prosperity by the use of figures; when he came into power with the Liberal party, there would be no necessity for that, because prosperity would be so abundant on every hand, that every man would see it for himself.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That is true, and the hon. gentlemen opposite know it. The hon. gentleman admits it; I knew he would. But even while the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) admits it, he says at the same time: Oh, yes, but do you deserve any credit for it? What is the cause of prosperity we see in the country now? Why, it is apparent that the cause is, that you are continuing the very same trade policy that the Conservatives inaugurated and maintained. These hon. gentlemen opposite all say this, but before they are finished with their speeches, they turn around and say: This Tariff Act of the Liberal Government is one of the vilest products of the brain that was ever conceived; it is a fraud upon the English people; it is a juggling; it is an attempt to deceive, mislead and bamboozle the English people, and the Canadian people as well, and that, in attempting it, the Liberals have done something unworthy of men charged with the administration of the affairs of the country. What a description for these gentlemen opposite to give of their policy, if it is their policy we are pursuing. Sir, I do not need figures to prove that there is prosperity in Canada to-day. The Trade and Navigation Returns, which are within the reach of all, show that, in the two short years this Government have had the management of affairs, there has been an increase of \$60,000,000 and over in the foreign trade of this country—an increase of over 25 per cent in two short years above the trade that prevailed when the Conservatives were in power. They say we have broken every pledge. Well, Sir, it does not look to me that this is in the direction of a broken pledge. The Liberal party pledged themselves to reduce the burdens upon the people and to give freer trade to the people of Canada, and people who look and see that there has been more than \$60,000,000 increase in the foreign trade of Canada in less than two years, will admit that, at any rate, the Government have not dammed up this trade, but that they have afforded it a freer course than it had before. But hon. gentlemen opposite tell us—and they did tell us in the days gone by—that if we increase our foreign trade, we will do it at the expense of the labouring men and artisans of this country, and that, for every additional dollar's worth of imports we bring into Canada, it means so much work taken from Cana-

dian workmen. Well, Sir, I have pointed to an increased foreign trade of \$60,000,000; I cannot give you the figures for the increase in the domestic or home trade of Canada, but I can ask hon. gentlemen opposite to look around them, to look into the factories and the workshops of this Dominion; to go into the mercantile institutions, to examine the bank returns; and I venture to say, they will find that, vast as has been the increase in the foreign trade of this country, concurrent with it has been as vast an increase in the domestic trade of Canada. Why, Sir, you may go throughout the length and breadth of this land, and you will find that the factories, which these gentlemen predicted would be closed with the advent of the Liberal party to power, are working as they never worked before; increasing the number of hands employed, and working both night and day in order to keep up to the requirements of the country. Therefore, I do not need to point out that we have prosperity in this country; it is abundant on every hand.

But now I want to examine the charge—for it would be a serious one indeed if it were established as true—that in the preparation of this tariff we had juggled with it designedly, in order that we might deceive the British public and mislead the Canadian public as well. Let me, however, before doing that, just reply to the question which was asked by my hon. friend the ex-Controller of Customs (Mr. Wallace), which might, perhaps, have been asked by somebody else, but which I was rather astonished to find asked by a gentleman occupying his position. Regarding the heading of "Reciprocal Tariff," in the Trade and Navigation Returns, where the duties levied under that are specified as distinct from those levied under the general tariff, the hon. gentleman asked me, with an air of superiority, as if he were still controlling things, by what authority the Minister of Customs ventured to put that heading there; because, he said, we had no reciprocal tariff, and it was a great mistake on my part. Well, I recognize the hon. gentleman, of course, as one who may ask a question, and it is my duty to answer him, though I supposed he should know. I will tell him my authority for having done so, and I think it will be an authority which he will have to bow to, though it may be unwillingly. My authority was an Act of Parliament passed in this House when the hon. gentleman was in the House—Chapter 16 of 60-61 Victoria—where he will find in section 17 a reference to "the reduced rates of duty provided in the "Reciprocal Tariff" set forth in Schedule D, to this Act;" and on turning to Schedule D, we find it headed "Reciprocal Tariff," and stating:

On all the products of countries entitled to the benefits of this reciprocal tariff, under the provisions of section 17, the duties mentioned in Schedule "A" shall be reduced as follows:—

On and after the 23rd of April, 1897, until the 30th day of June, 1898, inclusive, the reductions

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shall in every case be one-eighth of the duty mentioned in Schedule "A," and the duty to be levied, collected and paid shall be seven-eighths of the duty mentioned in Schedule "A."

In the Trade and Navigation Returns for the year 1897-98, to which the hon. gentleman referred, you have under the head of "Reciprocal Tariff" the duties entered that were collected on articles that came in under that schedule.

Now, Sir, passing on, I would just notice the charge made by the hon. gentleman with reference to the tariff, and on which he bases his argument. He says:

Therefore, I say this tariff, which professes to give a great preference to Great Britain, does not carry out its professions, but is framed to deceive the English people and to deceive the Canadian people as well.

The hon. gentleman, after alluding to another argument, goes on to say:

That bears out what I have proved in another way as to the effects of that tariff, that we are not studying the interests of Canada or of Great Britain, which these gentlemen in their new-found love for the mother country are so proud of extolling to-day, but that we have framed a tariff pro-American in its whole tendency and effect.

Through the whole of his speech, that is the burden of his song, that the tariff which is in force to-day is a fraud upon the English people, and a fraud upon the Canadian people as well. He endeavours to prove that by giving some figures from the Trade and Navigation Returns. He has two lines of argument. He says that on certain lines of goods the larger portion of which in the past came from the United States, we have lowered the duties, while on other lines of goods which in days gone by came in larger part from Great Britain, we have raised the duties; and by these two statements—giving instances, about all the instances there are in the tariff of advances—he seeks to establish his charge. Let us examine, first, his charge as to the reduction of duties, not being in favour of the people of Canada, but for the purpose of favouring the people of the United States. The first article he touches upon is coal oil, which he says we get from the United States almost wholly, and not from Great Britain; and he says that when we reduced the duty on coal oil from 6 cents to 5 cents a gallon, we practised a fraud on the people of Great Britain and on the people of Canada, and did it in the interest of the people of the United States. All I have to say to the hon. gentleman is this: If I understand that argument at all, he is against the reduction of the duty on coal oil. As for the reduction having been made to benefit the American people, no one believes that for a moment; it was done for the purpose of lightening the burden of taxation on that article to the Canadian people; and there are people on the hon. gentleman's own side who do not think we went far enough in that direction, if we may judge from the notices on the

Order paper. On that article alone, by our reduction of duty, we saved \$80,000 to the people of Canada last year, not for the benefit of the Americans, but for the benefit of the Canadian people; and what does that mean? It is equivalent to an absolute free introduction into this country of about 1,500,000 gallons of coal oil. The hon. gentleman gives another strange illustration. He speaks with the view of making the farmer believe that he had been terribly hurt because we had reduced the duties on some of the products of the farm.

Mr. WALLACE. Will the hon. gentleman permit me, before he leaves the question of oil, to say that I did not make the statement he refers to with regard to coal oil, but I made it with regard to linseed oil, which is imported from England, on which he added 25 per cent to the duty, whereas he took 17 per cent from the duty on coal oil, which comes from the United States. I put the two statements together. The hon. gentleman conveniently ignores the one and misrepresents the other.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Do not let my hon. friend get at all anxious on that point. I mentioned that there were two divisions or two lines of argument which he took—that we lowered duties on certain articles which in times past came largely from the United States, while on articles that came from Great Britain, the larger part of them, we advanced the duties; and I think I said I would take first the list of articles on which he said we had reduced the duty in favour of the United States. Then, I will take up, if he will wait until the time comes, the articles on which he says we advanced the duties. But if the hon. gentleman wants me to do that now, I will do it. That we raised it to 25 per cent and that we then took off 25 per cent, thus bringing it back to what it was before, and he called that juggling.

Mr. WALLACE. No, I did not say that.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Does the hon. gentleman mean to say that that was not the plain inference to be derived from his words?

Mr. WALLACE. Nothing of the kind. I said that 25 per cent was the duty, and that 25 per cent of that was struck off under the preferential tariff. Any one who understands figures will understand that that brings the duty down to 18½ per cent on the imports from England.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman has had light brought in on him now, but he had not at the time he made his speech.

Mr. WALLACE. I just want the hon. Minister not to misconstrue my statement, but let him read it out of "Hansard," and contradict if he can.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS :

The duty on linseed oil was ad valorem; it amounted to about 6½ cents per gallon. What did they do? They increased—if I may borrow an expression of the Minister of Customs—they increased the duty on linseed oil 25 per cent. Of the linseed oil brought into Canada, seven-eighths of it is from Great Britain and one-eighth from other countries. They add 25 per cent to the duty, then they give Great Britain a preferential tariff and take 25 per cent off. Was not that an admirable concession to Great Britain?

If what I have said was not his intention, if that was not in his mind when he used the figures he did, let me give the other figures to show the evident intent. But he has been enlightened since. Let us follow his argument out. The interruption has taken me out of the regular course of my argument, but in speaking of linseed oil, he said that the change made in the duty was a fraud practised upon the Englishman and also a fraud practised upon the Canadian. Why? Because we raised the duty and then let the article in under the preferential tariff. Let us see how a fraud can thus have been practised upon the Englishman. Under the hon. gentleman's tariff, when it was in force, linseed oil, coming in from Great Britain, paid 20 per cent and from the United States 26 per cent. A broker went with two invoices of linseed oil to the custom-house—one an American and the other an English invoice—and he made his entry. Each invoice amounted to \$100, on which \$20 duty had to be paid. But under our preferential rate, which the hon. gentleman says is an imposition on the Englishman and the Canadian, how is the entry made to-day? That same broker goes with the two invoices of \$100 each; the American is charged \$25 duty and the American pays it, but the Englishman pays 25 per cent duty less the 25 per cent preferential rate, or \$18.75.

Mr. McDUGALL. But none comes from the United States.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman who interrupts me says that hardly any of it comes from the United States, and he is right. That has been the case in the past and largely in the present, but though it comes almost wholly from England, it pays \$1.25 less now than it did in days gone by.

Mr. SPEAKER. Hon. members will please understand that without the consent of the member who has the floor, interruptions will not be allowed.

Mr. McNEILL. Will my hon. friend allow me to put a question?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I do not want to be led into a discussion at this time, because when my hon. colleague the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) makes his statement, the tariff will probably be discussed in detail. But as these figures were given by the hon. member for York (Mr. Wallace)—and I sup-

pose prominence is attached to what he says owing to the fact of his having been the head of the Customs Department under the late Government and largely charged with the formation of the tariff in existence before the present one—I found a moment to deal with them.

Mr. McNEILL. May I ask my hon. friend a question? Was the reduction to which he has referred, the same reduction that was promised by him and other members of the present Cabinet when they said they were going to reduce the duties in favour of English goods to the extent of 25 per cent? Was there a reduction to that extent in favour of England on linseed oil as compared with the duty in 1896?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. This is a reduction in the new tariff of 25 per cent on the general duty charged.

Mr. McNEILL. But in 1897 my hon. friend told us they were going to make a reduction of 25 per cent this year.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I will cover all the points in the hon. gentleman's mind before I get through, if he will do me the honour of listening to my statement.

Mr. SPEAKER. Let me ask the hon. gentleman who has the floor, when any interruption occurs, either distinctly to say he consents to the interruption and then sit down or make his refusal clear, because when he keeps standing it is impossible for me to decide whether he is consenting to the interruption or not.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker, for breaking that obvious rule. I thought the interruption was just for a moment and that I would hardly have time to take my seat and rise again, but the hon. gentleman's interruption was rather an argument than an interruption. I was proceeding in the direction of the reduction he was pointing to. I was referring to coal oil, and I was pointing out that the reduction was not made with the view of working a deception on the English or Canadian oil men but as a relief to the people of Canada of a part of their burden of taxation on that article, and I have shown that it was a very considerable relief. The next point the hon. gentleman took exception to was the reductions we made in the duties on flour and wheat, which he said worked injuriously to Great Britain because these products came mostly from the United States. He said:

These gentlemen have reduced the duties on flour and wheat, and of course all our imports of these articles come from the United States, and none from Great Britain. They reduced the duty on flour from 75 to 60 cents a barrel, and the result was an importation of 35,500 barrels at a cost of \$148,000, and our imports of wheat, the duty on which they reduced from 15 to 12 cents, amounted to 58,000 bushels, valued at \$42,000. So that in all these matters where

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they made changes in the duties, this Government has made them very largely in the interest of the people of the United States.

This is a very extraordinary argument and on a par with that which he made in the case of coal oil. His statement that the Canadian was injured and the American benefited, is hardly borne out by the facts. He said, referring to the reduction of the duty on flour to 15 cents a barrel in the interests of the Canadian producer, that the result of our doing was that we flooded this country with 35,780 barrels from the United States. But, under his tariff in 1896, before that reduction was made at all, the Americans got in over 41,000. It seems to have worked wrong that time. Again, take wheat. He says that we reduced the duty from 15 to 12 cents per bushel, his intention being to make our farmers believe they were being ruined by this reduction. The result, he said, was that we brought in over 58,000 bushels of wheat from the United States last year. But when the duty was three cents higher, under his tariff, we brought in 142,000 bushels.

Mr. WALLACE. That was to help the manufacturers of biscuits.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Now, the hon. gentleman sees fit to interject a word—"biscuits." He wants to be a little personal. The hon. gentleman went into a long list of iron goods on which, he said, we had reduced the duty. Now, I want to say to the hon. gentlemen opposite that we did reduce the duty on pig iron, bar iron, and many kinds of steel, and manufactures of iron not produced in this country, but which are component parts of other manufactures. And one of the greatest triumphs of the alteration made in the tariff was the changes we made in the iron duties. We gave increased impetus to the iron industries that employ tens of thousands of men in this country, and not only that, we gave to the consumers, particularly to the farmers, all that they buy at much lower prices. The hon. gentleman says: You have done a vast injury to England; you have practised a fraud on England. The hon. gentleman is not the first to say that; the leader of the Opposition made use of the same argument last year. Here are his words:

Take iron or steel scrap. The old duty was \$4 per ton, the new duty was \$1. They have reduced the duty on that. There were \$75,000 of imports from Great Britain, and \$485,000 of imports from other countries.

And therefore, because we have reduced the duty on scrap iron from \$4 to \$1, we have done a vast injustice to Great Britain and benefited the Americans—because in times past the Americans sent in more.

Mr. WALLACE. I hope the hon. gentleman does not wish to misrepresent me or misquote me.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I am quoting your very words.

Mr. WALLACE. I hope the hon. gentleman does not intend to misquote me. He has done so repeatedly within the last five minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER. I hope the hon. gentleman will withdraw that expression.

Mr. WALLACE. What expression, Mr. Speaker?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. May I be permitted—I rise to a question of order. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that there is no violation of order when an hon. gentleman calls the attention of another hon. gentleman to the fact that he has misquoted him. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) has said that the hon. Minister (Mr. Paterson) has purposely misquoted him, the question of order would arise. But, in my humble judgment, if you rule, Mr. Speaker, that an hon. member should not call the attention of another to the fact that he is not quoting him correctly, you will do away with the privileges of debate.

Mr. SPEAKER. In one point of view there is a great deal in what the hon. gentleman says. I would not—of course, no one could think of such a thing—rule that the hon. gentleman had not the right to call the attention of another to an incorrect quotation. But everything is in the implication and in the way it is done. I considered that the implication was not what the hon. gentleman should make with regard to another member of this House.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I have the floor, Mr. Speaker, and I will read the quotation, and you will find that it is just as I gave it to you.

Mr. WALLACE. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) permit me to say that I would ask him when he quotes me, to quote me correctly. He stated, not once only, but three times, that I said that this was done to the vast injury of Great Britain. I made no such statement, as I was—

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I did not say that.

Mr. WALLACE. The hon. gentleman said it three times. What I said was, it was of no benefit to Great Britain.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I read the hon. gentleman's words, and I went on to make my own deductions from his speech, and my deductions are right. This is what he said:

Take iron or steel scrap. The old duty was \$4 per ton, the new duty was \$1. They have reduced the duty on that. There were \$75,000 of imports from Great Britain, and \$453,000 of imports from other countries. They have reduced the duty very largely, but not for the benefit of Great Britain, because she supplies less than one-seventh of what is imported into Canada.

Then I proceeded to deduce from that the position taken by the hon. gentleman, in connection with his declaration:

Therefore, I say this tariff, which professes to give a great preference to Great Britain, does not carry out its profession, but is framed to deceive the English people and to deceive the Canadian people as well.

I think my inference is a perfectly fair one. I proceeded to say that the hon. gentleman argued that in time past we had brought more scrap iron from the United States than from England, therefore, because we had reduced the duty from \$4 to \$1, it was not for the benefit of Great Britain, but, as he says, "this tariff is framed to deceive the English people and to deceive the Canadian people as well." I desire, in connection with that, to point out that we reduced this duty in the interests of the Canadian people. But, what is the position to-day as compared with what it was? In the old days a customs broker would have an invoice of 100 tons of scrap iron from the United States, and a similar invoice from England, and would attend at the customs-house to pass the entry. He would pay exactly the same duty, \$400, on each entry. But to-day, in case of a similar transaction, he would pay \$100 on the American goods, but he would pay only \$75 on the English goods. Now, let us proceed, and take the hon. gentleman's statement item by item:

Then take the duty on pig iron. The old duty was \$4, the new duty is \$2.50. We imported from all other countries \$330,000 worth, and from Great Britain \$50,000 worth; that is, you have more than 6½ times as much from the other countries, chiefly from the United States—altogether I might say, and they give the United States the benefit of a reduction, if we use the figures of the Minister of Customs, of 62½ cents in the duty.

Now, I read the hon. gentleman's exact words. As he will not allow me to abbreviate or summarize, of course I am obliged to take a little longer. The duty is reduced from \$4 to \$2.50, which, he says, according to the report, is 62½ cents. I take it what he means is 62½ per cent, according to "the figures of the Minister of Customs." I have no objection to the hon. gentleman charging me with using percentages, for I think that is fair, but I do not want him to commit me to his calculations. That reduction, instead of being 62½ per cent, is 37½ per cent, as the hon. gentleman will see if he will go into the calculation again. I will again remind the House that the hon. gentleman declares this tariff to have been framed to deceive the English and framed to deceive the Canadian people as well. Let us see how these English people are deceived in regard to pig iron. Under the general tariff of 1896 a broker goes to the customs-house to pass an entry of 100 tons of pig iron invoiced from an English merchant.

He has an invoice also of 100 tons of American, he makes his entry, the duty is figured

out, the Englishman pays \$400, the American pays \$400 under the old tariff. How is it now? That customs broker goes to the customs-house now and makes his entry. He has 100 tons of English and 100 tons from an American manufacturer. The invoice is made out—100 tons, the duty upon which is \$2.50 per ton or \$250. That is made out on the American invoice and he pays his \$250. The Englishman's invoice is made out in the same way, for they are made out under the general tariff, and it is then reduced by 25 per cent; and so while the American pays the \$250, the English iron pays only \$187.50. Yet the hon. gentleman says this tariff is framed in order to deceive the English people and the Canadian people as well. Then he comes down to other articles:

Then take the article of rolled iron or steel angles, tees, beams and channels. I may say that the old duty on that is 35 per cent, or less than \$10 per ton. The new duty is specific, \$7 per ton, or a reduction, according to the Minister of Customs, of 42 6-7ths per cent.

Again I beg to disclaim the figures of the hon. gentleman. When you take \$3 off a ton of \$10, I do not make that reduction of 42 6-7th per cent. I make it a reduction of 30 per cent.

Take another item, rolled iron or steel sheets or plates. The imports are \$71,000 from the United States, and \$698 from Great Britain. The old duty was \$10; the new duty is \$7—or a preference for the United States of 42 6-7ths per cent.

Wrong in his calculation again. Three dollars taken off \$10 is not a reduction of 42 6-7ths per cent, it is a reduction of 30 per cent. But let that pass. Now, then, where is the injury that is done to the British manufacturer, or where are the Canadian people misled? Let us again go to the customs-house. The tariff is a matter that is practical, it is a matter of business, it is business men that have to do with it every day in the year. Business men understand these things, and I am speaking now where my words will reach the ears of business men. Under the old tariff as the hon. gentlemen opposite framed it, when a man brought in 100 tons of these iron products he had to pay on every ton \$10; the Englishman paid the same as the American paid, \$10 a ton. But to-day the duty is \$7 a ton. It is made out now at \$7 for the Englishman as well, but at the bottom of the entry is written "less 25 per cent," and \$1.75 is taken off, and the Englishman pays \$5.25 for what the American pays \$7. Yet the hon. gentleman brings this forward and says that in this arrangement we are deceiving and misleading the British people.

Mr. DAVIN. Yes, but hardly any comes from England.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I have read exactly what the hon. gentleman says, and the figures of what comes from Eng-

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land. But when the hon. gentleman says none came from England, let me ask: When the Englishman had to pay \$10 the same as the American, is he in any worse position coming in here now when he only pays \$5.25 and the American pays \$7? In the old days the Englishman paid \$10 and the American paid \$10. Is the Englishman in a worse position now when the American pays only \$7, and he can come in at \$5.25? Why, Sir, I thought that even the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) would not have dared to ask that question, that it must be apparent to him, as it must be to every one.

Mr. DAVIN. Would the hon. gentleman—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I dare say the hon. gentleman will have an opportunity of touching upon this point when the financial statement is made. Of course, I feared the rule of not alluding to a previous debate might perhaps shut me off from dealing with these figures in extenso, as I wanted to take them up one by one and close them out, but I have been allowed to go on, and I do not think I will raise an objection to the hon. gentleman if he does allude to a previous debate and corrects me in any place where I may be wrong, for I have no desire to mislead the House. Possibly I may be wrong in my calculations, or in some of my deductions, as hon. gentlemen sometimes are, but I am giving my deductions and my illustrations as they occur to me at the present time. Then the hon. gentleman goes on:

In the matter of railway fish-plates, the old duty was \$10 a ton, the new duty \$8 a ton; and we imported \$11,000 from the United States and \$3,864 from Great Britain, a reduction of 20 per cent.

Now, how does that work against the Englishman? How does that deceive the British people, and what harm does it do them? Under the tariff of hon. gentlemen opposite the Englishman paid \$10 a ton on his fish-plates and the American paid \$10 a ton. Now under our new duty the American pays only \$8 a ton, but while he pays \$8 the Englishman pays \$6 a ton, and if he had to contend in the old days with \$8 a ton duty against himself and the American only paid \$8, and if the American brought in a somewhat larger quantity than he did, surely the Englishman, instead of being in a worse position, is in a better position now when the American has to pay \$8 and the Englishman is let in at \$6? So I go on:

On cast-iron piping of every description, the old duty was \$10, and the new duty is \$8, and from the United States we imported \$32,000 worth, and from Great Britain \$5,600, showing an enormous advantage to the United States and very little to Great Britain. On tubes of rolled steel, the old duty was 15 per cent, and the new 10 per cent, a difference according to the calculations I have referred to of 33½ reduction, and we

imported from the United States \$118,000 worth, and from Great Britain \$9,000.

Well, Sir, it would be tedious to illustrate the practical working out of this tariff as it takes place almost every day up to this time, perhaps many hundred times a day repeated. No matter what article it may be, except articles that are limited in the schedule, it matters not how low we have placed the duty in the general tariff under which American and foreign goods come in, it is 25 per cent lower to the British manufacturer and to the British exporter. I think the hon. gentleman will see that there is not much in the argument that he has made use of. Now I think I have come to the list of the articles upon which we have lowered the duty and upon which he founds an argument that because we lowered the duty, and because in time past a larger quantity had come from the United States than from England, we had done a grievous wrong to the English people by our preferential tariff, and had injured them in that way. Of course, being interrupted, I had to take one item out of its course. But precisely the same illustration applies now, because the argument of the hon. gentleman was that when we put a 25 per cent duty on linseed oil and brought it under the preferential tariff, we were doing an injury to the British manufacturer. But an hon. gentleman opposite did me the kindness to emphasize the fact that that article came almost wholly from Great Britain in the past, as it will do in the future, and while it is 5 per cent higher under the general tariff the Canadian consumer of that article is getting it at 1½ per cent less than he did under the hon. gentleman's tariff. Now before passing from that to take up the advances that we put upon goods in the past coming more largely from Great Britain. I want to emphasize the fact that we did reduce these duties on iron, and we claim credit for having done that. The increased activity, the new manufactories that are springing up, the additional artisans that are being employed, the chimneys out of which smoke is now pouring, that in the time of hon. gentlemen had no fire under them, is proof of the wisdom of what we did in reference to that duty. This Government have been true to their pledges, true to the platform that was laid down by the great Liberal convention, the platform upon which this Government and the Liberal party in this House stand, and are carrying out. We were pledged to reduce taxation, and we were pledged to do it in such a way that no injustice should be done to any existing interest—we recognized the fact that the great consuming population of this country, largely and notably the agricultural population, had a right to a reduction of taxation upon many of the articles that they had to use in their daily occupation, that were excessive in our understanding, and we determined

that we would reduce the duties upon these articles and we did that to a large extent, and did it without destroying but benefiting existing manufacturing industries by the plan we adopted in dealing with these iron duties. I have only to point out to the hon. gentlemen of this House, at the risk of wearying them, some samples of reduction of duty on articles that go every day into the hands of the agriculturist, to be used by him in his daily occupation, in order, that the agriculturist may see that when this reduction of duty on iron was made, it was not to benefit the people of the United States, nor yet was it to benefit the people of England, but it was to benefit the people of Canada, yet, while we did that we said: We will give an additional benefit in this revision to Great Britain over every other nation. What is the result? I want to read you a list of articles into which iron, on which the duty has been reduced, entered as a raw material, the reductions upon which enabled the manufacturers of these articles to sell them to the consumers at greatly reduced prices. I want hon. gentlemen to understand that when you speak of a reduction of 5 per cent, or a reduction of 10 per cent, in the rate of duty, you are speaking of a very large reduction as any business man knows. Ask a business man what a 5 per cent reduction is on the value of goods and he will tell you that it means a great deal to him. If you asked him for a 10 per cent reduction he would tell you that you were asking for a very great reduction indeed. Let me give you a list of some of the articles, and it will be only some of them, on which the duties have been lowered. What I propose to give you are the duties levied under the tariff of 1896 under hon. gentlemen opposite and the general tariff of this Government, not the preferential tariff. To show you the reductions that have been made I will give you first the old duty and follow it with the general rate, not the preferential rate, under the new tariff:

|                            | Tariff,<br>1894. | General<br>Tariff,<br>1897. |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
|                            | p.c.             | p.c.                        |
| Axes .....                 | 35               | 25                          |
| Hay or straw knives.....   | 35               | 25                          |
| Hand rakes .....           | 35               | 25                          |
| Farm rollers.....          | 30               | 25                          |
| Road or field rollers..... | 30               | 25                          |
| Windmills .....            | 30               | 25                          |
| Horse powers.....          | 30               | 25                          |
| Portable engines.....      | 30               | 25                          |
| Threshers .....            | 30               | 25                          |
| Feed cutters.....          | 35               | 25                          |
| Separators .....           | 30               | 25                          |
| Potato diggers.....        | 35               | 25                          |
| Grain crushers .....       | 35               | 25                          |
| Fanning mills.....         | 35               | 25                          |
| Hay tedders .....          | 35               | 25                          |
| Manure spreaders.....      | 25               | 20                          |

Cut nails, used wherever a building is being erected, were ¼ of a cent per pound under the old tariff; under our general tariff now they

are  $\frac{1}{2}$  a cent per pound. Wire nails were one cent per pound under the old tariff; they are only  $\frac{3}{8}$  of a cent per pound under our general tariff. Wood screws were 45 per cent under the old tariff; they are 35 per cent under the new tariff, and are subject to the preferential rate of 25 per cent off that:

|   |                  |                  |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Wire fencing, n.e.s.                                | 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 15               |
| Iron or steel nuts, washers, strap hinges or bolts. | 44 $\frac{3}{8}$ | 43 $\frac{3}{8}$ |
| Locks, butts & hinges, n.e.s.                       | 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 30               |
| Cutlery.  | 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 30               |
| Files and rasps                                     | 35               | 30               |
| Adzes.  | 35               | 30               |
| Cleavers  | 35               | 30               |
| Hatchets.   | 35               | 30               |
| Saws.   | 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 30               |
| Hammers.  | 35               | 30               |
| Picks.  | 35               | 30               |
| Mattocks.   | 35               | 30               |
| Tools, not agricultural.                            | 35               | 30               |
| Scythes.  | 35               | 25               |
| Sickles.  | 35               | 25               |
| Reaping hooks                                       | 35               | 25               |
| Edging knives                                       | 35               | 25               |
| Hoes.   | 35               | 25               |
| Pronged forks.                                      | 35               | 25               |
| Snaths.   | 35               | 25               |
| Post hole diggers.                                  | 35               | 25               |
| Agricultural tools, n.e.s.                          | 35               | 25               |

I have given you these reductions under the general tariff. In all these articles, some of which must come in in large quantities from the old country—a few of them do come in in large quantities—these reductions have been made for the benefit of the users, but in addition to the figures I have given of reductions under the general tariff, the users of these articles in this country will get the further benefit of the 25 per cent reduction under the preferential tariff. Now then, we come to consider what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) said in reference to advances we made on goods coming from England. He said that the larger part of the other list I gave you came from the United States, but now he turns his attention to things the larger number of which came from Great Britain in the past, and he says: You advanced the duty on them. The first of these was the article of linseed oil, with which I have dealt. The next was the article of linen. Now, he said we advanced the general tariff on linen. It is true that the duty on linen goods was advanced under the general tariff. I take the articles the hon. gentleman mentioned. Damask of linen that he mentioned was increased from 25 per cent to 30 per cent. Now, the article of linen is a fair article to regard as a revenue producer. Linens are not made in this country at all, at least not to any extent, I might almost

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say, not at all, and therefore the whole duty levied upon them will enter the treasury. Therefore, it was considered as a fair article upon which to raise a revenue. The lines that the hon. gentleman mentioned were diaper napkins, handkerchiefs, towels, linen brown or bleached; braids, bracelets, cards, fringes, tassels, and cotton fabrics, printed, dyed or coloured. Under the general tariff, the rate was advanced, in some cases, 5 per cent, perhaps in all the items he mentions, and, as the hon. gentleman has pointed out, these are articles that come largely, not wholly, but largely from Great Britain. These goods come—and here is where the consumers of this country are interested as to whether their taxes have been advanced or not—these goods come, in some cases, almost wholly from the old country; and what you have to consider is, what the preferential rate is upon these articles, and see whether the consumer of Canada is not now enjoying a less rate of taxation upon them than he did in times past, even though under a general tariff they have been advanced 5 per cent. What are the facts? Take the articles that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) mentioned and here is the truth in relation to them.

|   | Old Tariff. | Preferential rate. |
|---|-------------|--------------------|
|   | p.c.        | p.c.               |
| Damask or linen diaper napkins              | 25          | 22 $\frac{1}{2}$   |
| Handkerchiefs                               | 30          | 26 $\frac{1}{2}$   |
| Towels                                      | 25          | 22 $\frac{1}{2}$   |
| Linens, brown or bleached.                  | 20          | 18 $\frac{3}{8}$   |
| Braids, bracelets, cords, fringes, tassels. | 30          | 26 $\frac{1}{2}$   |
| Cotton fabrics, printed, dyed or coloured   | 30          | 26 $\frac{1}{2}$   |

So that, in these lines that are mentioned by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace), while it is true that 5 per cent is added to them in the general tariff, and while the great bulk of them comes from Great Britain, yet the preferential rate applies in every instance, and with the preferential rate the duty is several per cent lower than it was in the old tariff of the Conservative Government. So it is with reference to cottons. I have here a list of cottons, subdivided into far more items than you will find in the tariff. There are some forty-one of them, but as I do not want to weary the house, if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) is willing, I will put them on "Hansard" without reading them.

Mr. BERGERON. No, no.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I know it is contrary to the rule, but I thought it would please the hon. gentlemen opposite to have these figures so that they could check them.

Mr. BERGERON. We cannot do that.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Well, I am tiring myself, and I am afraid I would still more be tiring the House if I attempt to read them.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Read.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No; this might have been of some use to hon. gentlemen opposite, and it might have afforded them more ground for criticising my speech. It would have given them just so many more articles on which they could examine to see if, peradventure, I have made a mistake. I will content myself, under the rules, by saying this: I have taken every one of the cotton items that are in the tariff, and subdivided these imports of cotton as we have them classified for statistical purposes into far more divisions than they appear in the tariff items, but specifying them under their different individual heads until I have forty-one of them, I say I do not know of one single item of cotton goods which these hon. gentlemen talk of, upon which the duty under the preferential tariff is as high as was the duty under the tariff of the Conservative Government. That I believe and will believe until I am shown to the contrary. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) cited several instances, and drew deductions from which he arrived at the general conclusion that this tariff was so framed that it was in the interests of the Americans, was calculated to deceive the British people, and was of no benefit to the people of Canada. I propose to deal with that question now, and I think it is well for us to apply a test. I ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) to follow me in this calculation, because if it be weak he will have an opportunity of pointing out its weakness. I take first the value of goods, dutiable and free, entered for consumption from the United States in the years 1896 and 1898, and I ascertain the average percentage of duty upon them in these two periods, and then I find what reduction has taken place. In 1896 the value of the goods entered for consumption, dutiable and free, from the United States was \$58,574,024; from that I deduct coin and bullion, because they are not articles of merchandise and do not properly come within the calculation. The coin and bullion amounted to \$5,044,634. Deducting that from the total value of the goods, it leaves \$53,529,390 as the total value of goods entered for consumption, less coin and bullion. On that there was collected a duty of \$7,767,992.63, or a percentage of duty of 14.51. In 1898, the value of goods entered for consumption, dutiable and free, from the United States, was \$78,705,590, the coin and bullion amounted to \$3,880,667, which deducted from the total leaves as the value of goods entered for consumption, less coin and bullion, \$74,824,923, on which a duty was collected of \$9,941,624.48, or a percentage of duty of 13.28.

1896.

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Total value of goods, dutiable and free, entered for consumption from the United States ..... | \$58,574,024 |
| Deduct coin and bullion.....  | 5,044,634    |
|   | <hr/>        |

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Total value of goods entered for consumption from the United States (less coin and bullion)..... | \$53,529,390 |
| Duty collected—\$7,767,992.63.   |              |
| Percentage of duty—14.51.  |              |

1898.

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Total value of goods, dutiable and free, entered for consumption from the United States ..... | \$78,705,590 |
| Deduct coin and bullion.....  | 3,880,667    |
|   | <hr/>        |

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Total value of goods entered for consumption from the United States (less coin and bullion)..... | \$74,824,923 |
| Duty collected—\$9,941,624.48.   |              |
| Percentage of duty—13.28.  |              |

Now in 1896 the percentage of duty collected on imports from the United States was 14.51, and in 1898 it was 13.28, so that there has been a reduction of 1.23 per cent on the total imports from the United States in 1898 as compared with 1896. When gentlemen opposite calculate what a deduction of 1.23 per cent is upon the volume of imports, they will find what a large reduction is made in the taxation upon the people of this country. Let us take the imports from Great Britain, and follow the same rule as I have applied to the imports from the United States:

1896.

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Total value of goods, dutiable and free, entered for consumption from Great Britain ..... | \$32,979,742 |
| Less coin and bullion.....  | 155,237      |
|   | <hr/>        |

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Value of goods entered for consumption from Great Britain (less coin and bullion)..... | \$32,824,505 |
| Duty collected—\$7,358,514.15.   |              |
| Percentage of duty—22.42.  |              |

1898.

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Value of goods, dutiable and free, entered for consumption from Great Britain ..... | \$32,500,917 |
| Less coin and bullion.....  | 457,456      |
|   | <hr/>        |

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Value of goods, dutiable and free, entered for consumption from Great Britain (less coin and bullion).... | \$32,043,461   |
| Duty collected.....   | \$6,649,428 60 |
| Deduct estimated refunds under the preferential tariff .....  | 100,000 00     |
|   | <hr/>          |

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Duty collected as near as can be approximated ..... | \$6,549,428 60 |
| Percentage of duty—20.44 per cent.                  |                |

Therefore, the average duty on goods from Great Britain in 1896 was 22.42 per cent, and in 1898 it was 20.44 per cent, or a difference of 1.98 in the duty that was levied on the total imports, dutiable and free, from Great Britain as compared with 1896, and in the case of imports from the United States, dutiable and free, a reduction of 1.23 per cent in 1898 as compared with

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1896. Therefore, while there has been a reduction of nearly 1½ per cent of duty on all goods, dutiable and free, from the United States—to this extent easing the burdens of the people of Canada—there was at the same time a reduction of 1·98, or nearly 2 per cent, in the percentage of duties levied upon British goods, and to this extent also lessening the burdens of the Canadian people in 1898 as compared with 1896. So that, while there has been a reduction to the people of Canada on the total imports from the United States, there has been on the total imports from England a larger reduction. While a percentage of reduction takes place on goods from both countries, there is fully three fourths of 1 per cent greater reduction upon English goods than upon American goods. This, I think, is proof positive that, when the hon. gentleman states that this tariff, when framed, was framed on a pro-American basis, and was calculated to mislead the British people and also the Canadian people, he states what is not correct.

Mr. McNEILL. Are those dutiable goods?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Dutiable and free; and the hon. gentleman will see that the reason why the percentage of taxation on the American goods is lower than it is on British goods is owing to circumstances which we avail ourselves of for our own benefit, which existed under the old tariff, as it does under the present tariff, that the large majority of free goods are brought, in our own interest, from the United States.

Mr. McNEILL. What about the percentage of reduction in that case?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I have just given the percentage of reduction. I must take it as an indication of the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite, that if they find fault with this admission of free goods from the United States and from other countries, their policy must be that these goods shall not be free under them, which means enhanced cost to the manufacturers for their raw material, as well as enhanced cost to the consumers for the goods they consume. This is the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite—a return to the old burdens of taxation from which we have freed the people.

Mr. McNEILL. I rise to a point of order.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman, when he finds fault with the duty on coal oil—

Mr. SPEAKER (Mr. Flint). The hon. member for North Bruce rises to a question of order.

Mr. McNEILL. I wish to know from you, whether I have a right to correct an hon. gentleman, if he is misrepresenting?

The SPEAKER (Mr. Flint). The hon. gentleman has not, unless he gets the floor from the hon. member who is speaking.

Mr. PATERSON.

Mr. McNEILL. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to correct a misstatement?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Certainly, if I misrepresented the hon. gentleman.

Mr. McNEILL. My hon. friend said I was objecting to the introduction of free goods. I have no objection to the introduction of free goods. I was referring to the fact, when the hon. gentleman was giving the percentage of reduction of duties, comparing the reduction on United States goods with that on goods from the mother country, that we imported an enormously larger quantity of free goods from the United States, and, therefore, his percentage did not apply to the goods on which the reduction had been made.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I am very sorry, if I misrepresented the hon. gentleman. He knows the high esteem in which I hold him; and I certainly would not wish to misrepresent him. I really do not see where I misrepresented him. But we will talk it out privately.

Mr. McNEILL. I wish to tell my hon. friend that I did not object to the introduction of free goods, as he said I did.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Well, I accept the hon. gentleman's statement, if that is so. I do not think I made the statement that the hon. gentleman said so; but I pointed out the deduction to be drawn from the remarks of hon. gentlemen opposite. When they laugh and think they have made a point because the larger proportion of free goods come from the United States, I say, if they scorn that, if that is wrong on our part, if they think we have too many free goods coming from the United States, it must be inferred that, if they had the administration of affairs, they would put a duty on these free goods; and if that is done, it means enhanced cost, not only on the goods coming from abroad, but also on the goods made in this country. If the hon. gentleman agrees that we have done what is wise, in admitting goods free in our own interest, we are at one on that point; but his laugh would be very ill-timed under these circumstances.

Now, I want to give another table, at the risk of wearying the House. The tariff items, as introduced by the Finance Minister, numbered 477 in the dutiable list, and 188 in the free list; but, for the purposes of statistical classification in the department, these are subdivided into more individual articles than appear in the original list. We do not specify each individual article by itself, for that would make a volume so bulky that it would not meet with favour. I am sure, at the hands of the members of the House. But you will find in the Trade and Navigation Returns that these dutiable items, which number only 447 in the tariff, number 968 in the statistical classification,

and the 188 items in the tariff free list number 481 items in the statistical classification, and even then you have not all the different articles, which, if given separately, would run up into the thousands. In this subdivided classification I want to read all the items I have been able to find on which the preferential rate is higher than the old tariff rate under hon. gentlemen opposite. I have four or five here, and I take the first item—rice, uncleaned, or paddy. That was three-tenths of a cent per pound under the old tariff. Under the preferential tariff it is three-eighths of a cent per pound. That is an increase in duty; but I need only point out to you that that means a reduction of the protection that was upon the cleaned rice. The people of Canada do not consume uncleaned rice or paddy. But it comes in uncleaned and the men engaged in that business clean and refine it, and the refined rice is what goes into consumption. Therefore the duty levied is as low upon what goes into consumption as it was before; and while nominally the duty is higher, that is a thing which does not concern the people of Canada.

Buckram hat shapes, 30 per cent under the old tariff and 22½ per cent under the preferential rate. The quantity, however, cannot be ascertained, and I cannot give you any calculation as to the amount of extra duty, but you will agree it must be very small. The reason it cannot be ascertained will be readily understood. In the classification we have made, there being some of the old classification, or some of the items now enumerated not having been enumerated before, we cannot exactly say what imports came from Great Britain and what imports from other countries. But the items involved are so small, they are not worth mentioning.

Fans of wood, 25 per cent in the old tariff and 26½ per cent under the preferential rate. I cannot ascertain what the importations of those were, they not being separately classified, but any hon. gentleman will readily understand that they were small in quantity.

Quilts and like articles of linen, 20 per cent under the old tariff and 22½ per cent under the preferential rate. Neither can their quantity be ascertained, because they were classified with other articles before, but no doubt the imports were very small.

Sole leather, undressed, 10 per cent under the old tariff and 11½ per cent under the preferential tariff. None came from Great Britain in 1896, and, therefore, the rate does not bear on the question at all.

But there are nine items upon which there were importations from Great Britain in 1896, on which the duty under the preferential rate is higher than it was under the old tariff.

Buttons, n.e.s., 20 per cent under the old tariff and 26 per cent under the preferential rate. Of these we imported from Great Britain in 1896 \$28,968 worth. The imports in

1898 cannot be ascertained, but I am figuring the amount of extra duty upon the amount imported in 1886, and that gives \$1,810.50 of extra taxation under that head.

Sheets and sheeting of linen was 20 per cent under the old tariff and is 22½ per cent under the preferential rate. Eight hundred and sixty-four dollars worth was imported from Great Britain in 1896 on which the extra duty under our preferential rate amounts to \$21.60.

Advertising pamphlets, price lists, catalogues, &c., 6 cents per pound and 20 per cent, equal to 44 per cent ad valorem under the old tariff, and under the preferential rate the duty is 11.25 cents per pound, or equal to 4.5 per cent, being an increase of 1 per cent. The imports from Great Britain in 1896 amounted to \$18,827, so that the extra duty paid would be \$188.27.

Other articles made by seamstresses from linen fabrics, 20 per cent under the old tariff and 26½ per cent under the preferential rate. The quantity imported from Great Britain in 1896 cannot be ascertained, but in 1898 it was \$1,374, on which the extra taxation amounts to \$85.88.

Guns, rifles, pistols and revolvers, 20 per cent under the old tariff and 22½ per cent under the preferential rate. From Great Britain we imported \$24,839 in 1896, and the extra duty under the preferential rate would amount to \$620.98.

Marble rough, not chiselled, free under the old tariff. Under the preferential rate we charge it 11½ per cent. There were \$638 worth imported in 1896 from Great Britain, on which the duty would be \$71.75.

Putty, 15 per cent under the old tariff, and also under the preferential rate.

Grindstones, not mounted and not less than twelve inches in diameter, 12½ per cent under the old tariff and 18½ per cent under the preferential rate. We imported from Great Britain in 1896, \$3,051 worth, on which the extra duty would amount to \$190.69.

Veneers of wood, n.e.s., not over one-sixteenth of an inch in thickness, 5 per cent under the old tariff and 5½ per cent under the preferential rate. We imported from Great Britain in 1896 \$1,425 worth, on which the extra duty would amount to \$8.91.

On all those, Mr. Speaker, there was imported into Canada, as far as I can ascertain from the figures we have, \$78,760 worth, upon which, owing to our preferential rate being higher than the old tariff rate, the increase of duty would amount to \$2,998.61.

Let me call the attention of the House to the fact that in making these up, I am using the classification, not as we have it in our tariff, for the items number only 447, but the classification prepared for statistical purposes, as we have it in the Trade and Navigation Returns, in which these items number 968, and out of these 968 there are only those nine articles that I have been able to discover which are paying a higher duty. In other words, with the exception

of these nine articles, the whole of the 968 items pay lower duties, under the preferential tariff, than under the tariff of hon. gentlemen opposite. My figures are before the House, there is time to examine them, and if any one can discover more than these nine items as paying a higher duty, I shall gladly stand corrected.

But what do these nine items out of the total 968 represent? Why, the total imports of these nine from Great Britain in 1896 was only \$78,760, and the extra amount of duty is less than \$3,000, or \$2,998, while under our preferential tariff on nearly \$20,000,000 worth of imports from Great Britain, the rates of duty have been lowered. I think that is a sufficient answer to give to any one. I have not taken out an item here and there, but have looked at the burdens upon the people in the gross on all they use.

Let me point out to you, Sir, what we have done for Great Britain, under this preferential tariff. Again, let me say, I give these figures subject to the corrections of hon. gentleman opposite. Far from claiming infallibility, I leave myself quite open to correction, for surely when these hon. gentlemen were not infallible, I cannot claim that quality. I am speaking now of the case as it is under the reciprocal tariff and I am speaking of the year 1897-98. Let me see if this was a fraud upon the British people, whether there was no benefit in it to English trade and whether it was intended to mislead the Canadian people. By referring to page 610 of the Trade and Navigation Returns for 1897-98, hon. gentlemen will see that the total duty paid on dutiable importations from Great Britain was \$5,102,260.55. One-seventh of that amount represents the reduction under the reciprocal tariff, and any hon. gentleman who will make the calculation will find that this represents \$728,894.36. Over and above that, it is estimated by my accountant with the best means he has of ascertaining, that \$100,000 has been paid by way of rebates. How does that come? In this way: You can understand that when this tariff first went into operation it took some time for people in Great Britain and elsewhere to understand the requirements of the department in order to avail themselves of the reciprocal reduction, and, therefore, invoices would come out without the declaration we require before the preference is allowed, to the effect that the goods are British and, therefore, entitled to the preference under the law. Of course, consignees wanted their goods and did not want to wait until they had sent back to England to have a certificate of order made. We then told them to enter their goods at the general rate and pay the duty at that rate, with the understanding that when they furnished the department with the necessary certificate the excess of duty would be refunded. As I have said, the officers of my department estimate that the amount paid under the rebates

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within the year 1897-98 was \$100,000, which, added to the saving under the preference already given, made a total of \$828,894.36.

Mr. WALLACE. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) permit me to ask him a question? He has stated what the duty was on these goods coming in under the reciprocal tariff last year. Would he tell us what the duty would have been under the tariff which prevailed under the tariff of 1896, so that we can see whether there was a saving or not.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I think that the next table I have to give will give the hon. gentleman the figures he is asking for. I wish to point out, meanwhile, that the figures I have given are for the year 1897-98, so that the reduction is under a preference of one-eighth, or 12½ per cent. Allow me to emphasize that.

Mr. PRIOR. We understand.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. But let me emphasize it, because, sometimes you do not understand as clearly as I would like you to. If that was the saving effected under a 12½ per cent reduction, what would be the saving under a 25 per cent reduction in the current year, which commenced on the 1st July last?

Mr. WALLACE. You have not yet demonstrated that there has been any saving.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. It would not be very far wrong to say that if you have effected this saving with a reduction of one-eighth, you will double it if you double the reduction and make it one-quarter. That reduction is a manifest reduction, under the reciprocal tariff, to the English merchant and manufacturer. Hon. gentlemen may attempt to juggle with figures, but that does not affect the fact that there is that reduction under the reciprocal tariff upon British goods. To say anything else would be to make oneself look ridiculous in the eyes of every business man in the country, for every business man in the country knows that when he goes to the custom-house to make his entry, that entry is made in the general way and the figures are so extended, and then if the goods are from Great Britain, the collector takes his pen and writes under the total, "less 25 per cent," and the duty reduced by this amount is the duty that is paid on the goods. Anybody can see that, and to put it in any other light, as I say, would be to make oneself look ridiculous.

Now, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) has asked a question, and I think that question will be answered in considering the point I now propose to deal with. I have here a calculation which, I think, will enable the people of this country to see that when this party pledged themselves to reduce the burden of taxation they realized what they were doing, and that, as a matter of fact, they have reduced that burden in a very material degree. The test I propose to apply is not an

infallible test, one that will work out to the cent or the dollar, or, perhaps, even some hundreds of dollars, for the reason that you do not have precisely the same quantity of each class of goods coming in year by year. But, as a rule, as an average you may fairly take the total imports of one year and compare them with the total imports of another year. And though the calculation will not work out exactly, it is as likely to err on one side as on the other, it is as likely to tell against me as in my favour. I propose to take the total value of goods, dutiable and free, entered for consumption during the year 1896, less the amount of coin and bullion—which is not an article of merchandise and does not come fairly into the calculation—ascertain what was the percentage of duty, and then take similar figures for the year 1898, and the duty paid I will regard either as an increase or a decrease in the taxation of the people, as the result may show. The total value of goods, dutiable and free, entered for consumption in 1896, was \$110,587,480. Deducting the coin and bullion, amounting to \$5,226,319, we find that the net value of goods was \$105,361,161, upon which the total duty was \$20,219,037.32.

I have worked it out, it is open for other gentlemen to work it out also. I take it that the percentage of duty which is levied upon these goods was 19-19. In 1898, by the Trade and Navigation Returns, the value of goods entered for consumption, dutiable and free, was \$130,698,006, less coin and bullion \$4,390,844, leaving as the value of goods entered for consumption \$126,307,162. The percentage of duty in 1896, under the old tariff was 19-19. Apply that to the imports, dutiable and free, of 1898, and it would have given you a revenue of \$24,238,344.38; that is to say, the people of Canada would have to pay \$24,238,344.38, whereas they actually have paid only \$22,157,788.49. There is a difference, then, which is money left in the pockets of the people of Canada by virtue of the reduction of taxation, through this tariff, of \$2,080,555.89. That, I think, is a pretty fair measure of reduction.

**Mr. WALLACE.** Will the Minister give us the percentage for 1898?

**The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.** The percentage for 1898 was 17-54. Hon. gentlemen opposite will remember that these figures are taken from the trade returns of 1898 and you will bear in mind that the reciprocal tariff was only in force then at the rate only of 12½ per cent reduction, while during the current year it will be 25 per cent off British goods. I venture the suggestion here that you will find next year, at the end of this current financial year, which closes on the 30th of June, not that you will have double that saving to the people of Canada—because you will not effect a reduction on the goods from other countries, though if more comes in you will—but I estimate you will effect an additional

saving by the other ½ of the 12½ per cent reduction on British goods since the 1st of July last, which will be between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000. My calculation, then, is that the end of the next fiscal year during which the full preferential tariff will have been in operation, when the results of the current fiscal year are ascertained, taking the percentage of 1896, which I hold is fair, and applying it to the imports for this current year, I believe we will be able to show a saving in the taxation to the people of this country of very nearly \$3,000,000. That I give to the people of this country in proof of the fulfilment of the pledge this Government made, and that the Reform party made to the people in the platform which they laid down, when they promised that there should be a reduction of the burdens of the people. I think I have demonstrated beyond peradventure that that reduction has taken place, and taken place to a greater extent than hon. gentlemen opposite appear to have realized.

Now, Sir, a word or two more before I close. I did not think it would have taken me so long to get through, but I have had to divide the time with hon. gentlemen opposite, so that it will not be all charged to me. I have noticed in the course of this debate that it has been charged time and again, and the charge seems to flow glibly from the tongues of hon. gentlemen opposite, that this Government, that the Liberal party, have broken every pledge that they made to the people of Canada. Now, this is a very serious charge. Let me ask the hon. gentlemen what opinion they have formed of the people of Canada when they venture to make such statements, and to repeat them in the House. The people of Canada are intelligent, the people of Canada know what the Liberal party promised them, the people of Canada know what the platform was that was adopted in 1893. They know and they require that their representatives in this Government shall stand upon that platform and give effect to it. Well, Sir, this Government has been in power two years or more. There have been appeals made to the people, not in one province, not in two provinces, but in more provinces. I do not allude to the by-elections with a view to taunt hon. gentlemen opposite that the battle has gone against them there. I am willing to concede what they have claimed, that in the matter of by-elections it may be said that the Government in power have perhaps somewhat of an advantage. I therefore mention the by-elections that have taken place, not in one province, or in two provinces, but in more; not in one case, not in two cases, not in three cases—I know not in how many by-elections we have had since this Government came into power—

**An hon. MEMBER.** About thirty-nine.

**The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.** Well, at any rate, more than a score throughout the

length and breadth of this country. What has been the result? Why, it is an insult to the people of this country, an insult to the constituents living in the various constituencies who have been asked to pronounce upon the policy of this Government, to say that this Government has broken every pledge they ever made to the people. Why, Sir, if they have done that, they should be driven from power, and would have been driven from power by the Canadian people.

Mr. McDOUGALL. And they will be.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Why have they not been, if what you say is true? The result of the by-elections shows that the people of this country do not agree with hon. gentlemen opposite, that the people who have had an opportunity of pronouncing a verdict, believe that we have kept our pledges. If the Government have not kept their pledges do you think that the intelligent electors in these various counties would send man after man to this House to support the Government, that they would send them here, not with reduced majorities, but with such a majority as they did in Lambton, where hon. gentlemen opposite talk about the Liberals being disgusted, the very seat of the old Liberalism, the county of George Brown, the county of Alexander Mackenzie, the county that is known everywhere in Canada as the seat of old Liberalism—sending a representative here by a majority about double what it used to do in the old days? Why, Sir, these facts have only to be mentioned to the people of this country for them to recognize that it is an insult to them for hon. gentlemen opposite to make this charge. What kind of a figure do they cut in the eyes of the British merchants who will see such statements as that made in this House that the preferential tariff that we have placed upon the statute-book is not what they thought it was at all, but that in effect it is a snare and a delusion, that it was purposely framed to deceive them? I will read it again:

Therefore, I say that this tariff, which professes to give a great preference to Great Britain, does not carry out its profession. It is framed to deceive the English people, and to deceive the Canadian people as well.

What will they think of these men? Why, a gentleman, speaking here the other night, when asked: What do you attribute our prosperity to? Do you take credit to your Government for it? When a gentleman replied from this side of the House: Yes, in a measure at least. And, I say also, we may do that, because when this Government were put in power, and the old Government were displaced, it was recognized in the country that there was a Government in power that would carry out its pledges, and thereby confidence was restored to the country. The people recognized that they now

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had a business Government. I venture to say, that when Canadian merchants, when British merchants, read statements made by leading men on the other side of the House as to the effect of the preferential tariff, alleging that it is not a preference at all, that it is a deception and a fraud, they will say that, if hon. gentlemen opposite are not able to recognize commercial conditions any more correctly than that, no wonder the trade of the country got into a depressed condition. When the English merchant knows that, when he sends his goods to this country, when he sends out his invoice for those goods to his broker, when the duties on those goods are worth in money \$1,000 or \$500, or whatever it may be, when he knows, when his entry is made, that opposite every item the general rate is placed, when he knows that when an American, a German, or Belgian invoice, or an invoice from any other country, except Great Britain, is received and entered, it is for the full amount of this \$1,000, when he knows that the collector writes opposite to his entry: "Less 25 per cent," and takes off \$250, and that \$750 lets in as much from Great Britain as \$1,000 from any other country, he will say, that no wonder the commercial interests of this country suffered, when there was a Government in power that knew so little of business principles as hon. gentlemen opposite. I will close with a word or two. This preferential tariff that is denounced by hon. gentlemen opposite, I think is pretty well understood in the country generally, whatever it may be by hon. gentlemen present, to have had a beneficial effect upon trade and commerce. I have conversed with those who have been in Great Britain, not once or twice, but often, since this policy was adopted in 1897, and I venture to say that there is not an hon. gentleman in this House, who has conversed with the business men who have been in the old country, that would not tell me, honestly speaking, that since the introduction of the preferential tariff by this Government, Canadian interests have stood higher in Great Britain than they ever stood before. They will tell you that one of the factors in producing an increased market, which has been marvellous in its growth, for Canadian products, the products of our farms, is the inauguration of this preferential policy, which touched the heart of the Englishman, the Irishman and the Scotchman, who, while compelled by no law to give preference to Canadian products, of his own free will goes into the markets and says: "I want Canadian goods; I have heard of Canada; I know what she has done for us; I want to give them a preference." And we are reaping the benefit. To-day, the agriculturists of this country, all classes in this community, are reaping material benefits, so vast, so grand, that no one has ever accurately computed them, by the fact of enacting this preferential tariff,

and I ask hon. gentlemen opposite why, when we see the effect of the preferential tariff on the trade and commerce of the country and the benefit it has conferred upon our farmers, why do you want to spread abroad statements that are unfounded, that are not true—speaking of statements that may be made outside of this House—statements that are unfounded, in reference to this land—what little weight they may have—to destroy the best interests of this country, which are promoted by the enacting of that preferential tariff. Sir, if patriotism will not stop their mouths, the fear of looking ridiculous in the eyes of British and Canadian commercial men should cause hon. gentlemen opposite from this time out to cease from denouncing this preferential tariff, which is an advantage and a boon to the Briton and a boon to the Canadian, because it has reduced the taxation that was imposed upon the Canadian, and, in the course of trade, has, in the distinction made between nations, placed the mother land in a more favourable position than that enjoyed by any other nation. I do not think their fulminations will have the least effect in England, but I ask them, if they are the possessors of patriotic souls, and when they know that the statements they are making are not borne out by the facts, whether they will not cease from these statements that are without foundation in fact, and which may do harm, though I believe the good sense of the people of Canada and of Great Britain will prevent them having the bad result that might follow, were credence placed in the statements that the hon. gentlemen have made.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). Mr. Speaker, although I would be very glad to be agreeable to my hon. friends opposite and not prolong this debate, I cannot resist the temptation of answering, as briefly as possible, the speech of the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson). We find ourselves in the presence of an extraordinary spectacle, and if some people are surprised that this debate has been carried on so long, I believe the more they will study out the arguments brought forward in this debate, the more they will understand how important it is to the people of this country, and they will see what has been going on since the opening of Parliament. We have noticed, that ever since the arraignment made by the hon. leader of the Opposition and the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), we have heard the young men on the other side of the House, those who have been here since 1896, answering the arguments put forward by this side of the House. I have been looking in vain for some of the old warriors on the other side of the House; I thought that I might hear the voice of my old friend the member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan), for instance. I expected to

hear a great speech from my hon. friend from East Huron (Mr. Macdonald), and we have been looking for one of those good, sound speeches from our old friend from South Wentworth (Mr. Bain). I expected also to hear from my energetic and honest friend from Wentworth and Brant (Mr. Somerville). Why did we not hear from these hon. gentlemen? On the part of the Government, we have heard from the right hon. Prime Minister; of course, we have heard from the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, who has not much to do, I imagine, and now, to-day, we have had the pleasure of hearing the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson). It is unjust, Sir, that the gentlemen on the Treasury benches should entrust the defence of the Administration to a Minister who is paid \$2,000 a year less than the others. I have followed the speech of the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) with a good deal of attention, and I was greatly surprised to find how easy it is to satisfy him with the Government of the day. He told us at the outset of his remarks, that he did not want to answer the criticisms of the members of the Opposition, but he did not tell us why. Sir, the reason was, that in spite of all his eloquence and notwithstanding his tremendous array of figures he could not answer the criticism from this side of the House. We admit with him that the finances of Canada are in a good state, but we say frankly, and the people of the country believe us, I am sure, that the fortunate fact is not due to the Government in power. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) professed to be surprised at what he was pleased to call the contradictions of gentlemen on this side of the House, but did it not occur to him that people in glass houses should not throw stones, and that if he looked around at his own party and his own Government's policy, he would find a mountain of contradictions. Sir, there is no contradiction in the policy of the Conservative party, nor have we had in the cold shades of Opposition an opportunity for contradictions, because the very same policy which was inaugurated in 1879, is to-day maintained in principle. It is because of the contradictions in the policy of the Liberal Government that certain gentlemen whose names I have mentioned have not been heard in this debate, and no wonder. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) ventured to refer to the Liberal platform announced in 1893, and he had the temerity to speak in the same breath of contradictions. Why, Sir, the policy of the Liberal party in power as compared with their platform of 1893 is a contradiction from beginning to end, and were not the occasion so solemn, I would be inclined to say that the Government are something like the patent medicine advertisements which show the portrait of a gentleman "before taking" and "after taking." The hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) says that the Liberals were

lucky. Well, I admit that. They were brought into power by a lucky wave, and they have been kept there until now by good luck, and it is lucky for them that the country is prosperous, because if they had to steer the ship of state in bad weather, they would have been wrecked long since. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) told us, that he had a number of figures in detail with reference to the duties on cotton, and were it not against the rules I would have been glad to have had him place them on "Hansard," but whatever the details may be, I ask him, is it not the fact, speaking in general, that cottons to-day are higher than they were in 1896? I ask him also, is it not true that coal oil is dearer in price to-day than it was in 1896? The right hon. the Prime Minister came to my constituency in 1896, and before the people of St. Louis de Gonzague he shed a few tears over the fact that they were paying 16½ cents a gallon for coal oil, and he told them that if he came into power he would pull down those miserable tariff barriers between the United States and Canada, so that the people would get oil at a great deal cheaper rate. Has he fulfilled that promise to the people? No, Sir; they are paying 18½ cents per gallon for oil to-day, or two cents more than when the Conservatives were in power. Why did not the Minister of Customs tell us the reason for that? The hon. gentleman spoke at length about preferential trade, and as he is a man of common sense, I put him this question and hope for an intelligent answer: If it be true that this Government has given preferential trade to England, what is the value of the figures read by him which show a reduction of 1.23 for the States and 1.98 for England? There is no necessity whatever for going through all the figures and ascertaining that percentage, but let us take the result. If it is true that there is a preference in favour of Great Britain, how is it, as stated by the leader of the Opposition the other day on the floor of Parliament—and it has not been contradicted by any gentleman on the other side of the House—how is it, I ask, that from the 1st of August, 1898, since the preferential tariff was in force down to the 31st January, 1899, there was but one per cent increase in the total importations from Great Britain as compared with an immensely larger increase in importations from the United States? When the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) spoke, there was an increase of only one per cent from Great Britain, but if you take the returns to-day including the month of February you find that paltry one per cent increase entirely swept away. The electors of the country will not wade through all the figures given by the Minister of Customs, but they will reasonably and naturally ask: How is it, if the Government has given a preference to England that the importations from that country have not increased, while on the contrary, importations from the United States have largely increased? Sir, the

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tariff has been shaped in such a way that American goods have been enabled to enter Canada easier than before, and in the face of such a state of things, the right hon. gentleman and his colleagues went to Washington, expecting a treaty of reciprocity from the United States; yes, begging for a treaty of reciprocity. I believe, that later on when we can remove the seal from the lips of the Premier and his colleagues, we will then know that if they did not get reciprocity it was not because they did not do everything in their power to obtain it. They failed because the United States did not want reciprocity, and, Sir, why should they want reciprocity with Canada when we gave them beforehand everything we had to give them. To say the least it was very poor statesmanship on the part of the Government.

My hon. friend (Mr. Paterson) concluded his two hours' speech—to which I listened with pleasure, as I always listen to his speeches—with a dissertation on the pledges of the Liberal Government, and their fulfilment. I always had a great deal of esteem for the hon. gentleman, and I was sorry to hear him argue such a bad case. I would not be surprised to hear such remarks coming from a member who entered the House for the first time during this Parliament, but for a serious man, a Minister of the Crown—who is just as good a Minister as those they pay more salary to—for him to tell the House that the Liberal Government have carried out their pledges to the people of this country, is somewhat of a surprise. Surely the hon. gentleman was not serious, and I think before I conclude I shall be able to show him that instead of the Liberal Government carrying out their pledges, they have done exactly the reverse of what they promised. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) spoke about bye-elections, and his references in that regard were such as one would not expect to hear from a gentleman who has been twenty-five years in this House. The hon. gentleman must know about the fighting brigade in Ontario, and he must know that the very same organization exists in Quebec, regulated and controlled by the very same engineer. He knows that in Ontario the Liberal party could not carry even the bye-elections, if they did not drag the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) up there with all his machinery.

The hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) went to speak in the county of Huron. I am going to say what I have been told, and my hon. friend can say whether I am right or not. When the chief of the Opposition went to Goderich, the hall in which he spoke was so packed that an overflow meeting had to be held, at which four or five hundred people were addressed by other gentlemen. The next day the Minister of Public Works, and I think the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), went and spoke in the same place, and there was not more than four hundred or five hundred

people to hear them. And yet a day or two afterwards, when the election was held, the people of Goderich gave a majority to the Government candidate. The people of Goderich will not be proud of that. In the same election, however, the farmers of the county of Huron voted against the Government of the day. It was in the town of Goderich that the majority was got; and there the dredging contract had been given by the Minister of Public Works a few weeks before to a gentleman who was more used to working with his pen than with a dredge. My hon. friend is proud because he has carried bye-elections like that. He knows the instruments the Minister of Public Works has at his hands, and he knows how to use them. In Lévis, the other day, there was a bye-election, and we did not even have a candidate; and I can say to my hon. friends from the province of Quebec, that if any of them hold any of these bye-elections in their pockets, we do not want them. They can have all they want of them; we do not want any bye-elections; we will wait for the general elections. The very day the hon. member for Lévis (Mr. Demers) was introduced in this House, there were already five heelers on the steps of the lobby looking for patronage. My hon. friend knows human nature. We will fight him on that ground, but we will wait until we have a proper opportunity, and I hope it will be soon, when the whole of them will go before the electors, and answer to them for the pledges they made and have not carried out. Now, Sir, what were those promises? I have been here for some years. For 18 years I sat on that side of the House, and listened to great orations, some from hon. friends whom I see opposite to me, and some from others who have disappeared. They have not gone above, though some may have done so, one or two. But the majority of them have gone away to occupy fine positions, which they would not grant to their opponents when they were in power. Those who spoke the loudest against protection, against the increase of the debt and the increase in the expenditure, have gone away, and these walls will never hear their sweet voices again. But my hon. friend from Huron has not gone. My hon. friend, whom I have heard sometimes for two hours, and have always listened to with a great deal of pleasure, has not gone yet.

An hon. MEMBER. He is going.

Mr. BERGERON. No, I think not, unless he goes to the Senate; but they are now speaking of reforming the Senate. My hon. friend from South Grey (Mr. Landerkin) and my hon. friend from Brant (Mr. Somerville), very often rose in their places and denounced the Government of the day for having protection, the curse of the country. My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) could not find any adjective in the dictionary strong enough to apply to the manufacturers—the bloated monopolists, who were living at the expense of the

poor taxpayers of this country. Anything but protection—that was their cry for 18 years; but it was not always to the same tune. There is no doubt they have always opposed protection; but what did they offer in return? From 1878 to 1882 they could not offer anything. They were completely without a policy. They had received such a blow on the 17th of September, 1878, that it took them four years to think of something to offer to the country. In 1882, they came out with commercial union. My right hon. friend made some fine speeches about commercial union.

The PRIME MINISTER. Never made one. My hon. friend is altogether astray. We never heard of that until 1888.

Mr. BERGERON. It does not make much difference. My hon. friend made beautiful speeches on protection, too, in 1871. I am not making any reproach against him; I recognize his great talents. From 1882 until 1887, it was commercial union. From 1887 to 1891 it was continental free trade. My hon. friend did not speak on that either, I suppose. I have many speeches of my hon. friend, but I do not wish to take up the time of the House in quoting them. He might say he never delivered them, and the Speaker would say that I am bound to accept his denial. Down to 1891, it was unrestricted reciprocity that was offered to the people of Canada by the Liberal party. They went so far on that line that Mr. Blake, a gentleman whom they always esteemed and respected, and who has always had the respect of this side of the House, left them in 1891, because, as he said in a letter published after the elections on the 5th of March, in his opinion that policy was driving Canadians politically into the hands of the United States. They did not carry that policy of unrestricted reciprocity in 1891, and then they kept on talking of a tariff for revenue and free trade. In fact, they had many policies to offer. They had not always the same policy, and that is why we must not be too harsh upon them to-day if they have not all the same policy when in power. They have always been like that. In 1891 or 1892 they began to smell the Manitoba school question, which they thought would be a good trump card, and they used it. But I want to come down to the conference of 1893, and the platform then adopted. This red book containing that platform is well worth reading; I find a great deal of pleasure in examining it. I find a good deal of philosophy in it; I can tell the character of a man by what I read there. My hon. friend at that conference made two or three speeches. He spoke in French and in English. He did not say quite the same thing in the two languages; but there is not much difference. There was one feature of that conference, however, to which I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Customs. Everyone who spoke there said that protection must go—that was the common enemy. They did not quite agree

on other things ; they let them go like the school question. My hon. friend said on that question : " Don't ask me what I intend to do ; the question is in the hands of the Government ; it is before the courts just now. Some people have written to me asking my opinion on that question, but I cannot say anything about my opinion ; I want to see what the Government will do." He said the same thing on the prohibition question. He said, when written to, " If you want to get my answer, there it is," and he says nothing at all. The platform of 1893 is a very broad platform ; everybody can go on it. I was a witness of the great reception that was made to the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte). That hon. gentleman was baptized that day by my hon. friend from Grey (Mr. Landerkin), who paid him what he no doubt considered a great compliment—though I doubt very much whether the House will view it in that light. He said that the hon. Minister had been very bad before but that since he joined the Liberal party they would try and make a good man out of him.

Mr. LANDERKIN. And so we did.

Mr. BERGERON. The hon. Minister of Public Works, at any rate, was perfectly satisfied with his regeneration, which shows perhaps that in some respects he is not difficult to please. My hon. friend from Grey (Mr. Landerkin) took us all into his confidence on that occasion. He said to his audience : The people of the county of Grey have been sending men to the House of Commons to represent them for many years, and I have always asked myself why they did so, because I could really never find out the reason.

An hon. MEMBER. Nor anybody else.

Mr. BERGERON. Nor anybody else. But I wish to call the attention of my hon. friends to the platform formed by the Liberal party at the convention of 1893. They then made certain pledges to the country and to this House. They promised to the country that they would kill protection, that they would obtain reciprocity, that they would, if elected to office, give the people a pure administration, that they would reduce the expenditure, and above all things that they would not increase the public debt. These promises were published in a speech—a very short speech made by the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), who does not talk much, but is probably more of a thinker, and who submitted the whole resolution.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I much regret that I cannot return the compliment.

Mr. BERGERON. Of course, there is compensation in everything, and my hon. friend can take what consolation he chooses from his remark, but it is possible that he may be both a thinker and a speaker. I am afraid I must have touched the hon.

Mr. BERGERON.

gentleman on the raw, because he is usually not so irritable, but rather even-tempered. At that conference and in that platform, the Liberal party pledged themselves to observe the independence of Parliament. They also promised to keep our public lands for bona fide settlers. Then they made some promises to themselves. They promised to destroy the Dominion Franchise Act, as it then existed, and to redistribute the electoral colleges throughout the Dominion, and particularly in Ontario. On referring to my notes I see that I have made a mistake, because I have got this promise of redistribution down as a gerrymander ; but we are told it is not to be a gerrymander at all, but a pure and simple redistribution of seats. They also promised Senate reform. Then, there was a little disagreement between the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) and the right hon. First Minister on the question of prohibition. These two gentlemen could not agree on that point, although they did on nearly everything else. But their little difficulty they settled among themselves. They made a promise, not to the country, but to each other, that if ever they came into power, they would appeal to the people and find out whether the right hon. First Minister or the hon. Minister of Agriculture was right. The First Minister said that the people did not want prohibition, but the Minister of Agriculture insisted that they did, and they agreed to have their disagreement settled when they came into power. They did settle it at a cost to the people of \$250,000, and now they are in a position to discuss the question amicably with one another, because they have just had that appeal which they promised each other they would obtain. They came into power in 1896 under this platform of 1893. Did they obtain office on the merits of their own policy ? Did they attain power under the promise of free trade as they have it in England, under their pledges of not increasing the public debt and the public expenditures, of giving the people pure administration, and of upholding the independence of Parliament ? No, for if they did, people have been sadly disappointed. My impression is that what brought them into power was not their platform of 1893, but a sentimental cry in the province of Quebec in favour of my right hon. friend, backed by the skilful manner in which they managed to shelve the Manitoba school question ; and I must congratulate my right hon. friend on the exceedingly adroit way in which he managed to evade the difficulty and delude the people of the province of Quebec on that question.

The Conservative party had suffered many losses. I may be told that I am not speaking politics, but I may be allowed, as a matter of history, to say that the Conservative party had gone through very serious difficulties. The Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald, who had been our First Minister

for many years, and who is to-day recognized, even by hon. gentlemen opposite, now that he is dead and gone, as a great statesman, was taken from us in the month of June, 1891. He was replaced by the late Sir John Abbott, who we all know, after a short regime of a year, was also called to his final account. Sir John Abbott was replaced by the lamented Sir John Thompson, whom everybody recognized as a tower of strength, but who, unfortunately, when on a visit to his Queen on the other side of the Atlantic, was cut down in his prime by that grim destiny whose scythe is always in waiting to mow down each one of us. The party had therefore suffered most serious misfortune, and this the great mass of the people will understand probably better than any one of us here. Then, following these great losses came the Manitoba school question. I heard the other day the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy), who I am sorry is not here, for I should be very glad to tell him how very much impressed I was by the way he spoke and how I think he is an acquisition to this House. For a young gentleman, he spoke very well indeed, and seemed to have a very keen relish for the debates of this House, and I am sure will take great interest in our discussions: but of course I would not be telling the truth were I to say that I have the same appreciation as he has himself of what fell from his lips. Were he present I would tell him that he may be right in what he said of the hon. members of this House, and that we cannot fail to attach importance to what a young man, who took his seat here about a month ago, has to say with regard to how the hon. members of this House ought to conduct themselves. There are other great minds besides that of my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) who, I hope, will not get angry at this remark of mine. There are great minds, among which I place that of my hon. friend, but he has the experience, which the hon. member for North Simcoe lacks, and had the hon. member for North Simcoe listened to all that has been said here, not only upon the fiscal, but upon the school question, he might not perhaps have been quite so free with his well-meant advice to the House. I may be pardoned if I take the liberty of replying to some of these young men and recalling to the memory of the people outside of Parliament things that they might otherwise forget. But before venturing on an explanation of the way in which this Manitoba school business was made use of by the Government, I would like to find out what the Government, since they came into power in 1896, have done in other matters. Have they carried out their pledge to do away with protection? The Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) will no doubt allow me to address him in particular on this subject. Even with all the figures which my hon. friend

read a moment ago, and the skillful argument he made, I doubt whether he can make anybody believe, in or out of this House, still less the people of England, in spite of the Cobden medal which my right hon. friend wears so well on his breast, that we have done away with protection in Canada, and have inaugurated free trade as they have it in England. The National Policy may have been reformed to some slight extent, it may have been touched in some particulars, but in principle the policy of this Government is the same old policy that we had under the late Liberal-Conservative Administration. So, when they say they have carried out their promises, I say: No; they have not killed protection. It is true, they have bothered the manufacturers a great deal. My hon. friend the Minister of Finance has worried them a great deal and has warned them always to keep one eye open. That may be, in another form, an invitation to these manufacturers when there is a by-election—

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That is the old way.

Mr. BERGERON. No. I was eighteen years on that side and I never saw it, and I do not believe it. It is true, hon. gentlemen opposite have worried the manufacturers, but only the other day my hon. friend from Hochelaga (Mr. Madore) read a letter from a hardware manufacturer in Montreal. I asked the signature, because I thought it was sent by Mr. McMaster, who is a good Conservative, and a good friend of ours. He writes a very nice letter. The day after the present tariff came out, I was told, my friend Mr. Gault sent a telegram to the Minister of Finance also to congratulate him. What conclusion can we draw from that? Simply this—that these men expected to be choked by the new tariff: they expected to be put in such a position that they would be obliged to close their factories, because they supposed the party in power would stick to their pledges and promises. But when these men, like Mr. McMaster, saw they were not to be killed, when they saw that cotton, instead of going down had actually gone up and—a little later on I will have something to say about cotton in New Brunswick, where they have carried the industry very far, so that it is useful not only in by-elections, but in general elections to the local House—when they saw that instead of having to close their mills and turn out their workpeople, they could keep their mills running and their people employed, they were satisfied, and they wrote the letter that my hon. friend from Hochelaga (Mr. Madore) read the other day. Does all this mean that the party in power have kept their pledges? If they had kept their pledges these mills would have been shut down, the employees would be scattered, and the proprietors would not have written letters of congratulation.

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

### After Recess.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). When the House rose at six o'clock, Mr. Speaker, I was trying to show that when the Minister of Customs said that the Liberal party had been faithful to the promises made in their platform in 1893, and that the present Government had carried out their pledges, what he said and the facts of the case were not alike. I had shown that they promised to kill protection but that, while they had worried the manufacturers a great deal and warned them to keep one eye open, had, in fact, given them every chance to come down handsomely for the election fund, they had left them a great deal of protection. I instanced the case of cotton, the protection on which was increased. A moment ago, when looking at the newspapers, I saw Dun, Wiman's report to the effect that cottons had increased 7½ per cent within the last few days. I also showed that coal oil was selling dearer to-day than it was three years ago, when my hon. friend the Prime Minister promised my electors in Beauharnois that when he came into power coal oil would sell at half the price it did then.

Now, they also promised in 1893 that they would give us reciprocity with the United States. Did they get reciprocity as promised? They may answer at once that if they have not done it, it is not their fault, that they have tried to do it. I admit that I have always been a constant reader of the speeches delivered by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright). There is a great deal in his speeches. It is true, he does not always talk about the same thing, but whatever he talks about, he does it well. In a speech at Ingersoll in 1889, he heaped accusation upon the then Government for not securing reciprocity with the United States. He declared that it was the fault of the Conservatives, that they had not done anything towards securing reciprocity, that they had not been nice enough to our cousins to the south of us, that they had not gone there and done everything to secure reciprocity. And he said:

Here let me say that I doubt if all, even of our own friends, have fully comprehended the great importance of the direct results which arise from the adoption of the policy of the Liberal party—

Liberal policy. My right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) this afternoon said he had never said a word in favour of commercial union. Here is what the Minister of Trade and Commerce said in 1889:

—the adoption of the policy of the Liberal party in favour of continental free trade or unrestricted reciprocity—call it what you will.

He goes on to show that if his party came into power it would be easy to obtain reciprocity for these reasons:

On this point I will say nothing now, only pause—  
Mr. BERGERON.

ing to observe that recent events seem to have pretty clearly established these four facts:

First, that unrestricted reciprocity will profit us greatly

Secondly, that there is every reasonable ground to believe that any Canadian Government—

Note that—"any Canadian Government."—

—which can convince the people of the United States that they are honestly desirous of trading with them, and are willing to negotiate on fair terms, have a very good chance of securing it.

He gives four reasons in all, which come to about the same result as what I have given. A little further on he says, speaking of the then Government:

So you have these worthies declaring, in the teeth of the plainest evidence to the contrary, that the Yankees will not treat with us at any price.—

The Conservatives at that time argued that the Liberals had sent George Brown to Washington in 1877, and he had not been able to treat with the American government, also that some of our friends had gone to Washington in 1887 and 1888 and had not been able to obtain anything from the Americans.

—and to make assurance sure, we have the Government twice over in two successive years, deliberately refusing to make the smallest advance or even to attempt to open negotiations with the United States. Pray, what do they expect the people of the United States to do? Manifestly this thing is of more importance to us than to them, and yet our legislative Solons will not even ask for it.

Suppose, now, that the American commissioners had read this famous speech of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, knowing that he could not help going down on his knees to obtain reciprocity for Canada. It is not surprising that they would not come to terms, nor deal at all with our own commissioners. He says:

They first shut the door in the face of our neighbours, then they complain that they won't come in.

Well, now, I do not want to worry the House by reading extracts from his speech, but I would ask the hon. gentlemen opposite to read them; they are very interesting; they would be very useful in their campaign speeches when they go to the country, because this gentleman is one of their best men. Now, these gentlemen went to Washington and had their conference, and how much did it cost the people of this country? But before I go further on that subject, I want to show the House what a Quebec paper, the organ of the Government, said, when it was proposed holding the conference in Quebec, and I do this in order that members from other provinces may see how the official press in Quebec is accustomed to delude our people. The "Soleil," of Quebec, after Parliament had voted \$50,000 to defray the expenses of the conference, came out and said: What a glorious day for Quebec; over a million dollars will be spent in the city of Quebec, because all these commis-

sioners will come down here with their pockets full of money. What a grand thing for the city of Quebec. The population below Quebec read in that paper that it was not in the interests of Canada that the conference was to be held, and that the money had been voted by Parliament, but it was to please the people of the city of Quebec—those who were to make money out of the strangers. But that is not all. I have something better here. After the fiasco of the conference in Quebec, in the month of August, 1898, and after our commissioners had gone down to Washington to try again—I was going to say, had gone a-begging; but that will come later, because when we have a report of what took place in Washington, we will be better able to appreciate the situation. But I have information on that point from the "Globe," an extract of which was read the other day by the hon. member for Picton, to the effect, that if the Canadian commissioners did not get reciprocity, it was not our fault, because they did everything they could to obtain it for us, but the Americans would not grant it. Well, when we heard that the conference was adjourned to Quebec, the "Soleil" came out with this heading: "Good news for Quebec." This is the way our people in Quebec are educated by the organ of hon. gentlemen opposite:

The population of Quebec will read with real delight the despatch from Washington, which we publish in another column. It will be seen that the Quebec conference adjourned yesterday at Washington to take up its stay in Quebec in August next. There is no longer any doubt that the treaty will be signed here.

The "Soleil" tells the people of Quebec district that the question is decided.

It is the name of our historic city that will be attached to this precious document, this 'entente cordiale' between the two greatest nations of the world, England and the United States. The name of Quebec will awaken more and more the attention of European and American diplomacy. It must also be said that there are gigantic interests at stake.

Here the "Soleil" pompously recites the eight clauses covering the protocol, and continues:

Apart from these considerations of a superior order, the fact must not be forgotten that there will be another quarter of a million dollars spent in Quebec during a couple of months. We also see in the adjournment a manifest desire on the part of the representatives of the two countries to come to an understanding, for if it were otherwise, it would be a comedy unworthy of such distinguished statesmen. We also recognize in this act,—

Now, note this. If the conference is going to sit in Quebec in the month of August, it is because it is too hot in Washington, I suppose:

We also recognize in this act the firm, energetic and sympathetic hand of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the devoted member for Quebec East. He never forgets his own even when abroad.

So much for the "Soleil," Mr. Pacaud's paper, the organ of hon. gentlemen opposite. Now, I only mention this in passing to show how the population of our province are educated by the organs of the Government. Probably, we will have more to say upon this question of the conference, so I will not continue on that subject at present.

I pass now to another subject; the promises which these hon. gentlemen made. They promised us a pure administration. Have they carried that out? I say, no. On the contrary, I believe that they have invited spoilsmen from all over the country by giving contracts without tender. That is another of their promises which has not been carried out. They promised to give the public lands to bona fide settlers. Have they carried that out? I am sorry my hon. friend the Minister of Customs is not here. He has forgotten some things which I would like to recall to his memory—or, if he has not forgotten them, he was wrong this afternoon, when he pretended that the Government had fulfilled all their promises. They have not given the public lands to bona fide settlers. They were ready to give over 4,000,000 acres of the best mineral lands of the Yukon territory for a tramway 150 miles in length. If they did not do this, it was because the Senate of Canada would not allow them to do it. Sir, their Yukon scheme must have been a bad one, because some of their own members voted against it, members who knew, probably, more than anybody else the nature of the scheme the Government were trying to put through Parliament. Another article of their programme was, that they were going to preserve the independence of Parliament. The new members, those who were not here before 1896, do not know how much these hon. gentlemen used to preach about the independence of Parliament before the last general election.\* The new members do not know that the present Postmaster General made great speeches on that question. From the seat I occupy he even proposed a Bill to prevent any member of Parliament from obtaining a position under the Crown for at least two years after the expiry of his term in Parliament. Have the Government carried out that pledge? Why, Sir, they have appointed, since they came to power in July, 1896, more members of Parliament to public positions than the Conservative party did during the eighteen years they were in power. Does anybody doubt it? Where is Mr. Forbes, who represented the county of Shelburne? He is on the bench, and his seat is occupied by the Minister of Finance. Where is Mr. King, who represented the county of Sunbury? He is up in the Senate, and his seat here is occupied by the Minister of Railways and Canals. Where is my old friend, Mr. Béchard?

An hon. MEMBER. He is dead.

Mr. BERGEDON. I knew the hon. gentleman would say that. That is very good.

Mr. Béchard was shelved in the Senate after being elected to Parliament, and his seat is occupied by the Minister of Public Works. If he died afterwards that is not the fault of the Government nor the fault of the Opposition. Where is Mr. Devlin, who, from this side, spoke in favour of the Remedial Bill? Probably he could not swallow the arrangement made by the Minister of Public Works in Manitoba, and threatened to oppose the Government. He was sent back to Ireland, the country of his forefathers. What is he doing there? I do not know. We do not see much result from his work, because there is not a large immigration coming from Ireland now. Where is Mr. Langelier, who sat here for two years, as we saw one day in the "Witness" of Montreal, with the promise of my right hon. friend the leader of the Government of a position on the bench, in his pocket? Where is Mr. Lavergne? Where is Mr. Lister, who only last year was at the head of a committee of investigation to whitewash the hon. Minister of Public Works in the Drummond County deal? Where is he?—on the bench. Where is my hon. friend the Postmaster General? Away. Where is Mr. Cameron? Why does not somebody shout that he is dead; but before he died what happened to him? He was sent to the North-west Territories as Lieutenant-Governor. During his term of office he sat in Parliament with the nomination in his pocket, and he left the House of Commons to go into the gubernatorial chair in the North-west. Where is Mr. Fiset? In the Senate. Appointed by whom? By the present Government. Where is Mr. Choquette? Where is Senator McClelan? Where is Sir Oliver Mowat? Where is Mr. Yeo? Where is Senator McInnes? Fourteen of them have been appointed to positions since this Government came into power. Now, it was all very well for our hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), a few nights ago, to talk about philosophy and say that in politics that it is an uncertainty, but if there is one place more than another where honesty should be displayed, it is in public life. I am not surprised to hear my hon. friend from Charlevoix (Mr. Angers) laughing. Why, he voted for the Remedial Bill, and he swallowed the settlement of the hon. Minister of Public Works, and a man who could do that must laugh at people who talk about honesty. Where is the hon. Postmaster General? The Postmaster General stood up here and said that it was immoral for the Conservative Government to appoint men to office who were sitting in Parliament, yet he and his colleagues have sat around that table, in the Council chamber, and signed the nominations of fourteen members of Parliament during their term of office to public positions. You may talk philosophy, but you will not make the honest electorate believe that you are honest men when you say in Opposition one thing and do the contrary when you

Mr. BERGERON.

reach power. Mr. Speaker, I am told that there are even now hon. gentlemen sitting in the House with their nominations in their pockets.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Impossible.

Mr. BERGERON. I do not want to be offensive, but the other day in the House my hon. friend from Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) told the hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Stenson) that he holds in his pocket the position of postmaster of Sherbrooke.

Mr. STENSON. I did not understand the hon. member for Montmorency to say that I had it in my pocket, but I can tell the hon. gentleman that I have not got it in my pocket, that I never asked for it, and that it has not been promised to me.

Mr. BERGERON. I am very glad that my hon. friend speaks like that, although he does not ask it, if it is given to him, he will take it. I like that better than the other day when the hon. gentleman answered my hon. friend. The explanation he now gives is that he did not hear the statement of the hon. member for Montmorency. I am told there is another gentleman, sitting in this House, who has the position of postmaster of Montreal in his pocket.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Impossible.

Mr. BERGERON. It is current rumour that another hon. gentleman sitting not far from the right hon. Prime Minister has, in his pocket, the position of doctor of the quarantine in Quebec.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Surely not.

Mr. BERGERON. I do not doubt it since they have been able to appoint fourteen members in three years; I do not see why they did not appoint more. And to hon. gentlemen opposite, who have this penchant and their friends in the country, I would give the advice that they get their positions as soon as possible because the Government will not have a long time to fulfil their promises to their followers.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as this part of their programme has not been carried out, let us look at the debt. I have heard my hon. friend talk very often on the hustings, and we have heard him here also, declaring that the debt was increasing too rapidly, and that the country was being driven to ruin by the then Government. This meant, if it meant anything, that when he came into power he would diminish the debt, at least, he would see that it was not increased. Has he done so? The debt, when hon. gentlemen opposite came into power, in 1896, was \$258,497,432. What was it according to the last figures we have?—\$264,287,106.16. Besides that our hon. friend the Minister of Finance, before this session borrowed \$2,500,000, but in all probability the right hon. gentleman has

forgotten some of these increases. Not only have hon. gentlemen forgotten their promises in regard to the debt, but they have also forgotten them in regard to taxation. Taxation has been a great theme with the right hon. leader of the Government, and has helped his eloquence a great deal before the electorate. Why, the way the people were taxed by those miserable Conservatives! What was the taxation in 1896, taken from customs and excise, the two sources from which the Government derive their revenue? In 1896 the taxation amounted to \$27,759,285. In 1897, a year after hon. gentlemen were in power, it amounted to \$28,645,628. In 1898, according to the last figures which we have, it was \$29,576,456. That is to say, that the present Government of my right hon. friend has collected 28c. per head or \$1.40 per family more than its predecessors in office. And these hon. gentlemen talked about the taxation which weighed upon the poor taxpayers of the country. In 1893, my right hon. friend, in that famous conference, delivered a speech in French in which he said—showing these buildings here: "Why, you see that these people spend \$36,000,000 a year for the ordinary expenses of Canada. We should save \$3,000,000 a year," and Mr. Mills, now the Minister of Justice in the Upper House, said that "we should save \$4,000,000 a year." That was in 1893. What has happened since? In 1898 the right hon. gentleman and his Government had voted by this Parliament \$44,000,000, where the Conservative Government of 1893 took \$36,000,000 and the Conservative Government in 1896 took \$38,000,000. That was \$6,000,000 more a year, only for what is computed under the head of ordinary expenditures, because hon. gentlemen will remember that last year we voted here in Parliament over \$50,000,000. This is so true that the "Gleaner," a paper published in Huntingdon, a Liberal and Radical paper, says that the right hon. gentleman and his Government may not boast, but that they should blush to boast of having a surplus of \$1,500,000 when they had already increased the public debt over \$5,000,000. That was said in this Liberal paper.

As a matter of fact has the tariff been diminished since my right hon. friend obtained power? No, Sir. It has not been decreased by one per cent on the whole. That has been stated on the floor of Parliament by the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster), and not a single member of the Government has dared to deny it, nor can they deny it because it is absolutely true. Listen to this. In the year 1898, the revenue of Canada was \$28,649,192. Now remark what follows and you will see that the revenues have increased immensely during the past year. The Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) was proud of it this afternoon, and we admit it, but we contend it is not due to the Government. In 1899, the revenue was \$33,058,841, or an increase for 1899 over 1898 of \$4,409,-

649. The people of this country may congratulate themselves on having a surplus of nearly four and a half millions as compared with the revenue of the previous year, but let us look at the expenditure. There, Mr. Speaker, is where this Liberal Government shines. The expenditure for 1898 was \$26,614,189, and the expenditure for 1899 was \$32,054,210, or an increase in one year of \$5,440,021. In spite of the Government the revenue increased by over \$4,000,000, and by the will of the Government the expenditure has increased over \$5,000,000.

Now, Mr. Speaker, another promise of the Liberals was, that they would settle the Manitoba school question. I have already stated that the right hon. gentleman was not returned to power on his policy or on his platform—probably on that account he is less guilty for not having carried out the Liberal platform of 1893. Well, Sir, the right hon. gentleman obtained power through an accident; he obtained power through a sentimental cry in the province of Quebec; he obtained power through the school question. Sir, is it not a wonderful spectacle to see the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) now sitting beside the very man (Mr. Sifton) who was one of the provoking causes of the school trouble in Manitoba. I did not intend to speak upon the school question. Last year I said there was no use in talking about it any more, for I believe that with the present Government in power it is impossible to settle that question as it should have been settled. I doubt now that it ever could be settled, as it should have been, had we not had the obstruction of my right hon. friend in 1896. The right hon. gentleman was glad when I made the announcement last session that I would not again refer to the school question, and he said he was happy to hear me say so. But, Sir, who spoke about the school question this year; who was the first to mention it in this House. It was the right hon. the Prime Minister himself. Who refer to the school question everywhere on the hustings? It is the friends of the Administration. The Liberals talk about it; what is the use of our talking about it? They have some reason to talk about it; perhaps it may be remorse. Sir, how was the school question settled by the Liberal Government? It was settled to the satisfaction of the hon. gentleman from North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy), who told us the other night that he was perfectly satisfied with it. It was settled to the satisfaction of the late Mr. Dalton McCarthy, and need I remind the right hon. gentleman of the love Mr. McCarthy had for his, the Prime Minister's, race and his creed. It was settled to the satisfaction of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), who carried out the iniquitous school law of 1890 in Manitoba. It was settled to the satisfaction of Mr. Greenway. But, Mr. Speaker, is that settlement satisfactory to the minority in Manitoba? My right hon. friend the Prime Minister has in his pocket a letter from His

Grace the Archbishop of Manitoba. I know he received a letter from the Archbishop a few days before the opening of Parliament. It is not marked "confidential," and will the Premier read it in Parliament and put it before the country, so that we will understand whether the school question is settled in a satisfactory manner to all parties interested. We have in this House the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) who is perfectly satisfied with the school question, and we know that he speaks according to the ideas of his late uncle. How can we have sitting on the same benches and in the same party with him, a man like my hon. friend from Berthier (Mr. Beausoleil, who voted with the Conservative Government on the Remedial Bill? How can my hon. friend from Charlevoix (Mr. Angers), who voted with us on the Remedial Bill, be as perfectly satisfied with that settlement as is the member for Simcoe? How can my hon. friend from Antigonish (Mr. McIsaac), who voted for the Remedial Bill, sit quietly by and be as well satisfied with the settlement as is the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy)? Sir, we have only to mention the fact to show the absurdity of it. No, the school question is not finished, and the other day the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) himself declared so. The right hon. the Prime Minister says it is settled, and he declares that he has taken it away from this arena and sent it back to the provincial arena whence it should never have been removed. But, the hon. the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), in a speech delivered in West Huron the other day, stated that the school question was not settled, and "La Patrie," the organ of the Minister of Public Works, wrote about three weeks before the opening of Parliament, that something had been done towards the settlement, but it was not all finished yet. Who tells the truth amongst all these contradictions? My own impression is that there is trouble brewing, and that that trouble, will be due to the action of the Prime Minister. I am sorry to have to say so, but there can be no doubt at all, that history will hold him responsible for the mischief that will yet come from that unfortunate matter. We on this side of the House will not do as hon. gentlemen did. We are not going to talk about this question any more. There has been too much of that done by hon. gentlemen opposite, but we will wait until we hear from the minority. My right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) knows what I mean. He knows that he has obtained in certain quarters a delay, but he cannot pass over that delay. There will be a time of reckoning come when some high personage will say to him: "You said that in two or three years you would settle the question; you have not done it." The question will come up again, and, unfortunately, I suppose by that time, our party will be in power and we will once more have the trouble of that question upon our shoulders. Anyhow,

Mr. BERGERON.

we have had a very good experience in the past, and whenever the Liberals go on the hustings in our province or anywhere else and talk about the school question, we shall be able to bring them face to face with their speeches since they have been in power. Who started the school question originally? It seems idle to speak about it now, but on the other hand it would appear as if some people had forgotten. The school trouble was started at Brandon, Manitoba, on the 11th of April, 1889, by Mr. Dalton McCarthy. He raised the cry of race and religion; it was taken up by Mr. Greenway and carried into effect by a law which was introduced into the legislature by Mr. Martin, and afterwards, if I am not mistaken, carried out by the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). The Conservatives had nothing to gain by doing anything with that question. The Conservatives had nothing to gain in Quebec by arousing fanaticism on that question; they had nothing to gain in Ontario or in the maritime provinces. Who had anything to gain? The Liberals, and they did it. My right hon. friend in Quebec always had a string, and you could not catch him; but the Minister of Public Works was not so guarded, and all the others stirred up fanaticism on the question for whatever it was worth against the Conservative party for not granting the minority in Manitoba everything they desired. In Ontario Mr. McCarthy found friends on both sides of politics, and there he appealed to feelings the reverse of what were appealed to in Quebec. That is the history of the school question agitation as it was carried on by hon. gentlemen opposite, while the Conservative party were trying to the best of their power to settle that question in a constitutional way, and in a way that would last for ever.

While on this subject, I want to call the attention of the House to a few remarks made the other night by the hon. Minister of Public Works. The organ of that hon. gentleman in Quebec at the very time we are speaking, is again stirring up race and religious fanaticism on the school question against the Conservatives of Ontario, whom it calls the Tories of Ontario, saying that they are the enemies of the French Canadians and the Roman Catholics of Quebec. That is done every day in "La Patrie." Why not say the truth? Who stood by the Remedial Bill in 1896 here? In the name of those who were really interested in having the minority in the province of Manitoba granted their constitutional rights, I desire to say here in Parliament, before the whole country, that the English Conservatives of the different provinces of Canada stood by the constitution and by the rights of the minority; it will go down to history that the Conservative party stood manfully by the minority which had grievances, whether that minority was Protestant or Catholic. Except the few I named a few moments ago. I ask you to name some of the Liberals of

Ontario who voted with us in 1896, and then the hon. Minister of Public Works will be entitled to speak or write in the way he does. But I will come to that subject later on. I mention this only to show how unjust the Minister of Public Works is in pursuing to-day the same tactics which he pursued when he desired the party of hon. gentlemen opposite to come into power. I cannot forget the speech made in this House by Mr. Fairbairn, the member for South Victoria. I am sure my right hon. friend will remember it. Mr. Fairbairn, addressing the committee over which I had the honour to preside at the time, said he had been an Orangeman for years and years, and that he had learned in the Orange lodges to stand by the oppressed, whether they were of one creed or the other, and he thought it was his duty as an Orangeman to stand by the minority of Manitoba. He knew he would never come back to this House, but he did it because he knew how to fall for an honourable cause. And he said in that speech, which is in "Hansard" of 1896, that he regretted to see the right hon. gentleman in the position he then occupied, and that the right hon. gentleman would in the years to come have occasion to regret sincerely the position he had taken on that question. Now, Mr. Speaker, what have they done? Besides increasing the debt and increasing the expenditure, they have done something for themselves. The increase of the debt and the expenditure was for the country, but for themselves they have got rid of the Franchise Act. They had promised that, not to the country, for we had a better Act than we have to-day; but they had promised it to themselves, and they stuck to their promise and did it. What kind of a law have we to-day? I leave it to the judgment of the right hon. gentleman. He cannot hold an election in the city of Winnipeg to-day. Under the old franchise law an election could have been held at any time. The other day I wrote to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to ascertain if the lists for my county were there, as they should be, according to the Act passed last session; but they are not in yet, although there was an election held in the county of Beauharnois in December last. We do not know where we stand. And yet this is the law the hon. gentleman passed, because, forsooth, he had promised the Liberals in the country that he would get rid of that bad law which had been passed by the Conservatives. I do not want to increase the sorrows of my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), but this new electoral law worked in a queer way in the province of Quebec on the 29th of September last in the vote on the plebiscite. I would be glad to see an investigation of that vote. I think some people standing very high in the country have asked for an investigation. Why, I saw it stated in "Le Soleil" that people in Quebec were voting

about a week after the elections were over. As a matter of fact, on the 30th of September we read in the papers that the majority against prohibition in Quebec was about 40,000, whereas, according to the last report, it is over 80,000.

An hon. MEMBER. Over 90,000.

Mr. ANGERS. (Translation.) I suppose the hon. gentleman wants to show that in the province of Quebec the ballot boxes have been tampered with, as the vote has apparently increased. Let the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him whether he has compared the majorities officially reported in Ontario and some other English-speaking provinces with the majorities as first reported by the newspapers?

Mr. BERGERON. I am only repeating what I saw in "Le Soleil." I admit what my hon. friend says about the other provinces; but it only shows how badly the law of the right hon. gentleman has worked. If the same thing can be carried on in other elections as was done in the plebiscite election, it will be a very dangerous state of things.

The PRIME MINISTER. What things have we carried on?

Mr. BERGERON. If it is true that the vote has increased day by day, and that the people have been voting after the 29th of September—

The PRIME MINISTER. If the hon. gentleman will make that declaration, he can have a committee whenever he wants it.

Mr. BERGERON. If my hon. friend will hold an investigation, in three days he will have everything.

The PRIME MINISTER. I have said time and again that if a proper demand came for an investigation, it would be granted; but nothing has come yet.

Mr. BERGERON. If the right hon. gentleman really wants, for the honour of Canada, to have that matter threshed out thoroughly, I can put into his hands documents which will put him in a position to have it thoroughly investigated. Let me say to my right hon. friend, that I have every reason to believe that the Dominion Alliance in Montreal have in their possession facts which are probably not ignored by my right hon. friend, and that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) met those people, and that those people wanted to get an investigation themselves. The Minister of Agriculture asked them to let him have the investigation held, and they replied: We do not want a political investigation, but a thorough investigation. The matter stands there, but if the right hon. First Minister will declare that he is ready to have an investigation—not a political, but a thorough one—I repeat again, that in less than three days

he will have everything he desires necessary for an investigation.

Another thing which these gentlemen promised to themselves, and which they intend to carry out, is the redistribution of the counties. In other words—if I may be allowed to say so—a gerrymander of the different counties of this Dominion. This they promised to themselves, and it is the only thing we find in the Speech from the Throne. That Speech evidently was prepared in a great hurry, because there are some irregularities in it. There is something put into the mouth of His Excellency which certainly should be investigated. His Excellency says :

The almost total cessation of the considerable exodus of our population which, at one time, was a regrettable feature of our affairs.

But, Mr. Speaker, every day we read in the papers that the exodus is just as large as it was before ; yet, despite this, these gentlemen have made His Excellency declare that it has ceased.

Now, there is something else of which I do not know whether my right hon. friend is aware or not. There is a discrepancy between the French and the English version of that Speech.

The PRIME MINISTER. What is it

Mr. BERGERON. The English version reads—and I am very glad my hon. friend is here, because he is in a position to judge of the discrepancy very well :

Considerable progress has been made on several of the subjects submitted, but a serious disagreement arose between Her Majesty's commissioners and the commissioners of the United States on the question of the delimitation of the boundary between Canada and Alaska.

But the French version reads :

On en était arrivé à une entente sur plusieurs de points en litige, lorsqu'une divergence de vues se produisit entre les commissaires de Sa Majesté et ceux des Etats-Unis sur la question de la délimitation de la frontière entre le Canada et l'Alaska.

My hon. friend sees the difference.

The PRIME MINISTER. I notice that there is a shade of difference.

Mr. BERGERON. More than that.

The PRIME MINISTER. No, there is a shade. The word "almost" is not in the French version ; but I must say to the House that this is the first time my attention has been drawn to this divergence. When the Speech from the Throne was prepared, it was treated in the manner in which Speeches from the Throne are always treated. It was sent to Mr. De Celles, the Librarian, for translation. He did not translate it himself, but had it translated by Mr. Sylvain, the assistant librarian. It was sent by Mr. Sylvain to the Secretary of State, and by the Secretary of State to His Excel-

Mr. BERGERON.

lency, and in the meantime was not seen at all by myself.

Mr. BERGERON. My right hon. friend will understand that I am not making any charge against him personally. What I said was, that this Speech from the Throne seemed to have been prepared in a hasty manner and without care, and he certainly will admit that the difference is a marked one. Whilst the English version is, that considerable progress had been made on several of the subjects submitted to the Washington commission, the French version is, that on several of the points in dispute the commissioners had come to an agreement.

At any rate, leaving that aside, the only thing in the Speech from the Throne on which we can rely, is the promise by the Government to gerrymander the counties of this Dominion. That they promised to one another at the conference of 1893, and that promise which they made to each other, is the only thing they intend to carry out.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). Not a gerrymander.

Mr. BERGERON. My hon. friend opposite says, not a gerrymander.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. To undo a gerrymander.

Mr. BERGERON. My hon. friend is too kind. We know what his party has done in Ontario, the map of which, under their Gerrymander Act, is the greatest piece of patch-work we have ever seen. We had it before us in 1892, and nobody who did not see it, could have believed that such a piece of patch-work could have been devised by any government. It cannot be wondered at, then, that we do not doubt for a moment that if this Government find it to their interest to do a similar piece of work, they will have any scruples about doing it. I have no doubt that their promised redistribution will be the greatest piece of gerrymander we have ever heard of.

The PRIME MINISTER. You had better wait till you see it.

Mr. BERGERON. That is why I do not intend talking about it at greater length tonight. But they put that promise into their platform of 1893 for their own party benefit, and that promise they intend to carry out. They promised also, that they would reform the Senate, but they did not put that pledge into the Speech from the Throne, probably because they anticipated some criticism on the part of the other House. They say, however, in their speeches, that they are going to reform the Senate. Why? Reform it! My impression is, that the right hon. gentleman, when he spoke of Senate reform for the first time in Montreal, had never given the subject a thought. He was in a great hurry ; he had gone down to that

city to prevent the Liberal clubs there from eating up his Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), and he simply said to his Minister: What shall I say to them, when I go in; because I cannot go there with nothing but a whip in my hands to thrash them into line? And his Minister said to him: Talk about Senate reform. What does Senate reform mean? Will the Senate then cost less than it does to-day? No, Sir; it will cost the same price. But it simply amounts to this, that if the Senate should think it in the interests of the country to throw out any measure sent to them by the House of Commons, they will be brought down into this House, and their majority drowned by the majority here. I believe, Mr. Speaker, in an Upper House; I believe that the fathers of confederation were wise in their generation, and, in framing the Act of Confederation, did everything that could have been expected of them under the circumstances; but I say here, without consulting any one of my friends, that I would rather see the Senate abolished entirely than reformed in the way proposed.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BERGERON. I know that hon. gentlemen opposite are divided on that question, as they are on everything else. The hon. member for Napierville (Mr. Monet), the other day, said that he was in favour of the abolition of the Senate, but the hon. member for Hochelaga (Mr. Madore) said that he was not, but wanted reform. Let us examine and see how ridiculous is the position taken by my right hon. friend. Supposing he should bring the Senate down to meet in a congress of the two Houses. He has sixty votes of a majority to-day in this House. Let him put through this House the Drummond or the Yukon deal, and then let either measure be thrown out in the Senate by thirty of a majority. He will then bring the Senate down into this House, and, by combining the two Houses, he will carry the scheme by thirty of a majority. But take the reverse case. Let us imagine that my right hon. friend is preparing a ground to fall upon. He sends up a measure to the Senate, which the Senate refuses to pass. He then dissolves Parliament, and calls upon the people to say whether they want to rule this country, or allow it to be ruled by a lot of irresponsible men. Suppose he should carry the country by twenty of a majority, and the next year bring down a scheme, which he carries through this House by means of that majority, but which is rejected by the Senate by thirty of a majority. Will he ask the Senate to meet in conference with the House of Commons? What would be the object? His majority of twenty would be overcome by the Senate majority of thirty. I only mention this to show the absurdity of the scheme. But why are we asked to get rid of the Senate? Because it refused to sanction the Drum-

mond deal. That is the reason. For my right hon. friend knows that this is a fad and the Liberals have got the name for having fads. When they were in opposition they had the fad of having the patrons of industry to fight the Conservative party. They had the fad of prohibitionists to fight the Conservative party. They had to make some show of keeping that up when they got into power, because it is their habit. But do they intend to reform the Senate? Are they serious when they talk of such a thing? Let me remind my hon. friend what occurred in Quebec. Mr. Mercier proposed to abolish the Legislative Council. Did he do it? He declared throughout the province of Quebec that it was too costly, and that if he came into power he would abolish it. When he came into power he tried to get some of the councillors to resign, appointing their sons in their places and doing other things which were not commendable. And when he got the majority in the Council, far from abolishing it, he increased the indemnity of the councillors. My right hon. friend will do the same thing here. If the Senate gives him a majority, it will be found that that is all the change in the constitution in that body that he wants. He is not serious. When the Drummond County Bill was rejected in the Senate, my right hon. friend knows very well, he had his remedy. Why did he not go to the country; why did he not appeal to the electorate and say: Here is a measure which we, the majority in the House of Commons, believe to be in the interest of the country; we have passed it by a majority of 50; the Senate has refused to pass it; it is for the people to say which is right and which is wrong. If he had carried the country on such an appeal, he knows that he would only have had to put the Bill through this House and the Senate would have had to pass it. The same thing is true of the Yukon Bill. But let it be known, to the honour of the Senate of Canada, that by refusing sanction to the Drummond County Bill they saved over half a million dollars to the country, for the offers which were made by the same company to lease the road were for half a million less than my right hon. friend was willing to give to the Drummond County Railway with the sanction of this House. And now, comes an utterance from the right hon. gentleman which requires attention. In his speech the other day he said that he washes his hands of the Drummond scheme. He says that the measure will be sent to the other House. We know what that means. It will go back to the Senate, and he virtually says: Whether they accept it or not I have nothing more to do with it. Why? The object of the Drummond County Bill is accomplished, as I will show in a few moments when I speak on another subject. The company have had 42½ miles of railway built, with a subsidy of \$6,400 a mile from this Government; they have had new rails over the whole road, and now they have a beautiful railway. So

if the Government of Canada does not lease it or buy it the company will have a railway a hundred per cent better than it was before. We must turn our eyes now in another direction. I believe I know something more about that question than some of our friends in this House. We must turn our eyes toward the Atlantic Lake Superior, and South Shore road. The South Shore is the line on which the Intercolonial Railway should have come into Montreal. If we understood this matter fully, we should know why there was something wrong about the resignation of the hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Guité). He had an object in view when he resigned. Those with whom he is acting are very skilful men. They told him to resign, that it would carry something. There was an example of an hon. gentleman resigning last session, and he carried what he wanted. I refer to the hon. member for Richelieu (Mr. Bruneau). And the hon. member for Bonaventure did the same thing. He made his resignation in such a way—that is those who were at the bottom of the scheme did—that it could not be operative. And when it was decided to grant certain subsidies, as we shall see, to the Atlantic Lake Superior, and South Shore Railway, to please my hon. friends from Yamaska (Mr. Mignault) and Richelieu (Mr. Bruneau). Then the hon. member for Bonaventure came back to this House and now he is in the employment of all the privileges of a member of the House of Commons. Now, are they a happy family with all that? I do not think so. We have had too many resignations since the commencement of this Parliament. We never used to hear of them before. I do not believe that hon. members that have been here for 20 years have heard of as many resignations being sent to the Speaker as they have heard since this Government came into power. How many resignations may have been sent to the Prime Minister, we do not know; we shall never know. But I may be asked: What was the result of bringing the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal? It seems to me I can almost hear still the echoes of the speeches of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) and the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) in which they declared that if the Intercolonial Railway were brought to Montreal the deficit of this great railway would be wiped out. But what is the result? The latest figures we have are in the report of the Department of Railways and Canals. That report shows a deficit in the Intercolonial Railway operation of \$209,978.76, that is to say, it is \$80,000 more than it was last year, besides the \$70,000 which we have paid for the four months lease of the Drummond County Railway down to January of this year. That is to say, the deficit of the Intercolonial Railway since this beautiful scheme of the Government is \$150,000 more than it was last year.

Mr. BERGERON.

Mr. RINFRET. (Translation.) Will the hon. gentleman allow me a question? Is the hon. gentleman giving now the result of the operation for the year 1898? He ought to know, in that case, that the Intercolonial Railway has been running to Montreal but two months.

Mr. BERGERON. (Translation.) Four months.

Mr. RINFRET. (Translation.) Two or three months, it does not make much difference. Everybody knows that when a railway begins to be operated, more particularly for the first two or three months, it is not expected to give very satisfactory financial results.

Mr. BERGERON. My hon. friend (Mr. Rinfret) has not seen the report of the Department of Railways and Canals.

Mr. RINFRET. Yes, I have seen it.

Mr. BERGERON. Well, I will refer him to one page in this book so that he will not make any mistake. If he will look at page 22 of this report—and I am glad he has drawn my attention to the matter—he will find, that under Conservative rule, the Intercolonial Railway has had surpluses. Here is a list of the surpluses:

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| 1880-1..... | \$ 542 65 |
| 1881-2..... | 9,605 18  |
| 1882-3..... | 10,547 83 |
| 1883-4..... | 6,981 30  |
| 1892-3..... | 20,181 59 |
| 1893-4..... | 5,838 29  |
| 1894-5..... | 3,815 21  |

These were surpluses under Conservative administration. Now, in 1895-96 the deficit was \$55,187.52. In 1896-97, under the administration of hon. gentlemen opposite, the deficit was \$59,940.65, and in 1897-98, it is just what I have quoted, \$209,978.66.

Mr. RINFRET. (Translation.) I may perhaps be allowed to draw the attention of the hon. gentleman to the fact that the result of the operations of the Intercolonial Railway, since its extension to Montreal, cannot be accurately known before the year 1898-99. That railway has really been in operation only during the present year. Therefore, the argument brought forward by the hon. gentleman does not apply, in so far as the extension of that railway line to Montreal is concerned, because the result of the operations of the new scheme will only be fully known when the figures for the year ending on the 30th of June next are at hand.

Mr. BERGERON. My hon. friend is entirely wrong. Without mentioning the \$70,000 for the lease of the Drummond road, during the month of September, October, November and December, the deficit is \$139,978.66; and the Deputy Minister explains in his report, at page 11, that this does not comprise the \$70,000 given for the lease, which brings the

deficit to \$209,978.66. I would advise my hon. friend to read the report of the Minister of Railways and Canals, and he will learn something that he has not yet learned.

**Mr. RINFRET.** (Translation.) I have read the report of the Minister of Railways as carefully as the hon. gentleman himself did, and I think I am just as able as he is, to form an opinion of the state of affairs. I maintain that it is only by referring to the figures of the financial year ending June 30th that we will be enabled to judge of the real results, and I venture to say that, instead of a deficit, there will be a surplus.

**Mr. BERGERON.** Let the hon. gentleman tell that to his electors. The hon. gentleman acknowledges there is a deficit of \$209,000, but he says: Wait until June, 1899, and you will see a surplus. If rumour is true, when that report is made my hon. friend will not be here. Now, Mr. Speaker, who has the Drummond deal benefited? I read in the Montreal "Gazette" of last Saturday that it had not benefited the country, but that it had benefited Mr. Greenshields, of Montreal, and I will add, the Minister of Public Works in this House. The "Gazette" is a responsible paper published in my province, and I accept its statement. Now, what was the Yukon deal? As I said a little while ago, the hon. gentleman who had promised that the public lands of this Dominion should be given to bona fide settlers were ready to give 4,000,000 acres of our best mineral lands in the Yukon territory to build 150 miles of railway, and I said then that the scheme was so bad that some of their own friends voted against it. Who were they who voted against it? The hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. McInnes), the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Rogers), the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver), and the hon. member for South Perth (Mr. Erb) voted against it, all gentlemen who support the Administration, but they could not support it in this nefarious scheme. The hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) could not support it, and went out of the House, although one of the most faithful supporters of hon. gentlemen opposite.

**The MINISTER OF FINANCE.** Did anybody on the other side vote for it?

**Mr. BERGERON.** I do not think anybody voted for it on this side.

**An hon. MEMBER.** The hon. member for North Victoria (Mr. Hughes).

**Mr. BERGERON.** Well, I am very glad the right hon. gentleman has the consolation of having the support of one of our friends on this side of the House. But not only did their friends vote against it, but the press of the country at that time said that the public of this country breathed freely when the Senate had destroyed that scheme. Now, I am told, I do not know if it is true, the Minister of the Interior could tell us if it is true—I am told that there is now a railway connection through the White Pass with the

Klondike route which has not cost a cent of money to this country, nor an acre of land in subsidy. I see that in the papers, I would be glad to know whether it is true, and until it is denied, we must take it for granted. Now, these are some of the reasons why the right hon. gentleman wants to destroy the Senate. I say "destroy," he calls it "reform"; but it is in fact the destruction of the Senate. I will go further. The right hon. gentleman has a few friends in the Senate, and he has appointed some since he came to power; but my impression is that if that scheme of his goes through, there is not a man that would retain his seat in the Senate. It would be a dishonour to retain a position as Senator if the scheme of the right hon. gentleman is carried. The members of that House would then become merely voting machines. I include his friends as well as ours, because I assume that he has chosen men of honour in the appointments he has made to the Senate. Now, my right hon. friend has spoken loudly on the hustings as well as in the House, about provincial autonomy. He would not coerce Manitoba to render justice to a minority, but he wanted to force Quebec to pass resolutions in favour of his Senate scheme. Mr. Speaker, when the day arrives that this Parliament shall rule all the local legislatures in the Dominion of Canada, we might as well tear to pieces the British North America Act and have legislative union; it would be cheaper. What did my right hon. friend do? He left here in company with the master of the Administration, and went down to Quebec. The papers announced next morning that the Minister of Public Works had arrived in his private car, accompanied by the Premier of Canada. They went there at the end of the session—to do what? To force Mr. Marchand, the Premier of Quebec, to pass a resolution in favour of the abolition of the Senate, or, as he calls it, the reform of the Senate. And that in a province which has a legislative council to-day, based upon the very same principles as the Senate of Canada. Mr. Marchand would not do it, he would not be coerced. But Mr. Marchand had passed a law providing for the appointment of three more judges in the province of Quebec, and there is a rumour that the Prime Minister of Canada was not very well pleased at the prospect of introducing that little elephant into the House of Commons here. And the Prime Minister is not as bold as the Minister of Public Works, far from it. He was not taken greatly with the scheme. It seems that the Prime Minister of Quebec asked the hon. Minister of Public Works: "Will you appoint three judges in conformity with my law if I do something for the reform of the Senate," and it seems, if the rumour is true, that the hon. Minister of Public Works said: "Yes, if you do something, we will see about the appointment of the judges." If this is true or false, temp-  
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tations have been offered any way. Is it not time that we should know whether we have provincial autonomy in this country or not? Mr. Marchand had a member get up in the House, the hon. member for the St. James Division of Montreal, and ask the Prime Minister of Quebec a question, and the Prime Minister said: "Yes," that he thought under the circumstances the Senate might be reformed. And after that satisfaction was given, the private car came back with the Minister of Public Works, accompanied by the Prime Minister of Canada. They went to Nova Scotia. Well, now, my hon. friend from Nova Scotia (Mr. Fielding) knows that they have a Legislative Council in his province. Why do they not get rid of their Legislative Council, when they have that immense majority, before they commence to ask for the demolition of the Senate of Canada? It shows that it is not the work of statesmen, but that it is the work of men who have not been accustomed to rule, and who will not rule for a very long time.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). Does my hon. friend know the facts about Nova Scotia?

Mr. **BERGERON**. Has the hon. gentleman anything to say about them?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. The Government of Nova Scotia did attempt to get rid of the Legislative Council of that province; a petition was sent to Her Majesty's Government, and the Government did everything they could to bring about that result. That is the answer to the hon. gentleman's question.

Mr. **BERGERON**. I do not know that it is true, but will the hon. gentleman, since he is so kind as to discuss the matter with me, tell me that he did not appoint somebody pledged to vote against the abolition of the Council?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. Yes, a number of gentlemen who promised to vote for abolition failed to do so, and a number of gentlemen who were appointed by the Conservative Government under exactly the same conditions, did the same thing.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. Hear, hear.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. Will my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition say "hear, hear?"

Mr. **BERGERON**. I think all this goes to show the absurdity of the thing. We have one or two provinces; we have the same thing in Quebec, and we have the very same thing in Nova Scotia. It shows to my right hon. friend that whoever has given him the scheme has deceived him, and did not explain the whole thing to him. My hon. friend from Hochelaga (Mr. Madore) does not believe, like my hon. friend from Laprairie and Napierville (Mr. Monet), that it would be better for the country to abolish the Sen-

Mr. **BERGERON**.

ate altogether. The hon. member for Hochelaga said, no. We saw he said, in France, not long ago, a great conference between the House of Representatives and the members of the Senate to choose a President of France. There is no parallel in this. We have here a conference between the Senate and the House of Commons in the proper way as they have in England, and the only guarantee of the usefulness of the Senate is to keep it as it is to-day. Of course there may be some details. My right hon. friend might say to me: "But have you always paid a great deal of attention to appointments to the Senate?" There may have been appointments to the Senate of gentlemen who were not qualified to go into that House. That is the idea we had of it. I side immediately with my hon. friend in a statement of that kind. I remember one year he spoke of a gentleman, in the Senate, as being entirely too old to do any work. He made an appointment not long ago of a gentleman for whom I have a great deal of esteem, but who is over 80 years of age.

Mr. **FRASER** (Guysborough). About the same age as your leader.

Mr. **BERGERON**. My leader carried a county any way; my leader has been elected, and my leader can meet my hon. friend on any hustings in Nova Scotia.

Mr. **FRASER** (Guysborough). So can the other gentleman.

Mr. **BERGERON**. What does my hon. friend say?

Mr. **FRASER** (Guysborough). All I have to say is, that so can the gentleman who has been appointed to the Senate, meet any hon. gentleman in Nova Scotia just as ably as the leader of the Opposition, but the leader of the Opposition was in the position that he had a hived constituency and he was returned.

Mr. **BERGERON**. I am ready to accept what the hon. gentleman has said about the hon. senator, against whom I have nothing to say, but I was simply answering what the right hon. leader of the Government has said speaking about the age of senators. I say that you are not in power two years until you appoint an older man than ever the Conservatives appointed. I am very glad to hear that the hon. senator is such a power on the hustings, because the right hon. gentleman will need him in his next election in Nova Scotia. Now, take up another of the promises of the hon. gentlemen. It is most extraordinary how they made promises to the country which they failed to fulfil while they stuck to the promises which they made to themselves. In regard to the promises of the plebiscite my hon. friend from Verchères (Mr. Geoffrion) said in Valleyfield at a public meeting, speaking as a member of the Government, that this subject was brought into the convention when the people were tired, when they were all going away, and that

some crank got up and said: "We must have something about prohibition, because there is an element in favour of prohibition and we must get that element in the elections." The right hon. leader of the Government says: "We did not promise that to the country; we promised it to the Liberal party." There was a discussion; some said that it would be better to have prohibition; the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) said it would be better to have prohibition; the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) would have been in favour of prohibition, but my right hon. friend was not, and I congratulate him on that. These hon. gentlemen said: "Yes, as soon as we are in power we shall have a plebiscite," although there is nothing in the whole history of England to show that there ever was a referendum of that sort. It is due to the so-called Liberal Government of Canada to-day, a thing which is un-British, to unload from their shoulders their responsibility, to hide themselves behind the fence, and say to the people: "There is \$250,000; fight among yourselves," not intending to be honest with the people of the country or to grant them whatever they would choose. The honest prohibitionists of this country—I use the word "honest," because there are a great many who would put party before their convictions—the right hon. gentleman had no reason to give them a plebiscite because he had them any way, but the honest prohibitionists who believed sincerely in prohibition, will resent the position in which the hon. gentleman has placed them. Until the time of the vote, I had the impression—I may be right, and I am going to say it any way, hon. gentlemen will know whether it is true or not—that they were going to have an election before the vote, that they never intended to have a day set apart for the plebiscite vote, but that they had it in their mind to have a general election that would have been a great boon to carry the prohibitionists of this country. However, something happened, I do not know what; they had to have a day set apart, and the 29th of September was named, and when it was decided there was great trouble in the camp. Some people said: Prohibition will carry, and they were right; while friends of the Government said: We will do our best to prevent it from being carried. And so, my hon. friend from Verchères (Mr. Geoffrion) and the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) went through the province of Quebec doing everything they could against prohibition, and the Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) went to his county and used all his force and influence to get his people to vote against it. At that time in Montreal, anti-prohibition literature was distributed, and in some of the wine store windows, pictures were exhibited showing how the farmer would be taxed under prohibition. I was told that this literature and these pictures came from Ottawa, so that it looked as if an election fund was at the back of it.

Well, the majority voted in favour of prohibition and the answer of the Prime Minister to them now is, that the vote is too small. I repeat that my right hon. friend will not get out of it that way; the sincere prohibitionists of Canada will reckon with him when he appeals to the electorate.

I have spoken, Mr. Speaker, of what this Government has not done for the country, and it might be well for a moment to review what they have done. The scheme of the Postmaster General has been carried out, and we have the penny postage. But we have at the same time an inefficient mail service, and we also have petitions from the letter carriers all over Canada complaining that they are underpaid. I believe in the political economy that has the expenditure compensated by revenue, and that is a theory also held by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries on many occasions. But, after all, what great benefit is it to give to the merchants and the wealthy classes who write letters, the privilege of paying only 2 cents, when the farmers and workingmen who hardly write a dozen letters a year each, will have to pay up the deficit which will accrue in the Post Office Department. It is all very well for the Postmaster General to say that he has diminished the post office deficit of former years; but how has he done it? He has done it by starving the mail carriers, and if you take the report of the department it would astonish you to see for what small sums the mails are carried. From a political point of view I do not complain of that, because it will be so many votes against the Government; but as a matter of political economy, the principle is bad, and I cannot offer my congratulations to the Postmaster General.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). They are not obliged to carry the mails; they are all doing it voluntarily.

Mr. BERGERON. They are not obliged to, and if the statement of the hon. gentleman for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) be correct, they certainly are not obliged to, because the mails are not carried at all in the North-west. Another thing which the Liberal Government have done for the country is to pass an alien labour law, but there they rested, and they have resolved not to enforce that law. The law is on the Statute-book all right, but it is a dead-letter, although there are gentlemen throughout the country in all the large cities having salaries from \$500 upwards and their travelling expenses, to enforce a law which they actually are not allowed to enforce. There are American workingmen in Montreal in reference to whom Mr. Keyes, acting for the Department of Justice, has reported, and the department has not acted upon his report. On the other hand, there are Canadian workingmen in Montreal to-day who cannot earn a cent, while American citizens are earning a living there. Some of these men employed by the Government came here and said to the Minister of Jus-

tice : What is the use of having a law if you do not enforce it, and the Minister of Justice replied : Never mind ; the law is there and it serves to frighten the American labourers. Well, the Minister of Justice is mistaken about that, for the American labourers know that the law will not be operated, and they are perfectly satisfied. The Prime Minister has told us that another great thing he has done for the country is to give us cold storage. Well, as the ex-Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Montague) explained the other night, cold storage was there when the Liberals came into power and they simply continued it. When these hon. gentlemen opposite were in Opposition we heard them thundering against the granting of subsidies to railways. Have they put a stop to that policy ? In 1896, they were fresh from the people, they had some sense of the responsibility of carrying out their pledges and they did stop the subsidies, but they soon forgot their virtue, and in 1897, they granted subsidies to 32 roads which had been promised subsidies by the previous Administration, and which these very gentlemen condemned when in Opposition. They tell us as an excuse, that they were obliged to carry out the promises of the previous Government, they are strong in that argument ; but, Sir, not only did they carry out the promises of the previous Administration in that respect, but they actually granted to eight new railroads, subsidies to the tune of over \$2,000,000. So it is with the public works of the country. They claim they had to carry out the works of the previous Government, but as a matter of fact most of the contracts were let and seven-eighths of them were finished when they came into power. Again, let me ask : Why is this Government so fond of giving out work and sending contracts to the United States. Why are they getting railway cars built in the United States instead of having them built in Canada by Canadian workmen ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Because the Canadian car shops are busy and have all the work they can do.

Mr. BERGERON. That was stated in the newspapers last fall and denied on the best authority. There are plenty of workmen in Canada to build those cars, but there is an object in sending the work to the United States, and that object will come out some day. There is an object in view in sending to the United States over \$200,000 for cars which could be built by Canadian workmen in Canada, and the Canadian workmen will remember this when the Government goes before the country. Why did the Government send to Chicago to have the map of the North-west made ? Was there nobody in Canada who could do that work ? And why in that map, did the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) allow the United States all the Alaskan territory which they claimed ? How is it that the old rifles were sold into the United States, and sold without tender ?

Mr. BERGERON.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Hear, hear.

Mr. BERGERON. Yes, probably my right hon. friend does not know it, but I repeat again, and I will prove it, that these rifles were sold in the United States without tender. If that had been done by a Conservative Administration, would we not have heard the voice of my hon. friend from South Huron (Mr. McMillan), and the voice of the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) ringing out in denunciation. How these walls would have trembled at the sound of their voices, if they had found out that 3,450 Enfield rifles were sold at 25 cents each ; that 1,572 Peabody rifles were sold at 25 cents each ; that 70 Spencer rifles were sold at 25 cents ; and that 219 Winchester rifles were sold at \$1.50. These have been sold without tender to the United States, and this is what I find in the Auditor General's Report. Mr. McDougall writes to the Department of Militia and Defence as follows :—

Audit Office, Ottawa, June 28, 1898.

Sir,—On the February return of the Director of Stores, there is entered a sale of rifles to Hartiey & Graham, of New York, as follows :—

He then gives the figures I have read, and goes on :

No vouchers in connection with this sale have been furnished. Please forward them. In the meantime, I have to inquire if these rifles were examined and condemned by a board of examiners, and if the sale was advertised and held by auction, or by tender.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

J. L. McDUGALL, A.G.

The Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence.

An hon. MEMBER. Is there an answer ?

Mr. BERGERON. There is an answer.

An hon. MEMBER. Read it.

Mr. BERGERON :

Department of Militia and Defence,

Ottawa, July 7, 1899.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 28th ult., re sale of condemned stores, I have the honour to inform you that the rifles referred to were obsolete and condemned as unfit for service by the annual boards of survey from year to year. They were altogether unfit for the present requirements of the militia. The sale was not by auction, but by private tender, by order of the Hon. the Minister of Militia and Defence. There are no vouchers in the case.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

B. SULTE,

Acting D. M. of M. & D.

The Auditor General.

Now, Sir, how is this ? Is there not a concurrence of desire on the part of the Department of Railways and Canals, the Department of the Interior and the Department of Militia and Defence to have dealings with the United States ? There is something under that ; it is not natural. I suppose that before the session is over we shall know more about it.

Now, Sir, we have had immigration, and what kind of immigration have we had? I remember, when my friends from the province of Quebec were in Opposition, the great speeches they used to make in that province against the Government of the country spending money to bring in strangers instead of inviting our compatriots in the United States to come to Canada. Well, Sir, they are in power now, and what kind of immigrants do they bring into the country? Doukhobors, Galicians—people who sell their wives, as I saw the other day in the newspapers. And, Sir, where are the Canadians who have been brought into this country by the present Administration? We have an army of agents in Europe, and what are they doing? I do not see any immigration from the civilized countries of Europe.

Mr. SPROULE. They are drawing their salaries.

Mr. BERGERON. Is that the reason why they have been appointed? If it is, it is very good for the Government, but it will be a bad thing for the people of this country. I see in a paper of Wednesday—I think this was read in the House the other day.

An hon. MEMBER. Read it again.

Mr. BERGERON. I will. The hon. gentleman need not be so anxious—he will get a great deal more than that:

This is the season for the annual migration of Canadians to the United States, and dozens of them pass through Bangor on every train from the east. Within the last few days the second-class travel has been exceedingly heavy, but on Tuesday all records were broken, when 120 men, women and children, from all parts of the lower provinces, arrived here in two cars. Their stay was short on account of the lateness of the train, and they were in Bangor only for the brief time occupied in switching the cars from one train to the other.

Yet hon. gentlemen opposite have put it in the mouth of the Governor General of Canada to boast that the exodus has ceased. While they are bringing into the country at great expense Doukhobors and Galicians, they are not only doing nothing for our compatriots on the other side of the line, but they are doing nothing to bring a good immigration from England, Ireland and Scotland.

We lack something else; we have no fast line. How is that? I heard my right hon. friend the other day saying that we have no fast line, but that he hopes we may. If the hon. gentleman had accepted the scheme which the chief of the present Opposition had left in his hands when he took power, we would to-day be enjoying the benefits of a fast line. Look at what all Canada has lost in three years by not having a fast line of steamers. Great Britain is our natural market, and the sooner we make arrangements for sending our products

to our natural market, the better off this country will be.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I come to another matter which I will only touch upon in passing, because it has been discussed thoroughly by other speakers; that is, the accusations made against the Yukon officials. I will not say more about that, because it has been thoroughly discussed; but I ask the Government—and it seems to me that I am putting a question which the electors of this country would put if they were here—how it is that they have allowed these accusations to be thrown in their faces in Parliament, and have persisted in refusing an investigation by a royal commission? Not only have these accusations been brought into this House, but they have been heard on the streets of Montreal for the last three months—the same accusations which have been made in the speeches of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) and the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior). And yet the Government of Canada sit there shielding those officials, and saying in a way that does not command respect: "Bring your accusations, and we will act." They have had accusations enough if they are serious, and if they do not give what the Opposition has been asking for in the name of this country, they will be accused of shielding the faults of the officials.

The hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) finished his speech this afternoon by referring to the by-elections. He said: "What is the use of talking?—this Government has the sanction of the electorate, because they carry every by-election." I said this afternoon that they had to bring the Minister of Public Works even to Ontario to carry the by-elections. Why do they do it? Because the Minister of Public Works, when he goes into a county, will in the least time possible find out where the bad element in that county is, and he will work that element for all it is worth; and there is a bad element in almost every county except my own, because the hon. gentleman came there in December last and tried to beat my colleague for the local House, but he could not. The Minister of Public Works has the fighting brigades in Ontario and Quebec. I am told that the brigade is already acting in Brockville, although the nomination is not yet made. Besides that, they make continually in the province from which I come, their appeals to prejudices. The hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) has been doing that all his life, as I shall show before I take my seat, and he has taught that practice to those with whom he works in the province of Quebec. They appeal to the electorate in Quebec to support the right hon. First Minister because he is a French-speaking gentleman. They appeal to that electorate to keep in power at any cost a man from that province. Our people, Mr. Speaker, are of French descent, and apt to be carried by

sentiment, and those who work that cry amongst them are aware of that fact very well, and play upon that sentiment to their best advantage. What did they do in 1896? I see some gentlemen in this House to-night who addressed from the hustings the electorate of that province, and what would you believe was the cry they resorted to? They told the people that the leader of the then Government had bought \$3,000,000 worth of rifles, which he was going to put into the hands of Canadians, and send them off to South Africa, there to defend the British Empire. Men of intelligence, professional men, who made such dishonest sectional appeals on the hustings in order to excite those people against the Liberal-Conservative Government; they said to their compatriots: If you keep in power an English Protestant, your sons will have to go under the hot sun of Africa and there defend the British Empire; but if you put in the French Canadian, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, he will not allow your sons to be sent away to fight for England, because he is a French Canadian. How can you expect to fight a fair political fight in a province where such appeals gain credence? Has that policy been changed? Why, the other day, my hon. friend from Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux) spoke of a controversy we had in Montreal concerning the Bagot election. I have something to say about that election. My hon. friend read a letter which he wrote to the Montreal "Gazette," contradicting a report which appeared in that paper, of the speeches at the nomination at Bagot. At that nomination, where I had the honour of meeting my hon. friend from Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Stenson), and where there were about ten or twelve members of Parliament present, I replied to the hon. member for Gaspé, and I wish to read to the House the "Gazette" report, because I know that if the hon. member for Gaspé were here, and I were to say that he used such and such language, he would deny having used it, and you, Mr. Speaker, would ask me to take it back. I have been too long in that Chair, Sir, to expose myself to that result, but I will take another means of getting at the truth. I shall read the report in the "Gazette," and leave the House to judge for themselves. That report is as follows:—

Mr. Lemieux, M.P., made a very eloquent oration. He claimed for Sir Wilfrid Laurier that he had settled the Manitoba school question to the satisfaction of the Pope and the bishops. He also spoke of Sir Charles Tupper being a Protestant, and asked his hearers if they would vote for him against Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a French Canadian, who had made so imposing a figure at the London Jubilee proceedings, and who was now at Washington winning the admiration of all.

That is not what my hon. friend from Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux) has told this House he did say.

An hon. MEMBER. What date was that?

Mr. BERGERON.

Mr. BERGERON. The 8th of December last. I followed Mr. Lemieux on that occasion, and I shall read to the House what I did say, and leave the House to judge from what I said, whether the hon. member for Gaspé used the language attributed to him, or not.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. member must accept the statement made by the hon. member for Gaspé, and not contradict it, directly or indirectly, whether by reading the reports of newspapers, or in any other way.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I rise to a question of order, Mr. Speaker. I think, on reflection, you will find it is impossible to carry on legitimate, fair discussion in this House, if an hon. gentleman is not allowed to read a report by a reporter of a public meeting, and let it go for whatever it may be worth. The hon. member may say that that report is inaccurate, but, in my judgment, no fair debate can be carried on in this House, if you, Sir, undertake to prevent the report of a public meeting by an independent journalist being read, and the hon. gentleman who has the floor is simply now proceeding to read what he himself said. It will then be left to the hon. gentleman concerned, or anybody else, to explain that the report is inaccurate; but to rule that the facts cannot be submitted to the House is to take a position which I am sure you, Sir, will not, on reflection, insist on adopting.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I may be mistaken, but the position I take is this, and I think it is one which is in accord with the rules of the House—that when a member of this House has made a statement from his place, as I believe the hon. member for Gaspé did, no other hon. gentleman has the right to dispute or contradict it by reading newspaper reports or otherwise.

Mr. TISDALE. May I be allowed to suggest that the contradiction was made on another occasion altogether. The hon. member for Gaspé has not made the contradiction in this discussion, and he can only do so by referring to it when he is present at some future time. The rule only applies to the present discussion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman is mistaken, because the hon. member for Gaspé did, in this debate, declare positively that he never made the statement attributed to him, and I think it is only fair that we should, under the rules of the House, accept his denial.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If you will allow me, Sir, that will not preclude the hon. gentleman who has the floor, from reading a report of what he himself has said.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I assume that the hon. gentleman accepts the statement made by the hon. member for Gaspé.

Mr. BERGERON. I said, a moment ago, that I would not tell the House myself what I heard the hon. member for Gaspé say, because I know he has already denied it, and would do so again, and I would be obliged to accept his denial. I am simply reading a report in a newspaper, from which the House can draw its own inference as to whether the hon. gentleman did say what was attributed to him or not. Besides, I am not reading what was said by the hon. member for Gaspé, but what I said myself, and, until I contradict myself, I should be allowed to go on reading what I did say. The report reads thus:

Mr. Bergeron, M.P., who followed Mr. Lemieux, referred to the latter's appeal for votes for Sir Wilfrid Laurier on account of his being a French Canadian, an appeal that had also been made by less important speakers in other parts of the constituency. Would Mr. Lemieux, a member of Parliament, he asked, dare to use such language in the maritime provinces? Such appeals were to be condemned. Mr. Bergeron also spoke of the Manitoba school question.

I read this, because the day before I had met, in a parish called St. Nazaire, at a meeting there, the hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe, together with some nice, respectable young fellows from Montreal, and there heard similar appeals. When I say, young men, I mean men who are not members of Parliament, but who are old enough to be in the House. These men made most fervent appeals to the electors to vote for the Prime Minister on account of his creed and nationality, but not on any political ground. I then said to myself: These men are not responsible; and I never thought for a moment that the people would accept their statements seriously. But the case was different when a member of Parliament spoke, for he would feel the responsibility of his position, and the people would be more disposed to accept his statements as accurate. Therefore, the following day, when I heard the hon. member for Gaspé use similar language, I asked him, how he dared repeat appeals made by irresponsible young men; and I leave it to the House to judge whether the hon. gentleman spoke the truth, when he disclaimed having made any such appeal.

The PRIME MINISTER. Order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman has not the right to go so far. He should accept the statement of the hon. member for Gaspé.

Mr. BERGERON. I am doing that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. But the hon. gentleman is proceeding to make some remarks which would leave the House to infer that he does not accept the declaration made by the hon. member for Gaspé.

Mr. BERGERON. I desire to be well understood. I accept the statement of my hon. friend from Gaspé, because I am obliged to do so, but I have read the report to the House, and the House and the public

can judge which version is correct. Now, the other day—and I shall finish very soon—the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Talbot) spoke, and declared that if there was an election in Quebec to-morrow not ten Conservatives would be returned. That is very important.

An hon. MEMBER. Five.

Mr. BERGERON. I think the hon. member for Bellechasse said ten. The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), speaking in West Huron the other day, said if there was an election in Quebec there would not be five of us returned. I do not know who are the five fortunate ones who would come back. I am glad that the hon. member for Bellechasse is more generous to us. It is true they are carrying by-elections in Quebec, but they are carrying them by appeal to national prejudice. And, if they carry on the general election as they carried on the plebiscite in Quebec in September last, I can see that there would be danger for a great many of us. You, Mr. Speaker, will remember, though some members of the House do not, that there has been ballot stuffing in Quebec before. The ballot system was invented by the Liberals, and they were the first to learn how to work it. In 1878, in the county of Jacques Cartier, represented by my hon. friend (Mr. Monk), in the parish of St. Anne, the Hon. Mr. Laflamme, then the Minister of Justice—would you believe it? the Minister of Justice!—had a poll where the returning officer, clerks and other employees about the poll, appointed by the Government of which my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) was a member, were combined to rob the Conservative party of that election. This, I believe, affords us an explanation of what the hon. Minister of Public Works has said: If they have recourse to the same tricks there is no doubt they can carry Quebec. If the hon. leader of the Opposition comes into Quebec, as he has said he would, we shall every one feel honoured to accompany him from county to county—I have confidence in my compatriots that they will choose honestly between what is good for the country and what is bad for the country. The hon. Minister of Public Works told us the other day, in his speech, which I had not the pleasure of hearing, but which I have read, that if the leader of the Opposition would come into Quebec he would be listened to with all courtesy that is due to a man in his position. Yes, but the hon. Minister of Public Works will not meet the leader of the Opposition on the public platform any more than he will meet us. He will not meet us face to face upon the hustings and defend the position of his Government. In December last he spoke in Beauharnois, about three acres away from where we were holding a meeting, but he would not come to our meeting. I can tell the hon. leader of the Opposition that the hon. Minister will not meet him.

If he should come, however, it might be dangerous, if he used the instruments that he used once, when the workmen of the Intercolonial were assembled with crowbars to defeat and kill their opponents at Ste. Hénédine in 1886. But I repeat that if the electorate of Quebec are left free to decide, the predictions of the Minister of Public Works will not be realized. Now, I must bring my remarks to a close. In closing let me say that the party of my right hon. friend never had any policy, and they have not been in the past and they are not now sincere in what they call their policy; and they have shown, since they obtained power a lack of patriotism which could not be expected of them from their official declarations when in Opposition. My right hon. friend wanted power. That is a legitimate ambition for a man who has been in politics for a long time. But, Sir, if you wish to be well received in a house, always come in by the front door. My hon. friend had tried different ways of getting into power, and had favoured various policies, but he had not succeeded. He used the school question to obtain power. He was dragged into that, I am sure, by the Minister of Public Works. The Minister of Public Works has been the fatal man, and will be yet. I want to prove what I say, that my right hon. friend is not the master; and I am going to give two examples. I am sorry that the case is as it is, for in private life I have great esteem for the right hon. gentleman. But this is politics. Last session we saw the Prime Minister in a most humiliating position for a man occupying so high a place. He came to the House and laid upon the Table a telegram from the High Commissioner. At the request of the hon. leader of the Opposition, who asked: Where is the despatch which has provoked that answer? The Prime Minister said: I have not it here, but I will bring it to the hon. gentleman tomorrow. Next day when he came into the House and was asked where the despatch was, he rose and said it was a confidential despatch. Did he know that before? Or did he not? My impression is that he did not know. Because I cannot reconcile knowledge on his part with the promise he made. What I believe to be true is that he had never seen the despatch, but it had been sent by some of his colleagues without his knowledge. That was a humiliating position for the right hon. gentleman. But what took place the other night? When the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Herbert Tupper) was speaking and it was understood, as it was explained by the end of the sitting, that the whips had come to an agreement to adjourn at six o'clock, and the right hon. gentleman said that the leader of the Opposition was right in saying they had come to an agreement themselves, that probably at six o'clock the House would adjourn; but he said, in these matters "we

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are in the hands of the House." In the hands of whom? Of two or three gentlemen near him, who shouted, "Go on! go on!" The Prime Minister said, and he could hardly help laughing: If I had known the hon. member for Pictou would speak up to 12 o'clock, I would have proposed to adjourn at six. Is he the master of his party or not? Does he rule the House or does he not? He does not. Who is the master? The Minister of Public Works. Why, the Minister of Public Works does not deny it. The other day when the hon. member for Pictou was calling upon the matter of the Administration to speak, the Minister of Public Works answered immediately. It is very true he did it by surprise, but it was done. In Valleyfield, at a dinner he gave himself there—it was attended by about 250 men from Montreal and thirty-five from Beauharnois—he told the manufacturers that they should have protection. "I promise you that you shall have protection," he said. "I." It was stated in "La Patrie" that the hon. Minister of Public Works was in Montreal and had been conferring with the Grand Trunk Railway regarding some railway deals. "I" had done so and so—not the Minister of Railways and Canals, but the Minister of Public Works. He is the doctor of the Administration; he is the magician. When anything goes wrong, the Prime Minister puts the case in the hands of the master, and the master diagnoses the case. Now, let us take some of his cases. Was it not a most extraordinary operation to make the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) swallow the protection policy? Well, he would not do it in 1896—he would not listen to it. And the Prime Minister put the case into the hands of the master. The Minister of Public Works, who does not lack talent, found out where the weakness of the Minister of Trade and Commerce was.

What happened? Of course we were not present at the operation, but the other day an hon. gentleman showed that about 10 members of the Cartwright family are drawing money out of the public chest, and the Minister of Trade and Commerce has swallowed the protective policy. There is no doubt that my hon. friend the Postmaster General could not view with equanimity the appointment of all these members of Parliament to positions under the Crown. I have always taken the Postmaster General for an honest man. Well, there was an operation performed there. He was put into the hands of the doctor of the Administration. The doctor knew where the weakness was. So his colleagues told him: You can go on and do anything you like with the post offices of the country; if you succeed in obtaining a medal or something like that, we will be content. But don't bother us about the rest. And so he swallowed the protective policy, and the appointments of all the

members of Parliament since 1897. It would take me too long to try the case of every one of the Ministers. But my hon. friend from Kent, N.B. (Mr. McInerney) spoke the other day about the Minister of Public Works. Mr. Speaker, it is very unpleasant for me to say what I have to say now; I would rather somebody else did it, but as no one else will undertake it, I must take up the task. After all, the Minister of Public Works has not been very kind to our friends in the past. He showed no kindness to the man who was his friend and protector, Sir Hector Langevin. He showed no kindness to the Hon. Thomas McGreevy, whom he sent first to jail and then to his grave. I am sorry to have to say these things, but the chickens of the hon. Minister of Public Works are coming home to roost. What is his career? My hon. friend from Kent, N.B. (Mr. McInerney) said he had contaminated everybody by his touch. My hon. friend from Kent, N.B. (Mr. McInerney) took occasion to warn the right hon. Premier of what he might expect in the future. But my hon. friend from Kent, N.B. (Mr. McInerney) does not know everybody. He forgot to speak about Sir Adolphe Chapleau, who also became contaminated, and died from it. More than that, there was a man who joined the Minister of Public Works in his office as notary. He had the reputation of being an honest man, but he became a thief, and has gone over to the States, he became contaminated. Now the things I am going to say have been published in book form. I mention the fact, because it would take me too long to quote them all to the House.

Mr. BENNETT. What is the book worth?

Mr. BERGERON. They sold very well at the time. The Minister of Public Works, when he lived in Quebec, was protected by Sir Hector Langevin—he will not deny that. I am going to say something now to which I draw the attention of the Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). The Minister of Inland Revenue was Premier of Quebec in 1878. We have heard the Minister of Public Works talk about exciting racial and religious animosities. Sir, there has never been a man in this country so able to handle those questions as he has done. In 1878 when the present Minister of Inland Revenue was Prime Minister of the province of Quebec—we all know that he is a Protestant—some of the most violent articles were written against him by the Minister of Public Works in the "Canadien" at that time, because he was a Protestant. To such an extent did the Minister of Public Works carry his attacks, that when Sir Adolphe Chapleau became Premier of Quebec, in 1879, the present Minister of Public Works expected to be taken into the Government, but Sir Adolphe Chapleau could not take him into the Government, because he knew well that if he did so he could not carry a Protestant seat in the whole province of Quebec. These things have been

forgotten, but they are all consigned in the "Canadien" of 1878, and which can be found in the Library, and any hon. gentleman who wants to read them will be edified by doing so, because they are well written. Well, later on the Minister of Public Works got angry at Mr. Chapleau because Mr. Chapleau would not take him into his Government. I am giving only one of the reasons, but there were many others. No Conservative Prime Minister would ever think of taking the Minister of Public Works into his Government, he had to wait for a Liberal Administration to do that. He got angry at Mr. Chapleau, and he wrote Sir Hector Langevin four very nice letters in which he assured him of his great devotion and calls him an honest man. Sir Hector Langevin, he says, is an honest man, but Mr. Chapleau is losing himself with the Liberals, he is becoming a terrible Liberal. There are four letters like that. Did Sir Hector Langevin believe in the sincerity of the man? I do not know, we could ask him, because he is still alive. But in 1882, when Mr. Chapleau was legislating to sell the North Shore Railway in the local House, the Minister of Public Works was sitting on the floor of the House. He had not offered for re-election, and was then there in his capacity of journalist. He was writing at that time against Mr. Chapleau and his government with all his strength. Mr. Chapleau, in a memorable speech delivered on that occasion, pointing his finger at the Minister of Public Works, spoke of him as a journalist, an ex-member of the House, who had been a perjurer to his mandate. Now I mention these things to show how it is that later on, in 1897, a letter was lost which showed poor Sir Adolphe Chapleau in very bad colours. It was a sequel of what had taken place in 1882. It shows that the Minister of Public Works does not forget. Well, that was in 1882. How long did it last? Mr. Senecal took the Minister of Public Works to Europe in the fall of 1882, and brought him back here as blue as ever he had been before. I was present at the arrival of the party and saw Mr. Chapleau and Mr. Senecal shake hands. When Mr. Chapleau heard of the arrival of the Minister of Public Works, he said to Mr. Senecal: "Did you bring that viper here?" And Senecal answered: "Go on, go on. He has certain talents, let us use him." The Minister of Public Works went on until 1885, when he came on to the Champ Mars and spoke against the hanging of Riel. How long did that last? Three days. He and Sir Adolphe Caron took a promenade down to Charlesbourg. What happened? I do not know, but one of the two was converted; it was not Sir Adolphe Caron, but it was the other. There are ugly rumours about that; I will not mention them at present, in case I may have provocation to do so at another time. Then came the elections of 1887; after that, took place in 1891, the elections, accompanied by all the corruption of

which we have heard so much. Who was at the bottom of it? The Minister of Public Works. That hon. gentleman was up to his elbows in that heap of corruption that we heard of afterwards before an investigating committee, along with Mr. Thomas McGreevy, and probably Mr. Connolly, whose name was mentioned afterwards in the investigation of those who were accused. But the Minister of Public Works was at the bottom of it.

He was at the bottom of it, and he was their accuser. He was fed by Mr. McGreevy. It is written in this book. I am only repeating what I have read here. We all know this; it is the history of this House. He brought him before a committee, had him chased from the House, jailed him, and afterwards brought him to his grave. Now, I do not know, but it seems to me, that the Minister of Public Works must have dreams sometimes when he thinks of the past. He has become rich: I think at one time he was worth about \$100,000, which, for a poor man, is pretty good. How long did it last? This the hon. gentleman obtained from cleverness in politics and in municipal affairs. It did not last long; it was all lost. Then he came here. I remember hearing the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) say once, upon the hustings, and I do not know but that he said it here, that he had to choose one day between going to the penitentiary and coming here, and he chose to come here, and he came here. In 1892, the Minister who is now the ruler of the great Liberal party in Canada wanted to come back to us. Judge Oulmet, who was then the Minister of Public Works, told us—a good many of our friends said—"you should take him back; a man is a man." But Mr. Ouimet said: "No, I would rather have him go to the other side; it costs too much to keep him." The hon. gentleman went to the conference upon the other side, and said in that conference a great many things which have been making my hon. friend from South Grey (Mr. Landerkin) grow enthusiastic. There was a case in Montreal in which the Minister of Public Works declared that in 1896 he was a bankrupt. He was in spite of that statement, taken into the Government, and became the master of the Liberal party. I do not think anything like that could be done in England, and yet my right hon. friend always insists on being a Liberal of the English school. The hon. gentleman became the Minister of Public Works; the department where Mr. Alexander Mackenzie, who was known to be an honest man, said that he had to rest upon his arms to prevent his own friends from getting into the coffers. To-day nobody need apply. The Minister of Public Works can do the work himself. Sir, he betrayed Mr. Chapleau, afterwards, so that there might be no one exempted. Sir Adolphe Chapleau, unfortunately, through sickness, was not the same man that he had been in former days, and his premature death showed that he was already very sick when he fell into the hands

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of the Minister of Public Works, whom he despised. I knew Sir Adolphe Chapleau very well: he was not a man to hate; he could not hate, but he could despise, and I do not think he ever despised a man as much as he did that hon. gentleman. He fell into his hands and he died of it. Then we had the Drummond deal. The Minister of Public Works bought "La Patrie," and has got it to-day. I venture to say nobody would get "La Patrie" for less than \$100,000. The Minister of Public Works has made contracts without tender right along. The papers announced in Montreal the other day that he had bought a house worth about \$8,000 or \$9,000. He is fanning the flame of race and religion. The other day his paper asked the people to take the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) into consideration. This is what his paper, his organ, says:

Mr. Monk, the member for Jacques Cartier, an Englishman, who represents a county where the majority is French Canadian, wanted to furnish an element of fanaticism of which the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) has become the interpreter.

In this way the hon. gentleman makes an appeal to fanaticism. Speaking thus of the hon. member for Jacques Cartier, an Englishman. Why did he do that? Because it is in the nature of the hon. gentleman and he cannot do otherwise. We know that in 1876, here in this book again you will find it, that the hon. Minister of Public Works had a controversy with the Archbishop of Quebec because of one of his priests who was becoming too Liberal. After the exchange of a number of letters, the Archbishop, through his secretary, declined to continue the discussion with the hon. gentleman. What did he do? He wrote to Rome at that time, twenty-three years ago, addressing himself to Cardinal Franchi, against the Archbishop of Quebec, saying that the Archbishop was becoming too Liberal, and that it was a shame to have Mr. Langelier, who was then a teacher in Laval University, teaching Liberal ideas to the young men who were attending that institution. I said in my remarks before that he had done more than anybody else to inflame Quebec against the Conservative party and against the Orangemen of Ontario, as he calls them on the school question. Afterwards, when he went to make his famous settlement with Manitoba, the man who had written against the Archbishop of Quebec for having become too Liberal declared himself a Catholic "by accident" at Winnipeg. In his speech the other day the Minister of Public Works, who—it is reprehensible, but he cannot help it, it is in his nature—said:

I say that in no part of the British Empire, nor at any time, was such an attempt made at religious coercion, as the one which was made in the province of Quebec in 1896, on behalf, in the interest, and with the knowledge and consent of the hon. leader of the Opposition and his friends.

He knows that is not true? Why mention that? Is he going to keep up this race and religious question, which we should abolish as much as possible, for the welfare of this country? He says that the French habitant stood up to the mark like a man; he was not coerced. Imagine the French habitant, as he calls him, being coerced. Ask any habitant in Quebec if he had been coerced; the man would smile. It was not tried upon him, and he would not allow it.

He was not coerced, but felt that he was a free citizen, and that he had the right to vote just as he pleased, and he voted just as it pleased him to do.

We know that. What is the meaning of this? It would take too long a time to speak of all the deeds and misdeeds of hon. gentlemen opposite, and I am afraid that already I may have wearied the House; but I feel it a duty confided to me, as a representative of the people, to state my opinion of the master of the Administration, and to tell the reason why our national affairs are going to the bad. The right hon. the Prime Minister of Canada will, of course, be betrayed some day in the same way as the others have been, and then he will reflect; but in the meantime, if he is not able to carry out the platform of the 1893 convention, nor the promises nor pledges given by his own Government, he can, at least, dissolve this Parliament, he can go to the electors, and give them an opportunity to drive from power the gentlemen who have covered themselves and this country with ridicule. How ridiculous it is for the head of a protectionist Government to wear a Cobden medal. Have not these gentlemen opposite covered themselves with ridicule by going on their knees before the people of the United States to ask a measure of reciprocity which the Prime Minister declared, the other day, the people of Canada did not want any longer? The Prime Minister can appeal to the electorate, and in this way he can stay this country in its headlong descent towards financial ruin, and save us from that national and political dishonour of which we are on the verge.

Mr. ODILON DESMARAIS (St. James, Montreal). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to participate in this debate, which has already been protracted too long, but, I feel constrained to do so, owing to the plentifulness of the speeches we have been treated to, especially by the hon. gentlemen opposite. It seems that this is a year of plentifulness; it is agreed on all hands that we are marching upon the wave of an ever increasing prosperity and that the country is overflowing with money. Now, I presume that our opponents who are well aware of these circumstances, have come to the conclusion that they could well avail themselves of this opportunity to indulge in a somewhat superfluous rhetorical display. The revenue of the country is so flourishing that the hon.

gentlemen did not hesitate to protract the debate for weeks and weeks without taking into consideration the large expenditure entailed by every day of the session. Under the circumstances, I also come to the conclusion that one more speech or one less would make very little difference, and so I made up my mind to take the liberty of offering a few remarks to the House.

I am well aware that there is no novel argument that I could contribute to the debate after three weeks spent in debating the Address, and that it would be a real feat of strength on my part to pretend to offer arguments which have not already been furnished up by the hon. gentleman who spoke before me. Let me, however, reply to a few remarks fallen from the hon. gentlemen opposite during this debate.

I must say, Sir, that it was with some feeling of regret that I listened to some of the remarks fallen from the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bergeron), at the conclusion of his speech. The hon. gentleman professes to entertain personally a profound esteem and respect for the Prime Minister and said that if he had attacked him, it was because he felt constrained to do so on political grounds.

I am fully aware that, in politics, one has to go through many an unpleasant ordeal, but that politics could be so construed as to cause one to forget what a gentleman owes to another gentleman is certainly news to me. It has been my misfortune for some twenty-five years to have been entangled in the politics of my native province; but to this very day I had not yet been told that to be a politician, one had to stoop to such meanness. I can easily understand by what motives the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bergeron) is actuated and why he has no affection to waste upon the hon. member for St. John and Iberville, who occupies the post of Minister of Public Works. I know that from the day when the hon. gentleman was brought within a hair's breadth of his political ruin by the hon. Minister, he never could help dreading his power. From that day out, fear has been preying upon the hon. member for Beauharnois, and that is the explanation of the unfair attacks he keeps directing against the hon. Minister, whenever opportunity offers. But there is no novel feature in the old stock arguments trotted out by the hon. gentleman; all those attacks have been rehashed on almost every hustling throughout the province of Quebec and elsewhere. There are people who, for having committed themselves to statements like those hurled by the hon. gentleman across the floor of this House have been sentenced to jail, but the hon. gentleman, availing himself of his parliamentary immunity, considered it his privilege to override the rules. I would like you to understand, Mr. Speaker, that while protesting against these attacks, I disclaim any intention of coming to the rescue of the hon. Minister of Public Works, who is quite able to take care of himself; but I deemed it my duty to denounce the course of the hon. gen-

tleman, so that he may understand how easily one can venture to tread on such ground and how dangerous it may prove to bring forward accusations of that kind.

The hon. member for Beauharnois told us he was undertaking to enlighten those hon. gentlemen who were sitting here for the first time, and with that object in view, he began by declaring that the hon. Minister of Public Works was the master of the Administration. I may tell him, to use a word borrowed from the English language, that such a threadbare argument is a chestnut. In the eyes of all those who know the men now forming the Cabinet, such an idea is preposterous. To pretend that the Minister of Public Works, despite his well-known ability, is the master of the Administration is, I repeat it, preposterous, more particularly if we bear in mind that the Government boasts of such a leader as the right hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who has chosen as his colleagues men like the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière), and others: men who have played a conspicuous part in politics, who have even been at the head of public affairs in their respective provinces. I repeat it again, for an hon. gentleman to rise in his seat and assert on the floor of the House that the Minister of Public Works is the master of the Administration is such a ridiculous, a preposterous idea that I am at my wit's end to understand how the hon. gentleman could have repeated it on the floor of this House.

I could understand such an assertion being made in some out of the way corner of the country, but that an hon. gentleman should take the liberty to utter such nonsense before a deliberative body like ours, is, to my mind, going beyond all bounds.

The hon. gentleman further told us that the hon. Minister of Public Works had offered himself a dinner, in Valleyfield. Well, I may tell him, that if the hon. Minister offered himself a dinner, his family was quite large, as we were at least several hundred guests around the festive board, and I may also inform him that the Minister was given a warm welcome. I am well aware that the hon. gentleman does not appreciate the visits paid by the Minister of Public Works to his constituency; he is afraid, on good ground too, lest the Minister should spring a mine which might prove fatal to the hon. gentleman from Beauharnois.

Among other regrettable statements fallen from the hon. gentleman, let me briefly refer to the following:—He said that the hon. Minister of Public Works had betrayed everybody; that he had betrayed Sir Hector Langevin, his protector; that he had betrayed poor McGreevy, whom he first sent to jail and then brought to a premature grave. He went so far as to say that the Minister of Public Works had been denounced by Chapleau as a man he held in the ut-

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most contempt. Well, I shall not enter into any lengthened details in this connection. It is unfortunately but too true that party warfare in this country has often been characterized in the past by its violence and its bitterness. But, I ask, is it fair for the people, to withdraw, on that account, their confidence from public men? It may perhaps be pertinent to refer to an instance taken from the history of the party on the other side of the House. I was reading, a few days ago, the long and eloquent speeches of the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), when I reached that passage in one of his speeches where he pays such high compliments to our High Commissioner in Great Britain (Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal). While listening, a little while ago, to the remarks of the hon. member for Beauharnois, it occurred to me that history always repeats itself, as the very man whom the leader of the Opposition is now extolling to the skies, was then, in the own words of the leader of the Opposition—if any reliance may be placed on the "Hansard" of 1878, when Lord Strathcona was but plain Mr. Smith—but "a mean treacherous coward." And Sir John A. Macdonald at the same sitting of the House said: "That fellow Smith is the biggest liar I ever met." That did not prevent the same Mr. Smith, a few years later, from coming back to this House and playing an important part in it. That did not prevent him from being appointed High Commissioner to Great Britain and receiving from the Queen the title of Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal.

Supposing that some of our political men had occasionally used offensive language. I do not believe it likely for them to have gone beyond what was said upon the occasion I have just referred to. As to McGreevy, I am at a loss to account for that outburst of sympathy and that display of emotion we have just witnessed on the part of the hon. member for Beauharnois. I do not see how one can sympathise with a man who has plundered the public chest for years, and who was sentenced to jail by the courts of this country, while one can in the meantime behold with tearless eyes a poor father sentenced to jail for stealing a four-pound loaf to prevent his children from starving. I do not see how the hon. Minister of Public Works can fairly be accused of having brought him to a premature grave. I am rather inclined to think that a spark of honesty still lingered in poor McGreevy and that he went down to his grave through the remorse which preyed upon his soul. He had committed a crime in the eyes of the law, and the hon. Minister of Public Works did nothing else but denounce those gigantic frauds. The hon. member for Beauharnois said a moment ago that the hon. Minister of Public Works had once to choose between going to jail or coming here. It is not fair, Sir, for an hon. member thus to travesty and distort facts. What are the facts, Sir? The hon. Minister of Public Works was arrested

and prosecuted before the tribunals of the province of Quebec on a charge of conspiracy, for having dared to tell the truth respecting McGreevy and his associates. What the hon. Minister of Public Works did say on the floor of this House was this: "I was returned to this House in order that I might repeat and prove before the Parliament of Canada the charges which I have made, and so as not to allow my cowardly accusers to have me condemned as a slanderer, when I was simply telling the truth." I was astonished that the name of the late Sir Adolphe Chapleau was mentioned in this debate. I was very far from believing that they would drag him from his grave, which has hardly been closed, to impute to him feelings which he never expressed while he was living, as shown by the letter which he wrote to the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte). What has just been said, compared with the contents of those letters, is surely not calculated to do credit to Mr. Chapleau's memory. If, from his grave, he could have heard the words uttered to-night on the floor of this House by his beloved child, by his dear protégé, well might he have exclaimed: "Alas! ungrateful child! have you also turned a traitor? Why do you thus strike me on the floor of Parliament?"

The hon. member for Beauharnois has viciously attacked the Minister of Public Works and asked how he had grown rich, adding that a few weeks ago the hon. Minister had bought a house in Montreal, for which he had paid \$10,000. I shall not undertake to enter here into the private business of the hon. Minister of Public Works; that is no concern of mine, nor does it concern any hon. member of this House. But a charge like that would carry weight with it only in so far as it was brought down in a legal and regular way and not in the cowardly way it was made to-night by the hon. gentleman. I say it with regret, those innuendos forcibly bring back to our memory what was formerly said about Mr. Chapleau, and if I take the liberty to refer here to the matter, it is only to repel those unfair attacks and to show how easy it is to resort to such means. How came it to pass that, after having entered public life a poor man, Mr. Chapleau left at his death a fortune of \$300,000, the origin of which is unknown? I am sorry to have been forced to refer to such matters, but when you are dragged along in the mud, no wonder you should bespatter your opponents, when defending yourself.

An attempt has been made to connect the conduct of an unhappy youth with certain acts of the Minister of Public Works, and it was stated that that young man would have been sentenced to jail, had he remained in Canada, instead of crossing over the boundary line. Now, what took place during the electoral contest in Beauharnois a few weeks ago? Were I as unscrupulous as those who, in order to injure the character of the Minister of Public

Works, do not hesitate to drag into this debate the name of that young man who went over to the United States, I could refer to the acts of a certain McCaffrey, the very same man who, not so very long ago, boasted in the city of Quebec, of having brought about the defeat of the Liberal candidate in Beauharnois. Was not that very same man brought before the criminal court, under a most serious charge? It is true that he was acquitted; but, I ask, if that man laid himself open to suspicion to the point of being prosecuted before the criminal court, is not such conduct by far more serious than the conduct of the young man who had to go over to the United States, although no direct charge had been brought against him? Did not the hon. gentlemen opposite stump the country and make electioneering speeches, arm in arm with Cornellier and Leblanc, who had also to appear before the criminal court and against whom the grand jury brought in a "true bill"? I agree that those gentlemen were later on acquitted; and if I refer to those matters, it is only to show how dangerous it is to resort to mere suspicions, to injure the character of the Minister of Public Works.

I deeply regret to be compelled to follow the hon. member for Beauharnois on such ground. He said, a moment ago, when referring to the Prime Minister, that it was as a political man that he criticised him, though he entertained esteem for him personally. I may say the same of the hon. member for Beauharnois. We were friends in our youth. Some twenty-five years ago, we used to attend the same college. We made our first political campaign together, and even later on, I might add, that we fought side by side on the hustings of the province of Quebec. It was not I who changed. I might repeat here the words of the man who, at the issue of a trial, where he had been summoned as a witness, remarked to his adversary, when leaving the court-house: "A perjury has certainly been committed by one of us: I do not say it was you that swore against the truth, but surely it was not I." Later on, I shall refer again to this matter of change in political opinions.

As to what was stated by the hon. gentleman, with regard to Sir Hector Langevin, I may say that the Minister of Public Works was not the only one who denounced him, but that others also denounced him, and among the rest, "La Presse," the leading organ of hon. gentlemen opposite in the province of Quebec, which strongly indicted him. That paper did even publish—Mr. Blanehart was then its editor—a pamphlet which my hon. friend has no doubt in his library, entitled "Le Métier de Ministre," wherein are fully related all the acts of rascality perpetrated by Sir Hector Langevin. That paper is now under the direction of the gentleman who has been entrusted with the organization of the Conservative forces in the province of Quebec.

I think I have said enough on the matter, and I now turn my attention to the Riel question referred to by the hon. gentleman, who said that the Minister of Public Works had changed his mind after a few days. Well, the hon. Minister has been more hasty than the hon. member for Beauharnois, who persevered in his views for several months and even after the elections of 1887. He had full time to reflect. Up to the general elections of 1887, he was under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), who he now says is leading the country to ruin. He ran in Beauharnois for the House of Commons, his opponent being Mr. Philippe Pelletier, now first clerk in the Department of the Secretary of State. In 1887, he was opposed by the Conservative party. His election was contested and it was during that contestation, which was settled, that he changed his views.

Mr. BERGERON. (Translation.) Would the hon. gentleman allow me to interrupt him? What he states is of no importance, as it concerns me.

An hon. MEMBER. Oh! oh!

Mr. BERGERON. (Translation.) Of course, if it concerned another gentleman, I would not interfere. Would the hon. gentleman tell me what position I took in 1887? The hon. Prime Minister is in his seat, and he knows the attitude I then took. Could the hon. gentleman tell me whether a single one of his political friends ever came down to work in the interest of my candidature either directly or indirectly during that electoral contest? I only ask the hon. gentleman to give me fair-play.

Mr. DESMARAIS. (Translation.) I cannot say whether the Liberal party did lend their help to the hon. gentleman or not, but I may answer him by putting another question. Could he tell me from which committee came the money which he used in Beauharnois, during that electoral campaign?

Mr. BERGERON. (Translation.) It costs a candidate but very little money to be elected in my constituency.

Mr. DESMARAIS. (Translation.) I am happy for the sake of the Liberal party to know that it costs them very little money to secure the election of the hon. gentleman. Without going into any further details, let me rapidly review some further issues of general interest in this debate. As I said a moment ago, there was but very little of a novel character that I could find, outside of three or four speeches delivered by gentlemen on both sides of the House. We are all agreed that prosperity prevails throughout Canada. No wonder, as it can no more be denied than the light of the noon-day sun. But the hon. gentlemen say that the Liberal party can take no credit for it, and that we have nothing to do with the measures that have brought about the present prosperous condition of the country. The hon. member

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for Beauharnois stated that the hon. Prime Minister was a lucky man. If it may be truly asserted that the Prime Minister was born under a lucky star, it may be said that the hon. gentlemen opposite are ill-starred, because during the four last years they were in power, a wave of deep commercial depression swept over the country. That was what induced the electorate who had reason to complain of that condition of affairs, to ask for a change of government.

Up to the time when the hon. Prime Minister came into power, the country was in a state of great depression, and the people, anxious as they were for the return of such prosperity as we are now enjoying, endorsed the policy of the Liberal party, and from that time forward, the electorate have had the change they had been clamouring for.

The hon. gentlemen opposite, knowing perfectly that it would be a thankless task for them to deny the vast improvement that has taken place under the Liberal régime, now undertake to deny the happy position attained by Canada being due to the change of Government. That reminds me of those inventors of machines who can never succeed in setting them in motion, as some piece of mechanism is ever wanting. But another inventor comes up and after adding a wheel to the machine, behold, the machine is set in motion and everything goes well. So it was with Canada, when the Liberal party got into power. Upon coming into office, the Government made such changes as were required by the circumstances, and behold! the machinery is now working so well that, do what you will, nothing henceforth can stop it. The hon. gentlemen would rather the people were unhappy, so that they could come back to power. It is their selfish interests they are seeking to promote rather than the greatness and the happiness of our common country. So long as their ambition is satisfied, they care not what becomes of the country and willingly would they cry out: "Down with prosperity, and let the country go to the dogs! What we want first and last, is to climb back to power."

The hon. gentlemen say they are anxious to go to the country. We are looking forward to that time, they say; and we are awaiting you firmly. We take no interest in by-elections; it is a pitched battle we want." They did venture to engage the contest in some constituencies, but they have been defeated. They have been beaten even in a constituency which, ever since confederation, they had looked upon as one of their strongholds. The Liberal party succeeded in sweeping their majority out of existence in that county, and in seizing upon that Conservative stronghold, and the people gave their verdict in favour of the Government policy. The reason why the hon. gentlemen did not carry that constituency, is that they could no longer buy the electorate with the money supplied by Sir Hugh Allan, McGreevy, etc. It was through those tactics that they formerly used to carry the country.

But they raise the bribery cry. Where is the proof that we bribed the electorate? No, Sir, those elections have been carried without any bribery, and well we may afford to laugh at those braggarts who challenge us to meet them before the people, at the general elections. The elections, as I said, were carried without our having had to resort to bribery and we may fairly come to the conclusion that the people of this country fully endorse the Liberal policy and are thoroughly satisfied with the existing state of affairs.

But they cry out in stentorian tones that we have broken our pledges. A little while ago, I saw the hon. member for Beauharnois holding in his hand a red pamphlet containing the Liberal programme of 1893 and crying out: "I find a great deal of philosophy in this little red book." I agree with him, but the hon. gentleman has not carefully gone through all the contents of that book; or he would not have spoken as he did on the floor of the House. I find in that book, page 33, a fresh indication of the position taken by the Government as to their tariff policy, the hon. Prime Minister, the then leader of the Opposition, in his opening speech at the convention, referring to the Conservative party, said:

They want to reform the tariff and still to retain the principle of protection. I submit to you that the ideal fiscal system is the British system of free trade. Sir, my loyalty, as I stated, does not ooze from the pores of my body, but I do want to go for an example to the Mother Country, and not to the United States, much as I respect and love the people on the other side of the line. I say the policy should be a policy of free trade, such as they have in England, but I am sorry to say that the circumstances of the country cannot admit, at present, of that policy in its entirety. But I propose to you that from this day henceforward it should be the goal to which we aspire. I propose to you from this day, although we cannot adopt the policy itself, to adopt the principles which regulates it; that is to say, that though it should be your misfortune for many years to come to have to raise a revenue by custom duties, these duties should be levied only in so far as is necessary to carry on the business of the government.

And further down, at the bottom of the page, occur those words:

Their immediate object is protection; ours a tariff for revenue only. Upon this issue we engage the battle from this moment forward and I ask you once more never to desist until we have achieved victory, until we have freed this country from the incubus which has been weighing it down for fifteen long years. Nothing is more difficult—that is one of the evils of protection—than to wipe away protection, because under it interests have been established which every man who has at heart the interest of all classes must take into consideration. It is always easy to increase the tariff, because by so doing you increase the private fortunes of certain individuals, but whenever you decrease the tariff it has always to be done with careful consideration, and I am sure that when the Liberals are in power they will not be indifferent to this primary truth.

Now, what did the leader of the Opposition at that time say? He said that the goal to

which we ought to aspire was free trade as it existed in Great Britain; but that it was easier to raise than to cut down the tariff rates; because in raising the tariff rates, you increase the private wealth of certain men, whilst, whenever you cut down the rates, it must be done with careful consideration, so as not to jeopardize the interests of the country.

We have been told that among the Liberals are to be found two parties: one in favour of a moderate protection, and the other in favour of free trade. True, there are in our party men who want to go too fast, while others are too slow. For my part, Sir, I am a free-trader by principle. Such is the conclusion I have come to, from practical experience and from all that has been said on the matter. But it is not to be taken as granted that the views which the hon. leader of the Opposition now entertains and which he expressed on the floor of this House square exactly with the views formerly endorsed by him. The hon. member for Beauharnois told us that he was aiming at enlightening the members who were returned for the first time to the House in 1896. I was anxious also to be enlightened and well informed on the matter and I did not content myself with what he told us here. Allow me to look up the records, with a view to finding what was formerly the policy of the Conservative party. Here is what I find in a speech delivered by Sir George Etienne Cartier, on the 29th of April, 1869:

The policy of extreme protection adopted by the United States resulted in destroying their merchant shipping and their foreign trade as well; but experience will no doubt teach them wisdom. They will do away with the shackles which prevent them from throwing wide open the doors of their country to all foreign nations.

Such were the views entertained by Sir George Etienne Cartier, and, in his opinion, the protective policy could not but prove disastrous to the United States.

While I was in England, I had one day the pleasure of meeting Mr. Bright, one of the champions of free trade, and I informed him as well as other distinguished gentlemen that in Canada we had fewer tariff restrictions than they had in Great Britain.

Which comes to say that Canada was more of a free-trade country than Great Britain itself.

I was enabled to show that with a population of 4,000,000 inhabitants, the Canadian Minister of Finance would be quite satisfied if he could raise \$8,000,000 of customs duties, whilst in Great Britain, with a population of 30,000,000 inhabitants, they are raising on commodities 23,000,000 sterling pounds of customs duties in their ports, that is to say, nearly twice as much as Canada, with due proportion.

Thus spoke Sir George Etienne Cartier, and the hon. gentlemen opposite cannot disown those utterances, for, if there is to-day a remnant of the Conservative party, it is because he founded one. That statesman went

still further and emphasized his views, at a banquet given on the 23rd of December, 1869 :

The manufacturers often want to be protected beyond measure. Such a proposition is just as preposterous as extreme views on free trade.

Many a time has his statement been quoted :

Under the latter system you are forced to pay to the Government by way of taxation the same duties as before. With unlimited protection, you deal a deadly blow to foreign trade. Go and ask the Americans what they think of it. Let us not commit such a blunder. We have decided to impose a revenue duty which provides at the same time for a sufficient protection, while reserving to ourselves the right of altering those duties as required by circumstances.

Such was the policy of Sir George Etienne Cartier, and to such a policy we wish to return. We share in his views, and we are of the opinion that in matters of political economy, as stated by distinguished writers, logic is not absolutely necessary, and that we ought to be guided by the exigencies and requirements of the times.

In 1874, the Liberal party was brought into power under circumstances which I need not detail here. Then as now, our opponents pretended to be the only men who could bring about the prosperity of the country : because it is understood that when they are at the head of public affairs, the people are bound to be prosperous. Strange to say, what was then looked upon as a political crime has now become a public necessity. We all know under what circumstances they were hurled from power : it was not from not having plundered the public chest and having perpetrated all the offences they lay at the door of their opponents. They lacked honesty.

In the fall of 1873, the Conservative party fell from power, and at the session of 1874, under the Liberal régime, the tariff, which was but a 15 per cent tariff under the Conservative Administration, was raised 2½ per cent by the hon. Minister of Finance (Sir Richard Cartwright), now the Minister of Trade and Commerce. But perhaps you will hardly believe me, Sir, when I tell you that the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), who is now an out and out protectionist, who pretends that the country cannot enjoy prosperity outside of the Conservative pale, then maintained that absolute protection was a folly. He then held that the policy announced by the hon. Minister was a protective policy and that the economical system we then had ought not to be disturbed, except on good grounds. He then told the hon. member for Hamilton, Mr. Gordon, that he was perfectly right when he expressed the hope that in the following year, the Government would be able to drive the wedge of protection still deeper. The Minister of Finance, he said, began by telling us that we have a deficit, and the hon. gentleman may rest perfectly satisfied now that he will get all the protection he wants. Here are his very words :

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The honourable member for Hamilton was right when he expressed his gratitude to the free-trade premier for his 2½ per cent protection, and he was perfectly right when he said that next year, with this Government, he would be able to drive the wedge of protection still deeper. The hon. gentleman might rest perfectly satisfied now that he would get all the protection he wanted, since the protectionist Finance Minister had, to secure protection, affirmed that we had a deficit which neither he nor any one else could prove as existing.

But I need not dwell at any greater length upon this matter. As I said, this question has been pretty well threshed out, and I had to look up the records of the hon. gentlemen, so as to go out of the beaten track. Still, I thought it pertinent to show their utter lack of sincerity and that they have been far more inconsistent than their opponents have ever been.

They also tell us : "When you pledged yourselves to the granting of a plebiscite, you thereby led us to believe that you would introduce a Bill and have it carried by the House and that in case it were ratified by the people you would prohibit the manufacture, the importation and the sale of liquor. Those who spoke before me have already dealt with this objection : but, in this connection, I find in the pamphlet of 1893 which hon. gentlemen opposite flourish in the face of this House without ever peeping into its contents an answer to that objection. The hon. Mr. Anglin, speaking in the name of those who were opposed to that measure did not want the resolution under the consideration of the convention to be adopted. That resolution reads as follows :—

That whereas public attention is at present much directed to the consideration of the admittedly great evils of intemperance, it is desirable that the mind of the people should be clearly ascertained on the question of prohibition by means of a Dominion plebiscite.

It was merely the intention to ascertain what was the sense of the country, and nothing else. But I wish more particularly to draw the attention of the House to the statement made by Mr. McKeown, of St. John, N.B. He said :

All the committee asks of the convention here assembled is to declare in favour of the will of the people being expressed upon this subject, and the Liberal party will have lost its liberalism if it is not willing to give the people what they want.

Further on, he says :

But it will certainly be an advancement along the line of liberal ideas to say to the people : We are willing to allow you to express your opinion. And then, if we do not take the matter up a new party will have to be formed.

That was all. All he wanted was to allow the people to express their opinion. Now, from the result of the vote on the plebiscite, can it be assumed that the Government are bound to introduce such a measure ? I say without any hesitation that they are not

bound by that vote, but we might adopt the system enforced in the United States, and whenever one of the provinces has voted in favour of prohibition let us grant her such a privilege, without, however, imposing it upon those provinces which do not ask for it.

The hon. gentlemen opposite charge us with having broken our pledges. No, Mr. Speaker, we have not falsified our promises, but we merely suit our policy to the circumstances and to the needs of the people, from an economical standpoint. But is it true, as asserted by the hon. gentlemen, that we have broken our pledges? Is it necessary, I ask, in order to fulfil those pledges, for the Government to disturb the economy of the state to such a degree as to make it impossible for them to extricate themselves from the difficulties resulting from such disturbances? All the Liberal party pledged themselves to do, as I said, was to have a plebiscite taken on prohibition, so as to allow the people to express their opinion on the matter.

Reference was also made to the majority given by the electorate in the province of Quebec. As a representative of one of the most important electoral divisions in Canada, that of St. James, in Montreal I may be allowed to say a word or two on that question. I do not know of any meetings having been held in that electoral division, prior to the day preceding the vote. On that day a popular meeting was held with a view to explaining to the electors the meaning of the proposed law and what the results of the vote would be. That was all the agitation that took place in the city of Montreal, at least in my division; other meetings may have been held in other divisions, but I am free to say that no organization work was carried out in the province, though the prohibitionists bestirred themselves, doing a great deal of missionary work among the people, and the ladies busied themselves with distributing pamphlets broadcast throughout the city of Montreal and through the country. Despite all that, a majority of the people voted down prohibition. Had they not resorted to undue influences in order to induce the people to vote for prohibition; had they not advised the people to vote in favour of that measure, reluctant as they were to give that vote; had they dealt with the question at issue instead of making political capital against the Government, I have no doubt but that a much larger majority would have been registered against it. Is it fair to ask the province of Quebec to accept a law of that kind, after giving an adverse majority of over 80,000, without any attempt at organization having been made? I could name parishes where one-half of the electors did not go the poll, although they were opposed to prohibition, because they were under the impression that by voting against that measure, which apparently had been initiated by the Government they would embarrass the latter. Had the question been debated at public

meetings, on the hustings throughout the province, and had there been some attempt made at organization, the majority, as I said, would have been 150,000 instead of 80,000. In face of such a state of things, how do they dare talk of imposing such a legislation upon the electorate of the province of Quebec? By what right, Sir, could they pretend to forbid you drinking tea at your breakfast or sweetening it, if such be your taste? By what manner of right could they forbid me taking a glass of wine, which I have done from my very childhood, and on what plea could they deprive me of a stimulant needed to restore bodily strength? Such a law would be unfair; and let it be known that we no longer live in the times when Mahomet, imposing his doctrine at the point of the bayonet, could say: "Believe or die."

I do not pretend to question the evils which are the outcome of intemperance; but I may say that, speaking from my experience our people, so far as temperance habits are concerned can very well compare with any other people. I believe that the catalogue of crimes attributed to drunkenness is certainly exaggerated. In the discharge of my professional duties, as a defender of prisoners, and as a representative of the Crown, a post which I have the honour of now occupying, I found myself in daily contact with the criminal tribunals, and I may state that nine out of ten of those who are charged with criminal offences, are guilty of falsehood when they state they were under the influence of liquor when they committed those crimes, thus trying to make drunkenness answerable for their guilt. That the abuse of intoxicating liquors is responsible for the increase of crimes I do not pretend to deny at all. I am even ready to vote in favour of a stringent legislation and its strict enforcement, and I am quite willing that the guilty parties and their accomplices be severely dealt with. But at the same time I think it but fair to ask that our liberty be respected.

I now come to another subject which has been pretty well threshed out on the floor of the House, the Senate reform. Should a resolution concerning the Senate be introduced here, we shall then have an opportunity of dealing with that institution according to its merits. I do not require to dilate very long upon that subject. As I remarked a moment ago with respect to free trade and protection, there are some people who want to go further than others. For my part, I would rather the Senate were done away with than reformed; but, if insurmountable obstacles stand in the way of its destruction, let us all at least reform it; although, in my opinion, the Senate has no *raison d'être*. Although I pay due deference to those who hold opinions contrary to mine, I must say that for many years I have been a student of public questions from an historical and democratical standpoint, and I am impressed with the idea that the world

belongs to democracy, now that the sovereignty of the people is a recognized principle throughout the civilized world, and in my opinion, upper chambers are but a remnant of tyranny and feudalism. If you want a Senate elected by the people, just as the House of Commons, you will have two bodies with the same origin, between which a conflict may arise. If you hold that the Senators are to be appointed by the Crown, then they become the creatures and the tools of the Government. How in the world can you expect that these gentlemen, crippled and impotent as they are, after meeting with repeated defeats at the hands of the electorate, will muster strength and courage enough to resist the will of those who appointed them? No, Sir, overflowing with gratitude as their hearts are, they cannot help yielding to their masters. We are told that the Senate is an antique institution handed down to us by Great Britain; that we ought to respect British institutions, the Senate having been copied from the House of Lords. Such a comparison is to say the least, preposterous. In Great Britain, as we all know, the House of Lords is contemporary with the nation itself. It is closely connected with the very life of the Anglo-Saxon race, and it was only degree by degree as popular freedom was being evolved, that the people succeeded in shaking off their shackles and claiming back that freedom which is now the proud boast of the British people. The House of Lords is identified with the rise of the English people; it represents those great land owners, those mighty barons of old who were seen on all the battlefields of Europe, of Asia and Africa, battling with their vassals; it represents therefore an idea and a historical period. And yet, in Great Britain, from a political standpoint they have the means wherewith to prevent that powerful body from wielding its fatal influence, and that is by increasing the number of its members. This threatening provision of the constitution hanging over the heads of the Lords has always proved most efficacious.

I shall probably deal at greater length with this subject later on, should the question come up before the House. Allow me, however, to draw your attention to an article of the London "Daily Chronicle" of March last, which reads as follows:—

When the party of "rest" is in office, the House of Lords is a recording machine; when the party of progress is in power it is a permanent bar.

That is exactly what takes place here.

Then it is that it is active. Its legal power of veto hangs over every bill, even before it is brought to birth. Well might Mr. Labouchère invite the Tories to think how they would enjoy it if the situation were reversed, and the "Upper House" composed of shoemakers from Northampton.

We see here reproduced in our Senate the part pledged by the House of Lords. Let

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me give another opinion of an English journal "The Westminster Gazette," of the same date:

There is only one way to meet the situation, and that is for liberal leaders to decline office except on terms that they shall in the last resort be armed with the power of dealing with the House of Lords. This should be understood at the beginning as the condition on which they form Government. Mr. Balfour admits it to be a constitutional principle that the Lords shall not hold out after a dissolution ad hoc; we must now seek to make it a constitutional principle that their power shall be exhausted with one veto.

Such is exactly the state of mind prevailing here, and those two extracts square perfectly with the condition of affairs. Mr. Gladstone and other English statesmen were of the opinion that the power of the House of Lords should be restricted, and I fail to see how it may be contended, in the face of such an opinion, that the Senate ought to be held sacred, like the Hebrew Sanhedrim of the Hebrews. The Senate is nothing but an anomaly in our system of Government. They ask us, the representatives of the people, to yield and submit to the will of the Upper House! When the Government introduces a Bill, and declares before Parliament that it is a measure of public policy, and when they are backed by a majority, the hon. gentlemen want the Senate to resist and kill such a legislation! But, the hon. gentlemen will say: "Go to the country, and if your policy is endorsed at the polls, the Senate will yield. But why squander the people's money in order to allow the Senate freely to display their devotion, not to say their debasement before the hon. leader of the Opposition. If, then, as I have shown, the Senate does not offer us any constitutional guarantee as is the case with the House of Lords, and if they only make use of the rights provided by the constitution to thwart the measures of the Government, I think I may safely come to the conclusion that the pretensions of the hon. gentlemen are altogether ungrounded. It is not my intention to enter into any lengthy details, as there is another point I wish to touch, before bringing my remarks to a close. I refer to the International Conference. I have heard many extraordinary statements, but what the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) has just stated, caps the climax. He dared to tell us that the Prime Minister had been a discredit to his country in England. I had heard quite the reverse; I had heard it stated that the hon. Premier had been most cordially received by the American people and in the metropolis of Great Britain, and it was no mean surprise to me to hear the hon. member say that the Prime Minister had been a discredit to Canada in England. I was under the impression, from the reports that had reached us, that, amidst all those who attended the receptions given in Great Britain to the representatives of the colonies, our Prime Minister had occupied a most dis-

tinguished position. From what I had read in the newspapers about the feasts given in honour of the colonial representatives, those children of the British Empire who had come from all the quarters of the globe and laid down at the feet of their august sovereign the homage of their devotion, I had been led into the belief that among those acclaimed by the British people the Prime Minister of Canada, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, had been very conspicuous in the first rank, having been marched at the head of the great procession which took place during the festivities. I was also under the impression that in the capital of the United States, the Prime Minister had been a credit to the Canadian name. Go where you like in the States and you will find that the American press sounded everywhere the praises of the Prime Minister and of his colleagues. And now we are told by the hon. member for Beauharnois that those facts were a discredit to Canada. Of course, Mr. Speaker, the actual results can not yet be fully appreciated, from a strictly political and parliamentary standpoint; but I consider that from a national and social standpoint, never before had Canada made such progress politically as was done, since the coming into power of the present Government. In Great Britain, of course, they were already a little acquainted with our statesmen and they knew something about them, but they knew almost nothing about the Canadian people. Since the Premier has paid a visit to Great Britain, a great change has taken place in the public opinion of that country, and undoubtedly the country will largely benefit by it. So again with the United States. The Americans used to look down upon us and treat us with contempt, as was the case when the hon. leader of the Opposition went to Washington, in order to negotiate a reciprocity treaty. They would look over the map and try to discover a country contiguous to this, called Canada, but with a very small population. But, now, they know that our country deserves consideration at their hands, thanks to the visit of the Prime Minister and of his colleagues, which, if it has not yet produced any practical fruit, will, before long, result favourably to the country.

While I am on my feet, Sir, I wish to say a few words about our poor province of Quebec. We are a people exclusively governed by prejudices. We are impulsive and generous, no doubt; but all the same we are governed by our prejudices. Such was the statement of which the hon. member for Beauharnois, as well as several other gentlemen opposite, delivered themselves on the floor of this House. Now, Sir, if those prejudices really exist, it was by the hon. gentlemen opposite that they were raised and fostered and fed. As you are well aware, Mr. Speaker, for many long years, the Liberals in Quebec could neither vote as free men upon public measures nor freely give expression to their political views. We Liberals were held up to reprobation not only by the clergy of

the province, but also by the Conservative speakers as so many enemies of the church, bent upon destroying the Throne and the Altar, and the clergy of the province, for many years, shared that view. Stunned by the outcries raised against us by those bawlers, the clergy prevented us from taking part in public affairs, and many people who had no leisure to study at a time when there were but very few papers to help educating the masses, gave implicit credence to those statements; but when, later on, public education had progressed, when we found it possible to reach the ear of the people and to denounce the misdoings of our opponents, then, I say, prejudices were swept away and the eyes of the people were at last open. Three years ago, certain attempts at stirring up the same prejudices were made in the province of Quebec. The people replied by giving us a majority as we now have in this House, in support of the Government. No, Sir, there are no prejudices to be found among our people. They impute to us as a crime the fact that we are proud of the Prime Minister; but, I ask, is it any fault of ours if the most distinguished man in Canada is one of our race? Has it ever entered our heads to impute as a crime to the hon. gentlemen opposite their admiration for Sir Charles Tupper? A few days ago, an hon. gentleman, when reviewing in laudatory language the political career of the leader of the Opposition, was heard to say that the province of Nova Scotia was justly proud to claim him as one of her children. I congratulate Nova Scotia upon having produced a man like Howe and other great statesmen, and we also congratulate the province of Quebec upon having given birth to Cartier, and the province of Ontario, upon having among her statesmen a man like Mowat.

Are we to be told that because Sir Wilfrid Laurier belongs to our race, we are to be forbidden mentioning his name and claiming him as one of ours? No British statesman, however distinguished he may have been, was ever given a more hearty welcome than Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Prime Minister of Canada. Upon all hands, the Canadian people were congratulated upon having at the head of their Government such an able and distinguished man. It would be most unfair on our part not to recognize his great talents.

I wish to reply to another insinuation made by the hon. member for North Victoria (Mr. Hughes). Referring the other day to prejudices as also to the charges brought in that connection against the Minister of Public Works, the hon. gentleman said:

We know the French Canadian people are loyal. It is true that in 1837 a few of them stood in rebellion, but, Sir, there were Englishmen in rebellion also in those days. There were renegade Englishmen in Ontario and Quebec, just as there were renegade Frenchmen.

I thought it my duty not to pass over in silence that historical error, without protesting against such an unfair statement. The men of 1837, Sir, were no renegades; they fought

in favour of the rights of a majority dominated by a minority. They had the courage of withstanding tyranny. Never did it enter their minds to rebel against the British Crown, and later on, the British Government did nobly acknowledge it. How dare they call renegades the men of 1837? When I heard that statement, I could not but exclaim: "How ignorant those men are of the history of their country!" On reaching Parliament Hill, among the monuments which embellished the grounds around these buildings, is the statue of George Etienne Cartier. That man was made a baronet, after playing a great part in our public affairs: he was even the guest of Her Majesty at the Windsor Castle, and welcomed by her as a devoted and dutiful son. But, I ask, was he not once among those renegades referred to by the hon. gentleman? I want no better proof of this than the following statement taken from one of the speeches delivered by Sir George Etienne Cartier himself at St. Denis, that historical parish 'par excellence', which forms part of the constituency I had the honour of representing in the Quebec legislature:

We have no longer to fear a repetition of the events of 1837, which were caused by the manœuvres of a minority who wanted to dominate the majority and run the Government in their own interests. What the people were aiming at was making it impossible for that minority to oppress the majority, rather than bringing about a separation from the mother country. But, fortunately, we may hope to be given fair-play, since we were granted responsible Government, which obliges the head of the executive to surround himself with advisers who enjoy the confidence of the majority.

Electors of St. Denis, you have shown that you were brave men, when on the 22nd of November, 1837, armed with a few poor muskets, with lances, forks and sticks, you drove away the troops of Colonel Gore. I was then one of yours, and I do not think I lacked courage.

Thus spoke the leader of the hon. gentlemen opposite, the man whose statue they daily contemplate with veneration: he declares that he was one of the rebels of 1837. Despite all that, he was placed at the head of public affairs in this country, and he became a famous statesman and a great Canadian.

I am afraid I have overtaxed the indulgence of the House. In reviewing at such length matters with which my hon. friends are perhaps more familiar than I am: but I thought it my duty to register a solemn protest. As I said, from the standpoint of prejudices, and of loyalty, one cannot but hope that the day will come when we, Canadians—for nowadays we are classified as French Canadians and English Canadians, though we never forget that we are British subjects—will form one single and indivisible nation. Still, one cannot but remember the blood of his ancestors which flows in his veins. One cannot forget that in the church-yards around our old churches several generations of ancestors with French blood in their veins are sleeping the eternal sleep. Is it to be in-

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ferred from this that we do not respect other races? Does that mean that we are not loyal to the flag under the shadow of which we enjoy freedom and protection? No, Sir. Those are sentiments in the inmost recess of the heart, which all intelligent men respect and which cannot be productive of evil. Just as the English remember the glories of proud Albion, and the Irish remember Erin and O'Connell, we also remember that we have sworn allegiance to Great Britain, and we shall remain faithful to her, so long as circumstances will require it, so long as events shall not have called upon us to join the concert of nations, and to play an important part, which we must all have at heart to play, if not for our own sake, at least for the sake of our children.

Mr. A. C. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.) moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

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

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 11.55 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, 11th April, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 50) to amend the Civil Service Act.—(Mr. Monk.)

### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell (East Prince), for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. A. C. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.) Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the long debate we have had on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, I will claim the privilege of making a few remarks before the debate closes, and in doing so, Sir, I will just refer for a moment to some of the remarks that fell from my hon. friend the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson). In the course of his speech he referred, like many of the other hon. gentlemen who preceded him, to the great prosperity of this country under Liberal rule. He also referred to the immense increase in the foreign trade of this country. With respect to that, Sir, I

would just say that I wonder where the prosperity of this country would be to-day, I wonder where the trade would be to-day. If it were not for the continuance of the National Policy inaugurated by the predecessors of hon. gentlemen opposite. With respect to the foreign trade of this country it is my opinion, at least, that the great increase in this trade is largely due to the good crops that have prevailed throughout the country and to the continuance of the National Policy that has enabled our factories to continue their operations. Now, while I agree, in the main, that there has been prosperity owing to these two causes, there are parts of this Dominion where neither one nor the other of these causes exists. What do we find? We find that in the maritime provinces we have not good crops, we have not the manufactories, and, therefore, we have not the prosperous times that exist in other parts of this Dominion. In the province from which I come we have no manufactories, and I regret to say that our crops have been, to a very great extent, a failure. If I am to judge the other maritime provinces by the state of the province from which I come, I think I have no cause to congratulate the Government on the prosperity of the country. The hon. Minister of Customs has told us that the factories of this country are working now as they never worked before. I would ask that hon. gentleman where would these factories be to-day if they had not continued the policy of their predecessors by continuing the protection that enabled these factories to start under the National Policy? On the other hand where would the wealth and money of this country be going to if it were not for these factories that were nurtured and brought into existence by the National Policy? They would be going to the people to the south of us, very largely. We have, thanks to the National Policy, become independent of those outside of us to a large extent; we can depend on our own factories for the production of our own goods, our own cottons, our own boots and shoes, our own clothing, our own hats and caps, and in fact everything that the general run of people, or the farmers require to carry them over from year's end to year's end. If it were not for the National Policy we would be sending our money out of this country to pay foreigners and to pay for what we are now able to do at home. The hon. gentleman, in the course of his remarks, referred also to the reciprocal tariff, in referring, I presume, to the preferential tariff. Now, a tariff to my mind, to be reciprocal, must be beneficial to both parties. In the matter of preferential trade between us and England, Canada has to give largely to England without any advantage to the people of Canada. Therefore, I deny that there is any reciprocity in that tariff. It is one-sided, it is preferential only in so far as England is concerned and is of no advantage whatever to

Canada. The Minister of Customs (Mr. Pater-son) told us that the Government had a surplus, and whether Grit or Tory rules we are all glad to hear that. But, Sir, when these hon. gentlemen have a surplus is it not time for them to think about reducing the taxes upon the people. They have preached in that line for a good many years, but I fear that when the Budget comes down, it will give evidence of another broken pledge in this direction. The hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches claim that there is great prosperity in Canada. It is perhaps worth our while to inquire as to what they have done to bring about the prosperity which they say exists. Well, it does not take very much study to discover that their policy has not tended in the direction of producing prosperity, because they have increased the taxation, and nobody will contend that that is conducive to the welfare of the people. When the Conservative Government went out of power the taxation per head of the people was about \$3.77, but these hon. gentlemen opposite have succeeded in increasing the taxation until at present it mounts up to \$4.22 per head. My hon. friend from East Prince (Mr. Bell) delivered a very good speech in moving this Address, and I congratulate him upon it, but I fear he was completely at sea when he said that the prosperity of the country was largely due to the economical administration of this Government. We have yet to wait, and I fear we will wait a long time for any evidence of economy on the part of the hon. gentlemen now in power. They came into power claiming that protection was the ruin of Canada, "that it was bleeding the people white," and yet when they attained power they continued this very same policy of protection. True, they have made some small pretence towards making alterations in the tariff in order that they might endeavour to hoodwink the electors into the belief that they kept some of their promises. But the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), speaking as a member of the Government, says: "That the tariff is now a dead issue and is finally settled," and it is worth while for us to inquire how they have settled it. It is not many years since my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) said, that a protective tariff was "a thing accursed of God and man," and the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) in those days of old told us: "That protection and corruption were Siamese twins, that never were separated in this world and that he did not think would be separated in the next." Yet, we find these hon. gentlemen, now that they are in power, swallowing their free trade principles, and perpetuating this protection and corruption. Let us inquire for a moment in what respect they have altered the protective tariff which they found in operation when they came into power. The total number of items in the tariff as it stood under the Conservative Government was 486, and of this number the

Liberals changed 144 and left 342 unchanged. Let us see what they did with these 144 items. They reduced the tariff on eighty of them, causing by such reduction a loss of revenue—calculated on the imports of 1896—of \$680,000; not much of a reduction, Mr. Speaker, you will agree with me, after all their outcry against protection and their statement that it was “bleeding the people white.” But the Liberal Government did not rest there with the tariff. They took 61 items and increased the tariff on these, adding by this increase—exclusive of cigars and tobacco—\$795,000 to the revenue, and, consequently, increasing the measure of protection to that extent. Now, Sir, 42 out of these 61 items included goods manufactured in Canada, and we have therefore the right to conclude that the present Government added additional protection, to that protection which under Liberal-Conservative rule they said was “bleeding the people white.” What an exhibition of inconsistency on the part of these hon. gentlemen, and how gleefully they have swallowed all their promises to the people. Among the principal items they changed in their tariff were binder twine, coal oil and corn. They removed the duty from binder twine, and their statesmanship in that line has resulted in compelling the people to pay more for that article to-day than they did when the Conservative Government was in power. But there is more to be said in connection with this binder twine matter. The Government was running a binder twine factory in the penitentiary at Kingston, and as they had not to pay for the labour they turned out the twine at a very low rate. I am informed that last year they sold over 1,000 tons of this binder twine, practically without tenders being called, because the thing was so manipulated that it got into the hands of one of their own friends at a rate much lower than the market price. The result was that this gentleman at once combined with the American producers, and put the price up to such an enormous pitch that the consumers were forced to pay three times the price they would have paid if they could have bought it direct from the Government, and if the Government had chosen to give the farmers the benefit of the low price of penitentiary made twine. The American Government, having, through the policy of this Government, killed off the binder twine factories in the Dominion of Canada, are now adding insult to injury by offering us a free market for binder twine in their country. The result of the action of the Government is, that the farmers of this country are now obliged to buy their binder twine from the American combines and pay exorbitant prices therefor. The Government also lowered the duty on coal oil, and granted other concessions to a foreign monopoly, whose effects are felt, not only in Canada and the United States, but in Europe, with the result that this huge monopoly has been enabled to gobble up all

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the oil refineries in Canada, and with the further result, that the price of oil has gone up about 2 cents a gallon. They also, Sir, in tinkering with our tariff, took the duty off corn. What is the result? The result is, that a vast amount of American corn is brought into Canada, displacing a like amount of coarse grains that are grown by the people of this country.

Having said this much on that subject, I will turn my attention for a few moments to another matter that is mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. I refer to the plebiscite. It appears, Sir, that that measure has cost the people of this country \$250,000—for what? To tickle the votes of the temperance people of Canada, in the interest of what? Not of temperance, for hon. gentlemen opposite say there is no intention of following the result of the vote with prohibitory legislation. Therefore, I think I am right in saying that a large amount of the people's money has been spent to humbug and deceive sincere advocates of temperance. It has cost this country directly \$250,000 to bring this result about. It has cost the temperance people of this country, I dare say, fully as much more, if not more, for the expenses of printing, hall hire, payment of public speakers, time given by the people of Canada to the discussions, providing and paying representatives at the polls, and loss of time of half a million voters. Now, Sir, I do not think I am drawing an unfair inference, when I say that the temperance vote, on account of the promise made by the Liberal party, and by the leader of that party, that prohibitory legislation would follow a majority vote on the plebiscite, “even if it should cost his party power for ever”—that it was that vote which placed the Government on the Treasury benches. You must remember that the leader of the Government promised that if the people gave a majority for the plebiscite, it meant prohibition. The vote, Sir, was a large and substantial one. The vote in my province showed 37½ per cent for prohibition, and 4½ per cent against prohibition. Now, Sir, we find that there is a disposition on the part of the leader of the Government to back out of his promise, which was squarely given, as well as implied. At the Liberal convention in 1893, when this matter came up, there was one gentleman with whom, although he was a political opponent of mine, I was always on the most friendly terms in this House in former days. I refer to the Hon. Mr. Anglin. At that convention, speaking of the temperance plank in the Liberal platform, he said:

Is it not that we desire to know what the opinion of the people is on this question, that we desire to ascertain their opinion in a particular way, and that we will do all in our power to give effect to their decision as thus ascertained. Should a majority be obtained at the polls when this question is submitted, the friends of prohibition will be in a position to call upon the Lib-

eral party to back up their resolution logically by assisting in the passage and enforcement of a prohibitory liquor law.

This was said, Sir, in the presence of the leader of the Liberal party and most of the present Cabinet, if not all. There was not one dissenting voice, so far as we know. It was believed that to pass the resolution meant just what Mr. Anglin said. Think, Mr. Speaker, for a moment of the vast number of independent and sincere men, electors of this country, who polled their votes for the present Government on the strength of the promise of the leader of the party, as expressed in their convention in 1893, and the many utterances of their leader since that date. Yet, Sir, in the face of all these promises, in the face of this plank in the Liberal platform, we find that they let the first session and the second session of this Parliament pass, and it was not until the third session that they brought down an Act to provide for the plebiscite. After passing that Act, what did they do? They brought on the election, but before doing so, they appointed a committee of the Privy Council—a committee of the Cabinet to fight the agitation. If there was nothing else to condemn the Government for, so far as the temperance vote of this country is concerned, that should be sufficient. For what reason did they send this committee of the Privy Council to carry on an agitation in the province of Quebec against prohibition? They found that they were getting into a pretty tight place, they found that the majority of the electorate were going in favour of prohibition, and that they would be held to their pledges to the temperance people, and they said to this committee: Save us or we perish. I shall not refer to the means adopted in the province of Quebec, and which have been referred to by several gentlemen already, but these means were not creditable to this or any other Government. I would ask permission, however, to read the opinion of the secretary of one of the temperance organizations in Montreal or the eastern townships—I refer to Major Bond. This is what he has said with reference to the conduct of the plebiscite by the Government, and, Mr. Speaker, Major Bond is not a Conservative, but a Liberal. But he is a sincere temperance man, and not afraid to give expression to his opinion:

A large majority against prohibition in the province of Quebec was gained, not only by undue influence and appeals to race and party prejudice, but by flagrantly corrupt methods.

However, when the Government came to sum up the whole thing, they found that the majority was in favour of prohibition. It will be worth our while to pause a moment to ask ourselves what constitutes a majority. My contention is that a majority is that portion of any body of men which rules; and we find in every public gathering, from a country school-house meeting to a meeting on the floor of Parliament, that

it is the majority that rules. Whether it be a Government or a small country meeting, the majority carries the day. Why, then, should this case of prohibition be made an exception of by the Government for its own purpose? Although there was a very large majority in my own county in favour of prohibition, what did the Government tell us? They said: Oh, it is the minority that rules, the majority does not rule at all, and the majority must submit. That is about where the matter stands just now. While referring to the methods that were used to carry the election in the province of Quebec, it is only fair that I should say a word with respect to the position of that province on the temperance question. What is its position? The general impression is that the province of Quebec is not temperate. This, however, is a common fallacy and an error, because we find that the 932 rural municipalities, outside the cities and large towns in the province of Quebec, have a local option law. We find that all these municipalities have the power to prevent the issuing of licenses, and out of the 932, there are 603 in which the sale of liquor is entirely prohibited. I am indebted to my hon. friend from Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) for these figures, and I think they are well worth submitting to the House, so as to place the province of Quebec in its proper light before the country on this question. In my opinion, that is one more reason why the Government should have granted prohibition, after the result of the plebiscite, knowing as they did, that the province of Quebec is largely temperate, although not strictly in favour of prohibition. But, Sir, the Government said to their friends in that province and elsewhere: If you assist to carry through prohibition you will destroy the Government. You can see what an immense motive power that was to induce people to vote against prohibition; but nevertheless, in the face of such a powerful appeal, there was a large majority in its favour. The people seemed to have forgotten that the right hon. leader of the Government had said that "the Government would go into Opposition rather than defeat the will of the majority, as expressed by the plebiscite," and further, in my opinion, the Government is to-day holding office by reason of the promise of its leader that prohibition would be carried out, "even if it cost the Liberal party power forever." Were it not for the temperance vote thus obtained, these hon. gentlemen would not now be sitting on the Treasury benches. Sir, the temperance people in my province are sincere, earnest men, and their opinion may be summed up by the expression of a leading temperance man, when asked: What do you think the Government will do, now that a majority has voted in favour of prohibition? Oh, he said, "they are honourable men and will give us prohibition." And "what will you do, if they do not?" Oh, he replied, "I will change

my politics and vote against them." I believe that the expression of that gentleman was sincere and that a very large number—not all, because some will swallow their principles and stick to their party—of the earnest and respectable advocates of temperance in the Liberal party will poll their votes against the Government which made such promises and failed to fulfil them. Now, in the face of all the direct promises of the Government and of the right hon. First Minister, in the face of the prohibition plank in the Liberal platform, on the strength of which the Government obtained the temperance vote, in the face of the pledge of the whole Liberal party that "even if it cost them power forever" they would give us prohibition, we find an apostle of temperance in the person of the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure) having the temerity to assert "that prohibition was never promised." What does this all amount to? It amounts to just about this, that we are told by the right hon. leader of the Government: Oh, I did not mean what I said; I was only playing with you; I was poking fun at you; there was an implied agreement. With whom, pray? It was not with the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint), as far as we know. It was not with the Minister of Agriculture, so far as we know. It would seem that it must have been with a ghost; but, if so, that ghost will arise in the person of the independent and insulted electorate of this country in the next election and call the Government to account. Where is the hon. Minister of Agriculture now?

An hon. MEMBER. In cold storage.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.) One gentleman suggests that he has been put in cold storage to keep until this blows over. I hardly think that. Where are the temperance supporters of the Government? We used to find them very pugnacious when a question of this kind came up in the House. We do not hear a word from their lips now, except when they make excuses for the failure of the Government to carry out their pledges with respect to prohibition. Surely they do not expect an outraged electorate to overlook such political depravity as this. At the risk of wearying the House, I must read an extract from the newspaper organ of my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), in which is contained a report of the Prince Edward Island branch of the Dominion Alliance meeting. The following resolutions were carried:—

Whereas the Alliance has learned with regret that the privilege of a private bonded warehouse has been granted to—

I leave out the name—

—a violator of the Canada Temperance Act;

Therefore resolved that we hereby express our strongest disapprobation of such action on the part of the Government, and urge the Govern-

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ment to immediately rescind its action in this matter; and that we further disapprove of the principle of allowing private bonded warehouses for the exclusive storage of intoxicants in places where the Canada Temperance Act is in force.

Now, I just wish to say with respect to this that within a few days after the plebiscite on prohibition was taken, it was rumoured that the first reply of the Government to the vote of the people in my county that was so strongly in favour of temperance, was to grant a bonded warehouse to this gentleman. I can remember that many years ago it was the practice of almost every business establishment in the country to sell liquor as well as other articles of trade, and during all that time it was never found necessary to have a bonded warehouse to enable the people to store liquor. But now that we have the Canada Temperance Act in force, now that we are shown by the plebiscite that the people were 37½ per cent against the sale of liquor to 4½ per cent for it, the first act of the Government was to grant a bonded warehouse. This was adding insult to injury, to say the least of it.

That the Prince Edward Island Branch of the Dominion Temperance Alliance view with profound regret the attitude of the Federal Government upon the question of prohibition, taking, as they now do, a stand diametrically opposed to the will of the people expressed in the plebiscite of September last.

I would just say here that I think that it is the plain duty of the Government to follow up the vote that was polled in favour of prohibition with a prohibitory law. Now, I quote further from the "Guardian" of 13th April, respecting this bonded warehouse:

It is impossible that aroused public indignation can be quieted while the nuisance remains unabated. We have proceeded so far on the assumption that the Minister of Customs and the Government of which he is a member were misled by the local adviser in King's County, and were not aware of the nature of what had been done. But that excuse no longer remains valid. The public interest could not possibly be subserved by placing a bonded warehouse in a country cellar owned by a notorious violator of the law of the land.

We have made it clear that the transaction as it stands is a public scandal which no decent section of public opinion in this island will defend or apologize for. It stands condemned by the press, by the general public and by the Temperance Alliance.

Well, Sir, the granting of the bonded warehouse is the reply that the Government has given to the temperance people after the vote on the plebiscite. The "Guardian" further says:

The friends of temperance and social order are just now in no mood to be trifled with. They are sore over the refusal of prohibition, and will resent in the strongest way special and unusual privileges granted by the central Government to notorious violators of the Temperance Act.

These are the expressions, not of a Conservative journal, but of a journal supporting

the Government. I do not blame this gentleman for having a bonded warehouse nearly as much as I blame the Government for granting it.

Now, just a word with respect to the conference. It seems to me that the Government have allowed the Americans to tie their hands for another year. By adjourning the conference to the 1st of August they have gained time and prevented the Government from passing legislation in the interest of Canada that they might otherwise have passed. The policy of the Government up to this time, it seems to me, has been largely to pass legislation favourable to the United States. They have given them the advantage of supplying us largely with coal oil, binder twine and corn. Should they take any further steps in this direction, it would be very hard to say where they can stop. One reason why this conference has been a failure is that the Government party of this country in the past has been in the habit of proclaiming themselves the friends of the Americans. They have declared that if they were placed in power they would get reciprocity without fail, that we had only to elect them and reciprocity would follow forthwith. But after reaching power by means, as I contend, largely of promises made to the temperance people of this country, they turn around at once and abandon reciprocity.

They say, Sir, that they cannot find out that it is necessary for the prosperity of this country. Well, I am not surprised at the Americans not granting them reciprocity of any kind, after getting them to make the concessions that they did with respect to some of the principal articles that they put on the free list of this country; for instance, binder twine and other things. After the members of this Government had proclaimed themselves so anxious to obtain access to this market of 60,000,000, saying time and again that it was a necessity to Canada, it would be absurd for the Americans, under those circumstances, to grant them reciprocity, or anything else. Now, on the question of the Alaska boundary, we find that the American commissioners said :

We will submit to arbitration ; but so far as Dyea and Skagway are concerned, as well as the territories now occupied by the Americans, whatever be the result of the arbitration, whether it be found that these towns are within British territory or not, yet, nevertheless, they should be deemed to be a portion of American territory.

Is it any wonder, after the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) admitting on the floor of this House last session :

Our contention is that Skagway and Dyea are in the United States territory, and they have been in undisputed possession. \* \* \* There is nothing in the record to show that objection has been made to such occupation.

He further stated :

From time immemorial Dyea has been in the possession of the Russians. No protest has been

made against their occupation. At this moment we cannot dispute it.

Under these circumstances, is it any wonder that the Americans should lay down such rules as they did with respect to the arbitration they were willing to grant under certain circumstances ?

Now we come to the question of redistribution. What do the Government want redistribution for ? Are they afraid of the people who elected them ? It looks very much like it, Mr. Speaker. I think myself that they have good reasons to be afraid of them ; so far as broken pledges go, they have every reason to be afraid of the people. Do they want so to rearrange the constituencies that they may be in a position to take the electors by the throat and say : Stand and deliver ? It seems to me, that the only object they can have in rearranging the constituencies that have given them power, is, to make their positions more secure, because they are afraid that they will not be able to retain the votes that they secured at the last election. My hon. friend from East Prince, P.E.I. (Mr. Bell), in the course of his speech, said there were thousands " who hugged the delusion that Canada is dependent on the United States for prosperity." Who are they ? The only ones I know are the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. These gentlemen have stated that the moment the Liberals attained power, they would obtain reciprocity. The Liberals have also said all along : " The United States is our natural market ; we cannot live without it." These were the only gentlemen who pretended that reciprocity was a necessity. Of course, on proper terms, every one would favour a reciprocal arrangement between ourselves and the people to the south of us. The Minister of Trade and Commerce said :

Hon. gentlemen may say what they like, they may do what they like ; the welfare of Canada above all things depends on the markets of the people to the south of us.

Wrong again, Mr. Speaker. It seems they have found out now that it was all a mistake and a delusion. They find out now that, owing to the policy of the late Government in building up trade with Great Britain and in catering to that market, we are becoming so independent of our American neighbours that it does not matter very much to the people of this country whether we get into their market or not. We are told in the Speech from the Throne :

Much information has been obtained relative to the deposits of gold, &c., in the Yukon.

No doubt, this is very interesting ; but, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, it would be much more interesting to know all the particulars respecting the doings of the inner circle in Dawson, and respecting the unlawful exactions of the appointees of the Government. In fact, if rumour is true, there have been a great many immoral practices

on the part of the people appointed by the Minister of the Interior and the minor officials out there. It seems that the Government has been trying to exact the last cent out of those poor miners who have gone there to toil late and early in order, perhaps, to obtain the means to procure subsistence for their needy families that they have left behind them. I think I have understood from the Government that a very large sum has been collected in Dawson and in the Yukon from the people who have gone out there. Now, I would venture to offer a little advice to the Government, and that is, that they could not better spend a portion of that money which they have received from the miners in the Yukon, than in establishing an independent tribunal, or a commission, by which there could be a thorough investigation made into the doings of the Government officials in that country. If half the reports we hear are true, it is a duty they owe, not only to themselves, but to the country at large, which has hitherto borne a good character in respect to administration. Now I will quote a short extract from a letter of Miss Shaw to the London "Times" with respect to the doings out there. I will not inflict the whole of it upon you, because you have heard it before; however, it is necessary for my purpose that I should read a portion of it. She said:

It is impossible to talk for five minutes on business with any one on the mines or in the streets without some allusion occurring to the subject, and it is a painful experience for Englishmen, proud of the purity of the British system of government, to be compelled to listen to the plain-spoken comments of Americans and foreigners.

Apart from the graver charges, there is much dissatisfaction with imperfections of organization, which are ascribed to inaptitude and inattention to business on the part of the responsible officers. \* \* \* That mining districts cannot be surveyed, that claims in many instances cannot be recorded, that necessary information with regard to districts already staked is not open to the public, are facts which have come to be regarded by the public as so many purposely designed channels for individual bribery. A half or a quarter interest is frequently quoted as the price at which good claims can be recorded, and scarcely a day passes in which some fresh story does not become current of the number of dollars which it has cost to obtain letters from a nominally unsorted mail or to make good an entrance on business into one of the public offices.

When there is given to us such an article as that, written by the correspondent of the London "Times," I think it should be sufficient to warrant the Government in having a thorough investigation in order that they may show to the world that the Government of Canada were not a party to any such work as that which has been going on there. I also make a short quotation from the Yukon "Nugget." It says:

Admittance to the door marked "private" could be obtained for \$5, while that containing the sign "No Admission" could be entered by

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paying \$10 to \$25. The latter was very largely patronized, to the personal benefit of the Government officials and the detriment of honest miners whose claims were ignored in the absence of tips.

"Mr. Fawcett," said Mr. Semple, "was the most incompetent man ever placed in charge of an executive position. While we do not charge him with personal dishonesty it is a well known fact that his employees were too crooked to lay in bed. Of the seventeen clerks under him there were several over whom he had no control whatever."

Now, Sir, we find also that there is a gentleman who visited Dawson City who was connected with a paper that was published not very far from Ottawa, the Pembroke "Observer," a strong Liberal paper, and, therefore, this gentleman was a strong Liberal. But strong Liberal as he was, when he visited Dawson he could not swallow what he saw and he reported as follows on the situation there. He said that he had to listen to:

—violent railings at the Government and at the officials at Dawson, who were both charged with the most vile and deliberate corruption.

He further says:

I have seen enough to convince myself that it is worse even than the mind of an honest man can conceive.

Under these circumstances I must press upon the Government the necessity, in the interests of this country, of having all these matters brought before an independent tribunal and thoroughly thrashed out so that wrong-doing, if any, shall be put on the proper shoulders, and, if there is none, the Government will stand better in the eyes of the country than it does under the present circumstances.

Now, a word or two in respect to cold storage. We who were in the previous Parliament know that the then Government and my hon. friend from Haldimand (Mr. Montague) took up the matter of cold storage. We had it at that time before the Committee on Agriculture. It was talked over and approved, and an amount was placed in the estimates of the then Government to facilitate cold storage, but through the opposition of the Liberal party that estimate was prevented from going through Parliament. We know that when they got into power they went around and told the people that, "We are the boys; we brought in cold storage; we are going to give the farmers a chance to take their cheese, their butter, their bacon, their mutton, their beef and all that sort of thing to market in cold storage," and that they inaugurated cold storage. Why, Sir, they are becoming so used to wearing the garments of the Opposition that they hardly know themselves. However, there is no gain-saying the fact, that we have to thank the late Minister of Agriculture, the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), and the late Government for inaugurating that policy. And, Sir, in this connection, I may say that the cold storage that the present Govern-

ment have given us is only partial cold storage, and that if the present Government had only carried out what the late Government inaugurated and concluded a contract for a fast mail service across the Atlantic we would, by this time, have a proper cold storage system and a fast mail service, instead of which we find that three years have been fritted away and nothing accomplished. Not only that, Sir, but they started out with the intention of saving a little money, as they thought, by getting a cheaper service, but we find that the price of steel and iron products of all kinds has gone up, and the chances are that what they could have got possibly for \$750,000 or \$800,000 two or three years ago will now, in all probability, cost them \$1,000,000.

I think, Sir, I have gone over the different items that are referred to in the Speech from the Throne, and that it is not necessary that I should weary the House by continuing my remarks at any greater length. But, Sir, we find that the present Government are accused, and I think very properly accused, of having forgotten their pledges to the people of this country. They came into power pledged against protection, and they have continued protection. Mr. Speaker, do you suppose, for one moment, that they would have obtained power if they had come out as they now do in favour of protection? They came out at the election in favour of reciprocity with the United States and obtained the votes of the electors who were in favour of that measure. Do you suppose that they would have reached power if they had come out flat-footed as they do now against reciprocity? They came out, Sir, as I have heard year in and year out within the walls of this Parliament, denouncing the Conservative party for interfering with the independence of Parliament by granting offices to their supporters. We have heard the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), in fact all of the supporters of the Liberal party, while on this side of the House, denouncing the Conservative party for appointing their friends from Parliament to office, but no sooner do they get into office themselves than they adopt these very tactics. We find that they have already appointed, from this Parliament, as many as over a dozen of their supporters to offices of emolument, and, rumour says, that the hon. member for St. James, Montreal (Mr. Desmarais), who spoke so volubly last night, is to get a judgeship.

Is that the price of his eloquence; it is hard to say, time will tell. We also found that the Liberals rather denounced the fast Atlantic service when it was proposed by the Conservative Government, but as soon as they got into power they commenced tinkering and tampering with it, the result being that we have no fast Atlantic service contracted for yet, and the chances are that before they procure such a service as the Conservative Government contem-

plated they will have to pay a good deal more money than was offered in the first place. More than that, we will have to do without the service for several years to come. These gentlemen came into power condemning corruption and scandals. I do hope that in the interests of this country they will take the earliest opportunity to appoint an independent tribunal before which the Yukon scandals may be thoroughly threshed out, and the truth of the charges proved, or the officials and the Government vindicated. I would further say to the Government that they owe a duty to themselves and they owe a duty to the temperance people of Canada to carry out their promises and their pledges by bringing in a Plebiscite Bill. I shall not detain the House longer. I thought it in the interests of my constituents to put these matters before the Parliament of Canada in the best way I possibly could, and I do trust that I have done so in a manner which will commend itself to my electors and to the hon. members of this House.

Mr. P. MACDONALD (East Huron). I must apologize to you, Mr. Speaker, as well as to the hon. members on both sides of the House for prolonging this discussion which has now lasted for about three weeks. I had made up my mind not to take any part in this debate, but speeches have been made and events have occurred which have caused me to alter my intention, and I therefore crave the indulgence of hon. gentlemen while I pass in review some of the questions which have been engaging our attention. I may say at the outset that there are some matters to which I intend to give but a passing notice. We have had two great speeches on the Yukon question, and they, to my mind, settled that controversy. The one was that very able, bold and explicit statement made by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), in which he accused the Government of almost every crime, and with being responsible for everything bad that was committed in the Yukon. I listened with great attention to all the charges which he, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper made, in order to satisfy myself if the reports might be true, and after listening to the seven-hours' speech of that hon. gentleman, I was anxious to know what could be said in rebuttal. The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) was in a position to answer that speech better than any hon. member in this House, for he was in possession of facts and figures which were not under the control of private members, and therefore, I attached a good deal of importance to the answer that would be given by the Minister. After listening to that hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) for six hours or thereabouts, I was forced to come to the conclusion that the Government did all that human creatures could do to carry out law and order in that far-off, distant country. True, there may have been some things we would not

like to see transacted, but is it possible for us to imagine that the conditions in that almost inaccessible region would be similar to those we would expect to see in an older and better regulated community? We know that thousands of people, many rough men, miners all their lives, were arriving and elbowing to the right and to the left to get to the gold land, striving still more strenuously to get their claims recorded, and are we as reasonable people to suppose that under these conditions there would not be some irregularities? But, Sir, who can for one moment reasonably accuse the Government for these irregularities, small as they were. To hold the Government responsible for them appears to me absolutely absurd, and so far as the Yukon question goes it will cut a very narrow swath when we come to give an account of our stewardship to the electors. I might for a moment refer to the policy of the Government last session in providing for a line of railway into the Teslin Lake, and a line of steamers thence down the Yukon. The Senate in its wisdom, thought it well to veto that Bill, but after a year of further experience I believe the country regrets very deeply the action of the Senate in that regard. Had the Bill been carried into effect, we would now have a line of communication with the Yukon, along which a large proportion of our trade would go, and our eastern manufacturers and our western food producers would be largely benefited over and above what is possible under present conditions. In consequence of the rejection of that Bill by the Senate, the Yukon trade has been largely diverted through the United States channels to the advantage of the American manufacturers, so that the Canadian manufacturers are aggrieved, and the country generally feels aggrieved by the action of the Senate in rejecting that Bill. The question of Senate reform will ere long come before this House, upon its merits, and then I shall have an opportunity of expressing my opinion upon the policy formulated by the Government.

There is another question upon which I will reserve my remarks until later on in the session, when a special opportunity may be given for discussing it. A large number of the members of the Opposition appear to be deeply imbued with temperance principles just now—I never knew before that so many of them had the temperance cause so much at heart. I have been in this House for about twelve years, and I do not know that I see any gentleman opposite me who is remarkably well known in the community, or in the House, for having at heart the great temperance cause of the country. Nevertheless, these gentlemen are now making a great ado about prohibition, but you will notice, Sir, that they always speak about what the Liberals did not do, and forget altogether to tell what they themselves would do. When a man honestly differs with my opinions I like

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to hear him say what he would do, and I like to hear him tell in a straightforward manner what his action would be in the interests of the country, or in the interests of any class of the community. We have respect and esteem for persons who will candidly state their opinions, but I have no respect for persons who throw out opinions for the sole and only purpose of putting an obstacle in the way of another person, or of another political party.

Now, Sir, I suppose that most of the members of this House know that I am a prohibitionist, as I have been for forty years. I have taken part in the discussion of the plebiscite question, and I am sorry indeed that when the opportunity was given the temperance people and the Christian people of this country to express their opinion and their sentiment on this question, they did not do so more largely than they did; and, although I am in favour of prohibition, I feel this obstacle in the way, that under present conditions, as indicated by the recent vote, the people are not strong enough in sentiment to stand behind a prohibitory liquor law. If a prohibitory liquor law were placed on the statute-book at this time, with the sentiment which exists in the country behind it, I am afraid that in less than five years that law would be repealed by an overwhelming majority against it, and then the end of temperance would be worse than the beginning. Therefore, in the interest of temperance, I think the Government would not be justified, upon the basis of the vote that has been given, in introducing a prohibitory liquor law at the present moment. That is sufficient to show you, Mr. Speaker, where I stand.

There is another question to which I wish to refer before I proceed to the main question which I wish to discuss; that is, the question of reciprocity. Hon. gentlemen accuse us on this side of the House of being opposed to a reciprocity treaty. I wonder where these hon. gentlemen got their information. Did we ever as a party express ourselves as opposed to reciprocity? Did we ever formulate a resolution against reciprocity? No, not one. We are in favour of reciprocity if we can get a reciprocity treaty based upon principles that are equitable and just between the two nations concerned; but we have repeatedly asserted on the platform and in Parliament that we were not and never would be willing to sacrifice one jot or tittle of the interests or the honour of Canada to secure a reciprocity treaty from any nation. That is the position we have always taken and the position we occupy to-day; that is the position the Liberal party will occupy for all time to come. But the hon. leader of the Government said the other day that he did not think the country was very much in favour of a reciprocity treaty at this moment; and that remark has been taken up by hon. gentlemen opposite, and they have charged us with having broken our promises. Now, if those hon. gentle-

men who think they understand the trade question very well, will just think for a moment, they will see that present conditions are far different from the conditions of seven or eight years ago. We do not stand in need of a reciprocity treaty now as much as we did then. The reason of that is that our markets have largely changed. The products that used to go to the United States market now find a market in Great Britain. Take, for instance, the article of barley. We formerly raised 14,000,000 or 15,000,000 bushels of barley, because it was in demand in the United States to make pale beer; but when the McKinley Bill threw our barley out of the United States market, our farmers stopped growing barley, and they do not grow it now to any great extent. Where they had formerly a million acres under barley in Ontario, to-day they have not over 200,000 acres. The changed conditions drove the American brewers to adopt other things, such as corn and rice, in the making of pale beer. Suppose we had reciprocity to-morrow, we could not re-establish the market we had seven or eight years ago, and the changed conditions have done away with the necessity for reciprocity in that article. Then, take another article. Eight or ten years ago, I am sorry to say, the Canadian farmers were exporting a large number of their lean cattle to the American market, for which they received, of course, a reasonably good price; but the McKinley Bill to a large extent shut out the cattle of Canada; and probably it was a good thing for our farmers, because it made them commence to finish and fatten the animal in this country ready for the butcher. In that way they were both benefiting themselves and were able to dispense with the American market; so that if we had reciprocity to-day it would not benefit us so much, because our methods have changed. Our fat cattle go to England instead of our lean cattle to the United States. Therefore, when the right hon. leader of the Government said that the people of this country did not require reciprocity at the present time as they did seven or eight years ago, he was only expressing the general opinion of the people of Canada to-day. Several years ago the United States market was the market par excellence for the eggs of the province of Ontario and other provinces. It took the egg producers of this country one or two years to establish a successful market for eggs in Great Britain; but it has been established, and now the whole egg trade has been diverted to that market from the United States. Therefore, we do not require reciprocity in eggs as we did before. I might go on and give many other examples of the same kind. Do you not see that the conditions have changed, and we must change with the conditions? You must remember that politics is not an exact science like mathematics, in which you always come to the same conclusion. The premises are always changing in poli-

tics; as we grow older, new conditions arise, and when we argue on the basis of these new conditions, we must arrive at a different result from what we did before. We have not changed our opinions, but the conditions have changed; and, as the Liberal party is always a progressive party, we must adapt ourselves to the conditions that surround us. That is the principle on which we are conducting the Government to-day. We must also remember that politics is largely a matter of compromise. We have seven provinces to govern, and each of these provinces has special interests of its own. We cannot do everything which we think would benefit one province. We must consider what would benefit the whole, otherwise the Frenchman would be on one line, the Ontarian on another, and the Nova Scotian and the British Columbian would be looking for something that would benefit themselves in particular. We must compromise, and find a policy suitable not only to the various provinces in their particular conditions, but to the various interests in the different provinces themselves. Now, there may be a policy which, while quite in accord with the interests of the farmers, may not be in accord with the interests of the manufacturers. There may be a policy that is wholly in the interest of the miners, and not in the interest of the lumberers. And, therefore, the wisdom of the party and the wisdom of any Government must be found in determining a middle way, whereby the greatest possible good will be meted out to the greatest possible number.

I was really astonished at the argument which my hon. friend used, and I am confident, from my knowledge of his intelligence, that he did not really mean what he said. I cannot bring myself to believe that my hon. friend from King's, P.E.I. (Mr. Macdonald) is of the opinion that the reduction of the duty on coal oil from 6 to 5 cents caused the Standard Oil Company to come in and monopolize the entire oil products of this country. If he did not mean that, why did he make the statement he did, for evidently he wished the people to draw that inference. But I do not think either the hon. gentleman or any other hon. member could possibly draw the inference that this reduction in duty is responsible for the present condition of the oil interests in Ontario. How is it possible that by a reduction of one cent in the oil duty, the Standard Oil Company are placed in a better position than they were formerly? If 5 cents duty enabled the Standard Oil Company to control the Canadian market, 6 cents duty would enable the company to put the oil one cent higher to the consumer. The same argument was used with regard to binder twine. Surely my hon. friend from King's (Mr. Macdonald) does not mean that by putting binder twine on the free list was the cause of increasing the price last year, yet that evidently was the inference he wished us to

draw. That could have nothing to do with the increased price of raw material in a country devastated by war last year, and in which on that account the raw material could not be cultivated. Yet with the broad facts of history before him, the hon. gentleman ventured to state that the increase in price of binder twine was due to its having been placed on the free list.

Mr. TAYLOR. What did this Government sell the output of the Kingston Penitentiary for ?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). That has nothing to do with the price of binder twine. The whip of the Conservative party is imbued with the peculiar idea that everything, no matter what, that happens, which is not a subject for congratulation, must be due to the policy of the Government. What had the sale of binder twine in the Kingston Penitentiary to do with the price of that article in all countries where it is sold ?

Mr. TAYLOR. The Government should have sold it direct to the farmers and not have allowed a combine to exist and control the market.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Another question which was referred to on the public platform in Ottawa last night, or the night before, is our promise to bring down a redistribution Bill, but which my hon. friends opposite are pleased to call a gerrymander Bill. They seem really to be of the opinion that because they could not act honestly in the framing of a redistribution Bill themselves, we are bound to follow their example, and they actually accuse us in advance, before they can possibly tell what we are going to do. Let me just tell them that we intend to act honestly in the redistribution of the seats, and that is what they did not do. One of their leaders, a few years ago, said that their whole Bill was conceived in sin, and certainly it was brought forth in iniquity, because it was one of the most iniquitous Bills ever placed on the statute-books of Canada. It had the effect of legislating into this House a large number of Conservative members who would never have obtained a seat here were it not for that measure. Let me give some evidence to prove my statement, and I hope hon. gentlemen opposite will do me the courtesy of listening to the figures I shall give ; and if in any way they can answer those statements and figures I shall be most happy to hear their reply. The election of 1887 showed that in the province of Ontario the Conservatives had polled 186,000 votes and the Liberals 182,000 votes. Or, in other words, the majority in favour of the Conservatives during that election was 4,000 votes. Now, any one can see that if each party had had the same advantages at the polls—and why should they not—the members elected on either side would have been nearly equal. The Liberals would have had about forty-five seats and the Conservatives forty-six. But

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was that the case ? Let me give the figures. In the Parliament of 1887 the parties were divided as follows :—The Liberals had 33 members from the province of Ontario and the Conservatives 59. How was it possible that 26 members were elected on a majority vote of only 4,000 in the whole province ? The only explanation that can be given is that by the gerrymander Act of 1882, the Grits were so hived, they were so crowded into constituencies where their votes could not count, that it was impossible for them to obtain the representation in this House to which they were entitled by their number. They were, in fact, actually legislated out of their seats by that iniquitous gerrymander Act. Let me show this in another way. For every 3,150 votes polled in the election of 1887, a Conservative came into this House, but it required 5,550 votes to elect a Liberal. I challenge any hon. member on the opposite side to show that such a result could have occurred under any other condition than a gerrymander, by means of which the Liberals were hived into certain sections of the country where they could not possibly make their power felt.

Now, we are charged by hon. gentlemen opposite with having increased largely the expenditure under the consolidated fund of this country. But just here conditions come in—as conditions sometimes come in during the year in every one's affairs—which called for certain extraordinary payments that could not have been anticipated. We find that in 1895, the year before the Conservative party was routed at the polls, their expenditure was a great deal higher than it was during the last year of their administration. It was then \$38,152,000. But just before they appealed to the country, being desirous of making a good showing, they contrived to show a decrease in expenditure by holding over large payments, which they should have made in 1896, until after the elections, and these liabilities consequently fell on the shoulders of the new Government. Consequently, when the new Government came in, they were faced with large demands that should have been met and paid by the out-going Government. The out-going Government had cut down the expenditure to \$36,949,000 in 1896. But when the Liberal Government came in, they had not only to make arrangement for the payments accruing after they came into office, but to pay sums left over from the foregoing year. I will give you an instance. The late Government bought arms for the militia. That was all right, for I believe in an efficient militia. But they did not pay for these arms, and a large sum had to be paid by the in-coming Government. It was all right that the amounts should be paid, but to cite such an expenditure as an argument to support the contention that the Liberal Government had increased the public burdens unjustly, is unreasonable. Then, the new Government had to make many

payments because of new circumstances arising after they took office. We paid, last year, \$720,000 for the administration of affairs in the Yukon, while the late Government paid nothing on that account. The Government had to take up this matter and make provision for the protection of life and property; they had to send out a large body of policemen for that purpose, thus incurring the large expenditure I have just given. Now, does any hon. gentleman suppose, that if he went upon a public platform and told the simple electors—and by that word I mean the honest electors, men who are willing to hear the truth—that the Liberal Government had increased the expenditure, would they not naturally ask, what the items of increase were? And, the items being given, if the expenditures were shown to be proper expenditures in the interest of Canada, would not the people naturally say that it would be wrong to criticise the Government on that account? I see a gentleman in front of me, who, I suppose, from the close attention he is paying to what I say, intends to follow me. I would be glad if he would tell me, if ever upon a public platform he has told the electors that the Liberal Government were compelled to pay these extraordinary sums to which I have referred. Then, again, we paid \$141,000 more last year on account of immigration than the former Government paid. Will any member of this House rise on the public platform and tell the people how any part of that \$141,000 could have been saved, or that it was unwise to incur such an expenditure for the purpose of inducing people to come here and fill up our unsettled country? Then, again, we spent on agriculture—and I will deal with that expenditure further—\$34,000 more than the late Government had spent. We also made larger expenditures on the militia, and I will give another reason why the expenditures on this service were increased. Hon. gentlemen opposite will remember that, when they were in power, they neglected the militia greatly, that General Herbert, who was at the head of it, declared that the militia service was in a disastrous condition. The annual drill of the soldiers was not provided for, causing a great deal of dissatisfaction in the ranks of militia in this country. We believed that, if we had a militia, it should be on an efficient footing, and that the annual drill should be provided for; and, when we came into office, we provided for it. Of course, it cost money, the in-coming Government spending \$350,000 more than was spent in the year preceding. Is there any hon. gentleman opposite who will stand upon the public platform, where his utterances are published, and where people can hear him, and hold him responsible for what he says, and say that this \$350,000 should not have been spent? If he cannot say this money was extravagantly or corruptly spent, he should acknowledge to the people that the

Liberal Government were bound, in the interests of the people and of the militia, to make this expenditure.

Mr. HUGHES. Will you add another million to it? We will back you.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Hughes) misunderstands me; but I will explain my position, as I am sure he is honest in asking the question. I was not speaking of the whole expenditure upon the militia, but of what was spent over and above what was spent in the last year of the late Government.

Mr. HUGHES. But will you add another million this year?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Probably, the hon. gentleman, being a major in one of the battalions—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Colonel.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I beg the Colonel's pardon. The hon. gentleman, being colonel of one of the battalions, takes a deep interest in this matter, and, no doubt, believes that a million additional expenditure upon the militia would be in the interests of the country. I am not going to argue that question with him. There are several other items, which I will not take time to go over, but I will say that these, added to the others I have given, give us a total of \$2,030,000 spent by this Government over and above what was spent by the late Government.

Mr. McNEILL. Does not my hon. friend think that these extra expenditures, which he alleges to have been necessary, should have been taken into consideration before the promise was made to reduce the expenditure?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). These hon. gentlemen do not seem to see beyond the points of their own noses. How is it possible for one to ascertain what will be necessary three to five years hence? We stated, years and years ago, that the militia should be put on an efficient basis, and we were willing to spend what money was necessary to effect that result. But the late Government did not do this, and, when we came into power, we found, according to the testimony of General Herbert, that the militia was in a very bad condition as to efficiency. So, we had at once to increase the expenditure—

Mr. McNEILL. Will my hon. friend allow me—

An hon. MEMBER. This is not a point of order.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I am quite willing to hear what the hon. gentleman has to say.

Mr. McNEILL. I was going to say, that the hon. gentleman hardly understood the

point I was presenting to him. As I understand his argument, he is excusing the additional expenditure of this Government.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Not at all.

Mr. McNEILL. Then, I misunderstood the hon. gentleman. Of course, if he has no excuse—

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I am not excusing a single cent spent by this Government. All I want to do is, to place before the people the facts regarding the expenditure by this Government, for I feel confident that, when the people understand the reason for these expenditures, every item will be vindicated by the people.

Mr. McNEILL. My hon. friend still fails to understand my point. We say that hon. gentlemen opposite said they were going to reduce the expenditure very largely. My hon. friend (Mr. Macdonald, Huron), as I understand him, has been explaining why the expenditure has not been reduced, and I say to him, that before they made that promise of reduction, they ought to have been sure that they could carry it into effect.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). How would it have been possible for us to make the world stand still and preserve the same conditions as we had five years ago? Under similar conditions as those we had five years ago, when hon. gentlemen opposite were in power, we could save large sums. But, as the world moves, and as new conditions rise in politics, we have to deal with those new conditions, and, if additional expenditures are required to maintain the efficiency of the public service, we are perfectly willing to make those expenditures, and we believe that the country will sustain us.

Mr. MILLS. What are the new conditions?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I gave one to the hon. gentleman a few moments ago, but he must have been asleep. I said one of the new conditions was this, that the Yukon was not in question at all until we were called upon to make an expenditure of \$720,000. Now, I am not going to go over the various new conditions; there is one for him, and when he has settled that he can take another.

There were a number of charges made, all of which I will not attempt to answer. One was that we had promised to this country free trade as it is in England. Now, I saw several members on that side take a little red-covered book out of their desk which they call the Liberal bible, from which they appeared to gather almost everything that they wanted to make the basis of their arguments. Now, Mr. Speaker, I challenge, I repeat the word, I challenge, any hon. gentleman on that side of the House to point out one written or printed expression made by any leader of the Liberal party authorized

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron).

to speak for the Liberal party, to show that if we came into power we would give free trade as it is in England. Now, do not hold your tongues, but speak up. This is the time that we want to meet such things. Speak now, or for ever hold your tongues. Remember, I am not responsible for what the rank and file may say, I am responsible for the party who met in 1893 and formulated a policy upon which we have proceeded ever since. Let me read what the leader of the party said at that great convention:

I say the policy should be a policy of free trade such as they have in England, but I am sorry to say that the circumstances of the country cannot admit, at present, of that policy in its entirety. \* \* \* I submit to you, therefore, that the system of protection which is maintained by the Government, that is to say, of levying tribute upon the people, not for the legitimate expenses of the Government, but for a private and privileged class, should be condemned without qualification.

Now, does any hon. gentleman say that we have there promised free trade as it is in England? When these gentlemen go on the stump in the various constituencies they just read this first clause:

I say that the policy shall be a policy of free trade such as they have in England.

They garble the sentence, and leave out what follows, and in that way they have given each other the impression that we have promised free trade as it is in England. Sir, how was it possible that intelligent men could promise free trade as it is in England? No gentleman on the opposite side thinks that the Liberal party is made up of a lot of fools. We have to raise a revenue under our present system, a system which has prevailed since we became a self-governing country, a system of raising revenues by customs duties, which must of necessity give an incidental protection to all the industries of this country. Unless we change that system and adopt another, one of direct taxation or some other system, would it be possible for us under our present conditions, under the present national liabilities and financial necessities of the country, to establish free trade as it is in England? They must have taken the ground that the people in the country do not understand these questions when they tell them that the great Liberal party of this country offered such a foolish thing at the present time. True, every Liberal looks forward to a higher ideal, for we all have ideals. The ideal of the Liberal party is free trade as it is in England. Now we always come short of our ideals. It is always well to have high ideals.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I cannot see any basis for that "hear, hear." The hon. gentleman has an ideal in life; he probably looks forward to some position that he as-

pires to, he makes everything subservient to the accomplishment of the end which he has in view. But he finds, probably he has already found, that he comes far short of his ideal. So it is in every phase of life. We have an ideal before us, and it is a good thing that we have; we press onward towards it, and make everything subservient to the attainment of the end that we have in view, however far short we may come of it. So it is with tariff matters. Our ideal is free trade. We have clipped the wings of protection, certainly, to a very large extent, so much so that protection can never fly again in this country. Its wings are clipped so close that it will never rise above the earth again. We are also told that the Liberal party promised a very deep cut in the protective duties of the country. Did they do that? I do not think they did. I do not think there is one line on record which shows that the Liberal party promised to cut down the so-called protective duties very rapidly. Here is what the leader of the Government said in that connection, and in it you will find the exact policy that we are pursuing to-day:

It is always easy to increase the tariff, because by so doing you increased the private fortunes of certain individuals; but whenever you decrease the tariff it has always to be done with careful consideration; and I am sure that when the Liberals are in power they will not be indifferent to this primary truth.

Now, what does that mean? It means exactly what we did. We readjusted the tariff here and there, relieving one class at the expense of another class better able to bear it. In that way we have dealt with the tariff, and as new circumstances may require, we will probably still continue the readjustment, because no one readjustment, no one set of conditions will continue, however much we may desire. No single readjustment will continue to meet the new conditions that are constantly arising.

Now I come to another subject. The right hon. leader of the Opposition paid us, a few months ago, a complimentary visit to West Huron, and he delivered a very vigorous, energetic and very capable speech, as he always does, from his own standpoint, in the town hall of Clinton. During that speech he made a challenge, which I will read:

I am here to-night to claim that you cannot lay your finger upon a single Act upon the statute-books of Canada, or upon a great public enterprise of a national character, you cannot point to anything that has contributed to make Canada a great, important and influential nation; you cannot name one single act that it is not in my power to claim as the result of the efforts of the Liberal-Conservative party. I challenge our opponents to put their fingers upon one single thing that they have done to make Canada a nation, and to put their fingers upon one single act of policy or anything else, to point to one single Act upon the statute-books showing that this country owes them the slightest gratitude in return for anything that they have accomplished.

Well, that was done with premeditation, but he repeated it here very nearly in the same words in that very able and eloquent speech that he delivered at the beginning of this debate, when he said:

I stand here to-day in the presence of this intelligent House, I stand here to-day in the presence of a people as intelligent as any to be found on the face of the globe, and I challenge these gentlemen here and now to put their finger on a single act of theirs that has contributed by jot or tittle to the progress of the country. \* \* \* But when they say they have contributed aught in any respect to the progress and prosperity of the country, I deny it, and challenge them to the proof.

Mr. Speaker, with great diffidence and modesty, I accept the challenge. I need not spend too much time, nor will I, in showing what the Liberal party did all through the lines of Canadian history. That would take too long. I need not refer that hon. gentleman, who is an expert, I suppose, in Canadian history, to the question of responsible government in this country, and to what the Liberal party did at that time. I need not refer him either to the granting of municipal institutions in this country, when the Tories of that day said that these municipal institutions were "sucking republics." I need not refer him to the secularization of the Clergy Reserves, when the Tory party of that day took sides with the clergy, and did not wish these lands to be secularized and divided, but the result is that we have to-day no established religion; every religion has to stand upon its own basis, and this money has been divided amongst the municipalities of our country. I need not remind the hon. gentleman, because he knows, that we are enjoying a principle here, especially from the Ontario standpoint, won by the Liberals, which is representation by population, nor need I remind him of the time when the late Hon. George Brown used to speak so repeatedly and eloquently on the old question of representation by population, which was finally incorporated in the Act of Confederation, passed in 1867. I need not refer the hon. gentleman to the question of confederation, for he knows that the statements I am about to make are perfectly true. He cannot claim to be the father of confederation or of the idea of confederation; neither can the late Sir John Macdonald claim the credit of being the instigator of that great movement. The late Hon. George Brown was the man who instigated that movement. That hon. gentleman stood upon the floor of this House and moved that a committee of twenty hon. members, upon both sides of the House, be constituted to take the question into consideration, and they reported back to the House, as, no doubt, the hon. gentleman will remember. Seventeen of these twenty reported in favour of confederation as we have it to-day; three out of the twenty put in a minority report opposing confeder-

tion as we have it to-day. Now, it would be interesting to tell the House who the seventeen were, but I do not remember them all. I do, however, remember the three. One of these three that signed the minority report was Sir John A. Macdonald; the other was John Sandfield Macdonald, and the other was a Mr. Scoble, who then represented one of the Elgins, perhaps he was the predecessor of my hon. friend from West Elgin (Mr. Casey). Does not that show that these gentlemen were not in favour of confederating the provinces at that time? How did it come around? Let me give you the rest of the history of that movement. On the following day the Hon. William Macdougall, who is still living, I believe, in Ottawa, moved a vote of censure upon the Government for granting \$100,000 to the city of Montreal, in the interim of the session, without receiving the consent of Parliament. The Government was defeated upon that resolution. Then George Brown went to Mr. Macdonald and said: "You are being defeated; we cannot have a majority on our side, but if by a coalition confederation can be carried through, I am with you." Then a coalition Government was formed; Mr. Brown went into that coalition Government, and from that date on Mr. Macdonald took an active and vigorous part in consummating what the Liberal party had begun. Now they claim all the credit of this portion of the history of Canada. Now, what have our present Government done? They have not been in power very long; they have been in power less than two and a-half years. It would be interesting for hon. gentlemen opposite to know whether they have done anything to deserve the gratitude of the people of Canada. I think they have. When the right hon. leader of the Government was called upon to form a Government there is one thing he did that deserves the gratitude of the people of Canada. He gathered around him men of renown, men of the highest type of character in this country, men against whom not one single scintilla of objection, moral or political, can be made; he selected men of experience, men whose characters are not only above suspicion but beyond question, and it gave a certain degree of confidence to the people when they knew the character of the men with whom the hon. leader had surrounded himself. For twenty years the people had lost confidence almost altogether in every politician; there was such scandals, such extravagance and such immorality prevailing amongst members of the Government and others, that the people of this country cried aloud against politicians of every stripe, but when they saw that the right hon. leader of the Government, whose character is so high in the estimation, not only of his own political friends, but among people of every party, no matter how strongly they might oppose him on political grounds, gathered around

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron).

him men of known character, there was confidence established in the hearts of the people of this country, as the hon. gentleman who said the people have no confidence in the Government will see whenever the opportunity comes of going to the country. That is one of the great reasons of the prosperity of the country. You can understand it in your private business. If you have confidence in any one discharging important duties for you, you will be more prosperous on that account because you will be able to pay attention to a hundred things, whereas otherwise you would require to be looking after the man who is serving you in business. That is not the only thing for which the country is grateful, and the country will express that gratitude whenever it gets an opportunity. There is another thing for which the country is grateful. The present Liberal Government settled a very important question, a question which I at one time felt was almost going to lead to civil war in this country, a question that tore the two great classes of religious thought directly and diametrically asunder. It was the question in regard to the dispute that arose in reference to the schools in Manitoba. Hon. gentlemen remember the acrimonious debates that took place two and a-half years ago, and they know how many nights and days were given to the consideration of the subject of the autonomy of Manitoba and their right to pass a law which the highest court in England pronounced to be within the jurisdiction of that province. There is no doubt that there was a grievance, but many of us felt that this was not the proper place in which to settle it. I think that, if the Liberal party is deserving of any gratitude from any section of the country, it is deserving of gratitude in that it took the only plausible and feasible way in which to settle that question for all time to come, and that was by relegating it to the province where it had its inception. What would be thought if the Coercion Bill were now upon the statute-book? Is there a single hon. gentleman sitting on the opposite benches who will get up and say that he believes it would be in the interest of the country to have Manitoba coerced into adopting a school system directly opposite to her wishes? Is there a single hon. gentleman who voted to sustain the Government upon that occasion who now, with the facts before him, and in the light of the two or three years that have elapsed, will get up and say that the Liberal party was wrong and not justified in taking the stand it did? Had that Bill been passed the Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba would not have the same privileges as they now have, for there would have been a feeling of irritation and a feeling of dissension that would have led to disastrous results. But what did our noble leader do? Himself a Catholic, he stood above the storm of religious feeling, and his

great aim was to settle this question as amicably as it was possible to settle it. He told this Parliament, and he told the country, that he believed that before he was six months in power he would settle that troublesome question reasonably satisfactory to all the parties concerned. That question has been settled, it has been removed from this arena, and if the Catholics in that province have not already had their privileges conceded, they will obtain their privileges from the generous Protestant majority.

Mr. HUGHES. Tell the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) it is settled.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Better speak louder if you speak at all, or if not be quiet.

Mr. HUGHES. I suggest to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonald) that he should tell the Solicitor General that the school question is settled.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). This Government has done something else which redounds to their credit and confers lasting benefit on an important class of this community. When they attained power, the farmers were suffering severely, and although the farmers had represented their sad condition to the Conservative Government, that Government took no action to relieve them. I refer to the burdensome quarantine regulations which the unfriendliness of the United States raised against the live stock trade of Canada. You know that when the Conservative Government was in power, Canadians who exported lambs, hogs or cattle to the United States had to keep them two months in quarantine, thus rendering it impossible for our farmers to receive a reasonable price for their live stock. In view of this condition of things, what did the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) do? Immediately that he took office he interviewed the United States authorities, and after a friendly talk new arrangements were made under which Canadian cattle were allowed to pass freely into the United States on the certificates of veterinarians appointed by the Government. What was the result? Every farmer in this House, be he Conservative or Liberal, knows that within three days the price of Canadian cattle was enhanced 30 per cent, and there came into the pockets of the farmers of Ontario, not thousands of dollars but tens of thousands of dollars, which they would not have received but for the activity and energy of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher). Does the leader of the Opposition think that the Canadian farmers will believe him when he says that the Liberal Government has done nothing to merit the gratitude of the people of this country.

I now come to deal with something else which the Liberal Government has done to benefit the people. I will call it the transportation policy of the Liberal Government and I will say here from my place and upon

my responsibility as a member of Parliament, that time will prove that this is the policy for Canada and not the tariff. Sir, this is the policy of the present day, and in the future we will find that in discussing great questions before the people, the solution of the transportation problem is what the farmers, the manufacturers, the labourers and the artisans of Canada demand that the Government shall give their attention to. Under the heading of this transportation question, there are several subdivisions. First, there is cold storage. When the Liberal Government came into power they instituted cold storage.

An hon. MEMBER. Oh.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I think I hear some hon. gentleman laugh, and he laughs, I presume, because he thinks that the Conservative Government established the cold storage system. Let me show him where he is in error. In 1895, the former Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Montague) did establish a certain limited system of cold storage consisting simply of insulated chambers filled with ice, on steamers, but that proved a complete failure, and the shipments made under it were delivered in the English market in a very damaged condition. We had a reputation to establish for our goods in the English market, and it was necessary that that cold storage system, on which the Conservative Government in 1895 spent \$13,000, should be completely changed. The present Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) saw that something better had to be provided and he established what is called mechanical cold storage refrigerating compartments, by means of which the heat is extracted by certain mechanical arrangements. He, therefore, established a system which has proved efficient in every shipment that has been made from that time to the present. Every article that has been shipped in this cold storage has arrived in the English market as pure and as fresh as the day it left the place of production. That was an encouragement to the Government to broaden out this transportation system of theirs, and they agreed to pay to all parties having creameries in the different sections of the country, a bonus of \$50 for the first year, and \$25 for two succeeding years, provided they established in connection with their factories a cold storage compartment. The Government paid \$10,975 to assist the dairymen of Canada in accomplishing this useful end. Then the Government turned their attention to the railways of the country. If they were to have cold storage upon the steamers and cold storage in the factories, they found it was necessary to have the cold storage system on the railways which conveyed the products to Montreal, St. John and Halifax. They entered into an arrangement with the Canadian Pacific Railway, with the Grand Trunk Railway, with the Intercolonial Railway, with the Lake St. John Railway, and

with several others, and agreed to pay them two-thirds of car-load rates, they charging the shippers at less than car-load rates, and whatever the railways collected was to be credited to the amount guaranteed by the Government, and if it covered the amount guaranteed, the Government was not responsible; but if the collection from the shippers was not equal to the guarantee, then the Government had to pay the balance. In 1896, there was \$2,800 paid to the railways in the interests of the farmers of Canada—and I wish to convey these facts to the farmers of the country—in order to make up the balance of that guarantee which the Government had promised the railways. In 1897, there was \$2,020 paid to the railways for the same purpose. You will notice there was a reduction of about \$800, and the reason of that was, that the trade grew on certain lines of railways to such an extent that the local traffic covered the guarantee, and the result was that the business about paid for itself, and therefore the amount guaranteed by the Government was reduced. In 1898 that business spread, until now they have nine branches on the Canadian Pacific Railway, eight branches on the Grand Trunk Railway and Intercolonial Railway, and several other railways fitted out with these cold storage compartments, so as to give the producers an opportunity of sending their goods fresh and clean to the markets of the world.

Now, what is that going to accomplish? I want hon. members to remember that this will enable the producer to send his products across the ocean almost continuously in cold storage compartments, and, therefore, to compete in the British markets with other countries much nearer. I will give you a fact bearing on this point. In 1896, when our butter was sent to the British market and sold side by side with Danish butter, it did not realize within 18 shillings per cwt., that is, 112 pounds, the price of Danish butter; but last year butter of a superior quality and flavour, and in a better condition, sent in cold storage compartments, averaged only 8 shillings per cwt. less than Danish butter. So that 10 shillings per cwt. was made by the farmers of this country by the action of the Government. Multiply the number of pounds of butter we sent to the English market last year by 10 shillings per cwt., and we have \$250,000 more that was realized for the Canadian producer than could have been realized under the policy of the party opposite. Do you really suppose, Mr. Speaker, for one moment that, in view of these facts, the farmers of this country will not be grateful, and will think that we have not added one jot or tittle to their prosperity? Moreover, this cold storage system has increased the output of the country. For many years we have been sending large quantities of cheese to the English market; we have got our cheese to a very high point of excellence, and we command that market far beyond

any other country. But for many years previous to the advent to power of this Government, our butter stood very low in the English market; but by cultivation our butter now occupies a very much higher position. Now, I want to give you a figure or two to show the increased quantity we produce under the new conditions; and when this is a result of the cold storage system, how can it be said by hon. gentlemen opposite, or by any reasonable man, that a Government cannot by legislation increase trade? I sometimes wonder how these people have spent their lives, when they do not understand the principles that govern trade. In 1896 we sent 107,000 packages of butter to the British market; but the products of butter went on increasing in this country, until in 1898 we sent 263,000 packages. The first, which was of an inferior quality, only brought within 18 or 20 shillings of the price of Danish butter, while the last, which was of a high quality, brought within 8 shillings of the price of Danish butter in the British market. That is an increase in export in 1898 over 1896 of 164 per cent. Will any hon. gentleman tell me that that increase has not been owing to regulations made and a policy established by the present Government in order to facilitate the transportation of these articles from the point of manufacture to the door of the consumer? And if they can do it in this one instance, they can do it in a hundred instances. So that we can say that the expansion and enlargement of trade between this country and foreign countries is largely due to the wisdom and policy, and energy of the party that is governing the country for the time being.

Now, there is another question in the line of transportation that I want to bring to your attention; that is, the extension of the Intercolonial Railway from Lévis to the city of Montreal. For years we had urged upon the old Government the advisability of taking some steps to put that railway on a business footing. We urged that the Intercolonial should earn more money than it did; that there should not be a deficit of nearly \$500,000 every year; and that, if it were properly managed, its earnings should fully, if not more than cover the expenses. In fact, Mr. Speaker, that road, instead of being an asset, as it was represented in various public documents, was really a liability, because, instead of bringing us in something, it was just as if we were paying \$500,000 a year interest on borrowed money; and, when the present Government inaugurated this policy, I regarded it as a policy of progression by which they took advantage of the city of Montreal as one of the greatest receiving and distributing centres on this continent, where trade gathers from the west, and south, and north, to compete for a large portion of that trade. I remember the late Finance Minister saying, that our country was now too far advanced to start business on a back street—that if we wished

to do business, we would have to come to the front street; that we must not be contented with the old square windows, but would have to put in plate-glass windows, and decorate them, to attract customers. That is the very thing we are doing. We found the Intercolonial Railway terminating at Lévis, a small village, would not attract trade or traffic, and must continue to be run at a loss for all time to come. As is well known, when we rented the Drummond County Railway, hon. gentlemen opposite made a great ado about it, and demanded a committee to investigate the transaction. Senators also investigated it; the walls resounded with denunciations of the Liberal party for some supposed scandal in connection with the matter; but what did it all amount to? The Government granted a committee, knowing that they were innocent of the charges; that committee sat upstairs; witnesses were brought and gave their evidence under oath; and two of these hon. gentlemen opposite, the late Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart) and the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell), in my own hearing, said, after the evidence was in: "We never charged any corruption against the Liberal party." Such was their acknowledgment; there was no corruption at all, as shown by the investigation of the whole matter from beginning to end. Now the Intercolonial Railway is at Montreal, and its agents can go west, and solicit business for the railway at any point, and the Grand Trunk Railway is compelled to hand that traffic over to the Intercolonial, when it arrives in Montreal.

Mr. BENNETT. Would the hon. gentleman allow a question?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Certainly.

Mr. BENNETT. Will the hon. gentleman state, under what arrangement the Grand Trunk Railway Company, as he states, is forced to deliver all freight at Montreal to the Intercolonial?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). The hon. gentleman must understand that, when an agent goes west for the purpose of soliciting traffic or trade for the Intercolonial, the agreement is, that he will ship it through by the Intercolonial; and, when that shipment comes to Montreal, it must, as a matter of agreement, pass on to the Intercolonial Railway. I am sorry the hon. gentleman could not see through that very simple transaction.

Mr. BENNETT. If the hon. gentleman will allow me, I would ask him another question.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I hope it will be wiser than the last one.

Mr. BENNETT. Will he state how many miles it is from Montreal to St. John, the ocean shipping point by the Intercolonial,

and how far it is by the Grand Trunk Railway from Montreal to Portland.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I do not see that it is pertinent to my argument, and I shall refuse to be drawn out of the course of my argument by any irrelative questions that may be put to me by my irrelative friend.

Mr. BENNETT. Abuse is not argument.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). My point is this, that the extension of the Intercolonial Railway from Lévis to Montreal, a growing trade centre, was largely in the interests of the country, and furnishes the means of gathering up a great deal more traffic than it was formerly possible to secure. I propose to show the hon. gentleman that under the wise direction of our present Government, the Intercolonial Railway has earned more money than it ever did before. Let me read to the hon. gentleman some few figures, which will prove to him that the last year's operation of this road has been more successful than ever, and that the result is largely due to this policy. The gross earnings of this road in 1898 were \$170,360 more than in 1896. Its passenger traffic in 1898 was \$56,556 more than in 1896. Let me put this argument. Supposing an agent of the Intercolonial were in my town and some party was going down to Halifax, and the agent was empowered to solicit this gentleman to take passage by the Intercolonial. The agent would say: I will sell you a ticket by the Intercolonial from Montreal. That gentleman bought the ticket and went to Montreal, and there got off the Canadian Pacific Railway or the Grand Trunk Railway and took the Intercolonial Railway for the balance of the route. If that can be done in the case of a passenger, it could also be done in the case of traffic, and I wonder that the hon. gentleman does not see it.

Mr. BENNETT. What are the mileages, please?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). The hon. gentleman must not forget either that the rates on the long route are the same as on the short route. That is always the case on competing lines, and you will not expect the Intercolonial Railway to charge an extra rate because of the longer route. Consequently, when the rates are the same, it is only a matter of a few hours difference in getting freight through by one route over and above the other. We have sent by the Intercolonial this year 165,311 barrels of flour more than we did in 1896, and this flour comes from Ontario. That was a traffic obtained, not in Montreal, but away up in the western sections of the country where flour is manufactured to a very large extent. Probably my hon. friend who sits on my left (Mr. Campbell) has shipped flour over the Intercolonial, which he might not have done under other conditions. No doubt an agent of the Intercolonial solicited him for that traffic and got it, and that is one of the advantages of this

contract which the Government have entered into. Take grain that comes largely from the west to the east. Last year the Intercolonial carried 486,987 bushels of wheat more than in 1896, and that again is solicited traffic. Of lumber no less than 127,000,000 feet, board measure, was carried by the Intercolonial in 1898 over 1896. Live stock, principally from western Ontario and the North-west Territories, was also shipped over the Intercolonial last year to the extent of 25,240 head more than in 1896. Fresh fish, 2,000 tons more were carried over our railway in 1898 than in 1896, and refined sugar, 6,000 tons. I give those figures to show that under the wise and judicious transportation policy of this Government, they succeeded in enlarging the trade of that railway to the great benefit of all interests of the country, and the revenue thus obtained is considerably more than the rent which the Government agreed to pay.

Let me now say a few words about the enlargement of the canals, which is a part of the transportation policy of the Government. The Opposition claim that it is they who enlarged the canals. No doubt, Mr. Speaker, they were enlarging them at the time they were defeated, but they were doing so very slowly that the country was tired waiting for the consummation of their policy. When this Government came into power, however, they grasped this matter with an iron hand and resolved to meet the great growing trade of the west and draw a large portion of that trade to the city of Montreal. What did they do? They set to work to enlarge the canals. They put on large forces of men, and this work has been going on promptly and rapidly for the last two years, so that this next season we will have fourteen feet of water on the mitre sills instead of nine, as before.

But, cry out the Opposition, you have increased the debt. Certainly we have, but that is not a bad thing at times.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Yes, let my hon. friend from British Columbia (Mr. Prior) bear this in mind. Would he consider it, in his business, a bad investment for him to go into debt in order to accomplish something from which he was satisfied he would realize a large income. If he borrowed \$1,000 for a particular purpose in connection with his business at 3 per cent, amounting to an annual expenditure of \$30, and knew, from his business experience, that this investment would return him an income of \$50 per year, would he not consider that in thus increasing his debt he had done a wise thing? The business of the country is only an aggregation of the various kinds of business of the people, and if it would pay an individual to borrow money and invest it in such a way as to realize an income greater than the annual interest on the amount borrowed, surely the same principle would apply to the increasing of the public debt. Let hon. gen-

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron).

lemen remember that we have increased the debt very little comparatively. To hear these hon. gentlemen speaking, you would almost suppose that they never increased the debt at all, and that we had hardly any public debt until the Liberal party came into power. They go on declaiming against our increase in the public debt by \$5,000,000, but they will never admit that the increase was expended on public works in the interest of every class in the country. Just to give you an idea of how these hon. gentlemen did increase the public debt, let me read to you some figures. Let us consider only a few years. There were not any great public works going on in 1894. It is true that some works were being carried on that should not have been carried on. Works, the expenditure on which, according to proof produced before a committee, were carried on corruptly and extravagantly. If these hon. gentlemen opposite think that the Liberal party is just as guilty as they were and spent this money recklessly or extravagantly, let them come forward, as we did, and make a charge and place the matter before the committee, and show that we are increasing the debt contrary to the interest of the country. But when we can show clearly that the moneys that we have spent have been spent for the purpose of enlarging the capacity of our canals, improving our means of transportation and otherwise for the benefit of the manufacturers, artisans and agriculturists of the country, how is it possible to make a point against the Liberal Government for such expenditure? We never said they would not increase the debt. How could we say so? Did we suppose that the country would stand still? Is not the country developing year by year, and, as it develops, does it not require public works to meet that development and help it on? And how is the money to be obtained unless we borrow and increase the debt? Will any hon. gentleman opposite answer that argument? With no great public improvements going on in 1894, hon. gentlemen opposite increased the debt by about four and a half millions. In 1895 they increased the debt nearly seven millions—\$6,891,000. And, in 1896, the very year before we took office, the year in which there were no great works going on at all, they increased the debt \$5,427,000. When we began the improvement of the canals, with the energy, push and perseverance characteristic of a Liberal Government, we increased the debt about three millions, and the next year we increased it by about two and a half millions. So we find that the Liberal-Conservative party increased the debt more in the last year they were in power than we did the first two years we were in power, notwithstanding the amount of work we did for the benefit of the country. And in the face of this we are told that we should be ousted from power, forthwith, because we have increased the debt, when we have simply laid out so much

money in improvements which will bring back good return upon the capital invested.

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

### After Recess.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Mr. Speaker, when you left the Chair at six o'clock, I was discussing the enlarging of the canals and the policy of the Liberal party in reference to the transportation question. I was showing that the Government had spent several millions for the purpose of deepening the canals to 14 feet, to enable larger vessels to navigate them and bring down larger cargoes on the way to Montreal. This we deemed a wise policy, owing to the keen competition of the line of transportation via Buffalo and New York. If we expect to secure a reasonable portion of that trade we must reduce the obstacles to transportation. If we would overcome that competition, we must facilitate transportation so as to make the rates as low as possible. Unless we do that, we cannot compete with the other line, which, at present, is taking away a large proportion of the trade which we, under this policy, would command. Last season there passed through Buffalo no less than 263,000,000 bushels of grain and its equivalent of flour. Now, Montreal only controlled between thirty and forty million bushels of wheat. We believe, and I think reasonably, that when we deepen the canals we can more than compete with the New York route, and, if so, then the trade will be diverted largely from that route to the route via Montreal. Certain things must be considered. In the first place, what difficulties have we to overcome? What is the difference in the price now to carry freight from Chicago to New York and to Montreal respectively. I went over the report of the Chicago Board of Trade, and there found the rates given at the end of each week during the season of 1897. Boiling these figures down, I came to this result—that the average cost of shipping wheat from Chicago by Buffalo to the port of New York, was 5·68 cents per bushel. I find that during the same season the charge from Chicago to Montreal was 5·93 cents per bushel, so that the charge by way of Montreal was one-quarter cent higher than by way of Buffalo. On corn, during the same season, I found that the price of transportation via Buffalo to New York was 4·43 cents per bushel, and via Montreal, 4·94 cents per bushel, leaving the Buffalo rate half a cent lower than the rate by Montreal. Now, the reason I give you these figures is to show what we have to overcome in order to control a portion of that traffic. With the deep canals in operation and with steamships put upon the lower lakes drawing 14 feet of water and carrying a large cargo—about 75,000 bushels of wheat—we can reduce the rates to such

an extent that they will be considerably lower than the rates via Buffalo and the Erie Canal. There is another point, and I think it would be wise on the part of the Government to improve the port of Montreal and make it a first-class national port. Unless we consider it as a national port, I think we are making a mistake. Montreal requires sufficient room in her harbour for the largest vessel that ploughs the sea. She requires sufficient room on the wharfs to handle all the traffic that may offer. She will require the largest elevators that we can construct. In addition to all this, she requires store-houses, sheds and hundred and one things to make Montreal a first-class national port. And I think it should be the determination of the Government to accomplish this object, even at the expense of more money. There is another point I wish to bring out here in reference to the port of Montreal. The traffic is burdened, under present conditions, by harbour dues upon the wheat and other products that go to the city of Montreal.

The Harbour Commissioners of Montreal. I understand, have borrowed money and made large improvements during past years on the port of Montreal, and in order to be able to pay the interest on that money, they had to levy harbour dues upon the traffic passing through the port of Montreal. That amounts on grain to half a cent a bushel, which is quite an embargo when we are in competition with another route that imposes no harbour dues. I think it would be advisable, at least that is my opinion, that the Government should take such steps as they think best in the interests of the country to have that embargo removed, so that one-half cent per bushel might be saved. This would induce traffic to go in that direction. I think that the enlargement of the canals, with a proper fitting out of the port of Montreal at the expense of the Government, making it a national port, would put it in such a position that it would command a great deal of the trade which we are not now getting. One advantage that the port of New York has over the port of Montreal is that there are no harbour dues in the former. It is considered to be a national port, it is improved by federal funds, it is looked upon as a port not belonging to the city of New York nor to the state, but as belonging to the nation, as a port through which the great traffic from the west passes. Now, we want the city of Montreal to be placed in a similar position, so that it may have all these facilities which I have proposed to you to-night. There are other things which the Government embrace in their transportation policy, and which I am sure will be supported by every gentleman who has an interest in the development of the Canadian transportation business, and one of these things is to facilitate the approach to Montreal of the

very largest vessels that plough the main. True, the River St. Lawrence from the city of Montreal down is in fairly good condition; but there are points, if I am informed correctly, where the river channel is a little narrow and a little shallow, so that large vessels coming up run considerable risk of damage, and therefore have to insure themselves against that damage. Now, if that channel was improved, there would be another shade of reduction, which would tend to lessen the rates in that direction. There is one point that I want to impress upon the Government, if they can do anything at all in the matter, and that is to use their influence towards the establishment of a Canadian merchant marine. That is what we need very much. In looking over the statistics and information in regard to this matter, I find that nearly all the trade that comes through the Sault Canal, comes in American bottoms, only 3 per cent last year came through in Canadian bottoms. I would urge, if my voice and influence are of any good whatever—I would urge rich Canadians, Canadians who have their millions, and who are trying to find investments in loan companies, in banks, in insurance companies, and in a hundred other ways, that they should invest a portion of their money in establishing in this country a Canadian merchant marine. By so doing, they will contribute very largely to the advantage of the whole country, much more than by the investments they make in the ways that I have referred to.

But in order to put our transportation policy on a proper footing, there are other ports that must be deepened. There are the ports of Kingston, Toronto and Hamilton, which should be deepened at least to fourteen feet, the depth of the canals, so that ships passing through the canals could enter these ports. Another thing I would suggest is this—I do not know if my suggestions will be taken, but I think they are in the proper direction. The ports on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay should be deepened to the extent of twenty feet. Why do I make a difference between the ports on the upper and on the lower lakes? Because the ships plying on the lower lakes require ports only of equal depth with the canals through which they have to pass; but ships on the upper lakes require a depth in those ports as great as the depth of the Sault Canal through which they pass, or twenty feet. You must remember, Mr. Speaker, that the cheapness of our traffic largely depends upon the size of the vessel which takes the trade from the north to the south. Nearly all the vessels that are building upon the lakes for the United States marine are exceedingly large, some of them carry 7,000 tons in weight. Ours are all small, only carrying from 2,000 to, probably, 1,000 tons, and they are yearly being shoved out of the service by the large vessels. Now, why are large vessels better fitted to carry goods cheaply? Just be-

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cause they can take more at a time. They can go quickly and unload, and come back quickly to the point where they receive the goods which constitute their cargo, and in that way they can carry goods more cheaply than small craft. Let me illustrate that fact in this way. Supposing that a craft carrying 75,000 bushels came down, and another carrying three times that quantity came down alongside, the cost of bringing the large one down would not be three times as much as the cost of bringing the other down, not even twice as much. The difference between the cost of running these two vessels from the upper ports to the lower ports would thus be the saving in the transportation rates, which would naturally go into the pockets of the producer. I think it is wisdom to make preparations for what is coming. The late Government did not do that. The trade on the upper lakes is expanding by leaps and bounds. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, that in 1887 9,000 vessels passed through the Sault Canal, a number that appeared extraordinary to us; and those 9,000 vessels carried a tonnage of 5,495,000 tons, the value of which was \$79,000,000. Those figures indicate an extraordinary amount of traffic done on Lake Superior, gathered in from the various towns and cities on its shores. But when I tell you that ten years after that no less than 17,000 vessels passed through the Sault Canal, nearly double as many as passed through it ten years ago, and when I tell you that they carried 18,900,000 tons, and that the goods thus carried were valued at \$218,000,000, you will see how rapidly the trade on the upper lakes has expanded. If we are wise, if we wish to get a large portion of this trade, we must be up and doing, we must put our ports in order, we must prepare to receive a portion of that trade, and take steps to bring it through our country to recompense us for the money we are spending, and have spent already. There is another point that has been taken up and forms a link in the transportation policy of the Government, and that is the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway. The object of the construction of that road is probably well known to most of us. There has been a large influx of population into southern British Columbia, owing to the discovery of gold, copper, silver and tin in that section of the country. Although that section of the country belongs to Canada, up to that time its trade belonged to the United States, and it was just the same, so far as eastern and central Canada was concerned, as if we did not own it. The goose that laid the golden egg certainly was ours, but whenever the golden egg was laid it rolled into the lap of the United States. Our Government saw that they must do something to counteract the taking away of the trade and traffic of that section of our people and they secured the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway on conditions which, I think, will be

acceptable to any one not guided by partisan feelings. We made a bargain with the Canadian Pacific Railway for building the road, and we agreed to pay them \$11,000 a mile. Now if you place that to the debit of our country you will see that we pay them about \$100,000 a year interest to meet the \$3,360,000 which we have promised to pay them altogether. Our annual output for the advantages we receive is about \$100,000. Now, I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to look upon the other side of the ledger. What have we accomplished by that investment of about \$100,000 a year? We have secured the construction of the road; we have secured a market for the food products of the Northwest Territories; we have secured a market largely for the eastern manufacturers and others, enabling them to send their manufactured goods in to supply about from 40,000 to 50,000 people, living in the Kootenay country, in southern British Columbia; we have secured the coal so that now the smelters of that region which had formerly to take much of their coal and coke across the ocean from Wales at a cost of from \$14 to \$16 a ton for coke, and \$10 to \$12 a ton for coal, are now able to obtain that coke and coal in British Columbia at less than half the price at which they obtained it before the construction of that road. That enables them to deal with a lower grade of ore so that what were formerly large dumps of waste material can now be handled and the wealth of the country extracted from them. Then again 40,000 people require supplies, in food and clothing, worth at least \$10,000,000 a year. Now the eastern manufacturers in Canada can send forward a large portion of the goods supplied to these people, and in this way one section of our country is becoming a complement to the other instead of being separated as it was formerly, and we are building up and helping each other, buying what we do not raise ourselves, and selling that which we produce. That is not all that we must put to the credit of the Dominion. We have secured in fee simple not less than 50,000 acres of one of the very best coking coals to be found in the world. By securing these coal areas the Government are enabled to control the price of coal in the country. Suppose that we did not have this in our hands, suppose that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company or any other company, having a lease of that coal, sold it at any price that pleased them, and in this way formed a combination which would press heavily upon the users of coal in the Kootenay; suppose that the Government have a quantity of coal lands, they can lease these coal lands to companies so that there would be keen competition and by that means the price can be kept down to a reasonable figure. There was another very wise thing that the Government did and that was in taking to themselves the privilege, under the lease, of giving any other company that wishes running powers over the line, and also providing that the rates

should be wholly under the control of the Government, thus securing in every step the interest of the people. Outside of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway we have something else to place to the credit of the Dominion, obtained by the right hon. gentleman who so ably leads the Liberal party. Hon. gentlemen know that the Canadian Pacific Railway have been charging very high rates to and from the west; so high in some respects were these rates that they were almost prohibitory. Certainly they were largely prohibitory in sending fruits to that country, a country where they cannot grow fruits of their own, and those farmers, out on the western prairies, anxious to obtain fruits from Ontario, could not obtain them on account of the extraordinary rates charged by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Let me give you a single instance, and I think the two parties to the contract are present in the House. The hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan) sold a car-load of apples to the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis), and they were shipped at Seaford, the town near which the hon. member for South Huron resides, to Prince Albert, where the hon. member for Saskatchewan is living. When those apples arrived in that town, the rate charged upon the car-load was \$518. The result was that the party purchasing the apples lost a large sum of money because he could not sell them for sufficient to cover the expense. On a car-load of apples, by the arrangement made by the Government with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company on account of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, \$170 would have been saved. This \$170 would have been saved on a car-load, making it possible for the people of the west to use Canadian apples and possible for the farmers of Ontario to find a market for their apples in that country. Other articles might be mentioned, but this is sufficient to illustrate what the Government have accomplished in their bargain for the building of this road. Another point to be placed at the credit of the Dominion was that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have to carry wheat and flour at 3 cents per 100 pounds less than before. Now I am told upon good authority that the reduction will amount to \$500,000 or \$600,000 in favour of those who send their wheat and flour out this way, and these are the farmers of Manitoba and the North-west Territories. Surely they will be willing to contribute a part of the \$100,000 a year to pay the interest upon the amount of money we have promised and which puts into their pockets over half a million dollars. This is not increasing the debt; this is an investment of great value which brings back to the people of this country far more in return than if you put the money in the Bank of Montreal at large rate of usury. There is another advantage, and I want to put this fairly before the House and before the country, in order that I may be able to answer, as far as possible, the challenge which the hon.

leader of the Opposition has thrown out. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company have agreed under this contract to carry goods from the east to the west at lower rates, ranging from 10 to 33 per cent, and on several articles at very much reduced rates, so as to enable consumers in the west to get what is most largely used as cheaply as possible from the east, and that is a trade which, when started, will grow to greater dimensions in years to come. In this way I feel that when hon. gentlemen on the opposite side of the House say that no arrangement or law can increase the trade of this country, they are expressing something that I am sure they do not believe themselves, because the Government have power in arranging and readjusting and setting this and that in order, to facilitate the trade and commerce of the country, and in doing so, they will increase its extent and bring prosperity in its train. There are two more links in the transportation policy of this country to which I will refer very briefly. Another link in the transportation policy is the establishing of the Pacific cable. We believe, and I think the country believes, that the time has come when we should put ourselves in direct communication with the colonies with which we wish to build up a trade. We have sought to build up a trade with one of those colonies for many years, actually having sent commissioners there for the purpose of ascertaining what products we could send there profitably; and I think it would be wisdom on the part of the Canadian Government and the Canadian people, irrespective of politics, to establish a cable between the western portion of our territory and New Zealand and Australasia.

There is another point which I wish to mention, because it has reference to a project which I opposed a few years ago, and against which I think I made a speech in this House. It just shows how a person's opinion changes. That is, the fast steamship line. At that time, I believed it was not in the interest of the province of Ontario to subsidize a fast steamship line. But since the Government has entered upon this large policy of transportation, I feel compelled to withdraw my objection to a fast steamship line, which constitutes a part of the great system of transportation which the Government has taken in hand, and which, if they remain in power—and I am sure they will—they will carry to completion from ocean to ocean. Now, this may cost, and undoubtedly will cost, a good deal of money; for we shall have to put our ports in order, such as Montreal, Halifax, St. John, Que., Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, Goderich, Owen Sound, Collingwood, Midland, Parry Sound, and some others. We can never control the trade until this is all accomplished. The hon. leader of the Opposition wanted to know what we had done. Although I cannot tell him that we have accomplished all this, I can say that we have entered with vigour and energy and determination upon the carrying

out of this policy, believing it to be not only in the interest of the Liberal party, but in the interest of the farmers, the manufacturers, the artisans and every other class in the country. It is the great National Policy of the Liberal party.

Now, I will pass to the consideration of another and very important subject. Mr. Speaker, I believe that one of the most important things to obtain for this country, where we have so much vacant land, is population; and I am glad to see that the Government has taken energetic action towards securing as many people from abroad to come to this country as possible. The last Government did very little in that direction. The hon. leader of the Opposition the other night accused us in very strong language of having driven people away by our policy of 1874-78, under the Mackenzie Government. Speaking of the policy of that Government, the hon. leader of the Opposition expressed himself in these words:

Under their policy, Boston and New York were made the commercial capitals of Canada; under their policy, money went out of Canada to a foreign country for the products that our people required; under their policy, people finding no employment in this country were obliged to follow their money, and population was depleted, poverty was rife, and the only industry that these gentlemen were reluctantly compelled to recognize was that of soup kitchens for the poor.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in the palmiest days of the National Policy there were more people leaving this country than under the regime of the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie. I can prove that by the record, and I challenge any hon. gentleman of the Opposition to disprove it. It was stated that no less than 23,000 a year had left this country during the Mackenzie regime. That is true, for during that time we had one of the greatest depressions that ever came over this country—not by the fault of Mr. Mackenzie at all; for that depression was world-wide, and was found in countries that had free trade as well as in the countries that had high protection, showing that no policy could have prevented it at that particular time. The hon. leader of the Opposition charged that the Government of that day had sent people away from the country, and then he said we had to send our money abroad for the purpose of bringing articles in to feed the people. Now, any person who lived during 1877 knows that there was a failure of the crops of this country in that year, and that they were not sufficient to maintain the population; therefore, we had to import wheat in that year to feed the people. Notwithstanding that, and what Sir John Macdonald called the insane policy or want of policy of the Liberal party, only 23,000 people per year on the average left the country. But the present leader of the Opposition said:

When we have established our National Policy, these people will be coming back; the people we will bring from abroad will stay with us, and

our population will go on increasing by leaps and bounds to a far greater extent than ever before.

Now, let us look at the facts. The census of 1881 gave Canada a population of 4,125,000; the population of 1891 gave us a population of 4,833,000, or an increase during the ten years of 508,000 in round numbers. Now, let us see how many people were brought in under the policy of the Government during those ten years at an expenditure of \$3,000,000. According to their own blue books—and any person who wishes to correct my figures can verify them on reference to the report of the Minister of Agriculture, who had charge of the immigration department at that time—between 1881 and 1891, there were 866,000 immigrants who expressed their intention of remaining in Canada and becoming Canadian citizens. The natural increase during the decade from 1871 to 1881 was 17 per cent, or 1.7 per cent per year, and I would be justified in using that as the increase that might be expected from 1881 to 1891. But I will be more lenient to hon. gentlemen opposite, and I will take the natural increase in the United States from 1880 to 1890—these being years covering the decade for which the census was taken in the United States. That natural increase was 14 per cent for the decade, or 1.4 per year. If you take the population that we had in 1881, and take 14 per cent as the natural increase, you will find that we should have had a natural increase of 605,000, at the lowest calculation. Add the 605,000 natural increase to the 866,000 people which, the Government blue-books stated, came to the country, and you will have 1,471,000 people that we should have had in Canada in 1891, over and above the population of 1881. As a matter of fact, how many had we? We had actually 508,000, and, subtracting that 508,000 from the 1,471,000 which we should have had, it leaves 963,000 unaccounted for. I would ask hon. gentlemen opposite to try and point out why these 963,000 were not in Canada. That shows an exodus of 96,300 every year under the National Policy, as compared with 23,000 under the policy of the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie. What have we done since we have come into power? The exodus, to a very, very large extent, has ceased, and, in fact, the Toronto "Mail" was forced to say, a few months ago, that the exodus was a thing of the past. I saw in a newspaper, a day or two ago, that some of the Lower Canadians were going to the United States at the present time; but that is explained by the fact that a comparatively large number of French Canadians go to the Eastern States every spring to work during the summer months, but return in the fall of the year; so that, such a temporary emigration cannot be counted as permanent.

Under the policy of this party, we have succeeded in bringing about a great influx of population from foreign countries. Last year we brought in 31,702 immigrants, the

largest number which came into our country for many, many years, and what is remarkable about it is, that the effect of our policy has been to re-establish confidence in the people who left this country for the United States in times past, and who are now returning, since they know that the Liberal party is in power. A large number of Canadians who left us under the National Policy, are now coming back to enjoy the prosperity of Canada under the régime of the Liberal party. We have brought in from the United States this last year no fewer than 9,986 persons. A large number of these were formerly Canadians, but now that they are assured that the old National Policy is as dead as it possibly can be, and that a more liberal policy has succeeded it, they are flocking into the North-west and taking up homesteads in greater numbers than ever these homesteads were taken up before. As I have said, we spent \$261,000 last year for immigration purposes. But, Sir, when we put that on the one side, and consider the amount of wealth and material which these immigrants brought with them, we will find that this money has been very profitably spent. These immigrants last year brought with them \$2,828,675 worth of settlers' effects, and bear in mind, Mr. Speaker, that not less than \$2,324,457 of settlers' effects came from the United States. Our country to-day is that much richer than it was before. By expending \$261,000 we have got 32,000 inhabitants into Canada to add their strength, and vigour, and intelligence to our country, and these immigrants have brought with them nearly \$2,500,000 worth of property. We have, therefore, made a very good investment indeed on the money we spent for immigration purposes. Does not that policy of the Liberal party prove to the leader of the Opposition that this Government has added more than "a jot or tittle" to the well-being of the country? Sir, the electors of this country will be grateful for that, when we ask of them a renewal of their confidence and support. Another pleasing fact with regard to the North-west Territories is, that the number of homesteads taken up last year was the largest of any previous year since the North-west was established. True, in 1882 there were 7,483 homesteads, and in 1883, 6,063 homesteads; but it must be remembered, that in the year 1882 there were 3,492 homesteads cancelled. That means more than simply the cancellation: it means that so many people went in there and took up these lands, but they became so disgusted with the maladministration of affairs, that they left their homesteads. Now, last year there were 4,848 homesteads taken up, and only 155 cancelled, which gave a net of 4,715, against 4,230, the highest ever taken up during any previous year. Does any person believe that this has come about by chance? Does any person believe that it would have occurred, were it not for the vigorous immigration policy of

the present Government? Sir, this proves the wisdom of the immigration policy which has been established by our friends in power.

There has been another worthy achievement since we came into power, an achievement which was a benefit to all parties concerned, and I do not think that any member of the House will, in his inmost heart, deny that this act of the Liberal Government was beneficial. There may be some difference of opinion as to the excellency of the substitution we made, but there is no difference of opinion in regard to the necessity for abolishing the old Franchise Act. It was cumbersome and expensive to all parties concerned. I frequently heard leading Conservatives say that the old Franchise Act was just as odious to them as it could be to the Liberal party, because frequently they had to put their hands in their pockets and pay out large sums of money to have the voters' lists prepared. That Franchise Act cost \$1,156,000 in cold cash to the people of this country, and yet we had only four revisions. It placed the making out of the lists in the hands of partisans, and if we had been dishonest enough to take advantage of the Act and place the revision of the list in the hands of our friends, we could have secured a victory through the instrumentality of the Act alone. But when we came into power, knowing the partisan character of the Act, knowing it was contrary to the interests of the country, we, notwithstanding our power to utilize it to our own advantage, swept it from the statute-books, and replaced it by an Act fair and impartial to all concerned.

We have accomplished other things. We have brought about manhood suffrage in the province of Ontario. We believe that every young man should, when he reaches the age of majority, have the right to vote if there is nothing against him which would in law prevent him from voting. The Liberal party was the first to regard manhood as the basis of franchise. The Conservative party took property as the basis. A few hundred dollars' worth of property, \$150 in the country, \$300 income, so much assessment, so much tenancy, entitled a man to vote, but we give him the right, irrespective of his property. We look to the man himself and not to the property he owns.

We also have secured in the province of Ontario, for which we are greatly indebted to the Government, the recognition of the principle of one man one vote. It has always been our contention that no man should have but one vote. Any one can see the injustice of the opposite principle. One man might have \$500 worth of property in five adjoining constituencies, and could poll his vote in the one day at each polling subdivision, whereas another man might have \$100,000 invested in one section, and would only have one vote. We, however, have

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established the principle of one man one vote in the province of Ontario.

Another reform, and a very important one, which we secured, is that of residential voting, and by this reform we have excluded the influence of railway corruption which carried voters 2,000 or 3,000 miles to vote at an election on behalf of the one political party or the other and gave them free passage. It was astonishing how many people wanted to go home at election time to see their parents and obtain a free passage, through the instrumentality of the railways, and invariably these people gave their votes in favour of the party whom the railway supported. The party opposed to these railways had therefore, in order to meet these kind of tactics, to impose on themselves a heavy burden in order to bring people from a distance to vote.

There are one or two more points with which I have to deal before I pass on to the large question, the question of the tariff. But let me first draw the attention of the right hon. leader of the Opposition to the fact that the Postmaster General (Mr. Mullock) has not only reduced the expenditure in the Post Office Department and succeeded in diminishing the large deficit which prevailed when he came into office of about \$700,000 to less than \$50,000, but he has besides cancelled contracts which were given by his predecessors at very extravagant prices, and re-let those contracts at reasonable rates without at all impairing the efficiency of the service, thus saving to the country about \$180,000 more. Further than that, he has secured for us Imperial penny postage. It is said by hon. gentlemen opposite that we do not feel the advantage of that boon very much, but they must admit that the thousands of immigrants who are scattered broadcast over the prairies can appreciate thoroughly the benefit of paying only 2 cents on an ounce letter to England, instead of 10 cents, as they did formerly. Under the late Government an ounce letter to England and back cost 20 cents, but under the present Administration it only costs 4 cents, being a discrimination in favour of the settlers of 300 per cent, and every one knows that the letters from these immigrants praising the country are far more effective than any amount of speeches by immigration agents, for if an immigrant likes the country and tells his friends at home across the Atlantic that this is a land flowing with milk and honey, a land of freedom, a land governed justly and well, and advises them to come out, such advice has a more potent influence than any pamphlet that could be published or any speeches that could be made. Then there is the reduction in the postage on Canadian letters. It has been said that in this we are simply taking the burden off one shoulder and putting it on the other. That remains to be seen. I believe that there will be an in-

crease in the letters sent throughout this country that will go far to counterbalance the loss of revenue. I believe that this reform will largely lead to the disuse of postal cards, because it has always appeared to me very mean on the part of business men to send postal cards in which any private business is referred to, and no doubt the reduced rate will cause business men to send their letters, like gentlemen, inclosed in envelopes at the reduced rate of postage, rather than use the postal cards. Therefore, I am confident that the increased returns of revenue will, in a very few years, more than counterbalance the loss of revenue at the outset.

I come now to one more question, and that is the tariff. I do not propose to deal with it in detail, but neither do I propose to let it alone. I want to meet this tariff question just upon its merits. That is a question which in the last few years has been more prominently before the public than it probably will ever be again. Hon. gentlemen opposite say we have stole their clothes. But I hardly think they would now wear again the clothes themselves which they say we have stolen, and certainly we would be in a very sorry plight if we had to adopt them. I am satisfied that the readjustment we have made in the tariff is largely satisfactory to the people, because it must always be borne in mind that all tariff arrangements must necessarily be in the nature of a compromise. We have to make compromises between conflicting interests. You cannot base a tariff on mathematical principles, for when you impose duties on one article you affect one person prejudicially while benefiting another. Therefore, in a readjustment of the tariff you have to consider the whole situation. We have not only readjusted the tariff and shifted the burden on to shoulders better able to bear it, but we have reduced the tariff to a very considerable extent. We have reduced it on over 100 articles, and in addition to that reduction in the general tariff, we have made a further reduction in the duties of 25 per cent. I know the objection is raised that this 25 per cent applies only to articles coming from Great Britain, and that very few articles of some kinds come from Great Britain. Well, we cannot help that. We have thrown out to Great Britain the offer that any article she manufactures, in any line whatever, for export to this country, will come in at a reduction of 25 per cent on the duties levied on similar articles from other countries. Then, I believe that in a year or two the English manufacturers will so modify their plant and their methods as to establish a larger business with Canada. We all know that it is impossible for large manufacturing industries in the old country in a short time to turn to the supply of a new market. But, as they find that it is an advantage to them—and they must find it so—they will

prepare to supply the demand in Canada. And what will be the results? In the first place, we give a new market to the British manufacturer; and, in the second place, we secure the article cheaper for the Canadian consumer, for these goods must come into competition with others, and the manufacturers of this country, as well as exporters from the United States will have to reduce their prices.

Now, it is said that we have benefited the farmers very little. I would like, as much as anybody, to see the farmers benefited, for I represent a farmers' district. But I believe that the farmers realize that they have been benefited by the readjustment and reduction of the tariff. I would like to read a short list of articles in respect to which the farmers have benefited. This list shows the extent to which duties have been reduced:

| Article.                  | Reduction per cent. |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Wall paper .....          | 8                   |
| Cut nails .....           | 33½                 |
| Wire nails .....          | 40                  |
| Wood screws .....         | 23                  |
| Wire fencing .....        | 45½                 |
| Cutlery .....             | 7½                  |
| Files and rasps .....     | 14½                 |
| Adzes .....               | 14½                 |
| Cleavers .....            | 14½                 |
| Hatchets .....            | 14½                 |
| Hammers .....             | 14½                 |
| Picks .....               | 14½                 |
| Window shades .....       | 27                  |
| Socks and stockings ..... | 12½                 |
| Collars .....             | 24                  |
| Farm rollers .....        | 16½                 |
| Road rollers .....        | 16½                 |
| Windmills .....           | 16½                 |
| Horse powers .....        | 16½                 |
| Portable engines .....    | 16½                 |
| Threshers .....           | 16½                 |
| Manure spreaders .....    | 20                  |
| Axes .....                | 28½                 |
| Hand rakes .....          | 28½                 |
| Feed cutters .....        | 28½                 |
| Potato diggers .....      | 28½                 |
| Grain crushers .....      | 28½                 |
| Fanning mills .....       | 28½                 |
| Hay tedders .....         | 28½                 |
| Scythes .....             | 28½                 |
| Sickles .....             | 28½                 |
| Reaping hooks .....       | 28½                 |
| Pronged forks .....       | 28½                 |
| Snaths .....              | 28½                 |
| Post hole diggers .....   | 28½                 |
| Coal oil .....            | 16½                 |

Now, I might give you many more, but you have there a sample of articles used by the farmers. You will find that on these there has been quite a large reduction. Hon. gentlemen opposite ask, why we did not make greater reductions. I see that one hon. gentleman looks as if he intended to

follow me. I would like him to tell this House, and tell the country, this: If his friends came into power at the next general election, would they reimpose the duties we have taken off? If they would not, they cannot say that our policy was taken from theirs; moreover, the fact that they would not reimpose these duties shows that the reductions are in the interest of the people at large. It cannot be said that the preference to England was taken from the Conservative policy. We offered that policy to the Conservative party in 1892, in a motion presented by the hon. member for Queen's, P.E.I., (Sir Louis Davies). The Conservatives objected, every one of them voting against it. We told the people, that if we came into power, we would give a preference to Great Britain in the Canadian market. That policy we have carried out, and with good results—with the result of the expansion of trade, the denunciation of the treaties with Belgium and Germany, and greater freedom in the manipulation of our own finances and customs.

Now, I think I have pretty well answered the hon. gentleman. He asked me, what we had done since we came into power, and I think I have given a great range of things the Liberal party has done, both during its present term of office and when it was in office before. I am going to ask the hon. gentleman to consider the results of what the Government has done. Hon. gentlemen opposite say, that all these good things have come about by some means for which no credit is due to the Government. Some hon. gentlemen say it is the result of good crops and high prices. I would ask the hon. gentleman who is to follow me, to say if it is not true, that we have had better crops than we had in 1898. In 1895 we had better crops in Manitoba, as well as better prices. In 1884, and again in 1886, were good harvests, and surely we had higher prices. Why did not this great prosperity come then? Had not we a famine in India, a few years ago, because they did not raise enough wheat to feed the famishing people there? Had we then the same results that we have now? The hon. leader of the Opposition says that our present prosperity is a reflection from the National Policy. But will any hon. gentleman undertake to establish that contentions? Inquire of any of our financial institutions, and you will find that there is universal confidence and business is good. Let me give a few figures showing the expansion which we have made. It will be interesting even to those who may not agree with me, to know the facts in connection with our country. I am sure it would be interesting to the hon. member for St. Ann's, Montreal (Mr. Quinn) to know what that city has been doing in the last year or two. In 1895-96 we had a total trade of \$232,000,000. Under the Liberal policy in 1897-98 it rose to \$304,000,000. I remember the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) declaring that the

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expansion of trade is the result of the National Policy. We find an increase of 31 per cent of trade in less than three years. And we find that for the first seven months of the current year trade goes on in the same expansive way. The total trade for those months was \$196,000,000. If it continues in the same ratio to the end of the year, this year we shall have a total trade of \$336,000,000, an increase, as compared with 1896, of 50 per cent. Then, again, look at the expansion of trade in the farmers' products. There has been an increase of 23 per cent in the export of cattle; 82 per cent in the exports of ham and bacon; 94 per cent in the exports of butter; 25 per cent in cheese; 430 per cent in poultry and game; 55 per cent in eggs; 200 per cent in wheat; 655 per cent in flour; 1,010 per cent in oats; 52 per cent in oatmeal, and 39 per cent in pease. There is another thing. We are told that we have not brought into this country from other countries a greater trade than we had before. I find that last year we brought in 23,234 tons weight of cargoes into Canada more than came in the year before. In 1896, 8,132 vessels came into Canada in ballast, they could not find a cargo to bring into Canada. That number has been reduced last year by no less than 659. In 1896, vessels entered inward to the ports of Canada, carrying 2,619,831 tons weight; in 1898, two years after, vessels entered inward bearing a total of 3,569,469 tons weight, or a total increase of 949,648 tons, an increase in those two years of 36 per cent. Now there entered outward to Great Britain from Canada, in 1896, 1,010,908 tons; in 1898, 1,710,642 tons, or an increase of 690,734 tons, an increase of 69 per cent. Now I will speak of the city of Montreal, which may be taken as a test of other cities. There passed outwards to sea from the city of Montreal, in 1896, 699,102 tons weight of freight; in 1898 the quantity had risen to no less than 1,390,718 tons, or an increase of 691,616 tons exported from Montreal, or at the rate of 100 per cent increase. Now that is largely owing to the efforts of the Government in securing a through route to the city of Montreal.

Mr. TAYLOR. What through route to Montreal?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). A large proportion of this increase of trade took place at the city of Montreal.

Mr. TAYLOR. What additional through route is furnished for trade?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). There was a greatly increased trade in butter, cheese and perishable articles that were carried in the cold storage which was established by the present Government, and which largely passed through Montreal. Other articles might be mentioned, which I have not the time to mention; but there is a sample for you to think over. Now take the city of Halifax. In 1896 there went out from that

city 229,653 tons ; in 1898 that number had increased by 55,770 tons, or an increase of 25 per cent. In St. John the increase of trade was 60 per cent. Now, let us take another view of Canada's prosperity. I have just been speaking of the trade on the ocean, I will now speak of the coasting trade that is taking place upon the lakes and the rivers between the United States and Canada. That has increased from 2,244,211 tons in 1896 to 2,432,084 tons in 1898, an increase of 188,873 tons. There were 1,078 more vessels engaged in the coasting trade in 1898 than in 1896.

There is another point I want to bring before you. Canada never had such a growing time before. Is it any wonder? We are told that the growing time began when the party of protection came into power. I cannot understand that at all. Can any hon. gentleman opposite tell me why the growing time did not commence in 1894, in 1895, in 1896, or in 1882, or in 1884, or in any other year previous to 1896? Why was the growing time delayed until the Liberal party came in? I heard a cruel Liberal say on a public platform a year and a half ago, that it was a providential act that the gold in the Yukon was not discovered when the Tory party was in power. He believed that Providence had kept that country under snow and frost until the Liberal party came into power that they might utilize it for the benefit of the people. Let me give you some more evidence of a growing time. Our friends opposite used to quote a good deal from the condition of the banks. I find in looking over bank stocks that the highest average price paid for stocks in 1896, in 11 banks, was 173½. These 11 banks were: Montreal, Toronto, Merchants, Commerce, Dominion, Hamilton, Standard, Imperial, Molsons', British North America and Ontario. Now you all know that the value of the stocks in any institution is an indication of the prosperity of that institution. As banks deal largely with the people in handling their money, in business and trade, the value of the stocks indicate not only the prosperity of the banks, but it indicates also the prosperity of the people. In 1898 the average price of stocks in those banks was 193½, or 20 higher than it was in 1896. Take another indication of the growing time, also from the banks. In 1896 there were \$29,429,000 worth of bank notes in circulation in Canada. That would indicate the amount that was required to do the business that was carried on at that time. In 1898, the circulation rose to \$36,917,000, or about \$8,000,000 more of bank notes in circulation in 1898 than in 1896, showing an increased activity in all branches of trade. Let me give you still another indication of a growing time. We will go back a little to a period under the National Policy. Take the five years from 1883 to 1887, inclusive. We find that there were on an average \$100,000,000 deposited in the banks of Canada. In 1898, on

the 30th of September, there were deposited in the banks of Canada \$239,000,000. There was an increase of 139 per cent in the deposits in the banks of Canada under the present policy more than under the palmiest days of the National Policy. Let me give you another indication of the prosperity of Canada under the regime of the Liberal party. In January, 1898, there were \$79,196,000 deposited in banks payable on demand.

In January, 1899, the amount payable on demand deposited in the banks was \$86,878,000, so that there was \$7,682,000 placed on deposit payable on demand in the banks of Canada more in 1899 than in 1898. Can any hon. gentleman say that this is owing to the reflection of the old, discredited, worn out, threadbare, tattered National Policy that did so much harm to the people of this country? Now, let me give you another bank evidence of the prosperity of the country. The bank clearings of Canada always give an indication of prosperity of the country. The bank clearings in 1897 amounted to the large sum of \$1,174,710,345, while the bank clearings in 1898 amounted to \$1,390,019,344, showing an increase of \$215,308,999, comparing 1898 with 1897. The increase at Montreal was \$130,180,000, Toronto, \$77,732,000, Winnipeg, \$6,318,000. Where was there ever such an exposition made under the National Policy as we can make to-day: was there ever such a general prosperity pervading every class under the National Policy as under the policy of to-day? I will give another evidence of prosperity, the evidence showing the prosperity of the various institutions established in this country and doing business here. I will take ten companies, as follows: The Bell Telephone Company, the Montreal Street Railway Company, the Toronto Railway Company, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the Dominion Cotton Company, the Montreal Cotton Company, the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company, the Montreal Telegraph Company, the Coloured Cotton Company and the Dominion Telegraph Company. The value of the stock of these ten companies, doing business for the people of this country, naturally points to their prosperity. The highest average obtained for their stock in 1896 was 111, whereas the highest average obtained in 1898 was 140. That indicates general prosperity, not alone among the banks, but among the companies and institutions which I have enumerated. That is one more illustration of the growing times. I will take the loan companies, and I want to call the attention of hon. gentlemen opposite particularly to the loan companies. The loan companies make their money largely from loaning money, and as you all know the farmers of the country a few years ago borrowed largely and placed mortgages upon their properties, so much so that at one period there were no less than \$275,000,000 in mortgages upon the farms of Ontario, but these mortgages are being reduced under the

prosperous times we now have. The farming community are not obliged to borrow now as they were formerly, and the result is that the companies from which they were borrowing moneys formerly, instead of enjoying the prosperity of these other companies, have suffered a decrease in the value of their stock. I will take the following companies: The Canada Permanent Loan Company, the Freehold, Western Canada, Canada Landed Credit Company, Imperial Savings Company, London and Canadian, Dominion Savings, London and Ontario, Hamilton Provident, Huron and Erie and Manitoba. Here I have eleven companies, selected from the various companies doing business in the country, that used to make large profits by loaning money to parties who were hard-up, the farming community particularly, and how does their stock stand? The highest average price that all these companies got in 1896 was 117; the highest average price obtained in 1898 was 99½. Now, these statements prove the general prosperity of the people, not only of one section but of every section, for I have touched upon them all, and for the Liberal-Conservative party to say that this wave of prosperity has come to every section of the country through their discredited policy is to pay a poor compliment to the intelligence of the people of this country. If it be true that this policy has brought this prosperity, at the present time, are they not guilty of neglect in not bringing this prosperity in with that old discredited policy long before it came. Failures generally show the condition of the merchants of the country. In 1896, there were 2,179 failures in Canada, representing \$16,208,000; in 1898, there were 1,427 failures representing only \$9,644,000, or a reduction in failures of 752 in number, \$6,556,000 in amount, and 40 per cent in percentage. Now, Mr. Speaker, I will bring my remarks to a conclusion. I think I have sufficiently answered the challenge that was thrown out by the hon. leader of the Opposition. I think I have shown him that we have done a great deal within two years and a half, and I think that no other Government in that length of time has ever done so much. I have shown you that we have settled the school question which was an irritating question; I have shown you that we removed the embargo upon live stock from this country, bringing hundreds of thousands of dollars into the pockets of the farmers; I have shown you that we have established a cold storage system which will largely increase the wealth of the farming community, as well as increase the profits of those engaged in the trade. I think I have shown you that we have a progressive transportation policy involving the extension of the Intercolonial Railway, the deepening of the canals, the building of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, and the reduction of railway rates to which I have referred. We propose to do in the future more than we have attempted to do

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in the past; we propose to establish upon the Atlantic a fast steamship service; we propose, I hope, within the next five years, to establish a Pacific cable from the west to New Zealand and Australasia; we propose to extend our trade to the Orient as soon as we can accomplish it. And, Sir, I would ask what are the parts of the policy of the hon. gentlemen that we have stolen? Have we stolen the transportation policy from the Liberal-Conservative party; have we stolen the wise immigration policy, which we have been pursuing, from the Liberal-Conservative party? Even if it were as they have said, that we stole the whole tariff policy from them, it is only a bagatelle when we compare it with the great policy upon which we have entered, upon which we intend to go to the country, and for which the country will stand, not to increase the debt but to invest their moneys in public works, that will bring in a return for the investment, and when we go to the country I am sure we will come back here with an increased majority over that which we possess to-day.

Mr. URIAH WILSON (Lennox). Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the hon. member for East Huron (Mr. Macdonald) with a great deal of pleasure because his speech was so different from the kind of speeches he used to make when he occupied a seat on this side of the House. It was blue ruin then from the beginning to the finish. Did you ever hear him defend the development of the country as he defended it to-night? I tell you it is worth something to allow these hon. gentlemen to get into office, because it makes them loyal and patriotic, and as a good Canadian I do not grudge them the office for the sake of the improvement it makes in them. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonald) wants to know why we are prospering under the policy pursued by the Liberal Government. The answer is easy; it is because the Liberals are carrying out the same old National Policy. They reduced the National Policy tariff about 1 per cent, they declare they have made a great change, and on the strength of that 1 per cent reduction, the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) says the Liberals have carried out their pledges, and the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), when he was in West Huron, claimed that they had fulfilled all their pledges except the reform of the Senate—and they were at that. The Postmaster General must have made a great effort to stretch his imagination when he made such a statement, because no intelligent man has an idea that the Government has made even an honest attempt to begin to fulfil their promises. My hon. friend (Mr. Macdonald) could not let the old Franchise Bill alone, although it is dead and buried and his friends have given us a new one in its place. He told us that the reason the Liberals were opposed to it was because it gave an unfair advantage to one side. I have

always disputed that contention, and I have never seen the slightest evidence in its favour, because we all know that as a rule the county court judges were the revising barristers, and they were fair men. I know two county court judges who were the revising barristers for Frontenac, Lennox, Addington and the city of Kingston; they were both Liberals, but I have yet to hear one single complaint about anything they have ever done, other than perhaps they might have made a few mistakes which no person could avoid. Then, Sir, the hon. gentleman from Huron (Mr. Macdonald), has in very strong language, justified the Intercolonial Railway extension to Montreal. I have known the hon. gentleman since he first entered Parliament in 1887, and I wonder if any one who knows him as I do, believes that if he were in Opposition and a Conservative Government had extended the Intercolonial Railway, he would have approved of it. Not at all. He would have seen the matter through very different glasses, and instead of approving that scheme—which I do not believe is beneficial and which he did not use to believe would be beneficial—he would have vigorously denounced it. Why, Sir, the deficit on the Intercolonial Railway shows that the extension is not in the interests of the country. Indeed, there was not business enough for all the railways that previously existed between Montreal and Quebec. The deficit on the Intercolonial Railway, as shown by Mr. Pottinger, was \$139,979.66 for the last year, but Mr. Pottinger does not take into account the rent that was paid on the Drummond County road and the Grand Trunk Railway, which Mr. Schreiber does take into account, and which makes the deficit actually \$209,976.66. Well, Sir, the deficit on the Intercolonial Railway under the administration of the Liberal Government, the year before the Drummond County extension was \$59,940.65, and in the year 1896, the last year of the Conservative Government the deficit was \$55,187.52. Still, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonald) seems to think that the Liberal Government has accomplished wonderful things in connection with the Intercolonial Railway. These gentlemen, when in Opposition, used to contend that all of the road which was completed should be maintained out of current expenses, and not out of capital account. Had that been done under this Government, instead of the deficit being the sum I have mentioned, it would have been \$462,735. Still, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonald) rejoices over the great success of the Liberal administration of the Intercolonial Railway. I could give the hon. gentleman an answer with regard to the extravagance of the Government out of the mouth of the Minister of Trade and Commerce if I choose to take the time to read it, and I could also answer him from the columns of the Huntingdon "Gleaner," a good Liberal newspaper, which generally views things from a business

standpoint, and not from a party point of view. As a rule, the criticisms of the Huntingdon "Gleaner" are fair and honest, and although I do not always agree with them, yet in this particular case, the "Gleaner" has struck the nail on the head. Perhaps before I conclude I shall give the hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonald) a little of that kind of criticism on the Liberal Government to demonstrate what his political friends think of the extravagance which now reigns supreme. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonald) tried to enumerate the different things the Liberal Government had to spend money on, and which the Conservative Government did not have to spend money on, but he failed to account for anything near the increased expenditure, which amounts to \$1,500,000. And, if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonald) could not account for the actual increased expenditure, what does he say about the promises of the Liberals out of power to reduce the Conservative expenditure by three or four million dollars a year. It does seem to me that honest men, men who have respect for their word and their character, if they have not kept their word, ought to be able to give a good reason why. If these gentlemen opposite would rise in this House, and give a good reason why they could not keep their word, then the people would think more of them; but they sit there guilty of open violation of their pre-election pledges, and the people will hold them responsible for it when the proper time comes.

There was one subject which has cropped up many times in this debate, and which my hon. friend (Mr. Macdonald) skimmed very lightly over. He told us he has been a prohibitionist for forty years, that he is in favour of prohibition now, but he did not think the plebiscite vote in favour of prohibition was strong enough to justify a prohibitory law, and he looked over on this side of the House, and he wondered where all the temperance men here had come from lately. Well, Sir, I was at a meeting of the Alliance upstairs not long ago, and I wondered to see some Liberal members of Parliament who had been prohibitionists all their lives, wobble on the question, and I wondered how readily their politics came in. It occurred to me when I looked at them, that there were more politicians than temperance men, and that is the trouble with the prohibition question at the present time. It is not at all because the country is not ripe for it, that these gentlemen are not now advocating prohibition. So far as I am concerned, I have always been a prohibitionist whether in this House or out of it. Every vote I have given whether on local option or on the larger question has always been in favour of prohibition.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. You are working at it now.

Mr. WILSON. Yes, and I believe you are not. There is another gentleman who

used to take a very great interest in prohibition, and who is drawing a very good salary from the country at the present time, but I notice he is conspicuous by his absence nearly all the time during this debate. I refer to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), who has been a prominent prohibitionist ever since I knew him. Long before I was in Parliament I recollect being in the city of Ottawa one day when Mr. Foster moved a resolution with reference to prohibition, and Mr. Fisher, then member for Brome, seconded it. I remember, too, the beautiful basket of flowers presented to him by the temperance people of Canada. I wonder if the temperance people will send him a basket of flowers now.

Mr. BENNETT. No, they will send him onions.

Mr. WILSON. Now, Sir, I have got a few facts here with reference to the temperance question, and these facts may be interesting to the House. I have here a report of a temperance convention held in the city of Montreal in 1888, when the present Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) was first vice-president of that association. He was also a member of the committee on legislation and on political action, and I want to read to this House a resolution that was passed—remember this is nearly eleven years ago—declaring that the temperance people then felt that the country was ripe for prohibition. And yet my hon. friend from Huron (Mr. Macdonald), who has been a prohibitionist for forty years, eleven years later feels that we are not quite ready for prohibition yet. The resolution reads:

That an emphatic demand be made for the immediate enactment of a well-devised law for the whole Dominion, prohibiting the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors. That such steps be taken as will organize and unify the temperance electors to secure the nomination and election for every public position of a representative who is a known and avowed prohibitionist, and who can be relied on to do all in his power to obtain the enactment and enforcement of prohibitory legislation; and also to oppose every candidate who is not in favour of this important measure of moral reform.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) will have his hands full next election, because he will have to oppose all his colleagues. I fear, if he carries out the policy of this resolution. There was another resolution proposed at the same meeting, in opposition to the compensation of the liquor men for any loss they might sustain in consequence of their business being prohibited. The hon. Minister of Agriculture was a pretty good temperance man then, but he was not drawing \$7,000 a year as a member of the Government. He was simply a member of the House of Commons, and he made a speech on that occasion, of which the following is a short synopsis:

Mr. Fisher, M.P., supported the resolution in a vigorous speech, in which he explained his

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conduct in Parliament, and strongly justified opposition to the compensation theory. The prohibition for which we are working, concluded the member for Brome, is prohibition without compensation, and those temperance people who are not with us in this very important feature had better get out of our ranks.

Well, Sir, I am a prohibitionist, and I am in favour of compensation, because I think it is right. I do not think much of temperance men who are only temperance men because they do not drink whisky. I think a temperance man should be such in all the walks of life; and if the United States had followed the example of England, and bought her slaves, instead of having a rebellion, she would have been much better off. I think the temperance men of this country will do a great deal more for their country, and make prohibition a success, by paying the liquor men, if they are honest, and letting them know that they oppose their business because they think it is wrong. Now, I want to quote from what has been called the Liberal bible. This book is so scarce, I am told, that you cannot get one now for love or money.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. Where did you get that book?

Mr. WILSON. I got it from an honest man; you can guess that I did not get it from some people. Now, I want to read the resolution that was proposed by the hon. Minister of Agriculture. I believe he was honest at that time, and desired to have his party committed to prohibition, if possible. That is my honest opinion of Mr. Fisher. I do not say, he is not honest yet; I only say, he is acting very curiously. This is the resolution:

That whereas public attention is at present much directed to the consideration of the admittedly great evils of intemperance, it is desirable that the mind of the people should be clearly ascertained on the question of prohibition by means of a Dominion plebiscite.

Now, so far as I am concerned, I cannot see any sense in taking a plebiscite, unless you intend to act on it, if the vote is favourable. As a matter of course, if the vote had been against prohibition, that would have ended it for a long time. There was a gentleman at that convention, who was not a prohibitionist, but who, I believe, told the convention the truth on this question. He told them, that if they went to the country on the plebiscite, and there was a majority in favour of prohibition, it would be their bounden duty to insist, in every way they possibly could, to carry a prohibitory law. Now, I will just read what the Hon. T. W. Anglin said:

It may be said, indeed, that this resolution only asks for a plebiscite. But what do we mean when we ask for a plebiscite if we are in earnest? Is it not that we desire to know what the opinion of the people is on this question; that we desire to ascertain their opinion in a particular way, and that we will do all in our power to give

effect to their decision as thus ascertained? It may be that not one-half of the adult male population will vote. Nevertheless, should a majority be obtained at the polls when this question is submitted, the friends of prohibition will be in a position to call upon the Liberal party to follow up their resolution logically by assisting in the passage and enforcement of a prohibitory liquor law.

It does seem to me, that was a reasonable conclusion for any honest man to come to—that if they were going to submit a question to the people, they ought to act upon the opinion of the people. A little further on, he says:

I have simply come forward to protest, as one member of the Liberal party, against this resolution being adopted as a plank of the Liberal platform, because it would bind us to a plebiscite, and, if a majority in favour of prohibition were obtained by any means whatever, to become advocates of a prohibitory liquor law.

That is the position the Liberal party are in to-day. They caused \$250,000 to be placed in the Estimates last year to take a plebiscite; the vote was polled, and a respectable majority was given for prohibition; and still the answer of the Prime Minister to the prohibitionists is, that the vote was too small. Well, Sir, I have learned from the Toronto "Globe," that the hon. Minister of Agriculture attended another convention, where he was, apparently, the chairman of a committee on political action. He read to the convention the following report, and if he lives up to it, I am afraid he will have a quarrel with some of the hon. gentlemen who sit around the Council board with him, because it is so strong that, when it comes to be a tug of war between his politics and his temperance principles, he will have to hold to his temperance principles, and give up his politics:

(1) That this convention stands firmly by the position that in political matters they will support only known avowed and reliable prohibitionists.

He cannot support the members of the present Cabinet—

(2) That the members of this convention hereby agree that, upon returning to their homes, they will forthwith place themselves in communication with other prohibitionists in their respective localities, for the purpose of securing the nomination, in harmony with this view, of candidates for the next Dominion and provincial elections.

(3) That to aid in securing the nomination and election of such candidates, our friends everywhere are urged to organize prohibition clubs, which will take advantage of every opportunity to plan and work for the carrying out of the objects above set out.

(4) It is recommended that the provincial branches of the Dominion Alliance, or other workers, take active steps to organize the temperance forces in every constituency, with the view to political action.

(5) It is recommended that, in order to secure the nomination of prohibition candidates, our friends take a more active part in political organization, so as to secure the nomination by all

parties, of men who can be depended upon to support the prohibition cause, and giving it to be understood distinctly that any other candidate will have our active opposition.

(6) It is also recommended that where such prohibition candidates cannot be nominated by any of the political parties, our friends nominate independent candidates, and make special efforts to secure their election.

Now, Sir, I do not know whether my hon. friend who presented this report to the convention took any action there to form clubs in the different counties, or whether he tried to bring out independent candidates to support the temperance cause. But if he did, he evidently did not succeed very well, for so far as I can see, the people from his part of the province, with the exception of two or three, are all against prohibition. The result is that though he may have been honest in his efforts he certainly was not successful. Well, Sir, the Liberals succeeded at the polls, and on the 4th of September, 1896, a very large meeting assembled in the Railway Committee Room of this House and arranged that three persons should address the Government. These were Mr. McLaren, Q.C., Mrs. Alexander, and Mr. Dougall, of the Montreal "Witness." Of course the right hon. gentleman with the sunny ways met them, as he always meets deputations, very courteously, and told them that he was a very strong temperance man himself. I shall just read a few words of what he said:

He agreed with Senator Vidal and Mrs. Alexander that the cause of temperance was one of the greatest questions in the civilized world, and he was pleased, as an ardent advocate of temperance, to note the great progress which the cause had made within the last twenty-five years. And after a few more pleasant words he got through. Then we had the Minister of Agriculture, who has everywhere in the past preached temperance, and whose life, so far as I know, has been in accord with his professions:

Mr. Fisher said that he felt he had been selected for a seat in the Cabinet largely as the representative of the temperance sentiment; but he assured his hearers that the temperance cause had many other friends in the Council chamber.

They do not seem to be so plentiful now.

The Government had no intention of putting off the plebiscite until the next general election.

Then came a few words from Sir Oliver Mowat, and the deputation went home feeling that, as a matter of course, they would have a fair test, unencumbered with other questions, as prohibition ought to be, but so far as the Minister of Agriculture is concerned, I do not know that he made any great effort in the Cabinet to have such a test applied. On the 13th May, 1897, a deputation of the liquor men waited on the Government, which of course received them—and very properly so—as courteously as they did the others. The liquor men asked the Government that an absolute majority of all the

electors of the entire Dominion and territories should be required before the Government took any step towards introducing a measure of prohibition. Whether it was with these gentlemen the right hon. First Minister made the promise that 50 per cent of the voters on the list should vote for prohibition before it could be had or not, I do not know, nor does it seem to come out in that interview. The first objection which the right hon. gentleman raised was the financial one, he said the Government would lose \$8,000,000 of revenue, and he did not know how to raise it unless by direct taxation, and he was afraid the people would not favour that, although the temperance men are so enthusiastic over this matter that they declare that it is a perfectly right and proper way to raise the deficiency. The hon. gentleman did not seem yet to have made up his mind on that point, although four years had elapsed from the time the resolution was passed by the Liberal convention, because he said to the liquor men he was not prepared to say whether one-half or more or less of the people would be considered a conclusive majority. Even staunch prohibitionists, he said, were prepared to admit that a prohibitory law in any country could not be carried out unless backed up by the will of the people, and the Liberal party desire to stand by the will of the people. That does not seem to be their desire now. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) was present on that occasion, and it seems to me, on reading what he said, that he had in his mind the debt of gratitude he owed to the right hon. First Minister for having on one occasion, when the hon. gentleman was in a very tight place in the riding of South Oxford, written to him a letter endorsing him as the candidate of the Reform party, and my hon. friend on this occasion, after saying a few words to the deputation, said that whatever Sir Wilfrid Laurier promised he guaranteed would be carried out.

Another deputation then waited on the Government before the vote was taken on the plebiscite—a deputation representing the general conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, on 28th March, 1898. The right hon. Prime Minister then said :

If the plebiscite meets with the support of the majority of the people, those who find themselves in a minority will have to concur in the verdict of the majority.

It does seem to me, Mr. Speaker, that a majority of the people could only mean a majority as expressed at the polls, because no one can tell what those who did not go to the polls would do. I have found a feeling of doubt in the sincerity of the Government to prevail in my own riding from my intercourse with the people. When I came to Ottawa I was told that it was hardly worth while to go to the polls and vote because the people had no confidence in the Government carrying out its pledge. I met

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a man in Ottawa who said to me : I was away from home and it would have cost me \$7 or \$8 to go home and vote, but I would have gone had I thought the Government would honestly carry out its pledge. Not having any faith in their promises I did not spend the money. If there is any gentleman on the Treasury benches who can tell us with whom this compact was made, that 50 per cent of the voters on the list would be required at the polls in favour of prohibition before it could be carried, we ought to know it. I am sorry the right hon. First Minister is not here, but whoever is leading the House ought to be able to tell us whether there was such an understanding or not, and with whom it was made. If that understanding was arrived at with any of the temperance leaders, and these leaders did not make it known to the temperance people, we ought to know it, because in that case they have not been honest with the rank and file and their usefulness is gone. The Alliance people from Montreal certainly said that they knew nothing about it and passed a resolution to that effect. To show how absurd it was to expect that, by any possibility, 50 per cent of the voters on the voters' lists could be had in favour of prohibition. Mr. Huxtable makes the following statement:—

I will give one definite illustration of the statements I have just made. In one polling subdivision of this city of Montreal there were 175 names on the list. It was situated in my own district. I sent a scrutineer to that poll, duly and legally authorized. The deputy returning officer peremptorily refused him admission to the poll. After the election was over I got a few gentlemen to examine the list. They went over it name by name. They made careful search. The result : Fifty of the men whose names were on the list were either dead, or had removed from Montreal. And yet, forsooth, Sir Wilfrid asks that we shall have a majority of all the names on the list.

I do not hesitate to characterize that demand as being the most unreasonable, and the most unfair that I ever heard or read of in all my life.

Perhaps the right hon. gentleman would like to know who Mr. Huxtable is. He tells us, in a letter written by him to the Montreal "Witness," which no doubt some hon. gentlemen opposite have seen, because that paper supports them pretty generally.

I have been a Reformer all my life. I gave my vote in the late election for Sir Wilfrid, but I will regard it henceforth as a duty I owe to my conscience, my country and my God to withhold from him my support. From all the information I can gather, such is the resolute determination of numbers of temperance men who have hitherto been his supporters.

Then, Sir, to show the unfairness of the action of the Government in this matter—in the maritime provinces, 71,000 votes were cast in favour of prohibition, and only 16,000 against. Will hon. gentlemen opposite say that these 16,000 must be heard, and the 71,000 must be ignored? I say that that is unfair treatment to the temperance

people of this country, and I feel sure that, when the proper time comes, hon. gentlemen opposite will hear of it. But the hon. Prime Minister says he never made a pledge of prohibition to the temperance people. He claims that the pledge made at the convention was made to the Liberal party. I think that everybody knows that will not work. I think that, when any party issues a platform, it is to the whole people, and it is so drafted as to catch as many of the people as possible. That is its intention, as everybody knows. So, when he says he never made a pledge to the temperance people as a body, I think that is going a little out of the way, because the Liberal platform, contained in what somebody has called the Grit bible, is addressed to the whole people. Another surprising thing is, that the Prime Minister says :

Therefore, there was not a man living who expected that at the time the plebiscite was taken the duty would be imposed on the Government of introducing a prohibitory measure, unless at least one-half the electorate recorded their votes in favour of prohibition.

Well, Sir, I say that that is most unfair, that it is not treating the temperance people in this country in anything like a fair spirit. I notice that, when the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) came forward in the convention to propose this resolution, he boasted about the high character of the Liberal party, how high morally, socially and intellectually they were, how their good character and desire to do good was drawing the young men of the country to them. I am afraid they have backslidden since that time, and that their word is not as good as it used to be. I do not intend to read these protests from several churches that I have here ; I will just read one from the Alliance, to show what their sentiment is. On March 14th, 1899, the following resolution was passed by the executive committee :—

Resolved that this meeting desires to express its strong dissatisfaction at the refusal of the Government to carry out the promise to take such steps as would give effect to the expressed will of the people, and earnestly calls upon the representatives of the people in Parliament to accept the mandate of the electorate, and carry it out by enacting such prohibitory legislation as will fairly embody the will of the people as expressed at the poll.

Now, the committee of the Methodist Conference met in Toronto, and they endorsed that, and went one or two better. They felt mortified that the Government should make such a promise, and when the vote was taken, should say : We will pay no attention to the majority, but will listen to the minority. It is pointed out by a strong supporter of hon. gentlemen opposite, that they came into office in 1896 with only 45 per cent of the vote ; yet they assumed the whole duties of Government, and nobody objected, because they had a majority of the constituents behind them. But they say

now, that they cannot trust the people, even with a good majority of votes in favour of a reform like prohibition. Let me quote a few words from some prominent supporters of hon. gentlemen opposite. The Rev. W. H. Kettlewell says :

I am so disgusted with the action of the Government in submitting a plebiscite and then fooling the voters that, given the opportunity, I would put it out of power, though I helped to place it there.

The Rev. A. D. Morton speaks as follows :—

I am now satisfied that the authorities have played a game of "bluff," and that the advocates of prohibition have allowed themselves to be duped. To me it would have been a thousand times more satisfactory if Sir Wilfrid, following the example of his predecessors, had manfully said, "I do not believe in prohibition, and will give no assurance in the matter."

That refers to Sir John Thompson. I happened to be in the Railway Committee Room, which was crowded at the time, when Sir John Thompson had the manliness to say he was not in favour of prohibition, and would not support it. But these gentlemen take the other tack. They were not in favour of prohibition, but they said : We will fool the people, and get their votes, and thus obtain power. I have here another resolution, which was passed by the Sons of Temperance. I will not read the resolution, but I can tell hon. gentlemen opposite that it was moved by one of the strongest supporters of the present Government, Mr. W. H. Orr. I have met him in the Alliance, and I judge he is one of the dyed-in-the-wool Liberals. But the whisky in the Government's policy has taken the dye pretty well out of him.

I wish to show the vote by which this Bill was carried. It will be good reading, perhaps, in the future. The first fact in this connection is, that the prohibitionists secured a majority of nearly 14,000 of the votes cast throughout the Dominion. The second fact is, that prohibition was favoured by a majority in every province, except Quebec. But that is the only place, I suppose, that counts. It was the vote of Quebec that brought these people into power in the first place, and I suppose they must do what Quebec tells them. The following are the figures, showing the majorities for prohibition in the several provinces :—

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Ontario .....               | 39,224 |
| Nova Scotia.....            | 29,244 |
| New Brunswick .....         | 17,335 |
| Prince Edward Island .....  | 8,315  |
| Manitoba .....              | 9,441  |
| British Columbia.....       | 975    |
| North-west Territories..... | 3,414  |

The third fact is, that a majority for prohibition was secured in 138 constituencies, out of 186. The fourth fact is, that, outside of Quebec, four out of five of the constituencies went in favour of prohibition. The fifth fact is, that the majority for prohibition, outside of Quebec, was 107,948. Let

me read a table giving the percentages for and against in the various provinces :

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Percentage of total vote polled for prohibition in Dominion .....       | 23 |
| Percentage of total vote outside of Quebec polled for prohibition ..... | 28 |
| Percentage against prohibition outside of Quebec .....                  | 16 |

The votes in the provinces stand as follows :—

Nova Scotia—

34 per cent for prohibition, and 5 per cent against.

New Brunswick—

30 per cent for prohibition, and 10½ per cent against.

Prince Edward Island—

37½ per cent for prohibition, and 4½ per cent against.

Manitoba—

25 per cent for prohibition, and 6 per cent against.

North-west Territories—

27 per cent for prohibition, and 12 per cent against.

Ontario—

27 per cent for prohibition, and 20 per cent against.

Now, I think, Mr. Speaker, that in view of the opposition made to the plebiscite, that is a very large vote. In the first place, on the temperance side there was no personal interest in a monetary sense whatever. The temperance voter was not going to get any pay for his vote, or for the work that he did. Whatever contribution he made to the cause, was a loss sustained by himself. On the other hand, the men in the liquor business had an interest, their business was at stake. They made a legitimate opposition to the plebiscite, and nobody complained of their endeavouring to defeat it. In view of the fact that there was no excitement, no issue other than the simple question : Will you have prohibition or not, the vote that was polled in favour of prohibition, I think, is a very strong reason why we should have it. More especially should we have it when we know that in the province of Quebec a large number of Liberal members stumped their ridings against prohibition, and at least three Ministers of the Crown went out and spoke against it. Now, Sir, I think that is most unfair. Let me read what an hon. gentleman said at a dinner that the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) said last night the Minister of Public Works gave to himself. The hon. member for Verchères and Chambly (Mr. Geoffrion), the Minister without portfolio, speaking at that banquet, on the 20th September, just nine days before the vote took place, said :

He would have the citizens of Valleyfield remember that the plebiscite was not prohibition. The plebiscite had been granted by the Government simply to redeem a promise which it had made in a moment of weakness. He spoke only as a member of the party, not as a Cabinet Minister ; but in his opinion the granting of the plebiscite was the one mistake that the Government had made. Prohibition, said Mr. Geoffrion,

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was the antithesis of Liberalism ; it was opposed to the very essence of Liberal principles. Personally he had voted for the plebiscite because the party had pledged itself to grant the vote. The same reason had influenced many of the others. The prohibitionists would have their plebiscite, but they would have no prohibition.

Now, was that a fair thing for a Minister of the Crown to do, eight or nine days before the vote was taken ? To my mind that was most unfair. I am sorry the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) is not present, because I would like to have asked him some questions in reference to this matter. There is another thing that I think ought to be very strongly put before the Government in connection with the prohibition question. It has been boldly stated on the floor of this House by an hon. member from the province of Quebec, that he knew there had been ballot stuffing, that frauds had been perpetrated in that election. It seems to me that charge should be investigated by the Government, and if it is true, the fact would afford another strong reason why we should have prohibition. There is no reason why the Government should sit idly by and see the people who honestly believe in prohibition, beaten out of it by the election being stolen from them.

An hon. MEMBER. They had an investigation in Manitoba.

Mr. WILSON. Yes, but there were political interests at stake, there they had something to gain ; but in this case they would have some political influence to lose.

Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words on reciprocity. That has been one of the strong points of the Liberal party ever since I knew anything about them. They have been willing to have reciprocity in almost any form, unrestricted, commercial union, continental free trade, or any other kind of trade that they could get. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) made no bones about saying that he wanted to get a fair reciprocity treaty with the United States, and in order to get it he was prepared to discriminate against Great Britain. I am glad to say that the Conservative party never went that far ; if they had, I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, I should have had nothing to do with them. The hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) has always been a great advocate of reciprocity with the United States. In 1890 he said :

The figures prove conclusively that we must trade with the United States, that we will trade with the United States, that even tariff walls cannot prevent us from seeking our natural custom. In spite of all the restrictions placed on our trade, we export more to the United States, and import more from the United States ; than any other country in the world, even Great Britain herself.

That was his statement in 1890. I have heard the hon. gentleman on the floor of this House a good many times, and I always thought it was a pity that he was not on

the floor of the United States Congress, because I thought he would have found its atmosphere more congenial. But I notice that in a speech that he delivered in Chicago he has changed his mind. I propose using some figures in that speech to show that reciprocity according to the hon. member for North Norfolk was not exactly what he thought it was in the old days. That hon. gentleman was chosen to move the resolution on reciprocity at the Liberal convention in 1893, on which occasion he spoke as follows:—

I conclude—for my time is nearly up—by saying that reciprocity with the United States is not only desirable, but it is essential to the prosperity of Canada. I contend that this is a question of the utmost importance. It is an arrangement that the Liberal party can make, and it is an arrangement that the Conservative party never have honestly sought to secure. They have trifled with the people of this country; they have deceived the people; they have sent bogus missions to Washington proposing impossible terms for the express purpose of not getting reciprocity, for they did not want it, and would not have taken it upon any obtainable terms. They went down with a proposal foreordained to failure—that of reciprocity in natural products alone, because for twenty years American statesmen have declared that such a proposal never would be entertained. They have insulted your intelligence, they have trifled with your interests, and now if you desire reciprocity place your confidence in a party that will make honest efforts to secure it, and, I stake my reputation, will secure it if they are given the opportunity.

The hon. gentlemen have been given an opportunity; they have been in office for three years, they have not got us reciprocity yet. Did these hon. gentlemen ever want it; they have not wanted it during all these three years. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) told us time and again that it was our natural market. They went down there and spent six months, and the "Globe" said about the time they were coming back that they could see from the beginning that there was no chance of getting reciprocity; that the American people were protectionists and intended to stand by it. Well, Sir, they came into my county in the election in 1891 with reciprocity, and they beat me on it, or rather they beat me because I did not attend to the voters' lists. Here is a little sample of the kind of documents that were circulated in Lennox:

To the individual farmer, reciprocity would give 30 cents additional value on every bushel of barley, 40 cents on every bushel of peas, 40 cents on every bushel of potatoes, \$4 a ton on hay, \$30 on every horse worth less than \$150, \$10 on every head of cattle more than a year old, \$1.50 on every sheep a year old, 75 cents on every lamb, and a similar increase upon every character of farm produce. Total amount that will be taken from the pockets of the Canadian farmers in one year, \$5,820,000.

Now, Sir, this pamphlet pointed out that there was a way to get rid of that:

If the farmers desire the removal of the enormous barriers that have been placed between them and their natural market by the above schedule of duties, they have the remedy in their own hands—by supporting the Liberal party, the leaders of which have shown their earnestness in advocating a broad measure of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, the desired change can be effected.

Now, Sir, I contend that the United States has never treated us fairly, and the reason I take this matter up is that the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) took it up, and I just took occasion to look it up a little further back. The old province of Canada was very anxious to have a reciprocity treaty with the United States, and in 1847 they made this change: The rate of duty at that time on American goods was 12½ per cent, and the old province of Canada reduced it to 7½ per cent. The rate of duty on goods coming in from Great Britain was 5 per cent and they raised it to 7½ per cent, the object being to place them both upon an equal footing in order that they would have a good opportunity of getting a reciprocity treaty from the United States. But in spite of that the Americans would have nothing to do with it. The old province of Canada made an offer in 1849, but to no purpose. Sir Francis Hincks visited Washington in 1850 to get a reciprocity treaty, but failed. They did get a reciprocity treaty in 1854, which I think was mutually beneficial to the United States and to Canada, but as soon as the time expired they gave the necessary notice, and the treaty was terminated in 1866. In the first session after confederation Canada offered to enter into reciprocal relations with the United States, but they refused, and again in 1869 an offer was refused. I do not think it will be worth while for me to go through the whole schedule, but there are perhaps a few items that I might call attention to. There is something that the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) has just discovered, and which the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) has been looking for during a long time, and so far as I know, has not yet discovered. It is the home market. The hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) in his Chicago speech, said:

Canada was not relying upon the American market for the disposal of her farm products, the development of manufacturing interests in Canada furnished a local market of an extensive character.

Mr. Charlton, in his Chicago speech, told the Chicago people that their tariff since 1867 had always been two or three times as high as ours. He also showed them that the balance of trade was against Canada to the tune of over \$45,000,000 in 1898, and that since 1872 the balance of trade against Canada has been \$333,372,000. Still the American people want to live by themselves, and I do not know, from what the right hon. Prime Minister said the other day, but what

he is disposed to let them. In 1893 they took in animals and their products from Canada \$4,192,920, while to other countries we shipped \$4,301,470. Of agricultural products the United States took from us in 1898, \$1,135,307 worth, while we sent to all other countries \$33,215,188 worth. So that we sold to the United States of agricultural products and animals and their products \$5,327,227 worth, and to the rest of the world \$77,516,658; or, in other words, we sold to the United States of these classes of products 6½ per cent, while Canada's export to Great Britain was 90 per cent. It does seem to me that our natural market is not quite so strong in the United States as hon. gentlemen have represented it to be. Our total exports to Great Britain last year amounted to \$104,781,787, and the balance of trade as against Great Britain and in favour of us was \$71,960,000. They talk about our natural market, but you would think to hear these hon. gentlemen speak when they were in Opposition, when they occupied seats on this side of the House, that Canada lived for the United States. I have always contended that our natural market is the country which buys our goods, the consumer, and that if we only ship our goods to the United States, and they ship them to Great Britain they get the middleman's profit, whereas we are just as able to do that business ourselves and take our profit. That is the true policy for the Canadian people, and that is what I am favourable to and what my vote will be given for. The hon. member for North Norfolk went on to say that, notwithstanding the 12½ per cent preference that England got last year from Canada, the increase of imports from that country was smaller than from the United States as is shown by the following statement:—The total imports from Great Britain in 1897 amounted to \$29,539,576 while during 1898 they were \$32,827,043, an increase of \$3,287,467, or an increased per cent of 11·12. From the United States in 1897, we imported \$70,766,000 worth, and in 1898, \$86,587,000, an increase of \$15,821,000, or a percentage of increase of 22·35. Notwithstanding that last year we gave 12½ per cent preferential rate to Great Britain, they paid 29·06 per cent duty on their goods coming into Canada, while the United States only paid 25·04 duty, showing that notwithstanding the preferential tariff which hon. gentlemen opposite claim they have given to the mother country, still the manufacturers of Great Britain had to pay last year 4 per cent more for getting her goods into the Canadian market than did our neighbours to the south. I believe that was all arranged by the Government, because I believe that when the tariff was fixed it was fixed with the view, that while they pretended to give this great advantage to the mother country, they would lose but little in the way of revenue. There is another point about this tariff which is very singular to my mind. 72½ per cent of the goods on

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the free list are American goods, while 17·07 are British goods, and 9·08 per cent of goods on the free list come from the rest of the world. That shows whether these hon. gentlemen opposite have been as loyal and patriotic to the mother country as they pretend; my own judgment is the very opposite. I may conclude by quoting the words of Mr. McKinley when he introduced his tariff Bill into the House of Representatives of the United States. He said:

This Bill is an American Bill; it is made for the American people and American interests. We are not legislating for any nation but our own, for our people and for no other people are we charged with the duty of legislation. We say to our foreign brethren: We will not interfere with your domestic legislation; we admonish you to keep your hands off of ours.

Sir, I commend to the hon. gentlemen opposite the words of Mr. McKinley. It is the policy for Canada to pursue hereafter, and if we legislate in our own interests, instead of looking after these markets that there is nothing in for us, we will be better off. I did intend to refer to the inconsistencies of hon. gentlemen opposite, but I will dispense with it now, further than to say, that there seems to be a wide difference of opinion between the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) and the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson). Once in a while the hon. member for Centre Toronto makes a speech and he talks like a Tory, and then the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) writes in his paper that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bertram) is a Tory in disguise, that it is strange he is supporting the Liberal party, and the hon. member for Lisgar winds up by demanding that the Government should carry out their pre-election pledges and give us free trade. Then the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) comes to the rescue of the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) and he tells the people that the tariff is a dead issue, that it is settled, and that the Liberals will stand by it; and the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) answers: We have elected you to carry out your pledges, we want you to stand by them, and the tariff issue is not dead by any means. It appears to me, Sir, that these hon. gentlemen ought to settle their little differences amongst themselves, before they say that their tariff policy has conferred any greater benefit upon the country than did the tariff policy of the Conservative party.

Mr. C. A. GAUVREAU. (Temiscouata). (Translation). Mr. Speaker, while I do not pretend to constitute myself on the floor of Parliament the champion of the French language, and opposed as I am to stirring up in this House or outside of it race and creed prejudices, still, I may be allowed to point out the fact that a good many French-speaking members have used their mother-tongue in addressing the House this year,

and it is to be hoped that such a good habit will be persevered in, more particularly after the words just fallen from the young and eloquent member from North Simcoe. The French language has imprescriptible rights here, under the constitution of this country, and I deem it good policy from time to time to remind the House of that fact. We have, it is true, the Speech from the Throne, delivered yearly at the opening of each session by the representative of Her Majesty, proposed and seconded in the same way in the House of Commons, but that seems to me a little too platonical and I do not think I lay myself open to the reproach of jingoism when I say that, from the standpoint of a higher and uncontrovertable interest, we should go still further and walk in the footsteps of the hon. gentlemen who have during this debate addressed the House in French. I am well aware, as remarked by the hon. member for Gaspé, (Mr. Lemieux) that, in order to take an efficient part in the debates of the House, one must be able to speak, if not classically, at least fluently, the English language; but I may remark, Sir, that among those who have preceded us here, several have taken an active part in the debates of the House, in the French language. A name now recurs to my mind, among others, that of a man who often addressed the House, a man who was esteemed by everybody and who had no enemies; a man who through a railway accident was snatched from the affections of his friends and the admiration of those who were acquainted with him; a man, of whom, the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) said, upon a memorable occasion: that he was one of the most able, one of the most esteemed and one of the most conscientious members that ever sat on the floor of this House, and that no one could know him without admiring his strong, yet at the same time genial qualities.

I refer to our former colleague, my fellow-member as a notary, the regretted Mr. Dupont, member for Parliament for the county of Bagot. Every session, he used to stand up and address the House in French, a language he could wield with such mastery, either in defending his friends in power or later on in attacking the policy of his opponents, when a majority of the electorate of this country decided, in their wisdom, that it was time for a change of administration. Now, Mr. Speaker, although I do not possess the attainments nor the influence of our departed friend, I intend, however, to speak my mother-tongue so long as circumstances will allow, that is to say, so long as the electors of the county of Témiscouata, whom I represent here,—notwithstanding all the hon. member for Beauharnois may think and say—will continue to favour me with the confidence they have placed in me on the 6th of November, 1897; and were I to remain alone, I shall still say with the great poet, Victor Hugo:

“If there was but one, I would be that one.”  
But I shall not remain alone; others will follow that example. And the day is perhaps not far distant when a representative of the English-speaking element of this country will be seen rising in his seat and addressing the House in the French language, amidst the plaudits of all Canadians, irrespective of race and religion.

The French language is the language of diplomacy, and it expresses warm feelings of the heart just as well as the cold arguments of reason; and it affords me a real pleasure to tell the country what I think of the policy of the Liberal party in the language familiar to those who sent me here to voice their feelings and their expectations. I listened with satisfaction to some of the words fallen from the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain), and I applauded his courage and his pluck, when he stood up and told the House that the province of Quebec does not feel the want of a prohibition law, because her population is as sober and as moral as that of any other province of Canada and because they have at their disposal a local option law, the operation of which is all that can be desired. The hon. gentleman could bring no stronger proof that the people of Quebec are a sober and moral people than this fact, that, out of the nine hundred municipalities of which the province of Quebec is composed, there are seven hundred which, in their wisdom, through the organ of their councils, had deemed it fit not to grant any licenses within the limits of their jurisdiction. Take the county of Témiscouata, one of the most progressive counties of the province, and one justly noted for the morality of its population, and out of twenty-four municipalities, you will find that only one municipality, that of Fraserville, has thought it desirable to grant licenses. Not only is the province of Quebec justly remarkable for the morality of her population, but the people are just as loyal there as in any other province of confederation, and in that regard, her past record is a guarantee for the future. After what we have heard from the hon. Minister of Public Works, who has borne witness in clear and unmistakable tones to the loyalty of the Quebec population to the British Crown, French and Canadian though her people still remain at heart, I hope we shall hear no more about that question. But, Sir, if I have applauded some statements of the hon. member for Montmorency, I can not say the same of the speech pronounced by the member for Compton (Mr. Pope), which was nothing but a gratuitous insult offered to our province. While I am forbidden by the rules of the House to give the lie to the hon. gentleman, still I think it my duty to protest most emphatically against the charges he has levelled at the province of Quebec, when he stated that the majority, after the close of the polls, had been swelled by some occult means, and the ballot-boxes tampered with. Fortunately, prohibition is

now a dead issue, so far as any future action of the Dominion Government is concerned, the vote on the plebiscite having dealt it a deadly blow, and I am glad to think that we have heard the last of that question and that it will never come up again for debate before this House. The contest was carried on quite peacefully throughout our rural constituencies; there was no agitation and the position taken by the clergy was a noble and unbiassed one. Those clergymen who thought it their duty to refer to the question, confined themselves to general explanations about the proposed legislation, while others kept silent on the matter, thus showing how much they relied upon the intelligence of the people, and how sure they felt that education,—which by the way is fast spreading throughout the province—and sound advice would turn the scale in the right direction.

Now, how did our opponents behave during the campaign which preceded the plebiscite vote on prohibition? I do not know what took place in other constituencies, but I may say that in Témiscouata, I had an opportunity of judging of the tactics of our opponents during one of my stumping tours through my constituency last summer, where I reviewed before the people the question of prohibition and the policy of the Liberal party. Now, what did our opponents say? They would tell the electors: "Vote for prohibition, so as to embarrass the Government. Should a majority in the country declare in favour of prohibition, the Government would have to redeem their pledges, and owing to a decreased revenue, they would be forced to impose direct taxation in order to face the deficit; and with direct taxation imposed by this Government, our coming into power would only be a question of time." This is what the Conservatives were heard to say throughout the county of Témiscouata. I entertain not the least doubt that, if an agitation had been carried on on a larger scale in Quebec, that province would have given a still larger vote against prohibition.

I think I would be remiss in my duty towards the electors of the province of Quebec and towards the strictly French Canadian electorate of the county of Témiscouata, if I did not now protest against the accusations brought down on the floor of this House in connection with the stuffing of the ballot-boxes and the supposed swelling of the vote against prohibition, after the close of the polls. That is a groundless accusation, because, were it well grounded, the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Pope) would not have failed to place upon the Orders of the Day an advice of motion for an investigation on the matter and undoubtedly the Government would have acceded to that request, confident as we are that such an investigation would result in vindicating our honour, and in bringing to confusion and to shame the slanders of our province. The hon.

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member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) and his friends told us that in 1896, during the electoral contest, appeals had been made to religious and racial prejudices. Now, Sir, in view of the record and well-known traditions of the Conservative party, I think the hon. gentlemen were ill-advised in making such statements. No doubt, the contest was a very bitter one, and the blows dealt on both sides, were keenly felt. But, I ask, had we not the right to tell our fellow-countrymen how glorious and creditable it would be to our people, were a French Canadian Prime Minister put at the head of public affairs in the Dominion? Besides, Sir, the Conservatives did not scruple to tell the people in 1896, and I speak with knowledge, as those words were spoken within my hearing, that "it was better to vote for a fanatical Protestant who was well disposed towards us, than for an unscrupulous Catholic who refused to mete out justice to our people." Now, granting, as I have said, that there were abuses, what do those abuses amount to, compared with the insults and charges almost daily directed by the Tory press against the province of Quebec? They said that we were a backward province, where education was at a low ebb; they have outraged us in our feelings; they have scoffed at us, they have called us an ignorant people, drunkards, &c. For my part, Mr. Speaker, I am not ready to receive an insult without wincing, and despite the evangelical counsel, when I am slapped on one cheek, I am not ready to offer the other cheek to the blows of my opponents. I expected that the hon. member for Montmorency would stand up like a man on the floor of the House and hurl back that insult at our traducers: but, instead of that, he thought it better to throw the responsibility upon the Liberal party, for having brought the prohibition issue before the people. Although I disclaim any intention of stirring up race prejudices, Sir, I make bold to say that when we are so brutally slapped in the face, we have a right to tell our fellow-countrymen that they must scorn these insults, just as we have a right to boast of the fact that a French Canadian is at the head of affairs and is ruling the country so as to deserve the applause of all, irrespective of race and religion, and so as to compare favourably with any English-speaking statesman who has ever ruled the country, since and prior to confederation. They have even dared on the floor of the House to impute as a crime to the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) the fact of having floated a French flag, on one mast, on board a Government boat, while the English flag was flying from the other mast of the boat.

Now, Sir, when we hear those reproaches, which are so little calculated to improve the union and the good entente which ought to prevail among the different races in this free country of ours; when we hear such

language, which should never have found a responsive echo within these parliamentary halls, it is but the seed of dissensions, which ought to be uprooted from our soil. I no longer wonder that certain fanatical journals talk of reconquering the province of Quebec. Let them remember that the province of Quebec was never conquered but transferred to Great Britain; and although the horizon of our political history may have been sometimes more or less cloudy, we have had, so far, no ground to complain of the sovereignty of Great Britain. But I take comfort in the thought that those papers do not represent the opinion of the right-thinking men in Ontario. Two very significant facts, which speak volumes by themselves are that a French Canadian now presides over the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, while another French Canadian has been recognized and acclaimed by the Liberals as the leader of this House.

I now approach the Manitoba school question. I was under the impression that the question had been definitely settled and that it was a dead issue, so far as the future action of the Dominion Parliament was concerned. I reckoned that it had been removed from the federal arena to the local arena where it should have always remained for the good of the country; but he that reckons without his host, must reckon twice, and I reckoned without those politicians who think it necessary, so to say, to resuscitate, to galvanize this dead issue; not that they wish to secure a fuller measure of justice for our fellow-countrymen, but because they wish to retain what is slipping through their fingers. I mean to say, the vote of their constituents who begin to realize that it is high time to put a stop to those political struggles which are checking the development of the country and prevent it winging its flight towards the serene regions of peace, of mutual good feeling, where we might all co-operate to the aggrandizement and development of our common country, a country which has hardly shaken off its colonial shackles and is aspiring to become an independent nation, living under the shadow of the flag of Great Britain, one of the most civilized nations in the world.

I hope that our past experience will teach our hon. friends opposite a lesson. They have tried double-dealing in that Manitoba school question, before the electorate of the province of Quebec. Let me call the attention of my hon. friends to the following article that appeared in the journal "La Vérité" during the electoral campaign of 1896. "Double-dealing," such is the heading of the article. By the way, I may say that this journal is more Conservative than Liberal:

Many Catholics will say: Since Sir Charles Tupper himself declares that Mr. Laurier will go further in the direction of justice, let us vote for Laurier.

What can you expect from a political party, so narrow-minded, and with such illiberal ideas?

The Conservative party to-day, seems to aspire to but one thing: to remain at the head of affairs, at any cost, and they seem to dread but one thing: the coming of the opposite party into power. All the rest is of secondary importance to them.

And further on it said:

In the other provinces, the Conservative leaders oppose Mr. Laurier on the ground that he is too favourable to the claims of the Manitoba minority, and as hostile to the Dicky-bill, because that Bill does not go far enough in favour of the Catholic minority.

But we warn the Conservative party that this mode of warfare, this "double-dealing" does them no credit; and though it may not be wanting in cleverness, it will do Mr. Laurier more good than harm.

They were taught the lesson by way of a crushing defeat. Let us hope that it bear fruit in the future. At all events, I hope that the discussion raised by the Opposition on that question are the dying echoes of a past struggle. If there are still any grievances somewhere, let the authorized voice of authority speak out, and we will do what can be done; or, let them offer us a still more satisfactory settlement than the one which has been accepted, and the matter will be taken into consideration. As that settlement does not seem to give satisfaction to the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Marcotte), who seems to have adopted as his line of business to deal with the Manitoba school question, he might perhaps move a vote of want of confidence, seconded by his colleague the hon. member for West York (Mr. Clark Wallace). As to the Senate reform, I must confess to my incompetency to deal with it, according to its merits; still, I may be allowed to tell those gentlemen who stated in the public prints or before the House that, if there were a vote taken on that question, 95 per cent of the electors in the Quebec province would declare in favour of the abolition of the Upper Chamber, that they have proclaimed aloud a truth which is everywhere said in a whisper. But, in that matter of reform, I am not in favour of extreme measures and, accordingly, I believe that the scheme of joint meeting of the two Houses in case of a conflict would certainly result advantageously to Canada. The sooner this reform is carried out, the better it will prove for the peace of the country in general and the stability of affairs in particular.

The most grievous charge brought against the Government is that of not having fulfilled the pledges given to the electorate. But, Mr. Speaker, have we not erased from the Statute-book that iniquitous Act which they had styled the Electoral Franchise Act, which was a direct infringement of the right of the provinces had to control their own election lists, without any cost to the public treasury? The repeal of that Act was hailed with delight by the people and by no action of theirs, the Government have won more sympathies from the people than by the

redemption of the pledge given to the electorate, in connection with the control of their own franchise, even had the Government during their three years of power done nothing else but redeemed that promise which has saved the public treasury thousands of dollars, they would have deserved well of the country. But they have done more. Are we to reckon as of no value to the country the preferential tariff, the denunciation, so-called impossible, of the treaties with Belgium and Germany, the tax imposed upon the newspapers having a wide circulation, the decentralization of the dead letters' office, whereby a prompt delivery was secured; the domestic letter rate postage reduced by one-third; the establishment on a practical basis of the cold storage system; the extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal, which before long will become an accomplished fact; the civil and administrative organization of the Yukon territories? And what shall we say of the influx of immigrants into the country? Under the Conservative régime, under their system of extreme protection, the exodus of our population to the United States was the curse of the country; we have lost hundreds of thousands of our countrymen, those poor children of the soil who were forced into exile, by a so-called National Policy, under which they were starved in their own country. Never shall I forget that portion of the speech delivered by the young and eloquent member for Drummond and Arthabaska before the Quebec Legislative Assembly, where, at the melancholy sight of so many fellow-countrymen forced to expatriate themselves and go to the United States, in the face of the guilty carelessness of the Conservative Government of the time, who, with folded arms, saw them departing without doing anything to help them, he pictured vividly those troops of emigrants marching off in file before the Ministers, and like the Romans of old crying out: *Cæsar, the men who are going to die greet you.*" What a change from those times, Sir. Now, under a Liberal régime, under the tariff reform system, with new and clever business men at the head of affairs, our exports are increasing and our credit is on a sounder basis; the failures are on the decrease. Not only do we keep our own population at home, but, owing to a numerous and effective body of agents stationed in the United States by the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), our exiled compatriots are being repatriated, and were it given us to see them passing before the Ministers instead of saluting *Cæsar*, before dying on a foreign land, we would hear them thanking the Government for having, through their beneficent policy, been brought back to their native land. While I am on my feet, I would like to tell the House that the visit paid by the Canadian Ministers to Washington was an event of considerable historical importance.

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and one that will go on record as one of the brightest pages of our history. We hope that the conference held at Washington will result most advantageously to the country. Moreover, when I recall to mind the beneficent results of the presence of our Prime Minister at the Jubilee celebration in London in 1897, I think I may say that fortune smiles upon him and that he succeeds in all. No wonder, then, that the Hon. Mr. Ross, the eloquent Minister of Public Instruction for the province of Ontario, after the occasion of the inauguration of the Laurier Club in Toronto, uttered the following words on the record and traditions of the Liberal party. I thought it well to read them to the House, as they express, under a lofty style, a great truth:—

The history of our party in England as in Canada, is the history of progress, and there is not one reform there and here which was not conceived, advocated and supported by the Liberals. Laurier is the Gambetta of his race and all his province is with him. The French Canadians love him for his magnetism, for his public virtues, for his lofty eloquence, for his indisputable talent and because he combines in himself Carriér's firmness, Papineau's ardour and valour, with Lafontaine's tact and cleverness. Mr. Laurier has such an ascendancy over the whole Canadian people that in Ontario as well as in Quebec and the maritime provinces the English are as sincerely devoted to him as they were to Brown, to Mackenzie and to Blake.

With such men now at the head of our affairs, our country is not likely to go backward, but on the contrary we go forward towards the most serene heights, which is the supreme ambition of nations and individuals alike, who wish to have a history of their own.

Mr. J. H. LEGRIS (Maskinongé). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to take the time of the House at any great length; I only wish to contribute a few words. Since this debate is on, we have often heard some very interesting contributions to the discussion. Floods of eloquence have flowed from the lips of a number of hon. gentlemen who have participated in this debate. But, I think the House will agree with me that the constant repetition of the same trite arguments constitutes in this case the dark side of the picture. From the very outset of the debate on the Speech from the Throne, it often occurred to me that we might perhaps take example by the other countries and adopt some means of restricting within its proper bounds the duration of the debate, thus damming up that torrent of words, and too often useless words, which has deluged the House, from the opening of the session. I know that in some countries, governed by a constitution similar to ours, means have been resorted to in order to curtail the debate. Such proceedings, however, are undoubtedly attended with drawbacks. Extreme remedies always have grave inconveniences, and that is why

it is perhaps better, in this case for us to submit to the annoyances resulting from the abuse of the liberty of speech, rather than lay ourselves open to the reproach of resorting to drastic means in order to abridge the debate. At all events, I do not wish to fall into the sin I have just pointed out, I will endeavour to make my remarks as brief as possible.

It would be idle to repeat here that the Government since their coming into power, have done a great deal for the good of the country. As we all know, they have put a stop to the feuds that had been raging for years among the different religious denominations in Canada. They have also brought back peace and harmony among the various elements of our population. They have done away with these abuses which had crept up in the management of public affairs, more particularly during the last years of the late Government, abuses which constitute a black spot in the records of this country. We have seen confidence restored to the trade and industries of the country. This is evidenced by the large volume of our trade which has increased by \$50,000,000. No better evidence could be found of the progress realized by the country. Our opponents do not question this fact, but claim the credit for it. We are quite willing to let them enjoy this little bit of comfort, provided they show their good will by allowing the Government to administer public affairs for the greatest good of the country. Through the wise policy of the Government under the skilful leadership of the Prime Minister, Canada has been placed in a most enviable position, and is enjoying a credit it had never reached before.

Canada has also largely benefited by the presence of the Prime Minister in London during the celebrations of the Queen's Jubilee, as also by the honours paid him in Paris and in the capital of the United States. A new era of prosperity and of progress unheard of before has in consequence dawned upon Canada. As a representative of an essentially agricultural constituency, I wish to draw the attention of the House in a particular manner to what has been done by the Government to promote the progress of the farming community. We all know the great advantages that have accrued to the farmers from the reorganization of the cold storage system. We all know what an impetus has been given to the exportation of our agricultural products by the system of refrigerators; and how largely the farming community has benefited by it. That fact having been so often referred to and proclaimed on the floor of the House since the opening of the session, I do not think it necessary to dilate any longer upon that subject.

There is another question which was referred to by some hon. gentlemen who spoke before me, and one which has greatly contri-

buted to the progress and improvement of our agricultural interests: I refer to what has been secured by the hon. Minister of Agriculture, by the abrogation of the quarantine regulations in the United States. We all know, and more particularly those who have travelled through the rural constituencies know, in what a large measure our cattle trade has benefited by that action of the hon. Minister of Agriculture. The cattle trade, to-day, is a paying trade and is giving us very large returns, for which we are indebted to the efforts and the ability displayed by the hon. Minister of Agriculture, who has succeeded in having cancelled the quarantined regulations which proved so injurious to the export of our cattle to the United States. The better to illustrate my meaning, let me give some figures. For a period of four years, during which our cattle trade was under the quarantine regulations of the United States, we exported only 6,000 head of cattle, representing a value of \$50,000, while since the quarantine regulations were cancelled, we have exported, within two years, 167,000 head of cattle, representing a value of \$2,100,000. These statistics give us a fair idea of the importance of that trade and of the advantages that have accrued to the cattle breeders through the efforts and the energy displayed by the Government in securing from the United States the abrogation of the quarantine regulations. The farming community in Canada, as I said, has largely benefited thereby. The people are also greatly indebted to the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) for the efforts and for the energy he has put forth in another direction, in connection with the growing of Canadian tobacco. We all know that tobacco can be grown here, but it had been so much neglected that it was almost unknown in Canada. As soon as the new tariff was adopted, a measure which was well calculated to encourage the growing of native leaf by our farmers, most satisfactory steps were taken, with the result that, last year, the crop was four times larger than it was before, and ten new tobacco factories were started with a view to turning to use the native leaf tobacco. Such results are assuredly well calculated to foster our home industry and the population in the tobacco-growing districts owe certainly a debt of gratitude to the Government on that score. But I do not think the Government ought to rest satisfied with these measures, for which they may justly claim credit, and they ought not to consider their task as at an end; and therefore, I hope that, should they see their way to modify anew the tariff, they will not fail to alter the regulations concerning the tobacco manufactures, so that those regulations instead of retarding the growth of that industry, may, on the contrary give it a new impetus. I hope that they will foster the cultivation of tobacco, by remodelling the existing regula-

tions, which have been framed since the tariff reform was enforced. The changes which ought to be carried out in this connection should be made with a view to making it still more stringent upon the manufacturers to turn to use the native leaf tobacco. There are millions and millions of dollars to be realized in the growing of our native leaf tobacco and so far, those millions have found their way into the pockets of tobacco-growers in foreign countries, who have exported here their output. I see no reason why we should not keep that capital in the country, instead of sending it abroad in order to bring raw material which we can produce here.

There is another question I would like to deal with, and I am glad to see that the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) is in his seat, as I wish particularly to draw his attention to the matter. A little while ago, Mr. John Northwood, of Chatham, Ontario, addressed to the members of this House a letter, informing us that some capitalists were disposed to invest the necessary capital in the building of beet-root sugar manufactures. As all the hon. gentlemen, I presume, have received the same communication, and, as the matter will come under the consideration of the Government and of the Minister of Agriculture, I take the liberty to draw the attention of the Minister to that industry which keeps in store for our agricultural interests a future replete with prosperity.

Did it ever occur to any hon. gentleman here to calculate the revenues which this beet-root sugar industry might yield to the farming community? I do not know, but I will take the liberty to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture to a few statistics now before me. We yearly expend a sum of \$7,500,000 in round numbers, for the sugar which we import from abroad. The commission, freight and insurance charges on that import, estimated at 20 per cent represents a further sum of a million and a half. That gives us the enormous sum of about \$9,000,000 which we yearly expend abroad in purchasing sugar for home uses. The country having a presumed population of five million inhabitants and the quantity of sugar consumed, according to statistics, being 70 pounds per head of the population. This gives us an average of 150,000 tons imported each year into the country. I have not the least doubt that the soil and climate of Canada are admirably adapted to the growing of beet-root sugar. In order to supply the country with the required quantity of sugar, every year, we should have at least from forty to fifty well equipped manufactures. Each one of those manufactures, with the necessary machinery, would cost in the neighbourhood of from \$350,000 and \$400,000. It will be readily seen what an enormous amount of capital would have to be invested and expended in the construction of those manufactures alone, a

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capital which would be distributed between the labour and the various building materials, such as stone, iron, lime, &c. The building of those manufactures would then represent a capital of from fifteen to sixteen million dollars. The feeding of each manufacture would require about three thousand acres of land under cultivation. The produce of each acre of land is estimated at from \$40 to \$50. That would give a yearly revenue of about \$140,000, to be distributed between the farmers of each locality, and by which about 600 families would benefit.

Now, if we turn our attention to the improvement which would accrue from those crops to the generally exhausted lands in our older provinces, it seems to me that the Government cannot hesitate to encourage this industry, in the same way as they encourage every other infant industry which is being implanted here. In order to produce the quantity of sugar adequate to the needs of the consumers in the country, it would be necessary to have 120,000 acres under cultivation. Those crops would of necessity improve those lands and a large number of families, say 24,000 or 25,000 would benefit by the advantages resulting from this new farming industry. The farmers, surely deserve consideration at our hands. It is also well known that the production of beet-root sugar gives an immense quantity of pulp which could be advantageously turned to use in the feeding of cattle. That would give a new impetus to the dairy industry and to stock-breeding for the meat market. As it is an uncontrovertable fact that one industry invites another industry, it cannot be questioned that this industry being unquestionably of such considerable importance, a concatenation of several other industries would follow close behind the former. Therefore, it is to be hoped that the hon. Minister of Agriculture will take under his serious consideration this scheme and will urge upon the Government the desirability of granting a bonus so as to secure the implanting of this industry in the country, should a favourable opportunity offer.

One of the subjects which have engrossed our attention during this debate is that of the exodus to the United States and it was stated on the floor of the House that a stop had been put to that exodus. Reference has also been made to foreign immigrants who are pouring into the country, to swell the number of our population. I regret to say that I cannot share the opinion of those who rejoice at the fact that the exodus to the United States has stopped. I have often seen and I see every day Canadian families leaving the country; though, as I am told by one of my hon. friends, the number of those who leave may possibly be not quite so large as it was formerly—but, at all event, Sir, those families deserve consideration at our hands, and I can see no better way of putting a stop to that exodus than by offering to the farming community the advantages that would be secured by the

implanting of a new agricultural industry. This would provide for our farmers a means of earning a livelihood, and it would be a powerful inducement for them to remain in the country. While I am dealing with the matter of immigration, I may be allowed to offer a suggestion: As already remarked by some hon. gentleman, instead of spending large sums of money to bring into the country foreigners, would it not be better to take some measures, in order to induce our own fellow-countrymen to remain here? Those fellow-countrymen who go over to the United States have rights here, they have contributed their share to the large sums expended by the Government for the development of the country; they have also supported the charges of the enormous public debt that has been piling up for years, and, therefore, I say, they have vested rights here. Let the Government make fresh efforts; let them continue the work they have so well begun, and I have not the least doubt that they will succeed, not only in keeping our people at home, but that if they would consent to take a portion of the moneys voted for promoting foreign immigration into the province of Manitoba and the North-west Territories, and apply it to the repatriation and settling down in the same territories of those who were forced into exile, they would deserve well from the country.

A great deal has been said, during this debate, about the Senate reform. We are informed that the Government propose to introduce a measure in that direction. I have but a few words to say on the matter. We all know that the Senate was intended, by the framers of our constitution, to be a bulwark for the rights of minorities. Now, Sir, has the Catholic minority in New Brunswick ever received protection at the hands of the Senate? Has the Senate proved a bulwark for the protection of the Catholic minority in Manitoba? That the Senate was to be composed of non-partisan members is clearly shown from the debates on confederation. It was to be devoid of all partisanship, such was to be its distinguishing features. Now, I ask, what more flagrant contradiction can there be found than this? Do we require any further proof, to be satisfied that the Senate is more partisan than the House of Commons?

An hon. MEMBER. (Translation.) Hear, hear.

Mr. LEGRIS. (Translation.) Do we need any further evidence that the Senate never did protect the minorities, and that they never extended their protection to any one but to the party by which it was, so to say, brought to life? I regret to say that we have seen more partisanship in the Senate than there is in this House. How could things be otherwise? The former Government invariably appointed to the Senate blind partisans who had earned their promotion to that post by their services to the party. They

always selected their candidates to senatorships among those who had done yeoman service for the party. Now, is it reasonable to suppose that a senator, from the moment that he enters that body is going to put off the old man, to become a new man, and that he will forget the men to whom he is indebted for his position? I do not believe it. That is not a possible thing. The Conservative Governments are responsible for the present state of things, and I do not believe it to be possible for any Government—be it the Government of the day, or be it any of the succeeding Governments—to remedy the evil. No, were they even willing to do it. I do not think they could do so. As soon as vacancies will occur in the Senate, they will be filled up by faithful partisans, so as to keep in check the Conservative phalanx on the other side of the House.

There might be some comfort to us in thinking that perhaps—the Senate might represent the views of the people. But, we ought to bear in mind that we are living at a time when the people rules through their mandatories, and it is more and more to the representatives elected by the people that go the responsibilities nowadays. Now, the Senate is a mere mockery of the rights of the people, and the better to illustrate my meaning, let me refer to what happened a few years ago. The hon. gentlemen who sat here during the last Parliament, will no doubt remember what happened in Montreal, in December, 1895, upon the occasion of a by-election in Montreal Centre. Dr. Hingston, the present senator for the Rougement division, was running for the House of Commons against Mr. McShane. The people, after comparing the merits of the two candidates, rendered their verdict in favour of Mr. McShane. In the month of January, 1896, the Government then in power, outraged the population of Montreal Centre, by taking by the hand the man who had been spurned by the electors of that division and defeated as a candidate to the House of Commons, and appointing him to the Senate, there to revise the acts of the man they had chosen to represent them on the floor of this House. This is not a solitary instance. Moreover, every senator believes he is Almighty. But some of those senators who believed themselves all-powerful, once ran for this House of Commons; they went to the country, and appealed to the electorate, under the impression that the electors would entrust them with a mandate. But we know how sad was their defeat and deep their humiliation. In virtue of the constitutional principles now in vogue, the men who hold the reins of power must be the mandatories of the people. The Senate is an irresponsible body and is not accountable to the people for its conduct. For my part, I am opposed to irresponsibility, wherever it may happen to be found. I know that several good reasons are alleged in favour of the maintenance of the Senate, and I would not question the value of those arguments, if only the Senate

was what it ought to be ; but, in view of the position of the senators, in view of the party spirit prevailing among them, and of the fact that they are appointed for life ; considering, moreover, that a too large number of senators are impotent invalids, I cannot but come to the conclusion that it is apparently impossible to remedy these inconveniences. For my part, I would like to see the Government, rather than trying to reform the Upper Chamber—unless that be a first step towards the complete abolition of the Senate—propose to us the suppression of the Senate. Our opponents charge that we want to abolish the Senate, because that House has thrown out some Bills passed by a large majority of this House. No, Sir, such is not the motive that prompts our action in this instance ; and that is a further evidence of the inconsistency of our opponents. On the other hand, we are quite aware that the Liberal party in 1893, pledged themselves to the reform of the Senate ; and therefore, no such consideration as they attribute to us can control our present action. But, as I said, owing to the fact that it is well nigh impossible to make the Upper Chamber a useful body, I would prefer to see it abolished. I shall not dilate any further on that subject, but, before resuming my seat, I am happy to say that the hon. gentlemen who sit upon the Treasury benches, who had my support and the support of the people at the last elections, are not open to the reproach of having broken their pledges. The Government have done quite enough. I am perfectly satisfied with what they have done so far ; and it is enough to entitle them to the confidence of the people of this country. Our opponents say that the Government have not redeemed the pledges given by them, when they sat on the other side. I think the hon. gentlemen opposite would like the Government to achieve reforms which would bring down on them the condemnation of the electorate. The city of Paris was not built in one day, and the Ministers, if they have not yet fulfilled all their pledges, will redeem them without unnecessary delay, and when favourable opportunities offer.

Mr. McDOUGALL. Mr. Speaker, as the hour is late, I beg to move the adjournment of the debate.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on.

Mr. McDOUGALL. I cannot possibly finish my remarks to-night.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I have an agreement with my hon. friend from York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) that the House will sit until 12 o'clock.

Mr. McDOUGALL. It is now within a few minutes to twelve.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). If it is the intention of my hon. friend (Mr. McDougall) to occupy the House for any  
Mr. LEGRIS.

length of time I would not ask him to go on now.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

### REPORT.

The Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year 1898 (Mr. Fisher).

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 11.50 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 12th April, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

### PRAYERS.

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 51) to incorporate the Canadian Inland Transportation Company.—(Mr. Bertram.)

Bill (No. 52) to incorporate the Canadian Yukon Railway Company.—(Mr. Morrison.)

Bill (No. 53) to authorize the Bank of Nova Scotia to issue sterling notes for circulation in the Island of Jamaica.—(Mr. Borden, Halifax.)

Bill (No. 54) respecting the Eastern Trust Company.—(Mr. Borden, Halifax.)

Bill (No. 55) to further amend the Inspection Act.—(Mr. Penny.)

Bill (No. 56) to define the size of small fruit packages.—(Mr. Penny.)

### THE PACIFIC CABLE.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my right hon. friend who leads the Government and the House upon the announcement that has been made in regard to the arrangement for the construction of the Pacific cable. I regard that as a most important matter, and I think the Government and the country are very much to be congratulated upon it being finally, and, as I hope, satisfactorily arranged. I have long satisfied myself that the construction of that cable will involve no obligation whatever upon the Government. In fact, the time is not distant when it will be a source of revenue to the country.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I may be allowed to take the opportunity of expressing to my hon. friend

the gratitude with which I receive his announcement. I can gracefully accept it, because I know what his views have been on that subject for some time past. I hope that in the future, when we bring as good measures, we shall receive the same support from my hon. friend.

#### DEADMAN'S ISLAND.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to call the attention of the Government to an item headed "Deadman's Island," which appears in the "Daily Witness" of 8th April, as follows:—

Ottawa, April 8.—Mr. Theodore Ludgate, lessee of Deadman's Island, Vancouver Harbour, has returned the lease to the department, stating that if the occupation of the island is to prove injurious to the city of Vancouver, or detrimental to the interest of the country, he does not desire to retain it.

I would ask the Government whether such is the case or not—whether Mr. Ludgate has returned his lease?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am not in a position to give any answer to my hon. friend. I do not know what the facts may be. If my hon. friend will pass me the paper which he has in his hands, I will lay it before the Minister of Militia, who has the matter in charge.

#### FRIENDLY BENEFIT ASSOCIATIONS.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask a question of the Prime Minister in regard to an announcement made last year in the course of a debate upon a Bill asking for the incorporation of the Soss of England. It was then announced, I think, by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), speaking for the Government, that the Government had under consideration the question of preparing and submitting to this House a general Bill under which all these friendly insurance and assessment societies would be regulated. May I ask the right hon. gentleman whether the consideration of that subject has been completed, and whether any Bill will be introduced this session? As the right hon. gentleman knows, there are thousands of people interested in this question in every province of the Dominion, particularly in the province of Ontario, and a great deal of curiosity has been excited as to whether the Government intends to introduce such a Bill.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am not in a position to-day to give any answer to my hon. friend. If he will renew his question in a few days, perhaps I may be able then to give him the information.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. A. McNEILL (North Bruce). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like, with the permission of the House, to say one word in the way of personal explanation. Yesterday, when my hon. friend from East Huron (Mr. Macdonald) was speaking, I made a remark which was capable of misapprehension. I should be very sorry if it were misapprehended. In what I said I did not wish for a moment to call in question the necessity for increased expenditure on the militia. I have read the report of the General, who is a practical soldier and a very experienced and able soldier, and I certainly think it would be an impertinence on my part if I said I agreed with his report. But I should like to say that the Government will have my most hearty support, whatever that may be worth, in any expenditure they may make in order to give effect to the General's recommendations, whether that expenditure may be \$130,000, as referred to, or five times that amount.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman is entering on an argument.

Mr. McNEILL. I do not think this country can afford to pay a million and a half for an inefficient force.

#### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell (East Prince), for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. H. F. McDOUGALL (Cape Breton). Mr. Speaker, I regret that my want of knowledge of the French language made it impossible for me last evening to follow the remarks addressed to the House by the hon. member for Maskinongé (Mr. Légris) and the hon. member for Témiscouata (Mr. Gauvreau). I listened for some time to the remarks addressed to the House by the hon. member for East Huron (Mr. Macdonald), and, from what I gathered from those remarks, I come to the conclusion that the best thing I can do is to refer the hon. members of this House and the people of this country to the speeches made by that hon. gentleman when he occupied a seat on this side of the House some four or five years ago. I believe a perfectly complete answer to the remarks addressed to the House last night by that hon. gentleman will be found in his own statements to the House four or five years ago.

Mr. MACDONALD (East Huron). You had better quote some of the remarks I made.

Mr. McDOUGALL. I will therefore spare the House the necessity of listening to anything from me at present regarding the

statements of that hon. gentleman. Before proceeding to other matters, I beg to call the attention of the House to the statement made by the hon. Controller of Customs (Mr. Paterson), a few days ago, when, dealing with the question of the tariff and the changes made by the present Administration in that tariff, more especially the changes effected by the preference to England, that hon. gentleman laboured to show this House and the country the great advantages which had accrued from the preferential tariff with England, and quoted figures showing the importations from England under that tariff, and the difference in the duties paid by the people of this country on those importations, as compared with the duties paid on the importations under the former tariff. The fact that the present Government, before granting that preferential tariff, raised the duties on a great many articles from England, has already been referred to at great length, and I consider, therefore, it will not be necessary for me to refer to them again. But I will just beg leave to refer hon. gentlemen to certain articles to which the hon. Controller of Customs (Mr. Paterson) should have directed our attention, when dealing with the imports, when he argued that the people of Canada, and especially the people of the mother country, gained an advantage under the preferential clause.

In dealing with scrap-iron, and referring to the Trade and Navigation Returns, I find that the hon. gentleman omitted to give the figures with respect to the importation of scrap-iron into this country since the preferential rate came into force. My hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), at the time, called the attention of my hon. friend to those figures, but he refused to give them any attention or to give the request of my hon. friend any attention whatever. I find that the importation of scrap-iron from Great Britain, under that preferential tariff, only amounted to 71 tons and paid a duty of \$153.63. But I find that the importation from the United States of scrap-iron amounted to 1,378 tons, on which the Canadian manufacturers paid a duty of \$3,445.24. The hon. Controller of Customs (Mr. Paterson) refused to give this information himself to the House, and waxed eloquent upon the great advantages derived by our people from the change in the duties on this important raw material. He told us that there were numerous chimneys from which smoke was issuing now, which would not be in operation, had the changes in the tariff not been made. I would like to know how much smoke we can expect to issue from chimneys from the importation of 71 tons of scrap-iron from the old country under the preferential tariff. Coming to the article of cotton, the hon. gentleman quoted some articles in the cotton line which were imported with some advantage to Canada; but I find that a very important article in

that line, largely used by the Canadian people, and particularly by the Canadian farmers—the article of cotton bags, seamless bags—we imported from Great Britain to the extent of 4,678 pounds and paid a duty, under the preferential tariff, of \$151.68. But our people imported from the United States, not 4,000 pounds, but 66,040 pounds, on which they paid a duty of \$1,942.24. I would like the hon. gentleman to show us where the advantage is to the people of Canada in that importation. I find, with respect to other cotton manufactures, such as jeans, coutilles, sateens, imported by corset and dress-stay makers for use in factories, we imported from Great Britain 9,704 yards, on which we paid duty, \$312.07; but we imported from the United States, not 9,000, but 1,015,721 yards, on which we paid \$17,056.41 duty. Where does the advantage come in from the preferential tariff in that case? Take batts, batting, wadding, not bleached, dyed or coloured. We imported from Great Britain only 1,783 pounds, on which the duty amounted to \$40.35; but from the United States we imported 77,347 pounds, on which we paid a duty of \$1,895.25. I cannot see any advantage from the preferential tariff in that respect. I find that knitted yarn, hosiery yarn, cotton yarn, &c., we imported from Great Britain 15,926 pounds, on which we paid a duty of \$552.13; but we had to import from the United States 115,558 pounds, on which we were obliged to pay \$4,257.75. There is no advantage in that respect. I now come to another very important item, one in which our farmers and contractors are largely interested. I find that we got only one wheelbarrow from Great Britain, on which we paid, under the preferential rate, \$2.10; but we got from the United States 8,126, on which we paid a duty of \$7,382.40. Clothes wringers, which is an article a large class of the people require, and a class that cannot afford high prices, were imported from Great Britain, under the preferential rate, to the extent of one, on which we paid \$3.85 duty; but we had to import from the United States 8,880, on which we paid a duty of \$4,880.05. Clocks, an article used by everybody, we imported from Great Britain to the value of \$7,144, on which we paid a duty of \$1,679.50. That appears to be a large item; but when we compare it with the amount imported from the United States, it does not appear so large. I find that we imported from the United States to the value of \$129,266, on which we paid a duty of \$32,316.87. In that respect I cannot see any advantage from the preferential tariff. Bicycles and tricycles, we imported from Great Britain 61, and paid a duty of \$737.41; but we imported from the United States, not 61, but 595,006 bicycles and tricycles, on which we paid a duty of \$178,521.69. Children's carriages, we imported twelve from Great Britain, and paid a duty of \$26.95; but from the United States we imported 7,751, and paid \$1,868.61.

I cannot see any benefit under those heads ; and the hon. Controller of Customs (Mr. Paterson) was very careful to omit mentioning them in the statement he made. Buggies and carriages, we imported from Great Britain 37 altogether, at a duty of \$189.62 ; but from the United States we imported 572 at a duty of \$8,533.25. The tariff arrangements in this respect may have been changed with the view to the interests of the hon. member for Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost). The hon. gentleman may be able to explain how it is the change was made in such a way as to be of little advantage to the Canadian people and the English people, and of so much advantage to the people of the United States and the hon. member for Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost).

Then, there is the item of farm wagons. These articles are so widely used that the duty upon them is a matter of general interest. Under the preferential tariff we only imported one from Great Britain, on which we paid a duty of \$6.56 ; but we imported from the United States 1,882 wagons, upon which we paid a duty of \$19,884. Of tallow candles we imported from Great Britain only 73 pounds, the duty on which was \$3.29, while from the United States we imported 66,729 pounds, the duty on which was \$1,103. Our imports of paraffine wax candles from Great Britain were 4,778 pounds, the duty on which was \$162.90, while from the United States we imported 69,312 pounds, the duty on which was \$1,491.80. It is not necessary to go through the whole list. If it were necessary, I could occupy a long time in enumerating the articles which we are unable to get and do not get from Great Britain under the preferential tariff, but in regard to which the preferential tariff gives an advantage to the United States, the people of Canada being, in fact, compelled to pay a duty which, according to the argument of the hon. gentlemen, they are not required to pay under the preferential tariff. Now, proceeding to the consideration of the Speech from the Throne—I have had the privilege of occupying a seat in this House for fifteen years, during which time it has been my privilege to be present at the consideration of sixteen Speeches from the Throne, opening as many sessions of this federal Parliament. Among all the Speeches, not one do I remember that contained so little as that which we are now called upon to consider. And I cannot help being reminded—and I think it quite proper that I should speak of this to hon. gentlemen opposite—of the speeches that were made by these hon. gentlemen in former sessions, when the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was being debated. I would call the attention of hon. gentlemen to the Speech with which the session of 1891 was opened. In that Speech it will be found that announcement was made of an arrangement which it was proposed to negotiate between the United States and Canada with respect to

trade relations. Announcement was also made of the fact that the Government would ask the permission of Parliament to extend the *modus vivendi* with the United States in respect to the Atlantic fisheries. Also, measures were promised providing for the safety of sea-going ships ; with regard to the Admiralty Court ; with regard to the criminal law ; with regard to the foreshores of the Dominion ; to provide against obstructions in navigable waters ; with regard to the North-west Territories ; with regard to the Exchequer Court ; with regard to trade marks, and a number of others. Yet the right hon. the present Prime Minister, in criticising this Speech, used these words :

In the Speech we should have been told not only that the Government is about to send a commission to Washington, but the basis on which they are going to treat with our neighbours. Will it be the unrestricted reciprocity ? Will it be restricted reciprocity, or reciprocity at all, or will the negotiations be confined only to the fishery question whether in Behring Sea or the Atlantic ? We have heard the Finance Minister upon the floor of this House declare that the only policy of the Government was the National Policy.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have had negotiations with Washington since the last meeting of this Parliament, and we have not been told what took place. If we are to be governed by the principles laid down in the speech I have just quoted, we should have all the facts, not only as to the discussions between the representatives of the two countries in the commission, but the points they met to discuss and the ideas with which our commission started for Washington. The right hon. gentleman complained, further, of : No reason given for dissolution of the late Parliament ; no reason for repeal of franchise ; no promise of election law ; no reference to the conveyance of mails to Europe. No reference is made now to the conveyance of mails to Europe, about which we have heard so much. I propose to deal with that point later on. I would here remind the House of what the right hon. Prime Minister said on a similar subject on the occasion to which I have referred :

Mails sent from a country bristling with sentiments of loyalty to the mother land through the United States via the port of New York. The Postmaster General is a traitor whom I denounce to the indignation of loyal men and true who stand around him.

The true reason of dissolution was that the policy of the Opposition was gaining ground and the Government took fright.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we should have some information with regard to the fast line and the reductions of mails via New York to the mother country. Further on, the right hon. gentleman said :

It seems to me that the hon. gentlemen deserve great credit for the manner in which they contrived to build upon such slender material. I appeal to the right hon. gentleman to admit, as I am sure—if he has not lost all sense of right—

he must admit, that this verbose document, known as the Speech from the Throne, upon the present occasion, is a very dry skeleton. The right hon. gentleman on a former occasion characterized the Speech from the Throne as shining in omissions. I think if there ever was a speech which shone by omissions it is the present one. It is really bristling with omissions.

Would not that be a very perfect criticism of the Speech with which the present session opened? That Speech is not even a skeleton; it is a mere shadow. The only item of legislation promised in it for the consideration of the House is that in reference to redistribution. And, Sir, no person can show any reason for redistribution at the present moment; no person can show any justification for it or any authority for it. In 1890 the First Minister dealt with the Speech with which the Parliament was opened, in the following language:—

They have gallantly struggled to put flesh and blood, nerve and sinew, into the dry bones which the advisers of His Excellency put in his hands yesterday as the programme of the session.

Now, what did that Speech contain? It contained a reference to the royal commission on the labour question, it contained a promise of banking laws, it contained a promise of a measure for the administration of the North-west Territories, a measure on bills of exchange and promissory notes, a measure on patents of invention, a measure in respect of the adulteration of food, a measure in regard to the inland revenue laws, a measure in respect to the geological and natural history of Canada, a measure for the establishment of a national printing bureau, and so on. Yet this is the language in which the hon. the First Minister treated that speech. Now, I would like to hear him characterize the speech which he himself put into the mouth of His Excellency, which contains only one measure for which there is not any reason or justification. We are called together at a time of the year when it is most inconvenient for hon. members of this House to be taken away from their home engagements to attend to public business here, and it cannot be expected that the business of the country will receive at their hands as perfect and complete attention as it would receive if Parliament had been called together at a time of the year when it would be more convenient for members to spend their time here in dealing with the public measures which are to come before the House. There was a time when the right hon. the First Minister charged a previous Administration with having called hon. gentlemen to meet in this Parliament at an improper and inconvenient season of the year, and these are the remarks that he addressed to the House:

It has been the unwritten law of Canada for a great many years past, that Parliament should be summoned at an early period in the year, at the latest, towards the end of January. The reason is obvious. In this country we have no pri-

Mr. McDOUGALL.

vileged class. All the members of this House, with scarcely an exception, are engaged in the ordinary avocations of life, and it is an object of paramount necessity that, having discharged their duties to the country, they should be able to go back to their ordinary business pursuits about the opening of the business season. \* \* \* They waited, and waited, and waited, until the opening of the business season was in sight, before summoning Parliament, and to this hour, and as to this, not a word of explanation has been offered.

This was the language in which the right hon. gentleman charged the Administration in 1894 with having called Parliament together too late in the year. But not a word of explanation is given to us this year for calling Parliament together at so late a period.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when the hon. leader of the Opposition defied the right hon. gentleman or his colleagues to put their finger on any act of legislation which they had given to this country in the line of the promises that they made to the people before they came to power, the First Minister accepted that challenge, and this is what he said:

We have established a complete system of cold storage for the transportation of perishable goods, and in this alone we have rendered to the people of Canada a most signal service. This trade with Great Britain last year in eggs alone reached almost the sum of \$2,000,000, and it is only in its infancy.

The matter of cold storage has been treated so fully by hon. gentlemen who have preceded me, that it is unnecessary for me to touch upon that question beyond a mere statement of the facts. I think the facts will show that whatever credit is due for the establishment of the cold storage system, it is due to the Government that preceded the present Government. That system was inaugurated by them. The people of the country were called upon to provide the money to bring that great undertaking into operation, and that money was provided. What could be expected of hon. gentlemen opposite when they took charge of the Government but to carry out the mandate which was given to their predecessors, and to expend the money which was provided by the people of this country with a view to carry out that great undertaking? The right hon. gentleman told us that the shipment of eggs had reached nearly \$2,000,000, and claimed credit for that result, which he attributed to the inauguration of the cold storage system by his Government. Now, Mr. Speaker, anybody who knows or remembers anything about the history of this country for the last seven or eight years must know that the egg trade between Canada and Great Britain is due in a large measure to the McKinley tariff. Hon. gentlemen remember very well that previous to the passing of the McKinley tariff against the products of the Canadian hen, we had very little trade with Great Britain in eggs. We shipped

our eggs to the United States, we shipped little or none to Great Britain. But a change took place with the imposition of a duty of 5 cents per dozen on Canadian eggs going to the United States some years ago—I think it was in 1894 that the McKinley tariff imposed that duty on Canadian eggs. Now, the right hon. gentleman was not correct in saying that the shipments of eggs from Canada to Great Britain had reached nearly \$2,000,000; they do not reach any such figures. The export of eggs from Canada to Great Britain last year was of the value of only \$1,244,051, but little more than half the figures the right hon. gentleman quoted to the House. The total export of eggs from Canada, in 1898, was \$1,255,304. In 1896, when the hon. gentleman opposite assumed office, our export of eggs to Great Britain amounted to \$524,577, and our export to the United States to \$275,828. In 1894, our exports to Great Britain was \$503,533, and to the United States \$199,636. In 1891, previous to the imposition of the McKinley duties, our total exports to Great Britain only amounted to \$83,589; whereas our total exports to the United States amounted to \$1,160,359, or very near the total amount of our export to Great Britain to-day. In 1889, our total export of eggs to Great Britain only amounted to \$18, but our total export to the United States that year amounted to \$2,156,725. So it is plain now that the present Government cannot claim any credit whatever for the increase of the egg trade to Great Britain; and if the First Minister has nothing better to give us as an evidence of their legislation in the interests of this country than our egg trade, there is nothing in his claim, and I do not think the people of this country will see anything in it. He goes on further:

We have extended the Intercolonial Railway to the great centre of trade in the great city of Montreal. I do not know yet whether we can say that we have done it permanently or not, but there is the attempt, there is the policy, and the Senate will have an occasion to pass upon it by and by. Whether it passes affirmatively or negatively, whether the Intercolonial is to remain with its terminus in a field or come to the great city of Montreal, is not a matter of our own responsibility now, but will rest upon other shoulders than ours.

The right hon. gentleman is not correct in saying that they have extended the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal. They have not. The Intercolonial trains, under certain conditions, have been extended to Montreal, but they have not done any such thing as to extend the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal. It would be far better if they had done it, but the reason we have to deal with the Intercolonial Railway is due to the fact that the Senate of Canada have taken a stand in the interest of the public for which the public feels grateful to-day, and from which it receives great benefit. Further on, the right hon. gentleman says:

Then, Sir, we have obtained another most material reform. We have obtained from the Canadian Pacific Railway a reduction of their freight rates, and in so doing we have given the greatest boon to the producers in the prairies of the North-west. We have obtained a reduction of 3 cents per 100 pounds on wheat; we have obtained a reduction on a specified list of articles of merchandise, a reduction varying from 10 to 33 per cent, and I understand that in these matters alone we have given to the people of the North-west Territories an advantage of at least \$600,000 a year.

Well now, Mr. Speaker, the right hon. First Minister is not correct in that contention. Some hon. members, who spoke after the right hon. gentleman, have gone into that question, and I think it, therefore, unnecessary for me to deal with it, but everybody who knows anything about the railway history of this country, knows it to be the case that all the railways in this country within a number of years have reduced their freight rates and their traffic rates. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company almost every year from the time of the construction of that great work have been reducing their freight rates on some of their lines. They had to reduce their freight rates for more than one reason. They reduced them as the extent of that great railway increased, and they had also to reduce them because of the fact that they had keen competition from other railways. It was not any influence of this Government or of any previous Government that compelled that company to reduce their freight rates; it was the circumstances and conditions under which they were operating the railway. So that in these items, to which the right hon. First Minister referred, in accepting the challenge of the leader of the Opposition, there is not even the shadow of a case for the right hon. gentleman. The right hon. Prime Minister dealt with another subject which I propose to leave for the present. I will now call the attention of the House to some remarks of hon. gentlemen who now occupy the Treasury benches at the time they were criticising the Government which preceded them, and if we had reason to expect any business to be conducted at this session of the present Parliament, we had reason to expect an intimation in the Speech from the Throne on the lines of the arguments that were presented to the House by these hon. gentlemen while in Opposition, and when they were in a position to criticise the Government that preceded them. Sir, the people of this country were led to believe that great changes in the fiscal policy of the country would take place on the coming into power of the hon. gentlemen who now occupy the Treasury benches. They had good reason to expect, for they had listened year after year for a period of eighteen years to the statements of the hon. gentlemen on different lines of policy upon which they held out hopes to the people, that when they came into power the country would be governed on these lines. On the

question of commercial union with the United States, which hon. gentlemen had before this country in 1888, the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), introduced the following resolution in this House.

An hon. MEMBER. Carried.

Mr. McDOUGALL. It will be carried.

That it is expedient that all articles manufactured in, or the natural products of either of the said countries, should be admitted free of duty into the ports of the other (articles subject to duties of excise or internal revenue alone excepted).

How this was regarded in the country will be seen from the file of the Halifax "Chronicle," which I take the liberty of quoting :

The despatch from Ottawa giving an account of the determination of the first Liberal caucus---

An hon. MEMBER. Dispense.

Mr. McDOUGALL. I have no doubt the hon. gentleman would like to dispense with all these disagreeable things, but he will have to listen to them. The hon. gentleman would like to look for a job and let these things be put aside.

—at Ottawa is the most important piece of political intelligence which has reached this country for some time. It is the most important movement made upon the political chess-board since confederation, and is likely to revolutionize political controversy in this country. This is the first time that commercial union has been adopted by either of the great political parties. Henceforward it becomes the burning question of the day.

Now, where is commercial union? The right hon. First Minister, on that question, said :

The policy which we advocate, which we still continue to advocate, is the removal of all commercial barriers between this country and the great kindred nation to the south. The Liberal party, as long as I have anything to do with it, will remain true to the cause until the cause is successful. I do not expect to win in a day, but I am prepared to remain in the cool shades of Opposition until this cause has triumphed.

Where is that question to-day? The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce said :

I say that the greatest service we can render to the British Empire is to form an alliance with the people of the United States.

The hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) said :

The application of the principle between Canada and the United States, would require that the two countries should have the same excise rates and the same tariff upon imports from all other countries, that the revenue thus collected in both countries should be divided upon conditions hereafter to be arranged, that the customs line between the two countries from ocean to ocean should be removed, and that trade between Canada and the States should in every respect be as free and as untrammelled as trade between the different states of the American Union was at the present moment.

Mr. McDOUGALL.

And the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) said :

Under commercial union, trade would flow freely between this country and the United States, while as against the rest of the world there would be a uniform tariff to be mutually agreed upon by the two countries comprised in the union.

Mr. Speaker, how would it do to put that sentence side by side with the remarks of these hon. gentlemen on the present occasion in respect to their preferential tariff? How would they read side by side?

Now, there is the question of continental free trade, and this is what the right hon. First Minister told us in 1889 on that question :

The Liberal party will never cease the agitation until they have finally triumphed and obtained continental freedom of trade. We will not be drawn away by this issue or that issue, and keeping our eyes upon the goal will work till we accomplish our end. If the Reformers of these days can accomplish what they have in view—they will have done to their country and to the British race a service of which they will have reason to be proud.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) said on that occasion :

I desire to see free trade all over this continent.

Mr. Charlton declared :

We want unrestricted and free access to the whole of North America for our produce and a great increase of wealth would follow,—we wanted to pull down all customs barriers, to enjoy absolute free trade, to establish a mighty theatre of commerce extending over a vast continent from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean.

What has the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) done in that connection? Through the mouth of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, they told us in regard to the question of unrestricted reciprocity :

This policy was initiated in 1889, when, in the House of Commons, on March 5th, Sir Richard Cartwright moved the following resolution :—

"That in the present condition of affairs, and in view of the recent action of the House of Representatives of the United States, it is expedient that steps should be taken to ascertain on what terms and conditions arrangements can be effected with the United States for the purpose of securing full and unrestricted reciprocity of trade therewith."

And the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) said :

When the Liberal party comes into power it will send commissioners to Washington to propose a mutual agreement by which there will be free trade along the whole line, doing away with restrictions and removing the custom-houses, that go so far to cause friction between the two countries.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) told us on that occasion :

Sir, we tender the people a flag of which we are not ashamed; a flag upon which is inscribed "unrestricted trade with the United States."

The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), speaking at Chatham, in 1891, said :

But what is of even more immediate consequence, we propose to obtain for you the power of trade freely with the rest of this continent—to have leave to make the best use you can of your great natural advantages, which can only be done by full, free and unrestricted reciprocity with our kinsmen in the United States.

Again, he said at Chatham :

But let us always bear in mind that the geographical position of the bulk of Canada is such that, at the very best, all and every foreign market is but a makeshift, and can in no way ever really replace for you the market of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, let us compare these remarks with the remarks now made by these hon. gentlemen when they are lauding themselves for what they have done for this country by giving a preferential tariff to England. I could quote many other similar utterances in days gone by from the hon. gentlemen now on the Treasury benches, but I shall not detain the House further than to give this extract from a speech of the right hon. the Prime Minister delivered in 1892 :

It becomes the duty of all patriots to seek for some kind of reform? What is that reform to be? That is the question, and, much as we differ on one side of the House or the other, I am sure that we all agree in this, that the reform which Canada requires at this moment is a more extended market for its products. Canada is in the position to-day of a young giant, shackled and manacled, not free in his movement, and the only thing he wants is to be set free from his shackles, and to have the opportunity of extending his energies abroad.

Mr. Speaker, what have they done to remove these shackles from the young giant? Why, Sir, up to the present, the shackles have been removed to the extent of a reduction of only 1 per cent on the tariff of the Conservative Government. He (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) continued :

This is the policy we have been pursuing for years, and although the policy has not yet been accepted on the other side of the House,—

Nor, Mr. Speaker, has it been accepted by these hon. gentlemen themselves since they came into power. We did not accept their policy, and when they got the opportunity, they did not accept it themselves :

—I am aware that many other hon. gentlemen on the other side have in their hearts, have been compelled to admit that the policy that must be adopted is to find markets for our products. Somewhere, on the other hand, there are many of our colleagues on the other side, who not many days or weeks or months ago indulged in the hope that Great Britain would alter its policy in regard to trade, and that we would find a larger market than we possess. That Great Britain would depart from the principle of freedom of trade, and would discriminate in favour of British products. That question has been settled on the floor of the British Parliament the other day, when the answer was given that no such hopes could be indulged in, that Britain would depart from her policy of freedom of trade, so that all the hopes which have been indulged in

by some of our colleagues on the other side of the House, have passed away and can no longer be entertained.

It, therefore, becomes the duty of these men, who believe in their hearts that the situation could be amended in that respect, to turn over a new leaf on the book and seek for markets somewhere else. It is manifest, after what was said the other day on the floor of the Imperial Parliament, that Britain will not depart from her policy, freedom of trade.

Well, the right hon. gentleman acted on these lines and he accomplished pretty much what he meant on that occasion, for he succeeded in giving an advantage in trade to the people of the United States as against the people of the mother country. The advantage which his Government gave, or attempted to give to the mother country, was given at the expense of a great many of our Canadian industries, and was given without receiving any quid pro quo. The right hon. the leader of the Government, at the opening of this debate, accepted the challenge of the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) in these words :

I accept the challenge of the hon. gentleman. He asks us to say what we have done for the good of the country. I will try to tell him. In doing so, I shall be obliged to tell the blunders that he has made—well, no, not all the blunders he has made, but only some of them. For, if I were to undertake to tell all the blunders made by my hon. friend in his official life, I should be obliged to speak at least as long as he spoke yesterday, which—God forbid—I do not intend to do. When the hon. gentleman came back from England to take charge of his party, which had not been led as it should have been led, according to his opinion, when he came back to lead his party to victory, as he hoped, and gave them new life, there was a question that had been long before the country, a most dangerous question, which had brought this country almost to the very throes of civil strife. He tried to solve this question very much according to the method of one I need not name, "loud in tone, void in reality." In the measure he proposed, conceived in violence, there was enough to vex, to irritate and madden the majority, but there was in it no substantial aid to the minority. And this is the gentleman who tells us that we have shown our incapacity. We dealt with that question. We removed it from the federal arena to the provincial arena, where it belongs, and where it should have been left, there to be dealt with by the citizens of the province in a spirit of mutually honourable concession. I will not show here the character of the hon. gentleman's blunder in this case. It is there before his eyes. He sees it night and day, and he regrets it night and day.

The right hon. gentleman refers here to the school question and I take it that in doing so, and in referring to this matter as the very first question in his reply, he, I have no doubt, did so with a view of inviting discussion, although the Address to which the Prime Minister was replying did not contain any references to that important question. The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) therefore invited discussion on the Manitoba school question, although we have been accustomed to hear from him and his supporters in the past, that that question was

forced on this Parliament by the Conservative party. Sir, such a statement is not true.

That question was forced on this Parliament by the conduct of the right hon. First Minister and his supporters, in Parliament and out of Parliament. We are now told by the right hon. First Minister that the question is settled. If the question is settled, we are without any knowledge as to the settlement of it. I do not bring it before this House on the present occasion with the view of discussing it on the lines on which hon. gentlemen opposite addressed themselves to it on previous occasions. I bring it before the House because of the manner in which the right hon. First Minister referred to it in accepting the challenge of the hon. leader of the Opposition; and, in doing so, I take the liberty of referring hon. gentlemen to the position the right hon. First Minister occupied on the question on previous occasions. In former sessions, when the previous Government were dealing with that question, the right hon. First Minister charged the late Administration with failing to act. He told the House and the country that the minority were suffering an injustice, an outrageous injustice, at the hands of the Government, because of their not acting and giving them redress. He said: "The Government should act at once; the Act of 1890 should be disallowed; delay was insufferable; the Government was censurable." He attacked the Government for insincerity. "Why go to the courts?" he asked. "It was merely a pretext for doing nothing. The question is one of fact, not of law. The Government is cowardly. It dares not act; it shelters itself behind the tribunals. Meanwhile injustice remains, and confederation is imperilled." I hope the right hon. First Minister will not leave the House until I am through with this question. In the session of 1895 he attacked the Government for not bringing in a Bill. "You have the decision of the courts," he said; "your powers are known; the grievance is affirmed. Where is your Bill? You dare not bring it; you are still insincere; what is more cowardly?" In the autumn of 1895 he demanded a commission of inquiry. "We do not know the facts," he declared; "we are ignorant. Full five years have shed their light on the question, still our knowledge is inadequate. Give them a commission and let them inquire into the facts. True, I have always been against delay; true, the commission will cause more delay. No matter; I will eat my words, but now I plant myself squarely on the platform of further delay and a commission." In the beginning of the session of 1896 he wants the Bill. "Where is the Bill?" he demands. "We don't want Estimates; we don't want general business; we want the Bill. Is the Government still cowardly and insincere? If not, let us have the Bill." That was during the session of 1896. Now he wants neither the Bill nor the commission. The right hon. First Minister rose to speak upon it, and, behold! the right hon. gentleman, who had for years denounced the Government for delay, cowardice, insincerity, who had demanded justice, a commission and the Bill, suddenly turned round, repudiated a commission, and proposed to kill the Bill by moving the six months' hoist. Could any man more completely swallow himself? Speaking at Jacques Cartier, in the province of Quebec, the right hon. First Minister said:

Because of these principles of mine, which are well known, I have more power than my opponents to settle the Manitoba school question. They have appealed to prejudice, but I have always declined to do so. I have greater strength than they have to appeal to Ontario for justice. I have always striven to have equal justice for all.

And further on:

He claimed that he was in the right when he held that the question should be investigated. Some people blamed him for holding this view; but while Catholics knew what these separate schools were, there were many Protestants who did not. Even if all Catholics in the Dominion were to unite on this question, they would still form a minority. It was, therefore, evident that if they wished to secure separate schools for the minority, they must have the support of a portion of the Protestant population. As a Catholic he was in a position to go to the Protestants of the other provinces and ask for justice. He could do so all the more, especially in Ontario, where it was well known that the Liberal party had always been the champions of separate schools, and more especially his friend Sir Oliver Mowat.

Well, the right hon. gentleman went to the province of Ontario, and he brought down Sir Oliver Mowat, and put him into his Cabinet; and what has he done? He says he settled the question. He does not seem to have anything to show us on the line of that settlement, and we hear the same complaint from the minority of Manitoba that we have been accustomed to hear during the last five or six years. In regard to what the right hon. gentleman said, as to his influence with the Protestants of the province of Ontario, those of us who desired a settlement of that question on the lines on which we considered it should have been settled at the time—that is, on the lines which would restore to the people of Manitoba what the Manitoba measure took from them—have nothing to complain of with regard to the Protestants of this country; we have nothing to complain of with regard to the Protestants in this House; but what we do complain of is, that the right hon. First Minister and his Catholic friends are responsible for the non-settlement of that great issue. As evidence of that, and as evidence to show that in my own province we have had no reason to complain of any stand that the Protestant people, as a body, took against the lines on which it was desired to have that question settled, I wish to quote from the Presbyterian "Witness," which says:

There ought to be no ground for complaint, no injustice or seeming lack of generous treatment. The more the matter is thought over the more we cherish the hope that Manitoba will find a way to remove any just cause of complaint on the part of the minority, a way that shall be strictly within the lines of the constitution. The law, the old law, is certainly not a good law; but if there is moral obligation for its restoration in some practicable form, we trust the majority will make the necessary change. There are in Manitoba eminent jurists, laymen of the greatest prudence and common sense, clergymen who are familiar with the history, the public life and the aspirations of all our provinces, and of Canada as a whole. We have the fullest confidence that these men are equal to the occasion, and that, without any pressure, or in spite of any pressure, from outside, they will do their whole duty—following the way of righteousness and good neighbourhood.

That is the way in which the chief organ of the Presbyterian body in Nova Scotia treated that question in April, 1895, and that goes to show that the Catholic minority of Manitoba would have had no cause for complaint as far as that body is concerned. A few days ago we read in the press that a question had been asked in the province of Manitoba of Mr. Greenway, the First Minister of that province, as to whether the reports were true that certain concessions had been granted the minority of Manitoba, as a sort of grace at the hands of the Government of that province, and which they were not entitled to under the laws of that province. Mr. Greenway replied as follows:

There were people who at the present time were making it their business to cast insinuations at the Government's attitude on the matter of public schools. These people did not hesitate to say that the Government had weakened in the position it had all along adopted, and of these he wished to say that they never made a greater mistake. It was impossible for the Government to keep officials watching at the door of every school, but one thing the Government would and could do, was to see to it that if the regulations governing the management of these schools were violated, the Government grant would be withheld. The Government stood to-day where it has always stood since the passing of the Public School Act. Its aim was to make the people of this province one in education, and one in helping to develop the country, and it would brook no interference in carrying out its policy along these lines.

That statement does not indicate that there has been any kind of a settlement of that question. I am informed that as a result of its non-settlement that at Brandon there was a convent where about 100 pupils were taught by the Sisters of "The Faithful Companion of Jesus," a body incorporated under the laws of the province, about half the pupils were Protestants. The school has been closed since, and the sisters had to leave and open a school in Rat Portage, in the province of Ontario, the abandoned school property at Brandon being owned by the Church. Separate schools that existed in Portage la Prairie, in Selkirk, and in several other places where the majority are Protestants,

have had to be closed since the law has been passed. Teachers who are teaching under the Catholic trustees are obliged to make a declaration at the close of every half year, to the effect that no religious instruction was given by them. At Winnipeg, about 800 children are taught in the Catholic schools under the Marist Brothers, from Ohio, for the boys, and under the Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary, from Montreal, for the girls. These four schools receive no aid either from the Government nor from the ratepayers. They are supported by subscriptions from Roman Catholics, who are also compelled to pay school taxes for the support of the public schools, which are of no use to them, and aid also from outside provinces. Their school-houses, and even their furniture, and all school property held by them, is taxed to the extent of \$400 for the support of public schools. The right hon. First Minister claims that the question is settled. If so, let him produce the evidence that it is. In any other line of business, when there is a dispute or controversy between two parties as to whether a certain matter has been settled or not, the party who claims that it has been settled has to produce his receipt; and if the right hon. gentleman's claim be a correct one, where is his receipt? Where is the evidence? Is there a word of acknowledgment from the people with whom he had to deal to show that this question is settled. Every hon. gentleman in this House knows that the right hon. First Minister obtained the position he now holds on the strength of his promise to settle satisfactorily that question, and knows also that the greater number of those who are seated behind him owe their seats to the argument that the accession to power of the right hon. gentleman would immediately result in a satisfactory settlement to the minority of Manitoba. To-day we are told boldly that the question is settled, but we are without any evidence. The question, I say, Mr. Speaker, is not settled. And my purpose now is to ascertain from the right hon. First Minister if he can inform this House of any single act of his on the lines of a settlement of that question. It is reported in parts of this country that he adopted certain measures with a view to a sort of temporary settlement, and it is due to this House and to the people—especially those interested more particularly in that matter and in the removal of it from this Parliament—to know whether the rumour is based on facts or not. We are aware that the right hon. gentleman made promises to the people of Manitoba, that he made private promises to them, that he made promises to those representing the interests of the minority in Manitoba, and made these promises both in and out of this country. From time to time the right hon. gentleman has sued for grace because of his delay in fulfilling these promises, and I am informed, as no doubt some other hon. gentlemen also in this House are, that on

being called upon not many months ago that the time was opportune for him to implement those promises and give some form of redress to the minority of Manitoba, the right hon. gentleman had a money contribution forwarded to the people of that province in order to support those schools which should have been supported on the lines on which the people of Manitoba sought redress. This issue is a creation of the right hon. the First Minister and his supporters. His friends in Manitoba could have removed this question from the arena of politics without it being brought before this House. The right hon. gentleman is the father of the illegitimate issue known as the school question, which has given so much trouble, so much annoyance to the people of this country and which has cost so much money. Now, we are told, but I hope the right hon. gentleman can deny it, that he has adopted a new means of keeping this question quiet for the time being and this is by sending money—hush money. Mr. Speaker—to the people of Manitoba. The object is to perpetuate the existence of the illegitimate issue of which he, as the head of the party he leads, is the father. As a Catholic, as a member of this House, as a citizen of this country, I protest, in the name of the people of this country, against that mode of dealing with the question. Will he tell us what amount of money he forwarded to Manitoba to maintain for the people the separate schools and hush the complaints of the people for the time being and so secure for himself time to sue for grace for the settlement of this question and the implementing of his promises. It is due to the House that the right hon. gentleman should deny, if he can, that he sent that money. Will he deny it now? If not, I want him to tell this House what his contribution was. Was it a thousand dollars, or two, or three, or five thousand dollars, or \$10,000? This House has a right to know that. Aye, and this House has a right to know more—to know where that money came from. Was that a personal contribution on the part of the right hon. gentleman? If so, could there be any stronger condemnation of the position he has taken? I take it that it was not a personal contribution. I know that a great many citizens did make personal contributions in aid of these schools which were unjustly deprived of the aid of the state. He had an opportunity to make his contribution as other citizens did. But I take it that he has not done so. He was in a different position from other citizens. He had promised to make a settlement satisfactory to the people, and now he has failed to make it and is suing for further time and further grace; and he can only secure it by sending money for the support of the schools in the meantime—hush money, as I say. It is important for us to know where that money came from, for the right hon. First Minister fails to deny that he did pay money. It is due to this House and to the country to make it known where

Mr. McDOUGALL.

that money came from. Did it come from the revenue of the toll-gate keeper, the Aguiñaldo of the Administration? I feel satisfied that his revenue is a little less to-day by reason of the fact that that money went to Manitoba and that some poor contractor will have to suffer for it, if not the Dominion exchequer. I repeat that it is due to this country that the right hon. the Prime Minister should explain to the people how this money has been sent by him, and what amount it was. To whom was the money sent? In answer to what demand was it sent? My hon. friend from Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron), a few evenings ago, referred to a communication coming from His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface, demanding from the Prime Minister the implementing of his promise. Was it in response to that demand that the Prime Minister sent so much of the revenue of the toll-gate keeper of the Administration? We have a right to know that; and the right hon. the First Minister in failing to give an explanation to the House now lays himself open to a charge of keeping from us information to which we have a right. If he desires to give an explanation to the House now, I will give him the floor and listen to what he has to say.

Mr. WOOD. Go on.

Mr. McDOUGALL. The right hon. gentleman is unwilling to take advantage of the opportunity. We will take it for granted, then, that the money has been sent. It is important for us to know the facts in order that we may judge how long it is likely to keep peace with the people of Manitoba. When will the right hon. gentleman be likely to be called upon for another contribution? Will it be before the Greenway elections that are now coming on, or will it be after? Mr. Greenway says that nothing has been done towards the settlement of the question of the modification of the Act passed by the Manitoba legislature some years ago in reference to the schools. It is important that we should know what demands are to be made upon us, or upon our Prime Minister, in respect of this question, in the future.

I will ask the indulgence of the House for a moment while I read an extract in reference to the administration of the Yukon. That question has been very fully discussed in this House, and therefore I am relieved of the necessity of going into it at any length. Hon. gentlemen on this side undertook to examine into the measure which the Government of the day brought before Parliament last year to provide for the building of the Stikine railway. A great deal of criticism was indulged in by hon. members on this side. If those criticisms were not correct and the position taken by these hon. gentlemen was not sound, we might reasonably expect that the Government would have good grounds for believing that their course was the proper one and that they would come before Parliament this year with a similar

measure. However, from what I have been able to learn about what is taking place in that country and the experience of the people who have attempted to go there, I feel satisfied that the line taken by hon. gentlemen on this side in opposing that measure was correct. I believe that not a single thing has transpired since that measure was before the House to weaken in any respect the opinion expressed on this side and by the majority in the Senate with regard to that measure. I have here a letter written by Mr. J. D. Cochrane, formerly of Nova Scotia, who writes an interesting account of his experience in attempting to get into the Yukon. His letter is dated November 19th, 1898 :

Aboard the tourist cars were hundreds. Not standing room for the passengers. Nearly all going to Klondike. Every man had a copy of Ogilvie's report on the Yukon. Oh, what a rich harvest of cash he must have made out of that erroneous sheet. A hearsay pamphlet written and endorsed by the Dominion Government.

#### ALL-CANADIAN ROUTE.

On his arrival at Wrangel, he says :

"We were booked and bonded for Glenora, a Canadian port on the Stikine. We were paying \$46 per ton right through, \$40 each for horses, find your own feed and attend the horses yourself, \$40 each man or passenger, and board yourself on the flat-bottom, Stikine River boat, a distance of 160 miles to Glenora. Our goods were stored by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in a warehouse. We were bonded through to our destination. Some said we would have to give bonds for our goods from Wrangel to the territory line, 30 miles up the Stikine, but Canada asserted itself, and said : 'No, we are bonded through to a Canadian point.' 'Yes,' said the customs officer, 'but you are in Wrangel, Alaska, now, so if no entry is made, you cannot leave the wharf with your goods, and you will pay extra wharfage for one week more, even if you do enter to-morrow, as no Canadian Pacific Railway river boat leaves here before then.' The Canadian Pacific Railway agent at Wrangel said : 'Make your entry or you cannot get your goods,' and pointed to a few wagons and horses which some refractory Englishman owned, and had been kept on account of no bonds and entry being made. So I concluded precaution was the best part of valour. The customs broker's charges was \$5 for one single entry, say one horse, one bill of goods, and an increase in the amount according to the value. Also 50 cents for Canadian clearance—\$85.50 the very least. But as I had been an advocate of the all-Canadian route, and did not enter with the others, as I thought it unnecessary, and was bonded through, they charged me double at the broker's, and double at the custom-house. The boat left at 4 a.m. next morning, so I had no recourse but to pay \$12 per day to a Wrangel official to accompany my goods to the boundary line, which would be \$25. Some who had confidence in the all-Canadian route bonding scheme had to pay for their confidence, I amongst the rest, but for the rest of the trip I did not advocate the so-called all-Canadian route ; it was too expensive."

Next morning we steamed away from the wharf, and a sigh of relief escaped from many a lip as we rounded a bend in the river and left

the town far behind. The official who was placed on board to accompany us to the boundary line, told us some terrible tales of robbery and theft committed in the gambling hells and other places in the town just left. The Stikine is a good river, some places 300 yards wide, other places only about 150 yards. We passed glaciers—miles in depth from the river, and of great length—the pure white ice glistening in the sun, and the mountains are well timbered on this river. The flats have a growth of cotton-wood. Then we passed tents after tents, little groups of tent villages—camped in the bottoms and islands along the river—victims of Ogilvie's report on the red-golden Klondike—and Yukon. Victims of the all-Canadian route who had rushed through with horses and sleds after landing at Wrangel, trying to make Glenora before the ice broke up in March. They dare not stay at Wrangel. It cost \$25 for leave to put a tent on a vacant piece of ground. They got up some distance, through snow and snow till their horses became exhausted, and many died, also oxen. They then endeavoured to pull through with hand sleds, but the ice gave way, and they were stranded on the shores and islands by the way. Many had lost their all—horses and provisions by breaking through the ice—barely escaping with their own lives. Kelly Bros., of Chatham, N.B., lost \$1,200 in one day, their teams and goods going through the rapids with a current of from eight to twenty miles. It was impossible to save anything except their lives. After a trip of three days we arrived in Glenora.

Every one was prepared to rest for a few days, and then pull out on the wagon road to Teslin Lake—reported in the House of Commons at Ottawa as finished by March 1—the delusion, the snare, the misrepresentation. There was not even a pack-trail of 18 inches wide. No person knew anything about the trail further than Telegraph Creek, 12 miles further up over canyons and hills, which were almost impassable even to those on foot. Some yet believing in Ogilvie's report of gold on the Stikine river mining from \$9 to \$12 a day, went to work. After a hard day's work some of them had gathered in a few colours, perhaps 10 cents worth. Dease Lake, in the Cassie R. Reservation, 80 miles distant, was reported rich in gold, called Cassie R. on account of a company obtaining a charter to build a railroad from Glenora to Dease Lake, receiving 700,000 acres of land, they made a reservation of a portion of this land in that part of the country. However, the Cassie R. reservation was granted by the British Columbia Government—the road to be finished in ten years. The road will never be built, as the company have had a party of experienced miners prospecting for gold and found none. The best quartz they had assayed \$2 to the ton, so the charter will be abandoned. The same misfortune happened to those who came up the Stikine to go over the all-Canadian route to the Yukon. They all returned foot-sore and ragged. Still a gleam of hope in the golden Klondike existed. Some abandoned wagons and horses, and hastily constructed pack-saddles for their team, and thus endeavoured to make for Teslin Lake. Others sold their provisions and outfit for half of what it cost and went back down the Stikine to Wrangel and took boat to Skagway and Lake Bennett. Fortunate were those who did so, although at the cost of nearly all they had. I and others looked around for the great transportation teams which were to be on this complete wagon-road, but none could be found, neither road nor teams. There was neither, but there was an Indian footpath, used in

summer through these massive swamps from one lake to another. The Hudson's Bay Company, who had the Dominion Government contract to forward the 400 tons of freight for the militia soon got all the pack trains employed at 40c. per pound to make this transportation through mud and mire. The hardships and loss of life on this trip were terrible. Mules with packs went out of sight in the mud—thirty at a time out of a train of sixty. Stores were destroyed by getting wet in the mud, but what did it matter? Take the 200 military and 400 tons of supplies over the 190 miles of footpath at a cost of four times as much as would have laid them down at Fort Selkirk. The all-Canadian route to the Yukon must be boomed at all hazards and great expense. The poor Klondiker must be induced to pass over the all-Canadian route. The transport of the military and stores over it would be the greatest inducement, and, true, it was, for it proved effective. I returned to Vancouver from Glenora for the purchase of horses to bring back to transport my goods through this dreaded route. As all had been shipped to Glenora at a cost of \$46.50 a ton. On my return trip I was more unfortunate at Wrangel, Alaska, U.S., than I had been previously. I came on another line of steamers, and was landed at a private wharf—McKinnon's wharf. When I was ready to leave next morning, I found my goods under lock and key, and \$5 stage dues to pay on five pack-saddles and a half ton of baled hay. My horses were transhipped from the steamer to the flat Stikine river-boat, not landed on the wharf at all—50c. each, a great favour that it was not \$1. I said: "I am bonded to Glenora through here." "Never mind, you are in Wrangel, Alaska, U.S.; go and get your bonds made out, or you cannot go by this boat." I did so. Ten dollars to the customs broker and 50c. to the custom-house. I said: "I went to the custom-house at Vancouver and they told me to pay nothing, that I was bonded to Glenora." With a pleasant smile, he said: "You are in Alaska, U.S." "Yes," I said, "and if ever you catch me here again, or on the all-Canadian Yukon route, you can imprison me for the balance of my natural life." And I, and hundreds more, will stick to the same resolution.

After leaving Wrangel on my second trip up the Stikine River the water had risen considerably, and as we went up the river on a flat boat drawing, when loaded, three feet of water, we passed groups of tents entirely surrounded by water and a few cattle and horses, which had survived the winter by being fed cotton-wood trees and what hay and oats the owners had with them at the time of the breaking up of the ice—were now cut off on other parts of the islands, the water rushing between at a velocity of 20 miles per hour. Many gave signals for help to be taken aboard, but succour could not be given—our boat was loaded. You could see signs of intense distress as these signals were disregarded. Amongst those thus stranded were women. The captain of the boat said, "Why does not the Government charter a boat and take those poor creatures to a place of safety?" The swift and angry current swept our boat to the bank, where some were camped. Six men came aboard and paid every cent they had to get up to Glenora, and told me that they had not eaten anything for twenty-four hours, and the last they had was flour. I reported the fact to the principal owner, who was on board. He said it was a pity, but did not make an effort to give them anything. \* \* \* The broker in Alaska, U.S., had my last dollar while travelling over the all-Canadian route to the Yukon.

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After coming down to a light and wholesome diet of crackers and cheese, Mr. Cochrane reached Glenora, and he and his partner started on the pack-trail, which they found a "massive line of bog." He gives a lively picture of the hardships of the trail. He quotes Mr. Sifton's reply to Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper: "Mr. Mann is here; I met him at the Rideau Club, and he says the wagon-road is finished." There was not a blow struck on it at the time; that is what fooled the poor fellows to come this route.

Speaking of Mackenzie & Mann's wagon-road, he says: "It is entirely useless, as a great portion of the corduroy bridging is all burnt up—in fact, while the men were at one end of the work the other end would be on fire. The ground is a moss bog about one foot deep. When this gets on fire it burns for weeks, even after a snowfall. In this way it is impossible to keep corduroy work on it. The entire country has been burnt through."

"The horrors of the trail will," he says, "throw a gloom over the all-Canadian route for some time to come. Dying men, women and children, dying and dead horses." He stakes his reputation "that gold will never be found from Glenora to Teslin Lake, though some 30,000 licenses will be granted."

Now this is the experience of a Nova Scotian, who undertook to go into that country on the strength of statements which the hon. gentlemen who occupy the Treasury benches made to this country and to this House, when Parliament was in session last year. It has proved a serious matter, not only to this gentleman, who suffered so much in attempting to get into that country, but to a great many others who had a similar experience. It is to be regretted, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. Minister (Mr. Sifton) who has charge of the administration of that country, did not take any other steps to deal with that very important branch of his department. It seems to me the most serious blunder that the Government of the day could possibly make, is to show the lack of interest they have shown in not giving that country a better administration than they have. It seems to me a strange matter, that nearly every Minister in the Cabinet could take a trip to England, or anywhere else, except a trip to that country. Now, what could the hon. Minister of the Interior have done better, with more benefit to that country or with greater credit to himself, than to have taken a trip into that country so as to gain information that would assist him in putting the administration of that country upon a better footing than it has been. We would not have had these charges, at least we would have had very few, laid against the Government of the day for the manner in which they have dealt with the administration of that country. The people who have gone into that country would have had better treatment, and the people who would like to go in there, would be encouraged to go, and in that way our own people would derive greater benefit from the great wealth that is being discovered in that country. I do hope that the day is not far distant when the hon. Minis-

ter of the Interior will make up his mind to visit that country himself and see to the better government of affairs there for which his department is responsible.

I do not propose to delay the House at any greater length on this question; but I will say one word, Mr. Speaker, on the question of the only measure which is promised to us in the Speech from the Throne. I remember when a measure of that kind was promised to us by the former Government, and that when the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) undertook to deal with that measure at the time, he used very severe language against the Administration of the day for having proposed a measure of redistribution. I thought I had his language here, but I find I have not. I remember it was very strong. He charged the Administration of the day with bringing that measure forward with a view of securing the return of that Administration at the polls at the forthcoming elections. Now, reading over that charge of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, I consider that his words would be a perfect answer in the present instance. At the time when the former Government dealt with redistribution, they did so because they were called upon to do so by the constitution, by the result of a census that had been taken previously. Now there is no such reason, and there can only be the one reason, and that is, that the Government are proposing this rearrangement, or gerrymander, of the constituencies with a view of making it easier for hon. gentlemen to be returned to power when they next appeal to the country. Now, they have adopted other means, since they came into power, for making it easier for them to get returned to power. The Government have been reminded of a great many promises they made of important measures on their accession to power, and that there would be a day when they would be face to face with the people to whom they more directly made these promises. They can listen to these charges and give no reply, but when they go before the electors of this country, they will be compelled to give a reply, and the electorate will answer them in a manner which they will not at all like. These gentlemen, who criticised the policy of the previous Administration, and who have failed to implement their promises to the people, must know that the day of reckoning will come, and that, when it does come, the people will be no longer fooled by them as a Government.

These hon. gentlemen, however, have done one thing. If they did not provide for the welfare of the people, they are fast providing for their own welfare. Already no less than fourteen of the Liberal members of this Parliament have gone to their reward. The names of these gentlemen will bear repeating. There is Mr. Choquette, appointed a judge; Mr. Langeller, appointed a judge; the late Mr. Cameron, appointed

Lieutenant-Governor of the North-west Territories; and Mr. Lister, appointed a judge. Sir Oliver Mowat, it is true, was not returned to the House but he undertook an important Cabinet position under certain conditions which were intimated to the people of this country before he was taken into the Government, and which conditions he never fulfilled. Sir Oliver has been made Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. Mr. Lavergne was appointed a judge. Mr. Devlin was made immigration agent in Ireland, and we know what promises Mr. Devlin made to the people of this country before the last election. Mr. Fiset was appointed to the Senate, and Mr. Bechard got a similar appointment. Mr. Forbes, of Nova Scotia, was appointed a judge to make place for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding). Senator McInnes was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia. Mr. King was given a senatorship to make room for the Minister of Railways. Mr. Yeo was made a Senator, and Senator McLellan was made Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick. Within the short space of three years we have had fourteen prominent members of this Parliament appointed to important positions, put out of sight of the electors, and these gentlemen have nothing more to say with regard to the welfare of Canada. But, Mr. Speaker, that is not all. We hear rumours from day to day of positions being promised to hon. members of this House. We see reports in the press of positions being promised to and positions being sought by hon. members of Parliament, and I propose to give some of them to the House. I find on the slate the hon. member for Berthier (Mr. Beausoleil), who, I am informed, has been promised the Montreal post office, and he wants the scalp of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) thrown in. Then there is the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Beith), who is not looking for anything for himself, because he secured the appointment of his brother as collector of customs at Bowmanville. There is the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe (Mr. Bernier), who, it is said, has been promised a senatorship. There is the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), who does not want anything because he is satisfied with the increased duties on his manufactures. There is the hon. member for Victoria, N.S. (Mr. Bethune)—I do not know on which side of the House to find him, but I am told he eloped with the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser).

Mr. BENNETT. He had his arms full.

Mr. McDOUGALL. Yes, and I am told further that he (Mr. Bethune) is seeking for the patronage of the county of Victoria, which is now held by the Premier of Nova Scotia. I hope he will get it. There is the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair), who is well provided for, but I understand he is expecting the leadership of the party,

which no doubt he is entitled to. He has already provided for his son with Mr. Haney on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, a very lucrative position, and the young man is now on a trip to Montana. There is no doubt but that the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) has done a good deal since he has occupied the important position he was given. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) claims to have extended the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal, and the right hon. the First Minister endorsed his claim. But the Prime Minister should have told us a little more of what the Minister of Railways has accomplished since he has taken charge of that department. He should have told us that the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) has established a great industry. Any one who will go to an Intercolonial Railway station between Montreal and Cape Breton cannot fail to see the industry which the hon. gentleman has brought into existence. It is the gum industry, Mr. Speaker, and I am surprised there is no mention of it in the Speech from the Throne. You cannot buy a ticket through a wicket in any Intercolonial Railway station to-day without looking at the Minister of Railways' new industry of Tutti-Frutti, as it is called—put a cent in the slot and take your gum. That is a peculiar business.

Mr. BENNETT. What commission did he get?

Mr. McDOUGALL. I do not know, but I am informed that the Intercolonial Railway station agents are busily employed at times counting the cents dropped in the slot, and that they very often find a large number of counterfeit cents; lead cents, for instance. That is the business they are engaged in on the Intercolonial Railway to-day. Now, Sir, as to the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden), he has accomplished a great deal in his department since he came in, and in return for it he secured the appointment of a cousin at a salary of \$2,400 a year to the position of accountant in the Militia Department. I come now to the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa). That hon. gentleman secured the honour of an important position on the commission to Washington, but we have not seen the bills yet. We will likely have an important statement when we get the Auditor General's Report, showing the amount that the trip of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bourassa) cost to the country. As to the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton), the Ontario papers report that he is slated for a judgeship. The hon. member for Richelieu (Mr. Bruneau) withdrew his resignation—for a consideration, I suppose. The hon. member for Kent, Ont. (Mr. Campbell), I understand, is pressing for a continuation of the duty on flour, and for the sake of that has given up any claim to a senatorship. The hon. member for Kamouraska (Mr. Carroll) is slated for a judgeship. He spoke here the

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other night, and that accounts for it. I come now to a very important person, the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright). I remember how the walls of this building used to resound with his indignation at the benefits that were given to the Tupper family. Oh, what great things the Tupper family used to receive from the country! But now the country knows what great things the Cartwright family receives. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce is drawing \$8,000 a year for himself. His brother, the Rev. C. Cartwright, has been made chaplain of the Kingston Penitentiary. Robert Cartwright, his son, is Assistant Attorney General. Frank Cartwright, another son, is inspector of the North-west Mounted Police. Harry Cartwright, another son, is in the Ontario civil service. James Cartwright, a cousin, is in a position in Osgoode Hall; and John Cartwright, a cousin, is Deputy Attorney General at Toronto. F. C. T. O'Hara, a second cousin, is private secretary, and with the commission.

Mr. BENNETT. Are all the returns in?

Mr. McDOUGALL. No. Straubenzie Cartwright, a second cousin, is appointed to the Military School. Mr. O'Hara, married to a cousin, is Master in Chancery at Chatham, Ontario—a Government appointment. I would like the Minister of Trade and Commerce now to get up and repeat one of his speeches against the Tupper family; would we not enjoy listening to it? Now, I come to the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey). That hon. gentleman, I am told, is prepared to take anything that is handy. He is disappointed at not having got the position of Deputy Minister of Agriculture; but now that he is such a faithful follower of the First Minister, he is satisfied with anything that is handy. The hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) got on a commission to Washington, with four months' board and a title to come.

Mr. EDWARDS. What?

Mr. McDOUGALL. A title to come. I will not forget you. The hon. member for Argenteuil (Mr. Christie), I am told, is likely to get the position of Prohibition Inspector. The hon. member for South Essex (Mr. Cowan) will be satisfied with a junior judgeship; he is slated for it. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) has not forgotten himself, nor his family either. He secured a lighthouse for his brother, and he is fixing up the position of Lieutenant-Governor for another brother; it is on the slate.

The hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis), I am told, is pressing for a whisky permit for the Yukon, and it is said he had one with Pete O'Brien last year. The hon. gentleman can deny that if it is not correct. The hon. member for St. James, Montreal (Mr. Desmarais), who spoke so eloquently the other night, although I

could not understand what he said, is slated for a judgeship. The hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell), I am told, is pressing for the establishment of a permanent department of bottle-necks, and the construction of a deal yard in London. The hon. member for King's, N.B. (Mr. Domville), I understand, is to be issuer of liquor permits for the Yukon. Now I come to my hon. friend from Russell (Mr. Edwards), who was so uneasy a few moments ago. I understand that he is slated for a knighthood. The hon. member for Two Mountains (Mr. Ethier), I am informed, has secured a position for his father in the Langevin Block. The hon. member for Peel (Mr. Featherston), I am given to understand, is promised the position of Inspector of Quarantine. The hon. member for Quebec County (Mr. Fitzpatrick), I am informed, is to be Minister of Justice in the next Government. The hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint), is to be judge of the county court. The hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) is not hard to please. He is to have a judgeship, and he is willing to take it anywhere.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. What is the salary?

Mr. McDOUGALL. We know how deserving of consideration that hon. gentleman is. He was not well treated in the past, I must say. Coming, as I do, from the same province, I would like to see him receive better treatment at the hands of the Administration than he has. The hon. gentleman has had to swallow a great deal, and everybody knows his capacity for swallowing. According to the Parliamentary Companion, he is one of the only two free traders in this House. He and the hon. member for Argenteuil are the only two members of this House who venture to put themselves down there as free traders.

Mr. EDWARDS. That is very great injustice.

Mr. IVES. Are you not satisfied with your knighthood?

Mr. EDWARDS. If the hon. gentleman is referring to me, I do not come from Argenteuil.

Mr. McDOUGALL. I am not referring to the hon. member, but to the hon. member for Argenteuil (Mr. Christie). I do not think that the hon. member for Russell (Mr. Edwards) puts himself down in the "Parliamentary Companion" as a free trader. The hon. member for Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost) wants an increase of duty on agricultural implements, and we are to hear from him, I understand, this afternoon. The hon. member for Chambly and Verchères (Mr. Geoffrion), I am told, will be satisfied with Mr. Tarte's scalp. He has been after it for some time, and the hon. member for Lincoln and Niagara (Mr. Gibson) is to get a senatorship and harbour grants and contracts for his constituency. The hon. member for

Beauce (Mr. Godbout) is backed for a senatorship. The hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Guité) withdrew his resignation, I suppose, for a consideration. We will hear more of him. The hon. member for Hants (Mr. Haley), I am told, is booked for the Senate, and the hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Harwood) is also booked for a senatorship. The hon. member for the west riding of Huron (Mr. Holmes) has, I am told, secured a position in the immigration service for his brother in the North-west Territories at St. Paul.

An hon. MEMBER. Who is that?

Mr. McDOUGALL. Mr. Holmes. The hon. member for Ottawa (Mr. Hutchison), it is said, is to be appointed postmaster. The hon. member for South Grey (Mr. Landerkin) is to be made a Senator; and if he does not get the senatorship, he will take anything that is going, because he has secured a position for his son-in-law in the Government Lands Office at Dawson City, and also a position for another son in the Toronto post office, so that he cannot press very hard his claim to a seat in the Senate. The hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux) is not pressing for much, but will be satisfied if there are no further laws passed with regard to smuggling. All the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Logan) wants is ample means to enable him to get back. The hon. member for East Huron (Mr. Macdonald) who spoke last night so eloquently and forcibly, with the inside of his former speeches turned out, is slated for a senatorship, and secured a position for his son-in-law, Dr. Horsey, to go across the continent on a trip with Li Hung Chang.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I wish to state that I never secured a position for my son-in-law, Dr. Horsey, to go across the continent or anywhere else. Nor did I ever approach the Government, directly or indirectly for that purpose, nor did I ever mention his name to the Government in that connection or any other.

Mr. McDOUGALL. Did he get the job?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). He went across the continent, but at his own expense, and did not receive a cent for the time he put in. These are the facts, and I hope the hon. gentleman will keep them in mind for future reference. The only thing I ever got from the Government was the appointment of my son as surgeon on board the "Diana." He served his time as anybody else would, and got his pay at \$100 a month. Anything else contained in the statement of my hon. friend is absolutely false.

Mr. McDOUGALL. I accept the hon. gentleman's statement. I say that his son secured the position, and no doubt secured it through being the son of the father.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). That is perfectly right, my son secured the position through his father.

Mr. McDOUGALL. It is unnecessary for the hon. gentleman to tell hon. members that he did not ask the position for his son-in-law at the hands of the Government. We all know that was not necessary. The son-in-law asked for it, and they knew who he was. I was going to refer to the appointment of his own son to a position, but my hon. friend has admitted that. Then the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure) is slated for the Truro post office. The hon. member for the north riding of Essex (Mr. McGregor) is, I understand, to be an Inland Revenue inspector.

Mr. McGREGOR. There is nothing in it.

Mr. McDOUGALL. He was disappointed in not getting the position of Windsor postmaster, and I hope he will get the inspectorship, for he deserves it. The hon. member for Antigonish (Mr. McIsaac) is, I understand, seeking superannuation for his brother, who is a judge in that county, with the view of getting the place himself. I must say that I was one of those who recommended the appointment of the present judge of the county of Antigonish, and I have never been sorry that I did so, but have always been proud of that gentleman and his popularity as judge in that district. I must say I would be sorry, however, to recommend his brother. I could not do it on the same ground.

Mr. McISAAC. That is the first I ever heard of it.

Mr. McDOUGALL. The hon. member has heard enough of it in his own county.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). And the hon. gentleman never heard of it anywhere.

Mr. McDOUGALL. I did, dozens of times, in the county of Antigonish, from the electors of that county.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Name.

Mr. McDOUGALL. That is not necessary. We remember the case of the former hon. member for Queen's, who was appointed to the position of judge, to make room for my hon. friend the Minister of Finance. We remember that that appointment was denied when it was on the slate.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It never was on the slate, and consequently could never have been denied.

Mr. McDOUGALL. I am told that the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan), who secured the advantage of the removal of the duty on corn, is very likely, whether he is slated for it or not, to get another advantage at the hands of the present party, and that is a commission for lecturing on agriculture.

An hon. MEMBER. He has that already.

Mr. McDOUGALL. Well, he has only one from the local government, but he will re-

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tire from his present position, because he cannot go back to the electors and tell the story he did before, and will, therefore, get this commission which will give him an opportunity of lecturing them instead on agriculture. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), I am told, is to have the position of Minister of Agriculture or a senatorship, but as the vacancy is likely to take place by the resignation of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) on account of his position on the plebiscite, the hon. member for North Wellington is to take his place. I do not know what truth there is in that, but it is rumoured. However, he secured a position for his brother-in-law—or perhaps his brother-in-law secured it, I will not trouble him to deny it—in the Kingston Penitentiary. Now we come to the hon. member for Burrard (Mr. Maxwell)—and we cannot forget his speech in the House the other night. I am told, and I think the authority on which it comes to me is good, that the hon. gentleman is to get the position of chaplain in a penitentiary on Deadman's Island. Then there is the hon. the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock). We have heard so much about penny postage and about the price that the people of Canada will have to pay for that measure that we do not wonder that it should be reported that the Postmaster General is to be knighted in consideration of his achievements in that line. Next, the hon. member for North Grey, the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson). The hon. gentleman has not been well treated, as he gets \$2,000 less than his colleagues—and he speaks just as loud as any of them, and sometimes louder. But if he is still allowed to have the protective duty on biscuits and candy, he will continue to taffy all the other members of the Government. The hon. member for Maisonneuve (Mr. Préfontaine), I am told that he is slated for a Cabinet position, and he must have Tarte's scalp into the bargain. Then there is the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), whom I see in his place. The height of his ambition is to get the scalp of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), and he will get it. He also wants the Prime Minister to "hitch his chariot to a star." Then we come to the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Rinfret). I am informed that he is to be appointed to the quarantine inspectorship at Grosse Isle. The hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Rogers) is not pressing very hard—will be satisfied with another trunk. I was passing through the lobby yesterday and saw the hon. gentleman with his eye on the bags of mail matter piled up there. I am not surprised, as hon. gentlemen will remember that I showed a few moments ago the increase duty that the Canadian people had to pay on bags from the United States. These bags will come in very handy when they are empty. The hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell), I understand, is picked for a judgeship. The hon. member for Chicoutimi and Saguenay (Mr. Savard) wants lots of

public works. That is all that he is after. If he gets them, he can get back. The hon. member for Huntingdon (Mr. Scriver)—who I will not venture to say he has not earned a senatorship. He ought to get it, and get it he will. Then we come to the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). It is said he is running a race with the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) for the leadership. But, in the meantime, he has secured a position for his brother in the Department of Justice who drew the other day \$1,700 from the exchequer; while a cousin is a clerk at \$1,500, I understand. The hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Stenson)—well, now, I have no doubt the hon. gentleman will deny that he is looking for the postmastership, but the post office is looking for him now. He is slated for the postmastership of Sherbrooke. The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte). Well, he wants still to hold the position of toll-gate keeper, no matter what his friends in Montreal may say. He has already, through holding that position, been able to secure dredging contracts for his son's father-in-law, and a number of other friends. The hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood)—last, but not least. He should not be forgotten. He is down for a senatorship. Now, Mr. Speaker, I have to apologize to any hon. gentleman who may feel in the frame of mind shown by my hon. friend from Russell (Mr. Edwards), when he thought I had skipped his name. If I have skipped any of these hon. gentlemen I would like to be forgiven. But the statements will be important information for the people of Canada, and of great assistance to them, I am sure, in judging of the calibre of the men that will come before them when the dissolution of this Parliament takes place. They will find that they have to deal with new men. When hon. gentlemen opposite came before the people last, they secured the confidence of the electors on the promise of change in the fiscal policy of this country, other important measures of legislation and of great reforms in the administration of the Government of the country. But the Government and its supporters will come before them in the next election as the party that throws the interests of the country aside and wishes to stick to office for their own interest and the benefit of their friends and relations. That is an important plank in their platform, and it is worthy the consideration of the people of this country. I think that this plank will not receive the warmest commendation at the hands of the electors. I am sorry I have occupied so much time, though I could go on much longer and deal with nothing but important matters. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and hon. gentlemen, for the attention with which you have listened to me.

Mr. CHRISTIE. I desire to say, Mr. Speaker, that what the hon. gentleman has stated with regard to myself is without

any foundation; in fact, it is simply untrue.

Mr. McDOUGALL. I accept the statement with a great deal of pleasure. It is another evidence that we are not to have any legislation as a result of the plebiscite.

Mr. F. F. FROST (Leeds and Grenville). It is a good thing for hon. gentlemen on this side of the House to have had their fortunes so thoroughly told as has been done by my hon. friend from Cape Breton (Mr. McDougall). I think we must consider him to have received some commission or to have received power in some way or other through apostolic succession from the witch of Endor, because he comes and prognosticates for every member on this side of the House his past, present and future. As he has described us so well and shown where we are to stand in the future, I think we can safely call him the chief prophet and wizard of Cape Breton—if that is a parliamentary phrase. I think if he were to put out his card as a wizard, fortune teller and prophet, no doubt he would reap a rich harvest. But, Mr. Speaker, I am not going to attempt to reply to my hon. friend from Cape Breton. We have been listening carefully for some weeks in this discussion to hear what our friends in Opposition had to say as to the policy of this Government during the past three years. Any observer who chooses to take a reasonable view of what has been said by them cannot come to any other conclusion than that in the eyes of our hon. friends opposite the policy of the Government has been a complete failure. I have been waiting to hear some concrete charges made. We have listened to rumours and newspaper reports, we have listened to statements that have been bandied about from mouth to mouth, outside of this House and in the country. We have heard very long speeches containing serious charges against the Government, but so far no man on that side of the House comes forward with a single definite charge against the Government, asking for a committee and promising to prove it before a committee. Until this House and this country hear something of this kind, we may safely conclude that the Government policy during the past three years has commended itself to the good judgment of the people of this country.

Now, in the first paragraph of the Address, His Excellency congratulates the House on the country's prosperity, on the expansion of trade and commerce, the flourishing condition of the revenue, the rapidly increasing immigration, and the cessation of the exodus. It is principally upon these points in the Address that I propose for a few moments to take up the time of the House. I find everywhere throughout this country a new, throbbing and pulsating life. We find business in-

creasing rapidly everywhere; we find money more plentiful than it has ever been before; we find that farmers are no longer complaining as they were three or four years ago; we find a most remarkable expansion in trade and commerce. When this Government came into power in 1896, the trade and commerce of this country amounted to \$232,000,000; in 1897 it had increased by \$25,098,000; in 1898, it had increased by \$47,000,000, and this year, judging from the seven months that have already elapsed, the increase will be in the neighbourhood of \$32,000,000, making a total increase in the trade and commerce of this country in the past three years of over \$103,000,000. Surely that is something we have to be proud of, that is something most remarkable in its character, and we may well stop to consider what has brought it about. We know that in 1896, when this Government came into power, times were very dull, business was stagnant, failures were numerous. Well, the very first thing the Government did was to place the business interests of the country upon a foundation that would be lasting. During those three years that policy has been carried out, and as a consequence of it we have a great expansion of trade, we have better times, we have a cessation of failures, we have, as I have already remarked, a great increase of business; in fact, during these three years an almost complete transformation has taken place throughout the Dominion of Canada. We recall a promise of the present Premier of Canada made prior to the elections, when our friends now in Opposition tried to show from statistics that the country was prosperous. The right hon. gentleman stated in one of his speeches that when the Liberal party came into power the people would require no statistics to show that they were prosperous, all they would have to do would be to put their hands into their pockets and they would know it. Well, Sir, that is what has actually taken place.

Since this Government came into power they have been able to bring this country to the notice of the nations of the world to an extent that has never been done before. The visit of the Prime Minister to Great Britain contributed in a large measure to that result. We know that since that time the people of Great Britain have been constantly looking towards this country as a place to emigrate to. We know that today we are receiving a greater immigration than ever before. We also realize the fact that our Ministers have been bringing this country before the notice of the nations. Belgium has reason to remember the Dominion of Canada, Germany has reasons to remember the Dominion of Canada, through the action of the Premier of this country. The United States has never before taken so much interest in the affairs of this country as they do at the present moment. As a consequence of the inter-

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national conference, in which our Ministers took part, the statesmen of the United States are paying more attention to Canadian affairs than ever before. We now read of them going to visit Alaska and the far North-west to examine the boundary question, to ascertain data upon which to work. We know that our own Ministers have this data, we know that they have understood this question all along, but the difficulty has been to get the people of the United States to realize the extent of this country and its importance upon the North American continent. Therefore, we look forward with hope and confidence to the work that is now carried on by the high commissioners at Washington.

The Government have also taken up the great question of transportation, which is, after all, one of the greatest questions that was ever brought before this Parliament. We have had other questions of importance, but nothing has occurred in the history of this country which will match in importance this great question of transportation; and one of the first acts of the Government has been to bring the Intercolonial up to Montreal.

We have heard a great deal of opposition to that scheme, but we have not heard anything yet which can produce upon the minds of the people of this country anything as against the importance of that great object. We can read, at the present time, in the report of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) of the great value which it has been to this country, to bring the Intercolonial Railway into the heart and centre of the commercial interests of the Dominion. We have again in the far west the Crow's Nest Pass Railway. We saw, when that project was carried through this House, not one single member on the opposite side of the House opposing it; in fact, no division was taken and it was not until after it was well under way that we heard one word in opposition to it. Now, we hear of what is known as the Crow's Nest deal. It is a very easy matter to say "deal," but it is not an easy matter to show that the Crow's Nest Pass Railway is not of the greatest benefit to the country, and is not a necessity, if we intend to open up the southern British Columbia region. It is now carrying there immense quantities of products from Alberta and from the North-west Territories, and our farmers up there are getting very large prices for their butter, their cattle and other products, when, otherwise, they would have been obliged to have taken short prices if they had had to send them east and ship them to Europe. Then again, in this great scheme of transportation, is the deepening of the St. Lawrence canals, and that, of itself, is a work of great importance. Hitherto we have only been able to send vessels, loaded with 25,000 bushels of wheat, through the St. Lawrence canals: now, when this work is completed, we will be able to forward vessels loaded with 100,000 bushels of wheat,

and the importance of this great work to the farmers of the country is of the very highest. We realize the fact that every cent that can possibly be gained, in the transportation charges on the products of the country, adds just so much to the prices of those articles to the farmers of Canada, and we know that, as you enrich the farmers, you enrich all other people who are engaged in business, merchants, manufacturers and all other classes. Therefore, the work that is now going on in the way of increasing the transportation facilities, the facilities for getting the products of this great country into the markets of Europe, is one of the greatest moments, and one which can occupy our time to the very greatest advantage.

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

### After Recess.

#### SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 26) respecting the Columbia and Western Railway Company.—(Mr. Costigan.)

Bill (No. 29) to incorporate La Compagnie du Chemin de fer de Colonisation du Nord.—(Mr. Bourassa.)

Bill (No. 33) respecting the Nipissing and James Bay Railway Company.—(Mr. Bertram.)

Bill (No. 34) respecting the Pontiac Pacific Junction Railway Company.—(Mr. Poupore.)

Bill (No. 35) to incorporate the Edmonton and Slave Lake Railway Company.—(Mr. Poupore.)

Bill (No. 42) respecting the Portage du Fort and Bristol Branch Railway Company.—(Mr. Poupore.)

Bill (No. 43) respecting the Canada Southern Railway Company.—(Mr. Ingram.)

Bill (No. 44) to incorporate the Alaska and North-western Railway Company.—(Mr. Gilles.)

Bill (No. 45) to incorporate the St. Clair and Erie Ship Canal Company.—(Mr. Tisdale.)

Bill (No. 46) to incorporate the Arthabaska Railway Company.—(Mr. Lavergne.)

Bill (No. 47) respecting the Brandon and South-western Railway Company.—(Mr. Morrison.)

#### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

Mr. F. T. FROST (Leeds and Grenville). Mr. Speaker, before you left the Chair at six o'clock, I was referring to the great question of the development of this country by means of intercommunication, so that the products of Canada might be sent to the markets of the world in the best manner and at the cheapest rates. Every Canadian, no matter in what part of the Dominion he may reside, looks forward with hope to the time

when Canada will be the home of many millions of people. We realize that we have a wonderful heritage, and if we are to make progress along the lines of prosperity and expansion of trade, we must equip ourselves in such a way so as to develop to the fullest extent the resources which Providence has placed at our disposal. When this Government came into power, we found our transportation facilities very imperfect. Part of the canal system had been constructed, but part remained to be constructed before the whole value of the expenditure would be of any real worth to the country. We found also, that many millions of dollars had been paid for railway communication connecting the eastern and western provinces, but that railway system had been built without any restrictions whatever, and so the people of the west were greatly discontented as to the charges and the freight rates. We found also, that unhappily throughout the length and breadth of the land there was one burning question which prevented the people from calmly considering the proper realization of the great possibilities and potentialities of Canada. That question has been referred to on several occasions since the House opened, and I do not promise to speak of it further than to say, that through the very wise statesmanship of the present Government it was settled and settled for all time to come. While race and creed cries prevailed throughout the land, it was not possible for our people to thoughtfully consider the best means for promoting our material prosperity. Once in a while we now hear the race cry raised, but it no longer has any potency; it is dead, and he who today raises that cry is merely laughed at for his pains. Sir, the people of Canada are united without respect of race or creed. They are united in the one great desire to make this a nation worthy of a vigorous and intelligent people, and they are united too in the desire that Canada shall be an independent British nation on this half of the North American continent. The Government, after taking this school question entirely out of federal politics, devoted themselves to the task of equipping this country so as to make it, as it ought to be, independent of any other nation in the transportation of our products to the markets of the world. We had been for years, to a very large extent under the thumb of the United States—perhaps that is not a very happy expression but it will convey what I mean. A very large portion of our products was sent to market through the United States. It is true we had contributed generously to the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the development of our water system, but at the same time, we were contributing to the wealth of the carrying companies of the United States, and to the building up of the seaports and cities of that country. This Government, when it came into power, at once set to work to remedy this unfortunate condition of affairs, and they lent their energies

to placing Canada in a position of independence, so that Canadian products grown upon Canadian soil should be carried over Canadian railways and waterways and exported through Canadian ports. That is a policy worthy of this Government, worthy of any Government, and worthy of any country.

Now, Sir, one of the first things to be done by the Liberal Government was the deepening of the canals. We are charged by hon. gentlemen opposite with having increased the debt; but it must be apparent to them, that had they remained in power, the same amount of money would have to be expended; because what use was the Sault Ste. Marie lock or the Welland Canal, if the canals on the St. Lawrence below Prescott could not be utilized for the same sized vessels as passed through the Sault Ste. Marie lock and the Welland Canal. The Liberal Government found that vessels going through the lower part of our canal system were only able to draw nine feet of water, and to carry 25,000 bushels of wheat, while larger steamers running from Duluth and Fort William could discharge their cargoes of 100,000 bushels, and in some cases 200,000 bushels, at Buffalo, where a great city has grown up, and where there were 57 elevators ready to receive the grain and to tranship it immediately to barges going through the Erie Canal down to New York. Consequently, the amount of traffic which we got through to Montreal was not more than one-tenth of all the traffic that came down from our Canadian North-west. The Government saw this, and immediately commenced the deepening of the canals. For this work some four or five million dollars has been expended. Will any hon. gentleman in the Opposition stand up here and say that that is not a wise expenditure? What is going to be the result of it? That by next fall we shall be sending down vessels containing 100,000 bushels of wheat. This will reduce the cost to the consumer, and will be the means of adding to the price of grain, not only in the North-west, but all over Canada. It will also be the means of securing an additional traffic from the north-western states, which, all things being equal, will go by way of the St. Lawrence as the natural route to the sea. But we have been handicapped by the want of facilities at Montreal. While we had excellent products, the best of every kind, our farmers were not getting the full value of their products. Even at the present time cattle bring 1 cent a pound more in Chicago than they do on our side; and all the way through we have been, to a certain extent, discriminated against in the matter of prices, simply for the want of proper facilities for getting these products to the best markets. The Government took this matter up in a business-like way, and they have applied themselves energetically to the problem during the three years that they have been in power, until to-day we have before us, as I have said, almost a

transformation scene. Although the deepening of the canals has not yet been completed, we know that in the west, as a result of the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, the farmers of Alberta have been getting from 15 to 20 cents per pound for their butter. We know that through the energy of the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), in establishing creameries in that section of the country, reopening old ones that had been closed and adding many new ones, the farmers there have been making a large amount of money, and large numbers of cattle have been going out of that country to the Kootenay mining section in British Columbia. Again, we find that the Intercolonial Railway has been, through the energy of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), lifted out of the rut into which it had got, and is now being placed on a paying basis. The first link in that chain was, to take over the Drummond County Railway and to make a contract with the Grand Trunk by which the Intercolonial Railway should come to the city of Montreal, where it competes with the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Pacific Railway. What was the condition of that railway prior to 1896? One end of it was opposite the city of Quebec, where it connected with the Grand Trunk Railway, and could only take such freight as the Grand Trunk chose to give it. The Grand Trunk had another line running to Portland, where it had splendid harbour and freight facilities, and where it would pay that railway to deliver freight rather than to send it over the Intercolonial to Halifax and St. John. But, further than that, we found that the late Government had leased to the Canadian Pacific Railway the best paying portion of the Intercolonial, that portion running between Halifax and St. John, so that the Government were handicapped because they were not able to take any freight on that line, and their passenger traffic was emasculated in such a way that it all went direct to the Canadian Pacific Railway. Now all this has been reversed. The Minister of Railways and Canals, immediately on his entry into this Government, gave notice to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company of the termination of that contract, and he immediately set to work to get the Drummond County Railway brought into the city of Montreal. All this has been accomplished, and to-day we find traffic on the line increasing very rapidly. We find the balance coming on the right side of the ledger; we find a competition that is benefiting the farmers of Canada; and we find that business is springing up all over that line. Now, no one can deny that this, as part of the grand equipment which will enable this country to carry and dispose of the products of this country, was a wise scheme. Then, in connection with that, we have the Montreal harbour improvements. We know that in the city of Mont-

real there has been during the past couple of years considerable contention on that subject, some contending for one plan and some for another. But I have this to say, that the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), who I am very sorry to know is not in good health, and is prevented from being in this House—I am very happy to know that that hon. gentleman, through his statesmanlike grasp of public affairs, which he has developed during the past two or three years that he has been in this Government, will succeed, if that project is carried out in its entirety, in making Montreal one of the largest cities on this continent. No man has ever had more vilification or more abuse in regard to that very matter than the hon. Minister of Public Works, and no man ever deserved it less. For my part, I can say this in all sincerity, that there is no man more thought of throughout the length and breadth of Canada than the hon. Minister of Public Works. He is a gentleman whom the people of the province of Ontario have confidence in. He is a gentleman who, if he has anything to say, says it, and if he has anything to do, does it. He is a man of pluck, a man of energy, a man of honesty, a man of truth and a man of ability. When he had anything to say before this Government came into power, he said it, and he proved that he was right. We have heard a good deal of abuse of the hon. Minister of Public Works, but we have not seen any man who had the pluck to do what he did—rise in his place and bring a charge against him, and ask for a committee and prove that charge. These are things that are endearing the hon. Minister of Public Works not only to the people of Ontario, but to the solid delegation that stands behind him in this House of Commons. Now, the harbour of Montreal is, after all, the great heart of the commercial interests of Canada. As every business man knows, the city of Montreal should have the very best equipment possible for the transshipment of the products of this country into ocean-going steamers. That harbour is at present antiquated. The harbour of Portland has had \$12,000,000 or \$15,000,000 spent upon it; the harbour of New York has had \$25,000,000 or \$30,000,000 spent upon it; the harbour of Boston has had \$20,000,000 spent upon it. These ports consequently are so fitted out to-day that they take the products of the United States and Canada as well at one-half the price that is charged at the port of Montreal, and until that is rectified, all that the Government may do for the transportation of the products of the farm at Montreal will be of little avail. The Government can foresee the millions of people that are going to settle in this country, and the immense traffic that is going to result from the settling of lands in the North-west. We already see what this country is able to do in the way of development; we can see the great expansion of our foreign trade

during the past three or four years. In three years the foreign trade of this country has increased \$104,000,000, and its domestic trade has very nearly doubled. What is the result of that expansion? Throughout the length and breadth of the land every manufacturing industry, every mercantile establishment, every workman is busy. We see the cessation of the former exodus and every evidence of prosperity, from one end of the country to the other. We see the good effects of the administration of this gentleman who has been so violently and frequently assailed, the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), in the thousands of immigrants that are coming to this country. If you look up the papers in the United States, you will find in them everywhere inquiries about Canada; you will find that people from Michigan and the northern states are taking up and conning all the reports about Canada, and many of them, including many Canadians, are leaving the United States to settle in our North-west. Only the other day, I saw it stated in a newspaper that the ex-mayor of that city was leaving Detroit and going to the North-west Territories, in the vicinity of Alameda, where he is taking up a ranch, and where he intends to live. He says that he is tired of politics and is going to cast in his lot with the Canadian people. You will find the same thing everywhere. We hear of large bodies of people making a general move into our Canadian North-west. We find people in all the Scandinavian countries, in all the northern parts of Europe and Russia—people who are fleeing from their homes for one reason or another—coming to settle into this country. It is the duty of this Government to see that nothing is left undone to make this prosperity of Canada continuous and permanent; not a prosperity by fits and starts, not a momentary prosperity, because of a good crop this year and then a set back on account of a poor crop, but a prosperity of a permanent character; and by putting the equipment by which the products of this country can be sent out across the ocean, in such a position that it will be practically impossible for any other country to compete with us, or for the country to the south of us to do better, we shall make that prosperity permanent.

I have a few figures here to submit with regard to freight rates. I find that the freight rates over the railways to Fort William are the same, but down to Buffalo the rate is three and one-eighth cents, including elevator charges. Vessels carrying 25,000 bushels of grain, going down to Montreal through our canals, have to pay from six to seven cents per bushel, but if we have the canals deepened to fourteen feet, then vessels carrying 100,000 bushels of grain through to Montreal will do so at the same price as to Chicago or Buffalo or New York, and probably just a little cheaper. Will not that be a great benefit to the farmers of Canada? Will that not give them fully two or three cents a bushel more for their wheat? In the

province of Manitoba and the North-west Territories, which export 30,000,000 to 35,000,000 bushels of wheat, that would mean practically \$1,000,000 more in the pockets of the farmers. Will that not take away their grievances and their continual cry against heavy freight charges? Will not \$2,000,000 or \$3,000,000 put into the farmers' pockets instead of going into transportation and dock charges in Montreal be a benefit to the country and justify all the expenditure now being made by the Government in deepening these canals and putting this country in a position to ship cheaply our products at the very lowest possible expense?

Then we have, of course, the fast line service which is coming. Also, the Pacific cable which is coming. Our Government is a Government of business men. They see the great possibilities and potentialities of Canada and can look ahead. They see what a tremendous advance has been already made since they have assumed office; and judging by what has been done, we may imagine what our progress will be in three, ten or fifteen years more. It is the duty of this Parliament to see that nothing is left undone and that the Government are supported in carrying out the great National Policy, which their policy is.

Mr. TAYLOR. The National Policy.

Mr. FROST. The difficulty is that my hon. friend supposes there is only one National Policy, and that is their policy of keeping on increasing the tariff until they nearly tarified the whole of our manufacturing industries out of existence. But there is a National Policy better than that one, that gets right down to the root of things, that puts the people on a prosperous basis first, and once we get the people prosperous, every manufacturing industry and every other industry is bound to prosper.

I just want to say a few more words with reference to the port of Montreal, because I look upon the improvement of that port as a very important feature of the Government policy. Montreal is naturally a great exporting outlet. On looking at the reports of the Montreal Produce Exchange for last year, I find that while the receipts of grain there were pretty large, nearly the whole of those received were re-exported. They re-exported 90 per cent of wheat, 96 per cent of corn, 90 per cent of peas, 92 per cent of oats and 98 per cent of barley. I merely give the percentages and contrast these with the percentages of other cities. Philadelphia re-exported 32 per cent, Boston 48 per cent, Baltimore 44 per cent, and New York only 45 per cent. So that naturally Montreal is a great centre of export; and if you can just improve our antiquated system there and make that port a modern harbour fitted up with every equipment for loading and unloading of products, you will have in Montreal one of the greatest ports of distribution, not only of our country, but of the entire

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north-western states, and you will build up one of the greatest transportation businesses through our country, both by water and by rail, that there is upon the continent of America.

But there is no doubt that this policy has been very greatly promoted by the statesmanship of the hon. gentlemen who compose the present Government. All these hon. gentlemen have been more or less connected with the work which has resulted in the wonderful transformation we have seen in the past few years. The Minister of Agriculture, as I have already stated, has been very active in placing before the farmers every improvement that could increase the productions of the soil. Our other Ministers have also done their full share. And not only have they done their share within the borders of Canada, but they have been attracting to Canada the attention of the people of other countries. In the recent changes made by the Postmaster General, we have one of the brightest periods in the history of the whole Post Office Department. In carrying out of the Imperial system, in which so much has already been accomplished, the Postmaster General has filled a worthy part. The penny postage system is a great success. I heard the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) say that penny postage had only benefited the business men and no others. Personally I can say, speaking for our own company, that a very few days after the penny postage came into use, our firm took the amount that we would save and increased the wages of our workmen ten per cent. Penny postage has been the means of assisting every business man in this country to widen his business, to increase the pay of his employees. More than that, it has been the means of binding the Empire together in closer bonds than ever. In connection with the efforts made by the Premier, it has done more in this direction than ever was done before. It has also been the means of drawing the attention of other nations of the earth to this country, and we are feeling the effects of that to-day. We are told sometimes that our prosperity is due to the fact that Providence gave us good crops. It is true that Providence gave us good crops, but Providence has also given us sound business men to take charge of the Government of the country and we have every reason to thank Providence for what he has done. To the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) also great credit is due. No member of the Government, however, has been more fiercely assailed. We had a six-hour speech a few nights ago denouncing the alleged mismanagement of the Yukon. Yet let me point out a curious circumstance. An opening has been afforded for these hon. gentlemen to go before the people with these charges, by reason of a by-election in the neighbouring constituency of Brockville. Two members of the Opposition went to speak in that constituency, and so little did they think of these Yukon charges that they did not deem it

worth while to press them, or even to mention them. Yet these hon. gentlemen were speaking in the very town where lives the late commissioner of the Yukon, whose character has been assailed in the most villainous and assassin-like manner. And still we are called upon, and the country is called upon to condemn the Minister of the Interior and to say that there is something wrong in the management of the Yukon. I venture to say that during the whole course of the election campaign of Brockville not one word will be spoken in regard to this maladministration in the Yukon. That is quite in accord with the record of hon. gentlemen opposite since this Government assumed power. Every charge they have brought before the country has been so flimsy and of such a cloudy nature, as to afford no basis whatever for a conclusion in the minds of reasonable men. But in the speech of the hon. gentleman reference is made to a railway from Bennett to Skagway, the fact of its being built being given as the justification for the Senate in blocking the Yukon railway scheme of this Government last session. It is a most singular thing that a railway owned by Americans, and by the very Americans who sent a man by the name of Livernash down here to influence the Senate against the Government's proposal, should be cited as a justification for throwing out a proposal to build a railway that would keep the trade of that country in the hands of Canadians. These Americans have captured the trade to a very large extent, to the detriment of the business men of this country and this just at a time when we were expending large sums of money for the completion of our canal system and the completion of our transportation facilities, to place us in a position of independence with regard to our own trade. We are now told that we have a railway that did not cost us anything. We have not a railway in our own country, but we should have had it, and should have controlled the whole trade of this country had the Government's proposal been accepted. Moreover, we should have towns at Glenora and all the way up to Dawson. We should also have had a splendid line of electric-lighted steamers on the Stikine River. We had them when the season opened last year, but they had to be taken off the route. Today we are asked to believe that this whole arrangement was contrary to the interests of the country and that the Senate did a wise thing in blocking it. We cannot know how much has been lost to the business men of the country by the blocking of that railway last session.

I do not intend to detain the House for more than a few minutes longer. I wish to draw attention, in closing, to the parrot cry of broken pledges. Hon. gentlemen opposite seem to forget that the Liberal party has a platform on which they went to the country and which was accepted by the country returning the party to power. Ever since the

party has been in power they have carried out every pledge made in their platform.

Now, are we to be held responsible for every isolated statement which any member, or defeated candidate, or any one else has chosen to make throughout this country during the last ten or fifteen years? I say you cannot hold the present Government to those pledges. Who to-day would hold the hon. leader of the Opposition to the promise he made in 1887, that there would be 20,000 men making pig iron in this country if he were permitted to increase the duty to \$4 a ton? Who would hold the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) to his pledge to give this country prohibition if he got into power, a pledge that he made years ago? Yet he never mentioned the subject after he got into power. We were told by scores of candidates, and by members now sitting in this House, that if the National Policy was adopted there would not be one dollar's worth of manufactured goods brought into this country. Has that proved true? Did they keep that pledge? Why, Sir, we know that millions of dollars' worth of manufactures were being brought in every year. We cannot understand this iteration, and reiteration, this "damnable iteration," as Manton Marble would say, going on all the time about the alleged broken pledges of this Government. Sir, the policy of this Government during the last three years is shown in the abundant prosperity of this country to-day, in its increased business, in its great expansion of trade, in the added opportunities for growth. Their magnificent policy is now before the country, and every constituency which has been open since the general elections, has commended, supported and maintained that policy. Is it possible that hon. gentlemen opposite can bring forward no other charge against the present Government? Is it possible that no other attack can be made upon the general policy of the Government than a repetition of the parrot-cry of what somebody said three, or four, or six, or seven years ago? Why, Sir, times have changed; everything has changed; the Government have changed; we are all different from what we were, and we have not time to stop and answer all the cries which we hear in regard to broken pledges. I hope our friends in Opposition will rise to the occasion, I hope they will be able to appreciate the change that has taken place in the country, and confine their criticisms upon the Government to something that they have actually done or failed to do, instead of relying upon so small a stock in trade as broken pledges. The old troubles have passed away. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to know that in this great country of ours we are no longer troubled by cries of race and creed; we are no longer to be set up to be knocked down by this faction or that faction, but we all appeal to the country upon the broad lines of improvement, and progress, and prosperity. Now, Sir, I

have no political strength apart from the grand record which the Government, during the three years they have been in power, have made for me in my constituency, and all the members of the Liberal party will say the same as to their respective constituencies. This Government have shown by every act, by every move they have made, by the magnificent handling of the finances by the Minister of Finance, by the splendid achievements of the other Ministers in bringing about the condition of affairs that we have to-day, that they are worthy of the confidence the people have reposed in them. I say that we have never before had a Government in Canada that can appeal to this country with greater confidence than the present Government; and if we are to-day a prosperous, a contented and a happy people, I say that we owe it largely, in addition to what Providence has done for us in bringing about the great change which has taken place, to the ability and to the energy of the present Government of Canada.

Mr. McLENNAN (Glengarry). Mr. Speaker, I am not fond of speaking. I have taken up but very little time of this House since I have been a member, but I now consider it is my duty, as it is the duty of the other representatives of the various constituencies represented, on this side of the House, to give expression to my opinions upon the conduct of the Government now in power. The hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat claimed that this Government had a policy. I never knew a time when hon. gentlemen opposite had a fixed and properly defined policy. Certainly it is a conundrum to the people of this country to find what their policy is at the present time. Nobody knows it. They have had a great many of them, but they have gone back on every one of them, and now they have accepted ours, and adopted the National Policy as the hon. gentleman who preceded me says. I have no doubt that the Government met the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat (Mr. Frost), before the general elections, and made him a pledge, as a manufacturer, that they would see that he would be all right. When those hon. gentlemen were in Opposition they constantly decried the country, they could not say too much against it. Their speeches were of a most disloyal character. They preached blue ruin, they said that the country was going to destruction, that the people were bled white by taxation. They said that if we did not get commercial union, or unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, this country could not continue to exist. They cannot deny this, their record is in the "Hansard," every man in this House knows it, they know it themselves. Naturally they do not like to hear us recall their past record. But their record is such as I have described it. During the last few years the Conservative party were in power there existed all over the world the greatest depression that the world

Mr. FROST.

ever saw. At such a time you would expect that all loyal men, especially the representatives of the people, would assist in tiding over that depression so far as this country was concerned. But when that depression was at its greatest height they did everything they could to increase it. Now, the Conservative party, by wise and prudent legislation, succeeded in tiding over that depression. They introduced a banking system which was the envy of the whole world. We found that the people of the United States were coming to this country to deposit their money in the banks along the border, because they knew it would be safer here than in their own country. This was a result of the legislation of the Conservative party. It was also a great satisfaction to the people generally, to the mechanic, to the labouring man, to the farmer, to know that their money was safe when deposited in the banks of Canada. There was nothing to affect it; it was perfectly safe. There was not the slightest danger of losing one dollar, one hundred dollars, one thousand dollars or ten thousand dollars, if it was deposited there or if there was a note in their pocket. Now, Sir, you find that there is a very pronounced difference between the two parties; you find that the Conservative party are patriotic and loyal to the best interests of the country. Though there were such speeches made by hon. gentlemen, who were formerly in Opposition, you cannot find a leading Conservative or any Conservative, or any Conservative newspaper from the Atlantic to the Pacific, saying one word against the country in which we are living. As hon. gentlemen have talked of policies, let me draw the attention of this House, Mr. Speaker, to the fact that hon. gentlemen had several policies during the time that they were in Opposition. There was free trade, but free trade did not work and they changed to tariff for revenue and they changed from tariff for revenue to commercial union, from commercial union to unrestricted reciprocity and they made great promises in regard to unrestricted reciprocity. When Mr. Wiman introduced commercial union into this country it was explained at the time and it is not necessary here for me to bring these old matters up. Every one knows that it was not a true Canadian policy. It was in favour of the United States, a thing which Mr. Hill well knew when he said that annexation would follow Commercial Union. This was well exposed by Conservative leaders, and then came unrestricted reciprocity, free trade as it is in England, free trade, continental free trade and a go-as-you-please policy, and this is the policy upon which they went to the elections. They were elected on the go-as-you-please policy. They tried to get the confidence of the people by saying, at one place, that they were free traders, at another place that they were in favour of free trade as it is in England, and at another place that they were protectionists. The hon.

gentleman who has just taken his seat (Mr. Frost) is a protectionist, and they preached protection to him. They dealt with each section of the country as it would best suit the particular section to which they were appealing. Hon. gentlemen are confident now in their seats; they feel that they are safe. They say: We are here, and you are there; we have won the by-elections. Let me remind hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House that there was a Government in power from 1874 to 1878 and that they were very confident that they were going to remain in power. They were elected by sixty of a majority, and they were confident that they were going to remain in power because they won every by-election that came along until they had nearly 100 of a majority. They were as safe in their seats as hon. gentleman now are, and much safer. I was in the west at that time and people there were betting freely that the Reform party would be sustained by over fifty majority, but they were turned out by a majority of sixty-eight, notwithstanding their confidence during the time they were in power. The hon. gentlemen think now that they are going to remain in power, but the Government of that day was very much better than the Government of to-day, and, before I am through, I will try to deal with some of the points that I have taken very particular pains to look into rather than attempt to speak upon the merits and demerits of both parties in a general way. Let me say at once that bad as the Government of 1874-1878 were they were not nearly so deserving of condemnation as the Government of to-day. Now, the gentlemen who composed the Government in power from 1874 to 1878 were, as I have said, very confident. The right hon. Prime Minister, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and some others were in that Government, and they were perfectly confident that they would carry the election if they went to the country again. They had the same success they now have in regard to by-elections. They won many by-elections, but I am sorry to say that I have very little faith in by-elections in which you have the prestige of two Governments and all the forces that they can bring to bear concentrated in one county against the opposition. In addition to that, you have to contend against the officials of the Ontario Government, in our province at least, which does not engage men unless they are pronounced tricksters and can make themselves useful in the constituencies. As it will be found in Brockville now, the county will be honeycombed with the officials of the two Governments doing their utmost to carry the election. These men are trained in this work, many of them in this House and under the Ontario Government, and with the money and advantages they have and their opportunities for canvassing, it is almost impossible to carry a by-election.

Mr. SCRIVER. You want to give it up in advance.

Mr. McLENNAN (Glengarry). However, I hope we will be more successful in future. The Reform party, from 1874 to 1878 bungled matters as the Government are doing now. They seem to think that to say to them they are incapable of managing the affairs of the country is a statement not warranted by the facts, but I think the records of the country will show distinctly that the statements are thus warranted. During the whole history of the country, up to the time of the present Government, there was no such bungling and incapacity as was displayed by the Administration from 1874 to 1878. We know that they adopted a plan for building the Canadian Pacific Railway by way of water stretches which hon. gentlemen are now ashamed to hear of. They know that they failed in their policy in regard to the construction of that great road, just as they failed in every policy they ever placed before the country. They know that their judgment was not good then, and we have seen that it is not good now. They know that every policy they have ever placed before the country has been a failure. They have gone over the many policies which I have just mentioned, and as none of them would stand the light of day for any length of time, they changed their policy almost every year. The Government in power between 1874 and 1878 found no man with confidence enough in their railway scheme to take any stock in it and it is a fortunate thing for the country that they did not, although the Mackenzie Government offered larger subsidies for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway at that time than the road has been built for under a Conservative Government. We know that they could get no man of financial standing, or any practical man, to take hold of any such ill-considered and impracticable scheme as they then proposed. They built a canal at Fort Frances, which is now filled up with sawdust, and which cost nearly half a million dollars, and it is not worth five cents to-day. Any one who is familiar with that route knows that it would be utter nonsense to think of taking through it the millions of bushels of grain raised in the North-west. That, Sir, is a specimen of the ability displayed by the Liberal Government, when it was in power twenty years ago.

You remember, Mr. Speaker, that in this very debate the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) challenged the leader of the Government to put his finger on one jot or tittle the Liberals had contributed to the progress of the country; and the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) was indiscreet enough to take up that challenge, and to reply in these words:

I accept at once the challenge which he (Sir Charles Tupper) threw down yesterday. He defies

us, in stentorian tones, to say what we had done for the country, and in speaking of the Administration, he said we had done nothing whatever, and that in everything we had done we had shown utter and complete incapacity. Well, Sir, I accept the challenge of the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper). He asked us to say what we had done for the good of the country. I will try and tell him.

And a very poor attempt, Mr. Speaker, did the Prime Minister make at telling what his Government had done for the country. He enumerated seven things, which, he claimed to be great acts of statesmanship; but I will take those seven things, one after another, and show you that the claims made by the Premier in respect to them are utterly without foundation. Here are the seven things he claimed credit for: Settling the Manitoba school question; preferential trade; penny postage; tariff reform; cold storage; extension of the Intercolonial Railway, through the Drummond county deal; and lower freight rates. The right hon. gentleman came to power three years ago with a large majority at his back, and he has been Prime Minister during four sessions of Parliament, but this is all he could claim credit for. It is a most humiliating position for the Prime Minister of any civilized country to be compelled to admit that he has done practically nothing as I shall be able to show. And how did he tell us he had settled the school question? He said:

We removed it from the federal to the provincial arena.

This, Sir, is an admission that his Government has done nothing to settle it, and is not entitled to any credit therefor. Is it not a fair question to ask: If his Government merely removed it from the federal to the provincial arena, how did they settle it? With whom did they settle it? Did the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) settle it between themselves? Did they settle it with the minority in Manitoba, who are most interested? Certainly not. The very statement of the Prime Minister shows that his Government has done nothing towards a settlement. And yet, Sir, this is one of the seven wonderful things he says he has done for the country. Let me ask: Have they placed on record in any statute of Canada, or any statute of the province of Manitoba anything which provides for a settlement of the school question? The right hon. gentleman made great pledges before the election as to what he would do in this matter, but he and his Government have gone back on these pledges, as they have on every other pledge which they made to the people. According to the right hon. gentleman's own statement, he has placed the school question in the hands of the Greenway Government, and there it is. But, Sir, the school question was in the provincial Government's hands before the legis-

Mr. McLENNAN (Glengarry).

lative council in Manitoba allowed themselves to become extinct. That legislative council was promised that every justice would be extended to the minority if they would allow themselves to be wiped out, and, very foolishly, they did so; and the Greenway Government took advantage of the situation and perpetrated acts of injustice that they would not dare perpetrate, had the legislative council been in existence. We now find that the Manitoba Government is making further demands on the Federal Government, and Mr. Greenway and Mr. Cameron not only want the \$300,000 that was promised last year, but they want all the school lands, and all the school funds, and, in fact, everything in sight. They are coming down here to make a raid on the Dominion treasury, and if they succeed, they will be masters of the situation, for the money will be very useful in their elections, which they expect shortly.

Another great deed for which the Prime Minister claims credit is, that his Government has given preferential trade to England. We know, that before the right hon. gentleman crossed the Atlantic to the Jubilee celebration, the people of this country were very anxious for preferential trade. The people are anxious for it yet. The hon. the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), before he was Premier, advocated preferential trade very strenuously; and the present Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), speaking at Toronto, and London, and other places in Canada, favoured the principle that Great Britain should give the products of Canada and of the other colonies a preference over foreign goods in the British market. The people took the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) at his word, and believed that when he went to England, he would advocate preferential trade; but, Sir, they were grievously disappointed. Hardly had he set foot on English soil, when, addressing a meeting at Liverpool, the Canadian Premier said:

What we give you by our preferential tariff we give you in gratitude for the splendid freedom under which we have prospered. It is a free gift. We ask no compensation. Protection has been the curse of Canada. We would not see you come under its baneful influence, for what weakens you must weaken us.

This is a very extraordinary statement to make after the promises that had been given to the farmers and the people of this country, who expected that their interests would be looked after by the right hon. gentleman. He had a different story before he was elected by the people of Canada to his present position; but when he went to Great Britain he tried to please the people of that country and not the people of Canada. He will find out later that he has not pleased the people of Canada. He expressed himself so strongly in favour of free trade in England that he was presented with a Cobden medal, and here is what he said in reply after

Lord Farrer had presented him with that medal :

I am more touched than words can give you an idea of, for the very kind, and more than kind testimonial which is conveyed to me by the Cobden Club for the poor effort which I, not alone, not individually, but as a member of a large party in Canada, have made in the cause of free trade. I was a free trader before I came to England.

He did not say that in Toronto and London, and elsewhere in this country.

I am still more a free trader, having seen what free trade has done in England, in building up this great Empire. To deviate from the principles of freedom would be to much weaken the ties and bonds which now bind us together.

The hon. gentleman has not acted in good faith with the people of Great Britain; he and his Government have deceived them, as he has the people of this country in everything. In the first place, he led them to believe that he would reduce the duty on goods from England 25 per cent. Has he reduced the duty 25 per cent from what it was at that time? He certainly has not; but he increased the duty 25 or 30 per cent on goods that largely come from Great Britain, and then he took 25 per cent off. In that way this Government have deceived the people of Great Britain, as they have deceived the people here. They have not kept their promises and their pledges, as I will undertake to prove. At the same time, they have reduced the duty on goods that largely came from the United States. The consequence is that the trade of Great Britain has fallen off since that supposed great boon was given to that country. In 1896, the last year of the Conservative Government, we imported from Great Britain \$32,979,742. These figures are taken from the Trade and Navigation Returns, prepared by hon. gentlemen opposite; and I have every confidence in those returns—much more than I have in hon. gentlemen themselves. In 1898, the last complete year of hon. gentlemen opposite, Canada imported from Great Britain \$32,500,917, or a decrease, compared with the last year of the Conservative Government, of \$478,825. Comparing the same two years, we find that our imports from the United States increased \$20,131,566. Does this show that this so-called preferential tariff has done Great Britain any good or done this country any good? Our imports from the United States amount to \$14.25 per head, while they are taking from us only 60 cents a head. Now, it may be said that this is not a fair comparison. Well, in order to make the comparison as fair and reasonable as possible, we will compare 1895-96, the last two years of Conservative rule, with 1897-98, the last two years of hon. gentlemen opposite. We find that in the last two years our imports from Great Britain were, compared with 1895 and 1896, decreased by \$2,198,374, while our imports from the United States increased

\$27,146,086 in the same time. During the eighteen years the Conservative party were in power, our average imports from Great Britain were over \$40,914,203, whereas in the only year for which hon. gentlemen opposite are responsible our imports from Great Britain amounted to \$32,500,917, a decrease of \$8,413,236 as compared with the average during the eighteen years of Conservative rule. Fix it as you please you cannot show that you have done anything in this preferential trade that is an advantage to Great Britain, and you have done nothing that is an advantage to Canada. It is all very well to say that you have, but I challenge contradiction, as far as these figures are concerned, because I have taken them from the books prepared by hon. gentlemen opposite themselves.

Now, I will come to the reduction of postage. On that question I do not propose to say very much, because it has already been fully dealt with, but I would simply draw attention to the remarks of the right hon. leader of the Government himself, which, I think, will suffice to prove to this House and everybody else that this Government did not inaugurate penny postage throughout the British Empire. My right hon. friend said :

I do not claim that we gave it by legislative authority, nor even by administrative authority. We had not the legislative authority or the administrative authority. Sir Charles Tupper would not give any credit to my hon. friend, the Postmaster General, but claimed credit for Mr. Henniker-Heaton. I agree that Mr. Heaton is entitled to all praise in that respect, and the first man to proclaim it was my hon. friend, the Postmaster General, and the second man to proclaim it was my humble self.

If, then, Mr. Henniker-Heaton is entitled to the credit, why does the hon. gentleman claim that this Government has done a great thing for Canada by this penny postage. The fact of the matter is that they have not benefited some classes of the people by that postage at all. They say that by the reduction they put many hundreds of thousands of dollars into the pockets of the people. I would like them to show how they have put anything into the pockets of our farmers and workmen. Our farmers, while they are as intelligent people as can be found in the Dominion, do not require to write many letters. Their business is such that their correspondence is necessarily very limited, but it is the lawyers, the insurance companies, the great corporations, the large wholesale houses, who make the great saving, in many cases, of \$500 or a \$1,000 a year each by this reduced rate. I doubt whether, on an average, our farmers save 50 cents each year by this policy, and we know very well that they will have to bear the heaviest proportion of the deficit, which the Government admit is going to be the result. This reduction in postage gives no corresponding advantage to the people of the country generally, but, on the contrary, will add to their burden, because it is they

who will have to meet the deficit. I do not want to take any credit away from the Postmaster General. No doubt he did all he could to help this along, and perhaps among certain classes it is not unpopular; but certainly the farmers, the mechanics, the labouring men—the men who ought to be considered in this country—are the men who will suffer by this legislation, and the richer men—the lawyers, the insurance men, and the wholesale merchants, and people of that kind—are those who will profit very largely by it.

Then comes the question of tariff reform. They promised to reform the tariff. But they have succeeded in deforming it. Let me quote from figures prepared by the Department of Trade and Commerce, showing the results during the seven months of this financial year. The exports for the seven months from the 30th June, 1898, amounted to \$106,570,000, and during the preceding seven months they amounted to \$111,274,000, showing a decrease in our exports during seven months of \$4,704,000. Whereas our imports for the seven months of 1897-98, from the 30th June, amounted to \$72,588,000, and for the corresponding months of 1898-99 they amounted to \$89,447,000, being an increase of \$16,858,000 in our imports as compared with a decrease of \$4,704,000 in our exports. Every one will admit that it would be a great deal better for us to have more exports than imports, because we know when we import our money goes out of the country, but when we export we bring money in. The facts, however, show that the balance of trade is gradually going against us. Though these hon. gentlemen had a streak of prosperity immediately after they reached office, I am sorry to say—because we all want to see the country prosperous—that the position of our trade is not as good this year as we expected it to be. And taking the same ratio for the remaining five months of the year, our exports will show a decrease of over \$8,000,000, and our imports an increase of \$28,900,000. Basing a calculation of the total imports and exports for the full year on the record of the first seven months, the balance of trade against Canada will amount to over \$13,000,000. Compare that with the position when the late Government left office? Though we had gone through a period of depression, such as was never previously experienced in the world, the trade of Canada in 1896, the last year of Conservative administration, was in a better position, for we exported over \$3,000,000 more than we imported, or 78 cents per capita of the total population of Canada. Now I take up the question of the duty collected. This is what the hon. gentlemen opposite used to call “bleeding the people white.” I have no doubt that the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) will remember about that. I would like to hear him make one of those old-time speeches that he used to make; but they say he cannot sing the old songs. The average of customs taxes col-

lected since confederation has been a little over \$17,000,000 a year. Now, the average of customs taxation during the last six years of the Conservative party was \$19,848,000. I think that this is the fairest way to consider it—to take an average. The reason why I choose six years is, that this is the time I have been in this House. I do not pretend to have regulated the tariff, except as a private member may be able to have his views embodied in such, but I know more about it, perhaps, than about the customs taxation of the years before I came here. The customs taxes for the first year, with hon. gentlemen opposite in power, were \$22,157,000, an increase over the average of the last six years of the Conservative Government of \$2,309,000. There has been a further increase during the seven months of the current year of \$2,475,000. The proportionate increase for the remaining five months will be \$1,767,000. The total increase of taxation since this Government came into power over the average of the last six years of the late Government will be \$6,552,000. Now, let me remind hon. gentlemen opposite of some of their former speeches. I find the following at page 309 of the “Hansard” of 1894. The speaker is the present hon. Minister of trade and Commerce. He says:

I believe there has been extracted from the people of Canada during the last fifteen years in real taxes not paid into the treasury, but into the hands of manufacturers, no less than \$1,000,000,000.

This, Sir, would be about 66½ million per annum. Why has he not put a stop to this? Why does not the hon. gentleman rise in his place and raise his voice against that sort of thing now? Reasons have been given why he does not. He said also: “Protection and corruption are political Siamese twins.” Let the hon. gentleman’s party look in the mirror, and they will see that illustrated clearly. Protection and corruption—they have both in any quantity; there is no question about that. Hon. gentlemen opposite have declared that they had reduced the tariff. They reduced it, perhaps, to the United States, but not otherwise, and not very much any way. At page 7 of the Trade and Navigation Returns will be found a table, which conveys some interesting information. The first column gives the percentage of duty on total value of goods imported, dutiable and free. The percentage during the last year of the Conservative Government was 16·68, and the average for four years under them was 16·41. The percentage last year was 15·79, making a reduction of ·62 per cent. That is to say, the reduction in the customs duty amounts to about one-half of 1 per cent. In the second column of this table you have figures showing the percentage of duty on the total value of goods entered for consumption, dutiable and free. The rate last year, under hon. gentlemen opposite, was 16·95, while our average for

four years was 17.56, a reduction there of .61 per cent, a shade over one-half of 1 per cent. In column No. 3 we have the amount of customs duty paid per head of the population. Our average for four years was \$3.79 per head, while last year, under the present Government, the average was \$4.22 per head, or 43 cents per head increase over what was collected under the Conservative Administration. Take the present population as 5,248,315, as on page 7 of Trade and Navigation Returns of 1898, and multiply it by 43 cents, you have an increase of taxation upon the people of the Dominion by \$2,136,000. A great deal has been said about Estimates. We find that last year the Estimates that passed this House amounted to \$50,000,000. The Main Estimates accounted for \$44,912,571.28; the first Supplementaries for \$3,058,376, and the second supplementaries for \$1,460,354.91; the third supplementary estimate was \$68,500; the fourth supplementary estimate was \$2,731. Now, they loaned \$2,000,000 to the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal; they passed legislation here to give Manitoba \$300,000 of the school trust fund, and they also paid for the cost of the legislative buildings, \$498,601. These sums amounted to \$52,301,153. But take off the loan for the Montreal harbour, and take off the \$300,000 that the Senate very properly refused to pass, and there is left \$50,301,153 that was passed by this House last year. A small portion of this sum was passed to pay up something that was due on the year before, but that would be done probably this year just as it was last year; so that we have left over \$50,000,000 passed in estimates by this House last year. Now, Sir, the leader of the Government, speaking in Toronto, said:

Has the expenditure gone down? No, it has gone up. It went up three, five, ten millions or more, until it is now \$38,000,000, and the Conservatives do not shrink from it, but swallow it all. If we get into power we will follow the example of Mr. Mackenzie, and although we may not be able to bring back the expenditures to what they were under him, we can reduce the amount two, yes, three million dollars per year.

We find the expenditure is \$15,000,000 above the figure that he promised to keep within, when he spoke to the people of Toronto.

Now, hon. gentlemen opposite have given to the people of the United States free corn. I understand one of the commissioners writing to a friend in Winnipeg, stated that they had made a mistake in giving to the United States free corn, that they could do nothing with them in regard to getting free barley. But the Conservative party were nearly all opposed to free corn. It is a question with me whether it is a sufficient advantage to men who are fattening cattle and making pork in this country to have free corn to justify the removal of that duty as against the interests of the producers of coarse grain; it is a question whether the advantage is sufficient to counteract the loss the

people of Canada sustain through corn being admitted free. We know that if we had not made corn free we would have had an advantage in treating with the United States, we would have had something to offer them for the admission of our barley into their markets; but having given them free corn, we have no longer any inducement to offer them to get our barley into their markets. We find that there is a large amount of corn imported into this country. Take the statistics for the province of Ontario. About 83,000,000 bushels of oats are grown in that province. Now, everybody will admit that a large importation of corn will affect the price of coarse grain in this country. When you import 20,000,000 bushels of corn, there is no doubt that it will affect the price of oats, pease and the native corn grown by the farmers of this country. Reckoning the depreciation in the value of oats at a cent a bushel, in the province of Ontario alone the loss amounts to \$830,000. In the province of Ontario the farmers raise 17,500,000 bushels of pease. Reckoning the reduction in the price of pease at three cents a bushel, the loss would amount to \$525,000. A loss of three cents a bushel on 12,000,000 bushels of shelled corn would amount to \$360,000. Altogether the province of Ontario alone therefore loses \$1,715,000 in the reduction of the price of coarse grains owing to the free corn. I estimate that the rest of the Dominion would raise as much as the province of Ontario, at least, probably a good deal more. But if we only double the loss in Ontario, we find that Canada at large loses \$3,430,000 in the depreciation of the price of coarse grains. We also find that there is a loss to our farmers in not getting our barley into the markets of the United States, which we might have succeeded in doing if the Government had acted more wisely in the matter of corn. We find that 205,187 bushels of corn were imported into this country for distilling purposes, and 19,771,000 bushels of corn, not elsewhere specified, the value of which is over \$7,000,000. No man will say but that this great importation of corn has a very serious effect upon the value of the coarse grain grown by our farmers. There are other grains besides coarse grains. There is the frozen wheat and the damaged wheat in the North-west that is affected by the introduction of free corn. There is no doubt that grain for feeding purposes would be much more valuable than it is here but for free corn.

Now, let me say a few words about the great coal oil combine. The great oil combine negotiations were held in Paris a few years ago between the Standard Oil Company and the Russian Oil Company, resulting in a division of the markets of the entire world between these two great distributing and producing agents. A territorial division was made which, it is said, consists of a line drawn north and south through Europe in a somewhat irregular manner. The Standard Company is to have a monopoly, it is said.

of the British Islands, France and most of the western portion of Europe, including a part of the German Empire. Canada is now added to the Standard oil monopoly, and we find that Canada is now paying three to five cents a gallon more for their oil. Yet we all know how hon. gentlemen opposite used to dilate upon the way the Conservative Government had saddled the people of Canada with an additional price of oil. Now have they reduced the duty as they promised? Have they kept their pledges with the farmers or with the people of the Northwest? No, they have not kept their pledges in any particular.

Now, Sir, a word or two about the steamship line. I am glad to see the hon. gentleman who took part in the debate in this House during the first session he was here, the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell) in his seat. He placed himself on record then in regard to the fast line of steamers.

Mr. HUGHES. He is on record since; he is a record breaker.

Mr. McLENNAN (Glengarry). He has broken every record. The matter was arranged before the Conservative Government went out of office. The contract was ready to let; they had negotiated with the British Government, who were willing to pay their proportion for this service. The steamers for which they stipulated were to run twenty knots an hour, and were to be provided with ample cold storage facilities. When this matter came up in the House the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell) said, "Hansard," page 1389, second session:

I have always held the ground, since I have been in this House, that twenty-knot steamers are too extravagant for this country; such a service can never be carried on to advantage. I think we can give finer accommodation, and more comfortable—I dwell largely on comfort, because we Canadians, I find, like a great deal of comfort for a very little money. Canadians, and western Americans, too, want to cross the Atlantic for \$75 to \$80, and if you ask them for more they will see if there is not a cheaper line going, and they will take that.

Now, here again he speaks of something about a telegram.

I was writing a letter in my own room, when I received a telegram stating that dissatisfaction existed with my expression respecting the fast line. I did not write the reply myself, but said to my secretary: "Write a telegram that the fast line will be all right, and that the country will gain by the delay." \* \* \* I consider that eighteen-knot steamers would be such an improvement that it might fairly be said that the country had gained greatly by that delay.

Now, what does that mean? It means that hon. gentlemen opposite did not want this fast line service or they would never have placed this enterprise in the hands of an hon. gentleman who had put himself on record against it. But they do very peculiar things. They did before then, during the

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time of the Mackenzie Administration. The Minister of Militia of that day, Mr. Jones, of Halifax, and what I say of him directly applies to this hon. gentleman—Mr. Jones expressed himself as a disloyal man; he said that he would be overjoyed if the British flag was taken from the citadel at Halifax, and because he said that, because he lacked in loyalty and patriotism to Canada, they made him Minister of Militia, the very contrary of what they should have done. This Government have done the very contrary of what they should have done by appointing the hon. member for Quebec West to take charge of that steamship line.

Now, what about cold storage? One of the few things that the right hon. Prime Minister said the other day was that the Government had established cold storage. Surely he did not seriously claim that they had established cold storage. This was explained in the House the other night several times, and I do not think that I need now say anything further, but I think that the right hon. gentleman was taken by surprise and that he was not prepared to answer the challenge thrown out to him. I have here a question asked in 1896, when our party was in power, by the hon. member for South Wentworth (Mr. Bain) of the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague) about what the Government had done in regard to providing ships with cold storage. The hon. member for Haldimand explained the whole matter, and told how much they paid for fitting up these steamers with cold storage to carry Canadian produce across the Atlantic. It is rather long, and perhaps it is not necessary for me to go into the whole question, but I have the figures here, and if any hon. gentleman opposite wishes me to give them I will do so. However, I will go on further. We find that the Dairy Commissioner in his report in 1895 says that ten steamers were fitted up with cold storage compartments, and that the expenditure of the department for this service was as follows:—

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Paid for fitting up.....                                  | \$6,623 03 |
| Paid on guarantee of earnings on space                    | 3,438 34   |
| Paid Montreal Ice Exchange.....                           | 233 11     |
| Grand Trunk, for cold storage service.                    | 1,439 98   |
| Canadian Pacific Railway, for cold storage service .....  | 1,329 95   |
| Paid Intercolonial Railway, for cold storage service..... | 37 50      |

From the beginning thus made the cold storage service was extended, carried on and improved. It gives us the number of parcels and packages sent over, and so on. This is what the blue-book, the commissioner's report says, and here are the records of the House. Now, I do not think hon. gentlemen will dispute the fact that cold storage was established by the Conservative party. There is no question about it, so that I will not deal with it at any greater length. Here is the statement of a Reformer, well known to the people of

Ontario, and to the dairymen of the country generally. Speaking in October, 1895, Mr. Dan. Derbyshire, of Brockville, said :

If it had not been for what the Dominion Government did, the butter-making business would be flattened out, and everybody connected with it would have been discouraged. It would have been disastrous. But now our butter is on a firm basis in the English market, and we are building up a great trade. If those who opposed the Government's action, and argued against it, and did all in their power to block it, had had their way, the dairying interests of the country would have received a terrible set back.

But, fortunately, the Government knew what to do, and did it just at the right time, and every succeeding day of the increasing prosperity of our export creamery butter trade justifies more and more the wisdom of what was done. This was during the time that the Conservative Government was in power, and I do not think that hon. gentlemen can expect to claim any credit for that.

The right hon. Prime Minister said that the Government had brought the Intercolonial Railway into Montreal by the Drummond County line. Let me draw the attention of the House to a few facts concerning the Drummond County Railway deal. I have a quotation here from the "Mail and Empire," which I will read :

The Drummond deal was mooted in January, 1897, and on February 3rd, the "Globe" said :

"A mild agitation has sprung up for extending the Intercolonial Railway by continuing it from Lévis to Montreal. It added that the Montreal "Herald" had interviewed prominent citizens on the subject, and that it was encouraging to see that a few raised their voice in protest. The protests were cited and the "Globe" proceeded to argue that there was no justification for paralleling existing roads." On Feb. 6th, the "Globe" returned to the attack, pronounced against a second road between Montreal and Lévis, and said that instead of buying such a road the Government ought to make for the Intercolonial Railway running arrangements over the Grand Trunk Railway. On June 15th the Drummond deal was laid before Parliament. On June 19th the Crow's Nest deal, with the coal mine grab attached, was submitted to Parliament, and on June 21st, the "Globe" switched around and was strongly in favour of the Government.

Now, Sir, what do we find about this Drummond County Railway? We find that Mr. Greenshields, who was president of that road, had made advances—and this is not disputed—to the extent of \$50,000; \$10,000 was in cash, by cheque given to the sons of the Minister of Public Works for "La Patrie," and a \$20,000 note was also given to them. The cheque was cashed in the Hochelaga Bank, and subsequently the note was cashed in the same bank. Then, Mr. Greenshields gave a note for \$20,000 more just before the election in Champlain. That note was cashed and endorsed by a leading Liberal, and the people around Three Rivers say that they never saw so many of the Hochelaga Bank notes in that place before. The Drummond County Railway cost the promoters of it \$700,000,

as has been clearly proved in this House; and they got bonuses to the extent of \$800,000, making the total cost \$1,500,000. Now, Sir, the Government agreed to give \$2,300,000, or its equivalent, for this road, which was \$1,600,000 more than the road cost the promoters. Mr. Greenshields was apparently to be well recouped for what he had done. He was throwing out a sprat to catch a whale, and no doubt he would have caught it, if the Senate had not stepped in, and the first deal had been consummated. But, Sir, thanks to the Senate, this iniquitous transaction was prevented. It was quite apparent that the Minister of Railways had no reliable information before he consented to the purchase of that road. We listened to him in this House, and it was evident that he did not know much about the Drummond County Railway. Before the Order in Council was passed for its purchase, he never sent a surveyor, or an engineer, to ascertain what value the Government was getting, and it was only after the Order in Council was passed, he sent a man to inspect the road. The Minister of Public Works was, of course, running the deal. He was boss of the situation there, as the Minister of the Interior was in the west. The Minister of Railways did not appear to meddle much with his own department until there was nobody else to take charge of it. Although the Government was prepared to spend so much money for that road, it is a fact that via the Drummond County Railway it is 76 miles further from Montreal to Halifax than by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and 248 miles further to St. John, N.B. Of course, neither distance nor price made any difference to the Government, for they were simply going it blind. Let me show the bungling and unbusiness-like contract entered into by the Minister of Railways. He proposed to pay for the simple right of using the Victoria Bridge into Montreal \$40,000 yearly, which, capitalized at 3 per cent, is equivalent to \$1,333,000. For the extension of the bridge he paid \$300,000. For the right to use the terminals he was to pay \$62,500 per year, which, capitalized at 3 per cent, is \$2,080,000, and to get from Ste. Rosalie to the Victoria Bridge he was to pay \$37,500 a year, which, capitalized at 3 per cent, would be \$1,250,000. Therefore, for the use of the Grand Trunk Railway to Montreal and the terminals they would require to set aside \$4,963,000, or nearly \$5,000,000. The Drummond county deal itself is bad enough, but the concessions made to the Grand Trunk Railway, which was part of the deal, were even worse. The Drummond County Road was to be leased on the following terms for ninety-nine years for the right of use, and, after expiry of lease, possession, from the 1st of November, 1897; we were to pay \$70,000 per year, which, capitalized at 3 per cent, amounts to \$2,333,000. We find, then, that this arrangement would cost \$7,296,000,

chargeable to capital. But more than that : from Ste. Rosalie to Montreal the Grand Trunk Railway at any time could make improvements to the road or bridge, and the Government were obliged to pay 5 per cent on the half of the cost. They could build a double track, they could build new bridges, they could do anything they liked, and the Government would be responsible for half the cost. I estimate this at about \$25,000 a year, which, capitalized at 3 per cent, would make \$835,000. Thus, the total cost on the whole arrangement in connection with this road, including the payment to the Grand Trunk Railway in coming into Montreal, would be \$8,131,000. The Senate, very much to their credit and the interest of the country, stepped in and prevented such a monstrous transaction being carried out. The Government made a new arrangement for \$1,600,000, instead of \$2,333,000, and the company was to complete the 42½ miles, which was the unfinished part of the road. The Grand Trunk Railway received only 4 per cent, instead of 5 per cent, on mileage of trains, instead of mileage of road, and it is generally admitted by those who know best that the Senate saving on that deal is between three-quarters of a million and one million dollars. The length of the Drummond County Railway is as follows :—

|                     | Miles. |
|---------------------|--------|
| Length of road..... | 132½   |
| Old road .....      | 73     |
| Branch .....        | 17     |
| Portion built ..... | 42½    |

They claim that the road cost \$2,100,000, and they got in subsidies from the Dominion \$287,936. Now, Mr. Haggart, who I look upon as one of the most practical men in the country with regard to public works and matters of that kind, said that if the Government had decided to build a road from Lévis to Montreal it could have been done for \$1,700,000. He said the payment to the Grand Trunk Railway for the right of way from St. Rosalie and across the bridge to Montreal would not be more than \$25,000 per year. Now, I have no doubt that the ex-Minister of Railways at that time was in a position to know what it would cost to bring the road from Ste. Rosalie to Montreal; but there might be some reason why this Government would pay more than the company was willing to take before this Government came into power. This \$25,000 a year, capitalized at 3 per cent, would amount to \$833,300. That is, a road crossing the bridge and all would cost \$2,533,000; and yet this Government are paying over \$8,000,000. Now, if the credit of this country is as good as it was when this Government came into power, when they made a loan on the credit of the position in which the Conservative party left the country, there is no doubt that they can raise money at 3 per cent; and the total cost of the Drummond County Railway deal capitalized at that rate would amount to \$8-

Mr. McLENNAN (Glengarry).

131,000. Now, I have no hesitation, as a practical man who has spent his whole life in railway building and constructing public works, in saying that if I know anything I should know something of the cost of railway construction, and I say without fear of contradiction that this amount would build two distinct and separate railways from Lévis to Montreal, and also build a bridge across the St. Lawrence to bring them both into the city. Mr. Haggart puts the cost of the railways at \$1,700,000, and the railway and the use of the bridge at \$2,533,000. I say that the two distinct railways from Lévis to the River St. Lawrence could be built for \$4,500,000, and a bridge across the St. Lawrence as good as the Canadian Pacific Railway bridge could be built for less than \$2,000,000, making a total cost of \$6,500,000, leaving for stations, terminals and right of way, \$1,631,000 out of what hon. gentlemen opposite paid for one railway to get into the city of Montreal. I say this remembering that I have served my whole lifetime in contracting and building railways; and I say that I could to-morrow get good contractors to undertake the construction of two distinct railways from Lévis to Montreal, with a bridge across the St. Lawrence, for the sums I have mentioned. How can these hon. gentlemen hold their heads up and say that the Senate has acted badly in protecting the country from such iniquitous legislation as that? If they examine the figures I have given, they will find that they are liberal, and will leave a contractor a profit on the work of from 10 to 15 per cent. Now, I think that is ample justification for the Senate stepping in and saving the country—as they did. If that is one of the reasons hon. gentlemen opposite have for wishing to reform or do away with the Senate, they should be ashamed to open their mouths on the subject.

The last of the seven great things which the leader of the Government has stated they have done for the country is to secure a reduction of the Canadian Pacific Railway freight rates. We know that railways in new countries always have higher rates at first, and as the country fills up they gradually reduce them. They have to do that in their own interest, because if they did not, the people would not stand them, but would soon have opposition railways. Hon. gentlemen claim that in securing reduced rates they have put so much money into the pockets of the people. Let me draw hon. gentlemen's attention to the fact that the railways in the western United States have done the same thing. From 1892 to 1897 the Baltimore and Ohio Railway reduced rates by 18 per cent. The North-west system, representing many railway companies, reduced rates from 1890 to 1896, 17 per cent. The Northern system, representing the Delaware and Hudson, the New York Central, the West Shore, the South Shore, and others, from 1890 to 1896, reduced rates 20 per cent. The Pennsylvania Rail-

way, from 1892 to 1897, reduced rates 29 per cent. What has the hon. gentleman done? The fact of the matter is that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have more business capacity than this Government. They do not deal with their rates as this Government dealt with the duty on corn, reducing them without any compensating advantages. Many of these railways are drawing grain from the North-west Territories to the Atlantic ports for shipment across the ocean. Now, Sir, I have dealt with the seven distinct claims made by the Prime Minister when challenged by the leader of the Opposition, and have proven in every case that he is not in the slightest degree entitled to credit for anything in connection with these matters, and we cannot draw any other conclusion than that he and his Government have done nothing that is in the interest of the country while in power.

I have a few words to say about the Yukon. Mr. Ogilvie reported to this Government in March, 1897, that there was \$100,000,000 of gold in sight in that district—that is a district of 25 by 35 miles, including the Bonanza, Eldorado and Indian Creeks. The Government had further information in the following July. They had done nothing in the meantime, no doubt deeming it necessary to look into the matter. But they then had ample time to advertise and let by tender. What did they do? Without calling for tenders, they gave a contract to build a tramway from Telegraph Creek to Teslin Lake, a distance of 150 miles, and the contractors were to get a land bonus of 25,000 acres per mile, or a total grant of 3,750,000 acres of land. The railway was to be a narrow-gauge road with 27 or 30-pound rails, and such gradients and curvatures as the contractors might think fit.

Now let me draw the attention of the House to the conditions of the contract and the advantages, restrictions and monopoly given to this company. They gave the company power to build wharfs and docks—to acquire and operate steam and other vessels in connection with the railway—to erect telegraph and telephone lines—to carry on mining and smelting operations and other incidental powers.

They were at liberty to select their blocks of land where they chose, and were given three years from 1st September, 1898, to select one-half, and six years from same date to select the balance.

Parliament was to refuse to grant for five years any charter to a competing company, or to a company from the boundary to the Yukon country. The contractors were entitled to receive during ten years from 1st September, 1898, in preference to any other company, such land or money subsidy as the Government might authorize to be granted in aid of the extension of the road from the Stikine River to an ocean port in British Columbia. Their lands would be free from taxation for ten years. The Government reserved a royalty of one per cent

on all gold mined by the company—other miners to pay 10 per cent.

The land selected by the company would be in fee simple, and would include all precious metals and minerals, reserving only a royalty of one per cent.

The land, 3,750,000 acres, was valued by Mr. Sifton at \$10 per acre, or \$37,500,000, equal to \$250,000 per mile. The road would belong to contractors who were bound to run it for one year, and then they might, if they chose, close it up.

Mr. Jennings' estimate of the cost of a first-class road, not tramway, is 150 miles at \$19,000 per mile, \$2,850,000.

|                                       |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Suppose for one year—                 |             |
| 50,000 people at \$50.....            | \$1,250,000 |
| 10,000 people coming out at \$50..    | 500,000     |
| 50,000 tons freight at \$50 per ton.. | 2,500,000   |
|                                       | <hr/>       |
|                                       | \$4,250,000 |
| Cost of first-class road,             |             |
| &c.....                               | \$2,850,000 |
| Working expenses, say.                | 500,000     |
|                                       | <hr/>       |
|                                       | 2,350,000   |
|                                       | <hr/>       |
| Profit in one year.....               | \$1,900,000 |

So that in operating this road for two or three years contractors would pay cost of road and have several million dollars to the good.

This contract, Mr. Speaker, was a most peculiar one, giving most extraordinary advantage to the contractors. I have had to do with many contracts and have seen a great many contracts and specifications in my time, but I have never seen nor do I think any one else has ever seen any contract so absurd as this one. I have based my calculations on the most favourable estimate for the Government. I have assumed that only 50,000 people would go into that country, but the hon. Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) told us last session that he had been informed by agents of transportation companies that 250,000 people would go in there in the course of the year 1898, and that other people had estimated the influx at 100,000, but that no estimate was so low as 50,000 and 50,000 tons of freight; and that lowest figure is the estimate I have taken.

I have no doubt that the parties interested waited until they could make such arrangements as would suit themselves. They knew that there was any quantity of gold in that country—the richest deposits of gold probably in the world—and no doubt they made arrangements to suit their own purposes. It took the Government some little time to understand the thing fully, but when they arranged matters to their own satisfaction and to the advantage of those who were interested—who they were this House and country may judge—they were in a great hurry to let the work and they let it nine days before Parliament met, and I am credibly informed that the parties interested could have floated their scheme on the money markets of New York and London, and in less than two weeks could have

sold out for \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000. This is the amount which was saved to the country by the action of the Senate. Had this contract been ratified by the Senate, no other company would have been able to go into that district and build a railway, because it gave the contractors the monopoly for a number of years. Everything was fixed to satisfy them. They were to make what terms and rates they saw fit. In fact, the contract was of such a nature that I fail to see how any business man could possibly have consented to it. I am sure that the Minister of Railways, with his capacity for doing business, would never have consented to such a contract, as an ordinary business transaction. Let him compare this contract with those for canals let by the Conservative party. Let him look into this contract, and he cannot but see that it is the most ridiculous contract ever made. It is perfectly plain that parties who were interested in it drafted that contract. The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) estimated the land as worth \$10 an acre. That would be \$37,500,000. Then, the Senate of Canada has saved the country that amount of money, besides preventing the establishment of a monopoly in the North-west, British Columbia and the Klondike. Can the saving of this money by the Senate be the reason why hon. gentlemen want to destroy it? Other railways can now build in there, and they are building. There is a railway built over part of the route, and I hold in my hand the time-table of it. That road is to be extended to Lake Bennett in June or early in July. And the company are doing this without a dollar of money or an acre of land as subsidy. And they are going by a shorter and better route than the Government proposed. Now, I am not the only man who believes that that was not a proper Bill. Mr. Joseph Martin, at one time a member of this House, said of the Yukon Railway deal:

That it was the craziest scheme ever proposed; and if the Government wishes to obtain the support of British Columbia it must frown on such promoting deals.

That is from a Liberal. Nobody will question Mr. Martin's politics. Mr. Morrison, Liberal M.P. for new Westminster, if he is here, can say whether he is correctly reported in what I am about to read. I find it attributed to him in the public press:

Mr. Morrison has been to Dawson City, and says that the preposterous and suicidal policy of the Government is hindering the development of the Yukon, and must be entirely reversed. The Government supporters of the Yukon administration are only those who never saw the Yukon. The fact that such an immense area of land was monopolised would prevent immigration.

Now, I have here a letter from Dawson City, from one of the most reliable men in the country. This letter was sent to a friend of mine in Glengarry, and he forwarded the letter to me. In doing so, he says:

Mr. McLENNAN (Glengarry).

In reading the papers, I see that the debate on the Yukon troubles are up in the House. You will find inclosed a letter from my partner, which speaks for itself. I have sent for some customs papers, and also what some of the other miners say about the conduct of the officials. I expect to have some valuable information before long.

Now, this is a Grit of the first water: there is not a man, from his grandfather down to the present day, that has not fought in the ranks of that party. He goes on to say:

Use this letter as you see fit, and when you are through with it I would like to have it back.

This is what the gentleman says in his letter:

I have been procrastinating writing you and Finlay for a long time. One reason for such conduct was owing to the expectation of letters from you or Finlay since your arrival at home. The mail service has been wretched since navigation closed, owing to the mail contractor throwing up the contract. Nothing in the way of mail matter came in from the time of the closing of navigation till the middle of January, and all the old mail is still on the road or at Skagway. The last mail came direct from the coast, and hence all December letters have arrived, and any letter you may have written is on the way, and when they will get here no one knoweth. Well, Duncan, I hope you have opened some of the eyes of the blind followers of the Liberal party who support the action of the men who are responsible for the devilish corruption perpetrated on the people between here and Skagway, and particularly here in the Klondike. It is since you left that the worst has been done. All the force in the recorder's office had combined, as it were, to record claims only to those who bribed them either with money or a share in the claim. The older they got to be in office, the bolder they got. It came near to a crisis; and I believe that if a good clean-out had taken place, it would have been the best thing that could have happened, to clean out the corruption, and would have opened the eyes of the Canadian people to the wrong they were inflicting on this section of the Dominion. Since Mr. Ogilvie came in as commissioner and a new recorder in Fawcett's place, things are beginning to change for the better. But Mr. Ogilvie did not take the right course. Had he done so, matters could have been done satisfactorily to the public. What he should have done was to suspend all the officials as soon as he arrived. But he did nothing of the kind, and the general opinion of the people here is that he is more in sympathy with the corrupt officials than with the public, and all his actions have shown it. But he is now forced to take action, as he has received a Royal Commission to investigate charges against officials. One sitting has taken place, and charges have been filed. The commission will be open till March 15th to file charges. Ogilvie is not the right man at all. He may be a good man to survey, but to govern a mining section he is incapable. If the Canadian people knew him as well as we know him, they would think very little of him.

I refrain from giving the names; I have the names here, but I do not think it would be in the interest of those men that their names should be given. From the conduct of the officials and the way men are dealt with generally, I think it would be very dangerous, if it were known that these men

were writing anything here. They would probably be boycotted and treated a great deal worse than they are now. The letter continues :

I send you some papers giving some of the charges. It is impossible to exaggerate. Only a small portion comes to light, because briber and bribed cover their tracks in most cases.

He says something about personal matters, and then goes on :

Col. McGregor calls on us once in a while. This is the gentleman whose letter was read the other night by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) :

He has perhaps done more than any other man to purify things in this corrupt corner of the Dominion. Had this place been filled by men like McGregor instead of such men as Major Walsh, Ogilvie and Fawcett, Canada would be saved from the disgrace that it will take her many years to recover from. All Canadians here are ashamed of the actions of the Government. All they do is to rob and plunder the people. As a speaker said the other night at a miners' meeting, the Government is one of blunder and plunder.

That is the reputation that this Government has got in the Yukon district, and they have well earned it. As the hon. member for Cape Breton (Mr. McDougall) remarked to-day, there is a scramble apparently among all the members on the Government side to get into office. Those who do not get into office are looking for something else, something more substantial.

I will now say something about the Crow's Nest Coal and Railway Company. It is well known that the leader of the Opposition, when he was in power, offered \$5,000 per mile, for 330 miles, to build this railway, or \$1,650,000. He proposed to make a loan at 3½ per cent. The company could borrow money at 3 per cent, making a profit of one-half per cent, or \$500,000, which would bring the subsidy down to about \$1,150,000. Yet this Government, for some unaccountable reason, saw fit to give the Canadian Pacific Railway Company \$11,000 per mile, or \$3,630,000, or \$2,000,000 more than the Conservative Government offered. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company are business men, and they drove a good bargain. Under the offer of the Conservative Government, the security was to be of the very best, everything owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway outside of their present obligations, was to be security for the repayment of this loan. I have made an estimate of the cost of that work. I know something about it myself, and I have met a good many people who were there, and a good many people who travelled over it and know all about it. I am satisfied in my own mind, because I have the figures here in detail, that the \$11,000 per mile given to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company would build that road, and did build it. They drove a tight bargain, they found they had men they could do business with in that way. I think everything the Government

has done on these contracts has been done in pretty much the same way. I have had a great deal to do with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and I have found them very good men. But that would not prevent me from doing my duty as a representative. I say that the \$11,000 per mile given those people was sufficient to build that road, and did build it. The work was light. Now, a word about the Crow's Nest Coal Company. The British Columbia Government gave 20,000 acres per mile of the enormously valuable coal lands to the British Columbia Southern, and some of the directors of the "Globe" newspaper got hold of it. This was only a few months after the Liberal party got into power. They were active. If there is anything in sight or within their reach, the whole party is making for it. Those that got there first had it, and this Government backed them up in getting it. They took hold of the Drummond County road first, and the Yukon came soon. Now, we find that this Crow's Nest Pass district contains one of the richest coal mines in the world. We find it to-day in the hands of the "Globe" directors. They sold the right of way to the Canadian Pacific Railway for \$85,000; I do not know what further interest they have given the Canadian Pacific Railway. The directors purchased these coal mines. We find that Prof. Selwyn of the Geological Survey, estimates the yield at 30,000,000 tons per square mile. The value of the town sites is another item of great profit. Mr. Tarnie, the engineer for the Crow's Nest Coal Company, estimates the coal deposits at 17,000,000 tons. The average thickness of the coal seams is somewhere in the neighbourhood of 290 feet. The Canadian Pacific Railway figures the quantity at 39,375,000,000 tons. At one cent a ton the valuation would be \$393,750,000. If the coal were worked at \$1 a ton, it would give a return of \$39,375,000,000. In the "Globe" of April 1st, 1897, it is asserted that five cents per ton on the supposed quantity would yield \$1,248,800 per square mile, or \$179,827,200. The "Globe" says there is no doubt there is an area of 144 square miles. Taking Prof. Selwyn's estimate, the smallest estimate made, that coal basin has a probable tonnage of 7,200,000,000 tons. Then this amounts at 50 cents per ton to \$3,600,000,000 equal to an annual income of \$36,000,000 for 100 years. With these enormous figures in view we can at least imagine the extraordinary magnitude of the wealth captured by the directors of the "Globe" and its friends. It is written in the report of the Crow's Nest Railway Company owned by the "Globe" :

Received from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, \$85,000.

Real estate, coal mines owned, in fee simple, and other properties now being earned under the agreement that was made with the Canadian Pacific Railway, \$1,415,000.

That is \$1,500,000 captured by the directors of the "Globe" newspaper as a

starter. So that the "Globe," while advising the ordinary Reformer to be loyal to the party and to be honest—you can almost imagine that it is only one degree from a saint—was grabbing this large amount. Though it was at first against the Drummond County deal, from the moment it found that this Crow's Nest deal was to be put through, it was willing to support the Drummond County scheme. We see that from the time these gentlemen came into power they have been very active in grabbing everything in sight. They were after judge-ships, offices and positions, and while some members of this House profess to be safe in their seats, I will venture to say that many of them do not feel so, and I think you will find that they are not safe. The Government will find that they cannot settle matters out of Parliament so easily as they imagine they settled the school question. They probably think that they have settled the temperance question just as they settled the school question—out of the Federal House. After we were in power for eighteen years there is not a man in the Conservative party that went out with money. It is reported that some hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, who were poor, are getting wealthy. I do not object to this, if they are doing it fairly, legitimately and honestly, and by their own energy, but when it is not done in this way it is a question for the people to consider whether they have a right to what they have got. The Drummond deal first came before the public in January, 1897, only six months after hon. gentlemen got into power. I have no doubt that it was arranged and settled before it came forward in the House. On June 15th the Drummond deal was laid before Parliament; on June 19th the Crow's Nest deal with the coal mine grab attached, was submitted to Parliament. The "Globe" was against the Drummond deal up to this time. Two days after, on June 21st, the organ wheeled around and was in favour of the Drummond deal. Ogilvie's report in 1897 saw \$1,000,000 in sight, and they at once became active, and were completing their arrangements before the contract was made. They saw that they could make a great deal of money and they were doing what they could to carry through the deal, which was prevented by the Senate. They had, no doubt, arrangements made that were very satisfactory to themselves.

I would like to say a few words concerning some of the works carried on by the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals. I find that the hon. gentleman has advertised for tenders, and that at the bottom of the advertisements is this clause:

Contractors are specially notified that the conditions requiring the works to be wholly completed by the 31st January, A.D. 1899, will be rigidly enforced, and all penalties for delay exacted.

Whether the Minister intended to frighten contractors from tendering or not, this clause

Mr. McLENNAN (Glengarry).

requiring the work, which was only commenced in the fall of 1897, to be completed by January, 1899, would certainly have that effect, as it was impossible to finish the work within the time limited. No practical man would let such works expecting them to be finished in the time mentioned, as any one with the slightest knowledge of public works must know that it could not be accomplished without very great additional expense to the country. There can be no doubt that men tendering for the work to be completed in the time specified, would take into consideration the threat of the Minister that the penalties for delay would be rigidly enforced, and put in a price large enough to enable them to try to comply with the conditions. Under these circumstances any practical man will see that the work would cost the country 30 or 40 per cent more than if there was a reasonable time given.

I believe, Sir, that the men who did undertake the work knew that it was impossible to carry it out in the time mentioned, and the Minister himself, if he had any practical knowledge should be aware of it. They have asked for an extension of time and it has been granted to them. What has the Minister of Railways and Canals accomplished by this unnecessary rush? He has simply accomplished an increase of the cost of the work. Mr. Speaker, I will now draw the attention of the House to the bungling and extravagance in connection with the work now in progress on the Farran's Point Canal, the Galops Canal, between Cardinal and Iroquois, and the North channel, which will cost the country \$4,000,000 or \$5,000,000. I claim that these new canals and this channel was not necessary and the work is a complete waste of money, and I will undertake to show this House that such is the case. Here are extracts from a speech delivered by the hon. the ex-Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Haggart) last year. He has been in a position to obtain every information necessary and no doubt had a better knowledge of the conditions of the river and as to the necessity of these canals than the present Minister. Here are his words:

I believe there is not any necessity for constructing this work. The canal will be no use after 14-foot navigation has been secured, for there will be plenty of water in the river, which will be utilized by the vessels then going up and down. The present canal is large enough for the needs of transportation at the present time.

The Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) says:

There may be a difference of opinion on that point, the decision of the department was made, and it has been necessary to proceed.

The ex-Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Haggart) says:

I enter my protest against the building of any such lock as that. If our canals are ever to be utilized for practical purposes we must adopt the American system of each barge having its

own propelling power, and doing away with tows of barges altogether. The locks at present in use on the St. Lawrence are plenty large enough for the barge traffic. The canals were enlarged, not for barges, but for utilizing these steamboats which have become quite common on the upper lakes. The idea of a boat with con-sorts is being done away with altogether.

If you are going to divert the trade to the St. Lawrence you must do away with the system of barges, and I tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) that in my opinion there was no necessity at all for the building of these two large locks. They are not utilized by the barges going down, and if you want to use your canal in the most economical manner, you must have a propelling power at least of ten knots an hour, because, if I remember rightly the strength of the current between these two particular points is in the neighbourhood of four or five knots.

#### NORTH CHANNEL, STRAIGHTENING AND DEEPENING.

Mr. Haggart, "Hansard" page 6535 :

Immediately above the Galops Canal in the American channel, there is a width of nearly two miles and an ample depth, and for the purpose of getting through our own territory, it is proposed to expend about \$400,000, under the Treaty of Washington. We have as much right to navigate that water as the Americans have, and there is no need of the expenditure of one dollar for the deepening of the north channel. I know that this is one of the pet ideas of Mr. Rubidge, but there is no difficulty in going to the head of the Galops Canal through the American channel, and this expenditure is pure waste.

The American channel is now used by every boat that goes down. The North channel is only used by one boat of very light draught. My information is that all that is necessary is to blast off a little point on an island to go direct to the Galops Canal. If the charts of the channel are correct, there is no more than 14 feet of navigation from the head of the Galops Canal through the American channel. Surely you would not have deepened the Galops channel if the entrance to it was not deep enough.

Therefore, we see that Mr. Haggart condemns the thing altogether, and he knows what is he talking about, having had full opportunities of getting the information when he was the Minister of Railways and Canals. The Farran's Point, Cardinal and Iroquois canals have cost about \$4,000,000, and it is well that the people should be made aware that this vast sum of money has been thrown away where it is not necessary. Mr. Haggart told us that the engineer in charge always had a fad to have this work done; and Mr. Haggart tells us with regard to the North channel that it is not necessary to spend a dollar on that navigation west of the locks. We have a perfect right to go on the American side under the provisions of the treaty without our spending one penny. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) wanted to improve the present channel, he could have done so at a very small expense by blasting some rock there, and the route would be less than half a mile longer than that on which they are spending \$750,000. I have it from people living in the neighbourhood of the works referred to that a steamer can go up the cur-

rent of the river opposite Farran's Point canal as fast as an ordinary horse can trot on the shore, and parties have gone up outside in a skiff with a small sail without using an oar. There is only a fall of 3 feet 6 inches, in three-quarters of a mile at that place, and that is only a rise of one inch to a hundred feet, and even in building railways two feet per 100 feet is not an unreasonable grade. The whole thing is altogether unnecessary. The line boats go up and down there without attempting to use the canal, and tugs can and do take tows of several scows up and the yacht owned there runs up and down and never thinks of using the canal. But it was not enough in order to carry out this fad, to build an ordinary canal there, but he had to build two 800-foot locks at an enormous expense when the other locks on our canal system, with the exception of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, are only from 200 to 270 feet. It is the most unreasonable piece of mismanagement you can possibly imagine. Mr. Speaker, the policy of the Conservative Government was to build, and they did build, a short piece of canal just at the high pitch at the west end of the Cardinal Canal, which would be quite sufficient to overcome any difficulty in the way, but Minister (Mr. Blair), and I hold him responsible, saw fit to run a line across at a place where it was necessary to make an immense cut and to take out several million yards of earth and put another 800-foot lock there. Notwithstanding all the steam shovels the contractors could get to work they could not complete their contract in the time specified. The fact of the matter is that the money of the people has been recklessly squandered. In the advertisement calling for tenders, the Government stipulated that the contract should be finished in a certain time, and after frightening other men out they gave it to the present contractor at a cost of 30 or 40 per cent more than the work could be done for under ordinary circumstances. What was all the rush about? And, Sir, would you believe it, that notwithstanding all that, they extended the time, the contractors agreeing to tow all vessels up the river past their contract, until the work is completed. If the contractors can tow vessels up, where is the necessity for the canal. In the case of the work east of Cornwall, and at the mouth of the canal west of Cornwall, they put a similar time limit clause and threat of penalties in their advertisement, stating that it was to be finished last year, but it is not finished yet. They called for a deposit of \$17,000 so that many practical men and competent contractors were knocked out from tendering; but before the work was let, some favourite contractors were informed that \$2,000 deposit would do for one piece of the work, \$5,000 for another, and \$10,000 for another. Are contracts to be altered in this secret way? Will the people of the country stand a system like this which makes the cost of

the work forty or fifty per cent more than it should be? Mr. Haggart, in speaking of the North channel, told us that the engineer in charge, Mr. Rubidge, was so very patriotic that he did not like to run steamers in an American channel. Well, if his patriotism is going to cost this country four or five million dollars the best thing the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) can do is to hand him over to the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden) who will send him to General Hutton to build fortifications that would be of some patriotic use to the country. To put an 800-foot lock to overcome a fall of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet in three-quarters of a mile, is no more necessary than to put a fifth wheel to a coach. All this money has been spent for nothing. This North Channel contract has been let to Mr. Cleveland, and I presume he is doing his work all right; but Mr. Haggart explained that he had gone into this matter fully, and even if his Government did not care about using the American channel, a means could be adopted to get splendid navigation there at a comparatively trifling cost. The present Minister was not satisfied with the contract that was let, and he drew a straight line across an island necessitating a cut of 45 feet deep and increasing the width to 300 feet. The ex-Minister of Railways and Canals says there was no necessity for spending one dollar on this; and yet here is an expenditure of \$750,000. I say this is the worst kind of mismanagement, and the whole thing has been managed in that way. Even on the Soulanges Canal they first let the contracts, and then changed the time for doing the work. A gentleman named Hogan put in a bid for a part of this work and his tender was the lowest. After the tenders were in the Minister of Railways and Canals reduced the time allowed for the completion of the work. Mr. Hogan knowing it was impossible to complete the work in the time fixed without an enormous waste of money, declined the contract. The Minister then let the work to Mr. Onderdonk, without calling for new tenders, at a price \$60,000 higher than Mr. Hogan's tender. But Mr. Onderdonk has not finished the work yet and will not for another year; so that, if they had given the contract to others, they would have saved that \$60,000, and have got the work done just as soon. They cancelled Mr. Stewart's contract on the Soulanges Canal, rented his quarry for three years, and after the three years expired he refused to let them take any more stone; then they expropriated the quarry for two years more. But they found they could not legally do that, and now they are in litigation again. Mr. Stewart has entered an action against the Government for \$600,000, and the probability is that owing to the manner in which they have blundered he will succeed. This is the way the railways and canals have been managed, and I think other public works have been managed just as badly.

Mr. McLENNAN (Glengarry).

Now, a word about the plebiscite. The right hon. Premier has made the statement that there was an implied agreement, or understanding, among the members of the Reform party in regard to the result of the vote. He says the temperance people never asked for prohibition, and that he made no promises or pledges to them—that the promise he made was to the Liberal party, and that there was an arrangement among the Liberal party themselves as to what they would do. When he went to the country with the plebiscite, he never told the people what that arrangement was. He has treated the temperance people of this country unfairly, and I venture to say, that if there had been 50 per cent of the total vote in favour of prohibition, he would not have given prohibition. But there was an arrangement in the Liberal party, and they kept it secret from the temperance people, and allowed them to go through the country, spending their time and money; and the Government themselves spent \$250,000 of the money of the people of this country upon this bogus scheme. Here is an extract which I cut from a paper, and it will explain the feeling of the honest temperance people generally throughout the country:

Rev. G. C. Huxtable, of the Methodist Church, is one of the clergymen to whom Sir Wilfrid Laurier romanced on the subject of the plebiscite. Sir Wilfrid, answering an inquiry put to him at a public meeting by that gentleman, said he would give a plebiscite, and according to the answer of the people "such legislation they will have at the hands of the Government." Mr. Huxtable, in a letter to the Montreal "Witness," says the plebiscite was a mockery pure and simple, a political dodge, and a fraud of the first magnitude.

He adds: "I have been a Reformer all my life. I gave my vote in the late election for Sir Wilfrid; but I will regard it henceforth as a duty I owe to my conscience, my country, and my God, to withhold from him my support."

Surely it would have been better, if the Government had acted in good faith with the temperance people. Having granted a plebiscite, they should have carried out their pledges, and they never should have promised prohibition, if they did not intend to carry it out. The right hon. Premier, the other day, said:

Who carved the province of Ontario into monuments of shapeless deformity to every instinct of right and justice? We are here in the consciousness of our strength, and, so help me God, I think we shall have that strength in the hearts of the people.

They used to promise all sorts of things to the people; and, when a man pledges himself to anything, particularly men in high positions, they should carry out their promises, and such promises would be all that honest men should require of them. When they are constantly breaking their promises, how can you expect any one to have confidence in them? Finding that the people were becoming suspicious, they said they would do this upon their honour,

but they again broke their word, and now the Premier adds to his promises in this House "so help me God." Now, if their last promise of fairness is not kept, the people will come to the conclusion that they must have a statutory declaration, or a cast-iron oath, from these men that will make them amenable to the criminal laws of the country.

Let me show you, from some maps I have in my hand, how these gentlemen have deformed the constituencies in Ontario. Here is East Wellington, as it is represented in the local legislature, and this is the work of Sir Oliver Mowat—and the Premier in this House swore that "So help me God" he was going to set right these monuments of shapeless deformity. Here is his chance. Look at this map and see how Centre Bruce appears as carved out by the Reform party. Who carved out Ontario and made such "monumental deformities" out of the constituencies?

An hon. MEMBER. Sir Oliver Mowat.

Mr. McLENNAN. Here is another one.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Show it to your friends behind you and not to us. They have not seen it.

Mr. McLENNAN. They have seen it, but the trouble is you do not want to see it, and there is no man so blind as the man who does not want to see. Look at South Wellington. We have had some of these hon. gentlemen opposite declare that they would vote against the Government if these wrongs in the redistribution were not put right, but they are prepared to support such abortions as these I am showing you. I have several other maps, but will not trouble the House with them. Now, let me draw your attention to the Dominion Atlas, and particularly the attention of the right hon. gentleman who cast such reflection on the county divisions of Ontario, under the Franchise Act of the late Government. If he will look over that atlas, he will find that the constituencies are in better shape in Ontario, under the Dominion Act, than they are in his own province. There can be no doubt about it, as he will see on looking through this atlas.

Now, let me quote from a book prepared by a friend of hon. gentlemen opposite, Mr. Magurn, who was here as reporter for the "Globe" newspaper, and whose work is published by the Winnipeg "Free Press," the organ of the Minister of Justice of which Mr. Magurn is now the editor. Here is his analysis of the vote at the last general election, in 1896:

We find that the Liberals had 28.96 per cent of the whole vote, the Conservatives 30.85, the Independents 4.10 per cent, and the Patrons 2.28 per cent. The total vote polled by the Conservatives was 417,685, by the Liberals 392,108, by the Independents 55,522, and by the Patrons 30,955.

You see, therefore, that the Conservatives polled a larger vote in the Dominion than the Liberals at the last general election,

and this percentage will stay by them. Notwithstanding all the changes in the constituencies that hon. gentlemen opposite may make the Government need not flatter themselves with the idea of carrying the by-elections. They carried the by-elections between 1874 and 1878, but were defeated and beaten out of sight at the next general elections, and the same fate will meet the present Administration. In the by-elections it is very hard to keep up with these gentlemen, who have at their command the provincial as well as the Dominion official heelers and personators.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). What are they, those personators?

Mr. McLENNAN. Ask your chief whip, and he will tell you. I would not like to say anything that would hurt the feelings of the chief whip, because he is a good fellow, but let me tell you that that gentleman goes into a constituency the most modest looking fellow you ever saw. He stands around, goes to the best hotel, as he should, somebody tells him there is an election on, and he appears to be surprised. He has just heard of it, and is there travelling for his health. The people of this country are beginning to understand that they are unsafe in the hands of this Government. The business men, the manufacturers, do not know what the policy of the Government is going to be. They do not know what the Government will do next. They do not know what we can expect of them now. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, there is a feeling of unrest among the people with regard to the position of the Government. There is the uncertainty which makes capitalists afraid to invest their money without a definite and consistent policy. These gentlemen got into power simply by a fluke, and they have not since strengthened themselves, and if they were to go to the country to-morrow they would be beaten clean out of sight. One hon. member talks of protection and another calls himself a free trader. My hon. friend from Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), I believe, made a speech, in the course of which he said he was an out-and-out free trader. You have reduced the tariff one-half of one per cent in four years. If you keep on you will make a great reduction. But we do not know. We would like to know that you are going to stick to the Conservative policy which you have taken, not being able to formulate one for yourselves. It was a policy that you decreed for 18 years. By accepting that policy you have paid the Conservative party a great compliment, showing that we were right and you were wrong. You have accepted that policy and thrown to the winds everything you have said.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. BOURASSA. I rise to a point of order. The hon. member (Mr. McLennan, Gleggarry) should address the chair.

Mr. McLENNAN (Glengarry). I have treated every hon. member of this House as a gentleman. I do not trouble the House very often, and I think these interruptions are altogether uncalled for.

Mr. BOURASSA. I raise the point of order that the hon. gentleman should address the Chair. He is addressing the Government.

Mr. McLENNAN (Glengarry). I have been addressing the Chair and criticising the conduct of the Government. You cannot get out of it by a quibble of that kind.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Brodeur). Order. The hon. gentleman should address the Chair.

Mr. McLENNAN (Glengarry). I have been addressing the Chair, but I must say something concerning hon. gentlemen opposite at the same time. I was about finishing, and as it is now late, I shall not claim the attention of the House any longer. I thank hon. members for the attention they have given me. I trust the Government will mend its ways and will be more consistent in future, so that, hereafter, the people may be able to rely on them to a certain extent. When they make people a promise they should not deceive them; let the people to whom the promise is made be temperance people, manufacturers or whatever they be. If they introduce honest legislation, we on this side will help them. We are interested in the welfare of the country. Though we are in Opposition, yet we are loyal and devoted to the interests of Canada. We will never say a word against the country, even though we should have the misfortune to remain in Opposition for 18 years, as our friends opposite did. But I do not believe that we shall be here for 18 months.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher) moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 11.45 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 13th April, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 57) respecting the British Yukon Mining, Trading and Transportation Company, and to change its name to the British Yukon Railway Company.—(Mr. Campbell.)

Mr. McLENNAN (Glengarry).

## INQUIRY FOR RETURN.

Mr. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Before the Orders of the Day are called, I want to call the attention of the First Minister, in the absence of the Minister of the Interior, to an order of the House for some returns, notably a return of all dredging licenses and leases of mining lands granted, which was ordered in the early part of last session, and which has not yet been brought down. I hope the First Minister will make a note of that, and see that it is brought down early. I would like to have it up to date, but of course, that is not implied in the motion.

## ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell (East Prince), for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Sidney A. Fisher, Brome). Mr. Speaker, during the course of this debate, a good deal of reference has been made by hon. gentlemen opposite to the fact that I happened to have been more or less out of the House, and several conclusions have been drawn from that fact, which I suppose the gentlemen drawing them intended to be rather uncomplimentary to myself. If, Sir, during the course of this debate, which has now lasted about three weeks, I have been guilty of some absence from the House, I think I shall have the sympathy of the large number of the members of the House; for hon. gentlemen know that I have been so in the most excellent company of the large majority of the members of the House. Hon. gentlemen opposite, I think, should be the last to accuse me of this remissness, not only because their constant repetitions of the old story which has been going on for the last three weeks might weary out the patience even of Job, and give a fair excuse to any one for not listening to them, but because the hon. gentlemen themselves have been considerably guilty of the same thing; so that if I am guilty of remissness in this respect, I have been guilty in company which hon. gentlemen opposite at least ought to consider very good company. I would draw attention to the fact that when these hon. gentlemen address the House, their own friends are not sufficiently interested in their speeches to stay in the House and listen to them. I would draw attention to the remarkable fact that when the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) the other night made what was certainly a notable speech, what was evidently intended to be a great speech, the utterance of the party of which he is a prominent member on a great question with which the Conservative press of this country has been ringing for months past, by actual count there were only

at any one time during that hon. gentleman's speech, from a dozen to fifteen members of his own side of the House doing him the honour of listening to, or encouraging, or applauding him. Is it possible that this is to be accounted for in the same way as another extraordinary fact? The hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) went down to Brockville the other day and fired the first gun of the great Conservative party in the by-election which is now going on in that constituency; and the next day I read in an independent Montreal newspaper a report of his meeting, which stated:

A notable feature of the meeting was that no reference was made in any way to the Yukon charges, which it took Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper six hours to elaborate in the House of Commons, nor was the name of a Tupper mentioned in any way by any of the speakers, and the Yukon charges were left severely alone.

Mr. FOSTER. Will my hon. friend allow me one word?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Certainly, with pleasure.

Mr. FOSTER. I am going to take the earliest opportunity to remedy that defect in my speech. It was due to my not having more than about 45 minutes in which to speak.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. member, I suppose, wanted time to emulate his former colleague and friend; he wanted six hours to elaborate those charges. The hon. member's party press and the hon. member's party are telling the people of this country that these Yukon charges are the greatest blot upon the present Administration of Canada, that in the administration of the Yukon territory the Government of Canada has shown its unfitness for the government of the country; and yet the hon. gentleman says himself that in three-quarters of an hour, the first occasion in this by-election on which he or any of the leaders of his party have had an opportunity to strike the key-note of their accusation against this Government, he did not see fit to refer once to those charges. That the statement in this newspaper is correct, the hon. gentleman's very lame excuse here to-day is abundant proof. He is convicted out of his own mouth of either one of two things—I leave it to himself to choose whichever horn of the dilemma he pleases: either he has no sympathy with those charges, or he feels that the speech of my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) so completely disposed of them that it was not safe for the Conservative party to continue them.

Mr. FOSTER. No, but you have so many great sins that it is not easy to deal with them all.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. My hon. friend need not get uneasy. He

knows in his conscience why he omitted to mention the name of a Tupper in Brockville, and why in the home of Major Walsh he did not dare to bring forward or repeat, where he could be held responsible for them, the charges which his colleague, the ex-Minister of Justice (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), made on the floor of Parliament, where he knew well he could not be held responsible for what he said. Sir, the hon. gentleman has made accusations against the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), but my hon. colleague disposed of these accusations so completely that the supporters of hon. gentlemen opposite dared not repeat them on the hustings.

The hon. leader of the Opposition tried, however, to put the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) before the country in another light. He accused him of misrepresenting the feeling of the western country on the tariff, and of having forfeited the confidence of the people of Manitoba whom he represents in this Administration. These hon. gentlemen say that at a meeting held in Winnipeg, a little while ago, a vote of want of confidence was passed against the Minister of the Interior. Well, I have here a telegram, which gives the result of the meeting in Winnipeg in its true light. What was the result? Let me read this telegram and you will see. It is dated Winnipeg, March 11th, and is as follows:

The leader of the Opposition quoted a resolution moved in the Liberal Association here to establish dissatisfaction among the Liberals with the Government tariff reform. First suitable speaker to-day should quote the fate of that resolution at the meeting last night, when it was unanimously rejected at the largest meeting in the history of the Liberal Association of Manitoba, A. B. Bethune alone voting contrary. Even G. R. Heney, the mover of the resolution, voted for the following amendment:—

This association recognizes the courage and ability shown by the Government in dealing with the tariff in the face of the country's requirements, and its economic conditions; especially approves the preferential clause favouring the mother country, the relaxation of the duties on raw materials, and the important additions made to the free list, and congratulate the Government on the increased trade of the country and a rising revenue, thus enabling it to regard with security the great reduction made in imperial and domestic postal rates; and this association feels confident that with due consideration to the varied productive industries of the country, the Government, in so far as the just demands upon the revenue will permit, will continue to apply the principle of placing the taxation upon a basis of revenue tariff, having special regard to the development of the great resources of this western Canada.

That, I think, thoroughly disposes of any question as to the confidence of the Liberal party in the Minister of the Interior; and while hon. gentlemen opposite may have tried to find a very cold comfort indeed in some few remarks made on the tariff question by Liberals in the west, they can see from this that the Liberals of western, as well as the rest of Canada, are satisfied with

the tariff arrangements of the present Government and have every confidence in their administration.

I may be allowed to take up a few minutes of the time of the House in dealing with one or two matters. Hon. gentlemen opposite seem to have been worrying themselves a good deal concerning certain credit which they think ought to be given the late Government for certain reforms effected by this Administration in the interests of the agriculturists of this country. They have spent a good deal of time in this debate insisting that I, personally, deserve no credit for anything I have done in my department since I took charge of it. They have been asserting repeatedly—and I suppose they imagine that by repeated assertions they will get the people to believe them—that my predecessors had inaugurated everything that I have been doing in the interests of agriculture, and that all the credit for anything that I have done is due to the late Administration. Well, I am not going into the details, I do not intend to worry myself over this matter, but I must confess that these hon. gentlemen remind me of that man out in the west who tried to hoist himself by tugging at his own boot straps. Over and over again, when they were in office, they told the people that the country was prosperous. They insisted upon it so often and so vehemently, that I really think they brought themselves to believe it. If persistence can be taken as any evidence of sincerity these hon. gentlemen certainly were sincere, and they no doubt thought that by reiteration they would make the people believe in the end that they were prosperous. The facts, however, were against them. We, on the other hand, do not need to go to the people and insist that they are prosperous, for the people come to us and tell us that their affairs are prosperous. We do not have to go to them.

If I may liken a small matter to a greater, I may say that we have the same spectacle with regard to the establishment of cold storage facilities, with regard to the doing away with the quarantine between Canada and the United States, which I succeeded in having removed, and all the rest of the work I have been doing in the Agricultural Department. I have no need to go to the people and demand from them, at the point of the bayonet, credit for these reforms. I leave it to the people themselves to give credit where they think it is deserved. I leave the matter in their hands and trust myself to their judgment. Therefore, leaving this matter to these hon. gentlemen to settle with their own conscience and their own followers as best they can, I would ask leave to say a few words with regard to the work done in the Agricultural Department within the last two years. In the first place let me say—and I say it in all deference and friendliness—that I am glad to perceive that the late Minister of Agriculture, the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague) does not take

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the line his friends took. I am sorry the hon. gentleman is not here to-day, but I must congratulate him on the moderation of his tone and the good debating characteristics of the speech he delivered in this House, and I would tell his friends opposite that they might take his example well to heart as one to be followed. I must give the hon. member for Haldimand this credit, that he, at all events, is not responsible, to any great extent, if any, for anything that occurred in the Department of Agriculture before I came into office. He was my immediate predecessor in the Department of Agriculture, but he was only there six months when I succeeded him, and during that term he was away in England two months. There was a session of Parliament going on during his incumbency, and during the last two or three months of his term, he was so busily and rightly engaged, from a party point of view, in the campaign which was being carried on in the early half of 1896, that he had very little opportunity to exercise his ability in the Department of Agriculture. A good deal has been said about cold storage. As a matter of fact, what is the case? In 1895, under the recommendation of Professor Robertson—and speaking of that gentleman, I wish to say here that the earnest activity and energy he brings to the service in which he is engaged is only equalled by his capacity and foresight in carrying out the schemes he is able to originate—in 1895 ten steamships were furnished with insulated cold storage compartments to be cooled with ice. The Government bore the expense of this service. But these facilities were availed of but very little. As a matter of fact, the ice cold storage was found not to be very successful. In 1896, instead of doing anything more, instead of taking any steps in advance, the hon. gentleman who preceded me continued the same system without any change—except the change that the system was even less availed of by the exporters than it had been the year before. The expenditure on the part of my predecessor was not quite so great, in consequence. Coming into office, I felt the necessity of improvement, and I prepared an elaborate scheme, which I laid before this House, and into the details of which I need not go. As a consequence, in 1897 there were 16 steamships fitted, not with insulated compartments for ice, but with mechanical refrigeration, which is thoroughly understood to be the only really practical system of refrigeration for large cold storage warehouses or for steamship service. That gave a large service from Canadian ports to ports in the old land. In 1898, having found the success of this system—and here I may say without digressing too much, that the success was so great that I received demands from various parts of the country asking me to go on and increase the service—in 1898, 20 steamships were fitted with mechanical cold storage, and,

besides, there were two small vessels for special work, which were fitted only with the insulated compartments. In addition to this, cold storage was provided on the railways. In 1898 this applied to 21 different roads, converging upon the points of shipment, a service which has been availed of very largely, especially by the butter exporters and cheese exporters. In addition to this, the system of bonusing cold storage accommodation at creameries, which was entirely new, was carried on, resulting in a most magnificent stimulus to our butter trade. To illustrate this, I have only to say one or two words. While in 1894-95, and up to 1896, Canadian butter of the best quality ranged from 72 shillings to 85 shillings per cwt. in England, the finest Danish, the top of the market, ranged from 100 shillings to 105 shillings, making a difference of fully 20 shillings per cwt. between the best Danish and the best Canadian. In the same month of 1898 the difference between the best Danish and the best Canadian ran under 6 shillings per cwt., as against 20 shillings in the former case. There was a comparison also which I noticed myself in England, last summer. On the 16th August, 1898, on the London market, Canadian butter was quoted at 88 shillings to 94 shillings per cwt., and the best Danish at 76 shillings to 94 shillings—an actual parity or a slight advantage in favour of Canadian butter. Another comparison will not be out of place. In 1896 fancy Australian ran from 10 shillings to 12 shillings above the best Canadian. In 1898, throughout the whole season, there was not a single instance in which the Canadian butter was not higher than Australian butter. This result has been accomplished, not through any material improvement in the manufacture of Canadian butter, but through the mechanical cold storage on steamships, the cold storage on the railways and the cold storage chambers in the creameries themselves; for, through these means, Canadian butter is placed upon the English market in the same splendid condition in which it leaves the creamery—and Canadian butter at the creamery in Canada is not surpassed in quality by any butter on the face of the earth. Now, before I go on to deal with another point, I might allude incidentally to the immense increase of the cognate industry of pork, ham and bacon products. In 1891 we exported \$632,000 worth of these products; in 1892, \$1,159,000; in 1893, \$2,000,000; in 1894, \$2,900,000; in 1895, \$3,800,000; in 1896, \$4,400,000; in 1897, \$5,800,000; in 1898, \$8,000,000, and in the first six months of the current fiscal year, \$5,690,000, or at the rate of nearly \$12,000,000 for the fiscal year. The export trade, which we thus see advancing by leaps and bounds, is dependent largely upon the fact that Canadian creamery butter can be made at a satisfactory profit and placed on the English market at its true worth, because it is

the skim-milk from the creamery that is the foundation of the successful raising of hogs. The other point to which I wish to allude is one to which hon. gentlemen opposite have paid no attention, and I do not much wonder at that, because the facts are not creditable to their administration. Those who know anything about the agricultural interests of the country are aware that in 1892 the American Government established a quarantine of ninety days against the importation of Canadian cattle. This quarantine lasted until the 1st February, 1897. In the autumn of 1896 I was in western Ontario, attending what was known as a fat stock show, which is the great occasion for the gathering of the stock-breeders of the province of Ontario, the home, I may say, of the live stock interests of the continent of America. We discussed the matter there a little; and a prominent Conservative told me that if there was one thing I could do to aid the live stock interests of the province of Ontario, it would be to remove the quarantine against American cattle coming into this country. That struck me as being a rather curious thing to advocate, and I asked the reason for the opinion this gentleman had expressed. "Oh," he said, "we have been trying for years to remove the quarantine against our cattle going into the United States, but without effect. But I think that if you would take the first step in that direction, our friends on the other side of the line would, perhaps, follow your example." I said that I thought it would be better to make a bargain with them and have the quarantine restriction removed simultaneously on both sides of the line. But my friend said: "You can't do that; our Conservative Minister of Agriculture has been trying for some years, and he has not succeeded; so, there is no earthly use in your trying to do it." All I can say, Mr. Speaker, is, that within three weeks of that date I had made an arrangement in Washington with the Minister of Agriculture of the United States to remove the quarantine restriction upon cattle going across the American frontier. I did it without difficulty; I did it simply by going to Washington on the invitation of that gentleman, and meeting him in a practical, business-like way.

Mr. IVES. The hon. gentleman will allow me to ask him a question. I would like to know if the Postmaster General, who was so strongly in favour of protecting our cattle from contamination from the United States cattle, approved of that move?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I will tell the hon. gentleman in a moment, if he will allow me to get through with what I am saying now. I did this without any great difficulty. I went to Washington at the invitation of the Minister of Agriculture of the United States, and in a few days of practical business-like discussion

with him and with the officers of his department, and with the assistance of Prof. McEachran, chief of the veterinary branch of my own Department of Agriculture, the difficulty was removed, a convention was signed by us jointly, and Orders in Council were issued here, and the Department of Agriculture in the United States issued their orders. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to say much about the results. The result is shown by the facts I am going to quote, that while during the four years and a half under the restriction I have indicated, the Dominion of Canada sent to the United States 3,763 head of cattle, of the value of \$52,000, in the two years which have elapsed since that restriction was removed, we have sent to the United States 180,849 head of cattle, of the value of \$2,514,000.

Mr. WALLACE. How much is that per head?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have given you the figures, just figure it out for yourself.

Mr. WALLACE. Under \$14 a head.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, and the hon. gentleman, if he knew anything about the state of our stock interests three years ago in Canada, would have known well that our farmers here could not at that time sell the class of cattle which went to the United States for \$8 or \$10, let alone \$14 per head. The hon. gentleman is probably not aware of the fact that these cattle going across to the United States are chiefly young cattle, unsaleable animals, which could not go to the English market, and which were resting like an incubus on the cattle market of Canada, and the absence of which has relieved our cattle market of that incubus. Let me here quote the words, not of a Canadian politician, not my own words, but the words of Mr. Ironsides, of the great firm of Gordon & Ironsides, the largest cattle dealers and exporters in Canada. Mr. Ironsides said, speaking of this phase of the administration of my department, that the farmers of Canada owed a debt of gratitude to the Government of which I am a member, because, through the work of my department, all the young cattle under two years of age in Canada had been increased in value to the extent of double. Mr. Ironsides made this statement last fall, when he was asked to say something about the things for which the people of Canada ought to be thankful on that occasion, Thanksgiving Day, at a time when the people of this country were praising God for the blessings which had come to them in the year past, at a time when the people of this country were asked on what grounds they should base that thankfulness which they felt all over the country; Mr. Ironsides said that one of the reasons why he, as a cattle dealer, and why the people who raised cat-

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tle should show their thankfulness, were the very facts I have detailed to this House.

An hon. member opposite (Mr. Ives) asked me a moment ago if the Postmaster General agreed of this piece of administration. I will relieve the hon. gentleman's anxiety by telling him that the Postmaster General does and did agree with it, and that in doing so, the Postmaster General is in no sense inconsistent with the position he occupied a few years ago on the floor of this House when he criticised the hon. gentleman himself and his colleagues who were then on this side of the House, at a time when there was danger, at a time when they were allowing American cattle to come into this country without the people of Canada being able to send their cattle into the United States, at a time when there was an embargo existing upon our cattle going into the English market, due to the remissness of hon. gentlemen opposite in allowing those American cattle to come into this country and affect the health of our cattle.

Mr. IVES. The hon. gentleman will allow me to say that from the statements he makes, I think the personnel of the commission that went to Washington should have been changed, and my hon. friend should have gone down.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman compliments me highly, but while I had my work to do, my hon. friends who went to Washington had their work to do, and I have no doubt did it with the same success.

Mr. IVES. That was not much.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman does not know, perhaps, that at the time he refers to there was pleuro-pneumonia in the United States, and there was pleuro-pneumonia in England, and both the people of England and of Canada were afraid of that pleuro-pneumonia being introduced into Canada. But when I made this arrangement with the United States in December, 1896, pleuro-pneumonia had been completely stamped out, there had not been a single case in the United States for over four years, and it was only in consequence of that fact, and in consequence of proof afforded by the Department of Agriculture at Washington, and after an investigation on the part of my own officer, Dr. McEachran, who found that there was no pleuro-pneumonia in the United States and had not been for several years, that I dared to make this regulation; and, as a matter of fact, I have been justified in so doing, for since that time up to the present day there has not been found a single case of pleuro-pneumonia either in the United States or in Canada. Sir, I said a few moments ago that I was not going to fish for credit in regard to these matters. I will, however, confess that I am human, and that I am pleased and

gratified when I receive assurance of satisfaction from the farmers of the country, not only Liberal farmers, but Conservative farmers, who speak of these things in their agricultural meetings, where, thank God, politics do not enter; in their farmers' conferences, dairy associations, live stock associations and fruit growers' associations, and who invite me urgently to attend their meetings and meet them face to face, who invite me to discuss with them the business interests of their calling, and who have passed resolutions thanking me for my presence there, and thanking me for the work I am doing. I confess, Mr. Speaker, that I am gratified at those expressions of satisfaction on the part of that great class of the community whose interests are in my charge as a member of the Government. Sir, I am glad to know, and I am encouraged to know, that in doing this work, I am, perhaps, contributing to the material advance of agriculture in this country and to the prosperity of the farmers of this country, but I am content to leave these expressions of gratitude to the men for whom I am doing this work.

Mr. Speaker, I will leave that question now and proceed to another one on which, again, hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House seem to be worrying themselves a good deal, and that is as to what my position is in the Government, and whether I am going to resign. Well, I will relieve them at once by saying that at the present moment, and so far as any question at present before the public is concerned, I am not going to resign. The reason I am not going to resign is this simple fact, that there is no cause of difference between myself and the leader of the Government, or between myself and my colleagues, no difference whatever. The hon. gentlemen opposite, sitting in the front benches, know well enough what reasons require a member of the Privy Council to resign, and my reminder to them of those reasons is a sufficient answer to them. A few days ago it was necessary for me in the course of my private business to go away for a couple of days, and I was away from Parliament and from Ottawa. The hon. gentlemen opposite, and their press, seem to take a great deal of interest in my movements, and some of them suggested that I was sulking, perhaps. Others, again, attributed to me other intentions. As far as sulking is concerned, I can tell hon. gentlemen, that it is not a characteristic of myself and, so far as I know, it is not a characteristic of any member of the Government. I am glad to be able to say that we have a mutual confidence and a mutual trust, and that we have seen no reason, in any way or shape, to lessen that trust since we have been working together in the Council chamber. But there was one thing which, I must confess, rather tickled my vanity, if I may be allowed to make use of the term. It was attributed to me here that I was going to

leave, not only this Government, but this House and this country, and it was said that I was going to England to take my position as High Commissioner. Well, now, Mr. Speaker, that might have tickled my vanity, but I am going to say a few words or two in regard to the matter and I will say it did not tickle it very much. At the present time that position is occupied by Lord Strathcona, and I want to have this opportunity of saying, and of saying it emphatically, that from having had a good deal to do with that gentleman in the position which he occupies in London, I trust that Canada is going to be long spared his services in the position which he so worthily and actively occupies. Lord Strathcona, as the High Commissioner of Canada, is possessed of qualifications and characteristics which are eminently adapted to that position. A peer of the realm, giving him unexceptional and great social position in London, in the world of diplomacy, in society and in commerce, a man of great wealth, occupying positions of trust on the boards of several of the great companies and corporations of the world, a man of high public standing, not only in this country, but of experience in the affairs of the empire, he is eminently fitted for the position. When Canada was a younger country, and when, notably there was a portion of Canada, now happily joined with us, which was then in open rebellion, and when the authorities of the old land, in 1871, sent Lord Strathcona, then Mr. Smith, to Manitoba, he was able to be of great service to the empire by holding that province to Canada at that time. In his work now he shows an activity and energy that are almost incredible in a man of his years, and which would be marvellous in a man in the prime of life, and that energy, that activity, that capacity, that wealth, that social and financial position in London, he is giving frankly and freely for the service of his country, and I trust and hope for a long time to come his health will be such that he may be spared, and that the Government will be able to retain the services of such an eminently fitted High Commissioner in London. Even were it to be the intention that I should occupy that position, I should shrink from it, for the attempt to follow Lord Strathcona would be greater than my powers or capacity would enable me to do. But I come back now to this question upon which I am supposed to be sulking, and wishing to leave the Government. It is the question of prohibition. I do not find that hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House are worrying very much about prohibition; they are worrying a good deal about me and about what the Government is going to do. It is an extraordinary fact, but it is a fact, which anybody who has followed the debate, must have noticed, that there is but one song and one burden of the song of hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, and it is this: You naughty Government: why do you not propose a prohibitory law? Nobody on the other side

of the House has proposed a prohibitory law; nobody on the other side of the House has said what he is prepared to do, and although this attack upon the Government has been made, the fact that it is not prohibition which hon. gentlemen have at heart is shown by the circumstance that whether it be the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Pope), or the hon. member for Stanstead (Mr. Moore), the hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Ganong), or whether it be any other hon. member on the other side of the House, it matters not what may be his opinions or his views on prohibition, the burden of his attack is exactly the same. Everybody knows, who knows these hon. gentlemen, that the hon. member for Compton and the hon. member for Stanstead are diametrically opposed on the question of prohibition, but the speeches that these hon. gentlemen made in this House on this question were almost identical, and why were they almost identical? Because their whole aim and object has been apparently to accuse the Government and to put it in a hole, and not apparently to benefit or help prohibition at all. Mr. Speaker, the hon. members opposite are accusing the Government. Has any hon. member on that side of the House, has the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster), got up and said what he would do upon this question if he were in office? Has he got up and said that he is prepared, or desires, to go to the country and test the people upon this question from a party point of view? Not a bit of it. Nobody on the other side of the House has done it any more than anybody on this side of the House has done it, but the question is just this: We have had a vote upon the question of prohibition, in this House known as the plebiscite. Now, the plebiscite is a thing of very old origin. I will not go back to its first institution in the days of ancient Rome, but in modern days it has been chiefly made use of in France. The plebiscite has been made use of there, under the Third Empire, to obtain endorsement from the people of a political question which has already been un fait accompli.

Mr. FOSTER. The referendum.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Excuse me. The referendum is an entirely different thing from the plebiscite. The referendum is the submission of a definite or particular law to the people of the country to be adopted, just as the Scott Act is referred to the vote of a constituency, county, or a municipal or other division.

Mr. FOSTER. Was I right in understanding the hon. gentleman to say that the plebiscite had to do with something which was already un fait accompli.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No.

Mr. FOSTER. That is what I understood the hon. gentleman to say.

Mr. FISHER.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman has misunderstood me entirely.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not think I misunderstood the hon. gentleman.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I say that in France the French authorities use the plebiscite for the purpose of obtaining endorsement from the people upon un fait accompli. After the revolution of 1848 Louis Philippe's Government was overthrown, the republic was established and a plebiscite was taken to secure endorsement of the republic, when afterwards the Third Napoleon overthrew the republic and established the empire, a plebiscite was taken to endorse that action of his. But later on, on two different occasions, the Third Empire employed the plebiscite to obtain the endorsement of the people in reference to actions which he had already taken. That is what I said to the hon. gentleman and that is what I meant to say.

Mr. BERGERON. Are there any cases in England?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There have been no cases of the plebiscite in England in my historical researches. The plebiscite here lately was on a different line, and for a different purpose. We used the plebiscite for the purpose of obtaining an expression of opinion, of obtaining the views of the people of the country, on the question of prohibition, not upon un fait accompli, and not as a referendum for the purpose of adopting a particular law. But hon. gentlemen opposite know perfectly well, that the temperance people of this country did not wish a referendum. They felt, rightly I think, that if by a referendum a special law were to be submitted, for vote in the country, a series of side issues would be brought in, and the people of the country would be deterred from voting in consequence of the details of that particular law. The Government had that request of the temperance people in view. Furthermore, the Government carried out their pledge to give a plebiscite to the people of this country, as the people asked it, and as the party when in Opposition had said they would do. The hon. the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) in his speech, stated that we have deceived the people, and he implied, if he did not do any more—and other speakers on the opposite side of the House have done the same thing—that the Government were derelict in their duty and their policy on account of the manner in which they took the plebiscite. As to that I will not go into details, but I will quote what the representative of the temperance people said when in November last they came into this Chamber, and approached a committee of the Government who met them. Mr. Spence then said:

It was only eight months since a delegation of the Dominion Alliance had waited upon the First Minister and his colleagues asking that the question to be submitted to the electorate be not trammelled by the introduction of any side issues. For the straightforward and honourable way in which the Government had dealt with that petition they owed their thanks.

This, I think, fully disposes of the objection brought forward by the leader of the Opposition as to the manner in which the Government had carried out their pledge to the temperance people, that they would give them an opportunity of expressing their opinions at the polls.

Now, Sir, what are the results? I say emphatically this: The plebiscite was for the purpose of enabling the electorate of Canada to give expression to their opinion upon the question of prohibition. That is the whole and sole thing in connection with the plebiscite; it was for that purpose and for that purpose alone. The people of the country had that opportunity given them in a straightforward and honest manner, as was stated by the representative of the temperance people when they came to us in November last.

Now, then, how did the people of Canada take advantage of that opportunity, and how did they go to the polls? The figures are about these in round numbers: Taking 100 names on the voters' lists, 44 per cent voted, and 56 per cent of the whole number enrolled on the list did not vote. Twenty-two and a half per cent voted "yes," and 21½ per cent of the whole list voted "no." I am not going to take these bald figures and argue upon them, for I appreciate that the whole list is not quite a fair thing to make a comparison on.

Mr. FOSTER. What would be a fair thing?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am going to tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster). If he will abide his soul in a little patience, he will get it all in a few minutes. The right thing and the fair thing would be to take the average vote at the ordinary elections which are held in this country. And as a matter of fact, of every hundred names on the voters' lists, in the elections of 1887, 70 per cent of the people voted; in the elections of 1891, 66 per cent voted, and in the elections of 1896, again 66 per cent voted. Sir, I want to draw this fact to the attention of the House. The voters' list in 1896, was a list which was about three years old. In 1898, when the plebiscite was taken, in most of the country, not all, the list was a new list. In the province of Quebec it was an absolutely new list; in the province of Ontario, I understand, it was a new list; in some of the smaller provinces it was not a new list; but on the whole, it averaged a much newer list than the list used in the elections of 1896, which was all over Canada, about three years old. We may, therefore, fairly take that the average vote on the

plebiscite comparing it with ordinary elections would be about 66 per cent, and I think I am giving the benefit of the doubt fully and entirely to the question. In other words, of 66 per cent, which would be the probable and fairly to be expected vote, only 44 per cent voted, or two-thirds. Of those, practically about one-half voted for prohibition and about one-half voted against, or in round figures, one-third voted for prohibition, one-third voted against prohibition, and one-third did not vote at all. I do not think that any exception or any cavil can be taken, on this statement of the case, because I believe that I have given the advantage in every respect and in every way to those who may cavil at my figures.

Mr. FOSTER. Would my hon. friend (Mr. Fisher) allow me a question? I do not want to interrupt unless he wishes.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Certainly.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend (Mr. Fisher) lays that down as a rule which would be fair to abide by. Did my hon. friend (Mr. Fisher) take the trouble to do that before the plebiscite was taken at all?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I did not. It was before the whole people of the country; it was an absolute fact, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) and everybody else knew it.

Mr. FOSTER. May I ask my hon. friend (Mr. Fisher) another question. The statement has been made over and again as to something that my hon. friend (Mr. Fisher) did express—I have never heard him deny it; I have never heard him say it was not true. But I would like to read what it is, and then ask him if it is a true statement of what he said.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) is, I think, poaching a little on one's patience.

Mr. FOSTER. I think it is fairly connected with the discussion.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. All right, go on; but I must ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) not to interrupt me any more after this.

Mr. FOSTER. Only one other question. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) is reported as having said, in 1893, at the Liberal convention:

I propose to read the resolution which pledges the Liberal party, if returned to power, to give the people of Canada an opportunity to express their views upon this question, and the Government in power must necessarily carry out the expressed will of the people. There is no doubt that that is what the Liberal party would do, for we know their pledges can be trusted.

That, I believe, is the statement of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) as made.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. Speaking from memory, I think it is.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Then, might I add as my question this: Whether my hon. friend (Mr. Fisher) meant there, as his words say, that it should be the expressed will, and as the "expressed will" was only the will as was shown in the votes for and against, and as a majority of that vote was in favour of the principle of prohibition, whether he does not think his own words hold him to the "expressed will" as being shown by the majority of those who came out to vote.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. I will answer the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) very frankly, that I do not think it does. As I have said, the plebiscite was for the purpose of obtaining the opinion of the people upon this question. If the people did not have an opinion or did not express that opinion, the plebiscite does not show the true opinion of the people of this country as expressed in the vote. And, until the responsible advisers of the Crown in this country, can be assured of what they believe to be the opinion of the people, they can only carry that out by their judgment. I say this emphatically: That it would be a folly, and that it would be not consonant with the good government of this country, or with the duty which the Government of this country owes to the people of Canada, if, on the vote as expressed in the plebiscite, this Government was to undertake to put in force a prohibitory law.

Mr. **IVES**. Will the hon. gentleman—

Some hon. **MEMBERS**. Order; sit down.

Mr. **IVES**. I certainly shall not ask—

Some hon. **MEMBERS**. Order.

Mr. **SPEAKER**. If the hon. member who has the floor wishes to permit an interruption, and he only has the power to do it, he will be kind enough to sit down and then we will understand he gives the permission.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). And if he does not sit down, he does not allow the interruption.

Mr. **FOSTER**. We are anxious for information.

Mr. **LANDERKIN**. You need it.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. What is the question of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ives)?

Mr. **IVES**. The question I wanted to ask my hon. friend (Mr. Fisher) is not an offensive one. It is one which, I am sure, he will be glad to answer. It is this: Whether he himself, at the time of the Liberal convention at Ottawa, was aware of the understanding as stated by the right hon. the leader of the Government, that between the different elements of the Liberal party that

Mr. **FISHER**.

met there, it was understood that the vote must contain a certain preponderance in favour of prohibition in order to be acted upon?

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. I will answer the hon. gentleman when I come to that. I must really ask these hon. gentlemen to allow me to get on with my speech. I try to be good-natured and to give them every opportunity to satisfy that laudable curiosity of theirs and also to relieve themselves of that uneasiness which seems to affect them. But I must ask them now to make their speeches themselves, and not to interpolate them in mine. Now, I said a few moments ago that we would be lacking in our duty to the people of this country if, on the evidence which is presented to us by this vote on prohibition, we were to conclude that the people of this country were desirous of a prohibitory law to such an extent that it could be enforced. I am not going to go into a long series of quotations to illustrate the opinion of the people on this question. When the temperance people of Canada had an opportunity, as they had on the 29th of September last, to go to the polls and register their convictions in favour of prohibition, I take for granted—and I think it would be an insult to the temperance people of this country to believe otherwise—that every temperance man who was not either absent or sick went to the polls and cast his vote in favour of temperance. If they did not, a much more serious imputation must lie upon them—an imputation which I certainly am not going to lay upon them. I know that at the last moment a good deal of agitation was made and a good deal of work was done on the part of the temperance people to bring out the vote. They had that opportunity, they took advantage of it; and, as far as the results of this plebiscite vote are concerned, it seems to me that it would be folly to assume anything beyond the bare facts as shown by the vote. The temperance people had an abundant opportunity to vote; they had the vote presented to them in exactly the way they wanted. As Mr. Spence said, they owe a debt of gratitude to this Government for the honourable way in which we have fulfilled our pledge to them; and to suppose they did not take advantage of that, to suppose they were so indifferent to the matter that they did not come out to vote, is to insult the temperance people of this country, and I am not going to take part or lot in such an insult. I have seen a great many temperance people since the vote was taken; I have had correspondence with a great many others, and one remarkable fact was that immediately after the vote there was a general consensus of opinion on the part of temperance men as well as others that on that vote no prohibitory law would be passed. That sentiment was almost universal over the length and breadth of the

country. It was so universal that afterwards certain leading temperance men complained to me of the fact, saying that it was extraordinary. But, Sir, the common sense of the people of Canada appreciated that the result of that vote was no cause for introducing a prohibitory law—a measure so radical in the way in which it would affect the whole economic condition of the country that it must have for its successful enforcement the great preponderance of the sentiment and practical work of the people of this country behind it. This vote does not show that. Hon. gentlemen opposite do not say that it does. The temperance people themselves do not say that it does. I have here the Alliance resolution. Read the resolution through, and you find the temperance people asking the Government to pass a prohibitory law; but they do not themselves in this statement say that the plebiscite vote justifies such a law. They do not say that the vote is such as to show that the law could be enforced. All they do is to ask that the Government should pass a law. I do not wonder at it. I sympathize with them. The temperance people want prohibition; I do too. They ask for it; they hope to get it. They leave it to the Government, to Parliament, to the public men of the country, to say how they will get that law, and how, after they have got it, it shall be enforced. But, Sir, temperance man as I am, strongly in favour of temperance as I am, long as I have worked in its cause, I stand here, in the full responsibility of my position as a Minister of the Crown, and say that if we were to pass a prohibitory law which had not the overpowering preponderance of the sentiment of the people of Canada in its favour, the passage of that law would not only lead to anarchy, difficulty and danger in the country, but would result in discrediting temperance and prohibition itself to an extent which would not be got over in a generation. It was only a few years ago when one province of Canada, the province of New Brunswick, adopted a prohibitory law. It was done apparently hastily and without due consideration. At one moment the whole license law of that province was swept out of existence. What was the result? Within less than a year the law was repealed, and temperance received a set-back and check in that province which it took a generation to overcome. I venture to say that if this Government were to submit a prohibitory law and this Parliament were to adopt it, and it were to come into effect to-morrow, within a year it would be repealed, and the people of this country would blame the Government and Parliament for having created such a disturbance in the economy of the country to such little effect.

Mr. BERGERON. Why did you spend \$250,000 to learn that?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Because we wanted to find out the exact opinion of the people of this country upon that measure. Because there was a difference of opinion on that point. Temperance people said that Canada was ripe for prohibition; the liquor people said that Canada was not ripe for prohibition; many indifferent people said they did not know anything about it. We wanted to find out the exact position and status of the temperance sentiment of the country, and this vote has shown it; and, showing as it does, I do not feel, on my responsibility as a public man, that I can fail to recognize the conclusion which every sensible man must draw from that vote. Some will say that this has been a waste of public money—that \$250,000 has been spent to no advantage. I do not think so. For long years back, in my temperance work in Canada, I have found that the progress which has been made has been made through constant agitation and discussion of the subject. I have found that the best way to secure discussion and agitation has been to bring up what may be called legislative or political action on the part of the temperance people. By bringing the question forward in that way, we could arouse a greater interest in it; we could get men to discuss it who, without that interest, would have left it alone, and would have been utterly indifferent to it. In this view, this plebiscite campaign has done greater good and has brought about a more thorough discussion of the temperance question than it has ever had before in the Dominion of Canada; and I have faith enough in the temperance cause and in the principle of prohibition to feel that the more it is discussed the greater will be its progress, and the nearer will come its final triumph. If for no other reason, I would gladly see the expenditure of a quarter of a million of money to bring that about. But there is another and perhaps a greater result from this plebiscite. It has removed all doubt about the position of this question in the country. We know now that in this country about one-third of the electorate are ardent prohibitionists, devoted men who have the temperance cause sincerely at heart, who are ready to sacrifice their time and go to the polls and declare for it. There were also about one-third of the population who went to the poll and declared they would have none of it, and there was another third who were too indifferent to take the trouble of going to vote. We know now where we are, and the temperance people know what they have to overcome, and where their chief difficulties are. Those who are indifferent never before had the opportunity which they have had of appreciating the consequences of their indifference. If they had only a cold, lukewarm sympathy for temperance, they know now what discredit and discomfort they have brought upon their

friends. If their desire was not to see prohibition enforced, they have injured their own side of the question, because they have given the prohibitionists the opportunity of showing their strength in the country to be such that it must be considered in the future.

This is not a party question; it was not brought forward as a party question. When the Plebiscite Bill was passed last year, there were very few in this House who ventured to take any exception to it. Hon. gentlemen opposite did not challenge a division, but helped to put it through. Therefore, I am warranted in stating that it was not a party question, nor was the result a party question. Hon. gentlemen opposite are not now making it a party question in any sense or shape, except in their desire to make a little party capital out of censure of the Government, which has the responsibility of deciding what should be done. It is not a party question, because we find that men of all parties are speaking about it differently. Let me read one quotation out of a great many, but this one I read particularly, because it comes from a gentleman who avows himself an opponent of this Government, who is also a prohibitionist and a man of standing and position in one of the churches of this country. I refer to the Rev. Mr. Ker, of Grace Church, Point St. Charles. Mr. Ker writes as follows:—

I am afraid I do not sympathize with those members of the Dominion Alliance who accuse Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Government of bad faith in the matter of the plebiscite. On the contrary, so far as the Premier is especially concerned, he deserves, to my thinking at any rate, the thanks of the prohibitionists for giving them an opportunity to show what, as a party, they could do at the polls. I make this confession all the more gladly as I did not vote for Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the last election.

This great opportunity—not likely to come again in a hurry—we had on September 28, and the best we could do was to make plain the fact that while somewhat less than 25 per cent of the electors desired prohibition, somewhat more than 75 per cent were, in part, possibly indifferent, and in part actively opposed to it.

Here seems to lie the very centre and crux of the situation. Surely it is idle to beat the air touching "understandings" or "misunderstandings," as to what this or that member of the Government did or did not mean, when the matter was under discussion last year. Unpalatable though the statement may be, it is nevertheless true, that at the present time the vast majority of the electors of Canada are by no means on fire to attain a prohibitory law.

That is the statement of a gentleman of whom the Montreal "Witness" speaks as follows:—

The Alliance does not pretend to consist of members who all think alike. It consists of all genuine prohibitionists, and can excommunicate neither those with whom Dr. Ker rightly differs, nor Dr. Ker himself, who is certainly a genuine prohibitionist.

Then the "Witness" goes on:

Mr. FISHER.

A fair statement of the result of the plebiscite as recorded would be that one-third of the people—possible voters—voted for prohibition; one-third—a little smaller—voted against it, and one-third did not vote.

The "Witness" thus makes identically the same statement that I did in the earlier part of my speech.

There are one or two other questions, Mr. Speaker, on which I would like to say a few words. When the Scott Act is to be adopted, the Act required that 25 per cent. or one-quarter of all the voters on the voters' lists of a particular county should sign a petition in favour of the submission of the Act. This is required, not to adopt the Act, not to adopt prohibition, but before you can submit to the electorate whether they shall adopt the Act or not. Before that question can be submitted to them, 25 per cent of all the electors of the particular constituency in question must sign a petition to submit the Act to the popular vote. Hon. gentlemen opposite do not ask that we should submit a prohibitory law, but they say that we are remiss in our duty because we do not enact one when less than 25 per cent of the voters on the lists voted for it.

Let me refer to another point. We have various license laws in this country. In the province of Quebec the law requires that applicants for a license shall furnish the collector of provincial revenue with a certificate signed by one-quarter of the residential municipal electors, or by a majority of the residential municipal electors, if they number less than fifty of the population of a township or village; and in the cities of Quebec and Montreal an absolute majority of municipal voters residing within the municipal polling district shall signify their opposition to the license, before it can be refused.

This shows that, not a certain number of those who voted, but a certain number of those upon the lists have to express their opinions on the questions submitted. I shall not go into details, but practically the same thing is true in Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

But hon. gentlemen opposite have been making a good deal out of the plea that the Liberal party holds office on a less or very little greater vote than was given for prohibition in the plebiscite. The facts, however, are unfortunately not with these hon. gentlemen. I have taken the trouble to go through the figures in every constituency in this Dominion, where there was a straight fight, that is, where there was not a three-cornered fight or anything of that kind. Where there is such a fight, it is difficult to estimate how many votes were cast for either the one party or the other. I think it is only fair, therefore, to take those constituencies where there was a fair fight between the two parties; and, taking all those, I find that the Liberal party had 34 per cent of the votes on the lists and the

Conservative only 32 per cent, making 66 per cent of the votes on the lists which were actually cast in these constituencies. In other words, while in the plebiscite prohibition had only 22½ per cent of the votes on the voters' lists, in the elections in those constituencies where there was a straight fight, the Liberal party had 34 per cent, and not 28 per cent, as an hon. member so boldly declared the other night. As a matter of fact, in the plebiscite the prohibition party had less than one-quarter of the enrolled vote in its favour, whereas the Government had, in the election of 1896, more than one-third of the enrolled vote, thus presenting a very different contrast from that which hon. gentlemen opposite have been hugging themselves with so often in this debate.

Now, Sir, there is another point I wish to deal with, and it is an important one. A number of hon. gentlemen opposite, and I regret extremely to say, amongst them, are several from the province of Quebec, have been making very rash statements as to the plebiscite vote in the province of Quebec. The hon. member for Compton (Mr. Pope) the other night—I think it was he—said that he had proof that there were gross frauds in Quebec in this vote. We know that in the press of Ontario, immediately after the plebiscite, there was a good deal of chaff, and perhaps some little display of bitterness. It was said, for instance, about a week after the plebiscite, that the people in Quebec were still voting. I am not much concerned about these statements; they were, no doubt, the rash utterances of ignorant people. But to see hon. gentlemen from the province of Quebec, particularly such hon. members as my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), who represent constituencies the people of whom are mainly French Canadians, standing in their places and declaring that the men who were entrusted with the taking of this vote in the province of Quebec were dishonest, had been fraudulent in the carrying out of their duties, seems to me a most extraordinary spectacle. Not that it is necessary for the gentlemen from the province of Quebec to defend the honour of that province, for that honour, I believe, stands unsmirched in this Dominion and elsewhere; but to find these gentlemen showing so little knowledge of the condition of affairs in the province of Quebec as to make such statements, so ignorant of what is going on in their own counties, so ignorant of the character of the men who were entrusted with the taking of this vote, seems most extraordinary. These hon. gentlemen, some of them, come from counties where these frauds are said to have taken place. They must know the returning officers who were accused in these rash statements of having perpetrated frauds. What are these accusations? We had them published in the "Journal" last night, and to show what they were, I will read a few of them:

In every case, without a single exception, fraud was apparent and could be proven.

This is the report of a gentleman who was sent to investigate.

His report showed in detail, that, say, in the county of Quebec, in Poll No. 1, in the parish of Beaupré, such a man as deputy returning officer, that at the day of voting 36 votes were polled, and yet the next day the deputy returning officer would add from 50 to 120 votes against prohibition.

This emissary returned from Quebec and brought a letter purporting to be written by E. Pacaud, editor of "Le Soleil," the leading Liberal newspaper in the district, which contains a promise that the department would offer a position under the Government to the emissary if he did what was requested of him. He did what was required.

In the case of Three Rivers,—

A constituency represented by my hon. friend (Sir Adolphe Caron) who is not in his place, but who is a friend of these hon. gentlemen and one of the leaders of their party—

—a deputy returning officer did the work only on consideration that he was to be made a forest ranger. This position was promised, and he is at the moment in the woods as ranger, drawing pay from the provincial Liberal government. In another case the deputy returning officer of one of the polling places, believing that the whole thing looked like a farce, as the officer was not sworn, went up to Quebec to ask for instructions as to what was meant. He saw there some of the chiefs of the Liberal party, whose names were given, and asked them what was required. They laughed and told him that if he did not know enough to know that, he had better resign his position and allow others to be appointed. This hint was enough for the gentleman, and the day after the election he put 75 votes in against prohibition.

Mr. IVES. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Ives) says "hear, hear." I suppose he believes it, does he? Will he rise in his place and make the charge on his responsibility as a member of this House? Will he rise and on the floor of Parliament as a member of this House and upon his responsibility, ask for a committee of investigation? If he does, I promise him he shall have it.

Mr. IVES. Do not be too certain. You may have just that state of facts to face.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. All right, let us have it. I can tell the hon. gentleman something about this gentleman. These statements are given on the authority of one Parent.

Mr. FOSTER. Ah, now we are getting it.

Mr. IVES. Where have you sent him?

Mr. BERGERON. Who sent him out to investigate?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The Quebec Alliance, and the Good Government Association of the province in the person of Major E. Bond. He was instructed

to find if frauds had been committed, as had been rashly stated. He went and brought back a report to the Alliance, which report was examined. In that report Parent stated categorically the names of the deputy returning officers who, he declared, had committed these frauds; and he gave, categorically, the numbers of the polls, the names of the parishes, the names of the counties, and he gave the number of votes that he said were really polled at these several polls and the number of votes fraudulently inserted by these returning officers.

Mr. BERGERON. Did not he swear to that?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. He swore to that. And what was the result? Those names and those figures were submitted to me, and I was asked to conduct an investigation into the matter.

Mr. BERGERON. Asked by whom?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. By the committee of the Alliance in the city of Montreal, headed by Mr. John R. Dougall and Mr. Carson, the secretary. I said to these gentlemen that I did not believe a word of it; that I did not believe that men in the province of Quebec who were sufficiently respectable to have been appointed returning officers in the various electoral districts of the province would so far forget their duty as not to swear their subordinate officers—not only neglect their duty but lay themselves open to prosecution and to a penalty of \$200 in every case in which they had omitted to swear these officers. Nor did I believe that the men who had been sworn in as deputy returning officers would so far neglect their duty to the public, or were so dishonest as to have done these things charged against them; and, even if they had been so lost to the respect due to the community and to themselves, I did not believe that they would be so rash and foolish as to do these things and thus lay themselves open to a penalty for their crime. I examined the lists which are in the custody of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery in which the actual and true names of all the returning officers in the province of Quebec are recorded—

Mr. FOSTER. May I ask the hon. gentleman—

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. FOSTER. I rise to a point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Mr. Speaker, I ask—

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) rises to a point of order.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I—

Mr. FISHER.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). Point of order.

An hon. MEMBER. State your point of order.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, if hon. gentlemen will give me an opportunity to state it, I will state it.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. FOSTER. Hon. gentlemen call out in such a riotous way that I have no opportunity to state the point of order.

Mr. CAMPBELL. State it then, and sit down.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that the hon. Minister (Mr. Fisher) having made reference to certain public documents and quoted information from them, should at once lay these documents upon the Table.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). That is not a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER. The contention of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) is to this extent right—that when a Minister quotes from public documents, those documents must, as soon as can conveniently be done, be laid on the Table—but not necessarily at the moment.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) is not going to turn me from my point. He has deliberately interrupted me—

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Mr. Speaker, I claim your protection.

Mr. FOSTER. The point of order is that the hon. member (Mr. Fisher) has insinuated that I rose for the deliberate purpose of breaking his speech. In my character as a representative in this House, I state that that is not so. The hon. gentleman must not impute that motive.

Mr. SPEAKER. That is not a point of order.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) mistakes. I have not quoted from any document either of the Government or anybody else. I have stated that I had made an examination of these documents, and the result of that examination shows that these statements of Parent naming the deputy returning officers in the several polls were, one and all, absolutely false and wrong.

There was not a single name given by Mr. Parent to the Alliance in Montreal which

coincided with the names really on the lists in the hands of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery; there was not a single number given as a return at any poll which he said had been fraudulently stuffed, in which the figures coincided with those in the official documents in the hands of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. The statements made by hon. gentlemen on the floor of the House in this rash manner, based on newspaper reports, based on the reports of a scoundrel who seems to have deceived the men who were employing him, who had not even the common sense to try and find out the names of the returning officers—a thing he could have done without difficulty if he had wished to do so—these statements, Sir, are based, as were the charges made the other night by the hon. member for Picton (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) and the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), against my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), on mere newspaper reports which they cannot substantiate, and which they know perfectly well are not correct.

Sir, I want to put this matter right before the people of this country as well as before the House, because I regret to say that a large number of people in Canada have been led to believe that there were men in the province of Quebec so lost to their sense of public duty, so lost to a sense of honesty, so lost to a sense of self-respect, that they would commit these crimes. But, Sir, as a member coming from the province of Quebec, though neither speaking French or being of French origin, I want to tell these hon. gentlemen that they mistake the people of the province of Quebec, and above all the French people of that province, if they believe and assert these things of them. It is true that in the province of Quebec there was a large majority against prohibition, it is true that in the province of Quebec there was poll after poll in which there was no representative of prohibition. Why? Simply because in those particular neighbourhoods there was not a man who believed in prohibition, there was not a man who believed in total prohibition. But, Sir, in those very districts there were hundreds of municipalities and of parishes in which, while the people voted and worked against total prohibition, there is not a single license issued for the sale of liquor. I have a return here of the municipalities in the province of Quebec showing the condition of affairs in that regard. In the whole province there are 928 municipalities, and there are only 225 of those municipalities in which there is any license for the sale of liquor; that is to say, out of the 928 municipalities there are 225, or about 24 per cent only, who have licenses; there are eighteen counties in which there is no license at all within their bounds; there are five counties with only one license; there are eight counties with only two licenses; there are six counties with only three licenses. Only one-tenth of the municipall-

ties in the county of Ottawa have licenses, only one-fifteenth of the municipalities in the county of Pontiac have licenses. Sir, I think Quebec compares pretty favourably with the other provinces of the Dominion. But the people of those municipalities, while they do not want to have licenses in their midst, while they object to the evil, the danger and the uproar which they believe are attendant upon the retail sale of liquor in their own villages, are not in favour of total prohibition; they have expressed that opinion at the polls, and I believe, while I do not agree with them, that their opinion is just as much entitled to respect as the opinion of voters in any other part of the Dominion of Canada.

Just one word more about this Mr. Parent. He represented himself to be in the post office of this city. He was there employed as a temporary clerk. After he made his report and found that the secretary of the Alliance came to Ottawa to verify it, he disappeared. This statement in the Ottawa "Journal" the other night says that he had been sent away by the Minister of the Interior as an immigration agent in the western states. The statement is just as false as the rest. The Minister of the Interior has never employed him, nor given him any promise of employment as an immigration agent. He disappeared because of his conscience, knowing that by reason of his making an affidavit to these lies and slanders, he was liable to prosecution, and that he would have been put through for these lies and slanders had he remained. The man has gone, and probably he will never be seen again in this country.

Mr. FOSTER. May I ask my hon. friend a question with reference to these voters' lists? I do not quite understand a portion of his remarks. By an examination of the returned lists and the poll books, he says he has been able to satisfy himself that in no given poll, for instance, was there any irregularity?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, I did not.

Mr. FOSTER. Then how could my hon. friend disprove an assertion that there had been an irregularity at one of the polls by simply looking at the poll books here, unless he were to confront the results as shown in the poll books here with the actual voters or non-voters in the polling district?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman must remember that there is a point of order that I must not quote from the poll books; therefore, I will not quote from them. But the hon. gentleman has entirely misunderstood my point, or he does not choose to take it.

Mr. FOSTER. Give me the benefit of the doubt.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Let me remind the hon. gentleman that I have not in any way or shape stated that the investigations I have made prove that there

were no frauds. What I have stated is that Mr. Parent's statement that such and such a returning officer, that John Jones, for instance, at such and such a polling district, had done so and so, is absolutely and entirely discredited and knocked on the head by the fact that John Jones was not the returning officer at that poll. When he says that John Jones stuffed 25 ballots into the ballot box and made a return of 125 against prohibition at that poll, we find that there were not 125 votes against prohibition at that poll, but that there were only 25, or 30, or 40, or whatever the number may have been. These facts show that his statements are absolutely foundationless, that he is a liar, and that we cannot believe him—but the hon. gentleman may believe him if he chooses. I say that the statement which hon. gentlemen opposite have been so rashly flinging on the floor of this House, that the statement which has appeared in the "Evening Journal," are based on the sworn affidavits of a man whose statements, so far as we can verify them, and verify them easily, verify them without the slightest difficulty at all, by the records in the hands of the Government, have been shown and proved to be absolutely false in every individual particular. Therefore, I say that this entire accusation against the people of the province of Quebec falls to the ground, and those hon. gentlemen who have made it ought to acknowledge their fault, and apologize to the people of the province of Quebec.

Now, Sir, this question is one which I do not want to leave here. There are a large number of people in Canada who are disappointed at the result of the plebiscite. I am myself. I have worked for a long time in the cause of prohibition; I have believed there was a large public sentiment in the Dominion of Canada in favour of prohibition; I have believed that that sentiment, if properly manifested, was sufficient to justify a prohibitory law. This result of the plebiscite does not seem to justify it. I believe that in saying that, I have with me all reasonable men of the country, all the sensible men of the country who appreciate the facts of the case and do not try to make these facts square with their desires. I do not blame them for their desires. I have that desire for prohibition as strongly as any of them, but I have a desire for effective prohibition—prohibition, after it is passed in this country, which can be held up to the world as a model to be followed, because it is effective and successful. I want to say that I do not believe that, on the results of this plebiscite, effective prohibition can be had to-day in Canada. I am satisfied, however, from the expressions of opinion I have received from all parts of the country, that, in saying that, I have with me and at my back the great mass of the reasonable people of this country. I cast no reflections upon those gentlemen who are to-day ardently demanding that we shall pass a prohibitory law.

Mr. FISHER.

The Dominion Alliance, which is demanding a prohibitory law, does not commit itself to the statement that this plebiscite vote justifies or demands this law. The hon. gentlemen opposite who are blaming the Government for not introducing a prohibitory law, do not say that the plebiscite vote justifies that law or demands it. They say that they demand it; they want us, as they say, to fulfil our pledges, but they do not pretend that the result of such a vote as this demands that law. Now, then, what is the alternative? There are a large number of earnest, ardent men in this country who, while they feel in their hearts, honestly and squarely, what I have just said, still want something, still want a step in advance, still hope that they can find something which, as a result of the plebiscite vote, may show the progress of temperance sentiment in this country. I am anxious to do the same. I hope that, some day, such a thing may be found, but I confess that, at the present time, the suggestions that have been made to me by some of these men do not appear to me to be practicable. Some want provincial prohibition, some want the Government to take charge of the liquor traffic and carry it on, some propose the enlargement of the Scott Act, so that it will include provinces, as well as counties and municipalities, some desire the introduction of something upon the lines of the South Carolina liquor law, some suggest that we adopt the Gothenburg system of Sweden, others are advocating giving the provinces power to deal with the question. We have only discussed in Canada two points of the prohibition question: one is local option, as exemplified in the Scott Act, and the other is total prohibition. We have never seriously discussed, as a practical problem, any of these other propositions. It might be that after we had discussed them thoroughly, after the people had become thoroughly familiar with them, after they had been thoroughly threshed out in public meetings and the public had had time and opportunity and knowledge to form an opinion upon them, one or other of these plans might be found applicable to the condition of affairs in this country. I am not prepared to say which it would be; I am not prepared to say whether any of them would be applicable, because I feel that before any such new proposition could be fairly brought to a practical application in this country it must be thoroughly discussed for a long time by the people, thoroughly understood by them, and all the pros and cons thoroughly considered. There is, however, one thing which the returns of this plebiscite bring rather prominently forward, and it is the remarkably local character of the vote. In the first place, of course, everybody is familiar with the fact that the province of Quebec is largely against a prohibition Act; at all events that is the way most of them feel to-day. In the second place, we find parti-

cular localities in other provinces, for instance, in Ontario, the county of Waterloo, against prohibition. The cities of Toronto and Montreal, of Hamilton and London, and generally the cities, with one or two notable exceptions, are against prohibition. The rural municipalities, as a general rule, are in favour of prohibition. This leads me to think of local option as a thing which, perhaps, is the best alternative, under the circumstances, to total prohibition. I know that a majority of temperance people at first sight, will feel that this is the old story; I know that a majority of people, especially in Ontario, have been condemning local option, and have refused to enforce the Scott Act, and they were in hopes that this country had got to-day within reasonable distance of prohibition. One other remarkable thing, which is noticeable in these returns, is that where local option has been most largely availed of by the people, the prohibitory vote is largest. In Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the vote is overwhelmingly in favour of prohibition. These are parts of the Dominion where local option has been availed of, and where it has been effectively enforced, where they have known the beauties of prohibition, where the people have been educated up to the point of total prohibition. In Quebec where local option is known and has existed in a municipal way only, in Ontario where local option was not greatly availed of, where I do not think there is a single municipality which has it, the vote in favour of prohibition was not nearly so overwhelming. These are things that have led us to two conclusions. The first conclusion is that local option is the solution of the difficulty, in the face of this unequal temperance sentiment in different localities in the country. And, secondly, the conclusion is that where local option exists and has existed for a time sufficient to prove its advantages and benefits, temperance sentiment is educated up to a point where it is ready to take the responsibility of declaring in favour of total prohibition. It seems to me that this is a conclusion and a lesson, which it would be well for Parliament to study and consider, and even although, for the moment, it may be thought by some to be no forward step, though it may be thought by some to be the old story, I feel that it is probably the best solution that to-day offers itself to the people to be adopted for immediate working. There are amendments possible to be made to the Scott Act, but I do not propose to go into them now. The Scott Act has achieved the result of local prohibition. The people think it to be a good Act. I know that in my county, and in other municipalities it has been successful, and very well enforced, and I believe that in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick under it, a temperance sentiment has grown up which has been reflected in this plebiscite. I

notice that in other countries in the world where the temperance question is not so far advanced as it is in Canada, where the people are not so thoroughly aware of the harm of intemperance, the Scott Act is held up to them as an example to be followed by these more retrograde countries. I think it is well for us that we should no longer neglect or ignore what has to a certain extent been neglected and ignored, and it is the fact that the advantages of prohibition under the local option system will gradually educate the people up to a point where they will perhaps give their votes, in sufficient numbers, to justify the introduction of a total prohibitory law over the whole country. Now, Sir, I have detained the House at greater length than I intended. I have been carried away somewhat perhaps by the interruptions of hon. gentlemen opposite, but I feel that this question is one which is still in the arena of political fights. It is one which, so long as there is a large number of people in the country, will be in the arena of the political fight. I would like to see it as much as possible divested of party politics. I have always taken that ground at temperance meetings and in temperance discussions, because I have found that, in the case of these questions which are brought into party politics, the party gains, but the question at issue loses. And, Sir, I have seen nothing in the debate which we are now carrying on in this House to change my opinion on that, for I find hon. gentlemen opposite still harping upon this question, not at one with themselves upon prohibition, and only in unison with one another and supporting and endorsing one another in their attacks upon the Government. This being the case, I repeat, that it is better that the question should be kept out of party politics, and only by doing so can we hope it will make substantial progress. Mr. Speaker, I trust that this debate will draw to a close before very long.

Mr. IVES. As the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) seems to be about to resume his seat, may I remind him of his promise to give me an answer to the question I had the honour of putting to him a little while ago?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.  
What was that?

Mr. IVES. I asked, if you were cognizant of the understanding between the different members at the Ottawa convention upon the subject of the vote and action to be taken after the vote. The statement was, that it was understood by the prohibitionists and the anti-prohibitionists who met together in the Ottawa convention, that there must be an actual majority of all the votes on the lists recorded in favour of prohibition, in order to have it acted upon. The question I ask is, whether you were cognizant of that understanding.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.** The hon. gentleman has put a question which is evidently agitating the people on the other side of the House. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Ives) must go to the Prime Minister for an answer to the question. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Ives) must know perfectly well that the Prime Minister has made a statement here on the floor of this House, and he is bound to accept that statement. I have nothing further to say in the matter, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE (West Toronto). Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. gentlemen opposite that, so far as I am personally concerned, I shall endeavour to confine my remarks to as brief a space of time as will enable me to confute, as far as I can, some of the arguments which have been presented to this House in the intricate and rather ingenious cold-storage and cold-water speech which we have listened to from the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher). I regret that I had not the pleasure of hearing the whole of that speech, but, when I entered the Chamber, the Minister of Agriculture was demanding that hon. gentlemen on this side who take part in the campaign which is now in progress in Brockville, should deal with the question of the Yukon scandals, and he stated that, in the speeches we have already on record in that campaign, no reference was made to this matter. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) may possess his soul in patience. The campaign has not yet been completed, and, before the Brockville election is over, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) and his friends will hear more about these Yukon scandals than they have heard yet, or than they dream of hearing. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) read, evidently to the intense satisfaction of his friends, a telegram which he had received from the Winnipeg Liberal Association, stating that the policy of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) and of the Government had been approved and endorsed by those present at a meeting of that organization. Sir, I hold in my hand a report of that meeting which appears in a truly independent paper, the Toronto "Telegram."

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. CLARKE. Yes. The Toronto "Telegram" of Tuesday, April 11th, has a special despatch from Winnipeg respecting this meeting and the resolution passed there which seems to have given hon. gentlemen opposite such general satisfaction. Here is the report I refer to:

The Liberal Association meeting last night was considerable of a farce. There was a horde of civil servants present, Dominion and local, including Dr. Blakely, Commissioner McCreary, Cory, A. Martin, Bishop, Elliott, and dozens whom your correspondent might name. Highways and byways were searched for Siftonians for a week previous to the meeting. Bethune, Haney and other speakers denounced the machine tac-

Mr. FISHER.

tics of stuffing the meeting with hirelings of the Government, and characterized as a liar a man who had permitted false reports of the last meeting to appear in the "Free Press," which statement was not contradicted by the man aimed at, who was present. The original motion, commending the policy of the Government on the tariff, was passed. The breach between Liberals is wider than ever. Two candidates for vacant judgeships, and candidates for a possible vacancy in the collectorship of customs, were in evidence at the meeting.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is the opinion of an independent representative of the press appearing in an independent newspaper, and it puts a somewhat different complexion upon the proceedings of that meeting than that which the House would be justified in putting upon it from the telegram read by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher).

Sir, after having had the pleasure of reading the speech which the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) delivered at the commencement of this debate, I regretted very much I did not have the privilege of hearing it delivered. I regard it as one of the ablest, one of the most conclusive, and one of the most patriotic speeches that was ever delivered on the floor of this Chamber. It was a speech worthy of the man and worthy of the occasion. I did have the opportunity of listening to some of the replies made to that speech, and I regret very much that they were not spoken from that high plane that was due to the leader of the Opposition, and that we might reasonably have expected from some of the hon. gentlemen opposite. Sunny smiles appeared to be, for the time being at least, abandoned, and language was used with reference to the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) which his long services to the country and to the Empire might well have spared him from listening to. The language of the Premier on that occasion was such as was unbecoming a gentleman—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. CLARKE. The language of the Premier on that occasion was, I say, such as was unbecoming a gentleman occupying the position of Prime Minister of Canada.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, if I am not in order, I wish that you, Sir, may say so, and I shall take my seat. I wish, Sir, that you, if I am not in order, may state what language I have used that is out of order. I repeat, that the language which the right hon. the Premier used on that occasion was language unbecoming a gentleman occupying the position of First Minister of this country. That language contained such expressions as "reckless," "extravagant," "unreliable," "ever ready to pander to passion and prejudice," "ever ready to gamble away the most sacred interests of this country for the chance of party advantage." Sir, the record which the hon. the leader of the

Opposition has made during his long and honourable career in the service of his country does not justify the use of such language respecting him. And the lieutenant of the Prime Minister, the gentleman who sits to his left (Sir Richard Cartwright), not to be outdone by his leader, used such violent language that the hon. the Speaker of the House had to call him to order for it, and force him to retract it. Is it creditable to the Commons of Canada that a man occupying the distinguished position of the leader of the Opposition should be assailed by political opponents in such virulent language as I have described? What is the House to think of the Minister of Trade and Commerce describing the leader of the Opposition as a mischievous demagogue? Sir, that language is unworthy of the gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) who gave it utterance. It is quite evident, Mr. Speaker, that the speech of the leader of the Opposition must have been felt keenly by hon. gentlemen opposite. They must have writhed beneath the sledge-hammer blows which that veteran parliamentarian dealt out to them, and not being able to meet his charges by fair argument, they resorted to abuse. But, Sir, after having abused the leader of the Opposition and the party of which he has been the able and eloquent lieutenant or leader for the last thirty years, these hon. gentlemen, when opportunity offered, have been only too glad to make a complete volte face, and to accept and adopt the policy of which the hon. leader of the Opposition was such an eloquent and able exponent, and to claim that policy as their own. Prior to the 23rd of June, 1896, what was the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite, and what is their policy to-day? At that time the representative men of the Liberal party went from one end of this Dominion to the other, exhibiting on banners which every person might read, the principles which they proposed to carry with them into the government of this country, if the people reposed confidence in them. They had a policy to suit every province, every county, almost every township of Canada. Emblazoned on some of their banners was to be found "Unrestricted Reciprocity;" on others "A tariff for revenue;" on others "Purity of government;" on others "No more superannuation—a cessation of the alleged abuses in connection with the administration of the superannuation fund." I might enumerate a dozen or twenty banners which these hon. gentlemen carried in their appeals to the country prior to the 23rd of June, 1896. If these hon. gentlemen went through this country to-day exhibiting the banners which did service for them prior to the 23rd of June, 1896, and which were furled immediately afterwards, what a ludicrous spectacle they would present! Every pledge, every principle, every promise they made prior to that time has been abandoned and ignored. What would be thought of a

procession of hon. gentlemen opposite carrying aloft such banners as these: The right hon. Premier carrying a banner with the legend emblazoned upon it, "The last vestige of protection must be removed from the tariff"; the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) carrying a banner emblazoned with "Retrenchment, reduction of taxation, no increase in debt"; the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) carrying a banner emblazoned with "Purity of administration—public works not to be let without competition"; the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) carrying a banner with the motto, "A tariff for revenue only"; the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) carrying a banner on which is emblazoned "Down with nepotism"; the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) carrying one declaring in favour of "The independence of Parliament"; the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) carrying one respecting the superannuation fund; the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) carrying one with the legend "A plebiscite—the will of the people to be respected"; and the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) carrying aloft one emblazoned with the motto "Unrestricted reciprocity." Such a combination, if it paraded the country to-day, would be laughed at and jeered at from one end of the Dominion to the other. They would far excel that famous ragged regiment of Falstaff's of which we have all read. After the election of the 23rd of June, 1896, for some time no banners were hoisted, until the banner of buccaneers and pirates at length made its appearance—the banner on which was emblazoned "Business is business." But the unbusiness-like methods of the Government speedily brought that banner into ridicule; and now, that banner having been furled, the only one exhibited with which hon. gentlemen feel any reasonable confidence in appealing to the country is the banner with "Cold storage" on it. That is the only policy hon. gentlemen have left to-day on which they think they have any chance to make a favourable appeal to the country.

We had an elaborate speech on the question of cold storage by the Minister of Agriculture this afternoon. But in all honesty and fairness, I appeal to this House that that hon. gentleman should take no special credit to himself for what has been accomplished in the development of the system of cold storage. When that hon. Minister was not a member of this House at all, his predecessors in office, some of whom he has had the courtesy to refer to this afternoon, were perfecting that system of cold storage, and, if the hon. Minister of Agriculture deserves credit for what he has done—and he does—it is the credit that is due to a man who, coming into office, and finding a department honestly and efficiently administered, has carried out the policy of his predecessors as far as he could. It must not

and cannot be forgotten that the Departments of Agriculture, both in this Dominion and in the province of Ontario, were instituted by the same man, Sir John Carling. He it was who, on the motion of two Conservatives in this House, established the Department of Agriculture and the experimental farms which have done so much to improve the farming of the country, and to give our farmers a better knowledge of the requirements of other markets, and to enable them to compete with the farmers of other lands in those markets. The late Minister of Agriculture provided not only the machinery, but the brains as well, for it was he who secured for this country the invaluable services of a gentleman who is practically and de facto the head of the Department of Agriculture to-day; and the hon. Minister of Agriculture did only simple justice to Professor Robertson when to him he attributed the very great success which has attended the efforts of that department in promoting and developing the system of cold storage which the hon. Minister's predecessors set in motion. But, Sir, if the policy of which hon. gentlemen opposite were the exponents for so many years had prevailed, we would not have required the elaborate cold storage system which is necessary to-day. Those hon. gentlemen, in season and out of season, from one end of the year to the other, proclaimed that the best market for the farmers of Canada was to be found, not across the Atlantic, but across the border in the country to the south of us; and it was because the leaders of the Conservative party unswervingly directed the attention of the farmers of Canada to the markets of the old land as the greatest and most profitable markets for them, that the cold storage system was rendered necessary, and that the trade between this country and the old country in agricultural products has so rapidly and satisfactorily increased.

May I be permitted to refer to what was accomplished before the Minister of Agriculture took office in regard to the cold storage system? That system was introduced by the Dominion Government in 1894. In 1895 cold storage was provided on the Grand Trunk Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway trains running into Montreal, and arrangements were made in that city for keeping cold and chilled the provisions brought by those trains until they were placed on board ship. In 1895 nearly a dozen steamships were secured to carry produce in cold storage across the Atlantic to the seaports of Liverpool, Avonmouth and Glasgow. In 1896 the late Minister of Agriculture had made further arrangements and special provisions for carrying in cold storage butter at 10 shillings a ton, and cheese at 5 shillings a ton in addition to the ordinary freight charges. Under the direction of Professor Robertson, the late Government purchased butter and shipped it to England to demonstrate to the farmers of this country the fact

Mr. CLARKE.

that there was an unlimited market for it there, provided it was made properly and sent in proper condition. The Minister of Agriculture has called attention to the rapid and satisfactory progress made in the butter trade during the last few years; but he did not tell this House that during the years from 1893 to 1896 the export of butter from Canada to England had increased no less than five-fold. Surely, Mr. Speaker, in view of these facts, the hon. Minister of Agriculture can only claim a moderate share of the credit which has attended the operations of the policy which was not initiated by him, and which has only been carried out and elaborated in his department.

In the contract which was made by the late Government respecting our fast Atlantic steamship line, elaborate conditions were inserted for cold storage apartments to carry the produce of this country. And if it had not been for the bungling policy of hon. gentlemen opposite, that line would be in existence to-day, amply supplied with cold storage facilities, and would have been a very substantial benefit to our farmers in the development of their trade with the old land. As a matter of fact, wherever hon. gentlemen opposite have adhered closely to the policy of their predecessors they have done well, but wherever they have branched out in any other line they have done badly. If our trade in agricultural products with the old country has developed with amazing rapidity, it is due to the adherence of hon. gentlemen opposite to the policy of their predecessors, including the advantage and opportunities given that trade by means of the development of the cold storage system.

The Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne makes reference to the prosperity which obtains in this country. I am sure that we all rejoice at the reasonable measure of prosperity which prevails among us to-day, but as has been pointed out time and again upon this side, this prosperity is not due to any act or policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. It is due to the fact that we were blessed and favoured during the past two years with bountiful crops, while our fellowmen in other parts of the world were not so favoured, with the result that we not only had abundant crops when other countries were short, but our crops realized higher prices in 1896, 1897 and 1898 than for many years previous. And if, as the result of increased prices and abundant crops, our farmers have become more prosperous, surely it is not for hon. gentlemen to thrust themselves in the place that properly belongs to the Giver of all good and take credit for the bounteous harvests which He vouchsafed to this country, and for the consequent prosperity, due to His beneficence, which prevails among our farming community?

These hon. gentlemen, when in Opposition, professed to believe that the affairs of this country were being managed extravagantly,

that there was too much money squandered, and that our money was being lavishly and foolishly expended. Yet the record they have made during the past two or three years since they have been in office shows that they have not been able to carry on the affairs of the country as economically as did their predecessors, and that they have been even more lavish in their expenditures. In 1896, the expenditure on account of the consolidated fund was \$36,949,142; in 1898 it was \$38,832,525, or an increase of \$1,883,383 in the year 1898. Their receipts on account of consolidated fund increased from \$36,618,590 in 1896 to \$40,555,238 in 1898, or an increase of \$3,936,648. And yet we are asked to congratulate ourselves that this Government, which came into office with so many professions of economy, has only succeeded in having an actual surplus, at the end of the last fiscal year, of \$1,722,712 out of these extraordinary receipts of \$40,555,238. Is it not positively absurd for the hon. gentlemen to claim the credit for having a surplus, when during the past two years they have largely increased the debt of the country? In 1896, the debt was \$258,497,432. But at the end of 1898 it was \$263,956,398, or an increase of \$5,458,966. Sir, is there any matter for congratulation on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite in the fact that, ignoring all their pledges of economy and retrenchment, they spent during the past year on account of consolidated fund \$1,883,383 more than their predecessors spent in 1886, and that during the same time they also increased our public debt by no less a sum than \$5,458,966?

The hon. Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding), in an address delivered at Toronto last week or the week before, spoke with confidence of the increased surplus which would be at the disposal of the Government at the end of the present fiscal year. Well, if he should have a larger surplus at the close of the financial year ending 30th of June than he had at the end of the last fiscal year, to what is that fact to be attributed? Simply to the fact that he is taking a larger amount of taxes out of the pockets of the people than he did before. Will he dig any of that surplus out of the ground? Will he extract any of it from the waves of the ocean? Has he the touch of a Midas, which transforms everything it comes in contact with into gold? Not at all. This surplus will be the result of more taxation taken out of the pockets of the workingmen and the great mass of the consumers of the country. Their tobacco and sugar will have to pay more than their fair share of the amount required to make up the surplus.

The professions made by these hon. gentlemen when in Opposition confront them today. The right hon. Prime Minister, in Toronto, said:

The Conservatives say to us, if you were to come to power, you would not be able to decrease the expenditure and practise economy.

Time has justified the truth of this prediction. Then he added:

I do not believe that that would be difficult. It would not be difficult to economize one, two or three million dollars.

Well, when the right hon. gentleman made that deliverance in Toronto in 1893, the figures then available showed that the expenditure on consolidated fund amounted, for 1893, to \$36,814,052. In 1896, three years later, when the Conservative Government went out of office, that expenditure amounted to \$36,949,142, or an increase of only \$135,000 in three years. But in 1898, after the right hon. gentleman had been scarcely two years in office, despite his promises to economize to the extent of \$1,000,000 or \$2,000,000, or \$3,000,000, we find that the expenditure on consolidated account had increased from \$36,814,052 in 1893 to no less than \$38,832,525 in 1898, or an excess of expenditure in 1898 over 1893 of \$2,018,473, and of \$1,883,383 as compared with 1896, the last year of the Conservative Administration.

The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) too, was a great economist when he occupied a seat on this side. He was then wont to declaim against the extravagance and recklessness of the financial administration of the Conservative party. What did he say in this Chamber on the 28th of March, 1894? He said:

Canada has no business, and never had, to spend \$36,000,000 or \$37,000,000 a year. It is a monstrous thing, properly understood, and wholly apart from the amount of real taxation paid by us, that an expenditure of \$36,000,000 or \$37,000,000 should be saddled on 5,000,000 people in the position of the people of Canada.

Well, that hon. gentleman has been an important member of the Administration which has been in office for the past two years, and what is the record he has to show? Since 1896 they have increased the expenditure chargeable to consolidated fund account by nearly \$2,000,000. The total disbursements made by the Government of Canada in the year 1893—the figures which were available to the Minister of Trade and Commerce when he made the statement which I have just quoted—were \$40,853,727. And, Mr. Speaker, for the year ending the 30th June last, the total disbursements, according to the official statement, were no less than \$45,334,281. And yet there does not appear to be a wave of trouble rolling across the peaceful breast of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, notwithstanding the fact that the expenditure chargeable to consolidated fund account in 1898 showed an increase of \$2,018,473, as compared with 1893; while the total disbursements of 1898, as compared with those of 1893, showed an increase of no less than the enormous sum of \$4,480,554. Sir, when the practices of these hon. gentlemen are compared with their precepts a wide difference is seen; there is an aching void which they will find it very difficult indeed to fill.

But, Mr. Speaker, we are asked to congratulate the country upon the prosperity which at present attends the manufacturing industries of Canada. I am sure that it must be gratifying to every hon member of this House to learn, and I believe it is a fact, that our manufacturing industries are prosperous. It is particularly gratifying to hon. gentlemen on this side of the House that this state of things happily prevails, considering that that prosperity, as has been pointed out again and again during the course of this debate, is due not to anything hon. gentlemen opposite have done for those industries, but rather to the fact that they did not have the courage of their convictions, that they have abandoned their policy respecting those industries and have left them severely alone. If those industries are prosperous, that fact is a tribute to the wisdom and patriotism of the Conservative party, under whose policy they were established and have been developed. There were two industries specially selected by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bell, East Prince, who moved the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, whose eloquent address on that occasion was so deservedly eulogized by the hon. leader of the Opposition and also by the leader of the Government. The hon. gentleman said :

Why, what is the story that we hear from all quarters ? It is that the mills and the factories of this country are all in active operation, some of them running night and day, many of them working overtime, in the effort to fill orders that are coming in fast upon them. I read, only the other day, concerning the Nova Scotia Steel Company, which employs some 700 workmen, that an important order came in from the Intercolonial Railway. They were obliged to say : We cannot fill it. Another order came in and they said : We have more work on hand than we can possibly get through in three months. I have read recently that the Massey Manufacturing Company, of Toronto, employing no less than 2,200 workmen, has done such a prosperous business in the last year that they found themselves in a position to give, and did voluntarily of their own motion, give their workmen an increase of 10 per cent in their wages. I may be wrong, Mr. Speaker, but I cannot remember any circumstance of that kind during the eighteen years of the "glorious National Policy."

Sir, the memory of the hon. member for East Prince (Mr. Bell) must be a short one, for, if he will look back over the history of the manufacturing industries of this country from 1879 to 1896, he will find that time and time again, in almost every branch of industry increases of wages had been given as a result of increased prosperity. But, Sir, the hon. member for East Prince was unfortunate, in my humble judgment, in selecting these two industries as showing the result of the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. Is it not a fact that the policy which prevailed respecting the Nova Scotia steel outfit remains to-day practically as it was in 1896 ? Have hon. gentlemen destroyed by one iota the protection given to that industry ?

Mr. CLARKE.

Mr. WOOD. Two dollars and a half a ton taken off steel.

Mr. CLARKE. If the Government have taken \$2.50 off steel, they have added \$1 per ton to the bounty for the manufacture of pig iron, and they have made many other changes in the tariff, the net result of which is to give substantially greater protection to this industry. Under these circumstances, how can hon. gentlemen opposite take any credit to themselves for the prosperity of that great industry in the maritime provinces ? We need only refer to the pages of "Hansard" to find the denunciations, again and again repeated, of hon. gentlemen opposite against that principle of protection in the tariff which gave to such industries as the Steel Company of Nova Scotia a bounty upon its output to enable it to develop that industry and give employment to scores and hundreds of workingmen. The other example of prosperous industry referred to by the hon. gentleman from East Prince is the great Massey manufacturing industry in Toronto. As one of the representatives of the constituency in which that industry is situated, I am pleased to know that that industry is prosperous. I am especially pleased to know that without resort being had to a strike, the owners of that concern voluntarily increased the wages of their workingmen. To their eternal credit be it said that they did so ; and if other employers throughout the Dominion would consult their best interests they would, when opportunity offered, willingly increase the wages of their employees instead of being compelled, sometimes by harsh measures, to do so. But, Sir, if there is one industry more than another that is the child of the National Policy, if there is one industry more than another that has been fostered, developed and extended under the benign influence of that policy, that industry is the Massey-Harris manufacturing concern. The products of that great factory have an enviable reputation not only throughout the Dominion, but beyond the sea, throughout the wide world. I need not remind this House that that industry needed assistance, that it needed support, that it needed nursing in its early days when it was smaller and weaker than it is at present ; and that the necessary support and assistance were given to it in spite of the denunciations of hon. gentlemen opposite, who, in season and out of season, declared that the Massey Manufacturing Company were of the "rascals great" who were bleeding the farmers of this country white. But notwithstanding such denunciations, that and kindred industries throughout the Dominion were developed and promoted, and their interests conserved under the National Policy ; and since hon. gentlemen came into office they have had sense enough not to interfere with the tariff upon agricultural implements. The Massey-Harris Company to-day, in addition to having the same tariff protection that they

had before, have additional protection, or what is equivalent to it, in the changes made in the tariff since this Government came into power. And if, as a result of the additional protection, that industry is prosperous, what right have hon. gentlemen opposite to take credit for it? They have abandoned their opposition to the imposition of protective duties to foster such industries as this, and have adopted the policy of their opponents. The prosperity is the result of Conservative policy, and these hon. gentlemen have no right to claim credit for it.

I shall read a list of the leading industries of Toronto, and I challenge my hon. friend from Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), or any other gentleman on that side to say, notwithstanding their professions of a desire to introduce a revenue tariff, notwithstanding their pretensions of a desire to bring about free trade as they have it in England, to point out any change in the tariff made by the Government since 1896 that affects these industries injuriously. Each and every one of them receives at least as large a measure of protection as it received in 1896. And yet hon. gentlemen have—what shall I call it?—the temerity to address this House and the country, and say: "We have done this, this prosperity is due to us," when the world and the country know that these industries are prosperous because they have left them alone. Now, let me read this list of industries: Agricultural implements, iron-work, stoves, furnaces, radiators, engines and boilers, castings, musical instruments, bicycles, furniture, boots and shoes, biscuits and confectionery, lithographed and printed matter—these are the leading industries.

Mr. WOOD. Where are they?

Mr. CLARKE. Well, they are not situated in the city of Hamilton; they are situated in the city of Toronto. These are the leading industries in the city of Toronto; they are, I am happy to say, all of them prosperous, due, I repeat again, to the fact that the tariff under which they were nurtured, under which they prospered, the National Policy of this country, has been left severely alone by the hon. gentlemen.

Now, Mr. Speaker, reference is also made to the immigration which has come to this country since the hon. gentlemen opposite assumed office. I hope, Sir, that Canada will always welcome the worthy, the industrious, the law-abiding of all nationalities and of all creeds to its shores. But in view of the increased expenditures which are being made, especially in the mother land across the sea, I speak for a great many hon. members in this House and electors throughout the country, when I say that we would much prefer to see a larger number of people coming this way who speak our language and know something of our institutions and laws. The immigrants which the Minister of

the Interior has succeeded in settling in the North-west, will, I hope, do well; but I say that the policy of bringing out colonies of foreigners and settling them together in the North-west, is a policy which is not in the best interests of this country, and that the efforts of the immigration department should be directed, as far as possible, to bringing our own kith and kin across the Atlantic by pointing out to them the advantages which they will obtain by settling in the Dominion, and by securing their co-operation and assistance in developing the resources of this country. We have had pretty nearly enough, for the time being at any rate, of this foreign immigration to Canada; and I hope we will have more of our own people coming to us in the future, and fewer foreigners.

Sir, hon. gentlemen opposite also take credit for what they call the cessation of the exodus.

Mr. PENNY. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman how many of our kith and kin were brought out to this country when the previous Government were paying \$1.75 a head for immigrants?

Mr. CLARKE. I have not got the figures in my notes, but I am sure if the hon. gentleman will consult the official records in the library he will be able to obtain the information that he desires. Hon. gentlemen opposite cannot ignore, they cannot blot out, the record of their leaders' utterances in days gone by, and if an exodus did take place from this country it was due to the fact that the leaders of hon. gentlemen opposite were booming and praising Kansas and Texas, and other states. But let me say one word about this exodus. It is claimed by hon. gentlemen opposite that the exodus has ceased. We are all delighted, if that is the case; but not one hon. gentleman opposite has told us what means have been adopted to cause this exodus to cease. If they have succeeded in giving employment in our factories, it is because they have ignored their promises to wipe out protection. What have they done to stop this alleged exodus? Unfortunately, the official figures do not bear out, in their entirety, the statements which hon. gentlemen opposite have made respecting this exodus. From the United States official figures we find that the value of settlers' effects entering the United States from Canada in 1895 was \$1,293,000; in 1896, \$1,581,000. For the two years there was an average value of settlers' effects entering the United States of \$1,437,000. Now, take the average for the last two years since the hon. gentlemen opposite have been in power. In 1897, the value of settlers' effects entering the United States was \$1,175,000; and in 1898, \$964,000, or an average of \$1,070,000 of settlers' effects which have gone from Canada into the United States during 1897-98. Sir, if the exodus has ceased, will hon. gentlemen explain to me why it is that these figures are to be found in the official reports of the United States immigration department, and why it is that, notwithstanding

their allegation, immigrants are still going to the United States from the Dominion of Canada?

Mr. Speaker, there are one or two other matters that I would like to refer to before taking my seat, and one of them is the question of preferential trade. The hon. the Minister of Agriculture stated that at the meeting of the Winnipeg Liberal Association, held the other evening, the Government's preferential trade policy was endorsed. I am in favour myself of preferential trade, as I understand the term; but I would like to ask hon. gentlemen opposite what preference the products of Canada get under their policy in the British markets to-day? Our products get no preference there except the preference that ties of affection and esteem for the Dominion of Canada and the excellence of the products themselves give them. What preference have these products got by anything hon. gentlemen opposite have done? None whatever, Mr. Speaker. Our products during the National Policy period had exactly the same preference that they have in the British markets to-day, and if the exports of Canada have increased largely during the past two years, it has been owing, as I have already said, to the policy which hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, when in power, persistently advocated and pursued, believing that the markets of the old land were the best and the greatest markets for our products. Every effort and all the energy of the previous Administration were bent in the direction of impressing our farmers with that fact. While hon. gentlemen opposite take credit for and congratulate themselves upon the increased exports of agricultural products to the old country, they overlook or ignore the fact that that increase is necessarily the result of the policy advocated by their predecessors in office. Sir, the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce was, in season and out of season, prepared to denounce the National Policy as being the greatest curse this country had ever experienced. On one occasion he said:

I have always said that the National Policy was a Yankee device, imitated from the Yankees, and in fact a benefit to them chiefly.

That was the statement made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce in this House on the 26th of April, 1897, less than two years ago. He was then defending the sham preferential tariff which the Government proposed at that time to put in force, and which has been in force in this country ever since. A sham preferential tariff it is, and nothing more, and I will try and prove it from the lips of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Speaking in this House, as appears on page 1245 of "Hansard," 1897, he said:

I have here the Trade and Navigation Returns, which show the practical working of the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. These returns show that in the very last year of their term of office we exported to England, apparently, \$66,000,000 worth of our products, we exported to the United States \$44,000,000; we bought from England \$32,-

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000,000 worth, and from the United States \$58,000,000 worth. There, if you will, is a genuine practical discrimination to an enormous extent against England and in favour of the United States.

And then he adds:

I have always said that the National Policy was a Yankee device, imitated from the Yankees, and in fact a benefit to them chiefly, and here is proof of it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will take the last official returns of the trade and commerce of this country and show you why I reach the same conclusion in regard to this preferential policy which that hon. gentleman reached in reference to the National Policy: I have here the Trade and Navigation Returns which show the practical working of the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. These returns show that in the very last year of their term of office, 1898—it is not the last year, Mr. Speaker, of their term of office, but it is pretty nearly their last year—we exported to England \$104,998,818 worth of our products, and we exported to the United States \$45,705,336. We bought from England \$32,500,917, while we bought from the United States \$78,705,590, showing a genuine and practical discrimination, to an enormous extent, against England and in favour of the United States. Am I not justified in altering the language of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce in this House less than two years ago, and applying it in this way: "I say that the preferential policy is a Liberal device imitated from some Grit, and in fact a benefit to the United States rather than in the old country?" Well Sir, let us see how this tariff has worked out so far as it advantages the old country. The House is familiar, it has been repeated again and again, with the volume of imports and exports between this country and the United States and this country and the old country, but I want to show that the adoption of the National Policy was not inimical to the interests of British manufacturers, as hon. gentlemen on the other side have charged. The average annual imports into the Dominion of Canada, of goods entered for consumption from 1880 to 1896, inclusive, the National Policy period, were as follows:—

#### AVERAGE ANNUAL IMPORTS.

|  | From<br>Great Britain. | From<br>United States. |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1880-1896 (inclusive).   | \$41,497,796           | \$49,445,922           |
| 1897-1898 (inclusive).   | 30,956,552             | 70,177,315             |
| Decrease of imports from Great Britain annually in 1897 and 1898 as compared with period 1880 to 1896.     |                        | \$10,541,244           |
| Increase of imports from United States annually in 1897 and 1898 as compared with period 1880 to 1896..... |                        | 20,731,393             |

#### DUTIES COLLECTED ON IMPORTS.

Total value of goods entered for consumption in Canada from 1880 to 1896 (inclusive)—the National Policy period:

|                     | Goods.        | Duty.         |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
| From Great Britain. | \$705,462,538 | \$146,473,645 |
| From United States. | 840,580,688   | 121,206,949   |

|                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Rate of duty on imports from— | p. c. |
| Great Britain.....            | 20·76 |
| United States.....            | 14·42 |

Total value of goods entered for consumption in Canada for the two years 1897 and 1898 :

|                     | Goods.        | Duty.        |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------|
| From Great Britain. | \$ 61,913,105 | \$12,854,795 |
| From United States. | 140,354,631   | 18,088,699   |

|                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Rate of duty on imports from— | p. c. |
| Great Britain.....            | 20·76 |
| United States.....            | 12·88 |

Total value of goods entered for consumption in Canada for the year 1898 :

|                       | Goods.       | Duty.       |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| From Great Britain... | \$32,500,917 | \$6,649,428 |
| From United States... | 78,705,590   | 9,941,624   |

|                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Rate of duty on imports from— | p. c. |
| Great Britain.....            | 20·46 |
| United States.....            | 12·63 |

#### SUMMARY.

Average duties collected on all imports from Great Britain and the United States respectively, on goods entered for consumption in Canada :

For 17 years, 1880 to 1896 (inclusive)—

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
|                     | p.c.  |
| Great Britain ..... | 20·76 |
| United States ..... | 14·42 |

For 2 years, 1897 and 1898—

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Great Britain ..... | 20·76 |
| United States ..... | 12·88 |

For 1898—

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Great Britain ..... | 20·46 |
| United States ..... | 12·63 |

These figures show that the average rate of duty collected on all imports from Great Britain entered for consumption during the National Policy period, when no preference was given, was \$20.76 per \$100 in value; and for the year 1898, when the preferential tariff was partially in force, the rate of duty was \$20.46 per \$100 in value, showing the munificent reduction of 30 cents per each \$100 in value, or three-tenths of one per cent. These figures also show that the average rate of duty collected on all imports entered for consumption from the United States, during the National Policy period—and the National Policy was denounced by hon. gentlemen opposite because, as they alleged, it discriminated against the mother land—was \$14.42 per \$100 in value, while for the year 1898 it was only \$12.63 per each \$100 in value, or a reduction in duty of \$1.79 per \$100 in value, equivalent to one and eight-tenths per cent. The average reduction in duty on all imports from Great Britain in the last year was three-tenths of one per cent, and the average reduction in duty on goods from the United States was one and eight-tenths of one per cent. So much for the success of the efforts of hon. gentlemen in their preferential tariff. But it may be said that I have taken the total volume of imports entered for consumption, free goods as well as dutiable goods. Let us see how the tariff affects dutiable goods coming from

the old country and coming from the United States respectively.

#### DUTIABLE IMPORTS FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

|         | Dutiable Goods. | Free Goods. | Duty Collected. | Per cent. |
|---------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1896... | \$24,366,179    | \$8,613,563 | \$7,358,514     | 30·20     |
| 1897... | 20,217,422      | 9,194,766   | 6,205,366       | 30·69     |
| 1898... | 22,556,479      | 9,944,438   | 6,649,428       | 29·47     |

#### DUTIABLE IMPORTS FROM UNITED STATES.

|         | Dutiable Goods. | Free Goods.  | Duty Collected. | Per cent. |
|---------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1896... | \$29,101,646    | \$29,472,378 | \$7,767,992     | 26·68     |
| 1897... | 30,482,509      | 31,166,532   | 8,147,075       | 26·72     |
| 1898... | 38,063,960      | 40,641,630   | 9,941,624       | 26·01     |

During the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1898, the full preferential tariff did not come into force. The preference given to goods from Great Britain in that year was only 12½ per cent, and the average duty paid was 29·47 per cent.

If the full preference contemplated under the tariff of 1897 has been in force, the average rate of duty on dutiable goods from Great Britain would have been 25·26 per cent, as against an average of 26·01 per cent on imports from the United States, or a preference of ⅓ of 1 per cent, or 75 cents on every hundred dollars of dutiable goods. What an advantage the British manufacturer has, to be sure!

Now, Mr. Speaker, these figures are, to the best of my belief, correct. I challenge an examination of them by hon. gentlemen opposite, and if it can be shown that I have made any error in my calculations, I shall deem it my privilege, as well as my duty, to make the correction. I have taken the greatest care in the preparation of these figures, and I believe them to be absolutely accurate. The net result of this whole preferential business is, that the British manufacturer, when the full preferential duty of 25 per cent is in force, will have an advantage over his American rival of 75 cents lower duty on every hundred dollars' worth of goods. I wish to give a few short quotations to the House to show what is thought, by those who are more competent to judge of this tariff than I am, of the result of the preference to the manufacturers of the old land. I shall first quote no less an authority than the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), and there is no man in this House who will question the ability of that hon. gentleman. He is reported in the "Globe" of December 13th, 1898, to have said, in a lecture on Abraham Lincoln, delivered in Washington, as follows:—

Then their commercial attitude towards the United States was characterized by a liberality which had not been extended to them in return. They gave American imports entry at an average duty of 12½ per cent. The rate of duty upon dutiable imports from the United States was less than from Great Britain or any other country. This liberal trade policy had resulted in the importation for consumption of \$78,000,000 worth of Am-

erican goods last year ; while under the restrictive policy of the United States they had been permitted to export to that country of the products of Canada less than \$40,000,000. They had consumed last year of American manufactures over \$35,000,000, a sum nearly \$7,000,000 in excess of their consumption of British manufactures. They had bought more of the products of the farm from the United States than they had sold to that country by three-fold.

Speaking before the Merchants' Club at Chicago, on February 11th, 1899, and explaining the higher ratio of increase of business between Canada and the United States, as compared with the increase of trade between Canada and the mother country, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton) further said :

The explanation for the higher ratio of increased imports from the United States is found in the fact that classes of goods imported from the two countries are to a large extent distinct in character, so that the reduction of duties upon the classes imported from England does not appreciably affect the demand for the classes imported from the United States.

Notwithstanding the differential duties of 12½ per cent in favour of England during the past year, the rate of duty upon dutiable imports for consumption from England was 29·06, while the rate of duty upon dutiable imports for consumption from the United States was 25·04.

The "Monetary Times," one of the greatest commercial authorities in Canada, and an authority often quoted by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) and his colleagues as one that ought to be respected in this House, had this to say, on March 24th, 1899, with regard to the preferential tariff :

There are within its folds two preferences, one direct, avowed, the creation of design ; the other unavowed, unintended, but not the less direct, and far more effective. The second preference is in the free list. The avowed and intended preference is a difference of 25 per cent in the duties, in favour of Great Britain ; the unavowed, unintended, incidental preference is freedom from taxes. This freedom is not in terms exceptional ; nominally it applies to all, but in operation it favours the country which happens to supply the largest number of free articles. That country is the United States. It so happens, not by intention, but as a fact. This free list quite overbalances the other and only designed preference, with the result that a tariff which was intended to favour England really favours the United States.

How do hon. gentlemen opposite expect to secure reciprocity with the United States, after having given them for nothing so much of real advantage and preference during the past two years and in advance of negotiations ?

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

### After Recess.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE (West Toronto). Mr. Speaker, when you left the Chair at six o'clock, I was endeavouring to point out from figures which I quoted that this pre-

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ferential trade policy, for which hon. gentlemen opposite take such credit, and to which they attribute so much of the prosperity which has visited the country during the past two years, is not really a preference to any appreciable degree to the manufacturers of the old land. The hon. gentlemen opposite attributed the increase in the exports of Canadian produce to England of \$38,308,530 during the past two years to the operation of that preferential tariff, and to the good feeling towards Canada which that tariff had caused. But, Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct the attention of the House to this fact : that no preferential tariff exists between the United States and Great Britain ; that British goods coming into the United States are taxed just as the goods coming from any other foreign country ; that no preference is given and no preference is asked ; that, notwithstanding that fact, the exports of the products of the United States to Great Britain during the past two years have increased by the enormous sum of \$135,118,813. I would like to ask hon. gentlemen opposite to what they attribute that enormous increase in the exports of the United States to Great Britain—exports which were mainly agricultural products—unless it be to the fact, which I endeavoured to make plain this afternoon, that the United States, as well as this country, had been blessed during the last two years with abundant crops, while other parts of the world were less favoured. The increase in the exports from the United States to Great Britain in 1898 as compared with 1896 amounted to 29 per cent more than the total exports from Canada to Great Britain during the year 1898. And, Mr. Speaker, before passing from this subject, I might also draw the attention of hon. gentlemen opposite to this further fact, that while the imports from Great Britain into the United States in 1896 amounted to \$169,963,434, the imports in 1898 fell off, and only amounted to \$109,138,365. There was a decrease in the imports into the United States from Great Britain of \$60,825,069 in 1898 as compared with 1896. These figures show that in that time the exports from the United States to Great Britain increased 33½ per cent, while the imports from Great Britain to the United States decreased 35½ per cent. In view of these figures I think it can hardly be claimed that the United States exporters of produce suffered in any degree because of the existence of this so-called preferential tariff on this side of the line.

Now, this afternoon the hon. Minister of Agriculture referred to the gratifying expansion which has taken place in our bacon and ham export trade during the past ten or twelve years. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) in the speech he delivered a few evenings ago on the Address, also referred to the increased exports in these food products. I am sure hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House

will congratulate the country on this prosperous state of affairs. But, Sir, it would baffle the wit of man to conceive the reason why hon. gentlemen opposite take any credit to themselves for this condition of things. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, speaking on this subject the other night, said :

Up to the present, I am bound to say, that without in the least intending it, the United States have been, on the whole, unconscious benefactors to the people of Canada. The policy they have adopted, in my judgment—and I know whereof I affirm—has done more, fairly considered, to raise the standard of farming throughout our provinces to the highest plane, than it has in the United States or than a hundred agricultural colleges should have done.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this statement is so completely at variance with statements made by the same hon. gentleman in this House from time to time on previous occasions, that one is almost astonished at it. The fact that the export trade in bacon and hams has increased from \$200,000 ten or twelve years ago to \$8,500,000 in 1898, is a proof that that branch of agricultural industry at least is prosperous. But, Sir, our farmers were taught by hon. gentlemen opposite during the long period they were in Opposition, that there could be no great degree of prosperity in this country if our products were kept out of the United States markets. The Minister of Trade and Commerce and his friends declared that no great prosperity could be obtained for the people of Canada until we established friendly relations with the people of the United States, and obtained access to their markets. Now, our farmers have been kept out of the American markets during the past eight or ten years. Since the passage of the McKinley Bill they have been prohibited from sending large quantities of barley, pease, and other coarse grains to that country, for which they had found a market there previously ; and when hon. gentlemen on this side of the House endeavoured to compensate the farmers of Canada for the loss they had sustained by being deprived of that market, by placing a substantially heavier duty on meat products—on pork and beef—they met with the most bitter opposition from hon. gentlemen opposite. The policy of the Conservative party at that time was to provide a compensation for our farmers for the loss they had sustained by being deprived of the American market. At that time American pork was very largely used in Canada ; but by the judicious policy adopted by the Conservative party in placing a duty on pork, American pork was kept out of the Canadian market, and it became profitable for the Canadian farmer to raise Canadian pork. When these increased duties were proposed by the late Minister of Finance, what did the hon. gentleman opposite say ? Speaking in this House in 1890, as reported in "Hansard" of that year, at page 3418, the hon. gentleman who occupies

the position of Minister of Trade and Commerce said :

What earthly good will it do to our farmers to increase the revenue in this manner ? He knows, and they know, that no greater sham and delusion was ever put on the statute-book than this duty on pork, in so far as it is declared to be a duty which will benefit our farmers. I tell the hon. gentleman again that so far from this duty helping the farmers, he and his friends are doing all they can to strengthen the hands of those parties in the United States who are clamouring for an increase of duty.

Mr. Speaker, there was the whole policy of the hon. gentlemen in a nutshell. When the hostile legislation enacted by the McKinley Bill was passed to deprive our farmers of the market which they had enjoyed in the United States up to that time, instead of cooperating with and aiding the Government of that day in developing a policy that would have been of substantial benefit to our farmers, instead of teaching our farmers to be more self-reliant and to look to the old country for a market rather than to the United States, they whined and scratched at the closed doors of the American market. But, Mr. Speaker, if the pork duty was a sham and of no earthly advantage to the farmers of this country, may I ask hon. gentlemen opposite why they have permitted that pork duty to remain since they have been in office ? The fact is, they appointed commissioners to inquire of the farmers of this country as to the advantage or disadvantage of the duty on pork. The farmers gave the hon. gentlemen information that, apparently, they did not possess before ; and it is because the farmers demanded the retention of the duty that it has been permitted to remain until the present time. After quoting what the Minister of Trade and Commerce said the other night as to the advantage which the American protectionists had unconsciously given to the Canadian farmer by the passage of the McKinley Bill, may I be permitted to quote what that hon. gentleman said only a few years ago as to the effect the passage of the McKinley Bill would have upon us ? He said :

It was scarcely possible for any man to exaggerate the mischief and injury which would be done to the agriculturists of Canada if the American market should, unhappily, continue to be barred to their products.

The American market is now happily, according to the hon. gentleman, barred to our Canadian products ; and by the National Policy American products have been largely kept out of Canada, so that the Canadian farmers have supplied the whole Dominion, and the gratifying and enormous expansion of our trade with the old country has been secured in addition. These are the legitimate results of a policy which hon. gentlemen on this side advocated and crystallized into law when they had the opportunity to do so. And they established that policy and demonstrated its wisdom in

spite of the most virulent and strenuous opposition that hon. gentlemen opposite could give. Surely, under these circumstances, it is unfair, it is unjust, it is unreasonable for the Minister of Agriculture, or the Minister of Trade and Commerce, or any other hon. gentleman on that side of the House to take credit for the gratifying expansion of our exports of bacon and ham, the credit undoubtedly being due to the policy of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House.

If time permitted, I could quote the opinions presented to the tariff commission, composed of three or four members of the Ministry, in Toronto, Hamilton and Guelph. But instead, let me give two or three figures to prove, if I can, the soundness of my contention. In 1889, the year before the additional duty was put on meat products, the imports of pork were 15,205,972 pounds, and of lard, 8,283,026 pounds. In 1896, the last year of Conservative administration, these imports had decreased, so that the imports of pork amounted to only 3,726,874 pounds, and of lard, 392,602 pounds. And let me say a word also with regard to the gratifying increase in the export of Canadian bacon and ham which occurred immediately after the adoption of the policy presented to this House by the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster), who was then Finance Minister. In 1891 the exports of Canadian ham and bacon to the old country amounted to 7,150,756 pounds, while in 1895 they amounted to no less than 37,526,058 pounds. I do not think that any other figures are needed to prove that it was under the policy of hon. gentlemen on this side that our Canadian farmers were given the opportunity—and they only needed the opportunity—to develop the pork, ham and bacon trade to the magnificent proportions it has assumed to-day.

There was a matter that took up a great deal of the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture this afternoon, and that was the question of the plebiscite. It is a very important question, and I am sure that he and his colleagues realize the importance of it so far as they are concerned. The Minister of Agriculture was good enough to say that the Opposition was trying to put the Government in a hole in this matter. There is no occasion for the Opposition to try to do anything of the kind. Hon. gentlemen opposite have put themselves in the hole in this matter; and, with the greatest possible respect for the hon. Minister of Agriculture, I doubt whether his speech of this afternoon will aid them in getting out of the hole. I would not have referred to this matter, were it not for the fact that at an earlier stage of this debate an hon. gentleman, a supporter of hon. gentlemen opposite, rose in his place and attacked the Liquor Traffic Commission appointed by the late Government. I happened to be a member of that Liquor Traffic Commission, and I should deem myself unworthy of a seat in

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this House, if I allowed the character of my colleagues on that commission to be aspersed without a word from me. But, Sir, the assault made by this hon. gentleman will do them most harm where they are least known. They are well enough known to the people of the Dominion, I should hope, not to need much defence at my hands. The chairman of that commission, the late Sir Joseph Hickson, who has long since passed to his reward, was a gentleman who certainly did not deserve the treatment which he received, as a member of the commission, at the hands of the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure). He had devoted his life to the public service, being for a long time the head of one of the greatest railways in the world. He was managing director of the Grand Trunk Railway, and, when he retired full of years and honours, he was knighted by his sovereign in recognition of the great services he had rendered to the Dominion. Speaking personally, I never met a more honourable, upright type of man than the late Sir Joseph Hickson; and it is my privilege to say that he was the best, or one of the best, specimens of the perfect English gentleman I ever had the opportunity of meeting. And I say, further, that I am satisfied that the worry, the anxiety and the responsibility of the position which he occupied, as chairman of that commission, did not tend to prolong his days. I even venture to say that the work he accomplished for the country, through that commission, had something to do with shortening his life. And, for rendering that service to Canada to the best of his ability and under great and perplexing difficulties, he has been assailed—and hon. gentlemen opposite applauded his assailant—and charged with being biassed and prejudiced in the report he made. I challenge hon. gentlemen opposite to find in their ranks or outside of them a man more highly respected than was the late Sir Joseph Hickson, the chairman of that commission. What shall I say for his colleagues—my colleagues? One was Judge Macdonald, an upright, honourable man; one of the most honourable men on the bench in the province of Ontario; a man who has been noted all his lifetime for his efforts to promote every good work; a man who has been a total abstainer all his life. And he is charged with being biassed and prejudiced. I need not, in the presence of my French Canadian friends, refer to the services that Mr. Gigault has rendered to his country as a member of this House, and is rendering now to his native province. That gentleman is, I believe, a total abstainer. He occupied a seat in this House for many years, and, during that time, made a record which will stand with that of any of his traducers on the other side. He occupies one of the most important public positions in his native province, and is doing, probably, more than any other one man to de-

velop the resources of that province and improve its agriculture. These are the men that hon. gentlemen have attempted to assail on the floor of this House, because, in their wisdom, they brought in a report recommending that prohibition be not accepted and established as the law of the land. I may also refer to the gentleman who was secretary of that commission and known as a life-long temperance advocate and reformer, and as a life-long total abstainer and prohibitionist. I refer to my friend, Mr. Patrick Monaghan, of Halifax. These are the men who compose the majority of that commission which reported against prohibition. The other member of the commission was the Rev. Dr. McLeod, of Fredericton, a divine well and favourably known throughout the maritime provinces. The character of that commission and its desire to arrive at a just conclusion may be found in the fact that Rev. Dr. McLeod, with the same evidence before him that we had before us, deemed it his duty to make a minority report in favour of prohibition, while the other commissioners felt bound to make a report against it. Sir, I think the character of that commission will bear the closest scrutiny, and I regret that any hon. gentleman should have deemed it his duty to assail, as did the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure), the members of that commission, whose respect for principles, whose high character, and whose labours were never impugned until the hon. member made his attack. But evidently the hon. gentleman felt very uneasy owing to the position he finds himself in to-day, through the Janus-faced action of his own leader in dealing with the plebiscite. He thought he could, by assailing the character of the gentlemen appointed by the late Government as commissioners, do his party some service, and possibly drag a herring across the scent. He undertook to read an extract from the report of the Liquor Traffic Commission and to comment upon that extract. With the greatest possible respect for the hon. gentleman, I would suggest to him that when he quotes an extract from a report, he should do so in full. No doubt, it was an oversight on his part, but the fact still remains that while there are two paragraphs, the one immediately following the other, dealing with the question of saloon licenses, he read only the one. I recommend him to read both, and then come back and amend his statement to this House.

I, however, shall not weary the House in making very much further reference to the report of the commission on the liquor traffic. It is dangerous to prophecy what hon. gentlemen opposite may or may not do. They have had such a number of policies, they have placed themselves in so many peculiar positions in a short time, that it is unsafe to prophecy what they may do on the subject of prohibition or anything else: but I will venture to affirm that after hav-

ing deceived the temperance people of this country with respect to their action on the plebiscite, they will later attempt to justify themselves for their refusal to give prohibition by throwing the responsibility for their action upon the report of the majority of this commission on the liquor traffic. Sir, the difficulties which surrounded that commission were many. We had one of the most prominent temperance men in the Dominion before us, the late Sir Leonard Tilley, who made the following statement in Fredericton:—

The prohibition sentiment requires to be cultivated in the province of Quebec, and we want the generation now growing up educated as to the evils of alcohol on the human system. With these and other influences, the time will come—it may not be during my time—when the public sentiment will be such that prohibition may not only be enacted but enforced, and from my experience in the past I would say: "Don't be in a hurry—that is, have ammunition, your guns and everything ready for the engagement when it comes, and don't run the risk of a defeat by premature action; but when you have enacted the law, make it a success by its enforcement." That is the advice I give our people. I do not think the whole Dominion is quite ripe for prohibition legislation.

Despite that statement, made by a man whose memory is respected from one end of the Dominion to the other, we are charged with being biassed and prejudiced because we could not see our way clear to report in favour of prohibition. Sir Leonard Tilley stated that the prohibition sentiment should be cultivated in the province of Quebec. If he were alive to-day, I am sure he would be amazed to see the means taken by hon. gentlemen opposite to "cultivate" that prohibition sentiment. He would have been amazed to see a Government pledged to respect the will of the people, a Government which made the giving of the plebiscite a plank in its platform, sending every one of its members from the province of Quebec, bar one, into that province on the stump to induce the people there to vote against prohibition.

Another gentleman of note, whose name is always mentioned with respect, is Mr. Geo. Hague, general manager of the Merchants Bank of Canada, and this gentleman gave the following evidence in Montreal on the 22nd September, 1892, before the commission:

With regard to prohibition, it is, of course, understood that all license laws are to a certain extent prohibitive, and such prohibition can be enforced. But the experience of all communities in which total prohibition has been carried by the resolution of a small body of popular representatives shows that such a law will not be obeyed, except by those who abstain on principle, and would abstain no matter what the law was, and further, that the general enforcement of the law by fines, penalties, &c., is practically impossible. Experience seems to lead up to a conclusion something like this: That no prohibitory law will be obeyed or can be enforced in any given community, unless a very large majority

of that community (almost the whole, in fact) have agreed on other grounds to give up the use of intoxicating drinks. But then it is evident that in such a community no prohibitory law would be needed at all.

In dealing with the prohibition question, an exception is supposed to be made, both in importation and manufacture, in favour of intoxicants for mechanical, sacramental and medicinal purposes. I do not see how any law could be worked which would make such a distinction, unless, indeed, the whole affair were taken in hand by the Government and worked entirely through one of its departments, i.e., not only supervised, as it is now, but actually worked. Even then, I do not believe the distinction could be kept up.

Drunkenness is essentially a moral evil, and only moral and spiritual forces are competent finally to eradicate it. That these are so competent, there has been abundant evidence in numerous individual cases on which they have been brought to bear.

I quote these as the statements of two gentlemen well known and respected from one end of the Dominion to the other, as men engaged in the promotion of good, in advancing the interests of the community, themselves total abstainers, but who realizing the difficulties of the enforcement of a prohibitory law in a country like this, did not hesitate to give their testimony against such a law. There were many other gentlemen equally responsible, trustworthy, representative and prominent, who gave their testimony in favour of prohibition, but the fact that the evidence was of such a conflicting nature, only added to the difficulty which that liquor traffic commission had to solve; and when the majority made their report, they believed they had made a report in the best interests of the people and of morality, sobriety and temperance.

Sir, the recommendations of the majority of that commission, though against prohibition, were of course in favour of greater restriction in the giving of licenses than prevails now in most of the provinces. The duty of restricting this traffic rests with the provincial authorities. Those authorities are and have been all of them Liberal authorities, and I would ask the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure) why, if he is so zealous, as I am sure he is, in the promotion of the temperance cause, he has not used his influence and secured that of his friends in the provinces and brought it to bear upon the legislatures of those provinces to legislate in favour of further restricting the liquor traffic? He charges the Conservative party with being derelict in its duty because, as he says, it accepted the report of the commission. I do not know whether it did or not; but if it did, and the commission reported against prohibition, how can he, in all fairness, hold the Conservative party responsible, if, under those circumstances, it has since introduced no legislation into this House in favour of prohibition? I need only mention this fact to show the unfairness of

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the hon. gentleman in his criticisms regarding the report of the commission on the liquor traffic. I would invite hon. gentlemen opposite, who have been trifling and playing with this question for many years, to read the evidence taken by the commission in the State of Maine. They had that evidence all before them, Mr. Speaker, before they submitted the plebiscite vote last September. If they had placed any value upon that evidence, if they had given it the consideration which I believe it deserved, they would have saved this country the expenditure of a quarter of a million dollars which has been worse than squandered in taking the vote. If they had read that evidence they would have seen what, after 40 odd years, the condition of things is which exists in the state of Maine, and they would have found in the volumes of the evidence the testimony of the best and foremost citizens in that state against prohibition as not accomplishing what it was intended to do, and not being as advantageous, possibly, in the promotion of true temperance as would a license law rigidly enforced.

I would like to refer for a moment to the position which is now being taken by hon. gentlemen opposite after the plebiscite vote has been given. The Minister of Agriculture was present at the Liberal convention when the plebiscite plank was made a part of the Liberal platform. It certainly was brought into politics then for it was a resolution passed at the Liberal convention held in this city in 1893. The present Minister of Agriculture then said:

I propose to read the resolution which will bring about this result, and which pledges the Liberal party, if returned to power, to give the people of Canada an opportunity to express their views upon this question, and the Government in power must necessarily carry out the expressed will of the people. There is no doubt that this is what the Liberal party would do, for we know their pledges can be trusted.

I now quote from a pamphlet, "The Voice of the People," signed by Mr. J. J. MacLaren, chairman, and Mr. F. S. Spence, secretary. These gentlemen are very prominent members of the Dominion Prohibitory Alliance. They say:

During the discussion of the plebiscite Bill in the House of Commons, the Premier also stated at different times that when the will of the people was ascertained, the Government would have to take such steps as would give effect to that will. On other occasions similar statements were made by different members of the Government. The "expressed will" of the people could only refer to the will of the people which was expressed.

The statements made could not be fairly construed to mean anything short of a promise of prohibitory legislation in case of a favourable majority in a reasonable vote.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it will be in the recollection of the House that the Minister of Agriculture stated this afternoon that the Dominion Temperance Alliance did not ask this Government to pass a prohibitory law; and

yet we find these gentlemen representing and I believe they do represent, the Dominion Temperance Alliance, quoting the words of the Premier and declaring that the expressed will of the people could only refer to the will of the people which was expressed. I am sure that the statement taken from this pamphlet sent out by the Alliance is very wide of the statement made this afternoon by the Minister of Agriculture when he said that the Temperance Alliance did not desire the Government to enact a prohibitory measure. Sir, it is refreshing to all fair-minded and honourable men to contrast the attitude which the leaders of the Conservative party took in reference to this prohibition question, with the attitude which the leader of the Liberal party has assumed. Speaking at Winnipeg, the right hon. Premier stated :

He would pledge his honour that as soon as the Liberals came into power in Ottawa they would take a plebiscite of the whole Dominion, by which the party would stand, and the will of the people would be carried out, even were it to cost power to the Liberal party.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what did that mean? Did it mean that there should be 50 per cent of all the votes on the list cast for prohibition before the will of the people would be carried out? No, Sir. Every person engaged in the promotion of temperance, every person who took an active part in securing votes in favour of prohibition in September last—except, possibly, the hon. gentlemen who were present at the Liberal convention in 1893, and who made that arrangement amongst themselves—every one of them thought that if the majority of all the votes cast in September last was found to be in favour of prohibition, the Liberal party would implement its pledges by legislation in this House. The Minister of Agriculture attempted this afternoon to throw responsibility on members on this side of the House, because, when he introduced his Bill—and he was the gentleman who fathered the Plebiscite Bill in this House—we did not take exception to it. I venture to affirm that if the Minister of Agriculture had told us when that Bill was introduced what he told us this afternoon, he would have found a great many voices raised on both sides of the House against it. If he had told the members of this House that it would require a majority or 50 per cent of all the votes on the list to be polled in favour of prohibition before prohibition would be enacted, that Bill would never have passed the House of Commons. But, Mr. Speaker, if he knew that that was the policy of the Government, he took precious good care not to let the House of Commons know it, and evidently he did not allow his temperance friends to know it either. The Premier said the other day, speaking on this matter :

There was an implied agreement between the members of the party who believed in prohibition and those who did not believe in prohibition.  
\* \* \* There was an engagement on the part

of those who believed in prohibition, that if the voice of the people on the subject should not be of sufficient strength to warrant the adoption by the party of the policy of prohibition, they also would square their views to those of their brothers, and we would hear no more of that question in the ranks of the party.

Well, evidently from the speech of the Minister of Agriculture, they are going to try and remove that question as far as possible out of the policy of their party for all time to come. The Premier said also :

There was not a man living who expected, at the time the plebiscite was taken, that the duty would be imposed on the Government of introducing a prohibitory measure unless at least one-half of the electorate recorded their votes in favour of that policy.

Sir, that is the statement made after the plebiscite was taken. That statement was not made before the plebiscite was taken. If it had been, I venture to affirm that the hundreds of thousands of dollars which those in favour of prohibition expended in that contest would have been kept in their pockets. Fifty per cent of the entire vote on the roll was an impossible vote for them to get, and it was to say the least of it disingenuous on the part of the Premier to keep back the knowledge from the prohibitionists that they must poll an impossible vote before their just demands would be acceded to. Is it any wonder that ministers, such as the Rev. A. D. Morton, of Shelburne, N.S., should write to the "Christian Guardian" in the following terms :

I am now satisfied that the authorities have played a game of "bluff," and that the advocates of prohibition have allowed themselves to be duped. To me it would have been a thousand times more satisfactory if Sir Wilfrid, following the example of his predecessor, had manfully said : "I do not believe in prohibition, and will give no assurance in the matter."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's predecessors had told the temperance people that time after time, and because they had done so, they were assailed by hon. gentlemen opposite who believed in temperance and who had advocated it in their constituencies. But to-day every one of those hon. gentlemen's voices are silent; not one word of condemnation is expressed by any one of them against the Janus-faced course which has been pursued by their leaders in this matter. Sir, I hold in my hand a resolution adopted by the Standing Committee of the Methodist Church of the province of Ontario on the subject of temperance reform. Is there one word to be found in this resolution that justifies the remark made by the Minister of Agriculture, that the prohibitionists do not desire the passage of a prohibitory law? Not one word. I have here also a letter from the district secretary of the Royal Templars of Temperance, addressed to me, from Toronto. Does it say anything about not desiring the Government to implement their promises? Not at all. I will read it :

Dear Sir,—The Toronto District Council, Royal Templars of Temperance, has had under consideration the letter of the Premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, addressed to Mr. F. S. Spence, secretary of the Dominion Alliance, in which, speaking for the Dominion Government of the recent plebiscite, he states "that in our judgment the expression of public opinion recorded at the polls in favour of prohibition did not represent such a proportion of the electorate as would justify the introduction by the Government of a prohibitory measure."

The District Council records its deep sense of disappointment at this decision, and its entire dissent from the conclusion arrived at by the Government as to the moral weight of said vote, in the conviction that the strength of the opposition was fairly reflected in the "nay" vote cast, which, notwithstanding the heavy French Canadian vote, fell about 14,000 short of the aggregate "yea" vote.

The District Council is strongly of opinion that this county would heartily respond to a prohibitory law, if enacted by any Government and Parliament; that the apparent opposition of one province ought not to be permitted to stand in the way of legislation demanded by all other parts of the Dominion in such emphatic terms as the sweeping majorities indicate; and calls upon the Government and Parliament to devise and enact such prohibitory legislation as will give effect to the expressed will of the people in the provinces and territories referred to.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) ANNIE M. PEARSON,  
District Secretary, R. T. of T.

The prohibitionists and the temperance people of this country had a right to expect, from the record which hon. gentlemen opposite made for themselves during the past twenty years, that a simple majority of all the votes cast, if in favour of prohibition, would be sufficient to give them a measure. We have on record, happily, the opinion of the late Minister of Justice in the present Government, Sir Oliver Mowat, who is now the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. You will recollect that a plebiscite was taken in the province of Ontario on the question of the total prohibition of the liquor traffic. That vote was taken on the day set apart for the holding of the municipal elections, a day when a very large vote is polled because of the excitement which prevails over the balloting for municipal officers in this province. The following figures are taken from the "Vanguard," a prominent temperance paper, published, I think, by my friend Mr. F. S. Spence: The total number of male votes on the list at that election in 1893 was 515,369, and of female votes 43,833, total vote on the list 559,202. The total number of votes polled was 303,209, or about 54 per cent. If we take off the female votes we find that the total number of male votes on the list was 515,369. Of these 180,061, or say 35 per cent voted yea, while 108,520, or 21½ per cent voted nay. Of the total male voters on the list only 56½ per cent recorded their votes, so that in a time of excitement in every municipality, when the opportunity was given to every person in favour of prohibition and to every person who opposed prohibition, of going to the polls to vote—because they were

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going to the polls to vote for candidates for the various municipal offices—only 56½ per cent of the total vote on the list was recorded. Did Sir Oliver Mowat say to the deputation which waited upon him immediately after that vote had been taken that he could not think of enacting a prohibitory law unless 50 per cent of the registered vote had been polled in favour of it? Not at all. He took this vote as being conclusive of the opinion of the province of Ontario in favour of prohibition, and he pledged his word, and when he pledged his word he pledged the word of his colleagues, that, if the Privy Council determined that the province of Ontario had the power to enact a prohibitory law, he and his Government, in view of the vote that had been taken in January, 1893, would pass a prohibitory law if they had power to do it. The question of having a majority of the total votes on the list never entered into the mind of Sir Oliver Mowat, the late Minister of Justice in the Government of my right hon. friend. He never thought it was necessary that such an impossible percentage of the votes should be polled before he would pass a prohibitory law. It seems to me, too, that we are justified in concluding from the evidence that is before us that there were the strongest doubts that hon. gentlemen, even if a substantial majority had been cast in every province of the Dominion in favour of prohibition, would have taken any action. I have a copy of a letter from the Minister of Justice dated Ottawa, 7th April, 1898, a few months before the plebiscite vote was taken. He says:

Office of the Minister of Justice,  
Ottawa, 7th April, 1898.

Dear Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th March, and in reply beg to say that the regulations to which you refer are all within the jurisdiction of the provincial legislature to legislate in the direction which you indicate, as far as they think it in the public interest to go, to the extent of total prohibition. There is nothing to prevent any province prohibiting the sale of intoxicants for consumption as a beverage within the limits of the province so disposed.

Yours truly,

DAVID MILLS.

Would we have had the other alternative, Mr. Speaker? If prohibition had been carried by a substantial majority, would the Minister of Justice have reiterated his opinion that it was quite within the jurisdiction of a province to enact as complete a measure of prohibition, within its boundaries, as could be enacted by this Parliament for the whole Dominion, and would he have referred the prohibitionists to the provincial legislatures? The hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) referred to the Scott Act, and it seems to me that the reference was rather unfortunate for him as well as for his party. He said, and he said truly, that it required 25 per cent of the total vote on the list to be signed to the petition in favour of the submission of the Act, be-

fore that measure could be voted upon by the people in a municipality. He should have gone further and said that, if, after it had received the necessary number of signatures the petition was acted upon and a vote taken, and only 10 per cent of the vote polled in favour of the Act and 9½ per cent against the Act, the Act would, as a matter of fact, become law. But there is something further to be said respecting the present contention of hon. gentlemen opposite as to the necessity of having a majority of the votes of a constituency cast before a measure of prohibition can be enacted in that constituency. Some of the hon. gentlemen present will recollect that, a few years after the adoption of the Scott Act by Parliament, some necessary amendments were made for the working of the Act. These amendments were introduced in the Senate, and, after being passed there, were sent down to this House, and the hon. gentleman who is now the leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Sir Mackenzie Bowell) had charge of the Bill in this House. When the Bill reached its critical stage there was an amendment proposed by the then representative of East York, Mr. Boulton, which provided that a majority of the voters whose names were entered on the voters' lists used at each subdivision should be recorded in favour of the Act before it came into force. Mr. Boulton, speaking of the amendment, said :

The amendment I have proposed does not mean that there should be a majority at every polling place. It simply proposes that there shall be a majority in the whole district where the law is sought to be put in force. \* \* \* The resolution simply provides that the majority of votes of the district shall be necessary to give effect to the law.

The hon. gentleman who had charge of the Bill objected to the introduction of this new principle of legislation into Canada, and he is reported, in "Hansard," to have said :

I am decidedly opposed to the adoption of any such amendment. If the principle involved in the amendment were adopted and acted upon in every election held, I am of opinion there would be very few of us occupying seats on the floor of the House to-day.

The Hon. G. W. Ross, one of the most respected and one of the foremost Liberals in Ontario, was a member of this House at that time, and he would not allow that principle of legislation to be passed upon without expressing his opposition. This is what he said :

He proposes to introduce into our electoral institutions an entirely new principle. Hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House, as the hon. Minister of Customs has remarked, sit here by a majority of the votes polled in their respective countries. I do not know that there is a single member of this House—unless he was elected by acclamation—who is able to say that he sits here by a clear majority of the registered votes of his constituency.

Mr. Ross further in the course of his speech, asked :

Can my hon. friend (Mr. Boulton) say that in any election authorized by any Dominion or provincial statute—with one exception, in a small Bill passed by the Ontario legislature last year—there is any such principle introduced? I venture to say he cannot. \* \* \* Let the House distinctly understand that, instead of dealing fairly with the public opinion of the country, this amendment proposes to take an unfair advantage of it, and to render it almost impossible for public opinion to be fairly recorded.

Then, we had a noted temperance man in this House, who has since passed over to the great majority; I refer to the late Mr. Longley, who represented Annapolis, N.S., and he said :

We are willing, when great issues come up from time to time which divide the people, to accept the mere majority of votes polled; and such a principle as is sought to be introduced into this law is not to be found in our land, except in regard to certain local matters involving heavy taxation, where it is thought better, for the security of all, to have a two-thirds or three-fourths vote. It is an instance of the unfairness or want of thought, or reason, of the advocates of this amendment that they seek to introduce a new feature into our law. \* \* \* I trust the amendment will be voted down, as it should be, and that a measure designed to promote sobriety and public virtue may not be marred by the insidious proposal which I have sought, in conjunction with others, to oppose.

The hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) was a member of this House at that time, as, we are glad to know, he is a member yet, and he expressed his opinion upon this matter in the following words :—

I cannot think that the hon. gentleman has looked at the Bill seriously and I am sure that he has not thoroughly considered the legal and inevitable effect of his amendment, which is utterly unfair, malicious and unjust in its nature.

The amendment was submitted to the House of Commons, and I find amongst the gentlemen who voted against it the names of the hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), the right hon. the Premier of Canada (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), the hon. the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), the hon. the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden), the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), the hon. member for Wentworth (Mr. Bain) and the hon. member for Huntingdon (Mr. Scriver). These gentlemen all set their faces against such an "insidious proposition," as Mr. Longley called it, as to require that in this measure of local prohibition it should be necessary to secure a majority of the total vote on the lists before the Act came into operation. Even after the Bill had been amended these gentlemen were so strong in their opposition to the incorporation of this principle in our legislation, that the three months' hoist was moved. The Hon. Edward Blake, who was then the leader of the Liberal Opposition, declared that the amend-

ment of the hon. member for East York, Mr. Boulton, was destructive of the Bill, and he therefore voted against it, and every one of the gentlemen whose names I have mentioned, voted the same way. So, Sir, in view of the record which these hon. gentlemen have made for themselves respecting prohibitory legislation in this House and in the country; in view of the pledges which the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) gave from time to time to the electors all over this Dominion, I say that the Government have been recreant and false to their duty in this matter, and the temperance people, and all who love fair-play and fair dealing in Canada, will hold them strictly to account for their treachery. I have here a copy of the "Morning Post," of London, England, July 25th, 1898—that was some time after the passage of the Plebiscite Bill—and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), who was then in London, gave an interview to the representative of that paper, in which he said:

Our grapes, though you have not yet taken to their peculiar flavour, we expect you to eat largely. We can sell them on the other side at one penny a pound wholesale. With the aid of our cold storage system we can now deliver the most delicate fruits in perfect condition. Our making of wine is as yet only in the experimental stage, but we hope to make something of it.

Before taking my seat, Mr. Speaker, there is another matter I desire to refer to; that is, the Government's administration, or mal-administration, of affairs in the Yukon. I ask hon. gentlemen opposite, if there is any one of them who is a business man and had to manage an estate of the value which that Yukon territory is computed to be worth, or if he was acting as a trustee for the owners of an estate as valuable as that, and he desired to dispose of the property to the best advantage for his clients, would he have adopted the policy which the Government have adopted from the time they expended the very first dollar in connection with the Yukon? Would a business man not have tried to have given every publicity possible to the information that he had at hand respecting the enormous wealth that is in that country? Sir, the very first act of the Minister of the Interior was an act that was looked upon with a great deal of dissatisfaction by the people of Canada. The first official report that was worth anything was made by Mr. Ogilvie, a surveyor sent up there by the late Government, and his report was looked for by mining experts and by adventurous people all over the world with a great deal of interest. When that report came into the possession of the Government, instead of having it printed and distributed broadcast throughout the civilized world, they passed it over to a political friend, or a political supporter, with all the plates and all the photographs, and he was given the right to copyright that report and to sell it at two

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or three times the price it could be published and sold for by any representative publisher in this Dominion. The sale of that pamphlet was not nearly as large as the hon. gentleman and his friends thought it would be; but how much damage was done to the country? It was an imposition on the public to charge half a dollar for such a pamphlet. If the Government had been actuated by business motives, they would have had that report printed by hundreds of thousands of copies, and appended to it valuable information regarding other parts of the Dominion, and circulated it throughout the United States, and Great Britain, and the continent of Europe. But, Sir, instead of doing that, they adopted a most unbusiness-like and most unheard-of method, by which they stopped the spread of information respecting this territory, in which so much interest was taken all over the world. That was the first act of mal-administration that the public became aware of. The next was with reference to the making of a contract for the construction of a railway, or tramway, into that country. One would have thought that if hon. gentlemen opposite had been desirous of fulfilling the pledges they made to the people of Canada, they would certainly have endeavoured to have had that railway built at the lowest possible price; but, instead of asking for public tenders, instead of inviting public competition for the construction of that road, instead of endeavouring to ascertain just exactly what that road was worth, they made a bargain without consulting Parliament, and without taking the public into their confidence. They made a bargain with two gentlemen to construct that road and to take their pay out in enormous grants of gold-bearing lands, and gave them the right to charge practically their own freight rates for many years to come. That was an unbusiness-like arrangement, and it was received with disapprobation by the great majority of the people of this country. So, Sir, I might enumerate very many such unbusiness-like acts in connection with the administration of the Yukon territory by the Government. Take the purchase of supplies; take the transportation of supplies; take the right of officials to stake claims; take the frontage leases in Dawson, the monopoly of cutting timber, and the procuring of timber for fuel.

All these unbusinesslike transactions had prepared the public mind for the reception of the charges which have since been made broadcast throughout Canada, not only in Conservative papers, but in Liberal papers as well. Nor have these charges been confined to the press of Canada. They have unfortunately found their way across the Atlantic into such leading organs of British public opinion as the "Times," the "Graphic," and other papers. Reference has also been made to them from time to time in the French papers, the United States papers,

and the Australian papers. The name and fame of Canada have been smirched. Canada has been injured in the estimation of those who have read these charges, in the United States, in Australia, and in the old land; and, in the face of the universally expressed opinion that there was something rotten in the state of Denmark, hon. gentlemen opposite have practically done nothing yet, beyond asking Mr. Ogilvie, their commissioner, to make a report; and he is a departmental officer. They invite hon. gentlemen on this side of the House to make specific charges, saying that if we will do so, they will investigate them. Why should we do so? Why should any hon. member be asked to make specific charges? Is it not enough to point hon. gentlemen to the record in the press of this country during the last six months, which has been teeming with accusations made by men who have signed their names to those accusations? Surely those charges themselves ought to have been sufficient, if the Government desired to investigate the condition of affairs to the bottom, to have secured before now the appointment of an independent judicial commission for that purpose. I am sure I speak for every member on this side of the House when I say that we sincerely hope there is not a shred of truth to be found in any of these charges. The best way to satisfy us and the people of Canada is not to remain content with a departmental examination, but to appoint a commission of judges to investigate them; and if, as I hope will be the case, these charges shall be found to be untrue and unfounded, the money that will be expended on the work of that commission will be the best money expended by this Parliament for many a day. Let me give hon. gentlemen some opinions which have been expressed, not by political opponents, but by political friends, as to why such an investigation should be held. The Hon. Joseph Martin, who was a member of this House, and one of the ablest lieutenants of the right hon. Premier during the time he sat here, and who is now the Attorney General of British Columbia, is reported to have said:

Though the returning miners may not be telling the truth, yet if this is the case, there has been a strange unanimity in the lies they have been telling. Not only Americans, but Canadians and Englishmen, have entered most vigorous protests against the prevailing condition of affairs, and there does not appear to be much doubt that something is seriously wrong. The fact that the most bitter protests come from British subjects is significant, and it is very difficult to believe that bribery and corruption of officials has not been rampant.

Mr. R. C. Miller, editor of the *Pembroke "Observer,"* writes from Dawson:

I have been here now for two weeks, and have been noting and inquiring on every hand, and though I cannot give you facts and figures, I have seen enough to convince myself that it is worse even than the mind of an honest man can

conceive. That the mining laws are being set aside on a colossal scale is beyond all question, and that barefaced bribery is the rule of the day is equally certain.

An hon. gentleman asks me where Mr. R. C. Miller is now. I cannot tell him. Probably that information could be given by some hon. gentleman on the opposite side of the House. Mr. R. D. Gardiner writes in the *Kingston "Whig,"* one of the leading Liberal papers in the province of Ontario, as follows:—

It is nothing but a system of boodling from beginning to end that prevails in the Klondike. The Government, as the district was so far away, gave the officials too much power, and they have used it despotically. There is no service of the Government there which is not corrupt.

Dr. Steele, of Grahamville, in Peel County, a gentleman who is a supporter of hon. gentlemen opposite, writes home as follows:—

If it were not for the presence of the mounted police I firmly believe that every official here except the customs collector would be publicly hanged, and the Minister of the Interior at Ottawa along with them, if he could be got at. So scandalous has been the treatment of the miners for the last year that such a fate would be richly deserved.

Mr. W. Baird, of Dawson, writes to his friends:

I have always been a Grit heretofore, but must admit that this is the rottenest outfit up here that it has ever been my business to come in contact with.

The *Vancouver "World,"* another representative paper, published on the coast, says:

From letters received from reputable gentlemen at Dawson we have the declaration that more than one of the Dominion officials feathered their private nests pretty well while paid to look after the interests of the public.

The *Winnipeg "Tribune,"* whose editor is an honoured member of this House and a supporter of hon. gentlemen opposite, has this to say:

It is very plausible to cry that no specific charges have been laid. This is not true; but, even if it had been, it does not help the case. Wrongs have been committed, and everybody whose intelligence surpasses that of the partisan pigmy recognizes the fact and desires to see the remedy applied as speedily as possible.

Let me also quote the opinion of the *"Weekly Sun,"* an independent journal for the farm and home, a journal in which hon. gentlemen opposite took the deepest interest up to the 23rd of June, 1896, a journal that circulates very largely among the farming community of the Dominion, a journal of influence, as follows:—

Mr. Ogilvie, the present administrator, was some time ago requested by Mr. Sifton to report upon certain charges. But Mr. Ogilvie is an official himself, and has intimate relations with some of those against whom charges are now levelled. He himself is under the direction of the Minister upon whom, if the charges are

proved, some of the odium may lie. An investigation made by him must not only of necessity be limited in its scope, but his findings would not command public confidence. A thorough and searching inquiry, conducted by a commission composed of men commanding public confidence and free from the control of the department, would seem to be the best method of arriving at the facts.

I could also quote from the St. John "Telegraph," published by the hon. member for that city (Mr. Ellis); from the Edmonton "Bulletin," and other papers; but I will not weary the House by doing so. We sympathize with the difficulties incidental to the administration of a territory so remote as the Yukon, especially in the early stages of its development; and we are willing to give hon. gentlemen opposite every reasonable assistance in developing that country and having it properly and honestly administered. But we would be derelict in our duty as members of this House and unfaithful to the trust committed to us by the people who have sent us here if, in view of the magnitude and number of the charges that have been made, as well as their source, we did not take the opportunity presented to us of obtaining an expression of opinion from the House as to whether the Government is justified in confining the investigation to that of a departmental officer.

Mr. Speaker, before taking my seat, I have an amendment which I desire now to offer. I am sure it will meet with the approval of the independent members of this House. I am sure it is so reasonable, so fair and so just that if, unfortunately, it does not commend itself to the judgment of the majority of the members of this House, it will eventually, at all events, commend itself to the judgment of the majority of the people of Canada. I therefore beg leave to move, seconded by Mr. Hale, that the following words be added to the Address to His Excellency the Governor General:—

10. That this House deems it expedient to inform His Excellency that in view of the widespread charges of incapacity, misconduct and corruption in the administration of public affairs connected with the Yukon, it is the duty of the Government to appoint, without delay, an independent judicial commission to make a thorough investigation into that subject, and report the result.

Mr. GEO. H. BERTRAM (Centre Toronto). It always gives me pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to listen to the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke), because when that hon. gentleman addresses himself to any subject he generally treats it in an eloquent fashion as he has done to-day. I always like to hear him speak, because he appears to be fair-minded and anxious to arrive at a fair and reasonable conclusion on any question he may be discussing. But while in that frame of mind, I listened to the hon. gentleman, I must, I am sorry to say, confess that I was doomed to meet with some disappointment. While he started out with every ap-

pearance to be fair, I found that he was not quite so fair as his colleague the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Ross Robertson), because that hon. gentleman, when he addresses this House, generally gives this side credit for something now and again. He told us, for instance, in the speech he delivered the other day, that the Government were right in imposing a ten per cent royalty in the Yukon, and he also gave us credit in some other respect. But my hon. friend from West Toronto (Mr. Clarke), I regret to say, will never commit himself to any such admission. He seems to be a strong partisan after all, and can see no good whatever on this side of the House. I do like, when listening to speeches from hon. gentlemen opposite, to find them admit that there is something good in their opponents, and when they do make a point against us, I like to give them credit for it just as I like them to give us credit when they see a point in our favour. Had the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat addressed the House in that spirit, I am sure that his words would have more weight, at all events on this side of the House and in the country at large, but he carefully avoided making even the slightest admission on our favour. For instance, I leave it to the members of this House who are well aware of the fact, that while hon. gentlemen opposite say we adopted their policy, there was a policy enunciated by the hon. leader of the Opposition not long ago, which we did not adopt, and which I am confident the hon. gentleman who has just spoken would congratulate us on not adopting, were he frank enough to do so, and that is their policy on the Manitoba school question. Yet, despite this fact, my hon. friend cannot see that we are entitled to any credit for anything we have done.

I was also somewhat surprised to find that the hon. gentleman seems to have gone back on that little red book which has played such a great part in the speeches of hon. gentlemen opposite, and did not read us copious extracts from that publication, such as we have been treated to in the last two or three weeks by hon. gentlemen opposite. But I must express my satisfaction at one feature of his speech. When speaking of the different flags, emblazoned with different mottoes, which he charges were displayed at different times by this side of the House, he did not seem to recognize among them the old flag which gentlemen opposite we have stolen. On this point, however, I understand I am precluded from speaking, owing to the fact that the hon. gentleman has introduced an amendment to the Address to which we must now confine ourselves. Being desirous of keeping within the rules of debate, I shall wait another opportunity for dealing with some of the questions which the hon. gentleman brought before us, but which his amendment does not bear upon. The hon. gentleman dealt with the same question that previous speakers have been harping upon

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during the last three weeks and advancing the same threadbare arguments, though I had hoped that with his great ability and the amount of diligence he has displayed since the opening of the session in collecting all the material he has given us to-night, he would have brought forward something new and given us somewhat stronger reasons than those we have been listening to since the debate began. In that respect, however, I must confess again to disappointment. I regret exceedingly having to speak at all in this debate, because I am sure hon. members are wearied in listening to a repetition of the same old story over and over again, to which we have been treated during the last three or four weeks. I must say that I sympathise very much indeed with the prayer that was uttered, I believe, in a Kingston pulpit, not later than last Sunday, by a good Presbyterian minister, who beseeched the Lord to grant wisdom and judgment to our legislators so that they might make good laws for this Dominion, and to also put it into the hearts of the members of this House—I suppose he meant particularly hon. gentlemen opposite—to talk less and do more work. I am perfectly aware that there is nothing hon. gentlemen opposite love to indulge in more than political retrospects. They do love to give us ancient history. The world seems to have travelled a little too fast for them, and they have fallen considerably behind, and are giving all their attention to things that the rest of the world have left behind a considerable way. The motto of hon. members on this side of the House is not looking backward but forward; and I am sure that the people of this country have been paying very little attention to the long speeches and diatribes of hon. gentlemen opposite during the last three weeks, and that the amendment which has been introduced by my hon. friend from West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) is one that will not attract much attention or be much cared about even in the very city he comes from. I am satisfied that there are other questions before this Dominion that are more important, questions that are pressing for a solution and that should have been worked out during the past two or three weeks, instead of spending our time in this interminable debate. I am satisfied that the transportation question, for instance, is occupying the minds of the people of this whole Dominion to-day and particularly of the province of Ontario and the city of Toronto far more than the unsupported charges and statements of hon. gentlemen opposite. It is not my intention to go over all the questions that have been brought before this House by hon. gentlemen and particularly by my hon. friend the member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke), because in this particular discussion I understand we must confine our remarks particularly to the amendment now before the House.

An hon. MEMBER. No, take up the whole question.

Mr. BERTRAM. I shall have the opportunity of doing that at some future time. My hon. friend read a few more extracts from a few more newspapers. It seems to me that all these hon. gentlemen can do is to read extracts continually from certain papers and say there must be something in it. I believe myself that members of Parliament who make unsupported and damning charges against this Government from their place in Parliament, without a scintilla of evidence, are injuring the fair name of the country and doing an enormous amount of damage to its best interests. They laid great stress, for instance, upon the fact that the London "Times" had circulated charges, and that fact they bring forward as a reason why there should be an investigation. Even the London "Times," so far as I know, is not infallible; and while Miss Shaw may be a very nice woman—I have not the pleasure of knowing her—even she is not infallible. I believe that Miss Shaw has been imposed upon by the American proprietors of the "Nugget" newspaper. At all events, we know that the London "Times" has been imposed upon in former years. It brought serious charges supported by evidence apparently of the strongest character against the late Chas. Stewart Parnell, and it had to take those charges back. As to charges made in newspapers, I believe it to be the duty of every member of Parliament, when he reads in a newspaper a charge against the Government of the day or against the officials of the country, to make inquiries and ascertain whether they are true or not, or, at least, get some tangible evidence, before he undertakes to make use of them on the floor of this House. We had an example of the contrary the other day. The hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) stood in his place and made most serious and damning charges against a gentleman who was for many years an official of this country, a gentleman who is respected by the people and who has rendered great service to the North-west in the organization of mounted police. The hon. member for Pictou brings a charge of drunkenness and immorality against this man who has no opportunity to reply, and this he does without evidence. It appears from what the newspapers are saying now that Mr. Walsh, instead of being a drunken man, is one of the most sober men in the Dominion. I maintain that an hon. gentleman who would stand in his place in Parliament and make such a charge as that upon so little evidence deserves, I might almost say the censure of the people of this country. The other day, when I returned to Toronto, I was talking with the manager of one of the large banking institutions who happened to know Mr. Walsh, having been manager of a bank in Winnipeg while Mr. Walsh was there and having travelled with him in the North-west and spent many days with him on the plains. This gentleman is a strong Conservative. He said to me: It cannot be that

these charges against Major Walsh are true, because I know the man well, and a cleaner and better-living man does not live in the whole Dominion to-day. The charges made by the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) are all on a par with those made against Major Walsh. For my part, as a member of this House, if I had any charge I could not support with evidence, I would feel that I should apologize for the rest of my life to the man against whom the charges were made. What the Minister of Agriculture said to-day was perfectly true. And in that connection I must say that I never listened to an address with so much satisfaction as I did to the address of the hon. Minister this afternoon. As the hon. Minister said, when an eloquent man—like the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster)—for he is an eloquent man—goes to Brockville, and, notwithstanding the damning charges with regard to the Yukon, has not a word to say on this subject, because the fact that Major Walsh is best known there and therefore most highly respected, it shows how little worth these charges are. I believe that nearly all the charges that have been made by hon. gentlemen opposite are on a par with these made by the hon. member for Pictou against the character and good name of a man who deserves well of his country for the great services he has rendered in days gone by. I think it is the duty of every lover of his country to see to it that he does not give currency to such charges derogatory to the honour of the country, unless he has good reason for believing that the charges are well founded.

A great deal has been said that I do not intend to deal with. We had a seven-hour speech from the hon. member for Pictou besides a five-hour speech from the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), and it seems to me that this is giving us too much of one thing from the same family. The hon. member for Pictou is an able man, there is no question about that, and if he takes hold of a case, being one of the strongest partisans on the other side of the House, he will make a charge against the Government, if there is any possibility of doing it. But he was ably replied to by the Minister of the Interior. I believe there are members, even on the other side of the House who will agree with me when I say that the speech made by the hon. member for Pictou and the charges levelled against the Government displayed a bitterness against his opponents that was very notable. His bitterness against the Minister of the Interior seemed actually to warp his judgment. In fact, when the hon. Minister corrected him in some statement he made, his reply was in effect that he only had the word of the Minister for it and the Minister's word was not of great consequence. In his speech, part of which I heard and all of which I have read, the Minister of the Interior does himself great credit in many

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ways, but particularly for the self-control he shows in refusing to exhibit any ill-feeling against the hon. member for Pictou, notwithstanding the strong statements made by that hon. gentleman with regard to his administration. He went into every letter, one by one, and I consider he made a most effective reply to the charges made, and a more gentlemanly reply, perhaps, than the hon. member for Pictou was entitled to. Let me say I was one of those who thought that when the hon. member for Pictou had thought of delivering such a speech and found that he could not continue to occupy his place until a reply was given, he should not have made the speech. To make such a speech and run away does not seem to me to be very dignified, to say the least.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). I would ask the hon. gentleman whether he was in the House when it was admitted by the Prime Minister that the hon. member for Pictou proposed to stop at six o'clock and not make that part of his speech covering these charges until his return, and he was forced by the Prime Minister and those around him who knew that he had to leave the city, to break the engagement with me that the debate should terminate at six? I ask, if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bertram) was in the House at that time; I ask him if he thinks he is warranted in making a statement that is in plain contradiction of the facts as established before the House?

Mr. BERTRAM. I was not here at the time, but as near as I can judge the hon. member was pretty well into these charges before six o'clock.

Mr. BERGERON. Not one.

Mr. BERTRAM. However, knowing that he intended to leave the city of Ottawa, he should have reserved the charges until he returned. I am a little inclined to think he feared that the report of the investigation being carried on at the Yukon might be here before he returned and there would be no further use for his charges. So he thought he would launch them against the Liberal party—for he thought it was the Liberal party he was driving at—hoping to injure them to the benefit of his own party.

Now, a great deal has been said regarding the inability and the incapacity of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). Well, we are accustomed to observations of that kind, because even the leader of the Opposition seldom makes a speech in this House without charging different members of the Government with incapacity. The same thing was done by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), when dealing with the Minister of the Interior. Now, Sir, it seems to me that the Minister of the Interior has developed an organizing power, an organizing ability that—if I may so speak—is second to that of no other member in this House. I think his course in

making the appointments was wise and prudent. What would the head of any large manufacturing establishment have done under similar circumstances? What does the head of any large banking institution, any loan company, do, when he wants men to organize a bank or to take charge of a large industrial or financial concern? He will try to find men for the position that he believes will be able to do the work, and able to fulfil in every respect the duties pertaining to it. First of all, he will consult with men in whom he has confidence, as to the nominations that ought to be made. The Minister of the Interior did that. I do not hesitate to say that, in the selection of Major Walsh for commissioner at that time, he selected the man who had the endorsement of all parties in this country. No later than to-day I was reading in a Conservative evening newspaper of the city of Toronto a statement, that nothing could be said against the appointments that were made at the time, because they were made after full inquiry into the character and ability of those officials. Major Walsh was recommended by Mr. Ogilvie, and recommended by others; in fact, there was no difference of opinion whatever as to the fitness of Major Walsh for that position. He was endorsed by both Liberal and Conservative newspapers. Therefore, I say that the Minister of the Interior deserves the thanks and the confidence of the people of this country for making the appointment of Major Walsh, which proved at the time so satisfactory to all parties in this country. In the selection of the Gold Commissioner he did the same thing. Mr. Fawcett was well recommended for that position; and I am glad to be able to say that, notwithstanding all that has been said against the Gold Commissioner—he, perhaps, may not have the capacity, he may not have the ability of hon. gentlemen opposite; I have no doubt that some of them think they could have filled the position a great deal better—but not one single authentic statement has been made, questioning the honesty and the uprightness of the Gold Commissioner, Mr. Fawcett. He may have made mistakes; I do not know but that he did. It would seem to be impossible for any man occupying that position to say that he never made any mistakes. But who are the men that have been making charges against Mr. Fawcett? Why, Sir, it is the American publishers of the "Nugget" newspaper. I would rather take the opinion of the American consul in the city of Dawson than that of men who are trying to create a strong feeling against the Government. And what did the American consul say regarding Mr. Fawcett, the other day, when the citizens gave him a dinner on the occasion of his leaving the city of Dawson? Why, Sir, he expressed the greatest satisfaction with Mr. Fawcett, and said that he would be entitled

to an entrance by the golden gate, if he had never made any mistakes at all. Mr. Fawcett was practically endorsed by the American consul. So I say that, in the appointment of Mr. Fawcett by the Minister of the Interior, he made a selection against whom nothing could be said. The same thing may be said regarding Mr. Wade. Nobody disputes his ability, although, I admit, the leader of the Opposition does not seem to care about the testimony of his son on behalf of Mr. Wade. But it seems to me that the evidence and the statements that were made by the Minister of the Interior showed distinctly that Mr. Wade was a man well qualified to fill that position. The same thing can be said regarding Major Harper, in charge of the post office. So, I claim for the Minister of the Interior, and for the Government of which he is an influential, a strong and energetic member, that he took all due precautions in making the appointments he did, as to the honesty and the ability of the men he selected to organize the affairs of the Yukon. The member for Pictou thinks that those officials are in the power of the Minister of the Interior; he calls Mr. Ogilvie, for instance, one of his satraps. But I maintain that, when these appointments were made, no exception was taken to them; therefore, we must conclude that the Minister took all the precautions possible to find the best men for the positions. Let me say here that, when a Government takes all the precautions that it is possible for men of foresight to take in making an appointment to any public position, no matter whether in the city of Ottawa or in the Yukon district, if that official proves unfaithful to his trust, if he does not do his duty, I do not consider the Government could be held responsible for it. They cannot be held responsible for the acts of their officials. When those acts are brought to their knowledge, when charges are brought to their notice—then they should be held responsible. I am not here this evening to defend any official of this Government. If there is any man occupying a position in the North-west Territories, or anywhere else, who proves unfaithful to his trust, I am satisfied that the Liberal members of this House, as well as hon. gentlemen opposite, will demand that this Government dismiss such officer and deal with him as he deserves. But I say that the officials against whom these charges are made are entitled to some consideration. When a charge is made against any official, it should be at least put in such a shape that it can be taken hold of. The accused is entitled to know what those charges are. Therefore the officials in the Yukon against whom these charges are made, are entitled to some consideration. Our friends on the opposite side say: We do not believe in specific charges. Why, Sir, you cannot deal with any other kind of charges. They would want a commission appointed to spend a whole year on

a fishing expedition. I do not believe this Parliament would be justified in appointing a fishing commission. It is somewhat extraordinary that, notwithstanding that thousands of men have come out of the Yukon after having been there for some time, and who are now in eastern Canada—I say it is surprising that not one single responsible man can be found among these thousands who will come forward and make specific charges. The hon. member for Pictou says that they are afraid to do so, afraid that their property would be taken away from them. Surely, all the men that have come out of the Yukon have not come out with property. I suppose that about 10,000 men have come out of the Yukon this year; surely, if there is anything wrong, some one of them could be found who will come forward and make a specific charge that we can get hold of and investigate. I do not believe one man can be found that will come forward and make any such charges, except perhaps in regard to some small matters which we may almost consider as a matter of course. Sir, it is one of the most difficult things in the world to deal with anything that you cannot get hold of. I have found that to be so in my own experience. Over and over again, in my own business, indefinite complaints have been made to me against this man and that man. I cannot go on a fishing expedition without something definite to work upon. I require to know what are the grounds of those complaints; I require to know who makes them, and when statements are made that I can get hold of, then I make an inquiry into them. For my part I do not believe that any hon. member ought to read an anonymous letter in this House. Any man who cannot put his name to a letter he sends and will not allow his name to be used should have no weight in this Parliament, and no member of Parliament should read anonymous letters scattering baseless accusations throughout the country for which no authority is given. I was surprised when I read the different statements made by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). Before his speech was delivered I thought it was quite likely that something might be wrong in the Yukon; it was quite likely that some officials might, perhaps, do something that they ought not to have done, because, after all, there are many good men who do not know what they will do until they have been tried. No man can say what he will do when tempted. Men went into that country with good characters, but surrounded as they were by the spirit of speculation, and by many temptations, it would not have been surprising to have learned that some of the officials representing this Government had fallen victims to this temptation that was spread out before them. But I am glad for the honour of Canadian administration that we were able to send men away up to the Yukon, away beyond the bounds of civilization, and I am only surprised that so little

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can be brought home to them, and that so little can be said against them. During the recent speech of the hon. member for Pictou, we could not find one single thing against any of these officials except unauthenticated statements and anonymous letters. And, after all, what were these letters? You have only to read these statements to see that they are not letters at all. They look more like political diatribes drawn up by members of the Conservative party than letters written by honest men, and the use which was made of these statements show that the hon. member for Pictou had no foundation for the charges he was making. Then the hon. member for Pictou showed also that he was mistaken. The Minister of the Interior showed that the hon. member for Pictou made a statement in this House that he had not taken the trouble to investigate. Fancy the leader of the Conservative party coming into this House and telling us that the Canadian officials in the Yukon were underpaid, that they ought to be paid more money! This is something that we have not heard for a long time, and you have to read the hon. gentleman's speech to see that he did not know that in addition to their salaries, these officials had their lodging at the same time, and their living expenses. The hon. gentleman did not know that, because he said that they were not able to live on the salaries that they received. I say that instead of their being underpaid they were well paid. That one single statement, made by the hon. member for Pictou, shows conclusively that he did not understand the question, and that he had not investigated it before making his speech. It showed clearly that all he intended to do, was not to do something for the good name of his country, but that what would satisfy him, would be to fasten some charges against the Government and against the hon. Minister of the Interior. I may say that the hon. Minister of the Interior of to-day stands in the highest estimation of the people of this broad Dominion than ever before after the reply he made to the hon. member for Pictou. I know that in Toronto, in the Conservative city of Toronto, because there are always Conservative members for Toronto, everywhere I go in Toronto, the people say: That was a splendid speech delivered by Mr. Sifton, and they seem to be well satisfied with it and agree that the hon. Minister of the Interior has shown his fitness for the position he occupies and for what he is doing. The hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) was quoting from the "Farmers' Sun," I think, in support of the position he was taking against the Government, in the Yukon. An article has just been placed in my hands, which is dated no later than April 12th, just a few days ago. Although I have not read it I will take the liberty of reading it now in reply to the statement made by the hon. member for West Toronto.

Mr. CLARKE. I did not quote from the "Farmers' Sun."

**Mr. BERTRAM.** The "Weekly Sun." It is the same thing. Hon. gentlemen opposite always like to try and slip out by some little technicalities. The hon. gentleman from West Toronto ought to be only too glad to hear the truth. An editorial here reads as follows :

Mr. Sifton's reply to the speech of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper is largely devoted to pointing out the difficulties with which the Government has been confronted in administering the Yukon district. Suddenly called upon to administer law, to preserve order and provide for the recording of claims in a large territory under entirely new and original conditions, the Government was confronted with great difficulties. To overcome these difficulties all its energies would have been fully taxed if the territory had been directly under its eye. The remoteness of the territory made the task of the Government much greater, and it should not be held too strictly to account. We do not suppose there is a man living who, under the conditions with which Mr. Sifton had to deal could have given the Yukon territory an ideal administration.

Mr. Sifton appears to deal very frankly and candidly with the charges made against him. He does not claim perfection ; he may, he says, have made mistakes ; in the light of experience his actions in some respects might be changed or modified ; but he has done all that any reasonable man could expect to ensure proper administration of the territory, and he has never been influenced by improper motives. He asks Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper to formulate his charges, and pledges himself, if charges are made, to have them investigated by a committee of the House or by a commission. Mr. Sifton's defence is a strong one, and his speech has evidently made an impression on the country.

I commend that editorial to the consideration of the hon. member for West Toronto, and would ask him to find some other authority than the "Weekly Sun" when he is trying to make a charge against the hon. Minister of the Interior. A great deal was said, too, in regard to permits to take liquor into the Yukon. I think that the reply of the hon. Minister of the Interior to the charge in regard to that matter was most effective. He showed that liquor permits had been issued for a small amount. Then the hon. member for Pictou, without giving the name of the person to whom he referred, tried to fasten upon the Minister of the Interior the charge that a member of the legal profession in Victoria had received \$500 for obtaining a permit from the Minister to sell liquor in the Yukon. The hon. Minister of the Interior denied that charge. He said that a permit never was granted. As to whether any lawyer got \$500 or not, he, of course, had nothing to do. He is not responsible for what any legal gentleman may do in Victoria ; he is only responsible for what he may do himself. He did not grant that permit. The hon. member for Pictou simply played upon words, first saying one thing, then another, notwithstanding that he was held down strongly to the statement made by the Minister of the Interior that that permit was never granted.

It turns out after all that this very telegram which he is trying to fasten upon the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) is the outcome of a telegram which was received from the hon. member for Pictou's own partner. It seems to me the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has been playing fast and loose with a good many communications in dealing with this matter, but as to this particular telegram he will have to settle with his partner the best way he can. As an example of how the hon. member for Pictou did not understand the charges he was making, I point to his statement that the water front in Dawson had been leased for about \$30,000 and that the lessees were making a profit of about \$90,000 a year. He went further, and he charged that Government officials and judges of the land were interested in that lease. That statement has been denied by Judge Maguire and all the other officials since, and there does not appear to be a word of truth in it. There was one feature, however, in connection with that lease which the hon. member (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) did not seem to understand—and it was these important features he seemed to leave out all through his speech—and that was that this lease was given from month to month, so that if there was anything wrong in connection with it, it could very easily be cancelled. Surely, if the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) had thought of that, he would not have gone the length he did. I maintain that when the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) makes the charge that certain gentlemen were advantageously interested in the outcome of this lease, the hon. gentleman should have been able to place some authentic statement before the House, or he should have refrained altogether from making the charge. It must be painful to the country, and painful to hon. members of this House, to find a gentleman make such a charge without any authentic information, and which charge has been denied by Judge Maguire and every other official who sent replies to the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). Indeed, Sir, the hon. member for Pictou did not seem to understand what he was talking about. Gentlemen opposite have read us a great many extracts from newspapers and from letters written by men who will not give their names. In my business experience I get a great many letters from time to time, and if I receive a long letter, the first thing I do is to look at the signature. If the writer is a man I do not think very much of, I do not waste much time in considering his letter, and I think, Sir, the business men of this House will be inclined to follow my example, and to pay very little attention to any letter read here without name or without authority. Now, Sir, I will read to the House something that was written a very short time ago in regard to the Yukon by a gentleman whose

name I am not afraid to give. It will show that there can be extracts read which place a very different light on the transaction in Dawson from that which is derived from anonymous letters read by gentlemen on the other side. This extract which I shall read is dated the 26th February, 1899, only a short time ago, and it is written by H. T. Willis, manager of the Bank of Commerce at Dawson City. I believe Mr. Willis is a very strong Conservative—I do not think any the worse of him for that, because even some of the strongest Conservatives have sometimes very redeeming qualities, and therefore I like to quote a Conservative authority, especially when he has those redeeming qualities. Mr. Willis says:

We have had several stampedes here this winter. In some cases the stampede was caused by alleged discoveries on new creeks, and in some cases by alleged irregularities in staking some of the creeks now being worked. In the first case the mob usually returned cursing somebody for "selling" them, and in the second case the returning mob rushes to the Gold Commissioners and try to jump all sort of innocent persons' claims, and when they find they can't, amuse themselves cursing the Canadian Government and its officials. There has been a great deal of howl here about corruption, &c., of Canadian officials, and an investigation is now going on but it is almost certain to end in nothing. They may find that some clerks have accepted money for working after hours, or that some door-keeper has accepted a bribe to let some one past him out of turn. In most of these cases the officials are not here, having been removed long since. But they can make no successful attack on the honesty of the Gold Commissioner; he may have erred in judgment sometimes, but that is all that can be said.

Now, it seems to me that this bears evidence of giving the true state of affairs in the Yukon. Mr. Willis does not pretend to say that nothing wrong has happened; he does not pretend to say that some man may not have fallen and taken perhaps a little bribe that he should not have taken; but he declares positively that no successful charge can be brought home against the officials in the Yukon. A letter of that kind, written by a man occupying that responsible position, and a Conservative to boot, is worth more than a bushel of those anonymous letters that have been read to the House by hon. gentlemen opposite.

I desire also to mention a matter of very great importance in connection with this Yukon question. An investigation has been going on there for some considerable time under Mr. Ogilvie. Gentlemen opposite seem to say now that Mr. Ogilvie is not a fit man to carry on that investigation. But they must have got some new light lately on that score. Sir, if there is one official in this whole Dominion whom the people of this country ought to be proud of, it is this man who spent years and years in that far-off Yukon, and who was able to come out with a character and a record above reproach. So far as the evidence goes, and so far as I know Mr.

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Ogilvie, he appears to be in every sense of the word a thoroughly incorruptible man. I have had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Ogilvie lecture, and you have only to see him to recognize his noble character. His fine unassuming manner, his large head, and his capacious brow, causes you to realize at once that Mr. Ogilvie is well qualified to fill the position he now holds. Not one word can be said against the character of William Ogilvie not one word can be said against his ability, and I for one believe that he is capable of carrying on the investigation confided to his charge. Over and above all that, there would be no sense in sending a man to the Yukon to investigate charges who has not the confidence of all classes there, and Mr. Ogilvie has the confidence of miners and all alike. Some say that a lawyer should have been appointed. For my part, I do not wish to say anything against the lawyers, but lawyers, to my mind, are too roundabout in trying to find out the truth about any matter. What you want there is a man of good hard common sense, a man with a practical knowledge of the country, and Mr. Ogilvie is that man. His appointment is better than the appointment of any lawyer. A lawyer's time is too often taken up trying to make the worst appear the better cause; trying to do the best for his client even though he knows he is guilty. I say that a man like Mr. Ogilvie is capable of conducting an investigation of that kind better than any lawyer, for Mr. Ogilvie is a man whom he can trust to find out the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. The appointment of Mr. Ogilvie by this Government was a judicious one and it commanded the confidence of all parties. Now, Sir, the point I wish to make is this: That while Mr. Ogilvie was collecting the evidence under his commission while he was acting in the interests of the country and while he was investigating the charges, the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) might well have stayed his hand until the report was sent in, and then if that report was unsatisfactory, he could have come forward with his charges. But, in the very middle of that investigation, the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) throws into the arena a large number of anonymous letters. That very action of his is calculated to cast discredit on that commission, and calculated to impede it in its task of ascertaining the truth. The hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), in my opinion, would have shown more discretion had he waited for Mr. Ogilvie to report—and then made his complaint to the House if he thought the investigation was not satisfactory. While Mr. Ogilvie was collecting evidence and endeavouring to ascertain whether there was any truth in these charges or not. I maintain that it was imprudent on his part to come forward with that long list of an-

onymous charges, and deal with them in the way he did. He was asked by the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) to supply Mr. Ogilvie with any evidence he had in his possession, so that it might be investigated; but he did not want to do that; he knew a thing worth two of that. He seemed more anxious to bring a charge of corruption against the Government than to remove a stain from the fair fame of Canada. Therefore, I consider that the hon. member for Pictou was premature, to say the least, in bringing his charges forward.

Now, it is not my intention to take up the time of this House to any considerable extent, because I am convinced that the reply that was made by the Minister of the Interior was a satisfactory one to the people at large. That reply is now on record; it has been printed in the public press and is in "Hansard," and those who wish to look into it can do so; and if I were to go into the subject in detail, I would be simply to a large extent repeating the statements already made by the hon. Minister of the Interior. There is one point, however, which I wish to make clear. That is, that I will not stand in my place in Parliament and support any Government that desires to shield corrupt acts on the part of any officials of this country. So far as I am concerned, so far as the Liberal party are concerned, we are prepared to punish wrong-doing on the part of any official. Therefore, when the report of the investigation now going on is made, if it appears that that investigation has not been a complete or satisfactory one, or that the charges have not been fully investigated, I for one would have no hesitation in supporting any effort made by any member of Parliament to secure a further investigation, if necessary. But until we hear from Mr. Ogilvie, I consider that we should not take any further action in relation to the appointment of any tribunal for the purpose of investigating these charges. Let the commission which has already been called into existence by the Government, and which is now at work, complete its work and report before we take any further action. As I said before, the Government are not responsible for any improper conduct on the part of any official, so long as they do not retain the official in office after their attention has been called to the fact. Therefore, I have no hesitation in asking this House and the country to say that the Government of the day have acted promptly in connection with this matter. The Miners' Association made their charges, I think, under the date of the 25th of August, and when their petition came to the city of Ottawa and was placed in the hands of the Government, no delay took place in attending to it. Immediate action was taken. The charges, I believe, were not received until October, and some two or three days afterwards, on the 5th of October, action was taken by the Government, and the commis-

sion was issued. Could any Government do more than that? That commission was not received by Mr. Ogilvie, I believe, until the month of January; but the moment he received it, he issued a proclamation, announcing the power which had been placed in his hands, and calling upon any one who had complaints to make to come forward and make them. A very short time has elapsed since that commission commenced its work. Whether it has completed it or not, I do not know; but I think the proper policy for this House is to wait until we get all the facts before we institute any other investigation. In taking that course, I believe we shall be doing what is satisfactory to the people of this country. And let it be understood that so far as the Liberal Government and the Liberal party are concerned, they will not shield any corrupt official, either in Ottawa, in the Yukon, or in any other part of Canada. For these reasons I have great pleasure in moving in amendment to the amendment, seconded by Mr. Bourassa:

That all the words after "His Excellency the Governor General" in the amendment be left out, and the following words inserted instead thereof:—

"That we have observed with pleasure that on receipt of complaints against some of the officials in the Yukon district, His Excellency's Government took prompt action to inquire into the matter of such complaints by appointing Mr. William Ogilvie as a commissioner for that purpose. Having entire confidence in the integrity and ability of Mr. Ogilvie, we are satisfied that his inquiry will be impartial and thorough, and that it will place His Excellency's advisers in possession of all the information necessary to enable them to do justice to all parties concerned."

Mr. A. C. BELL (Pictou). Mr. Speaker, I presume I may sympathize to a certain extent with the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), who has preceded me, in view of the fact that both he and I suffer in the limitation of the subjects on which we may address this House. At the same time, of course, just as he has done, I must submit to the regulations of the House, and confine myself to the matter of the Yukon charges which have been made by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). I was rather surprised that my hon. friend from Centre Toronto, after laying down what seemed to me to be a very excellent proposition, regarded in the abstract, that no person should make any charge in this House which he was unable to sustain, and that no person in this House should speak against any one who was absent, did not abide very closely by that excellent precept. He devoted himself with a great deal of diligence to a very elaborate and vigorous attack on my hon. colleague, who was not present to hear that attack or reply to it. Now, I will devote my attention for a few moments to a few aspects of this matter, as far as my hon. colleague is concerned.

The fact is, I believe, as stated in the course of the interruption by my hon. leader (Sir Charles Tupper), that my hon. friend from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) had not intended at all to make, in any extended form, charges against the Government, or any member of it, or against the Yukon officials, when he addressed this House. He was approaching the closing passages of his speech just about six o'clock, when, in a conversation across the floor, he asked: Are we to go on? And the right hon. leader of the Government said, yes. That, I understand, involved a complete change of the arrangement made between the leader of the Government and the leader of the Opposition, under which the House was to be adjourned at six o'clock. It was very near six o'clock, and quite evident that the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) could not before recess do more than make a merely passing reference to the Yukon matter and then close his speech; but being, in a measure, compelled to go on by this change of the arrangement, he had to pass to a consideration of these matters that have since been spoken of as the Yukon charges. Here is the language of my hon. friend from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) a few minutes before six o'clock:

There are other matters to which I would refer. I had intended to perform what I considered a solemn duty. If we are to continue, I will go further into a subject that I consider is necessary to be dealt—

That was the language of my hon. friend up to the point when he took up the consideration of the Yukon question, and, therefore, the attack made by the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) on the hon. member for Pictou on this point falls completely to the ground. I regret that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bertram) did not abide by what seems to me a very excellent precept, and abstain from attacking the hon. member for Pictou vigorously and repeatedly, as he did, because he recurred to this subject time and again. It is evident by the course followed by the hon. member for Toronto (Mr. Bertram, and that followed by the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), that a very important and material point in the defence of the Minister of the Interior to be made by the Liberal party is to try and create the impression in the minds of the people that the hon. member for Pictou exceeded the privileges of Parliament, and violated a rule of Parliament, by making charges in this House which he could not substantiate. In view of the fact that my hon. colleague considered he had a solemn duty to perform in bringing to the notice of the people the condition of affairs in the Yukon, which he believed to be discreditable to Canada, and that he was compelled by the clamour of hon. gentlemen opposite to specify charges, that is an extraordinary proposition to come from them. My hon. friend did not, in the course of his speech, at all introduce any of

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the evidence he held in his hand; but, at the beginning of his remarks upon the Yukon question, hon. members opposite, and some members of the Government among them, continued to insist on his making specific charges; and, while the hon. member for Pictou did not endeavour to conceal the fact that in the charges he might lay before the House, he would be handicapped to this extent that he was unable to give the names, and while he made that statement early in the course of his speech, still he was compelled, in carrying out the duty he had undertaken, to go on and read the specific charges that had come to his knowledge. I suppose that we may regard the attitude of the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) as representing that of the Liberal party throughout Canada on this question. It is evident from his speech that he is not only perfectly prepared to disbelieve everything that has been said here in the nature of a charge against the Yukon administration of the Government, but is prepared to hold the Government absolutely guiltless, and all its officials. And it is very evident that if the Liberal party of Canada approach the consideration of the subject in the frame of mind in which the hon. member for Toronto dealt with it to-night, it will be very difficult for anybody in this country—Mr. Ogilvie, or anybody else who is charged to investigate—to satisfy the Liberal party or its supporters, if he does not find a verdict of acquittal for the Government and its officials. The hon. member for Toronto told us to-night that he would not be in favour of a judicial commission, unless and until a decision is rendered by the commissioner now holding an inquiry. That is precisely the point upon which the Conservative party in this House, and, I think, a large number of people outside, differ with the hon. gentleman. It is held by them that a sufficient case has been made out to show the importance of having the good name of the administration of the Government in the Yukon cleared from the charges made against it, not in this House alone, but all over Canada and the civilized world. I do not think that the hon. member for Pictou started out at all with the assumption that everything was wrong, or that any member of the Government was guilty, but that, from the tremendous amount of publicity which has been given, not only in Canada, but throughout the world, to charges which reflected severely against the good name of Canada, it was absolutely necessary that a judicial investigation should be held. We know that one of the things upon which Great Britain, our mother country, upon which the people of our race, pride themselves, is their impartial administration of justice and the absolute fairness of their officials, no matter under what circumstances. But the facts of the case with which we are dealing now, show that, whether rightly or wrongly, the impression prevails in Canada, and a consid-

erable part of the world outside, that these officials who represent the Canadian Government in the Yukon, have been guilty of gross acts of mal-administration. I am sure that for a number of months past no one could take up a paper in any part of Canada without coming upon charges of mal-administration, and sometimes something much worse, against the officials who represent Canada in the Yukon. It is not usual to have such charges so widely made, and so thoroughly made. So great an excitement has been created everywhere in the minds of the adventurous by the wonderful reports of the riches of the Yukon, that I am safe in saying, there is not a county of Canada which is not represented in the Yukon.

Now, these men are continually corresponding with their friends at home, and though the efforts of the Postmaster General have failed so far to secure regular transmission of the mails and letters do not reach the outside world from the Yukon as readily as is desirable, still, there is scarcely a part of Canada that is not in more or less direct communication with the Yukon, and in which statements similar to those made here by the hon. member for Pictou have not only appeared in the press but have reached the people direct from men in the Yukon with whom those who remained at home are individually acquainted. More than that, these men who have been to the Yukon are beginning to return, and almost everywhere in Canada you will find men who have been to the Yukon, and are heroes in the neighbourhood, receiving much attention and much sought after, who tell their experience with great zest and gusto. I have had in my own neighbourhood, during the winter, a returned Klondike miner who had been successful and was spending the winter at home. He was continually moving about the county, and must have talked with thousands of people in the course of the winter. Whether or not the hon. member for Centre Toronto is right in believing that there is no wrongdoing among Government officials in the Yukon, certain it is the man to whom I refer—and he could not be actuated by dislike of the Government because he is a supporter of theirs—mentioned, as a matter of course not at all out of the way, that the delivery of the mail was not regularly made, that men had to stand for hours outside of the post office waiting for letters, and that there was equal delay in having claims recorded or in securing information as to where claims were that were not recorded. He said that those who did not know any better stood about and waited, while those who had more experience simply passed a sum of money—five dollars, I think, was the sum he mentioned—into the hands of some go-between, usually of the fair sex, I believe, and that open sesame unlocked the private door of the post office or the recording office, and thus the wise man, the man who knew the ropes, instead of being delayed by wait-

ing for official routine, solved the difficulty by a solatium or placebo, which must have found its way into the hands of some official, because it brought about the desired result. These facts, it seems to me are indisputable, because I feel sure that every hon. member of this House must have some constituents at home who could tell the same story. And, in view of these facts, it will be apparent, that it was the duty of the hon. member for Pictou or some other hon. member to bring this matter before the attention of the House. Therefore, it seems to me, that the attack which is thought to be made against the hon. member for Pictou and the suggestion that he did something beyond his rights or something improper falls to the ground. He did his duty and did it, as he usually does, in a very able manner. I was sorry the hon. member for Centre Toronto after, as I said, laying down an excellent precept for his own guidance, should accuse my hon. friend and colleague (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) of cowardice in making his charges at the time he did when he was about to leave the House and with the hope that he would escape a reply. It is evident that the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) does not know the hon. member for Pictou very well, or he would not make that statement. That hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) may have a great many defects, as we know he has a great many good qualities; but I think, as a rule, his make up physically and mentally is that of the strong man, not that of the weak man or coward. Nothing would induce me to believe that the hon. member would be moved by consideration of safety to himself or security from attack to be guilty of a cowardly evasion of reply in making his statements at the time he did. I have shown that he was compelled, in a measure, to select that particular time. I am sure that while he did make his attack in an open and bold manner and at such great length as to give it the importance that was due to it, he did nothing but what he felt it was his duty to do.

I think I might as well first deal with the speech of the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), and, perhaps, the best way is to go through it backwards and take up the latest statements first. The hon. gentleman is perfectly satisfied, and I suppose in this he reflects the opinion of the Government and his party, with Mr. Ogilvie, the commissioner, as the investigator of these charges. He is satisfied that Mr. Ogilvie enjoys the confidence of every man in the Yukon. I would like to know how the hon. member who is so difficult to persuade in some matters is so easy to persuade in others. How did he arrive at this conclusion as to Mr. Ogilvie's qualifications and as to the respect in which he is supposed to be held by the people of the Yukon. The hon. gentleman got it from the press, or in conversation with people who are supposed to

know, or he must have some innate ideas with respect to Mr. Ogilvie. I think we may assume that he has no preconceived or intuitive knowledge of Mr. Ogilvie, and so, he must rely for his information simply on rumour, conversation with others or the press reports. If he is prepared to believe everything good of Mr. Ogilvie because he finds it in the press, he might as well believe statements that come from the Yukon. They are in the press, too, and they are backed by precisely the same testimony, and if it is possible for him to arrive at that knowledge on the basis of information given by the press, and I think that as a logical and reasonable man, he will admit at once that we on this side of the House have exactly the same evidence, but in a much stronger measure, to believe that grave irregularities have existed in the Yukon, so grave as to be detrimental to the good name of Canada, and that an investigation of the whole question should be made. Now, the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) is satisfied with Mr. Ogilvie, apparently, because he concludes that Mr. Ogilvie is a man of common sense. I am not at all prepared to, nor do I desire to dispute the statement. From the statement of the hon. member for Centre Toronto and the excellent opinion of Mr. Ogilvie that seems to prevail, I am prepared to admit that he is a man of common sense. But does that fit him for the position of head of a judicial inquiry? If the hon. member had a legal difficulty to deal with or wished to have a case decided in which he had large interests involved, would he be willing to pass by a man of legal training for a man whom he believed to be a man of common sense? I am sure he would not entrust to a man the drafting of the lines of a vessel or the constructing of a vessel on the ground that he was a man of common sense. He would, I imagine, and I am sure from the success that attends him in his business, follow a very different rule. He secures a man who has a special training, a special knowledge and fitness to do the work. Now that being the case, it seems to me that the commissioner the Government has sent to the Yukon to investigate these charges cannot be held to be the best man simply because we believe him to have common sense. It seems to me the other view of the matter should be taken, the view that some man of judicial training, and more than that, some man of judicial standing, some man holding some position in the judiciary of the country which entitles him to the respect, to the esteem and to the confidence of the country, is the man who should be selected for that purpose. Therefore, instead of agreeing with the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), I am rather inclined to agree with the other view, I am inclined to agree with those who suggest that the commissioner appointed is not the best man, that his decision is not certain to be a right de-

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cision, and I question if it will command that assent of the people of Canada which his decision should command when it is secured.

But there is another matter. If there is one point more than another upon which the Minister of the Interior laid great stress in the course of his speech, it was that the administration of the Yukon was rather a difficult undertaking, that there was a tremendous lot of difficult work to do, and that it required a great deal of ability and a great deal of energy to carry that on. Now, after the Minister of the Interior had decided to send Mr. Ogilvie back to the Yukon as commissioner, and had entrusted him with the administration of that district, I would almost suppose from the speech of the Minister of the Interior that he had imposed upon Mr. Ogilvie as much as that gentleman, even with reasonably good faculties and strong common sense, would be able to attend to. Therefore, it strikes me that in imposing in addition to those duties upon Mr. Ogilvie the task of carrying on a judicial investigation involving, I would imagine, a considerable length of time, close application, and certainly sufficient attention to elicit evidence, and cross-examine witnesses, and to get at material facts, he is imposing upon Mr. Ogilvie a task which should hardly be imposed upon him, in addition to the administration of the great Yukon district. But the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) did not touch upon one point which has been insisted upon from this side of the House, and that is that in this case the Minister of the Interior chose to represent himself as being put upon trial, and chose to look upon the charges made by the member for Pictou as a personal attack upon himself, and he laid great stress upon that. The investigation with which he has charged Mr. Ogilvie is to be made by one who is his subordinate, who is an employee of his department, and who, furthermore, I am told, is a relative of his, a connection at least. It is not, of course, for us on this side of the House to question the uprightness or the honesty of Mr. Ogilvie. I do not think we should do that. But I do not think that it is according to the practice in business matters or in legal matters, so far as can be avoided, to allow any person who is under a charge to come into a court which is presided over by any one over whom he has influence or upon whom he has any claim through relationship. Therefore, it seems to me that the selection of Mr. Ogilvie in this matter is not as good as it might be. But these matters are of detail. The great question for this House to consider, if they are going to devote themselves carefully to a consideration of the question that has been submitted to them by the amendment moved by the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke), is as to whether there were really good grounds for the charge that has been made by the hon. member for Pictou reflecting upon the

Government management of the Yukon, or, perhaps, to be more specific, upon the conduct of some officials in the Yukon. I cannot help thinking that to a certain extent the manner in which the Minister of the Interior very ingeniously laid great stress upon the fact that an attack was being made upon the Government, that an attack was being made upon himself by my colleague, the member for Pictou, was a ruse that was intended to a certain extent to divert attention, that he desired to put the matter in a position in which he might better repel that attack; it was in effect a very artful and skilful selection of the ground upon which he would fight in his defence. Well, it will not do to tell the House that the speech in reply of the Minister of the Interior was perfectly satisfactory to the House, satisfactory to the country, and was a conclusive answer to the speech of my hon. colleague. I cannot altogether agree in that contention. As I have said already, I think, to a large extent, any measure of success which that speech did secure was owing to the skilful manner in which the Minister of the Interior managed his defence, the skilful manner in which he took the position from which he would undertake to repel attack. Because, if we look back upon that speech, it will be found that the manner in which the Minister of the Interior proceeded to reply to the speech of my hon. colleague was one that is not so conclusive when you come to look at it closely, and look at all its arguments seriatim, as it might be. It was a very long speech, a very elaborate speech; but after all, to my mind, it was not a conclusive speech. What was the course followed by the Minister of the Interior? He began his defence by maintaining a great many points which, to my mind, were not in issue. He started out by defending the appointment of every one of his officials. He defended the appointment of the first Gold Commissioner on the ground that he was a surveyor, selected on the advice of the Surveyor General of his department. Then he fortified himself by saying that not only he, but Major Walsh, Mr. Ogilvie, and almost every other one of his appointments, had had in some way or other, at some time or another, received the approval of some person or of some newspaper; and if the Minister of the Interior was fortunate enough to find that some Conservatives, or some Conservative organ, had said one word in favour of any of these appointments, he proceeded to read that evidence, and to leave that point as if he had conclusively demonstrated the fact that that appointment was the most perfect that could be made. If he could secure any relative or connection of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) to say one word in favour of any of the appointments which he had made, he seemed to feel that in that case his defence was perfect indeed. For instance, my hon. col-

league has a brother in Winnipeg, a barrister there. The appointment of Mr. Wade was one of those to which the hon. member for Pictou particularly adverted as being an improper appointment. Did the Minister of the Interior establish the fact at all that it was a proper appointment, that it was a good selection? A great deal has been said against the appointment of Mr. Wade, a great deal has been said against his conduct since his appointment; in fact, a great many statements made by the member for Pictou reflected upon Mr. Wade. Now, what is the reply of the Minister of the Interior to all these charges? Did he produce any evidence to show that Mr. Wade was not guilty? Did he set up any probability in any way that he was not guilty? He did not. His whole defence in that case, if you examine it, although it occupied considerable time in its delivery, lay in the fact that the hon. member for Pictou had a brother in Winnipeg who, upon one occasion, wrote a letter in which he favoured a young barrister in Winnipeg named Wade, whom the Minister of the Interior assured us was the same person. Now, it is a pleasing thing for us on this side of the House to see our leader held in high esteem. It is satisfactory to learn that his authority is great on the Government side of the House, that they respect his opinion and value it; and it is still more complimentary to find that the reflected light of our honoured leader is sufficient to bring joy and gladness, in a sense, to gentlemen on the Government side of the House; and when we find that they not only highly respect his opinion, but look upon a casual utterance of his son as a sufficient vindication of the appointment of a man whose conduct was in question, whose conduct in the Yukon had been held up as improper and wrong, we must feel very much pleased indeed. And we must think for a moment that it involved a very contradictory estimate of the hon. leader of the Opposition. The hon. gentleman in the opening passages of his speech, did not speak in a complimentary manner of the leader of the Opposition. He had rather spoken in an uncomplimentary way, but in the high esteem in which the hon. leader of the Opposition is held by this House, in the authority, the weight and the virtue of the name of the hon. leader of the Opposition, the hon. Minister of the Interior found an absolute and complete vindication for an appointment to the Yukon that had been called in question, in the fact, that the son of the hon. leader of the Opposition had, upon one occasion, come to the rescue of a gentleman when he was attacked in the press of Winnipeg and had said some complimentary things about him. While a great deal of the speech of the hon. Minister of the Interior was exceedingly ingenuous and well arranged, hon. gentlemen will find that he takes up each one of these cases, and instead of disproving, or setting up any presumption

that the charges have not been made out, the defence rests upon the fact that he is enabled in some way or other, to get a Conservative paper, or an individual, who has said some good word in favour of the appointments he has made. That surely is not a sufficient defence, and it strikes me that he carried it almost to an extreme. I do not think that ordinarily the hon. Minister of the Interior is held up as a man of extreme modesty; I think he is usually regarded as a man with a fair opinion of himself, but his self-abnegation on this occasion was extraordinary. Sometimes he seemed to obliterate himself; he did not seem to have taken any active measures in these appointments to the Yukon. He claimed to have been guided by the authority of the Surveyor General or of the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), who recommended one person, or the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), who recommended another person. In every case in which he made appointments he did not seem to have made them upon his own knowledge of the individuals, but upon a favourable opinion expressed by some other person. The fact of the matter is that the hon. Minister of the Interior, so far as that portion of his speech can be regarded as an argument, proves that he had very little, if anything, to do with the appointment of men to the staff of the Yukon. When you reflect upon the conduct of the Minister of the Interior, you will see why he did not make good appointments. He says that he came into office about the end of the year. He did not take hold of the work of his office until some time early in the following year. He had come here, from Manitoba, where he had been practising his profession and taking part in the politics of that province. He came into what is admittedly one of the most important and difficult departments in Ottawa, without much knowledge of its requirements, and his first act was to dismiss an experienced deputy, a man admittedly of very great ability, and he filled his place with an inexperienced gentleman from the neighbourhood from which he had come. The hon. Minister came into the department without experience, and dismissed a man who had experience, who might have helped him to make these appointments well. The hon. Minister of the Interior did something more than that; he did a very extraordinary thing when he went away from his office out to the Pacific coast, and went to the Yukon, as far as he could, separating himself, entirely, from his officials in Ottawa, where he was not in a position to direct the operations of his department; where he might have acquired some experience and knowledge in the matter of packing supplies across the pass at the head of the Lynn Canal, but where he could not keep in touch with his department or direct its affairs. That was not the course to have been pursued by the person responsible for the administration of that department, or by the person responsible for governing this

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provisional district. I should rather think that it would have been more prudent had he remained in his office where he could have kept in touch with his department. The hon. Minister very frankly proceeded to say to the House that instead of learning anything of any value upon that occasion, the only fact which he seemed to have learned was one in which he made a very grave mistake, and that some of the disgrace of the Yukon administration arose from the fact that he did not only learn nothing, but that he had learned something that was incorrect. A considerable part of the hon. gentleman's speech was taken up with explaining why adequate arrangements had not been made at Dawson to provide for the business and the population which proceeded to Dawson in 1898. He explained that from what he learned in the course of the time that he spent on the Yukon River and between that and Dyea, he made up his mind that the miners he met on the Pass and on the river were not going to Dawson. It seems that the hon. gentleman was entirely wrong. He not only learned nothing that was of any value, but he formed an erroneous impression. Instead of remaining in charge of his department he committed the grave blunder as the head official of that department, and that blunder led to another one. He formed an opinion that was entirely erroneous, that these miners were not going to Dawson, but were going to spread themselves over the country. According to the statement made by him, they made no provision for receiving these miners in Dawson. He instructed Major Walsh, instead of going to Dawson, which was to be the seat of government in that district, to remain at a point on the Yukon River where his whole duties were to assist such passengers as required assistance. So far as the defence of the hon. Minister of the Interior goes, it goes to show that instead of assuming responsibility for the appointments made, these appointments were made in the most extraordinary fashion on some favourable opinion, expressed at some time or other and preferably by his opponents; that he went away from his office when he should have remained there, that his observation was so bad that he formed an erroneous impression, the result of which impression was a very grave blunder. Having justified all these official appointments in this fashion, he proceeded to endeavour to repudiate some of the charges made by my hon. colleague the hon. member for Pictou.

In these rebuttals he showed the same amount of mistaken and unjustifiable ingenuity as he did in that part of his speech where he defended these appointments. Take the charge made by Sir Charles Herbert Tupper, which has not been disproved, and which the Minister of the Interior, at the end, himself contributed to prove. That was a charge "that \$500 had been paid to a barrister in Vancouver, or Victoria, for securing by letter and telegram from the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) a permit

for the taking of liquor into the Yukon district." Did the Minister (Mr. Sifton), in dealing with that subject, refer to that particular telegram which he must have, and did have, in his knowledge all the time he was making his speech? At first, no. He spent a great deal of the time of this House, and in the most dramatic fashion led up to the revelation of a fact that did not bear on the matter at all, and he said that the telegram was sent to him by the partner of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). He knew that could not have been the telegram that was referred to, because, after entering into a great deal of detail, he said that no permit was sent in reply to that telegram. He managed with a great deal of ingenuity, by wading through the files of his department and other departments, to discover another telegram which had been sent, but that telegram also could not have been the particular telegram referred to, because in reply to it no permit had been sent. The Minister (Mr. Sifton) spent all that time in trying to create the impression that those who were the most active in applying for liquor permits were Conservative barristers, and more particularly Conservative barristers in some way associated with the hon. member for Pictou. Having ingeniously created an impression of that kind in some quarters, he eventually discovered the particular telegram in question. He then had no difficulty in remembering the case of Mr. Archer Martin, who had telegraphed and written to him, and in reply to whose telegram and letter he (Mr. Sifton) had sent a permit.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). He did not. The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) emphatically denied that statement, and gave a statement the exact opposite of what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bell) has said.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Not at all. The statement is in the Minister's (Mr. Sifton) speech.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I challenge him to produce that statement.

Mr. BELL. I shall have much pleasure in doing so.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I challenge him to produce a statement of the Minister of the Interior, that he sent a permit to Mr. Archer Martin.

Mr. BELL. He sent a telegram to Mr. Martin, which had the effect of a permit, and which was a permit in fact. I am pleased indeed that the Minister (Sir Louis Davies) has given me an opportunity to show this. I was not prepared to think that the Minister of Marine would make this particular defence.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am not making a defence at all.

I say, that the statement made by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bell), and which he puts in the mouth of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), is not correct.

Mr. BELL. The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) was, as usual, much more cautious, and much more judicial, and much more ingenious, in his treatment of the subject, than is the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. The Minister of the Interior relied for his defence upon the quibble that he did not send a permit, but that he had sent a telegram.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. And you stated that the Minister of the Interior said he sent a permit.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The telegram was a permit for the liquor to go in.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No.

Mr. BELL. Yes; it was a permit in every sense of the word. The quibble of the Minister of the Interior was, that he had not sent a permit from here; the permit was sent from the North-west Territories.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bell) is trying to evade—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Having made a deliberate statement, which I contradicted, the hon. gentleman is trying to evade—

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I rise to a question of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) has challenged the statement made by my hon. friend from Pictou (Mr. Bell). My hon. friend (Mr. Bell) is going to read from "Hansard" to prove what the Minister of the Interior said, but the Minister of Marine now wants to interrupt him and make a speech.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) is trying to help his friend out, seeing that he has got himself into a difficulty.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. You are in the difficulty.

Mr. BELL. The hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) has stated that the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) denied having sent a permit.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bell) stated that the Minister of the Interior had sent a permit, and I challenged him to prove that.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. So it will be proven. My hon. friend (Mr. Bell) will prove it from the speech of the Minister of the Interior.

Mr. BELL. Here is what the Minister of the Interior said, and we will see how it compares with the contradiction of the Minister of Marine.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). On what page of "Hansard" is that?

Mr. BELL. On page 675. Here is what the Minister of the Interior said :

On the subject of telegrams, to revert to that interesting subject, if the hon. member for Pictou was not referring to the Prime Minister of British Columbia or to his partner, perhaps he was referring to Mr. Archer Martin, now Mr. Justice Martin. Mr. Archer Martin, then a Liberal lawyer in Victoria, telegraphed to me on the 8th of July :

"Pither & Leiser, leading firm liquor merchants here, were granted permit from Regina, May 21st, to import 2,000 gallons into Yukon, and forwarded goods charge responsible employee. Messenger just arrived from north that goods stopped by Major Steele at Lake Bennett under your instructions of May 10th and June 3rd, presumably because of conflict between Governments."

It was not in consequence of any conflict between Governments, because the first letter was written when we had not any information. The letter was written giving the information, and adding to the list as soon as we got the information.

"Public here understood this matter had been amicably arranged, and that Regina permits now recognized by you. Parties interested very responsible merchants and good standing. Stoppage working great hardship and heavy loss. Would respectfully urge you wire immediate instructions Steele my care allowing permit recognition, so that messenger return by steamer sailing probably to-morrow, and party proceed without further delay and loss.

ARCHER MARTIN."

I wired this reply :

"Archer Martin, Victoria, B.C.

This telegram will be authority to Major Steele to recognize permit to Pither & Leiser issued by North-west Government to take into Yukon 2,000 gallons of liquor."

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. A telegram recognizing a permit granted by the North-west Territories.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Exactly.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. What had the Minister of the Interior to do with that? He never sent a permit.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Of course, he did.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) never gave a permit, or never authorized a permit.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. He did, in so many words. Read the telegram again.

Mr. BELL. The Minister of the Interior said :

Mr. BELL (Pictou).

I wired this reply :

"Archer Martin, Victoria, B.C.

This telegram will be authority to Major Steele to recognize permit to Pither & Leiser issued by North-west Government to take into Yukon 2,000 gallons of liquor."

Mr. TAYLOR. What has the Minister of Marine to say to that?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Read what the Minister of the Interior said after that. Immediately afterwards the Minister of the Interior stated :

These were not issued by me, but issued against my wishes—issued by the North-west Government in connection with the Yukon—2,000 gallons of liquor. That, therefore, is the complete story of the liquor question.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. That does not touch the question at issue at all.

Mr. BELL. I will read the telegram again. It is :

This telegram will be authority to Major Steele to recognize permit to Pither & Leiser issued by North-west Government to take into Yukon 2,000 gallons of liquor."

Mr. BERGERON. What has the Minister of Marine to say to that?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The law recognized that.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I beg your pardon.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The Minister of the Interior stopped it at first, and then gave the permit to let it go through.

Mr. BELL. The Minister of the Interior quibbled on the point, that he did not issue the permit, but that the Regina Government did; but the Minister of Marine quibbles on the point, that the permit was not a written instrument, but was a telegram. Why, the telegram made the permit effectual.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bell) will permit me to say, that the permit was issued by the North-west Territories, in pursuance of their local powers under the statutes. It was issued against the wishes of the Minister of the Interior. The Minister of the Interior had no legal power to contravene that permit, or allow it to be used to take liquor in or to stop it.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. But he had stopped it. He says himself that he had stopped it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. His officers having attempted to stop it, he wired them that he had no power to stop it.

Mr. SPROULE. The Minister of Justice said he had authority.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). We had better leave the hon. Minister of Marine, because he is evidently getting deeper and deeper in the mire.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. You should withdraw the statement you made.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). I should be very sorry to make any statement that was inaccurate.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Oh, my goodness!

Mr. BELL (Pictou). It was absolutely correct, I think. There is another point I would like to refer to. The hon. gentleman said the Minister of the Interior had not authority to prevent the issue of the permit. What did the Minister of Justice say? In the speech of the hon. Minister of the Interior occurs the statement that the Minister of Justice had advised him that he could cancel these permits.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Up to what date?

Mr. BELL (Pictou). The Minister of Marine and Fisheries wants to know at what date. At the date the Minister of the Interior learned for the first time that the Government at Regina was issuing permits—as soon as he knew they were issued. I do not know that it was correct, but that certainly was stated in the House by the Minister of the Interior. He then proceeded to make these permits good by telegraphing a list of them to the officers in charge of the different posts on the Yukon and in the passes. Subsequently some additional permits were issued, and one of these unquestionably is the one referred to in this telegram. The Minister of the Interior authorized the permits issued by the Government of Regina, and these were being recognized by the officers. Then application comes for another for 2,000 gallons, not included in the list issued to the officers of the different posts; and, in response to an application from Mr. Archer Martin, he makes that good, whereas before it was worth no more than a piece of waste paper. I did not lay much stress on this point, because I did not imagine for a moment that any person would deny the statement. What I was pointing out was the ingenious manner in which the Minister of the Interior avoided dealing with this permit, and went on to deal with other permits—a permit asked for by Mr. Turner, the ex-Premier of British Columbia, and a permit asked for by Mr. Peters. He dealt with all of these, not one of which could have been a case in point; but at last, I suppose knowing that subsequently, when this matter should be brought up in the House, he would be convicted of conduct which could at least be described as disingenuous, he discovers what he knew all the time, and must have known from the moment he began his speech—the telegram in ques-

tion, and thereby admits the truth of the statement made by the hon. member for Pictou that the permit was obtained from him.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. And yet he declared that neither directly nor indirectly had he given any permit.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. And that it was granted against the wishes of the entire Government.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). His language in first denying it was comprehensive, but his language in admitting it afterwards was equally comprehensive. So much for that speech, which has been lauded as a complete and triumphant vindication. In my opinion the Minister of the Interior proves nothing. He shows a great deal of ingenuity in evading points. He raises numerous points for himself, puts them in the mouths of his opponents, and then proceeds to demolish them. He sets up men of straw, and then proceeds to knock them down; and he spends six hours in this pastime to prove that he is a perfect Jack-the-Giant-Killer. He reads a report made by a correspondent of the "Mining Review," which practically admits the whole charge made by the hon. member for Pictou, which admits that wrong-doing prevailed in the Yukon, that there was irregularity in the delivery of the mails, and that bribes were used to secure the assistance of officials of the Government in getting those facilities which the ordinary administration of the law did not give them. So that this triumphant speech of the Minister of the Interior, instead of vindicating himself and clearing the officials of the Government of all blame, is absolutely worthless as a defence, though it was certainly ingenious. The Minister of the Interior set himself various tasks which did not bear on the question at issue; and having settled things in a very satisfactory manner, he assumes, and his friends assume, that he has completely replied to all the charges. But, fortunately for the contention made on this side of the House, he proceeds to select a report which he accepts as authentic, as made by a perfectly fair-minded man, as presenting a fair view of the situation in the Yukon; and among other points that were accepted by him as being made by that report, are certain obvious defects in the mining laws, want of roads, want of adequate mail service, want of recording officials, and difficulty of recording claims, and of getting to know what claims have been recorded. Now, the point at issue here is not so much whether these irregularities existed or not, because evidence of a peculiar character, perhaps hon. gentlemen would say, but still evidence that bears on that subject, is almost conclusive to any reasonable person. Statements are made all over Canada by persons who have intimate acquaintance with what is going on in the Yukon. The

fact that these statements are repeated in a journal of the authority of the London "Times," by a special commissioner who was sent to inquire into the facts of the case, and that these statements are made by two United States officials, as recited by the hon. member for Pictou, go to make a very strong presumption that wrong-doing exists in the Yukon. In opposition to that, what have we? We have simply the artful, ingenious defence of the hon. Minister of the Interior, in which he seeks to saddle the responsibility for the appointment of every official who went into the country on some other person—on some member of the staff or some Conservative well-wisher; and then he assumes that everything has been done that ought to be done. Because at last a mass meeting has been held in the Yukon, attended, it is said, by some 10,000 persons, and a list of grievances have been sent to the Government, signed by leading citizens of the district, he orders an investigation before Mr. Ogilvie, the commissioner in charge of the district, who, as he has already proved, has more on his hands than any one man can properly deal with. The question for the House and the country is whether this is an adequate investigation or not—whether it is sufficient for the Minister of the Interior to devolve on an official of his department an inquiry into these matters, and whether that is going to be satisfactory to the country or not. It seems to us, on this side of the House, that it is not doing justice to the Government and the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), if he chooses to consider himself personally attacked, to act in this manner. We consider that he should put the case into the hands of a judicial officer, whose decisions will command respect from every one. I do not think it is necessary to go on repeating the arguments or reading newspaper extracts. It is very evident, from what has already been stated in this House, that such extracts could be read, coming from authentic sources and from people of repute and standing, to an almost unlimited extent, but I shall only refer for a moment to one point, regarding which the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has been particularly charged, namely, of having exceeded his rights as a member of this House in going too far. In order to defend themselves, the Government have started a very active propaganda to show if possible that the statements made about Major Walsh by my hon. friend were entirely unwarranted. That remains to be proven. I am sure that no one would regret more than my hon. friend from Pictou saying anything injurious to any one, unless impelled to do it by duty. It is not a pleasant task to make charges, but it must not be forgotten that, to a large extent, that task was imposed on the hon. member for Pictou by the Government and hon. gentleman on that side, who, instead of accepting the evidence brought out first—the letters and interviews of persons in the

Mr. BELL (Pictou).

Yukon, the testimony published in the London "Times," the reports made to the United States Government by two of their officials—insisted continually upon specific charges; and when my hon. friend proceeded to read those specific charges, his great offence and the great justification of the Government was that in that respect he had committed such wrong that it justified everything the Government did or failed to do. I am sure that my hon. colleague (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) had no desire to hurt the feelings of Major Walsh or his family, but I do not think Major Walsh would have escaped censure if my hon. friend had never mentioned his name, because he had been charged in the newspapers and by correspondents and in interviews with having failed as commissioner. It may be true that nothing wrong was done, it may be true that Major Walsh had been a good administrator, but at the same time the hon. member for Pictou is not the only one who has charged him with offences. I have had put into my hands to-night a letter written by one who cannot be charged with partisan prejudices, because he came out in a contest as a Liberal candidate. I refer to Dr. Bonnar. When asked to give his opinion of the administration of affairs in that country by Major Walsh, Dr. Bonnar replied:

A mistake was made in appointing Major Walsh to the important position of commissioner of that country; he had no capacity whatever for the position he occupied. He is a man of very limited ability, but of unlimited conceit. Taken as a whole, he was in every way unfitted for the position he occupied, and it was a fortunate thing for the country, as well as the Government that he resigned from the office he should never have been appointed to fill.

Dr. Bonnar was then asked in what particular Major Walsh failed in the performance of his duties, and he replied:

In the first place, when Major Walsh received the appointment, he was either needed or not needed in Dawson City. That is self-evident. If he was not needed, why should he have been appointed? If needed, he was needed there as soon as he could possibly reach there. But what are the facts? Instead of proceeding with all possible speed to Dawson City, he went as far as Little Salmon and wintered there.

And in this connection we are told by the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) that Major Walsh wintered at Little Salmon because he was instructed by him to remain there, so that the fault does not lie entirely with Major Walsh but with the head of the department, who gave him this instruction.

He was spending his time, drawing his salary and putting the country to a great deal of expense wintering at Little Salmon, when the duties of his office demanded that he should be at Dawson. The excuse that he could not get his party through from Little Salmon to Dawson at that season of the year is a flimsy one, because at that very time women and little children, some under ten years of age, passed out over the trail, and surely what women and children had accomplished the gallant major should not have

feared to attempt. By staying at Little Salmon he showed he was negligent to the duties of the office to which the Government had appointed him. Even after his arrival in Dawson City, he devoted his time in attempting to make himself popular with the common rabble of the new mining city, but even in this he made a failure. He was possessed of no executive ability, and his administration of affairs in the Yukon from start to finish was a dismal failure.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to interrupt him? Is he reading a letter from Dr. Bonnar?

Mr. BELL. It is published as an interview.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. In what paper?

Mr. BELL. The "Morning Telegram," of Winnipeg, Friday, October 22nd.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Even Major Walsh's bitterest enemy, as Dr. Bonnar is, did not accuse him of anything such as was charged against him by the hon. member for Pictou, and what the hon. member is reading is only an interview at that.

Mr. BELL. That is quite true, but there is one passage in the interview in which Dr. Bonnar speaks of Major Walsh as trying to ingratiate himself with the common rabble of the town, and that seems in the line of what my hon. friend was referring to. But I say that the hon. member for Pictou was not altogether to blame when, enforced by the Government and the hon. members opposite to produce his evidence, he did read the statements put into his hands. I am sure that no one more than he would regret saying anything to injure the feeling of any one, but at the same time it is impossible to allow one man, because he occupies a higher or better position, to escape, when attacks are made on his subordinate officials, if it be a matter of common notoriety or repute that he was not acting as he should. While I do not for a moment assume any man to be guilty before he is proved guilty, while I do not for a moment admit that those charges made against Major Walsh or his subordinates are true, and while I maintain that we cannot accept them as true until they are proven, I hold that charges of this character should be investigated in such a manner that it will be competent to every one in Canada to say that they are either true or false. There is one point to which I wish to refer, and that is the point made by the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) that the hon. member for Pictou spoke in ignorance when he said that the officials of the Government in the Yukon were poorly paid. The hon. Minister of the Interior gave us a list of the salaries, and some of them were certainly very satisfactory, but I notice that while it is not charged directly that either Major Walsh or any of the others at the head of the department accepted bribes for the delivery of mail matter or the recording of claims, or the giving out of information, it is charged that their subordinates did. What does the

statement of the hon. Minister as to the salaries show?

You will find a great deal of information, if you read it carefully. It shows that there are clerks in the employ of the Government there who are not paid as much as the cook. Men in responsible positions, who are not paid as much as the servants. Of course, he may be a very good cook, he may be a Paris chef; or these may be very poor clerks. But, so far as the point which the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) endeavoured to make, that my hon. colleague did not have sufficient knowledge is concerned, it falls to the ground, because the Minister of the Interior's figures show that there are clerks in the employ of the Government who do not get as much as the servants. On the whole, it seems to me that the Government, if they are going to act reasonably on this matter, are bound to consider all the charges made, to give those charges due weight, and to hold such an investigation as is demanded by the Opposition in this House, and such as will be sufficient to decide either for or against the guilt or innocence of the officials against whom charges have been made. It is hardly necessary to go into evidence at this time. As I have already suggested, I have evidence, in the form of letters, statements made by persons in the Yukon, either by letters to their friends or in conversation, all of which goes to show that the general charge made is well founded. That, however, I think, the Government does not intend to dispute. I do not think that the Minister of the Interior, in the course of his speech, at any time undertook to say that these charges were not true. He relied for his defence upon the contention that he had appointed the best officials he could get, and that when the charges were made in a form that he could regard as specific and official, by the miners' meeting, he made an investigation. He is not in as good a position as he might be as to the time when that commission commenced their work. These charges were made early last year. They were matters of notoriety from the early portion of last year, and yet we learn from the Minister of the Interior's own statement that it was not until February that the commissioner he had designed to appoint was in a position to commence the investigation. That shows great delay. The Minister accounts for it by saying that he did not rush to Council to secure an appointment. There is no question about that. He did not, apparently, use all the diligence and energy he used in getting up his speech in reply to my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). In four days, after that speech was made, he was prepared with evidence from every part of Canada; he had telegrams from Sandon and Prince Albert; he had ransacked his own department for evidence, and his clerks had gone over the files of letters. The hon. Minister showed no lack of energy in that.

But in investigating these scandals, he did not show as much energy as he might have done. In fact, the Minister seemed to take a long time to learn what was going on. One of the earliest statements made in his speech was that he was not prepared to deal with the great influx of people into that country, because very little was known about it. He said that when he came into office almost nothing was known about it; and there was no one in Ottawa from whom he could get information. I think that the hon. gentleman is mistaken, and that at the time there was in Ottawa a gentleman who had come directly from the Yukon. I refer to Inspector Strickland, who must have been in Ottawa about the 20th July, 1897. The first official who reached the Yukon did not get there until February, 1898, according to the statement of the hon. Minister himself. It took the Minister seven months to get the first official in the Yukon after this news reached Ottawa. The whole Pacific coast was ringing with the news, and in every town in the United States and Canada parties were being organized to go into that country. The Minister of the Interior did not show a great deal of energy or ability in preparing to meet that influx of people. He did not show much energy even when he went out there and became lost to the outside world at Dyea, and I think he displayed a similar lack of energy then, as he himself tells us he was so impressed with the importance of the charges made against the Government on the Yukon that he telegraphed to Mr. Ogilvie, then on his way to the Yukon, to use a free hand. That could only have one meaning, I imagine, and that was that Mr. Ogilvie had power to dismiss officials who were not acting according to what he thought was right. But we find that not until February of this year is Mr. Ogilvie given power as commissioner to hear charges or clear up this scandal which exists, and which to a certain extent, involves the Government. That being the case, the Minister's show of energy in some directions and conspicuous lack of it in others is more significant than the copious flood of denials with which he meets every charge against himself and his officials. I think a significant feature of the speech of the hon. Minister was his failure to meet the charge so clearly brought against him by the hon. member for Pictou when he contrasted his conduct when in Manitoba he employed Pinkerton detectives and used the funds of the Government of Canada to fish for evidence against alleged violators of the election law of that province, and then, when the good name of Canada was at stake, when charges were being made everywhere openly against the officials of this country, he made no effort whatever to get evidence, and, in fact, treated all these stories practically as the invention of the Opposition, and wrote to members of the Opposition in various parts of Canada asking them to formulate charges.

Mr. BELL (Pictou).

The Minister of the Interior showed great ingenuity in the course of his speech as to what he said and what he did not say and no part of it was more judicious than that in which he did not attempt to deal with this charge, that while he was so energetic in hunting down political opponents on the most flimsy charges and using the money of the Dominion to get evidence against them, he made no effort to secure evidence as to whether or not the officials in the Yukon were guilty of the charges made against them.

There is a marked contrast, a very great contrast. The hon. gentleman went far beyond his right, went far beyond what was legal or proper in his conduct in Manitoba. But he certainly fell equally far short of his duty when he, the head of the department whose officials are accused everywhere over the world of wrong-doing, of dishonesty, of accepting bribes, of everything that is un-British, and that, I should hope, is un-Canadian as well, makes no effort to appoint a commission with sufficient authority to hold a satisfactory investigation. Because, as was pointed out, the authority first given to Mr. Ogilvie was not of a judicial character, it did not authorize him to hold a court, it did not authorize him to subpoena witnesses and administer oaths, it did not put in his hands or under his control any of that machinery which is everywhere recognized as being absolutely essential to hold a satisfactory inquiry and to come to a satisfactory conclusion. Therefore, it seems to me that in every respect, whether we consider the defence set up, the very inadequate defence set up by the Minister of the Interior, the nature of the charges, the great publicity of the charges, the character of the investigation which the Minister of the Interior has at last seen fit to order, the manner in which he has ordered it, in every respect the inquiry that he has set on foot is inadequate to satisfy the public, unless it be some person like the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) who is prepared in the beginning to be quite satisfied that nothing can be wrong under this Government. But it is not adapted to satisfy the minds of any impartial person, evidently not adapted to satisfy the mind of any one who is prejudiced against the Government. Now, why should not the Government hold the most searching investigation that can be held? Is it because it would cost them something? Is it because it would be expensive to the country? I can scarcely believe that, in view of the fact that they have not with respect to other matters shown themselves so economical. During the years that have passed since this Government came into power they have never hesitated to issue commissions with a free hand, and to pay handsomely the commissioners whom they appointed to hunt out any unfortunate Conservative official who could be suspected or proved in any way to have taken any part in political action against them. The Government of

Canada has already, in the course of their career, expended enough money to hold a satisfactory judicial commission in the Yukon matter, in the work of setting bloodhounds on the trail of unfortunate Conservatives whose places are wanted by their friends. In the course of last summer this Government has shown that it is prepared to expend a sum of \$250,000 in order to put off the temperance people of Canada for a few months, to play with them for a few months, and to come to a situation where they are at last compelled to admit—

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** Order; there is an amendment before the House.

Mr. **BELL** (Pictou). I am illustrating my point. I say this Government are prepared to spend \$250,000 that was evidently intended, according to the statement made in this House to-day, to have no result. Therefore, I maintain that it is not on economical grounds that this Government does not grant this judicial inquiry. Now, what purpose is served by the Government in refusing the inquiry? No good purpose that I can conceive of. But if they choose to rely upon what you might almost call a partisan commissioner whom they have appointed, if the Minister of the Interior, instead of going before a court—I am not suggesting that he is held on trial, but I am taking the position he himself assumes, that the charge is made against him, that he is being tried, that he is the person whom my hon. colleague, the member for Pictou, wishes to bring into judgment—I say that if that be the case, and if the Minister of the Interior is justified in considering himself as being on trial, why does he elect to go before one of his own officials instead of going before an adequate judicial tribunal which would give a decision in this matter that would be satisfactory to the people of Canada, and would be certainly most satisfactory to the Minister of the Interior if it should result in a verdict in his favour? I think I am correct in maintaining that, while it has been sought by the Minister of the Interior and his supporters in this House to make it appear that in the matter of bringing these charges my hon. colleague from Pictou exceeded the bounds of moderation and acted in a manner to show that he had a personal animus, I am satisfied that is not the position or the frame of mind in which members on this side of the House are approaching this question. I believe that the Opposition in this House deplore the fact that these charges have been made against officials of Canada, and I believe they would learn with the greatest satisfaction that they are unfounded, and that nothing occurred in the Yukon which reflected upon the good name of Canada or upon the conduct of any of its officials. I am satisfied that the Government is not acting wisely for itself in the course it has chosen to adopt in this matter; be-

cause we are left with no longer any room to doubt as to whether the Government would accept the amendment. The fact that the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) has proposed an amendment to the amendment, shunting aside the amendment proposed by the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke), shows that they are disposed in this matter to evade the issue, to burk the inquiry, and not to allow it to proceed, I feel satisfied that they not only injure themselves, but, what is much more serious, they are going to injure our country. Considering the publicity given to the charges, the fact that the "Times" newspaper, the greatest organ of public opinion in England, endorsed these charges, after the fact cited by my colleague in this House that the correspondent of the "Times," when challenged as to the accuracy of her statements, refused to retract one of them and stood by them all, considering that those charges are made now in such a fashion and with such publicity, in so vast a theatre, practically in the eyes and ears of the whole world, I think the Government of Canada could not go to too much expense or trouble to vindicate its character and the character of its officials in this matter. Now, the Government was not always so indifferent to the opinion of the "Times." I remember with what great gusto, in 1897, members supporting the Government read an extract from the "Times," speaking favourably of the preferential clause of the tariff of the hon. gentlemen. The "Times" on that occasion was a great authority, a most important organ of opinion. It was sufficient to outweigh any expression of opinion adverse to the reciprocal tariff on this side of the House. But now that the "Times" is talking against the hon. gentlemen instead of in their favour, it no longer commands respect from them. It seems to me that the "Times" is just what it was before. It is a great organ of public opinion, and it has one characteristic, I think, that it is absolutely incorruptible. No matter what might be said of any other paper published in the world, it is certain as anything can be that no inducement of money or influence will lead the "Times" to publish or retract any statement except as it believes. Therefore, the statements being made, practically, against Canada by that great organ of public opinion, are of the very highest importance. Now, my hon. friend from Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) endeavoured to meet that point by asserting that the "Times" had been wrong. Well, that is not an answer. The "Times" certainly has been wrong, and will be wrong again. Every man has been wrong, and every organ of public opinion has been wrong. The hon. member for Centre Toronto will remember that in that matter to which he refers, I presume the matter of the charges against Parnell, the "Times" was honest, and secured an inquiry, and fought it out, and when it was proven to be wrong, it admitted the fact. But there was a judicial inquiry, a satisfactory and com-

plete one ; and if the hon. member for Centre Toronto is going to cite the authority of the "Times" as an example in this matter, it is against him and not for him.

Mr. Speaker, I do not intend, at this hour of the night, to touch upon any other points which might be raised. One might make a speech which would rival in length those for which the fashion has been set in this House, when speaking for three, or four, or five, or six hours. In fact, we can scarcely claim that we are making a speech at all in this Parliament, unless we at least exceed four hours. However, I am not disposed to do that, as I might be able to do practically from the speech of the hon. Minister of the Interior. I might point out the matters in which he conspicuously fails to make his case, in which he practically admits the case made out against him by the hon. member for Pictou. I think I am strictly within the course I ought to take, when I urge upon the Government the gravity and the publicity of the charges that have been made, the great seriousness of having these brought to the ears and eyes of the whole world, as reflecting upon the character of Canadian citizens, because, although we might admit that we cannot accept the charges made against the Gold Commissioner or against the administrator as being well founded, there is a practical admission from the hon. Minister of the Interior that the subordinates have done wrong. He proceeds to defend himself by saying that these things have occurred ; but, if the officers in charge of these men who were employed in the post office and in various other capacities, could not punish them, how could I do it ? He, to a certain extent, sets up the case, that it would absolve him, living in Ottawa, from the task of having to maintain personal supervision over officials thousands of miles away, but he does not deny the fact that they are guilty. What right has he to assume the guilt of these men, and he practically does that in his speech ? The hon. gentleman does not only not deny the charge, but practically makes it. He practically states that certain officials in the post office and in the mining recorder's office have accepted bribes. He practically admits the serious charge of the influence of money being administered to these officials through go-betweens. Having, as I think I have fairly done, from the speech of the hon. Minister of the Interior himself, from the common notoriety which the subject has received from the great weight of testimony of the London "Times," from the tremendous number of statements made by individuals, some of whom, we have it on the authority of hon. members of this House, are prepared to come before a properly constituted court and testify—as the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior)—having shown the necessity for an inquiry, I urge upon the Government to take the action that the situation demands. There can be no ques-

Mr. BELL (Pictou).

tion that many gentlemen would be prepared to testify in a court of inquiry who would not be induced voluntarily to give information or to submit their names or to place themselves in a position to suffer from any antagonism they may create in the minds of officials. I have shown that a case exists requiring careful inquiry, that the reply made out by the hon. Minister of the Interior is not adequate, and I think it is the duty of the Government not to be turned aside by reason of any technicalities of Parliament into burking this inquiry, but that they would better serve the purposes for which they are in existence, the securing of good government, by granting this Parliament and this country a court of inquiry whose standing and authority and competency would be beyond question.

Mr. SUTHERLAND moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 11.50 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 14th April, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 58) respecting the Central Counties Railway Company.—(Mr. Edwards.)

Bill (No. 59) to incorporate the Russell, Dundas and Grenville Counties Railway Company.—(Mr. Edwards.)

Bill (No. 60) to authorize the amalgamation of the Erie and Huron Railway Company and the Lake Erie and Detroit River Railway Company.—(Mr. Charlton.)

### THE INSPECTION OF WHEAT.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). Before the Orders of the Day are called, Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that several deputations are on their way—one from Winnipeg, Fort William, Toronto and Montreal—to put before the Government their views regarding the inspection of wheat. We have had a great many complaints, both on this side and in England, concerning the manner in

which our western wheat sent during the past season was inspected. I think it well to inform hon. members that the Department of Inland Revenue has appointed a meeting for Tuesday next in the forenoon, to be held in one of the committee rooms of this House, at which all the deputations will be present, and to which I invite all hon. members interested in this question to attend.

Mr. HAGGART. At what hour?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. At ten o'clock in the morning in the tower room on Tuesday next. Instead of meeting the deputations separately, I thought it better to meet them together, and give them and hon. members an opportunity of exchanging views.

#### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell (East Prince), for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session; the motion of Mr. Clarke in amendment thereto, and the motion of Mr. Bertram in amendment to the same.

Mr. JAMES SUTHERLAND (North Oxford). I think, Mr. Speaker, it must be admitted that the hon. gentleman who last addressed the House made a very clever and able speech, apologetic in a great measure of that made by his colleague the hon. senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). But I feel that one or two of the statements made in the speech of that hon. gentleman are almost too serious to allow them to pass, even with the apology or explanation given by his hon. colleague. I wish to refer to one statement made by the junior member for Pictou (Mr. Bell), which, I think, would be very misleading to the members of this House and to citizens of the country if any of them are not better informed on the subject than he happened to be himself. He stated that the commissioner appointed to examine into the so-called charges against the officials in the Yukon district had not power to subpoena witnesses and examine witnesses under oath. He certainly could not have taken the trouble to look at the Act under which the commissioner acted, or to examine the commission by which he was appointed. I think it would be a very serious thing, if it were true, that Mr. Ogilvie had not power enough to conduct this inquiry in accordance with the well-known practice and rule governing investigations of this kind. I, therefore, take this opportunity to inform the House and the country exactly how the matter stands and to let them know what powers Mr. Ogilvie had as commissioner.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). Perhaps the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland) would allow me.

As I understand him, he is referring to a statement made by me. I desire to explain that when I spoke of Mr. Ogilvie not having power to examine witnesses, I referred not to the commission issued to him, but to the first instructions in the shape of a telegram from the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) in which that hon. gentleman said he gave Mr. Ogilvie a free hand. Under that, I pointed out, Mr. Ogilvie had no power. I am aware that subsequently the commission was issued.

Mr. FOSTER. Before the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland) proceeds, perhaps he would allow me to ask the First Minister if he will lay on the Table the commission given to Mr. Ogilvie.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Certainly.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I think it has already been laid on the Table.

Mr. FOSTER. I did not understand that to be the case.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). It was read by the Minister of the Interior.

Mr. SPEAKER. It was read by the Minister; but, of course, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) is perfectly within his right in asking that it be laid on the Table.

Mr. FOSTER. My object was not to insist upon a right, but simply to see the commission.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I remember that the Minister of the Interior read this document in the course of his speech, and it appears in "Hansard," and, I understand that he was requested to lay the commission on the Table, and said he would do so. I am pleased to hear the correction made by the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Bell). At the same time he knows that the statement has been given wide publicity through the newspapers by those who desire to belittle the position held by Mr. Ogilvie and his power to make this inquiry; and I think it is in the best interests of the public that it should be known exactly how the matter stands. I will read the Act—a very short one—under which powers were given to the commissioner, so that there may be no further misunderstanding. As to the telegram sent to Mr. Ogilvie, I think it is an evidence of the activity of the Minister of the Interior, and his anxiety that the inquiry should proceed early that he notified the commissioner, so that he would be ready to go on with his duties when he received the proper authority. Mr. Ogilvie was appointed to make this inquiry under chapter 114 of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada, entitled "An Act respecting inquiries concerning public matters."

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of

Canada, enacts as follows :—

1. Whenever the Governor in Council deems it expedient to cause inquiry to be made into and concerning any matter connected with the good government of Canada, or the conduct of any part of the public business thereof, and such inquiry is not regulated by any special law, the Governor in Council may, by the commission in the case, confer upon the commissioners or persons by whom such inquiry is to be conducted, the power of summoning before them any witnesses, and of requiring them to give evidence on oath, orally or in writing, or on solemn affirmation, if they are persons entitled to affirm in civil matters, and to produce such documents and things as such commissioners deem requisite to the full investigation of the matters into which they are appointed to examine.

2. Such commissioner or commissioners shall have the same power to enforce the attendance of such witnesses, and to compel them to give evidence, as is vested in any court of record in civil cases ; but no such witness shall be compelled to answer any question, by his answer to which he might render himself liable to a criminal prosecution.

As I understand it, that is as great power as is given to any judge of the land in making investigations into offences of this or any other description. Further than that, I find on reference to the commission appointing Mr. Ogilvie that a copy of what I have read is set forth in it, clearly establishing his powers in this matter. Great effort has been made, apparently, to belittle the ability and capacity of Mr. Ogilvie as a commissioner, and it has been said that some legal gentleman should have been appointed to occupy that position. So far as I am personally concerned, I cannot for a moment agree with that proposition. On the contrary, I feel that Mr. Ogilvie, with his experience and ability, and holding the position he does as commissioner of the Yukon, is far more likely to have a fair, honest and full inquiry into the charges that were made than any judicial appointee that could have been chosen. If a judge had been appointed to inquire into these matters, it is quite probable he would be governed by the rules of evidence ; and though he might be fairly well satisfied that a great many wrong things had been done by some of the officials that would require a certain amount of punishment, it might be difficult to get the evidence, according to his legal interpretation, to establish the guilt of the accused. On the other hand, Mr. Ogilvie, with the power given him under the commission to make the inquiry, and with the authority of his position as commissioner of the Yukon, as well as the authority given him by letter and telegram by the Minister stating that he had a free hand in dealing with the officials of that country—which showed the anxiety of the Minister to have wrong-doing on the part of the officials ferreted out and punished—has a power much greater than any judge would have. Mr. Ogilvie would do substantial justice even though the evidence, in strictly legal form might not be available. If a public officer were

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guilty of wrong-doing, Mr Ogilvie had the power to dismiss, which would be possibly the hardest punishment he could give him. In that way the inquiry held was far more likely to be effective in punishing the officials, if they had been guilty of wrong-doing, than would an investigation before a judicial authority as proposed by hon. gentlemen opposite. After the very able and exhaustive statement made by the Minister of the Interior in answer to the speeches on the other side, I do not feel called upon to go into this matter at length or to refer to it again in detail. I feel that in that statement of the Minister he has shown clearly that he has been most active in the administration of his department, and most anxious to have the administration of the affairs of the Yukon carried on in the interest of the public; and when we heard, even by intimation, that any of the officials were guilty of any improper conduct, he showed his earnest desire to have the matters investigated and the guilty persons punished and to have an efficient and pure administration of affairs in the Yukon.

I do not believe that any unprejudiced person in the Dominion of Canada can but say, after reading the statements made against the officials and the explanations given by the Minister, that he has made a fair statement of the condition of affairs at the present time. I think it is very unfortunate for the good of Canada and for the dignity of the House of Commons, that we should have such reckless general statements made on the floor of Parliament. I want to refer especially to a speech made by the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Robertson), and to ask him, and to ask this House and the country, whether they think it is fair that a member of this House, without any evidence upon which to justify him, should make any such a general charge against the officials of this Dominion, because since they are citizens of this country, reckless charges made against them are made against the whole Canadian people. I do not believe that the moment a man, whether he be a Conservative or a Liberal in politics, is appointed to a position of trust in the public service, he becomes at once a thief and a rascal. I say that in this case, as in all others, men who hold positions in the public service are entitled to justice and fair-play, the same as any other citizens. What does the hon. member for East Toronto say in regard to this matter ? Referring to the charges generally, and basing his future statements on them, he says :

I cannot for one moment believe there could be so much smoke without some fire.

If my hon. friend had wished to be fair to the officials, to the Administration, and to the people of this country, he would have told us where this smoke came from. The hon. gentleman knows, and the people of Canada know, that there were a number of

foreigners in the Yukon district who, because under the administration of Major Walsh and the Mounted Police they were compelled to obey Canadian law, were ready to make the most malicious charges against those officials. He also knows, and nobody knows better than he does, that certain newspapers, some of them started in Dawson City, others in the different provinces of the Dominion, have endeavoured, for political party purposes, to raise a great deal of smoke, and to make a great deal of trouble, without the slightest reason therefor, and to libel the character of those officials, when their only purpose was to injure the Government and the Liberal party. Then he goes on to say :

I may say that the Minister of the Interior was particularly careful : he seems to have treated the whole Yukon as a wrecked ship to which he fastened all the barnacles to be found in Manitoba.

I would like to know what justification an hon. gentleman holding the position he does in this House, had for making such a statement as that. I think I may be pardoned for saying that the hon. gentleman has shown a personal feeling against the Minister of the Interior from the first day of his entering public life up to the present time. Nothing too bitter can be suggested against that hon. Minister, no misrepresentation can be thought of that the hon. gentleman will not print in his paper against him. I do not think it is necessary for me to say any more of the hon. gentleman's speech. I can only appeal to the House, Mr. Speaker, and to the people of this country, whether an hon. member is justified, either in this House or in any reputable newspaper, in making charges of that nature without any foundation.

With regard to the charges themselves so much has been said, and the Minister has made so clear a statement of what has taken place and of what is going on there with regard to the investigation, that I do not need to dwell particularly on them. The hon. member for Victoria, B.C. (Mr. Prior), very bravely stated in the House that we were to have a specific charge. I expected to hear something serious. Well, what was the charge that the hon. gentleman made ? He took the responsibility of telling the Government and the country that if a judicial committee was appointed—I do not know any reason why he could not have brought this charge before Mr. Ogilvie—he was prepared to say that this man he mentioned would give evidence in support of the charge. We were all on the *qui vive* ; we expected something serious ; but what does it amount to ? He tells us of a certain man whose character he describes in the House himself—because, taking the hon. gentleman's own references to that man, he was of a weak and corrupt character, for, when he was asked to give his name, he said : No,

he would not do that, because he was afraid the Minister would fix him. By that we all understood him to mean that the Minister would coax him over in some way, or buy him to give a statement contrary to that he had given to the hon. member. So, I think it is only fair to say that the hon. member knew his man, knew him to be a weak man, who could be fixed, and that when he told this cock-and-bull story containing all these terrible charges against officials in the Yukon, we may conclude that the hon. gentleman himself had bought the man to make this statement, and he was afraid to make his personality known for fear that somebody else would fix him before the time came. The hon. gentleman pledged his honour that this man would appear to prove his charge. What was the charge ? That he went to the office of Messrs. Wade, Clark & Wilson, that he met the typewriter, or stenographer, and asked if he could not get a claim without getting it through Mr. Fawcett, the Gold Commissioner. The typewriter thought he could get him a good claim, if he would come back next day. When he went back, the typewriter told him that he could not get him one on Dominion Creek, but he could get him another claim, and if he would go out and fix the stakes and get the claim through all right, then the typewriter expected him to give him an interest in this claim. Now, I do not think any citizen of this country, any member of this House, will consider that that is any specific charge against the Administration, or against the officials in that country. There is only an insinuation that this man is willing to swear—and we have only heard one side of the story—that a certain conversation took place between himself and the typewriter in a law office of which one of the Dominion officials happened to be a partner. Let me point this out, Mr. Speaker, that even if there had been anything corrupt, and even if there had been any corrupt arrangement in this matter, the partner who was a Dominion official had no power at all to register this claim ; no one else could have registered a claim but Mr. Fawcett.

Sir, I feel that our hon. friends opposite were either hypocritical in their praise of Mr. Ogilvie and the other gentlemen appointed to positions in that district at the time of their appointment, or they are very unfair to these men at the present time. When Mr. Ogilvie was appointed, he was lauded as a man of integrity, of honour, and of great ability. Since then it seems that they cannot say anything too bad about him, that he is unfit even to administer that country or to see that the subordinate officials in his department and the various other departments over which he has jurisdiction do their duty faithfully and honestly, and that he is entirely unfitted to investigate any charges that may be made before him.

Now, the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Ross Robertson), talked about the Minister of the Interior loading up the Yukon district with barnacles from Manitoba. This is a general and a most misleading statement. Who were these officials? If the hon. Minister had not even appointed citizens—good citizens—it might be that there might have been some suspicion attached to it. But let us see who the men are that were appointed, and who are being attacked at the present time. First, we have Major Walsh. Major Walsh, it is true, had at one time filled a very honourable position in Manitoba and the North-west Territories. He, with credit to himself, and with credit to the country, took a prominent part in the administration of the affairs of that country. At the time he was appointed to the Yukon he was not a citizen of Manitoba. He was a citizen of the province of Ontario, a man of good character, and his appointment was almost unanimously endorsed by the people who believed that he was just the man to fill the duties which the position called for, and which the position required him to fulfil. Then we have Judge Maguire. Judge Maguire, it is true, was a resident of the North-west Territories, a judge of the territories. Everybody who knows the history of Judge Maguire, knows that when he lived in the province of Ontario he was a very active and able advocate of the Conservative party. He was appointed judge by the Conservatives as a man worthy to occupy the position of judge in the North-west Territories. When the hon. Minister of the Interior selected Judge Maguire, a gentleman in that district, willing to go, I do not think that it could be suspected that he had any personal or unworthy motives in asking Judge Maguire to go from Prince Albert, where he was stationed, to Dawson City to administer the law. Then we have Mr. Fawcett. We have had the explanation from the hon. Minister of the Interior of how he came to be appointed, and I do not think there is any citizen of this country but who would give the hon. Minister credit for endeavouring to get the best man he could in the service of this Dominion to occupy that position. He made a most careful inquiry from the highest officers in his department, and they all recommended Mr. Fawcett as a man of experience, of ability, and a man of the strictest integrity. He was appointed to the most important position of Gold Commissioner. Then we have Mr. Wade. It is true that Mr. Wade was a barrister practising in Winnipeg, but no one will pretend to say that previous to the present time, at any rate, Mr. Wade was not a man of good character, of very superior ability, both as a writer and as a lawyer, and I think it is to the discredit of the people of this country that any hon. gentleman should refer to a gentleman of his standing as a barnacle from Manitoba. Then charges were made in regard to the Mounted Police.

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From both sides of this House and from the people of this country the highest praise has been given to the Mounted Police, who have been regarded as a noble and splendid class of men, doing their duty faithfully and well to the country, and now we have them charged, by the very men who appointed them to office, as being thieves, rascals, scoundrels and vagabonds. There is nothing too bad for them to charge these men with at the present time. But the contrary of what hon. gentlemen say, I am sure, is the case. I believe that the officers in charge of the police in that distant country, with all the difficulties with which they have to contend, have done credit to themselves and to the British flag. They have maintained law and order in that country, and they have done their duty faithfully. Generally speaking, they deserve the praise and credit of the people of this country rather than the charges that have been laid against them. We have also had charges hurled against the Customs Department. Who was at the head of the Customs Department? It was Mr. D. W. Davis, for many years a member of this House, appointed by the late Administration. I am free to say that, whatever Mr. Davis' weakness or peculiarities may have been, I do not believe that his worst enemy would say that he was dishonest or an unmanly man. I have known him for many years, and I formed the highest opinion of Mr. Davis as a citizen and a member of this House, as a business man and a man of quite a different character from that of some of the hon. gentlemen who have been attacking him at the present time. I have never known him to be guilty of an unworthy or an unmanly act. He is a man who from his experience in the North-west Territories, in the early days, was very well fitted for the position to which he was assigned in that new district, and I believe that when the late Government made that appointment no objection was raised or criticism offered from this side of the House. Now, Mr. Speaker, if any of these gentlemen have so far forgotten themselves as to be guilty of an act of malfeasance in office, or if any of them have been inefficient or incapable, I would not defend or shield them to the slightest extent. I do not believe that this Government desire to shield any official found guilty of wrongdoing. Such being the case, surely it would be more in the interest of the country and in the interest of the prosperity of the citizens of the country, as well as in the prosperity of the Yukon district that these reckless and infamous charges should not be made. Mr. Speaker, I would be very much inclined to accept the apology of the junior member for Pictou on behalf of his colleague if it were not for the very serious charges insinuated in the speech of that hon. member. I must say that from my acquaintance with the senior member for Pictou, no person could, perhaps, feel more pained

at his speech than I was. I was not present when he delivered it. I was pained to think that he had so far forgotten the duties of a member of Parliament as to take advantage of the privileges which he enjoys, by reading anonymous letters making such serious charges against the good name and private character of a citizen of this country. I have always felt that the hon. member for Pictou was a courteous man, and I have spoken so of him, but I am sorry to say that he does not appear so, and that is shown by the fact of his reading these miserable, malicious allegations against people without any ground whatever. He has not proven himself to be that courteous gentleman we would expect him to be. He undertook to say that he had been driven to this. I do not think so. I think that when a man makes so many serious charges against a fellow-citizen, he should have taken pains to find out whether there was any foundation for making charges of such an outrageous character without a particle of evidence to support them. I have taken every opportunity of meeting various Canadians from this district who went to the Yukon, and I have also taken every opportunity I could of meeting respectable Englishmen and foreigners who have been in that country. I want to make this clear: There are differences of opinion in respect to royalty and as to the capacity of some of these men charged with the administration of that country, but not one of these reputable citizens ever uttered one word that could be regarded for a moment as sustaining these charges of dishonesty or corruption against any of the officials of that country.

It is not difficult for us to imagine what class of people must have been the associates and informants of the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) in this matter. In his desire to injure the Liberal party, the hon. gentleman has overreached himself and has done a great injury to the country. Sir, the fact is, that respectable Englishmen, as well as those from other countries, who went to the Yukon to investigate for themselves, have expressed themselves as more than satisfied with the administration of affairs there, and some of these gentlemen are here at the present time, announcing their intention to invest large amounts of money in that country. These gentlemen have a personal knowledge of the country and are perfectly satisfied that the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) has done his whole duty. No doubt there are complaints of a certain kind from a certain class of people who went there, and who probably wished to do what they should not do and what the officials would not allow them to do; but the reputable people who went to the Yukon are investing their money, and are anxious to try their fortunes in developing that country, and have no complaint to make as to the honesty and integrity of the officials. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles

Hibbert Tupper) said that Major Walsh was reported to have mixed himself with the rabble when he arrived at Dawson City. Well, Sir, in one sense that is in accordance with the statement that has been made to me, for there were in the Yukon certain men of wealth and high standing who thought they could influence the commissioner, and who approached him to get things done which should not be done. Major Walsh, instead of agreeing to further the aims of those people, got right down among the hard-working miners, and was open to receive every man who had a grievance no matter how poor, humble or ignorant that man might be. Major Walsh, to his credit be it said, defended the working miners against those who were endeavouring to deprive them of their rights by reason of their lack of knowledge of the law and of the regulations governing that country. No doubt Major Walsh did create some enemies by his action in trying to defend the humbler classes against what he considered improper demands on the part of some people high in position. My hon. friend read a newspaper interview from one of these gentlemen. We all know that that gentleman was not responsible for the interview—perhaps he never gave the interview as it appears in that paper—but I know that for certain reasons that gentleman had a very, very bitter feeling against Major Walsh. But, Sir, notwithstanding the quarrel between them, and notwithstanding the bitter feeling, that gentleman gave a positive denial to the slanderous allegations that have been made against the character of Major Walsh. That gentleman was very close to Major Walsh in the Yukon, associating with him and living with him, and meeting him every day, and perhaps every hour for aught I know, and he bears testimony to Major Walsh's high moral character. The insinuations against Major Walsh's reputation are too improper for me to repeat in this House, but even his enemies will defend him from these charges. I have known Major Walsh for a great many years, and I believe, and all who know him believe, that he is incapable of committing the offences alleged against him by the hon. member for Pictou. He was born close to this district; as a young man he lived in this district, and he is well known by a large number of respectable associates from Vancouver in the west to Montreal in the east. Major Walsh is a man of reputable character, a man who has ever been almost a teetotaler under all circumstances, and that tribute to him will be endorsed by thousands of Canadians who have known him since his boyhood. Sir, the good name of Major Walsh is too sacred to be recklessly talked of in this House, and to have statements made against it which have no foundation whatever and without any evidence in their support. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) when he intended to make such a serious charge against any citizen of this country, and especially

against a gentleman occupying the high and important position of Major Walsh, should have taken the precaution beforehand to find out if there was any truth in these statements. To the people who know Major Walsh, well, of course, it would not make any material difference, but people who do not know him might believe there has been something wrong. It is a most unfortunate thing that the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) should make such reckless statements on the information of some irresponsible and anonymous correspondent. He should have considered the feelings of the immediate family of Major Walsh, and should have refrained from such a very reprehensible course unless he had good reason to know that his charges were true.

Sir, I believe that in the public interest the Government has taken the very best mode of investigating these charges. Some of the lawyers of the Opposition want to try and make capital against the Government, and they contend that there should be a judicial inquiry, but I believe that under the circumstances, Mr. Ogilvie is the best qualified to hold an investigation into these charges and to report to the Government. The insinuations against these officials could easily be inquired into by a committee of this House or by any of the judges of the land, without going to the great expense of appointing a judicial committee. To my mind, it would not be in accordance with good government or justice, if every time some irresponsible and anonymous person makes an underhand attack upon any official, the Government should appoint a committee to investigate. Of course, if a serious statement by a responsible person is made, it would be a different thing altogether. Hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House have accused the Minister of the Interior with shielding his officials. Sir, we know, and the country knows, that the Minister (Mr. Sifton) was more than willing to have every proper charge investigated, and to punish to the limit of the law any wrongdoing. I do say, that as head of a department of Government, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) is justified in defending the officials under him from any slanderous or malicious attacks that may be made by anonymous correspondents, and the Minister was justified, too, in demanding that any one who wished to complain should come forward and make a direct charge. I believe, Sir, that the Opposition, judging by the course they have adopted, are not actuated by a desire for the best interests of the people in this matter. The officials are a representative part of the people of Canada, and to publicly announce in the House that they are unworthy of trust, that they allow stealing in their offices, and that they are corrupt, is a slander on Canadians generally, and is a great injury to our country. I wish to read a short extract with regard to the speech of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) as given in a Con-

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servative paper, controlled by a gentleman who during the last two elections ran as a supporter of the Conservative party. This is how the matter appears to that gentleman and to that newspaper, and I must say it appears very much in the same light to me, and I believe to a great majority of the people of this country irrespective of politics.

Mr. BERGERON. What is the paper ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The Woodstock "Express." As I have stated, it is owned and controlled by a gentleman who was the Conservative candidate in the last two elections.

Mr. BERGERON. You must have brought him back.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The hon. member for Beauharnois says I must have bought him up.

Mr. BERGERON. No, brought him back.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not know how I could have brought him back.

Mr. BERGERON. Sunny ways.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He is one of the largest and best known business men in the country, and a man of high character. It may be possible, though it has nothing to do with this, that he is satisfied with the policy of the Government.

Mr. BERGERON. That is what I mean.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. That is quite likely, because I think the majority of the business men and sensible people of the country are satisfied with the policy of the Government. However, this is what this paper says :

When Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper made his ferocious attack upon the Government's administration of the Yukon district, and upon the personal character of the officials, he took upon his shoulders a graver responsibility than has been assumed by a Canadian member of Parliament for many a long day. If he has not the most conclusive evidence to bear him out, if he is only speaking from hearsay, and not from information gleaned from responsible men who know these things of their own personal knowledge and experience, he is guilty of an infamous outrage, the committal of which would drive him from public life. Such charges are not to be made for the mere purpose of manufacturing a little party capital. The private characters of men and women are too sacred for that. Sir Hibbert must either proceed with the discharge of a paramount duty or sink under the odium of having committed an unpardonable wrong.

Now, Sir, it does appear to me—and I think it appears to the majority of the people of this country—that the Opposition, in failing to criticise the acts or the administration of the Government, have taken up this policy of vilification and slander—not stopping at the misrepresentation of administrative acts, but even attacking the personal character of the hon. Minister, as my hon. friend did the other night. I think it is very much to be deplored ; and while I do

not want to say anything that would be strong or unparliamentary, I must hope that for the future the dignity of the House will be more maintained in the debates, and that we shall have a fair criticism of the Government, rather than a policy of slander and vilification.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). I am very sorry at this late period of the discussion to be obliged to again address the House, as they very kindly listened to me at very considerable length on a former occasion. But the matter now under the consideration of the House is of so grave a character, and has assumed an importance of such a serious description, as to make it absolutely the duty of gentlemen to give the present position we occupy very careful and attentive consideration. It will not do for hon. gentlemen opposite to pooh-pooh this question. I tell them they cannot afford to do that. I tell them that they are standing in the presence of the great intelligent electorate of Canada, and the graver the charge, the more bound they are to give it that consideration to which it is entitled. The charges are of a grave character—a most serious and grave character.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Against the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. And I would like to know whether the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat takes the ground in this House that, no matter what may be the misconduct of an individual in an official capacity, he must go unscathed, because you cannot deal with his conduct without reflecting on his private character.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Quite the contrary. I said I thought he ought to be punished.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Private character I hold to be sacred, as much as any man in this House. I say that the man who uses his position as a member of this House to assail unnecessarily the private character of an individual, whether he is in or out of this House, commits, in my judgment, an unpardonable offence. I do not hesitate to say that. On the other hand, I say that the man who will shrink—I do not care how high the position; the higher the position, the greater the necessity—the man who will shrink from discharging his duty to this House and to this country, in exposing wrong-doing in high places, is unworthy of a seat in this House. The hon. member who has just taken his seat spoke of the address of the hon. junior member for Pictou (Mr. Bell), though he did not undertake to answer a line or a word of that address, as an apology for the senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). No man will dare to say, I hope, in the presence of this intelligent assembly, that it was an apology. It was a vindication—a masterly

vindication—of the right of every member of this Parliament to deal unflinchingly and in the most unqualified manner with the conduct of public officials, provided that conduct is of such a character as to bring disgrace and obloquy upon the country. I say, any hon. member of this House would fail in his duty, if under these circumstances he did not deal with it. So far as Major Walsh is concerned, I have no hesitation at all in saying that I listened with the greatest regret to the necessity that existed—and that necessity did exist—and was used by the senior member for Pictou for bringing that gentleman's private conduct before this House. What are the facts, Sir? Is there any man of intelligence, in this House or outside of it—any man who honours public character and public consistency, and the proper and efficient discharge of public duty—who will say that, if a man holding a high position, the executive of the Government of the country in a great district, forgets himself and disgraces that position, it is not the duty of every man who wants to see public officials conduct themselves in a manner to entitle themselves to the respect of the country, to bring his conduct under the notice of this House? I listened to the great encomium which the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) made in this House last night. And, Sir, I could not help feeling that, if that eulogium was deserved—and I would be glad to find that it was deserved—he is the bitterest enemy of Major Walsh, if he denies the opportunity which the resolution moved by my hon. friend (Mr. Clarke) behind me, yesterday, would afford that man of having his character completely vindicated.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. If the hon. gentleman will allow me, there is a very much better way. If he will make the statement outside, he will soon have an opportunity of proving it.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman had better be careful of such challenges as that. I can tell the hon. gentleman that I do not want to use my position in this House in the manner in which I could use it, if I were to respond to that challenge. I say, the hon. gentleman had better be careful. I would be glad to see Major Walsh vindicated; but, when a member of the House of Commons of Canada received a visit from a gentleman holding a high position in the capital of our Empire, in London, when a member of the House of Commons has received a visit from a gentleman who represented one of the largest banking and financial institutions in the city of London, and was told by that gentleman that he went to see the executive head of the Yukon, appointed by the Canadian Government, and that Major Walsh was so intoxicated that he did not know what he was doing—

Mr. DOMVILLE. That is not true.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Silence. The hon. gentleman had better take care of himself.

Mr. DOMVILLE. I can take care of myself, and you too.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I do not think the hon. gentleman knows how to do it after a certain hour of the day.

Mr. DOMVILLE. I might try anyhow.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Does that hon. gentleman consider it a base slander to vilify a man's character by saying he is drunk?

Mr. DOMVILLE. Yes.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Would he think that was a base slander if uttered in respect of himself?

Mr. DOMVILLE. I certainly would, but not coming from the hon. member who is now speaking.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I see that that retort obtains an emphatic response from the hon. gentleman's associates, who, I am afraid, are many of them, responsible for the irresponsible condition in which that hon. gentleman exhibits himself to the House very often.

Mr. DOMVILLE. I rise to a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the hon. gentleman will withdraw expressions of that kind reflecting on another hon. member.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am very sorry, Mr. Speaker, that the interruption of the hon. gentleman tempted me to forget what perhaps is due to the House.

Mr. CASEY. I rise to a point of order.

An hon. MEMBER. Oh, you do not know it.

Mr. CASEY. I think I know a little more about it than the hon. gentleman who interrupts me. My point of order is this: The hon. gentleman who has the floor made a most gratuitous, uncalled for, and insulting remark about an hon. gentleman who had the audacity to interrupt him. The point of order I raise is that the hon. gentleman cannot go on without making an apology and withdrawing the statement.

Mr. DOMVILLE. I ask for that.

Mr. SPEAKER. I understand that the hon. leader of the Opposition was making his withdrawal.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. SPEAKER. I am sure that he will conclude with a frank withdrawal.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have no hesitation, Sir, in saying that I shall always bow to the Chair and conform to that rule

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of the House which requires any hon. member to withdraw any expression that may be regarded as unduly offensive to another. But I hope I shall not be induced by any unseemly interruption to forget that rule. I think that hon. gentlemen would best consult, in the present condition of things, the interests of the House and the interests of the Government and of the party supporting the Government in this House, if they would allow, on a grave question of this kind, a member of this House to frankly and fully state the opinions he holds with regard to a very momentous question.

I was about to say that when a member of this House receives a visit, as the senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) did, from a gentleman holding so high position as the representative of one of the largest banking institutions in London, as to induce Lord Strathcona to give him a letter of introduction to Major Walsh—I say that when the senior member for Pictou received a communication from so high a source, I hold that if Major Walsh be innocent, if there was any mistake or misunderstanding—and I am not going to say for a moment that any man is to be held guilty of anything until his guilt is proved—the member who received such communication is bound to bring it before the House.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I think that in making that statement, the hon. leader of the Opposition ought to give the name of the party.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. There will not be much trouble in hon. gentlemen opposite finding out the name. Their own officer and High Commissioner gave that gentleman his introduction to Major Walsh, and that gentleman showed the letter of introduction to the senior member for Pictou, and said: "When I took that to Major Walsh from the High Commissioner, Lord Strathcona, I was turned out of his office, the man was so drunk he did not know what he was doing."

There may be some mistake, but no man in this House could have better authority, and it became his duty to challenge the public conduct of any high official in this country against whom such a charge is made from such a source.

I regret most deeply that it is necessary to assail in any way the reputation of Major Walsh; but in view of the statement placed in the hands of the senior member for Pictou by a gentleman occupying a prominent position in England—in London, New York, and Canada—and of the charges involving the use by that officer of public officials in a most improper manner, I say that those who deny to Major Walsh the opportunity of vindicating himself—as I assume and hope he will, if such opportunity be given, be able to vindicate himself completely—are his worst enemies. His worst enemy is the man who takes the position in this House that it will not do to have Major Walsh's conduct ex-

amined except by a subordinate official of this Government, who depends upon it for his existence. That is the position I take.

I want to draw the attention of the House to the motion now before it, and I am very sorry to see that the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) is not in his place. I am not very much surprised to see the chair of that hon. Minister vacant, but I say that a Minister of the Crown, whose conduct is challenged as his is, for he is the root of the whole offending in this matter, he is the man responsible to this House and this country for all these disgraceful scandals that are blackening the fair fame of Canada throughout three continents—North America, Europe and the great island continent of Australasia—I say that the Minister who is responsible for the appointment of the men who have brought Canada into that position, should be in his place here. I wanted to address the House yesterday on this subject, but postponed doing so because I understood the hon. Minister was engaged in more important service for the Government in another place, but I am now compelled to make in his absence the remarks I intended to make, because he appears to have vacated his position in this House while his own conduct is receiving that scrutiny it is absolutely necessary it should receive. His own interests and the interests of the Government of which he is a member ought to lead him to be here to meet these statements and charges as they are made. The following resolution has been moved:—

That this House deems it expedient to inform His Excellency that in view of the widespread charges of incapacity, misconduct and corruption in the administration of public affairs connected with the Yukon, it is the duty of the Government to appoint, without delay, an independent judicial commission to make a thorough investigation into that subject and report the result.

That is a resolution which the Government ought to have accepted at once in the interests of Canada, in their own interests, in the interests of good government and of the honest and faithful discharge of public duty. What we ask is fair and reasonable. No man in this House or out of it can deny, who knows anything of the subject, that throughout North America, Canada and the United States, throughout the British Empire, throughout every place on the continent of Europe, where that great organ of public opinion, the London "Times" is circulated, these facts are established beyond controversy, that we have placed before this House from a score of sources—not Conservative, not in opposition to the Government, but thoroughly independent, and many of them strong supporters of this Government. All this demonstrates the absolute necessity for an investigation into these charges. No person can deny that these wrongs existed. Let hon. gentlemen turn to the newspapers conducted by hon. gentlemen sitting behind them—to the Winnipeg "Tribune," conducted by the hon. member for Lisgar

(Mr. Richardson), to the Edmonton "Bulletin," conducted by the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver), both strong supporters of this Administration. I could give them half a dozen other members of their press that have declared in the most outspoken manner that the honour and character of the Liberal party requires such an investigation as this. Why should they not make such investigation? Surely there is no reason why, if parties, through being remote from the seat of Government, have been led to abuse their positions, that these parties should not be punished for what they have done. It is not as though there was no evidence, for the evidence already is overwhelming. Take the former Attorney General of Manitoba, a gentleman who fought the battles of hon. gentlemen opposite in this House with a vigour and determination never surpassed by any hon. gentleman on either side, and what is his testimony? He declares that there is a common consensus of opinion, not among Americans only, not among foreigners only, but among British subjects and all classes of people who come from the Yukon territory, that public business there was conducted in a most scandalous and disreputable manner. Clergymen also declared the same thing. My hon. friend from West Toronto (Mr. Clarke), who moved this resolution, gave a mass of testimony, not from Conservatives but from Liberals, and from Liberal journals, from gentlemen of the highest standing in the clerical profession, declaring that everything in that territory was of the most rotten and scandalous description and demanded investigation at the hands of this Government. Do hon. gentlemen opposite suppose that the Minister of the Interior will be vindicated in the eyes of the people of Canada for these appointments for which he himself is directly responsible by the fact that he virtually admits his guilt? For he does admit it, when he says that he will not permit this investigation, that he will not submit his acts to an independent judicial tribunal, that he will not permit an investigation unless we allow him to select the judge and pack the jury. Hon. gentlemen opposite cannot afford to take that position. This thing has gone too far to be dealt with in such a manner. Suppose they adopt this resolution of the hon. member for West Toronto, what would be the result? Of course, no one can suppose that it could be shown that the administration of public affairs in the Yukon had been what it ought to be. But suppose they made a report as an independent judicial tribunal would be bound to do, that there had been wrongdoing, it might be said that the Government themselves and the Minister of the Interior were not guilty of directly participating in that wrongdoing. Will that not be a great thing for the Government? If they are in a position to defend their conduct, is there any better means of establishing the case than to go before an independent judicial tribunal and have its finding put on record?

It will enable them to deal with the guilty. If necessary, it will enable them to drive out their colleague, the Minister of the Interior, as I believe they would be compelled to do; but the result would be to vindicate the rest of the Government. In any case, the fair name of Canada would be restored. There is no country in the world in which, take it at large, under one Government or under another, the administration of public affairs can more fairly challenge honest investigation than Canada. But the only means by which Canada can be restored to that position is by the course proposed in this resolution and by the appointment of an independent judicial tribunal to deal with the subject on its merits. Its finding would be accepted throughout the civilized world as settling the matter and setting it at rest. I do not hesitate to say that it is far beyond any party interest that the matter should be dealt with in this way. I believe there is no intelligent man in Canada who will not be glad to have such a finding arrived at as would relieve the Government of Canada from the serious imputation under which they rest at this moment. No doubt hon. gentlemen have heard how, on one occasion, when that great man, Mr. Gladstone, was violently attacked by an opponent in the House, and the Speaker himself prepared a way for his vindication, he leaned back in his seat and said to one of his friends behind him: "The Lord hath delivered mine enemy into my hands." When I heard the speech of the hon. member for Centre Toronto, though I did not say it, I felt that, so far as this Government and the party behind them in this House are concerned, the Lord had delivered mine enemy into my hands. I wonder if the attention of hon. gentlemen opposite has been drawn to the resolution proposed by the hon. member for Centre Toronto. I wonder if they see the precipice upon which they are placed and the yawning gulf into which they must fall at no distant day if they support this resolution. Here is what is said:

That all the words after "His Excellency the Governor General" in the amendment be left out, and the following words inserted instead thereof:—

"That we have observed with pleasure that on receipt of complaints against some of the officials in the Yukon district, His Excellency's Government took prompt action to inquire into the matter of such complaints by appointing Mr. William Ogilvie as a commissioner for that purpose. Having entire confidence in the integrity and ability of Mr. Ogilvie, we are satisfied that his inquiry will be impartial and thorough, and that it will place His Excellency's advisers in possession of all the information necessary to enable them to do justice to all parties concerned."

Who is Mr. Wm. Ogilvie? Mr. Wm. Ogilvie is a gentleman with whom I have a slight personal acquaintance. All that I have ever seen of him, I do not hesitate to say, has led me to form a high opinion of him, and all that I have learned of him has confirmed

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me in that opinion. But, Sir, I would draw the attention of the House to the fact that however well qualified he may be to discharge the duties—as he did discharge them with signal ability—of a surveyor in that remote country, I have yet to learn that he has qualifications that would enable him to carry out such a judicial investigation and make such a report as would command either the respect of this House or the confidence of this country. He had had a valuable training as a surveyor in the field, and he was a good surveyor. Mr. Fawcett was a good surveyor, but he lamentably failed as Gold Commissioner, as I will show the House before I sit down—and I may say that I have not a word of challenge to offer as to the character of Mr. Fawcett; I believe on the contrary, Mr. Fawcett, as far as I am able to judge, has erred through want of ability to fill a position for which he was never intended and which he was unable to fill. And now, to return to Mr. Ogilvie. Suppose you get a report, what value is it? If it is to be of any value, if it is to be received throughout those countries where the fair name of Canada has been smirched by these charges with which the press of those countries have teemed for over a year, I say if it is to be of any value, it must be made by a proper tribunal. The first question is, who is Mr. Ogilvie? Why, to say that the Minister of the Interior occupies such a position in this House and this country that the Government of which he is a member cannot afford to have his conduct investigated by anybody but a relative or connection of his own, and that man dependent upon the Government for his daily subsistence, is, I say, a proposition that only requires to be stated to reveal its utter absurdity. If the bitterest enemy of the Minister of the Interior, if the bitterest enemy of this Government had asked them to do that which would destroy them in the estimation of the intelligent people of this country, it would be just what they have done, appoint a man occupying such a dependent position that, however fair, however honest, however disposed to discharge his duty, he would be more or less than man, I do not hesitate to say so, he would require to be more or less than man to discharge that duty faithfully if the result was to drive his principal, to drive his Minister out of his seat into private life—for I believe a judicial investigation into this matter would have that result, and I shall give the House some reasons for arriving at that conclusion.

Now, Sir, the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) has talked about unsupported charges damaging the country. It is not the unsupported charges that damage the country. The press of Canada, of the United States, of Great Britain, of France, and of many other countries, as well as of the great islands of Australasia, have been full of these charges, and I say that to meet them you must have that which this amendment demands, or you are wasting your time, you are taking a course that will re-

ceive no justification at the hands of the intelligent people of Canada. The hon. member for Centre Toronto spoke of Miss Shaw. My right hon. friend, I presume, knows that lady; and I am sure that if he does, he will say that the London "Times," that great organ of public opinion in the United Kingdom, would not be likely to select a person to send here, to send to Africa, to send to Australia, at great cost, and at great personal inconvenience to that lady, unless they were satisfied, not only of her high character for integrity, but of her keen intelligence, and her ability to put before the readers of that great journal sound, substantial and reliable information. It is utterly impossible to discredit her statements. If you want a report that will challenge the accuracy of the statements to which she has committed herself, and which the London "Times" has endorsed, you must have an independent judicial tribunal able to sift evidence as only legal men can sift evidence; and when all the particulars are put before the country, the people will be satisfied and not before.

The hon. member for Centre Toronto took great objection to the fact that the word of the Minister of the Interior was not accepted. Well, Sir, it is not usual to accept the simple word, the simple declaration of any man, however high his position, and we cannot accept the simple word of the hon. gentleman, who is charged with incapacity, and misconduct, and corruption, in regard to the administration of the territory of the Yukon. That was the charge. I say it would be asking too much of human nature to ask that the word of any man should be accepted under those circumstances, and before I sit down I shall give him some reasons why this House is not prepared to accept the unsupported word of the Minister of the Interior. Then the hon. member for Centre Toronto asks: How would you organize a bank? Let me ask him a question. If he were going to organize a bank to-morrow, dealing with the enormous gold resources of that great territory, the greatest gold country to be found on the face of the globe, would he put in a surveyor as general manager? Would he select a horse dealer as an accountant? Would he go and hunt up the captain of an old whaler, as the Minister of Militia did, for the purpose of discharging the duties of which he had no more knowledge than this horse dealer in Manitoba, or this captain of a whaler, who, no doubt, had some experience of an arctic climate? Would he put the administration of the business of his bank in such hands? If he did, I am sure the shareholders and the directors would very soon call upon him to answer for it, as the Minister of the Interior is called upon to answer for the manner in which he has played with, trifled with, and abused the interests that were placed in his charge, and the responsibilities that were cast upon him. Then the hon. gentleman says that these officials are entitled to know what the

charges are. Have the Government taken the best means of knowing what the charges are? They propose that a man placed at the head of the administration of affairs in the Yukon should call for witnesses to come forward, should send out into the woods to men that are engaged under the hardest possible conditions in earning their livelihood, and ask them to abandon their employment, to come in and to make bitter enemies of every man in whose hands they are, and who is able to destroy and ruin them. I say that is the position, and it is contrary to everything reasonable to suppose that men in that position, however deeply they may have felt their wrongs, should come forward without counsel, without direction, and place themselves in antagonism to the parties who are placed over them. Sir, I do not think that is the way to find out what the charges are. But I was very much amused with the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), who, I think, can hardly have been in this House for the past few days. He can hardly have heard the speech of the senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), when he says that he objects altogether to fishing expeditions. Sir, did that hon. gentleman object, did the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), object to fishing expeditions when it was proved up to the hilt, proved under oath in the Committee of Public Accounts last year, and stated on the floor of this House, and that statement goes unchallenged, that a man who was not a member of the House of Commons at all, much less a member of the Government, had been enabled to put his unholy hand into the treasury of Canada and take out public money to pay his own private accounts? That is the position that hon. gentlemen find themselves in. That hon. gentleman who slept for many years with the Auditor General's Report under his pillow, who was hunting from morning till night for garbage to throw at the Conservatives of this country—that hon. gentleman, when that fact was brought before this House, hurled an insulting and slanderous insinuation across the House, because he knew that he had no answer to make, no vindication, that he could do nothing to defend his friend. That is the position, Sir.

Mr. McMULLEN. The hon. gentleman is giving a statement to this House that the evidence taken before the Public Accounts Committee will not support. I challenge him to produce evidence to warrant this statement.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I say, Mr. Speaker, that I am repeating a statement made in the presence of the hon. Minister of the Interior by the senior member for Pictou, who gave evidence, gave the exact statements, gave the sworn testimony of the lawyer employed by the hon. Minister of the Interior, which is that the hon. Minister of the Interior made that fishing expedition. It was also proved before the Committee on

Public Accounts, that Mr. Sifton's private debt of \$500, due to Mr. Howell for that service, was paid by the Government and that the Minister of Justice, Sir Oliver Mowat, taxed the bill down to \$300. And, Sir, when I asked the question: Where is that money, I had a right to ask it just as any other hon. member in this House has a right to ask it, when it is proved under oath and proved by the sworn testimony before the committee. Although the hon. Minister of the Interior had four days of incubation over the charges which were made, he allowed that question to go by default. It is too late for the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) to tell the House that it was not proved; if it was not proved it was due to the fact that the hon. gentleman who committed this wrong against the public treasury—

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Order; order. The hon. gentleman is going beyond the question now before the House.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No, Mr. Speaker. I am now touching a cardinal point. I am now dealing with a statement with which the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) closed his speech. He said, that the Liberal party and the Liberal members of this House would not permit wrong-doing, and he challenged fishing expeditions, and it is therefore perfectly right for me to say, that \$19,000 of the public money of Canada have been expended by the Government in a fishing expedition in which they caught nothing except a ruffian who belonged to themselves.

Mr. McMULLEN. The hon. gentleman said to this House that it was proved in the Public Accounts Committee that a gentleman, who was not a Minister of the Crown and was not responsible to the country, was able to put his hands upon \$500 of the people's money and appropriate it towards paying the law expenses in connection with that investigation. When I challenged that statement as being incorrect the hon. gentleman shunted off to another subject, not daring to reiterate the statement, because the evidence taken before the Public Accounts Committee did not justify any such statement.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am not surprised at the hon. gentleman's uneasiness, but he will find that he has to meet my statement when this charge was made as a contrast to the refusal of the hon. Minister of the Interior to do anything to investigate these charges with which the whole country was filled and by which the fair name of Canada has been sullied—I say that, putting that in contradistinction to the position that the hon. Minister of the Interior, lawyer as he is, when pleading his own case and endeavouring to vindicate himself, he dare not grapple with the charge, and he stands on "Hansard" to-day as having allowed the

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case to go by default. I want to draw the attention of the hon. gentleman to the fact that the present Minister of Justice has just appended his name to a declaration which puts on file, for ever, the legal opinion that the whole of that expenditure was in violation of the law of the country. He has put his name to a declaration dealing with criminal justice, and this was a question of criminal justice, for the hon. Minister of the Interior was endeavouring to ferret out information that would put these persons in the position of criminals—the Minister of Justice has put his name to a declaration that not a dollar of public money can be taken out of the federal treasury for criminal administration in any one of the provinces. Now, I am not going to take up any more time with that. The hon. member for Centre Toronto committed himself also to the opinion that Mr. Ogilvie was the best investigator, because he did not believe in lawyers. He thought that a clear-headed man was much more likely to deal with this question successfully than a man whose life is spent and whose profession involves the necessity of devoting his life to making the worse appear the better reason. Therefore, he objects to having a lawyer for the purpose. I wonder if he had learned that while listening to the Minister of the Interior attempting to defend himself with all the reasoning and all those pleas that gentlemen of the legal profession are accustomed to employ when pleading an important case, especially if they have themselves for their clients.

I think it will not be necessary for me to take up more time in dealing with the speech delivered by the hon. member for Centre Toronto. In moving his resolution he has, in my judgment, allowed the case against the Government he is supporting, to go by default. He has taken the position that there should be no independent judicial investigation into this matter.

Mr. BERTRAM. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to explain? I have not taken the position that there should be no independent investigation regarding the charges in the Yukon. But I have said, and what I say now is, that before we appoint another examining committee, we had better get a report from the one that is now in existence.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman has taken the position that there should be no judicial investigation in the strongest and clearest terms when he made an amendment to vote down the resolution asking the Government to appoint an independent judicial investigation. The right hon. Prime Minister and the hon. gentlemen behind him will have to answer to the people of this country for standing between the Government and a judicial investigation. I will give the House some further reasons for taking the strong position I do on this question. I may say, Sir, that it is well known

to members of this House, it is well known to the Government, and it is well known to the intelligent people of Canada, that one of the greatest securities that the people of Canada have against the mismanagement by gentlemen who have been new to public life in the Parliament of Canada, becoming members of the Administration, is to be found in the character of our civil service. It is well known, Sir, to the Government that there is no guarantee, that there is nothing that the public can have, that will inspire them with the same confidence as is reposed in the permanent civil service of England which until recently we had in Canada. The difference is attributed to the fact that gentlemen were brought from outside, perhaps, for sufficient reasons to most of these hon. gentlemen—however, reasons that would induce this Government to do such violence to the standing and the character and the position of the members who for long, long years had fought their battles in this House and fought them with great ability. These men had valiantly fought the battles of the Liberal party in the cold shades of Opposition, and when they saw themselves passed over when their party was triumphant, had they not a right to complain of the absence of that recognition of public service which is usual under such circumstances. They found these gentlemen opposite raking the outlying provinces for men who had never been inside the House of Commons of Canada, to make them Cabinet Ministers.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). Does the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) propose to go into a dissertation on the whole policy of the Government, or will he confine himself to the amendment? I desire to ask you, Mr. Speaker, is the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) in order?

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** I have a word to say as to that.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** I take the point of order.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** You cannot ask for the Speaker's ruling without my speaking to the point of order. I am dealing with the Minister of the Interior now; I have already shown what he did before he had any standing in public life, and I am going to show that from his very inception in public life, he has adopted a course calculated to destroy the confidence of this House in a fair and just administration by him of that great department under which the Yukon district comes.

**Mr. SPEAKER.** Following the precedents of the latest date, it must be distinctly held that until this amendment is disposed of, the debate must be limited to the substance of the amendment. Let us understand that to begin with. Then, with reference to the remarks of the leader of the Opposition to

which objection has been taken, it occurs to me, that the position of the Minister of the Interior himself is intimately connected with the administration of the Yukon, and may be discussed. I had thought, however, before the point of order was raised, that the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper), in discussing other Ministers and other matters of Government policy, was going outside of the debate.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** I do not intend to say a word that will, in my judgment, conflict with the ruling you have made, Sir, because I quite recognize that on the present occasion we are confined to the amendment, and the amendment to the amendment which has been moved. Now, Sir, I will again read the amendment moved by my hon. friend (Mr. Clarke):

That this House deems it expedient to inform His Excellency that in view of the widespread charges of incapacity, misconduct and corruption in the administration of public affairs connected with the Yukon, it is the duty of the Government to appoint, without delay, an independent judicial commission to make a thorough investigation into that subject and report the result.

The amendment of the hon. gentleman from Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) declares that we shall not have an independent judicial commission, but that we shall go on with the inquiry by an official holding his office under the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). I propose to show the House the grounds on which I challenge the justice of that, and my reason for saying that, in my judgment, the Government might as well say at once: We are in such a position that we cannot permit this matter to be investigated by anybody except a man dependent on us for his official position from hour to hour, and who is absolutely under our control. I was going on to say that the confidence which this House and this country enjoys, in regard to new Ministers coming into the Cabinet, is based on the practice of our civil service, that they are surrounded by Deputy Heads of the departments, who have no political opinions whatever, who have held responsible positions under various Administrations, who should never be changed when the Ministry changes, and who have all the knowledge and information which long years of experience in the service can give them. The Deputy Ministers are in a position, by their wise counsel and their knowledge of the affairs of their departments, to give the country the guarantee that it is not likely that anything will be done for party purposes or personal purposes that would conflict with the proper administration of public affairs.

Now, Sir, what did the Minister of the Interior do? His first act was to violate all the traditions of the civil service law, to violate all the traditions that give security to the House and the country for an honest administration of public affairs, by degrad-

ing his Deputy Minister and driving him into an untimely grave. What next did he (Mr. Sifton) do? There was the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, a man full of knowledge, a man in the very prime of life, a man in the very plenitude of his powers to discharge his official duties, and how was he treated? He was put on the superannuation list, and a creature of the Minister of the Interior put in his place. I do not use the term "creature" in an offensive or invidious sense, but I say that the official who is created by another man is his creature, and I say that the present Deputy Minister of the Interior, as well as the gentleman who superseded Hayter Reid, when he was driven out of the service, are the creatures of the Minister of the Interior, who, in discharge of a debt that he had incurred in relation to these men, brought them fresh from his own county to assume the most responsible offices in the public service. Who was Alexander Burgess? As everybody knows, he had been one of the most valued men in the ranks of the Liberal party. He was taken up by the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, when he was doing yeoman service as a journalist in the cause of his party, and advanced by him from step to step in the civil service. When Sir John Macdonald succeeded to that office, although he did not retain the private secretary of his predecessor, feeling there was an incongruity in that, yet he placed him in a well-paid office. But Sir John Macdonald not only retained Mr. Burgess in his position, but when he found his sterling worth, and his ability and knowledge of the business of his office, he promoted him to the position of Deputy Minister. Sir, I say there is not a blacker spot on the escutcheon of hon. gentlemen opposite than that of driving from the position of Deputy Minister one of their own party, who they themselves brought into a position which he filled with signal ability, and the putting in his place of a creature of the Minister of the Interior from the Minister's own constituency.

Mr. LANDERKIN. They all belonged to our party.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Quite true; the country, I suppose, has nothing to do with it. That is just the trouble with hon. gentlemen opposite: they think their party is the country; but they will awaken from that wild delusion with a very sudden shock at no distant date. Nothing was more remarkable in the long and laboured defence of the Minister of the Interior, than the fact that he spent hours of his time and pages of "Hansard" in killing the dead. He found it more convenient to eulogize the character and position of officials whose character had never been challenged, than to deal with the strong challenge which had been thrown out to him with regard to other officials. Nothing, Sir, is more striking. Why, Sir, we were treated to a long discussion about Mr. Gordon Hunter, a highly respected bar-

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rist in the city of Victoria. What had that to do with the matter? Mr. Gordon Hunter, it appears, when these men fled under the charges hanging over them, had been invited to take a very important place. He declined it, it is true; but what had that to do with the debate? He had not been attacked; no person had said anything about him; and why should the Minister waste valuable time, which was required to defend his own character and conduct, on matters of that kind? He also spoke of Mr. Senkler. Nobody disputes Mr. Senkler's character or qualifications, or denies that he is a man of high standing. How did he come to be where he is? Because the country rose in revolt against the mismanagement and the corrupt actions of the men who had been there before him. The charge made by the senior member for Pictou was clear and distinct. It was against the first outfit, the men who had been sent into that country in the beginning; and if ever there was a time in the history of the country which demanded that any Minister charged with the responsibility of discharging his duty to the country, should select the ablest and best men he could command for those high and important positions, it was when they were to be sent into that remote country out of the immediate reach of the head of the department. Is there an hon. member of this House who does not recognize that? The charge was that Mr. Wade's conduct in office was unworthy of his position—that he entirely failed to discharge the high duties with which he was entrusted; and that charge the hon. gentleman slurred over by the statement that Mr. W. J. Tupper had given Mr. Wade a certificate of character. But the hon. gentleman did not read Mr. W. J. Tupper's letter. Why did he not read it? Why did he quote garbled sentences out of it? I will tell you why. He did it because when Mr. Wade was appointed, he was attacked, and violently attacked, by a gentleman sitting on that side of the House now before me—the editor of the Winnipeg "Tribune"; and Mr. W. J. Tupper's defence of Mr. Wade was in opposition. So it appears that Mr. Tupper is a much higher authority with the Minister of the Interior than one of the hon. gentleman's most important supporters in this House. But this fact remains, that Mr. Wade, who seems to have some strong hold on the Minister of the Interior, was again appointed counsel for Mr. Ogilvie when Mr. Ogilvie was appointed. He was loaded down with half a dozen offices, all of which he abused. The evidence is to the fore, and can be massed to any extent. Evidence can be adduced to show that he failed entirely in discharging his duties. In the steamer coming out, I found a gentleman who was an entire stranger to me, sitting opposite to me at the captain's table, an English gentleman, who had gone out from Moosomin to the Yukon. He had been there two years, and had been home, and was coming back; and he gave me Mr. Wade's history; and I will have no hesitation in offering to any hon. gentle-

man opposite my informant's name. He said: "A greater scandal could not be imagined. Mr. Wade was sent there as a Crown counsel, and he was actually in the habit of taking retainers from both sides, both the plaintiff and the defendant, and whichever side paid him the most got his services, and he threw up the retainer of the other party, and gave his advice to the Gold Commissioner, or whoever it was." And the gentleman said it was known—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Will the hon. gentleman give the name?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I will.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Will the hon. gentleman put it on "Hansard"?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have no objection to giving the name. I have rather an objection to putting it on "Hansard," as this gentleman is at present engaged in mining in the Yukon, and of course occupies a delicate position; but I will give the name to the hon. gentleman, and he can communicate to him the statement I make to this House.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The only reason I have for making the suggestion is that Mr. Wade's conduct is at present under investigation before a Royal commissioner; and pending the receipt of the report of that commission, the hon. gentleman does not scruple to state on the floor of this House the most serious charge that could be made against a barrister.

Mr. FOSTER. Did the hon. gentleman not hear it before?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If that charge is true, it can be investigated now, and Mr. Wade ought to know who his accuser is.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Wade will have five hundred such accusers. It is a matter of notoriety. In that long and elaborate defence of the Minister of the Interior, which he made on the floor of this House, nothing struck my ear as more curious than the fact that Mr. Wade made a secret lease. It appears that there was no actual lease, but the business was done in a very loose way, with a mere scrap of paper—a secret lease without public advertisement or any knowledge to the community at large as to what was contemplated; and when that lease, as the Minister called it, was granted by Mr. Wade to those parties, he received a retainer of \$2,500 from the men to whom he leased the property. That charge was made, and the Minister of the Interior did not question it, so far as I remember, or say a word in reference to it. Is not that quite as bad?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I will answer my hon. friend.

There was an imputation thrown out by the other side of the House, on hearsay evidence, that Mr. Wade had been guilty of some misconduct, and, when challenged, the hon. member for Pictou declined to give the name of his informant.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The Minister of the Interior dealt with the subject of water leases, and yet passed over the grave charge that Mr. Wade had accepted a retainer of \$2,500 from the men who got the property.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman must see that the Minister of the Interior directed himself to the charge against the Administration, and answered it; but the personal charge against the probity and honesty of one of the officials is one which the official has to answer.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh. oh.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I only say that I want to know whether the hon. gentleman is prepared to give the authorities the names of the people making this charge, or is he only repeating what the hon. member for Pictou said?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am inclined to believe that the party was misinformed, and that the fee was nearer \$15,000 than \$2,500, because the transaction was too big for a fee of only \$2,500. Mr. Wade's whole course in that Yukon country was a most scandalous course of misconduct and corruption, and I undertake to say that if an independent judicial tribunal is given, that will be proved up to the hilt. What more? Mr. Wade was sent back as counsel for Mr. Ogilvie. He had left there and was down here; but, Sir, when the senior member for Pictou told Mr. Wade that he was going to bring before the House of Commons his official misconduct in the Yukon, Mr. Wade made tracks out of the reach of the House of Commons, away up to the Yukon territory, and he is there to-day.

The PRIME MINISTER. The hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) never did.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. He says so in his speech.

The PRIME MINISTER. But he never did make a charge against Mr. Wade.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I think the hon. gentleman will find a good many charges made, and it is now admitted that Mr. Wade is responsible. One of the gravest charges that can be brought against an official is that he abuses his official position to get a personal advantage for himself. Can there be any stronger charge than that? What is the charge against Mr. Wade? It is that, as recording officer, he got knowledge of where a mine was discovered, and when the party who discovered it came to

have his claim recorded, Mr. Wade postponed recording it and then sent his own emissaries out to stake the property, and he divided the claim with the parties he sent out. That is the charge, and it has never been, and so far as I am aware, cannot be refuted. But that charge does not stand alone. Mr. Wade is charged with having consulted, throughout the whole administration of the duties of his office, his own interests and those interests alone, and abundant evidence was given by the senior member for Pictou in the indictment which he made concerning the course Mr. Wade has pursued. Is it not somewhat strange that, under these circumstances, we should have an hour spent over Senkler and Hunter and other people who had never been named and whose probity and character and honour nobody questioned, and yet that we should not have a word of vindication of Mr. Wade. But there is this—and it is a thing for which the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) has to answer to the people of this country as well as to this House—that he himself confessed in his speech that he placed these officials in a position of the greatest temptation possible to conceive. He told us he gave these officials abundant salaries. The hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) said that they got very handsome salaries, considering that they not only got the salaries assigned to them, but in addition their board and lodging—which I confess I was not aware of until recently, for I think it had never been publicly stated, and I assumed that they had to provide for themselves. I must confess that that makes a great difference. I admit that in so far as what are called starvation salaries are concerned, that makes a very important difference, but I may say we have had the Minister of the Interior confessing that he told Mr. Wade he was at liberty to stake out claims for himself. I ask this House whether there is a gentleman sitting on the Treasury benches who will get up and defend for a moment the position that a man sent out to that country, charged with such important official duties, in the midst of a great mass of people who went out there with their lives in their hands to struggle for a livelihood in the face of all kinds of privations and dangers, should be given the right to take advantage of the knowledge that his position gives him and use it for his own purposes. That, however, has been changed. Why has it been changed? I ask the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) if he finds that these gentlemen received sufficient salaries and provision for the duties they performed, whether that was not sufficient without the Minister of the Interior placing them in a position of the greatest temptation it is possible to conceive. Can any temptation be greater than to place a man in a comparatively humble position in life and then enable him, by abusing his trust, to make a fortune in an hour? And can it be won-

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dered at if he should fall under the temptation? Why was that change made, as it was the other day, for it was only the other day the House was informed that that practice had been forbidden for the future. Why was it forbidden? Because the Government had learned that the country was filled with this scandal, and that it was a matter of the deepest reproach to the department and all the officials connected with it.

Now, Sir, what did the senior member for Pictou say when challenged. He said this:

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Wait for a moment. Candidly, I answered that I did intend to reflect on the character of Mr. Wade, and that if I were in his position, I would be on the spot.

But Mr. Wade immediately started for the Yukon, and is now in Dawson. He preferred to be under the friendly shelter of an employee of the Minister of the Interior rather than face the challenge he was informed by the senior member for Pictou would be made against him on the floor of this House. I may say that at the very inception of his administration, the way in which he departed from all the recognized safeguards in the public interest startled us a good deal; but we were soon startled with another matter, and that was the contract for the building of the Yukon Railway. I have been taunted with having approved of that. I never did. What I did approve of—and I was wrong, I admit, and therefore can acquit the Minister of the Interior of being wilfully wrong and the Canadian Pacific Railway of being wrong and a great many others who got the best information—I was wrong in supposing that an all-Canadian route could be established and was to be established by the Stikine River, and therefore I do not challenge, in the slightest degree, the judgment of the Minister of the Interior in deciding on that policy. But I never supported the contract. Why, when that monstrosity came down here, what did we find? We found that in that contract—and this bears on my charge of incapacity in the administration of the Yukon—which was to give to Canada, at an enormous cost to the country, an all-Canadian route, contained no clause preventing its sale the day after it was signed or the work completed, in New York to foreigners.

The PRIME MINISTER. I am sorry to have to call my hon. friend again to order.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No, I am now dealing with the incapacity of the Department of the Interior in connection with the administration of the Yukon, and this is a most pertinent subject in that connection. We find that in the contract, as it was laid on the Table of this House, not only 3,750,000 acres of land, with all the mines and minerals contained therein—

The PRIME MINISTER. My point of order is this. We are now discussing the

amendment moved to look into the conduct of the officers of the Government in the Yukon.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I must say—

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker, but you are bound, before you decide, to hear my argument. Otherwise I shall have to fall back on the rules of the House. I may say at once that this point was raised when the Speaker himself was in the Chair; and although I recognize your authority, Sir, as being quite as great while you occupy his place, I think you will agree with me that some deference is to be paid to the Speaker. This point of order was raised when the Speaker was in the Chair, but when I showed him that this resolution challenged an examination into the incapacity and misconduct and corruption connected with the administration of affairs in the Yukon, the Speaker decided that I was at liberty to deal with the question of the contract.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I understand that the Speaker ruled a moment ago that in the present discussion we must confine ourselves to the charges of incapacity, misconduct and corruption in the administration of public affairs connected with the Yukon.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. If I understand well what has just been said by the hon. member, I do not think it has any connection with those charges of incapacity.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Well, I must ask that the Speaker return to the Chair.

Some hon. MEMBERS. He is there now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I may quote to this House a decision rendered in England in 1886 on an exactly similar question. And there it was decided by the Speaker in England, Mr. Speaker Peel, that the discussion should be confined purely and simply to the question raised by the amendment. The Speaker went so far as to say this:

That the subject of land matter will be, in some degree pertinent to the amendment, it would be more strictly in order if the debate were henceforth more strictly confined to the specific terms of the amendment of the hon. member.

I think that that shows that the ruling I have given is absolutely in conformity with the decision already rendered in England.

Mr. WALLACE. Has the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) departed from that ruling?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. That is what I understand.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I must ask an appeal to the Speaker.

The PRIME MINISTER. The Speaker is in the Chair.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Then I will ask an appeal to the House.

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) is quite in order, if he wishes to do so, in appealing from the ruling of the Chair. I do not object to the discussion, and have no fault to find with the manner in which the hon. gentleman has conducted it this afternoon. But we are here to pass judgment upon a motion made by the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) asking an investigation into charges of incapacity, misconduct and corruption in the administration of public affairs in the Yukon. Now, however, my hon. friend is discussing a contract entered into by this Government, which was not ratified by Parliament, and therefore never came into operation, and so can not be investigated by this commission.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am glad to see that my hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) takes so reasonable a view of the subject. But will he allow me, as a matter of some importance, to state that the greatest act of incapacity of the Department of the Interior in connection with the administration of the Yukon is exhibited, in my judgment, in the very matter with which I am dealing. And I cannot believe that this House will deny me the opportunity of stating the ground on which I charge incapacity, corruption and mismanagement in regard to the administration of public affairs in the Yukon.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Does the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) intend, if the amendment should prevail and the judicial investigation be ordered, that the Yukon contract of last year is to be one of the matters to be investigated by the commission? Otherwise his observations would not be pertinent to the issue.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. That would be entirely in the judgment of the commission.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes; if the commission is appointed, it will be appointed to investigate what this resolution covers—charges of incapacity, misconduct and corruption in connection with the administration of public affairs in the Yukon. And I do not hesitate to tell hon. gentlemen opposite that if they deprive me of the opportunity of stating here and now on my responsibility the grounds for my charge of incapacity in that matter, they will make a very grave mistake.

The PRIME MINISTER. I have no right to speak, but perhaps I may be permitted to call attention for a moment to this resolution. It says:

That this House deems it expedient to inform His Excellency that in view of the widespread charges of incapacity, misconduct and corruption

in the administration of public affairs connected with the Yukon—

this commission should be appointed. Now, certainly, anything connected with the administration of public affairs in the Yukon, the hon. gentleman has a right to speak about. But he wants to introduce into this debate a contract which is not part of the administration of the Yukon.

Mr. WALLACE. There was no contract, Mr. Speaker. There was a provisional contract made by the Government, but it could not become a contract until it was sanctioned by the Parliament of Canada. That sanction it did not receive. Here is an act of the Minister of the Interior in negotiating this contract with Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann. That is an act of administration by the Minister of the Interior, and I think the leader of the Opposition is quite right in commenting upon such an act of administration.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker—

An hon. MEMBER. Now we get it.

Mr. FOSTER. I thought my hon. friend had enough for one afternoon. It seems that we are discussing a question after the Speaker's decision—

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. FOSTER—but discussing it in an informal way; and I suppose we all have equal rights in that respect. I am sure that hon. members on either side do not wish to cut off anything really germane to this matter, so important as it is; and I think the leader of the Government would be wisely guided if he would allow very full range at this particular time. Now, what is the amendment? It reads:

That this House deems it expedient to inform His Excellency that in view of the widespread charges of incapacity, misconduct and corruption in the administration of public affairs—

Not "in the Yukon," but

—connected with the Yukon, it is the duty of the Government to appoint, without delay, an independent judicial commission—

And so on. Acts in the administration of public affairs connected with the Yukon may be done in the city of Ottawa. If in relation to these there is a charge of incapacity, misconduct or corruption, certainly that would justify an investigation. This does not refer simply to acts, but to officials high and low, charged with being guilty of these acts. The Minister of the Interior is not exempt. He is an official and the head official. Mr. Ogilvie is an official, Mr. Wade is an official, and all these may be included in this resolution. Now, what my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) was attempting to prove was that the highest official of all has laid himself open to these charges against himself and his officers. Logically, it is clear that the

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Minister of the Interior, in all his acts, "in the administration of public affairs connected with the Yukon" is under review, and subject to criticism, and that his acts are germane to the discussion of this amendment. I think my hon. friend now would be well advised if he would not press this point of order.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I will be as brief as possible on this branch of the subject. But it will be impossible to deal thoroughly with the questions of incapacity in the administration of public affairs connected with the Yukon without referring to this, one of the most important matters. As every person knows the question of wood supply in the Yukon is a burning question with the mining population—a burning question in a double sense. In the proposed contract submitted by the Minister of the Interior, it was proposed to give these contractors such terms as would enable them to control not only all the gold but all the wood in the Yukon territory. Now, if there is any greater evidence of incapacity than that, I should like some person to mention it. I will not deal further with the subject than to say in passing that that was one of the first evidences of incapacity in the management of the department that met with overwhelming condemnation from one end of the country to the other. And I do not believe there is a man who is not blinded by his own party interests who would have favoured such a proposition.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. When did the scales fall from the hon. gentleman's (Sir Charles Tupper's) own eyes?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I will tell the hon. gentleman. The scales fell from my eyes when I found the character of the proposition put before the House; when I found there was not provision for making this a Canadian route; when I found that the price proposed to be paid was so enormous as to make every person stand aghast at the idea of it. But I found that under those terms not only 3,750,000 acres but the entire gold-bearing portion of the Yukon would be all absorbed. My hon. friend must not shake his head, he has asked me a question. The evidence of it was given by the Government the next day, when I showed the enormity of the transaction to this House, down came the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) with the statement that the contractors had agreed to change all that because, it seems, they could not get the hon. gentlemen behind them, ready as they are to endorse almost anything the Government proposes, to support that proposition. So I think that the scales fell from the eyes of a good many people when that occurred. Now, Sir, where was the defence for appointing this captain of a whaler, Mr. Norwood, and for appointing Mr. McGregor? Is there any defence that will satisfy an intelligent audience in

this country as a ground for selecting these men for that far-off district? Why, Sir, in the province of Nova Scotia, in Ontario, in Manitoba, in British Columbia, the Government had many friends, hundreds of men capable of discharging the duty of mining inspector. Did they take any of them? Now what has become of these officials? The moment the question of this investigation was set on foot these gentlemen found their way out of the country. I believe they were quite able to get away, but up to this hour we have never been told why a horse dealer and the captain of a whaler were selected except that they were friends of the Minister of the Interior. One of them, I believe, was recommended by the Minister of Militia and Defence, I think the Minister of the Interior stated that he owed the whaler to my hon. friend the Minister of Militia and Defence. Now what was the consequence of this sweeping away of the officials of the department? It is admitted that long-trying officials were displaced from that department. What was the consequence? We find it stated in the speech of the hon. Minister of the Interior. He says that he took office in December, 1896, and Mr. Deville called his attention, on the 5th of March, to the report that the Yukon had been neglected. Sir, if Mr. Alexander Burgess had not been degraded, if Mr. Hayter Reid had been there, if the Minister had been surrounded with the tried and capable officials that he found when he went into the department, if he had retained them, he would have had no occasion to go to the Surveyor General for information; his Deputy Minister would have called his attention to it long before. He has got a very smart man, I believe, as Deputy Minister. But his smartness did not take the particular form of investigating reports, as he should have done, and as his Minister should have required. Well, Sir, Mr. Fawcett was appointed. Mark, this is the 5th of March, and Mr. Fawcett was not appointed until the 12th of April. Why this delay? If the Yukon had been neglected, if it was necessary to send parties there, then why this delay, and why was Mr. Fawcett sent there? Mr. Deville reported that he was a good surveyor, and I believe he was. I have stated, and I repeat, that I believe him to be an honest man, so far as I am able to judge. But there are men in the city of Ottawa who will swear before a judicial commission that Mr. Fawcett was a mere child, utterly incapable of discharging the duties of his office, and was played with as a child by these corrupt officials by whom he was surrounded. They will prove that Mr. Fawcett gave an interview to their paper—I am now speaking of the proprietors of the "Nugget."

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Why, Sir, has it come to this, that no man who is an American citizen can be mentioned in this

House without cries of derision from hon. gentlemen opposite? Is that the result of the six months negotiations between the commissioners of Her Majesty representing Canada and those of the United States of America? Why, Sir, it amuses me to find these hon. gentlemen blowing hot and cold; one day ready to do anything, to submit to anything at the hands of the United States, and the next day the great men of their party denounce these men the moment they come into the country. Why, they say these men are only Yankees, they are like Livernash. Well, Livernash was here; I did not have the pleasure of seeing him, but I believe the Senate listened with attention and respect to his statements, and they found the statements of the Minister of the Interior were all astray, and that Livernash's statements were thoroughly to be relied upon. But these gentlemen to whom I refer, although they have the misfortune to be Americans, say they are prepared to go before a judicial commission and swear that Mr. Fawcett gave an interview to them—and afterwards admitted that the report of the interview was substantially accurate—in which he disclaimed all responsibility for the officials that were under him, because, he said, they were sent from Ottawa, they were appointed without his knowledge, and he had no control over them whatever. These men state that although Mr. Fawcett was disposed, as I believe he is, to do what was right and just, he was utterly incapable. Again, they are prepared to prove that these officials, before whom the Minister of the Interior had placed opportunities of corruption by enabling them to take up claims and to undermine the rights of those who depended upon them for official information—that these parties surrounded Mr. Fawcett and persuaded him to issue an order that no claims could be taken up for a certain period. He was asked to allow claims to be taken up in a certain district, called a section, I think, and he made an order, and then these parties got in behind the persons who had taken up claims and got them all secured, and they persuaded him that they were all wrong, that they had led him astray, that he must cancel the order, and he cancelled it, and then they came in and took up the claims. Now that is the kind of Gold Commissioner that was sent out there, a man without any qualification whatever for discharging the duties of that important position. He was trifled with in this way by officials who, it has been proved over and over again, were notoriously corrupt in every possible shape and form. Then, Sir, there is another gentleman whose name I am not able to mention, but I will say this, that when his name is mentioned, as it will be whenever there is a judicial commission before which he is called to appear, he will swear that a friend came to him in great distress saying that he had got a claim staked out, that he had got it all right, but he was obliged to leave before he could get

it recorded. This gentleman was a man of standing and character, and engaged in an important work in the Yukon at the time. My informant said: You will have to do as everybody else does. What is that? Why, he said, you will have to let it stand. The gentleman said: I must go away; I have taken my passage in a steamer, and I must leave, and I am going to be ruined because I cannot get it recorded. Go and get it recorded for me, if you can. And this man, instead of paying \$17.50 as the fee, paid \$40 to an official in Mr. Fawcett's department and got the claim recorded, and the man put the balance between the \$17.50 and the \$40 in his pocket as a bribe, and the owner of the claim went away with the record of his claim in his pocket. Now that was the position of things in Mr. Fawcett's office, and that is a position of things that demands, I think, the most thorough investigation.

Now, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House for a few moments to Major Walsh's report, and I think I will show the House out of that, that there is very good grounds for serious criticism of the Government. The hon. member for Centre Toronto wanted to know why we would not take the word of the hon. Minister of the Interior. I will give him my reason at once. The hon. Minister of the Interior, on the discussion of the Yukon Bill last session, said, as will be found in "Hansard" of 1898, page 584:

Somebody the other night—I think it was the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace)—in a sarcastic tone, wanted to know why Major Walsh was camped far from Dawson City? In the name of common sense, what would he be doing at Dawson City? We have forty mounted police and a sufficient staff of officers there to do the work. Major Walsh is at the place where he was told to stay, attending to the business he was sent to attend to; and when in his good judgment every provision has been made there for the purpose of meeting the emergency of that case, then, and not till then, he will go on to Dawson City to do the work which is intended to be done there.

So that, according to the statement of the hon. Minister of the Interior, Major Walsh, who was appointed with extraordinary powers, I do not say that they were too great, but they were enormous powers, as administrator of the Yukon, was to stay at the camp where there were half a dozen white people at the outside, and, perhaps, twenty Indians. He was to be stranded away there in the desert, and the administration of the Yukon was to take care of itself according to this statement of the hon. Minister of the Interior. Major Walsh does not tell us that story, however, and, I may say, that Major Walsh's story, which is undoubtedly true, is confirmed now by the statement of the Minister of the Interior the other day, who gave an emphatic and direct contradiction to his statement made last year. Major Walsh says:

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When the Canadian Yukon administration party first camped at the Big and Little Salmon Rivers, it was with the expectation of proceeding by dog teams, as soon as they arrived, to Selkirk and Dawson City. On the arrival of the dog teams, which, owing to the condition of the rivers and lakes, has been considerably delayed—

There is the statement of Major Walsh that instead of being ordered to go to this place, he was ordered to go to Dawson City, and was only prevented from doing so by circumstances that he could not control. The hon. Minister of the Interior now confirms that statement, and Major Walsh gives an emphatic contradiction to the statement with which the hon. Minister misled this House at the last session. What does he say?

I have been asked why Major Walsh did not get through by water to Dawson City. I have just given the reason. If the assistant commissioner of Mounted Police had got his supplies across in a time five times as long as it took Major Walsh and myself to put them across when we were there, Major Walsh and his party would have gone on to Dawson City before the ice froze.

So that the hon. gentleman who ridiculed my hon. friend for West York (Mr. Wallace) for suggesting that Major Walsh should have gone to Dawson City, says that Major Walsh was ordered to go to Dawson City, and was only prevented by the condition of the ice. And we have the declaration now made by the Minister of the Interior contradicting what he said to the House so long ago as last year, when he now tells us that Major Walsh's orders were to go on at once, but that he was prevented by the condition of the ice. There are two or three points in this report to which I want to briefly draw the attention of the House. Major Walsh says:

On arrival at Dawson I found a great many questions awaiting solution which could only be disposed of by the authority of the commissioner.

So it appears that there was no such monstrous absurdity for Major Walsh to be at Dawson City. The Mounted Police were all that were required to discharge the duties of the commissioner! But Major Walsh thought differently. Major Walsh says further upon the question of royalty:

For instance, the question of royalty, over which there has been considerable discussion, appeared to be somewhat mixed. I immediately announced that royalty would be collected on all claims the leases of which were renewed subsequent to the date when the law came into force. Nearly all the leaseholders of the larger prospected claims showed a disposition to respect the collection of royalty. Others, however, were not tractable, their principal objection being that their leases were granted for one year, and that once being granted subsequent restrictions could not be placed upon them.

So that the incapacity of the Minister of the Minister of the Interior again came into play by having made different arrangements with different persons in regard to the ques-

tion of royalty, and having failed to bring them into operation from the time they were appointed and not from the time the parties applied.

While acknowledging the force of these reasons they submitted, that a more thorough examination of the real cost of outputting the gold would convince the Government that the royalty is a severe tax, and expressed a hope that next year would see it removed,—

Royalty, mark this, Mr. Speaker, Major Walsh declares :

—royalty was not collected from any claims which had not got into good working order or which could not show a profit after paying royalty, and this would represent a large sum.

So that a lot of regulations issued by the Department of the Interior, and administered under this horse dealer and captain of the whaler, were allowed to be trampled upon and did not come into operation at all.

Again, more than half the leases were exempted from royalty on account of having been renewed previous to the date of the law requiring the payment of royalty coming into force. \* \* \* The claims on this (Dominion) creek had been staked after the new regulations were in force, and should have been 250 feet in length, whereas they were staked 500 feet. After careful examination we decided to confirm the rightful staker in his claim of 500 feet.

So that we have the evidence of Major Walsh of the incapacity of the person who is in charge, who, I presume, was Mr. Fawcett, to discharge that duty.

The settling up of the claims in this way gave great satisfaction. All the remaining creek claims on Dominion and all fractions of claims were reserved to the Government.

In my judgment, one of the most striking evidences of incapacity—perhaps it would not come under the head of incapacity—but, in my judgment, it would warrant that term, is the monstrous royalty that has been charged, the oppressive conditions to which the miners have been subjected. I shall draw the attention of the House to the evidence of the truth of what I stated here last session, because every person acquainted with this subject knows that the greatest possible hindrance to the development of the Yukon has been found in these oppressive regulations. He says—and I shall have occasion to refer to this in another connection later on—he says :

In two or three cases liquor was allowed to pass into the district of Dawson City by the North-west Mounted Police at Taku under permit issued by the territorial government, subsequent to my appointment as aforesaid, but why these permits were recognized I have been unable to ascertain, they being directly contrary to instructions in this regard.

Major Walsh tells us here that the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) gave him instructions not to allow any liquor to go in, under authority of the North-west Territories Gov-

ernment. The Minister of Justice has told him (Mr. Sifton) that the North-west Territories Government was authorized and could legally grant those permits, although the Minister of Justice stated subsequently—and that is a point to which attention may be drawn—that the Government still had the power to cancel these permits. Will any one tell me that it was not the business of the Minister of the Interior in regard to such an important question as the admission of liquor into that country ; will any person tell me that it was not his business to have made that the subject of discussion with the Government, and to have it fully settled by them. A very sharp controversy occurred on this subject—and I was anxious that the Minister of the Interior should be here this afternoon so that he might hear something on this question—a very sharp controversy occurred between the senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) and the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) in regard to these liquor permits. Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper said :

As a person was able to do in the city of Victoria, also a member of the Bar, that is, to charge and collect a fee of \$500 because he was able, by telegram and by a letter, to obtain from the Minister of the Interior a permit for his client to send liquor into the Yukon.

That was the statement by the senior member for Pictou, and in reply to that the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) said :

I may be allowed to state for the information of the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) that the statement he has made is absolutely untrue.

Now, Sir, I come to another reason why I am not able to accept the statement of the hon. Minister of the Interior. That hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) again said :

The law partner of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is the only man that the public or private records of this Government can show has ever telegraphed to a member of this Government from the city of Victoria about a liquor permit.

“About a liquor permit,” these are the words of the Minister of the Interior. Strange to say, after all his legal astuteness, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton), having absolutely denied the statement that a gentleman of the legal profession in the city of Victoria had received a fee of \$500 for getting a permit to allow liquor to pass into the North-west Territories ; having declared that the law partner of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper was the only person who had telegraphed to him about a permit, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton), before he sat down—as will be seen at page 875 of the “Hansard”—admitted that he had a telegram from Archer Martin, now a judge on the Bench, and then a barrister in Victoria, asking for a permit to allow liquor to go forward for which a permit had been received from the North-west Territories and which Major Walsh had stopped under his instructions. The hon. gentleman

(Mr. Sifton) himself admitted that a member of the legal profession, to wit, Mr. Archer Martin, sent him a telegram "about a permit" for liquor to the Yukon, and the telegram is given on the pages of the "Hansard," and the answer of the Minister of the Interior is also given. Notwithstanding that the hon. Minister (Mr. Sifton) had declared that he never had a telegram from a barrister in Victoria about a liquor permit, and that the only person with whom there had been a question of permits was the partner of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, he then turned around at the end of his speech and said :

I wired this reply :

"Archer Martin, Victoria, B.C.

"This telegram will be authority to Major Steele to recognize permit to Pither & Leiser, issued by North-west Government, to take into Yukon 2,000 gallons of liquor."

Was not that telegram "about a liquor permit." I ask the right hon. the Premier, whether one can conceive of a more unworthy subterfuge than for a Minister to use a quibble of that kind when replying to the positive declaration of a member of this House. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) went on to state that under the law the North-west Territories had issued a permit, and the Minister of Justice advised him that they were entitled to do so. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) was showing his utter incapacity for the position he occupied by issuing permits which he had no authority to issue, and by acting in contravention of the law that gave to the Governor of the North-west Territories the power to deal with that subject. What happened? These parties had a permit from the North-west Government, but the authorities under Mr. Sifton would not permit that liquor to go forward, and under these circumstances the Minister (Mr. Sifton) telegraphed to the authorities under his own control to permit to go forward that liquor which had been stopped by his orders at the boundary. And yet, the hon. the Minister (Mr. Sifton) tells this House that any person who stated that he had ever had a telegram about liquor going into the Yukon from any barrister in Victoria, was stating an untruth.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Would the hon. gentleman permit me a word of explanation in the matter. The expression "a permit issued by the Minister of the Interior," could only have reference to a permit issued by his own department. This telegram deals with a different matter altogether. The statement of the Minister of the Interior was, that the only barrister who had telegraphed in regard to a permit was the partner of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, and it is quite sure that the Minister of the Interior did not do that in any terms of reproach to the gentleman referred to. That gentleman is a personal friend of mine, and I am sure the Minister of the Interior did not intend any reproach to him. What I wish

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to call the attention of my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) to, is that the latter telegram had reference to a permit issued by the Government of the North-west Territories, and the first statement of my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior clearly had reference, as the text shows, to permits issued by himself. They are two distinct transactions, and the statement made by the Minister of the Interior in the first place was amply justified.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am sorry that any gentleman other than the Minister of the Interior undertakes to offer such a senseless quibble for the consideration of this House.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I am sorry my hon. friend thinks it so.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Is this statement true? Was the telegram "about a permit"?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. If I would use my hon. friend's phrase I would say he is indulging in a quibble, but that, I think, would not be parliamentary.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have the whole thing out of the mouth of the Minister of the Interior himself. He says that the law partner of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is the only man that the public or private records of the Government show ever telegraphed to a member of this Government from Victoria "about a liquor permit."

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). About a permit to be issued by the Minister himself.

Mr. BERGERON. Not at all.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have already allowed the Minister of Finance to make a speech.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I have not made any speech.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I put it to my hon. friend in this House. Is a telegram asking a permit to allow in liquor which was stopped at the boundary; is a telegram on that subject "about a permit" or not? And yet the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) for the senseless purpose of dragging in the name of a gentleman of the highest character and standing, one of his own party one of the brilliant lights of the Liberal party in this country—the Minister of the Interior makes that senseless statement for the purpose of dragging in this gentleman's name simply because he had the misfortune to be the law partner of the hon. gentleman who arraigned the Minister for this misconduct.

Mr. MCGREGOR. It was his partner (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) who drew him in.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Drew whom in?

Mr. MCGREGOR. Drew Peters in.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. How did he draw him in? The hon. gentleman (Mr. McGregor) before he makes these senseless interruptions should know what he is talking about.

Mr. MCGREGOR. I know what I am talking about, but I do not think you do.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It is unworthy the position that hon. gentleman (Mr. McGregor) occupies in this House, that he should interject such a ridiculous remark as that. Why, Sir, it is impossible to imagine a more complete case of persons attempting to quibble upon terms that will not admit of any quibble.

Both cases were cases of permits. The liquor was taken in under a permit sent by telegraph from the Minister of the Interior. They had a permit from the North-west authorities, but the liquor was stopped at the boundary, and they could not move it a particle until an authoritative permit was sent by the Minister of the Interior to allow the liquor to go forward. And yet my hon. friend is not above supporting a quibble of that kind.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. We will have to leave the House to judge which is the quibbler.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Perhaps I might as well read what has been placed in my hands. I think it is simply contemptible to drag these private and irrelevant matters before the House. This is a telegram from Victoria sent to the "Star":

In the House of Commons, Hon. Clifford Sifton charged that Hon. Fred. Peters, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper's law partner, had applied to Ottawa for a liquor permit for the Yukon. Regarding this matter, Mr. Peters stated that he has never made an application to Ottawa for a liquor permit since he was the partner of Sir Hibbert Tupper.

So that he was not the partner of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper at the time.

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

After Recess.

## SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 51) to incorporate the Canadian Inland Transportation Company.—(Mr. Bertram.)

Bill (No. 53) to authorize the Bank of Nova Scotia to issue sterling notes for circulation in the Island of Jamaica.—(Mr. Borden, Halifax.)

Bill (No. 54) respecting the Eastern Trust Company.—(Mr. Borden, Halifax.)

## ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have but very little to add to what I have troubled this

House with; but I was running my eye, when the House took recess, over the report made by Major Walsh. He says:

No one here but admits that never before have we been personally present where so astonishing a state of order and safety to life and property has been maintained. It is something to be remembered and spoken of, the longest day we live.

A prominent American, resident in Dawson, writing to the press said, upon the same subject: "I wish to say, with regard to the Mounted Police, who govern the North-west Territory under management of Major Walsh, that a more orderly and quiet mining camp did not exist on the face of the globe. They have complete control, and the people are high in their praise. Your property and person are safe all the time. You need have no fear, day or night.

I draw attention to that with great pleasure, because it is a wonderful evidence of the result of what we may call British institutions. It shows how different a mining camp in a remote section of the country that is under the control of British power, presents to that which has been shown in other countries; but I draw special attention to it, because the hon. Minister of the Interior based his monstrous project for the building of a Yukon railway, which he submitted to this House, on the absolute necessity of providing for the preservation of law and order in that country. He held out to this House the impression that, unless that enormous obligation was incurred by the people of Canada, there would be no security that this district would not be absolutely wrested out of our hands by a foreign population. All these fears, Sir, have proved entirely illusory—just as illusory as his predictions with reference to the famine and distress that would be occasioned there, if his very extraordinary proposal were not adopted by both Houses. On page 14 of Major Walsh's report will be found the following statement:—

The Battalion.—On my arrival at Selkirk, on my trip up the river, I found Colonel Evans camped there with 60 men. The balance of his command had not yet arrived. Good progress had been made in getting out logs for the various buildings to be constructed. I informed Colonel Evans that it was more than likely that at least 100 of his command would have to winter at Dawson. Subsequently, Colonel Steele advised me that the police force at Dawson was to be increased to 70 men, and I wrote to Colonel Evans, stating that perhaps this number would be sufficient to perform the work there this winter.

I bring that forward as an evidence of the utter incapacity of the Minister of the Interior to discharge the duties devolving upon him in connection with the administration of the Yukon. The fact that we have the evidence of Major Walsh himself, who is thoroughly competent to speak on that question, that there never was any part of the world in which there was greater order and quiet than in the Yukon territory, where there was but a small number of our Mount-

ed Police force there, whose efficiency in the discharge of their duties as Mounted Police nobody, in my judgment, can speak too highly—in the face of that what do we find? We find this Government actually incurring the enormous expense of sending over 200 soldiers into that country, at a most frightful cost. Why, the amount which the Government paid to the Hudson Bay Company for transportation to Teslin Lake, I think, was at the rate of 40 cents per pound on all supplies and materials; and now I ask why was this enormous charge imposed upon the people of Canada? I have only to read the report of the Major General Commanding the Militia, to find that this force is to be recalled, that it was, in his judgment, very inconvenient to have the military forces of Canada taken away from their duties; and yet we find, such was the utter incapacity of the Department of the Interior, that an enormous expenditure, which must run into a great many hundreds of thousand dollars, was incurred for the purpose of sending soldiers of the permanent military forces of Canada into the Yukon. I want to know what justification the Government have for that. We have here the report of Major Walsh, whose testimony is borne out by every one who has visited that country—ladies, gentle and simple, and everybody else—that there never was a place in the world in which there was more perfect law and order, as there has been from the first to the last, in the Yukon. Yet this Government, not content with the sufficient force of Mounted Police which they had there, incurred enormous expense and disturbed the whole defensive arrangements of Canada for the purpose of sending soldiers out there. What was the object of sending a military force into that country? The mounted policemen, under the instructions which governed them, were able to discharge whatever duties were necessary. Soldiers can do nothing; you must have something in the nature of a rebellion, you must read the Riot Act before a soldier can raise a finger. Yet, in the face of the evidence of Major Walsh and every other authority who has any knowledge of the country, the hon. Minister committed the monstrous folly of sending a large military force in there, at the cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars. It looks as if the whole of the Yukon territory was to be exploited by an individual in this country for purposes which it is very hard for any person to understand. From the miners in the Yukon territory a revenue has been drawn, according to the statement made on a recent public occasion by the Minister of the Interior, of \$1,530,000, and the expenditure involved amounted to \$647,000, leaving a balance of \$883,000 placed in the treasury of Canada out of the pockets of the people carrying on mining in that far district. When one contemplates that, with the evidence before him that we now have—evidence from every source—one is at

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a loss to understand why the Minister of the Interior should have acted as he did.

The hon. Postmaster General contradicted very strongly the statement that the post office regulations in that country were in a most deplorable condition. Have the men who contributed over \$1,500,000 to the treasury of Canada, not a right to have their mail system kept up with the outer world? I have no hesitation in saying that you cannot show me in the history of any country such mismanagement and incapacity as has been exhibited in that district by the postal administration of Canada. If the hon. Minister of the Interior, anxious to exploit this country for his own purpose, wished to prevent any communication with the outer world, we could understand the state of things that exist there. We could understand why tons of mail matter were lying for months on the road, and nothing done to carry it forward, and, when finally it did arrive, the state of affairs out there simply beggars description. I can produce the sworn testimony to any extent to show that, when the mails did arrive, nobody could get a letter out of the post office; I can show that, after weary months of waiting, these men, who had put this balance of \$900,000 to their credit in the treasury, were unable to obtain the slightest communication with their friends. I say that condition of things was scandalous and disgraceful, and shows incapacity and recklessness of a most startling character.

We have been nauseated with the story of the Postmaster General's wonderful improvement in the post office. I do not hesitate to say that the postal communication in Canada has never been in a more imperfect, disrupted and disgraceful condition than under the administration of the present Postmaster General. When this great mining population, putting over a million and a half of dollars into the treasury of Canada, were not afforded means of receiving communications—communications, many of them, of the most vital importance, communications sometimes upon which fortunes depended, it is a disgrace to those who are responsible. And even when the mail was received in that country, what was the result? The fact is notorious and can be proven by the evidence of scores of the most respectable men, that when a mail arrived, the men who wished to apply at the post office for letters were lined up by the Mounted Police, and, after spending perhaps a whole night in line were unable to reach the post office, were obliged to resort to the disgraceful means of bribing women of immoral character to go to a side door of the post office, take their letters and carry them to a restaurant opposite the post office, where, on payment of one or two or five or even as high as ten dollars for a single letter, these communications were handed over to the unhappy—or happy, for they were often glad to get their letters upon

any terms—recipients. That is the state of things that hon. gentlemen opposite may think to dispose of by getting a dependent relative of the Minister of the Interior to report upon; but it will not satisfy the public of Canada. If they want a report that will dispel the disgrace which now overshadows the fair name of Canada in the eyes of the civilized world, they must adopt different means. These are matters that are known to every person that has gone into that country, and yet with the enormous amount of nearly three-quarters of a million of money lying to the credit of these unfortunate miners, they can neither get justice in the administration of their mining claims, nor can they have means of communication with the outside world. These are things that the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) may think to dispose of by handing them over to Mr. Ogilvie to investigate. But such a course will utterly fail to satisfy the intelligent people of Canada that justice has been done in the matter.

Now, I turn to another point. Major Walsh, in his report, says:

This winter the channel of the Thirty-Mile River could be greatly improved by the removal of the dangerous rocks in its course. It would require very little expense to put this river in safe condition for navigation. I would recommend that attention be given this matter at once. Last winter, when I was going up the river over the trail, I noticed that the dangerous rocks were all exposed. A charge of dynamite could very easily remove them. Some dredging at the foot of Lake Lebarge at Cariboo Crossing would also improve navigation by this route. In a former report I stated that the Lewes River was not navigable, and I intimated that it could not be made navigable. I have since found that the waters of this river are very much deeper at the points referred to in my report than I was then aware, and by removing a few rocks at different places a good channel for navigation can be secured.

There is a service of the most vital and pressing character. Mr. Coste, the engineer of the Public Works Department, who was sent out as soon as the House rose last session to examine the Stikine River and Teslin Lake route, and came out by the White Pass and Lake Bennett route, has pronounced altogether against the Stikine River route. Here is a work that would cost, perhaps, \$20,000 and would save the destruction of hundreds of thousands worth of property; and yet the Government, with three-quarters of a million of these miners' money in their treasury, will not spend a paltry \$20,000 or \$30,000 in removing obstructions to navigation on the route that they have been obliged to use for the purpose of keeping up their communication with that country. The Minister of the Interior declared in this House that the salvation of life and property and of the country itself depended upon the construction of the Yukon Railway. And yet, when that Bill was defeated in the Senate, what did the

Government do? Why, they put their embargo upon that country and would not allow any person to provide means of access to it. A company offered to deposit \$250,000 in the treasury of Canada as a guarantee that they would, without a dollar of subsidy, without an acre of land from this Government, build railway communication to Dawson City within eighteen months. Yet the Government put down their foot and would not allow these men to build that railway with their own money. Under the circumstances, the least they could do was to spend this \$20,000 or \$30,000 to do this work, which Major Walsh declares is an absolute necessity. Up to this hour not a blow has been struck, not a tittle of the work has been done, this work which the man who was placed in the position to deal with the matter reported as being of vital importance.

What does Major Walsh say about the timber leases? If the object of the Minister of the Interior from the day he was called to take charge of that department down to the present hour had been to exploit the Yukon country for himself and his friends, or for political party purposes, he could not have taken more effective means than he did. The country has been scandalized by these timber leases and these river leases that have been given to whom the Government were indebted for political services. What does Major Walsh say upon that question?

Regarding the timber of the district, a policy of extreme caution should be adopted. Without timber there can be absolutely no development in this district, and the regulations should be such as will best ensure its preservation while affording the population all that its members require for legitimate use. Timber leases should be issued from the district, and not from Ottawa.

Yet, down to the present hour, I believe, these timber leases, these river leases, these advantages and privileges have been used by the Department of the Interior and the Government for the purpose of paying their political debts without regard to the recommendations which the gentlemen placed in charge of that country and with the responsibility upon him as to the proper course, a course which every man with a head upon his shoulders could perfectly see was the only means by which this could be properly done, and that is by granting these leases in the country itself.

I draw the attention of the House again to the condemnation that Major Walsh in this report makes of Mr. Fawcett, who is vaunted so highly by hon. gentlemen opposite. He says:

I would recommend that an assistant judge for the Dawson district be appointed, and that one of his duties be the deciding of mining disputes. I do not think any one but a lawyer is fit to try these cases.

After two years' experience of making a gold commissioner of a surveyor, and of

having all these important interests depending upon his decision, Major Walsh, with the whole question under his eyes, reports to the Government that if they want this thing properly done they have got to get rid of Mr. Fawcett and get a lawyer in his place who understands something of the principles and knowledge of law. I repeat that I would not say one word in disparagement of Mr. Fawcett's high moral character, and his desire to do what is fair and right; but you have here the testimony of the commissioner himself that it is absolutely necessary, if these duties are to be properly discharged, that you should get some person else, and I am glad to see they have got some person else. Major Walsh also touches upon another very important question:

When the difficulties of operation, the scarcity of supplies, and the lack of proper facilities for mining and the small territory worked are considered and understood, an output of \$10,000,000 is a remarkable showing, and justifies great expectations for the future. Practically Eldorado and Bonanza are the only two creeks upon which any considerable work has been done.

Why does Major Walsh report that there are only two places in which any work has been done? It is because, practically, Eldorado and Bonanza were two immensely rich claims about which there was no doubt of the parties succeeding in obtaining a large amount of gold. Everybody that knows anything of mining in any country in the world is well aware, and it has been dinned steadily into the ear of the Minister of the Interior ever since these regulations were made, that a more fatal policy could not be adopted than the imposition of this enormous royalty of 10 per cent upon the output. If it was imposed upon the profits of an undertaking, one could understand it, but to impose it upon the output is a monstrous proposition unheard of in any other country of the world, so far as I am aware. In the United States there is no royalty, where they have effected such enormous results in mining development. In British Columbia, I think, the royalty is one per cent; in Nova Scotia, if I remember right, it is something like 2½ per cent. The imposition of a 10 per cent royalty has practically stopped the whole development of the Canadian Yukon. Why is it stopped? It is because the expenditure on ordinary mining claims is such as to make it impossible for the miners to get any beneficial results if they are compelled to pay 10 per cent upon the outlay. The result is the greatest disaster to Canada that can possibly be conceived. Canada is interested in having credit for all the gold and all the development of that country that can be produced. If you adopt a policy of 10 per cent royalty in the first place, you make it impossible to work anything but the richest and most valuable claims; in the second place, you offer such a premium for smuggling and deception as to make it one of the most difficult things in the world to collect the

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revenue from the output of gold. The country does not get credit for one-half of the gold output of the country, simply because the miners adopt means to conceal the gold that they have taken out. It can be put in small bulk and easily smuggled; and the result is that, whereas, formerly everybody proclaimed what a wonderful country it was, and how successful they were, now every person conceals his output for the purpose of avoiding payment of this immense tax. The policy is one that has practically closed the great mining mart of the Yukon to mining operations, owing to the discouragement that this exaction has produced. The miner has to pay a mining license, a heavy charge; he has to pay an annual lease, a heavy charge; then you come down upon him, and in many cases, as parties have assured me, where they have taken \$20,000 or \$30,000 worth of gold in the course of the year, the cost of the purchase of the mine to begin with, and the expenditure involved in securing that revenue, are such as to leave them practically after the Government take that 10 per cent, without any profit in the operation. If the Government do not get it, it is because the inducement to smuggling is so great that the miners conceal the amount they have received and thus defeat the object of the Government. Major Walsh also refers to the matter in another place:

The cold and inhospitable climate, combined with the expensive and hard labour attendant upon mining in that country, will always make it an unpopular and unfavourable "mining camp," and for this reason the mining laws and regulations must be liberal, so as to attract and encourage the population and capital of the world. Good facilities for communication and transportation must be provided in the district.

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The price of labour will be so reduced that wages can be made in ground that will pay the miner from \$5 to \$10 per day, and when this is done the Yukon district ought to give to the eastern provinces a trade that in a few years would exceed that of any foreign nation.

I draw the attention of the Government to this, as I regard it of vital importance. I regret to see that the Minister of the Interior has determined to maintain this royalty of 10 per cent. A gentleman called upon me, a very intelligent man who has, however, the misfortune to be an American, and, therefore, the very mention of his name will be scouted by hon. gentlemen opposite to whom that nationality have recently become so exceedingly distasteful; but he is well qualified to express an opinion, he is engaged in mining there now. He called upon me and told me that he discussed the matter with Mr. Ogilvie, and Mr. Ogilvie stated in his judgment the Government would get more money with a royalty of 2½ per cent per annum than with a royalty of 10 per cent. There is another point upon which I will quote from Major Walsh, but here, I fear, nobody will agree with him. He says:

With regard to the question which has arisen as to the propriety of an official taking up a claim in the district, I fail to see any reason for not permitting him to do so, nor any reason in which the public or the public service can be thereby injured.

I am not surprised to hear that statement from Major Walsh, but I am surprised that a gentleman having the responsibility of the Minister of the Interior upon his shoulders, should have given countenance to an act so utterly fatal to anything like good government in that country. Sir, there is a gentleman within the sound of my voice at this moment. He is unfortunately an American; he comes from the state of New York. I do not intend to name him, because I do not want to embarrass him in his communications with the Government. He has not been in the Yukon, but he has a large amount of capital there, and has representatives in the Yukon territory, and he says that the only means of accomplishing anything there is the bribery of officials. The hon. Minister of the Interior will be able to learn this from the gentleman himself if he will grant him an interview. So far, he has unfortunately received the cold shoulder, and he finds it difficult to get any communication with this hon. gentleman who seems to regard the Yukon as his private and personal property. I draw the attention of hon. gentlemen to this as another evidence of what has been going on in that country, and, if a judicial commission is granted, evidence will be put before it of the fact, of which I am speaking, that the only means of accomplishing anything is by bribery and corruption, and that it is only by those means that any record of claims can be got, or any kind of justice obtained in that territory at the present time. I give another evidence from Major Walsh's report as to the unwisdom of this enormous charge of 10 per cent in royalty. He says:

The cost of prospecting a claim may be any way from \$500 to \$2,000, and even five times as much as the latter amount has been expended in prospecting claims which are now abandoned. Perhaps with cheaper labour they may be worked at some future time.

I give that as another evidence of the absolute necessity of looking into this matter. I do not require to detain the House any longer with this interesting report of Major Walsh, but I commend it to the careful consideration of hon. gentlemen as being worthy of their attention.

When the House rose at six o'clock, I was dealing with a very important question in which I gave a reason to hon. gentlemen why I could not accept the unsupported word of the hon. Minister of the Interior in relation to the question of a permit. I will now give a further reason why I thought I would be justified in refusing to accept that hon. gentleman's statement. We have a very interesting account from the hon. Minister of the Interior of his own partner, not Sir

Charles Hibbert Tupper's partner, but his own partner, and it is worth the attention of the House. He says:

A gentleman there named A. E. Philp, was a junior partner in my office.

That is at Brandon.

This gentleman, like a great many others, caught the gold fever, the Klondike fever, last year, and went out to the Yukon.

When did he go to the Yukon? He went to the Yukon when his partner became the Minister of the Interior.

Mr. DOMVILLE. That is not correct.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. However, the fact of his being the former partner of the Minister of the Interior put him in a position to do what no other man could do. The hon. gentleman says:

I defy any man living to bring the slightest evidence of the truth of any such statement. I dissolved partnership with Mr. Philp when I became a member of the Government, and have had no business connection with him, directly or indirectly, in any way, shape or form, since that time.

That is very strong language and very clear, but the fact that he could proclaim himself as having recently been the junior partner of the hon. Minister of the Interior would be no mean advantage to him in the way in which matters have been carried on in the Yukon territory. But I am now going to show the House what I think will be strong evidence that this former partnership is still a bond of affection existing between the junior partner, Mr. Philp, and the hon. Minister of the Interior, notwithstanding the statement that he defies anybody to prove that he is in partnership. It is not very easy to prove a connection of that kind, but if anything would prove it it is what I am going to put before the House, and it goes to show that, while ostensibly the partnership may be dissolved, that their position is what it has been before, that is to say, that they are immediately interested in undertakings connected with exploiting of the Yukon territory. He says:

The story was circulated at the coast that I had given Mr. Philp a liquor permit, and that he had taken liquor into the Klondike, and with that charity which covers a multitude of sins, the story was industriously circulated that I was his partner in connection with the taking of liquor into that country. Well, Mr. Speaker, he never had a liquor permit from me or my department, directly, indirectly, or in any way, shape or form, by or under the authority of any member of this Government.

That is a pretty strong statement. But did he give Mr. Philp what it is charged that he gave him? On page 877 of "Hansard," the hon. Minister of the Interior says he wrote this letter:

This will introduce Mr. Philp, who will be permitted to enter the Yukon district with such provisions he may choose to take with him, without regard to the regulations.

Now, Sir, if his colleagues, for I cannot believe that they were conscious of such a transaction as this, know that he is not connected with Mr. Philp, I want him to produce such a telegram as that to any other man living. I want him to show any single case in which he authorized anybody to take provisions without regard to limit or to quantity or kind or to regulations into that country. He says: I command you as my officials to allow that gentleman to take into the Yukon territory whatever he may wish to take in there in the shape of provisions without any regard to existing regulations. I ask the right hon. First Minister whether he thinks that any member of this Government, or any man in any department of government, ought to be permitted to give a certificate of that kind to any man living. I do not believe that he would sanction such an action. How was that sanction used? I have the evidence—I do not intend to give the name—but I am going to read a letter, sent by a gentleman whose name is withheld, to the "Mail and Empire," and I may say that that gentleman, although I have withheld his name is willing to go before a judicial commission and swear to the truth of what I am stating. He is known to every member of this House to be as respectable as any man within the walls of this House. I say that on my own responsibility. What is his statement? It is this:

—, October 4th, 1898.

W. H. Bunting, Esq.,  
"Mail and Empire," Toronto.

Dear Sir,—When in Victoria, B.C., in June last, a gentleman introduced himself to me, and in substance said he had a permit to take a large quantity of liquor into the Yukon district, and wanted to know if I knew a certain distiller. I replied in the affirmative, and wished to see before taking hold of the deal in any way, the bona fide nature of the transaction. A telegram was sent at my suggestion to Victoria, where the original order or permit was held; an answer came back, which I saw, stating that the original, signed by Clifford Sifton, could be forwarded by next steamer if necessary. The party in whose favour the permit was, was Mr. Philp, partner of Clifford Sifton, of Brandon. I asked who was interested in the matter beside the party who offered it to me; he said that Philp was to receive \$5,000 in cash when order or permit was handed over, and one-third of the profits at the end of the deal. I then would have nothing to do with it; did not think seriously of having anything to do with it at any time.

Here is a copy of the order, as offered to me, and that copy of the order, signed Clifford Sifton, is exactly what we have under the Minister of the Interior's own hand, as the permit he gave to Mr. Philp to take this liquor in:

Ottawa, 13th May, 1898.

To the Officers and Officials in the Yukon Territory:

This introduces Mr. Philp, who has a permit to enter the Yukon district with such provisions as he may see fit to take with him, without regard to the usual regulations.

(Sgd.) CLIFFORD SIFTON.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

This was presumably signed by Clifford Sifton, the original I did not see.

Well, we have the original here, and that is exactly correct.

I have in my possession a letter from the party who originally offered the deal to me, dated the 28th June, 1898, wherein he says, amongst other things, to me:

"You may have this in its entirety for \$10,000."

Only \$10,000, Mr. Speaker, on this little job.

You may have this in its entirety for \$10,000 cash; if you want to work on it wire me at once. I have secured the thing out and out, owing to my inability to dispose of it and he retaining the interest.

Sir, I give that to the House as another reason why I do not accept the statement of the Minister of the Interior, that he has no connection with the party to whom he would give such a monstrous permit as that, to take in anything, without regard to regulations, and violating the laws under which the department acts, for the purpose of giving that to Mr. Philp which no other man has ever received before or since. That is a transaction that I place before the House as testimony, as conclusive as it is possible to present, of the incapacity—I won't even say, incapacity—but of the corruption of this whole transaction. I do not intend to detain the House at any further length, except to draw attention for a moment to the commission to Mr. Ogilvie issued by the Government. Sir, is this a commission calculated to meet the widespread charges of corruption and mismanagement in connection with the Yukon, as detailed in this amendment by my hon. friend (Mr. Clarke)? It is not. A number of miners sent a letter to the Prime Minister, making certain charges, and Mr. Ogilvie is appointed to investigate these charges, nothing more, nothing less. But Mr. Ogilvie, under his instructions, is not in a position to deal with anything outside of the specific charges contained in the miners' petition. The instructions to Mr. Ogilvie have been given to us by the Minister of the Interior, and here they are. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) said:

Here is the letter I wrote to Mr. Ogilvie accompanying the commission and containing his instructions:

Ottawa, 10th October, 1898.

Dear Sir,—You will receive herewith a commission to investigate charges which have been made by a miners' committee against the administration of Government affairs in the Yukon district. This commission has been issued in consequence of the receipt of a formal complaint, a copy of which is attached to the commission. You will proceed at once upon the receipt of the commission with the investigation, and you are authorized to notify the persons who have signed the petition, wherever possible, of the time and place and when the commission will be opened.

Mr. Ogilvie is simply authorized to notify a dozen miners who signed this petition, and

who may be away in the woods or in far-off districts, prosecuting their employment.

It is the desire of the Government that the investigation should be thorough and complete, and that each and every charge that has been made in the miners' petition should be thoroughly investigated, and that you should make a definite report.

Nothing more than this. It is a farce. It is no answer to the charges which are ringing over three continents of incapacity and mismanagement and corruption in regard to the Yukon administration. This commission limits the whole thing down to what a few miners have put in their statement, and these miners, when the commission opens, are, at their own expense, to maintain themselves, and to abandon their work and to incur the undying hostility of the Government. Is this House, composed of intelligent business men, to be deceived, and deluded, and fooled, by such a proposition into believing that such a commission will dispel the dark cloud of disgrace that has settled down upon the fair land of Canada in connection with these Yukon charges? I am astounded, when I look across the floor of this House and see my right hon. friend the First Minister; I am astounded that he did not, the moment this resolution was tabled, at once rise in his place and say: I know that the conduct of my Government is clear; I know that our course will challenge investigation; I am not afraid of the administration of the Minister of the Interior being examined with the most scrupulous care, and I at once accept the proposal. And, Sir, what was that proposal? It was not that we should name the commission, but that the Government themselves should select a judicial commission on their own responsibility, a commission beyond the control of the Government of the day. They had the whole judiciary of Canada to select from; they could choose their own friends there, if they liked, and, so far as I am concerned, such is my respect, such is my confidence in the high character and integrity of the bench of Canada, without respect to what political party a judge may have belonged to before he went on the bench, I say, that the verdict of such a judicial commission would, in my judgment, meet with hearty approval by the people of Canada. Was not that a fair proposition for us to make? Why did not hon. gentlemen opposite accept it? Why is it that they cannot find men behind them in this House who will force them to accept that proposition? Sir, in view of the disgrace that rests upon Canada on account of these world-wide charges, the Government, out of respect to what they owe to Canada and to themselves, should of their own motion take the best means of dispelling that cloud and of proving whether these charges are true or false. The Government should have said: We are determined to

probe to the bottom this matter, which strikes at the integrity of Canada, and let the wrong-doers take the consequence. They might lose the Minister of the Interior—I believe they would by the report of any judicial commission, choose it as they might—but, Sir, the Government would save themselves. Sir, in what position are they now, and in what position do they place their followers behind them? Had they granted such a commission, whether the charges were found too true or not, it would have disposed completely of any suspicion of complicity on the part of the Government. I say to these gentlemen on the Treasury benches: You have no choice. You have to accept that resolution, and appoint that judicial commission, and you have to show that you are not in the deplorable condition that you are forced to appoint, as a commissioner to investigate charges against the Minister of the Interior and the Government of Canada for maladministration in that country, a man who was a dependent relative of the Minister of the Interior who is accused. Was ever in a civilized country such a thing heard of, that when a man was charged with high crimes and misdemeanours, charged with failing in his duty to his country, charged with a course which involved the Government of which he was a member in disgrace? I ask, was ever such a thing known in the civilized world before as to allow the man so charged to say: "I cannot permit that charge to be investigated by an independent judicial tribunal; I must have my relative, my dependent, for my judge, or I will leave your Government." Sir, I tell them that they have got to take that resolution; they have got to adopt that resolution. They have got, in defence of that country, of themselves, and of their own honour, to adopt it, or they will be placed in this position, that as they can only obtain a subservient report from a man who is dependent upon themselves—and his own position makes it impossible, unless, as I said before, he were more or less than human, for him to discharge his duty independently—they will find that they have rung the death-knell of this Administration, and the intelligent people of this country will rise in their might and strike down the men who are unwilling to have their acts submitted to an independent judicial tribunal, because they know that it would involve them in disapproval and discomfiture.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Mr. Speaker, the last few moments of my hon. friend's address were really refreshing. He had been plowing along for an hour or so with an audience of about fifteen members, on his own side, and about the same number on this side; and a more dreary and uninteresting address I never heard the hon. gentleman deliver.

Mr. BERGERON. That is not what the people will say.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman, as a rule, is able to import a good deal of vigour into his speeches; but the consciousness was evidently borne in upon him in the early afternoon, and remained with him until the last five minutes, that he was flogging a dead horse—that the interest in this debate has entirely ceased; that the interest which was maintained for a long time on the part of the public in the debate was so maintained, because they believed that there was some evidence to be produced against either the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) or some of the officials in the Yukon, which would throw discredit upon the Government. As a matter of fact, I think I can safely venture the assertion that there has not been a scintilla of evidence attempted to be brought before this House which was not contained in the miners' petition, or in the evidence with which they say the country rang before the miners' petition was presented—not a single new thing. But we have had novelty in parliamentary debate. We have had something which, in nineteen sessions at least, my parliamentary experience, I have never witnessed before, and which, I venture to hope, I never shall witness again. We have had attempts made by men of whom I thought better things, who were willing to wound and yet afraid to strike, who had not the courage to give the names of their witnesses, who in an indirect and unhandsome manner—a cowardly manner, I would say, if the parliamentary usages of the House would permit me—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I say, Mr. Speaker, that they have attempted, by reading extracts from alleged letters and alleged memoranda from witnesses, and withholding the names of those witnesses in almost every case, to leave this House and this country under the impression that there was some grievous charge against the hon. Minister of the Interior, and some grievous wrong committed by some of the officials appointed by this Government which they were anxious to have investigated. Well, Sir, they have failed from beginning to end to place upon the records of this House one single charge, authenticated by one honourable man, who would vouch for it, to which my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior or any officer of his department should be called upon to answer. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman has divided his speech ingeniously, knowing that he could not maintain the line of attack on which the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) started out, of personal charges against the Minister and against the officials. He has divided his attack into personal and political charges, and for the last hour or so he has been talking

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about the political mismanagement of the Yukon. Well, Sir, on that branch of the subject we are always prepared to meet him. The hon. gentleman tells us, with a great deal of surprise, and I think I almost fancied with some regret, that we have had an extraordinary spectacle presented to the world in that Yukon country. We have had 30,000 or 40,000 miners, men not accustomed to the restraints of law and order and civilization, congregated there for over two years; and yet law and order have been maintained as amply as in the city of Ottawa or the city of Montreal. To whom is that to be attributed?

Mr. POPE. To the miners.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. To the government of the Yukon territory and the precautions which the wisdom and the prescience of the hon. Minister of the Interior took to prevent disorder and uprising—to the fact that we had in that territory a large number of Mounted Police and a certain number of the regular militia of Canada, affording guarantees to the law-abiding citizens that they would be protected; and to the fact that, notwithstanding that nine-tenths of the population of that district were of alien origin, the law was administered with the same celerity, the same firmness, the same certainty, as in any other part of Canada. The hon. gentleman is surprised and astonished at that. I can tell him that I have received personally numbers of letters from gentlemen who went there from the United States of America congratulating me upon the marked difference, so far as law and order were concerned, between the mining districts of the Yukon and the mining districts of the western states of America. They stated that in the Yukon district they were just as safe and just as certain of the protection of their life and property as if they had been in one of the large cities of their own country; and they congratulated the Government of Canada upon that fact.

Mr. BERGERON. Give us the name.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Their names are legion, Sir; and if the hon. gentleman would insinuate that my statement is not correct—

Mr. BERGERON. Oh, no; but we would like to see the name.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Let the hon. gentleman maintain his soul in patience a little. The hon. gentleman complains of two or three things. He complains that we sent soldiers into that country. Why does he complain of that? The hon. gentleman lately became very much enamoured of his American friends. He lives with them, almost sleeps with them; he cannot make a speech of a few hours' length without quoting from some of his American friends who have not made the fortunes they expected, who

complain of having to pay taxes or royalties in the Yukon—American friends of his who, if the truth were known, complain that the Yukon is Canadian at all. That is where the shoe pinches. If the hon. gentleman takes up the records of his American friends who published a newspaper in the Yukon, and whose opinions—in the form of a memorandum or statement—the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), formulated—he will find that the burden of their complaint was that the Yukon was Canadian territory at all. They had complained in their paper of everything; they complained that British law was paramount there, that British taxes had to be paid there, that the British flag flew there, and that the line was where it had been placed by treaty nearly a century ago. They wanted the line run further east so that this territory should become American and cease to be Canadian. My hon. friend has deep concern for these people and is comforting himself with their representations as to how we should conduct ourselves in our own country, and one of their representations is that we must not let a Canadian militia man go there at all. It is perfectly proper, mind you, that on the other side of the Alaska boundary, there should be a number of detachments of American troops. My hon. friend is perfectly satisfied that American troops should go there to maintain law and order and see that the regulations of that country are observed, but he says we must not have one of the Canadian militia in that Yukon territory. Why not? Why will you have them in the settled parts of Canada? Why do you want them here? Or does the hon. gentleman want to abolish them altogether?

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. What do you want them in Victoria for? In Montreal, in Toronto and Kingston? Are you prepared to abolish them altogether? Is that what you want?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I want to keep them here for the purpose for which they were organized and for which the Major General says they must come back.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The purpose for which they were organized is the purpose of defence and the maintaining of law and order, when necessary.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. And if there had been a riot or rebellion attempted by the 30,000 or 40,000 foreign miners who are in that country, this reserve power would have been at hand to repress it. The moral effect of having these troops and the North-west Mounted Police there was sufficient, together with the magistracy, to maintain law and order in that country. And it is a proud reflection, which the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sif-

ton) and the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden) can congratulate themselves upon, that they took time by the forelock and sent these representatives of law and order into that district, with the result that there never has been any attempt to resist law in Dawson City, or any part of the Yukon.

Oh, but says the hon. gentleman, the Government is guilty of another crime. While, he says, it is true that the population of that country is nine-tenths foreigners and one-tenth Canadian, you have gone and levied taxes upon these people, you have taken from them revenue to the extent of \$1,500,000, and you have only expended \$640,000, and although this expenditure has been incurred for the purpose of maintaining peace and order and good government, he throws out, as the responsible leader of the Opposition, this suggestion to the Yankee miners, the 30,000 or 40,000 who had crossed the line, that that money is theirs. He says that this \$640,000 does not belong to the Government of Canada, but should be placed to the credit of the miners in that country. Therefore, the foreign miners, I suppose, are to go and take this money the best way they can, and the taxpayers of Canada are to learn that the money collected in that part of the Dominion is not to go into the general consolidated revenue fund, as do all the other taxes collected in other parts of Canada, but is to be put to a special account and credited to the Yankee miners. I do not know whether the hon. gentleman intended that as a suggestion to them to try and take possession of the money, when they got the troops removed, but whether he did or not, it was an ill-called for and unfortunate statement. I think that both he and his friends on that side would be well advised if they would adopt the principle which was adopted by gentlemen on this side the very first time that that Yukon territory was brought under Canadian Government, namely, that the Yukon should pay for the Yukon. That is the principle we adopted, and which so far we have attempted to apply.

The hon. gentleman complained very much about this royalty. He thinks it is excessive. The royalty, no doubt, is very objectionable to those who have to pay it; but I will venture to say that it is not objectionable to the taxpayers of Canada, who know that an enormous sum has yet to be paid out of the treasury of this country for the proper development of the Yukon. It is quite true that the hon. gentleman's party succeeded in defeating the Bill we introduced last year for the construction of a railway to that country, and it is quite possible they will attempt to defeat a measure to carry in a telegraph line there also, but I think they will be well advised if they do not go very much further in defeating propositions this Government may make from time to time for the development of that country, by improving its postal or tele-

graph or railway facilities. And I can assure the hon. gentleman, that while we are collecting this royalty from those miners, we are determined that the money shall be generously expended in building public works and extending transportation facilities and otherwise in developing the country. My hon. friend omitted, however, to mention a very important fact, and that is that although a 10 per cent royalty is charged, not a single per cent, not a single dollar is or has been charged upon any claim which realized less annually than \$2,500. After a year's experience we doubled the free output to \$5,000, so that that amount can be mined now and not a single cent of royalty or tax is charged upon it. I leave it to the judgment of the people whether when a claim is paying more than \$5,000, it is not reasonable and fair that the surplus should bear a small tax. Let me call the attention of the House to this fact, which, I think, in this hour of recrimination, abuse and slander poured upon the unfortunate heads of those poor civil servants who are administering the law in that country, should not be lost sight of, and that is that although \$1,500,000 has been collected in the shape of royalty and other duties and taxes and \$640,000 of that expended, there has never been to this day a man bold or reckless enough—and boldness and recklessness have been the characteristics of many of the speeches of hon. gentlemen opposite—to say that one dollar of that was improperly taken or misappropriated by an official of this Government. We have therefore absolute honesty in the collection and expenditure of money, so far as we know.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, no.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. And that is something which ought to be put to the credit of these officials.

Now, while the hon. gentleman has made charges against the officials in that country, for whose conduct the Government may or may not be responsible—that depends altogether on the result of the investigation—he has not dared to make, but has ventured to insinuate, charges against the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). Sir, I have nothing to say with regard to any political charge he may make against the hon. gentleman. He had his answer when the Minister of the Interior made his speech the other night.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. And I will venture to say that notwithstanding the interruptions—rather rude in my opinion, and quite unnecessary also—by the junior member for Cape Breton (Mr. McDougall), I venture to say that the speech of the hon. Minister of the Interior will be read from one end of Canada to another with satisfaction and delight. I will venture to say that not only his political friends but the political friends of the hon.

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leader of the Opposition himself will acknowledge that under most trying circumstances he has comported himself with an energy and ability beyond all praise. They will acknowledge that, if there has been law and order in the Yukon, if the public laws of Canada have been properly administered, if the royalties have been collected, and the moneys expended, without dishonesty, and if to-day that Yukon district stands in such a position that a single charge cannot be made against its existing administration, whatever may be said as to the past, the credit is due to the Minister of the Interior more than to any other member of the Cabinet. I will say this for my hon. friend (Mr. Sifton), whom hon. gentlemen opposite try to single out as the one man in the Cabinet who had done something wrong in connection with that country. Sir, his colleagues are proud to share with him the entire responsibility for the government of that country. He enjoys the unbounded confidence of every colleague who sits with him at the council board; we believe thoroughly in his honesty and his integrity, ability and power; and it is because he has power, ability and energy that they have learned to fear him.

An hon. MEMBER. Oh, oh.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. But, Sir, my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) did not scruple to insinuate what he dare not charge openly. There is not a man on that side of the House who knows better than he does the constitutional method of making a charge against a member of the Administration. There is no man on that side who should be keener or quicker than he to condemn an attempt to blast the character of a public man by mean and contemptible insinuations. There is no man on that side who, if positions were reversed, would denounce more fiercely any attempt to cast a doubt upon the honesty of a servant of the Crown by contemptible insinuation from men who dare not make a proper charge in a constitutional way. I remember when, years ago, many charges were made across the floor of this House against Ministers of the Crown for malversation in office, and those who made them were compelled by the Speaker of the day, and by the Parliament of the day to formulate their charges in a constitutional way, the only constitutional way known to the law. I will not go into ancient history, I will confine myself to the time when hon. gentlemen opposite were sitting on the Treasury benches. I remember when many of their colleagues were being charged with malversation in office. And what was done? Did members of the Opposition rise in their places and insinuate that these men were guilty of wrong-doing. Did they say they were crossing the ocean in a steamer and conversed with a nameless man who said one of Her Majesty's Government had been guilty of crime, but would not give the name of their informant? Did they say that while

walking down the street some American friend had linked arms with them and said some sworn adviser of the Queen had been guilty of fraud and wrong-doing, and yet would not give the names of their informant and would not formulate a charge, that it might be dealt with, and if found to be without foundation the man who made it punished? Sir, what took place when the late Postmaster General (Sir Adolphe Caron) was charged with wrong-doing? An hon. gentleman (Sir James Edgar), now Speaker of this House, rose in his place, and having formulated his charge with the same particularity as that with which an indictment in court is framed, read it on his responsibility as a member of this House, knowing well that if he made reckless and unfounded charges he ran the risk of being expelled from this House. And having taken the responsibility of making these several charges in legal form so that they could be met, he took his place and asked for a committee of investigation. There, Sir, was the manly, honest British way of making a charge—not skulking behind nameless men whom he found in steamers, hotel corridors and in the streets, not skulking behind Yankee papers printed in the Yukon, or Yankee editors who leave the Yukon and come here to give information to hon. gentlemen opposite, but are afraid or ashamed or unable to give that information before the Royal Commissioner who has been appointed. I say that it is one of the most humiliating spectacles this Parliament ever witnessed to see a man standing in the front ranks of the Opposition rising and insinuating crime and malversation in office against a member of Her Majesty's Government, but not having the pluck or courage or even the decency or common honesty to put that charge in formal shape so that it can be dealt with. Decency or honesty, I repeat, Sir,—that is the proper language when want of these qualities is so clearly exhibited. When the charge is formulated, it can be dealt with by the person incriminated before the commission appointed.

Mr. SPROULE. I ask your ruling, Mr. Speaker, whether such expressions as we have heard are in order—want of common decency and honesty; skulking behind American editors and so on. It seems to me that that is not language that should be allowed in debate in this House.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The point of order having been raised, I have the right to speak to it. I say I have the right, when a charge is insinuated against one of my colleagues of fraud and malversation in office, to demand that that charge should be made in a constitutional and legal and proper way. And if an insinuation is made and the person making it does not dare to formulate it, it augurs want of political decency.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. So far as the word "decency" is concerned, I think it can hardly be held to be out of order; but to speak of dishonesty is going too far.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. When charges of an extremely grave character were preferred against the late Minister of Public Works (Sir Hector Langevin) by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Tarte) who now occupies the position of Minister of Public Works, how was it done? Did he (Mr. Tarte) rise in his place and state that in the city of Quebec he had heard some carman or some Yankee whisper that Sir Hector Langevin had stolen public money or had connived at it? Did he say he had heard on the street this or that tittle-tattle or rumour? He would have been put down with contemptuous laughter if he had tried to do anything of the kind. He formulated his charge in writing, and standing in his place as a member of the House he announced: On my responsibility as a member I desire to make the following charges,—(reading them)—and I ask for a committee of investigation, knowing well that such is the sense of honour prevailing in the Parliament of Canada that if he made these charges recklessly and without any grounds against a Minister of the Crown the House would not scruple to expel him from the ranks of its members.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I rise to a point of order. I claim that it is an abuse of the privilege of a member of this House to speak of a former member of the Government, or a former member of this House, as having been charged with stealing money, or proved to have stolen money.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I never said anything of the kind.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes, those were his words, and no person reading the "Hansard" could entertain a doubt that the charge has been deliberately made that Sir Hector Langevin had stolen public money.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I understand the hon. leader of the Opposition has raised a point of order. But the statement he complains of is denied by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. My point is this, that no such charge stands on the records of this House as that Sir Hector Langevin ever stole a dollar of public money in his life, and I say that any person reading the speech of the hon. gentleman would understand that he has made such a charge.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. All this simulated indignation of the hon. gentleman is beside the question. The question was: In what manner was the charge made? I am not assuming to say whether it was proved or not.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I rise to a point of order. I insist upon your ruling, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I understand the hon. member is speaking to the point of order.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I thought he was going on with his speech.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am going on with my speech.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The language the hon. gentleman used is not legitimate on either one side of the House or the other.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I think we are bound to accept the disclaimer made by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who denies that he made the statement of which the hon. leader of the Opposition complains.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I say that the late Sir Hector Langevin was charged with conniving at the stealing of public money; but I say that he was not charged with it in any mean, contemptible or roundabout way. The man who made the charge took the responsibility of making it from his place in the House on his own responsibility, and he took the responsibility of proving it before a committee that he asked for.

Mr. BERGERON. He did not prove it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am not saying whether he proved it, that is entirely foreign to what we are talking about. We are discussing how charges should be made, whether in a reckless way, as they have been made in this House, without regard for the responsibility of members, without regard to constitutional usage, without regard to the fact whether they destroy or take away a man's character, or whether they should be made in a way that those who make them can be held responsible for them. I have no hesitation in saying that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden, Halifax), who sits behind him—no, I will not couple his name with his in that regard, for I do not think he would even make an insinuation; but I say the leader of the Opposition, who is defending the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) to-day, will never dare to put down in writing the charge he insinuated against the Minister of the Interior. I challenge him to do it to-night, I challenge him on his responsibility as a member, to put in writing the charge that he has dared to insinuate. If he is a man and not afraid, and not too cowardly, let him put it down.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. BERGERON. Take back the word "cowardly."

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Why, Sir, how long ago is it since very serious charges were made against the late Postmaster General? Every one in this House remembers that the present Mr. Justice Lister, who was then a member of this House, preferred serious charges against the then Postmaster General in connection with the Shields and Manning contract. How did he do it? Did he stand up in the course of a long speech and insinuate that when he was up in Lambton he had heard some corner loafer say something against the Postmaster General in connection with the Manning and Shields contract on section B.? No, Sir, he wrote out his charges seriatim, and, in his place in the House he put them in the form of an indictment, an indictment so specific that they could be denied or proved one way or another, giving the man incriminated a chance to clear his character, and having made his charges, he moved for his committee. What was done in the case of an hon. member who still sits in this House against whom charges were made that he was guilty of a breach of the Independence of Parliament Act? Did somebody go and insinuate that he had sold offices? Not at all. The Opposition came forward and made their charge, formulated it in a proper legal way which could be proved, and after having made these charges in the proper legal way, they asked for a committee. And so they proceeded, not through one, but through ten or twenty different charges that were made against members of the Government and against members supporting the then Government. The charges which were made against members of the Government were legal charges, formulated on the responsibility of the member making them, and were referred to a committee; they were so definite and clear that the committee knew what they had to try, and could bring in a verdict of guilty or not guilty. But these gentlemen have flooded this House and flooded this country with all manner of insinuations based upon hearsay evidence, upon rumours picked up in hotel corridors and elsewhere, endeavouring to do what? Endeavouring to blacken the character of a man more honest than they are themselves. Sir, I think he may congratulate himself upon this, at any rate, that although he has been dealing with millions of money, and dealing with affairs of state of equal importance to any that have ever fell to the hand of a Minister in Canada before, although the air has been thick with insinuations, with tittle-tattle and whispers of wrong-doing, there has not been a man amongst all the hon. gentlemen sitting opposite to me who is prepared to put his name to paper and stand up in the House and take the responsibility of making in the constitutional way, a single charge of wrong-doing. And if they do not

do it, they stand convicted before the country to-day of being willing to destroy a man's character if they can do it by insinuations, without having the courage to make the charge direct.

Now, Sir, in relation to these charges made some years ago, I took the precaution this afternoon to look up the statements that were made by these gentlemen when they sat in the Government, and when charges were preferred against their integrity as Ministers of the Crown, charges that were preferred specifically and in writing on the responsibility of members; and I find that they complained in nearly every case that the charges were not sufficiently specific; they said: You must be as specific, and as clear, as an indictment in court; if you are not as specific, and as clear, and as definite as an indictment in court, we will not entertain your charge or give you a committee. In the charges preferred by the present Speaker of the House when he was a member of the Opposition, against a gentleman who was then, I think, Postmaster General, I found the then leader of the House (Sir John Thompson) stating:

It will not do at all to say that some charge is implied, that some charge is put forward which may be capable of one construction, and equally capable of another construction. The House has to see specially, when charges are deliberately framed as these have been, that they bear that plain construction upon their face, and that the member who makes them should not afterwards be in a position to say that he did not intend to make such a charge, but that he intended to charge some personal and private impropriety, or some breach of the election laws upon the member whom he accuses.

And so, you see, the then leader of the House, the then leader of the Conservative party insisted upon the same definiteness in the charge that is required by an indictment in the court. We had another distinguished gentleman, the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) rising in his place and giving his opinion as to the manner in which charges should be preferred against a Minister of the Crown and members of this House. He said:

The Minister of Justice is standing up for the privileges of members on both sides of this House, and all that he claimed this House should insist upon is that when charges are levelled against any member, those undertaking to prefer them and to ask for an investigation, shall show, first of all, that they are charges which render impossible the presence of an hon. gentleman in this House, and that those charges are as clearly and fully particularized as they would be brought before any other tribunal in the country.

No mere hearsay evidence, no rumours that Mr. So-and-so, whose name I will not mention, told me, no tittle-tattle of the steamboats, crossing the Atlantic, or the hotel corridors, but charges specifically and definitely made. He says that the charges should be such as would render the presence in the House of the person charged impossible, and

that they should be as clearly and as fully particularised as they would be brought before any other tribunal in the country." He further says:

The position the Government takes is, that the charges should be specific, and be so specific as to afford exact information as to what the object of the mover is, also as to what the exact charges he desires to prefer are; and more than that, it must disclose what this resolution does not disclose, that it is an offence against the laws of the land, or it is an offence that renders unfit the presence of the member attacked in the Parliament of this country.

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Let the hon. gentleman take the responsibility of making that charge direct. If he desires to make a charge of public robbery and thieving, let him make the charge, and name the man, and there will be an investigation granted.

I tell the leader of the Opposition here and now, that if he, or any of his friends dare to make any charge against the hon. Minister of the Interior, or any of his colleagues, of robbery or theft or malversation in office, they will have their committee within five minutes. Sir, there will be no amendment here, if the charge is specific and clear. There will be no attempt to avoid investigation or to wrigggle out of it. We will court inquiry. We promised this country clean government and we are prepared to give it. And we are giving it. Mr. Speaker, and these hon. gentlemen opposite, if there is a man amongst them that knows any charge of wrong-doing on the part of a member of this Cabinet, here and now, he is challenged to bring it forward; here and now, he is challenged to put his charge in form and to ask to have an investigation made before a committee of this House. I appeal to the more honourable members of this House; I appeal to hon. gentlemen who have long been in public life, if it is manly, or courageous or honest to recklessly make charges which cannot be formulated, which have no foundation, the evidence in support of which cannot be given, and whether it is right that a man and his family should be subjected to public contumely because an hon. member of this House will insist upon insinuating, that which he dare not charge, and try to make a man out a wrong-doer when he is afraid to put the statement in black and white? Sir, I plead for the honour of our public men, here on this side of the House, as well as of those who may succeed us hereafter, and I ask the House and the country at large if the constitutional usage which has been established in the motherland and invariably followed, until this session, in this country, should be deviated from, and whether public men should be at the mercy of every member of Parliament who, knowing he is not responsible to the courts for his slander spoken inside the walls of this House, makes insinuations which he will not formulate into a charge, and throws, or attempts to throw dishonour upon the man he is attacking. There is honour among public

men, or there ought to be, and my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition, with his long experience, should never have given the colour of his name to the extraordinary and unwarrantable course he has taken on this occasion against the hon. Minister of the Interior. So far as political charges are concerned, Sir, we court them; we are ready to meet him on any branch of the inquiry he likes to discuss, in regard to the Yukon administration, from beginning to end, but when he insinuates that the hon. Minister of the Interior had an interest in a contract or a concession given to a former partner of his, when he insinuates that for a paltry few thousands of dollars a member of Her Majesty's Government was willing to sell his good name and his reputation for integrity and brand himself as a public thief, when he insinuates that, and does not dare charge it in a constitutional way or put himself in the position of being punished, if he fails to prove it, he is taking a course which no honourable man in this House would take.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is another argument which the hon. gentleman advances, and it is a more reasonable argument, one which deserves to be met—that is that the inquiry should have been intrusted to a judge and not a layman. The hon. gentleman comes forward and moves a resolution praying for a judicial inquiry into charges of maladministration or wrong-doing on the part of officers in the Yukon.

Mr. BERGERON. That is practical; now you are getting to the point.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman says, that is practical, but hon. gentlemen are not practical when they insinuate what they have not the courage to charge.

Mr. BERGERON. Will the hon. gentleman allow me one word. We do accuse the Minister of the Interior. It is an accusation, but it is an accusation of bad administration in the Yukon.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Now, Sir, we are having a repetition of the Drummond County Railway investigation. We had this country ringing for months with charges of wrong-doing against my hon. friend behind me, the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals, and other gentlemen connected with the Administration, but when the Drummond Railway Committee was moved in another branch of the legislature that committee did not sit.

Mr. BERGERON. No.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. For the reason you were not prepared to go on.

Mr. BERGERON. The session was over.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Parliament was prorogued,  
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but during the recess the country was flooded with this charge; every Conservative newspaper in the Dominion either stated publicly or insinuated, that there had been wrong-doing. The "Drummond steal," it was called; the young people of Canada were taught to believe that my hon. friend (Mr. Blair) had been engaged in some nefarious transaction whereby the public moneys were misappropriated, and that the Government as a whole had conspired to rob the treasury of certain moneys to put in the pocket of Mr. Greenshields. The thousands of times that statement was reiterated, might induce some one to believe that it was true, but, Sir, what was the result? The very first day this House met last session an investigation was demanded.

Mr. BERGERON. By whom?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. By my right hon. friend the Prime Minister.

Mr. BERGERON. Yes.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The very first day the House met, my right hon. friend said: We will not allow these charges to go ringing throughout the country without investigation; and a committee of this House was appointed composed of some of the most distinguished men on both sides. They took a large mass of evidence, and it was found that these gentlemen opposite had discovered a mare's nest that the whole transaction was perfectly straightforward and honest, and that there was not a peg on which to hang a charge of wrong-doing. These hon. gentlemen then rose in their places, and said: We never intended to charge you with wrong-doing; we only intended to say it was not a good business transaction. That was the result of five or six months of vituperation and abuse which my hon. friend (Mr. Blair) had to lie under until this House met again and he could get a committee to disprove the charge. And so, I suppose the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) is to be charged with wrong-doing on every hustings behind his back, and in every place where they have immunity from punishment, such as in this House. Even in this House, where these gentlemen could be punished under certain circumstances they refuse to prefer a charge in such a manner that punishment could reach them.

The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) complained that we have not granted a proper inquiry, and his friends roll under their tongues that sweet morsel "a judicial inquiry." They think when they have mentioned the word "judicial inquiry," that the whole thing is settled in their favour. Well, Sir, there is a great deal to be said, under given circumstances, in favour of a judicial inquiry in preference to an administrative inquiry; but I submit to hon. gentlemen opposite who still have open minds upon th

question, that there are several precedent conditions to the effective working of a judicial inquiry, one of which is, that it should be based upon specific charges and present specific issues. I will go further, and I will say, that if the issue is mixed up with political charges, no judge who values his reputation would accept the position of investigator. Sir, it is not desirable that judges should do so. Many judges with reluctance have undertaken election trials, believing that even to that extent they should not enter into political matters. I would like to ask my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden), and my hon. friend from Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain), or any other lawyer opposite, do they give their adherence to the proposition, that a judicial inquiry with a judge presiding over it is a better tribunal than the one we have constituted, in a case where no specific charge is made and no specific issue is raised. If a judge went there what would he do? Is it reasonable, or right, or meet, that a judge of the high court of this country should be called upon to assume the position of a political detective? Is he to go out to the Yukon and open his court, and say: I am sent here as a judge to try charges of corruption; they are not specific; I do not know what they are, but I am going out on the beat to see if I can gather up in the saloons throughout Dawson City what these charges are, and when I come back I will see if I can formulate them and raise an issue. Is there a judge in Canada who would assume that position? Sir, the thing needs only to be stated to show its absurdity. If you have a specific charge to try, a specific issue joined, and counsel upon both sides, then a judge would be in his element listening to evidence bearing upon the specific issue, ruling out evidence which was irrelevant and deciding afterwards upon the evidence whether the issue was proved or not proved. There you would have an element for judicial inquiry—not evidence which the judge hunted up himself, but evidence that was brought before him. In this case there is no issue joined; it is a general charge that minor officials in the Government employ have been guilty of malversation in office. Now, I do not admit and I do not deny the charge; I do not know whether it is true or whether it is not true. There may have been, and I suppose there was wrongdoing on the part of a number of these minor officials, but I propose not to give judgment upon them until I read the report and the evidence in the investigation which is being held. I hope I will not go so far as some of my hon. friends opposite have done, and condemn men whose characters heretofore have been just as good as theirs, condemn them in advance upon the merest hearsay and tittle-tattle evidence, upon statements alleged to have made by third parties whose names have been withheld. Great heavens! has it come to this that men who have lived to man's estate and conducted themselves,

we will say as Mr. Fawcett has, men bearing a good name and reputation, has it come to such a pass that these men are to be suddenly stricken down, not by evidence tendered in open court, not by evidence which they could refute, but by the hearsay statements of some un-named witness. Has it come to that? Will my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) give his adhesion to that?

Let me ask, Sir, what kind of a court have we constituted to conduct this investigation. We have constituted, not an administrative inquiry, as hon. gentlemen opposite have said, but we have appointed under a royal commission—issued under a statute passed many years ago—a man whose experience in the Yukon exceeds I suppose that of any other living man; a man who by common consent has been lauded and praised as one of the most honest officials that ever went into that country; a man about whose honesty and integrity and uprightness there is a consensus of opinion of a most wonderful kind upon both sides of the House. Why, Sir, we heard my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden) stated:

I never attacked Mr. Ogilvie in this House, nor has any gentleman on this side of the House attacked him, so far as his honesty and integrity are concerned.

And the hon. gentleman from Victoria (Mr. Prior) has stated with regard to Mr. Ogilvie:

I have yet to hear from any man of any nationality a single word against his honesty, probity and integrity.

Sir, that is the man we have selected; a man who is lauded by all as a model man, upright, honest, full of integrity; we have appointed him, and not a man from the outside and who does not know the conditions of that country or the circumstances of the miners. We have appointed a man who for many years has been accustomed to deal with these miners, a man who lived in the territory for years, and a man who if honesty and probity and integrity and experience are to count for anything, should be the proper man to carry on the investigation. Oh, but you say he lacks legal training. The criticism is fair; and if that lack had not been supplied by the Government, I would have said that the criticism was trenchant. But when we find that a man possessing that experience, that probity, that integrity, and that honesty, has associated with him as his adviser one of the most able legal men who has gone out from Canada to the Yukon, we have, I respectfully submit to this House and to this country, an ideal court of investigation. You have all the honesty, integrity, ability and experience that hon. gentlemen say are essential to the proper conduct of the inquiry, and you have associated with that a gentleman of legal ability and experience to take care that nothing is done except what is legal and proper.

Mr. BENNETT. Who is that?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Mr. Clement.

Mr. BENNETT. Oh.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Who says "oh"?

Mr. BENNETT. I say it. Mr. Clement is not one of the leading barristers of Ontario, and never was.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Well, all I know is that I have heard hon. gentlemen on both sides of this House during this debate compliment Mr. Clement very highly. I know he is the author of a text-book on the constitution of Canada which is highly esteemed and is often quoted in the courts of the country, and I have heard him spoken of by Ontario lawyers as holding a very respectable position in the courts of that province.

Mr. CLANCY. Did you ever hear of him holding a brief?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not know whether the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) is a lawyer.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Then, if he is not a lawyer, I challenge his qualification to judge of Mr. Clement's legal ability. I think, therefore, he would have better left that to the gentlemen of the long robe. But, Sir, whether Mr. Clement's position is at the top of the bar or not, there is this to be said, that by unanimous consent he occupies a most respectable position as a lawyer. I have not heard a man challenge it on either side of the House; and I repeat what I said before, and what I desire to emphasize with all the weight I can give to it, that with Mr. Ogilvie's qualifications on the one hand, supplemented by the legal experience of Mr. Clement on the other, you have an ideal court.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). If the hon. gentleman will permit me, as far as Mr. Clement's book is concerned, it is a very good book indeed; but the hon. gentleman knows as well as any other lawyer in the House, that men who have written very good text-books sometimes have very little experience in courts. I think the hon. gentleman will agree that some men who have written very good text-books have never been in court at all.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman is very cautious, just as I would expect. I have not heard him say or insinuate one word against Mr. Clement's legal ability. I know, as he says, that men who have written able books have never appeared in court at all. I have known very good lawyers who have never been in court, and I have known men who have been in court all their lives.

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and were very great fools after that. Now, this Government has been charged with limiting the power of that court to the 25th day of August. Let us inquire for a moment as to the circumstances under which that court of inquiry was constituted. So far as I know, there never was a whisper of wrong-doing in the Yukon until the miners' complaint reached the Government in the month of October. There may have been, and there doubtless were, many charges made in the political newspapers that things were not as they ought to be; but every hon. gentleman on either side of the House knows what weight politicians attach to the political statements in the newspapers. But I am not aware of any charges of wrong-doing having been made against any official in the Yukon to any member of the Government until that miners' meeting was held on the 25th day of August.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. May I remind the hon. gentleman that the Minister of the Interior, in his speech stated that before Mr. Ogilvie left, he heard charges against Mr. Wade and Mr. Fawcett, and telegraphed to him giving him a free hand, and expressed a desire that he should get away as quickly as he could. That was in August.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Perfectly right. I do not remember the date, but it was in August, as the hon. gentleman has said. The miners' meeting was held in August; Mr. Ogilvie left about that time; charges were made in some of the newspapers of wrong-doing on the part of some of the officials; and, with that promptness which is always a characteristic of my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior, as soon as he saw the charges, he telegraphed to Mr. Ogilvie: "Remember that in dealing with matters in the Yukon, you have a free hand." What was the meaning of that? That when he went up there, if he found that any wrong-doing had been going on, if any of the officials had been usurping powers, or abusing powers, or maltreating those with whom they had to deal, or had been guilty of malversation in office, he had the power to suspend or remove or dismiss them. Does any one challenge the propriety of that telegram? Does my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition say that it was not just the telegram an energetic, active administrator would send? I say it was, and he deserves every credit for it. I was surprised to hear from the opposite side of the House the complaint come time and again that while the Minister of the Interior gave Mr. Ogilvie power to inquire, he did not give him power to issue subpoenas. What nonsense! At that time the Minister of the Interior could not give Mr. Ogilvie the power to issue subpoenas. Mr. Ogilvie went as a political administrator, with power to compel the resignation of or to dismiss any official who had been

proved guilty of wrong-doing; but he did not go there with power to inquire into wrong-doing in the sense in which he afterwards received power by the royal commission. But when the charges were formulated and the inquiry began, what took place? The charge brought against the Minister of the Interior, not once but repeated several times by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) was that he lay on his oars for seven months before taking action. I say he did not. The miners' meeting was held on the 25th of August. I will not read the charges; every hon. member has them in his possession, and I deprecate the constant reiteration of some of the statements made by every member almost who addresses the House. The miners' petition was received in Ottawa by the Minister of the Interior on the 3rd day of October; I believe it was received the day before by the Premier in Quebec. How long a time elapsed before the Minister of the Interior took action? Three days. On the 7th of October he caused to be issued the royal commission. Dare any gentleman charge him with negligence or delay in that? Who could or would have acted more promptly? But three days went by after the miners' petition reached Ottawa before the Minister of the Interior called a meeting of the Council and got authority to issue the royal commission, giving plenary powers to Mr. Ogilvie to investigate every charge which up to that time had been preferred in that miners' petition, or of which he had any knowledge. And now, forsooth, it is alleged as a crime against the Government, not only that they gave plenary power to Mr. Ogilvie to inquire into all those charges, but that we did not give him also the power to inquire into all charges in the future. What nonsense! The statute did not provide for that. It did not authorize the issuing of a commission to inquire into the future. If I read it aright, it authorized an inquiry into charges which had been made, and, therefore, Mr. Ogilvie received at the hands of the Queen's representative, under his sign manual, authority to inquire into every charge, without reservation or qualification, which the miners, in their mass meeting had prepared, and which appeared in their petition. Will any hon. gentleman tell me what more could have been done? Greater powers could not have been given. My hon. colleague did not wait for the mail, but sent out the commission by a special messenger, and he was not responsible if that commission did not reach the Yukon until several months later. Not a day was lost, and when it got there, what took place? Who were the officials charged, and who were the officials that were there? Why, we have a most curious state of affairs in this House. At the end of this prolonged debate—prolonged beyond any precedent that I have any recollection of—we find hon. gentlemen rising one after the

other and exculpating nearly every leading official in that district. Sir, there is one notable exception, and that is the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) who has reiterated—and I think he is the only man on that side who did it—the charge preferred by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) that Major Walsh has been guilty of drunkenness and immorality. The leader of the Opposition repeated the charge made by his son in the early part of this debate, but so far as my memory serves me, there has not been any other man on that side who dares repeat it. He, in fact, is more guilty than his son, because at the time he reiterated that gross and vile charge, he had the statement in black and white from Major Walsh that it was a lie of the first water. On a rumour, which he says, he heard from some man whose name he will not give, he charges Major Walsh with drunkenness and immorality, and tries to fasten the stigma of shame and disgrace upon that man's name and character and upon his wife and children. Is that an honourable thing to do? Is it a creditable thing? Is it a thing of which his followers can feel proud? Although Major Walsh has denied that charge, the hon. gentleman repeats it, and the only authority he can produce is the hearsay evidence of an unknown man whom he met one day on board a steamboat.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I must correct my hon. friend. The person I met on board the steamboat made no allusion to the matter at all.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Where was the unknown man? Where did the hon. gentleman meet him?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I said clearly and distinctly that a gentleman, who had brought a letter of introduction from Lord Strathcona, to Major Walsh, and who was the representative of one of the largest banking houses in London, Eng., stated to the senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) that when he presented his letter to Major Walsh, that gentleman was in a state of great intoxication and virtually turned him out of his office.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. This is only hearsay evidence. Was the hon. gentleman present when this statement was made to the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper)?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. What does the hon. gentleman mean? I said that the hon. member for Pictou, having received a statement of such a character, deemed it his duty to lay it before the House.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I ask whether the hon. gentleman himself was present when the statement was made, and if not he is only repeating a hearsay statement. He is only

telling us that somebody else told him what some other person had told his informant. What is the reputation and character which Major Walsh enjoys? I never saw him, I know of him only as a public man, I know that he served ten years in the Mounted Police, and I know that he won a high character in that service for courage and honesty, resourcefulness and integrity, and gained the encomiums of both political parties in Canada. I know that he retired from that force with the good-will of both political parties, and I know that when he was called upon by the Minister of the Interior and asked as a favour—because he was not an office seeker himself and did not want to be made administrator of the Yukon—to assume that position, he did so with great reluctance, and when he did accept it, his appointment was greeted by the unanimous approval of the people of Canada. It is not necessary for me to read the extracts from the newspapers again, but the press of both parties and the independent press congratulated the Minister of the Interior and the Government upon having secured such an able administrator.

Then we had Mr. Fawcett, the Gold Commissioner, who, to-night, after all the abuse that has been heaped upon him, has been given a certificate of character by the leader of the Opposition as an honest man beyond a doubt.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yet, Mr. Fawcett has been dragged through the mud for the past three or four weeks, and his name mentioned with sneers and insinuations, as a man who, although dishonesty might not be proved against him, is responsible for the dishonesty in his department. Now, however, we are told he is an honest man. It looks almost as if hon. gentlemen opposite fear an investigation. It looks as if they feared that the result of the investigation now being held is not far off and are trying to hark back on their tracks and charges.

Then we had Mr. Ogilvie, of whom I have already spoken, and Captain Steele, men admitted by hon. gentlemen opposite to possess the very highest attainments and character, appointed to administer the affairs of the Government in that country; so that the subordinate officials are now the only men charged to have been guilty of taking bribes and other wrong-doing. If that be true, if those who administer the affairs of the Government out there are, one and all, honest and upright, if they are a credit to the men who appointed them, and if it is only the understrappers who have done wrong, the appointment of such an experienced man as Mr. Ogilvie, with a lawyer alongside him to advise him on law points, to investigate into any charge made, is one of the best appointments that could possibly have been made, for it would be a

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farce to appoint a judge to constitute himself a detective and try and get evidence out there as Mr. Ogilvie is doing. What did Mr. Ogilvie do? He opened his court, and said: I shall not apply the strict rules of evidence, which obtain in the ordinary courts of law, but I invite any man to come forward, who has any evidence whatever to give against any one of these officials, and to give that evidence without fear. He published circulars throughout the whole of the Yukon, he issued subpoenas to compel the attendance of every man whose name was given him as a possible witness, and he added that, under the power conferred upon him by the statute and his royal commission, everybody could give evidence without fear that that evidence would ever be used against him. He quoted the section of the statute providing that no man could be prejudiced because the evidence he gave could never be used against him in court afterwards, and the newspapers which were clamouring for investigation out there published editorial after editorial, imploring the men who said they had evidence to give to come forward and give it to this tribunal. Now is the time, they said. The Government has granted your request; Mr. Ogilvie has come out to investigate; you have the protection of the law and can give your evidence without the fear of its ever afterwards being brought up against you, your evidence will go before the Parliament of Canada and you cannot be prejudiced in any way. Come forward, therefore, and give it. I will not say what the result has been, because I have only gathered that result from the public press, but we have not heard from any hon. gentleman in this House that any very damning evidence has been given. But let me say this: When that report comes down before this House, if there is any body of men in this House who believe that the investigation should be prosecuted further, who think it should be continued so as to embrace charges after the 25th August, who believe that any special charge has been left without thorough investigation, the Government will see that the fullest investigation is given. We are determined that not a stone shall be left unturned to get to the bottom of every charge which has been made against any Government official in that territory.

And if this commission, by reason of any limitation in its power or in the construction put upon it by the lawyers, cannot attain that end, this Government will enlarge the commission and will see that justice is done. There will be no skulking behind any law points, there will be no attempt to evade the investigation on the ground that the commission has not authority. If that commission does not give authority another commission can; and, if there is any witness who will forward to the Government a statement that he can prove a charge of wrong-doing against the officials there which

is beyond Mr. Ogilvie's power to investigate, he may rely upon it that an investigation will be held. Sir, what reason under heaven can this Government have to shrink from the amplest and fullest investigation. We do not believe that the young gentlemen who have been sent up there should be condemned as culprits on mere hearsay. We have a sufficient sense of justice to declare that the civil servants deserve at least decent treatment, that they should not be held to be criminals until some evidence is given against them, and that because a man is a civil servant, he is not necessarily a vagrant or a scoundrel. Surely, Sir, the common rule of justice and honour that prevails between man and man in the courts of justice extends to the officials in the Yukon. But we say to these men: Your official position shall not screen you if you have been guilty of wrong-doing; and, so far as the Government is concerned, if we can prove wrong-doing against you, you shall be punished with the utmost rigour of the law.

Now, Sir, it is said that the miners had not counsel. That is not correct. The miners' association, a wealthy, well-to-do association, retained counsel. The counsel went to court. The counsel on behalf of the incriminated officials took numerous objections; Mr. Ogilvie over-ruled the objections. He said: I will not stand on technical evidence. And the evidence went in for what it was worth. A great deal of it, if I may judge from the newspapers, is of such a character that no lawyer would have admitted it; but, perhaps, it is well that we should have all the facts. But the counsel for the miners withdrew. Why? Because Mr. Ogilvie would not investigate under his commission, charges arising out of matters after the 25th of August. Mr. Ogilvie said: I regret deeply that I have not the power to investigate these points, but I will be glad to hear every statement you have to make. If you substantiate it by statutory declarations I will take it, but I cannot administer the oath under the law. But the American press up there, which teemed with reckless charges against these officials for weeks before the investigation, charges which they found themselves unable to prove, were glad to escape from the court under the paltry and miserable excuse that one of their charges, which they had not preferred in their petition, a charge relating to a matter that took place after the 25th of August, could not be investigated under the commission. As they were denied the opportunity to give evidence on this point, they would not go on with their charges.

Sir, as far as I can make out, Mr. Ogilvie has attempted to the best of his ability to probe these charges to the very bottom. He has acted according to the letter and spirit of his instructions. He has brushed aside all technical objections, seeking to get at the truth in order that the truth may be laid before the people of Canada. And

I trust there is enough honour and enough honesty in this House and among the people of this country to cause them to withhold their judgment until the verdict of the commissioner is given.

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (YORK, N.B.) I suppose that at this hour of the night, we might very well, after the arduous duties of the week, move the adjournment and leave this Chamber for a day or two with a view of resuming our labours on Monday. But my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) has said so little that I think I may trespass on the patience of the House for half an hour or so, if not to reply to what the hon. gentleman has said at least to point out some things which the hon. gentleman has not said. I expected when my hon. friend arose—he being a leading lawyer, a man of considerable years, one who has had large experience in the courts of law, an able pleader and a member of the Government conversant with all that has been going on since the Yukon administration has been brought in question—I expected that he would really give us some adequate defence on the part of the Government against the many charges and arguments that had been adduced from this side of the House. We have not had an over-plus of speaking from the front benches on the Government side since this debate commenced, and when the House had the pleasure of seeing a gentleman on the front benches rise, it certainly had the right to expect from him something like an adequate presentation of the case. I submit to the House and the country that my hon. friend has made no adequate answer to the statements of my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), to say nothing of the statements which have been made by other hon. gentlemen during the week that is almost ended. My hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) resorted to a very cheap trick. It was easily seen through: it was seen through even by his own supporters. He commenced by trying to depreciate the speech which the hon. leader of the Opposition had just made. Hon. gentlemen who were present knew exactly what was in that speech, and they knew its force. No man present could have looked at that side of the House while the leader of the Opposition was speaking without coming to the conclusion that the few Ministers who did us the honour to remain in the House were deeply impressed by what the hon. gentleman said.

Mr. McMULLEN. Nothing in it.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend (Mr. McMullen) says there was nothing in it. It may be that these hon. gentlemen are impressed by a speech with nothing in it, but I would be more generous in my judgment of them and would say that if they are impressed, it is by something with force and cogency, and certainly the statements

of the leader of the Opposition had both force and cogency. So the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries really made nothing by the many minutes he spent in trying to depreciate the speech of the leader of the Opposition. He then adopted another lawyer's device, as I suppose it to be, and one likely to be especially favoured by a lawyer who has a poor case. He undertook to laud the Minister of the Interior for a great many things that had not been in question at all since this debate commenced. First, he gave us a dissertation upon the law and order which have been maintained in the Yukon district since it was opened, and he declared that this law and order were due entirely to the extremely great genius for government and administration of the hon. the Minister of the Interior. Why, Sir, we have had mining districts in this country before the Minister of the Interior was born, we have had mining districts in this country before the Minister of the Interior was a Minister of the Interior. We have had the same wild, untameable men, the men who came from the country of the Stars and Stripes, who all at once have grown so utterly distasteful to the gentlemen upon the front benches; we have had them in this country in hundreds, in thousands, in tens of thousands, and we have never yet drafted an army to look after them; we have never yet had to send immense detachments of Mounted Police to keep them in order. In British Columbia, from the southern border up to the end of the Cariboo country, and extending through to the confines of East Kootenay, this same class of wild, unmanageable Yankee miner, so to be reprobated now by my hon. friend from the tight little island of Prince Edward, so to be looked upon as the synonym of all that is malicious, of all that is inimical to the Canadian flag and to Canadian institutions—we have had these same miners in thousands, and in tens of thousands, scattered over the country during periods when there was just as little facility for easy ingress, just as great opportunity for riots and for disorder; and, Sir, you cannot point in this period of forty or fifty years of the mining history of British Columbia to a time when there has not been good government and law and order amongst the mining community in British Columbia, and in this country through and through. Let any hon. gentleman say where disorder, and riot, and shootings have taken place in all our mining history? Well, what does that mean? It means two things, Sir; it means that my hon. friend did not land to-night, but what one of his colleagues did very much laud, namely, the inherent power in British law and British justice which prevails under the British flag, and which transforms the man who is lawless largely because his neighbour is lawless, and he distrusts the power of the Government to protect him from his neighbour's lawlessness—

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it changes a man of that description who comes into the country where he knows that law prevails, and where he will be protected by that law, into a law-abiding citizen. Sir, the history of British Columbia has been thoroughly conclusive on that point, that the lawless American miner, once he comes into this country, becomes a law-abiding citizen. Well, Sir, it proves these two things: First, that British law and justice are respected, and that miners will respect law in a community and in a country where they are fairly treated, and where their rights are fairly observed. That has been the history in Canada, and that is well known to be the result of these two circumstances in Canada.

Well, Sir, in the Yukon district we had no worse men than in other parts of British Columbia. We had miners from the United States, we had miners from every country in the world of exactly the same class as were to be found in every other mining district in British Columbia during the last 40 or 50 years. There was no more danger, well founded in any sense of the word, that in the Yukon country these men would be less observant of law and order and good government than in the other parts of British Columbia, provided they were fairly treated and protected in their rights. So that good order and good government and law amongst the mining community in the Yukon are happily characteristics which have not been absent in this country in all its mining history, and I do not think that my hon. friend can claim that it is the creation of this great genius, the present Minister of the Interior. Now, Sir, as to this clap-trap, if I may be allowed to use that word with reference to my hon. friend.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Order.

Mr. FOSTER. I withdraw that word. It is not a nice word, it is a no more nice word than "tittle-tattle" and all that sort of thing. Neither of them are nice, and I will take that back, for I want to be particularly nice to-night. I say my hon. friend gained nothing. What did he expect to gain? Why, he was laughing himself from his lips inward when he was endeavouring to make that—argument, shall I call it? Not at all, everything the reverse of an argument, attempting to persuade the House and the country that my hon. friend here and hon. gentlemen on this side were inimical to the Canadian flag, and to the Canadian militia of this country being employed, if necessary, to maintain law and order in that country. He stated that my hon. friend was opposed to having the Canadian flag in the Yukon, and the Canadian soldiery under it, because they were distasteful to the Yankees. Well, Sir, there is just one word with reference to that. Everybody knows now, everybody who was not in a panic, knew two years ago, that there was no more necessity of

spending a million dollars to send up 300 or 400 militiamen into that country and keep them there, than there was for sending that many men over to the town of Rossland to keep the miners in that district in order. With the large force of Mounted Police that you have in that country, you have a force which is amply sufficient, provided you are minded to treat the miners decently and rightly, to maintain law and order. The very best proof of that is in the actualities as they best occurred, and as found to-day in the order, which I believe has been issued by the Minister of Militia and Defence, that these troops shall be withdrawn from the Yukon.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). No such order has been issued.

Mr. FOSTER. Does my hon. friend intend to keep them there another year?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. That is another question.

Mr. FOSTER. These hon. gentlemen make a great show of frankness, they are wonderfully frank and manly. Now my hon. friend knows that he has come to a conclusion with reference to these troops, and yet he will not answer my question when I ask him if he proposes to withdraw any of that force from the Yukon country, he would not like to give an opponent even the advantage of a frank answer to a question of that kind. Yet, my hon. friend fairly went beside himself in standing up for manliness, for British manliness, and candour, and frankness. Well, Sir, everybody knows to-day, we cannot find an intelligent man in Canada who does not know, that not only is that militia force unnecessary, and that it has been proved to be unnecessary, that it is not necessary to-day, and every sensible man in Canada knows that the vast expenditure of money in that far distant region for keeping those men, is an expenditure drawn out of the taxes of this country which is utterly uncalled for, and which never would have been incurred except by men who became panicky, and thought that they must rush the militia into that country in order to preserve the Canadian flag.

Well, Sir, my hon. friend says that the leader of the Opposition and hon. gentlemen upon this side of the House would like to divert the revenue from the Yukon to the Yankee miners that are there. What ground had that hon. gentleman for a criticism of that kind? He had no ground whatever. My hon. friend has a vivid imagination; he drew very largely upon that vivid imagination, when he had to furnish himself with arguments of that kind. Can we not have opinions differing as to what will probably be the best means of getting revenue from that country? Will my hon. friend undertake to say that the Government is in that country only to get all the revenue they can out of it? He will not, nor will any

sensible man on that side of the House. What are you in that country for? You are in that country for one great reason, and that is to develop the latent resources of that country. If you can get revenue out of it legitimately, you have a perfect right to it, and all Canada has a perfect right to ask that you get it; but your primary duty is to develop the latent resources of that country, and the men who will skin all the revenue out of it, and leave all the difficulties in the way of development, and no improvements at all, are not the true friends of the Canadian taxpayers in the east, and are not the true friends of the development of this country. But cannot opinions differ as to how much revenue you shall get from it, and as to how you will probably get the most revenue? My hon. friend the leader of the Opposition raised the question—and it is a proper question for him to ask—whether the gentlemen here have been doing in the Yukon that which might better have been left undone, whether the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite has not been retarding the legitimate development of that country, and whether the collection of a 10 per cent royalty on the gross output has that effect. You cannot take up a newspaper, you cannot read an interview, you cannot talk to a man or a capitalist from that country, but he will tell you that the largest proportion of the properties in that country are undeveloped, and will probably remain undeveloped, until there is a better chance given for the development of low grade mines. Is it for the benefit of Canada or not that there should be a large development of what might be called the less or more low grade properties, or, is it of more benefit to that country and to Canada that there should be an abnormal development of a few of the richest properties, while the others are allowed to lie idle? This should be a fair subject for legitimate discussion, and hon. gentlemen have a right to put that question strongly before the Administration, and ask as to what is the best course to be carried on. I am free to say that, in my humble judgment in this matter, the best course has not been adopted. I am free to say that, when you put a 10 per cent royalty on the gross output of the mine, and take no heed of the tremendous expense of developing that mine, you are levying taxation on the development money. That is what you are doing, and I am going to say that under a régime of that kind, you are keeping out capital which otherwise might come in, and you are retarding the development of the country. Why should we look for great development? It matters very little to the eastern taxpayer, whether A, B and C go into that country and get a million dollars out of it, and put that money into their pocket; but as to whether the workers in that country increase from a consuming population of 10,000 to a consuming population of 100,000 is a question of importance to

them. So that it is in the interest of every man in this country that you should have the largest development and the largest profit possible in this country, because when 10,000 miners go into that country, it is a draft upon the labour and production in the east and in the great North-west Territories. That is the point, and it is whether you are getting the most revenue on that line, or whether you are not. I do not believe you are. I believe that 10 per cent is too high, but that a smaller royalty, put, not upon the gross output, but put upon something like the net return from the mines, will cause a larger development and will bring in more abundant revenues. Then, I say that the way things have been carried on in that country is the grossest injustice to the country itself. What is the tale brought out by every man who comes from there? What was the tale brought by the correspondent of the London "Times"? What was the story told by every one? That, so far as the Government is concerned, there has been, comparatively speaking, absolutely no improvements in that country for the benefit of the miners—no sanitary improvements. If there is one indictment that can be brought against the hon. Minister of the Interior and the Government, that is stronger than another, it is this indictment, that is brought by nearly every one of the 20,000 people who have gone into Dawson City. The hon. gentleman knew that Dawson City was the metropolis. They knew the sanitary—no, not the sanitary, but the absolutely unsanitary—conditions of Dawson City and its surroundings they knew to be very bad. But even now they have not moved a hand, or a finger, in order to make sanitary arrangements there in any way adequate to the burning needs of that district. Epidemic is constant; epidemic will be fearful, when this next hot season comes, and the country has waked up and knows that these hon. gentlemen have not made ample provision in that respect. What have they done in the way of building trails for the miners? There is one distinguishing characteristic of every British Columbia Government. It is, that, being the government of a mining country, it looks to the benefit of the individual miner and the collective miners, and, so far as it is possible, large expenditures are being spread all over the country, to make trails and wagon roads for the miners. What has been done by hon. gentlemen opposite in the way of making trails in the Yukon? Nothing. Yet they have skinned the country for useless expenditures for the military, and useless expenditures in a great many other ways, without doing anything to promote the real development of the country. So much in reference to the criticism as to royalties. Is that fair criticism or not? Do hon. gentlemen think that it is a sufficient answer to simply hoot at a man who rises up and criticises the policy on those lines? If they

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do, I do not think that there are people sitting in any other deliberative assembly who would think so.

What does my hon. friend say? A million and a half of dollars have been collected, and no man has stood up here to lay a charge against any man for stealing any of these dues. Of course, there is not. Is it an answer to the charges that have been made? Surely not. No one charged here that the customs officers had stolen the customs dues. No one charged here that the inland revenue officers had stolen the inland revenue dues. That was not the question in point at all. He might also have gotten up and said a great many other irrelative things. Surely, it is no answer to use a sentence, or a collection of sentences, that have no bearing on the case at all. Then, the hon. gentleman made a great eulogium of the hon. Minister of the Interior. He made a speech; the speech is being read from Vancouver to Cape Breton; it is being read with ecstasy, with peculiar ecstasy, by the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson); the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver) has read it also with a great swelling of heart.

Well, of course it is being read. Naturally the people are anxious to know what the Minister has to say, but the Minister (Mr. Sifton) will have to take another six hours and a half, and he will have to leave out the irrelevant matter, too, before he makes any answer to the charges which have been ringing through this country for the last year and a half with reference to the administration of the Yukon. Ah, but it is all insinuation, says my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies); we did not do things in that way when we were in Opposition; we stood up like little men and we made our charges and we put our names to them. My hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) has a vivid imagination, but he has something which is not quite as laudable as a vivid imagination. In some particular lines of mental endeavour a vivid imagination is really a very valuable adjunct to a man's intellectual machinery; but my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies), who has this vivid imagination, has a failing which is not to be classed amongst the valuable perquisites of a public man, especially when he faces a deliberative assembly. If that hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) said anything to-night, he said this: That Sir Hector Langevin had been proven to have stolen money or to have connived at the stealing of money.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I rise to order, Mr. Speaker. I never made any such statement. I was referring entirely to the charge that had been made against him of stealing or conniving at the stealing of public money. I never said nor intended to say that any such charge had been proven.

Mr. FOSTER. Will my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) say that any one stood up in

this House like a little man and charged that Sir Hector had stolen money.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I will say that men stood up in this House and charged him with the conniving at the stealing of public money.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) has now withdrawn half of what he himself stated not two minutes ago. I will not pursue this any further, for I have got to take the hon. gentleman's word. But I am willing to take the unrevised edition of "Hansard," if he will not visit the "Hansard" room to-night, to settle that question between us two.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. You should take my word that I did not intend to say it.

Mr. FOSTER. If my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) did not intend to say it, that is better.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I intended to say that the charge was specific, and on the responsibility of a member of the House made in writing, so that it could be met and examined into.

Mr. FOSTER. I want to tell my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) that no one stood up here and on his responsibility as a member charged Sir Hector Langevin with stealing money, or conniving at the stealing of money, which is just as bad.

Mr. McMULLEN. What did you put him out of the Cabinet for?

Mr. FOSTER. After the fullest investigation in which the Government of the day co-operated in giving every facility and imposing no obstacle, the committee could not find from the evidence that Sir Hector Langevin had ever stolen money or connived at the stealing of money. Now, Sir, I make that statement on my responsibility as a member of this House. Let us have done with this tittle-tattle; let us have done with these miserable insinuations, says my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies). But cannot the hon. gentleman apply a little of that advice to himself. He sits there convicted this blessed moment of having stated on his feet, with reference to so important a matter as the stealing of money or the conniving at the stealing of money, he sits there convicted of having stated over and over, as a fact, a thing which never occurred in this House.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It did occur.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Let my hon. friend prove it.

Mr. FOSTER. I did prove it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is in the "Hansard"; made by Mr. Tarte.

Mr. FOSTER. I tell the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) that Sir Hector Langevin's name was never mentioned in such a connection.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The McGreevy case.

Mr. FOSTER. Sir Hector Langevin's name was not mentioned. But if my hon. friend wants to know what the ultimate result was—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not want to know about the result; we were talking about the charges that were made.

Mr. FOSTER. If he does not want to know what the result was then I need not further speak of these insinuations, and this inadequate information, and this mere political tittle-tattle which my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) has indulged in to-night—of course, with the true Grit characteristic of having roundly denounced it before he undertook to practice it himself. But my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) is not skulking behind the Yankees. The Yankees! Why, according to the hon. gentleman now, you should not use them even for a refuge against the winds, or for a barricade against the storms. These wicked Yankees are not to be trusted in any way now. Oh, how the tune is changed. "Not by my statement, but by a decree of the Almighty," said the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), "I will tell the people of Canada that the United States market is absolutely necessary to the prosperity of this country." And the right hon. the Premier stood up in this House, and he played the friend of these terrible Yankees of today to such an extent that the "Globe" newspaper called him down. That was on the question of the Atlantic fisheries and the enforcement of the fishery laws. But now, none so poor amongst the front benches of the Government as to do the poor Yankee any reverence at all.

Will my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) open his ear for a moment to something which is a little bit reasonable. Was there anything else carried out in the investigations of a few years ago, except the charges with reference to the post office and the charges with reference to the Public Works Department, as affecting the two Ministers. Everybody knows there was. Everybody knows that the civil service, and the departments on this hill were gone through with from one end to the other. Who stood up and made charges and penned their names to them in the formal constitutional way. Not a man of them; nor were they asked to. The very moment that these gentlemen in Opposition breathed it, that civil servants were taking double pay—even so venial a thing as that—that civil servants

were not performing their duties, that civil servants were taking small bribes; the very moment they breathed that, the Conservative Government gave them carte blanche to ransack the departments from one end to the other, and they did it. And when they found out that some poor civil servants had, through lax management or a wrong opinion of the deputy head or something like that, worked overtime and got paid for that in addition to their salary, they claimed that the wonderful Augean stables had been made fresh and pure. That was right here and could easily be done. What to-day is the question in the great Yukon district, three or four thousand miles away from here, where we cannot be cognizant of everything, where we cannot touch everybody by the hand and know just exactly where he is and what is being done. If the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) is implicated as the head of the department, civil servants are implicated also in these charges. Why should the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) wish that formal charges should be made out and that we should risk our parliamentary positions as he says we ought to, in endeavouring to help the Government to maintain the good name of the civil servants in the Yukon district, which has been aspersed, according to their statement of the case; which has been impugned according to the most virulent statement of the case you can get. The hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) must not ask that a different rule should be applied in this case from what was applied before. But my hon. friend ridicules the idea of making a judge or a set of judges the investigators in what is merely political. If you have a thing which has legal aspects to it, and constitutional aspects to it, and criminal aspects to it—I could not tell exactly what he was driving at to make out the difference—then you could appoint judges and have a judicial inquiry. My hon. friend knows that judges are appointed for political inquiries. In the history of this Parliament there is an instance of it. At one time Judge Clark, one of the keenest and ablest judges of his time, was appointed as a commissioner to investigate thoroughly certain charges made in the newspapers with reference to the Canadian Pacific Railway, which was building at that time. In Great Britain, to which country our hon. friends on the other side have turned with that zeal which marks a late penitent, and one who has so many sins to answer for—even in that country one of the most celebrated trials of later times was a trial on political lines entirely—the celebrated Parnell commission. Who were on that—laymen? No, but the highest judges of the land. Sir James Hannen was the chairman of it; Mr. Justice Smith and Mr. Justice Day were members of it; and the most celebrated counsel of Great Britain were there on one side or the other. And yet my hon. friend would try to lead us to believe that it was a lache against

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all constitutional methods that a judicial inquiry should be asked for. But he says, we will court the fullest inquiry. It is an odd way of courting the fullest inquiry, the way these hon. gentlemen have been trying to burk an independent inquiry. Not only that, but they have been condemning themselves—first, by saying we are read out of all decent politics, because we assume that there may be wrong-doing where we know not. These hon. gentlemen, with these words warm from their lips, rise in their places and become the absolute defenders of men 3,000 miles away, whose circumstances, conditions and actions they cannot possibly know. Inconsistency?—why, another word for inconsistency is a member of the Administration opposite—a concrete form of inconsistency. All you have to do is to mention the Administration or any single member of it, and you have the grossest concretion of inconsistency in political or public life that has ever been known in this country, and possibly in any other. Ah, but on tittle-tattle, on hearsay, we never would expect decent public men to investigate anything. Have they forgotten themselves? The hon. gentleman, with that short memory which is his special infliction—I will not call it by any harsher name—went on immediately to give an instance where the right hon. leader of the Government, on mere tittle-tattle of the newspapers, came down and proposed a committee to investigate the tittle-tattle on the Drummond County deal.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman is mistaken. I said a committee of the Senate had been constituted by that honourable body on evidence they deemed sufficient for an investigation of the matter, but, for reasons of their own, they had delayed the investigation, leading the country to believe that there was something in it, but declining to investigate. But the moment this House met, the leader of the Government insisted that it should be investigated.

Mr. FOSTER. And my hon. friend gave the reason why the leader of the Government insisted. I took it down, and the unrevised "Hansard" will show it to-morrow. Why did the leader of the Government move for this committee? Because the hon. gentleman said he would not allow those reports to go ringing around the country. Tittle-tattle—ringing around the country! And my hon. friend was so sensitive about it that in the very first days of the session he rushed in and appointed a committee of this House to investigate what no member of this House had ever charged, but what was simply ringing around the country. Wonderfully spry, then, when the present Minister of the Interior, before he was a member of this Government at all, wanted to go on a fishing expedition in Manitoba, and had not the funds, or if he had them himself would not use them, and poached—yes, that is the word poached upon the consolidated fund of

the Dominion of Canada for money to carry on and pay his fishers in their fishing expedition. Wonderfully spry, then, in behalf of these cases. Why, so spry? Because they wished a party advantage for themselves. The good of the country was the last thing which I believe entered into these hon. gentlemen's minds, in either of these cases; but the Minister of the Interior, that celebrated genius who has created law and order and good government in Canada, just as the right hon. gentleman who leads the Government made Canada a nation—this hon. gentleman, who has been the head of the administration of the Yukon, is not now so spry, when the amount of newspaper criticism and tittle-tattle which has for the last year and a half or two years been going about through this country and through every continent of the world, has been ten thousand times more than was going around in the case of the fishing expedition in Manitoba or the Drummond County deal in this part of the Dominion. Then, my hon. friend says, we are determined—to do what? To get at the bottom of this thing; and if the commission is not good enough, we will make it better, and if the time is not sufficiently extended, in our own good time we will extend it. We are bound to get at the bottom of it. And how are they trying to get at the bottom of it? By trying to burk an inquiry which alone can settle the matter in this country and in other countries. Why, my hon. friends have given their whole case away. Something happened in this country. What was it? Certain tales came from the northern land of gold. They filtered down with returning miners, and through letters which came from that country. They got into the public press. They were talked about by the citizens of Canada; and before a single man on this side of the House mentioned them, they had percolated so far, they had spread so widely that on that kind of tittle-tattle and hearsay my hon. friends opposite had appointed a commission to try the cases and to investigate the tittle-tattle. Why have you any commission up there at all? You have no business to have it, taking the ground that you have taken in your argument. Do you not see, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. gentlemen have cut all the ground from under their feet? They have had nothing but hearsay and tittle-tattle, general rumour and report, and, behold, they appointed a commission of inquiry, what they call a Royal commission. Why do we ask for a judicial commission of inquiry? What is the difference between the two? The hon. gentlemen have acknowledged that something ought to be done. They have acknowledged it by taking partial action. Am I right or wrong? They go out on the public platform and say to the people: These men are talking nonsense; we are investigating that, and we are bound to get at the bottom of it; we have a royal commission up there to get at the bottom of it now. On what? Tittle-tattle, general hearsay? And

yet you come down here and declare that no man on this side has given you a statement which you can take cognizance of, and, therefore, you cannot appoint a judicial inquiry. Both of us know in our hearts and believe—and if we do not, the country believes and feels in its heart—that enough has come to light of possible wrong-doing in that country to make some kind of investigation necessary. The only difference between us is simply as to what the investigation should be, and whether the present one is adequate. I contend it is not. Why, more than the Minister of the Interior is involved. To say the least, the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) is involved to this extent, that he is the responsible head of the department whose administration is questioned. My hon. friend will not dissent from that. You cannot disjoin him from his administration. He is responsible for his administration of public affairs. Therefore, to say the least, he is responsible that far. His administrative capacity is involved. My hon. friend has been good enough to say that the rest of the Cabinet stand by the Minister. Well, I suppose we are not heretics on that point. That must be so in the present aspect of the case. They must stand by him, and so the Government is involved as well. The public is interested in the matter, because every Canadian wishes that his country shall have a name for honesty and honour, and it is the pride of every good Canadian that his Government should be honest and the officials as well. That is a pardonable pride that we all have, or that we ought to have at least. The Parliament of Canada, as regards good government, is interested, but the good name of Canada is concerned from one end of the world to the other, round and round it. You cannot recall what has gone forth. You cannot minimise the gravity of the position in which the administration of the Yukon stands co-relative to the governmental administration of this country and our good name. You cannot separate those, and you cannot ignore the impressions that have been made the wide world over. Now, the simplest statement by my hon. friend here brings the whole matter to its legitimate conclusion. Will it satisfy the conditions? Ought it to satisfy the Minister of the Interior, that a subordinate of his own, dependent upon him for his monthly salary, should be the sole investigator of his Minister's own administration, and does the Minister think that that will clear him? Does he think it will clear his Government and his administration and the name of Canada the wide world over? Why, he knows that, at the best, all that he can get to believe in that would be the members of his own party. He cannot get even them. The hon. gentleman can get his followers behind him, like the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), who in his speech last night justified everything, although he must have known very little about many things, as we all do, that have occurred in that far-off part

of our jurisdiction—he may get such men to be satisfied, he may get the partisans of his party in this country to be satisfied. You may by your arguments convince these that you have done everything that is necessary, but every man sitting on that side knows that there is a sound and strong sense of justice in this country which is not confined to either party. Every one of these men will meet men of their own stripe of political thinking who will say: It is not conclusive, when Mr. Sifton's hired man gives his report on his master? But, Sir, will the people outside of Canada be satisfied? When you go to the great public opinion of Great Britain, which is more or less saturated in certain strata with the idea that things have not been right in the Yukon, and saturated on the very best authority—that of the London "Times," and of that special and most able correspondent of the "Times," who perhaps, as much as the correspondent of any newspaper in London, has the ear and the confidence of the people of the broad world, around and around, over which she has travelled and where she is known—do you suppose that that discerning public, looking as to whether the good name of Canada is going to be cleared or not, will think it is cleared when Mr. Sifton's hired man makes a report on his master to whom he owes his monthly salary. Do you suppose it will be? I say it will not. We on this side contend it will not. What are the hon. gentlemen afraid of? My hon. friend who has just spoken (Sir Louis Davies) has said that Mr. Ogilvie is a particularly honest man. Will he rise and say that they could not appoint a judge who would be equally as honest as Mr. Ogilvie? What gain do you get then? If Mr. Ogilvie were the only honest man, and if there were no judge who is an honest man, my hon. friend would have an argument, but he dared not say and cannot say that it is not possible for the Government to get just as honest a man as Mr. Ogilvie. Then if you admit that, do you not think that honesty plus the legal training and that sense which comes from long association with the administration of legal work, do you not think that the addition of that legal training to honesty equal to that of Mr. Ogilvie, would give you a better investigating authority? My hon. friend shakes his head. That is he would rather have one of two necessary, and absolutely good characteristics, than have the two of them. Does he distrust the legal ability, the legal side of life? Surely not. The hon. gentleman himself is a lawyer, but whether he shakes his head or not, I venture to say you could not put that proposition to any level-headed man in this country who would not say this: If you really want to probe into that matter, get honesty plus the accumulated skill and experience which makes a man know when he has proper witnesses before him and gives him the strength to hold his own against opposing counsel when trying a

**Mr. FOSTER.**

case. What are hon. gentlemen afraid of in this matter? Why are they afraid to have a judicial inquiry? Does not my hon. friend know that he could not administer a greater knock-down blow to the senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), that he could not administer, from a party point of view, a more effective blow to the party which sits on this side, than by simply getting that highest kind of judicial inquiry and proving that there is not a word of truth in the charges. What then, from a party point of view, does my hon. friend fear if his cause is just. But I will tell you what aspect this will have to the country. It will have the aspect of men who are afraid to make a thorough investigation. It will present the aspect to the country of men who wish to shield themselves. Now, the truth is greater than any man, and it is more important that a true solution of the matter should be reached—and you can only have it by the highest kind of judicial inquiry—than that the Minister of the Interior should retain a seat he ought not to retain, provided he is proved to be incapable or anything worse. It is of much greater importance that the good name of Canada and the good government of this country should be established, than that any one man should hold office at a few thousand a year, for no one man is necessary to the continuance of Government in this country. What, then, I ask again, is my hon. friend afraid of? I am not going to pursue this any farther; it has been put before these hon. gentlemen squarely, and up to this moment they have not given any reasons why they should take a hired man, rather than a judge of the country, for this service. The Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) suggested, as if it were a great point, that Mr. Ogilvie sits up there and sends out posters and invites everybody to come in with charges. Now, let us set aside all partyism for the moment—

**Mr. FLINT.** Oh, oh.

**Mr. FOSTER.** The hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) laughs an incredulous laugh. I do not wonder. I quite understand his failing in that respect.

**THE MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** You have no failings.

**Mr. FOSTER.** Lots of them. I have my moments of weakness, and my perpetual weakness. I will appeal to my hon. friend who spoke last night. Let us ask this one question: Is not the inquiry into a matter which has transpired in the Yukon, 3,000 miles away, in a country that is visited by men from every climate in the world, the report of which goes out to every part of the world, very different from an inquiry into the laches of civil servants here at the seat of Government, and in the face of the full public opinion of the country? My hon. friend knows it is. What does that imply? It

implies that special means should be taken to investigate any charges of wrong-doing in the Yukon administration and district, simply because of the difficulties and distance, and other special circumstances of the case. Why, then, do hon. gentlemen opposite, by their resolution, declare against a judicial inquiry into these matters? That is a question that they will need to answer before the public. And I am here to say this—notwithstanding all the fervid appeals made to catch a few persons here or in the country, by my hon. friend, we must face this question of an executive head vested with power such as Major Walsh was vested with, representing the dignity and honour of this country in that district. Now, when it comes to a question whether that gentleman's tender feelings, or those of his relatives or family, shall be considered, or whether the truth shall be looked into, the personal consideration must utterly sink, and the duty of the Government and of Parliament is to see that the conduct of the man who represented the dignity, and honour, and majesty of the country, is investigated thoroughly, and that the truth is brought out. These fervid appeals to catch the sympathy of the unthinking, ought never, and, in my opinion, never will in this country prevent an investigation into official mis-doing. When these charges, when these statements, accumulating now for years, multiplied over and over again in such mass that conviction forces itself upon a large number of minds in this country, that the administration was bad, and when such an opinion multiplies, it becomes the bounden duty of this Government to make known the truth; and the Government, or any members of it, are not the friends of the officers and certainly not the friends of good government in the country, if they refuse the fullest and freest inquiry.

Your hands are not tied. We do not ask what judge should be appointed. We do not lay down any conditions. We simply ask for a tribunal above reproach, and non-partisan, not depending for its daily food upon the whim of an imperious Minister to say the least—and that he is imperious I call the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) to witness, that he is imperious, relentless; I call—shall I say, the unpurchased?—the undriven members of the Liberal Club in the city of Winnipeg, not those who were drafted in in such large numbers the other night; that he is imperious, insistent and relentless. I think you can gather that if you travel about in our western country. I say that it is better that this matter should be looked into and thoroughly examined even though it may not suit the will or the interest of even this genius—according to my hon. friend's statement—or this, as I should call him, moderately able and certainly very persistent Minister of the Interior.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding) moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

#### ADJOURNMENT—THE UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN LUMBER.

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

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** I desire to ask the leader of the House if he is able to give us any information as to the truth of a statement contained in the Toronto "Globe" to the effect that the Government of the United States have published a decree forbidding the importation of Canadian lumber into the United States?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). No efforts of mine have been able to verify that statement. So far it has not been confirmed, and I must say I cannot believe it.

#### ADJOURNMENT—LIQUOR IN THE YUKON.

**Mr. SPROULE.** Before the House adjourns, if I am in order, I would like to ask the Government what truth there is in a despatch printed in the Montreal "Witness," which reads as follows:—

Ottawa, April 14.—It was learned at the Interior Department to-day that all importations of liquor into Yukon had been stopped. No more intoxicants will be allowed to enter.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The information I have to give to the House is that we have disallowed certain ordinances of the Yukon Council with regard to the liquor traffic.

**Mr. SPROULE.** Does that apply as well to the permits issued by the North-west Council?

The **PRIME MINISTER.** The North-west Council has no authority there now since the last Act, passed last session.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 11.30 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 17th April, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

## PETITION OUT OF ORDER.

Mr. SPEAKER. The petition of the Municipal Council of the county of Lanark, praying that additional pay to the amount of 25 cents per day be granted to non-commissioned officers and men during the time of the annual drill, involves the expenditure of public money, and cannot be received.

## IMPERIAL TAX ON COLONIAL SECURITIES.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I ask leave to draw the attention of my right hon. friend leading the Government to a matter that strikes me as of some importance. I see in the report of the Budget speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer a statement that he proposes to have new stamp duties of five shillings per hundred pounds sterling on foreign and colonial bonds, stocks and shares not now liable to duty. The tax will be payable on the first occasion the securities are negotiated in Great Britain. This matter came up on a former occasion, while Mr. Goschen was Chancellor of the Exchequer. When I took up the London "Times" one morning I found a proposal to increase the tax on colonial bonds from two shillings and six pence per cent to ten shillings per cent. I waited upon Mr. Goschen, with my colleagues from the other colonies, and we made so strong a remonstrance that he brought in an amendment which exempted the colonies from the imposition of the duty. At that time the colonial securities were taxed under a law which levied a tax on foreign securities, and "foreign" was held to include colonial. Mr. Goschen brought in an amendment declaring that the term "foreign" should not include colonial, and so we were exempt. If my right hon. friend will refer to the papers in possession of the Government he will see a communication on the subject stating all the facts. I think it would be well to lay these papers on the Table and also to draw Lord Strathcona's attention to the importance of dealing with this matter as it was dealt with before. Mr. Colmer, the Secretary of the department, is familiar with the whole subject.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). My attention has been drawn to the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and, in connection with that, I have had brought before me the very papers to

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

which my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) refers, setting forth the action taken by himself, when High Commissioner, and other commissioners of the different British colonies on that occasion. I shall be happy to lay these papers on the Table and shall give orders to that effect. I have been expecting, from day to day, to hear from Lord Strathcona on this subject. I have no doubt, and I am sure my hon. friend has no doubt, that Lord Strathcona will look after it very diligently.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. But it would be better to draw his attention by cable to this point.

The PRIME MINISTER. Perhaps so.

## DEADMAN'S ISLAND.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) Before the Orders of the Day are called, I ask permission to draw the attention of the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden) to a question I asked a few days ago, when he was not in his place, as to a paragraph in the newspapers which stated that the lease for Deadman's Island had been handed back to him by Mr. Judgate, who stated that he did not want to take the lease, as it was against the wishes of the people of Vancouver.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). I understood the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) to refer to the newspaper report to the effect that the lease had been returned to me. That is not true. The lease was never returned.

## ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell (East Prince), for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session; the motion of Mr. Clarke in amendment thereto, and the motion of Mr. Bertram in amendment to the same.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). In rising to resume the debate on the question before the House, I shall hardly make the mistake, Mr. Speaker, of expecting to be able to contribute much that is new to the discussion.

When we remember that Parliament has now been in session for over a month, that at every sitting our time has been taken up in the discussion on the Address, and that the question of the administration of Yukon affairs, which at this moment is the particular matter before us, has been throughout the whole discussion the foremost subject of consideration, it is easy to understand that the whole question has been thoroughly threshed out, and it is almost an impossibility for anybody at this late stage to contribute anything new to the discus-

sion. Nevertheless, as hon. gentlemen opposite, in the exercise of their undoubted rights, have desired to have a protracted debate on the subject, inasmuch as they seem to think that some good purpose will be served by having the facts of the case, and many things which are not the facts of the case, cited over and over and over again, I suppose it is quite proper that occasionally some member from this side of the House should intervene and point out how completely every charge that has been made against the hon. the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), has been fully met, and how completely the administration of his department has been vindicated by the debate that has taken place. I remember, Sir, when an alderman in one of our towns many years ago, in the midst of a protracted and purposeless debate, rose and made a motion that the council should now quit nonsense and proceed to business. My aldermanic friend obtained much more than local fame by that motion. If he were still in the flesh and permitted to be a member of the Parliament of Canada, I am sure that many a day during the past fortnight he would have been disposed to rise and make his motion. I think the country is pretty well tired of the discussion of Yukon affairs. I think the House is pretty well tired of it. One evidence of this is that during some days past, even when distinguished gentlemen on the opposite side of the House were addressing the Chair, the attendance of members was exceedingly small, and we cannot expect that from this time forward the debate will attract very much attention. Still, as I said before, we may be obliged occasionally, from this side, to present our view of it, if it is only to remind the public how completely the attack of the Opposition has failed.

If we would fairly consider this Yukon matter, we must look at it, not exactly in the light of to-day, but in the light of events as they presented themselves up to less than two years ago. It is easy at the present day for hon. gentlemen to tell us, in the light of the experience of the past year or two, what ought to have been done in the year 1897; but if we would judge the administration of the Yukon district fairly, we shall have to look back to the condition of affairs in 1897, and see how far, if at all, the hon. the Minister of the Interior failed in his duty. Down to the summer of 1897, but little was known of the gold fields of the Yukon district. That there was gold there was, of course, known as a scientific fact, the reports of our departments contained evidence of that. A few miners had been carrying on operations in the district, a small body of Mounted Police was occupying the district; but practically speaking, in the eyes of the world, the Yukon district was unknown. It was only when steamers came down the river in the summer of 1897 and brought out reports of large discoveries of gold, that the

world began to take a wide interest in Yukon affairs, and during the remainder of the summer and fall, and in the winter that followed, there was throughout the world an awakening of interest, and a manifestation of an intention on the part of a large number of people to go into the Yukon district. Now, under these conditions, what could any Minister charged with the administration of that district do? What could he do but call upon capable men, men of good character, of good abilities, of good repute, to assist him in the administration, and to send them into that district? That is all that hon. gentlemen opposite could have done if they had occupied the seats on this side of the House; that is all that my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior could be expected to do, and that was precisely what he did do. He organized a party to go into that district, he accompanied them a part of the way himself, and went as far as he could go with safety, without being absent from his duties too long. Now, if it can be shown that he did employ capable, reputable men, men fitted for that work, I want to submit to the House that, no matter what happened after that, the Minister of the Interior is not responsible and is not to be blamed. True, Sir, if any man appointed by him proved faithless to his trust, that is a subject for deep regret, it is a subject on which any Minister should feel keenly; but if at the time of the appointments he selected men of good repute, gave them the necessary authority, gave them the necessary instructions, gave them the necessary resources to carry on the administration of that district, then I say that is all that could have been expected of him, and that is all that the public have any right to hold him accountable for.

There was another difficulty in the matter. There was a circumstance which added very much to the difficulties of the administration of that district, and that was in relation to the question of the ownership of the country. It is said that there was no danger of any disorder in that country, that there was always a certainty of law and order. It is easy to say that to-day, Mr. Speaker, but if you go back to the American newspapers of 1897, you will find the idea was advanced in many of them that the Klondike region belonged to the United States, that the American miners who were going in there were going in to occupy American territory, and that if any one attempted to interfere with them, their rights as American settlers would be asserted. That was the common cry in American newspapers, and hence there was great reason to fear that difficulties might arise in consequence of misunderstandings as to the flag that should properly float over that country. A due regard to all these things will satisfy any fair-minded observer that the Minister of the Interior, when he was charged with the administra-

tion of that country, did all that could reasonably be expected of him.

Now, until very recently, we have had charges flung very carelessly about the House regarding the character and the qualifications of these men. I submit to the House that if all that was said by the member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) regarding these officials was true, he still would have no justification for the shocking speech which he delivered in this House, inasmuch as he went beyond the bounds of fair discussion, inasmuch as it was not confined to the official acts of men, but dragged in their personal and private affairs to a degree which, I venture to say, never before occurred in the history of the Parliament of Canada. So I say that no matter how much truth there might be, even if there were a thousand times more truth than I believe there is in those charges, I would still claim that the hon. member for Pictou was not justified in taking the course he did. I want to call attention to the fact that the gravest charge that was made against these men was the charge against Major Walsh; and I also want to call attention to the fact that there are only two members in this House who have endeavoured to uphold that charge: those two members are father and son, the leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Pictou. Now, Sir, I wish to point out something in a speech of my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden), who followed the hon. member for Pictou, and who seems to have been the assignee of all this stock of, shall I call them, bits of newspaper clippings and irresponsible assertions generally, of which the hon. member for Pictou seemed to have such a large quantity, which he unloaded upon my hon. friend the member for Halifax. I am glad to observe that, while the hon. member for Halifax was quite willing to attempt to put the wares on the market, he was not prepared to guarantee their strength or purity, and so his speech will be found to be exceedingly moderate, in comparison with that of the hon. member for Pictou. The hon. member for Halifax gave a summary in one part of his speech of the charges against officials; but if hon. members will turn to that summary, they will find that, not under any one of the heads which he lays down, can be found this charge against Major Walsh. Though the hon. member for Pictou made that wild and reckless charge against Major Walsh, his colleagues who sit around him became ashamed of it, and were afraid to prosecute it further. So it remained unnoticed almost, so far as hon. gentlemen sitting around him who continued the discussion were concerned. The charge was virtually abandoned on the other side of the House. They did not dare to take it down to Brockville, the place of all others where they might have been expected to make use of it. When we remember how it was represented

Mr. FIELDING.

before the House and the country, we would have thought that the hon. gentleman would have taken that charge into Brockville, the home of Major Walsh, and repeated it in the presence of his fellow citizens, but we found the hon. gentleman who was expected to explain all these things in Brockville, going away without saying anything about them. Honourable gentlemen in the House, in continuing this debate, have practically abandoned the charges against Major Walsh. They have become ashamed of them and desire to be rid of them. The hon. leader of the Opposition, in his speech on Friday night, seemed to think that it was necessary for him to come to the defence of the hon. member for Pictou, and revive the story about Major Walsh. I find, on page 1,595 of the "Hansard," the leader of the Opposition made a declaration, as follows:—

So far as Major Walsh is concerned, I have no hesitation at all in saying that I listened with the greatest regret to the necessity that existed—and that necessity did exist—and was used by the senior member for Pictou, for bringing that gentleman's private conduct before this House. What are the facts, Sir? Is there any man of intelligence, in this House or outside of it—any man who honours public character and public consistency, and the proper and efficient discharge of public duty—who will say, that if a man holding a high position, the executive of the Government of the country in a great district, forgets himself and disgraces that position, it is not the duty of every man who wants to see public officials conduct themselves in a manner to entitle themselves to the respect of the country, to bring his conduct under the notice of this House?

I question whether the rule laid down by the hon. leader of the Opposition in that way, can be maintained, except under the most extraordinary circumstances, such as have not arisen in this case. If hon. gentlemen opposite would like to see how that rule would work out, let them think for a moment what might happen, if any hon. gentleman on this side of the House should adopt the same rule, should turn the searchlight upon the private characters of officials, great and small, appointed by the members of the Conservative party. Let us suppose that you invade the private life of the larger officials—the judges, the governors, aye, and that the searchlight were turned into the Conservative party's Privy Council Chamber, as we would be justified, under the rule laid down, in dragging out the private life of any member. It has been the practice in public life, and wisely so, to draw a distinction between the public and private character, though far be it from me to say that a man's private character is of no concern in reference to his public life; but it is always dangerous to drag into public discussion the private affairs of any man, and I venture to say, that hon. gentlemen have only to reflect upon the matter to see that the rule laid down by the hon. leader of the Opposition might lead to dangerous

conclusions. I say, that if we had been disposed, on our side of the House, to invade the private life of hon. gentlemen opposite, or of the officials they have appointed, I have no doubt we might have been able to make a sensational paragraph for the newspapers. I have not doubt that from ocean to ocean you could have telegrams circulated about this remarkable story told in the House of Commons, but homes would be disgraced, hearts broken, and wives, and mothers, and daughters would hold their heads in shame. Thank Heaven, the Liberal party does not descend to warfare of that character. We are content to leave that kind of warfare to the hon. leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Pictou. The hon. gentleman's excuse for attacking Major Walsh, and for the attack made upon him by his son, was, that Major Walsh was the executive of the Government in the Yukon territory. A moment's thought will show how unjustifiable is the position taken by the hon. gentleman. Major Walsh is not the executive of the Canadian Government in that country; Major Walsh is not in the service of Canada at all; Major Walsh has not been in the service of Canada for many months. He went to that district under a temporary engagement with the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton); he agreed to remain about a year, and he came back. If his administration was not, in all respects, a success, he is no longer in office; he is no longer in the service of the Government, and the excuse which might possibly be offered, though I doubt it, for an attack upon the floor of this House upon a man who is a public servant, holding a responsible position in the name of the Government of this country, cannot be offered for making a violent attack upon the private life and private character of a gentleman many months after this gentleman has ceased to be an officer of the Government of Canada. Now, Sir, who was Major Walsh? I will not follow the example of the hon. Minister of the Interior, and quote at length. He gave us many extracts as to the character and position of Major Walsh. I shall be very brief; but I shall have to repeat one or two, which perhaps are necessary as reminders of who this gentleman was. I find, in the "Mail and Empire" of the 10th August, 1897, the following:—

If Major Walsh of Brockville should be appointed administrator, as it is rumoured he will be, we may be assured that that capable and experienced officer will show himself the right man for the position.

Again, the Ottawa "Citizen" on the 1st September, 1897, said:

American papers are full of the praises of Mr. Ogilvie, the Dominion surveyor in the Yukon district, and of Major Walsh, who is to administer the country. These men are signal examples of a devotion to duty such as Nelson would have admired, and the English people have always been proud of, but they are not exceptional. We have many such men in Canada.

Major Walsh had a reputation that was continental, almost world-wide. He had rendered gallant service to the country; he had been appointed to the Mounted Police by the late Conservative Government. His name was a household word in the western country, and the Conservative organs did him simple justice, when they told us that the appointment of such a man to the administration of the Yukon gave assurance of a vigorous and successful administration. Well, if that was the character of Major Walsh at the time of his appointment, what ground could there be for accusing the hon. Minister of the Interior, even if Major Walsh had afterwards gone astray and turned out to be a different man? I do not say that with the view of admitting any of these things against Major Walsh; I never had the pleasure of meeting him, but what I have heard from those who know him well leads me to believe that the charges are unfounded, and should not have been made by a member of this House. From what I have been told by those who know Major Walsh well, much better than I do, because I have never had the pleasure of knowing him at all, I am in a position to say, that the attack which the hon. member for Pictou made upon him has not received the approval of the hon. members who sit around him, and to say, further, that it has not received the approval of Conservatives throughout the country.

But there are other names mentioned. Let us take Judge Maguire. He was a Conservative, appointed to the North-west by the Conservative party, and the hon. Minister of the Interior transferred him to the Yukon district. Does anybody question that Judge Maguire was a capable judge and a straightforward public officer? We have had suggestions made to the contrary in this discussion, but nobody has ventured to make any specific accusations against Judge Maguire, and I do not think anybody will do so now. Then, we have Mr. Fawcett, the Gold Commissioner, who had the misfortune to come under the displeasure of a couple of American gentlemen who are publishing a newspaper in Dawson City, two gentlemen who seem to have pursued Mr. Fawcett with a great deal of bitterness. I was exceedingly sorry to find the leader of the Opposition attacking Mr. Fawcett in this House as he did. At one time the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) admitted that Mr. Fawcett was an honest man; but a little later, in his zeal to attack everybody, he said, in reference to Mr. Senkler:

Why is Mr. Senkler there now? Because of the corruption of the man who preceded him.

And the man who preceded him as Gold Commissioner was Mr. Thomas Fawcett. I venture to say that there is not an hon. member on the Conservative side who is prepared in the light of all that has occurred to stand up now and to say that he conscientiously

believes that Mr. Thomas Fawcett is guilty of corruption. The universal testimony to Mr. Fawcett is that while he may have made some mistakes, he was a faithful, and generally speaking, an efficient public officer. Now, Sir, frequent reference has been made by my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition to two gentlemen whom he describes, one as a horse-dealer, and the other as a whaler—Mr. McGregor, the horse-dealer, and Capt. Norwood, the whaler. I do not suppose, Sir, that it is a crime to be a horse-dealer; I think it is generally admitted that to be a successful horse-dealer a man requires a pretty large degree of intelligence and capacity. There are one or two very estimable members on the other side of the House who are well known to be horse-dealers, and if any of these hon. gentlemen should have been chosen to go to the Yukon district, I do not believe it would have been a very grave charge if some Liberal member were to rise and say, that Mr. So-and-so was not to be trusted because he happened to be a horse-dealer. Then we have the question of the whaler. It appears that the whaler came from my own province. I am sorry I have not the pleasure of knowing him, but if he is a fair type of the kind of man they raise in the Maritime provinces; if he is the type of man they raised for generations to command the shipping of the country, then the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) should be congratulated that he obtained a good Nova Scotian captain to go to that region. I venture to say, and I say it seriously, that there is no more intelligent class of men, no men more worthy of being trusted, than the men who during the past thirty years have been bred in the Maritime provinces to pursue their calling as captains of vessels on the high seas. And, Sir, when a man who has received that training is so far advanced in his profession as to be deemed worthy to be placed in command of a steam whaling vessel, in the Arctic regions, instead of regarding that as evidence of his incapacity, I would humbly submit that in all probability you have a man of strong qualities who is admirably fitted for all duty required in that rugged country under the Arctic Circle. I have gone through the principal officials who have been challenged, namely, Major Walsh; Mr. Fawcett, Gold Commissioner; Judge Maguire, and the whaler and the horse-dealer; but there is one other gentleman whose name has figured conspicuously in this discussion, and that is the name of Mr. F. C. Wade. The hon. leader of the Opposition ventured to make a charge the other night against that gentleman; a charge which was only less grave than the accusation that was made against Major Walsh. Let any member of the legal profession—I have not that misfortune myself—let any member of the legal profession stop for a moment and think of what is meant by the accusation, that a respected member of the Bar takes retainers from both sides. I was surprised and shocked

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that a gentleman of the experience of the hon. member (Sir Charles Tupper) should make an accusation of that kind without being in a position to maintain it. Well, Sir, we have evidence to the contrary, and we have the evidence from the hon. gentleman's family; evidence which was very properly read to the House by the Minister of the Interior. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) read a letter from Mr. W. J. Tupper, of Winnipeg, to testify that the political opponents of Mr. Wade could bear witness that Mr. Wade would scorn to do a mean action even in the heat of a battle. That is the testimony of a brother professional man as to Mr. Wade's character, and I believe the House and the country will say that the testimony of the younger gentleman (Mr. W. J. Tupper), who lived with Mr. Wade in Winnipeg, and knew him, is more likely to be correct than the testimony of the leader of the Opposition, who in this House makes the tremendous accusation against Mr. Wade that he is a man who takes retainers from both sides. I would suggest to the leader of the Opposition, or his lieutenant, the ex-Minister of Finance, who echoed his statement, that if they feel that Mr. Wade is a man of that type and that he is taking retainers on both sides, the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster), who I understand is to speak in Brockville to-night, will, I hope, make that statement on the public platform, where he is not sheltered from punishment by parliamentary privilege, and I venture to say he will hear from Mr. Wade at no distant date. I have not the honour of knowing Mr. Wade intimately; I have barely met him, but I know from general repute he is a barrister of good standing in the city of Winnipeg, and although I have no special cause to defend him, yet we have the evidence of Mr. W. J. Tupper in his favour, and until we get evidence to the contrary, we are bound to consider Mr. Wade entitled to our confidence and respect.

My hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden) made a strong point of the fact, that the Government should have prevented their officials, at the very beginning, from taking up claims in the Yukon district. My hon. friend (Mr. Borden) urged that point very strongly, and he called attention to the Act of the province of Nova Scotia which forbids certain classes of officials from taking mining claims. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) told us that he had himself been instrumental in the passage of that Act, but my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) is, I think, mistaken, and a little reflection will show him that he had nothing to do with the passing of the Act at all. He was one of a number of legal gentlemen engaged in a very important mining suit, and in the course of the trial it appeared that an official in one of the Government offices had acquired an interest in one of the mining claims taken out in the mining department. So strongly were the Government of the day impressed—the Government of which I was Premier—

with the importance of having the officials in and about the Government building beyond suspicion, that without suggestion from my hon. friend (Mr. Borden)—as I am sure on reflection he will admit—we introduced and carried through Parliament an Act which provided that all the officials—not only in the Mines Department, where they were already debarred, but all the officials whose offices were in and about the same building—should be debarred from the privileges to taking up claims.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Will my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding) pardon me for saying that he is not quite accurate. What took place was, that the official in question did acquire an interest which could be attacked upon technical grounds. After a suit was brought on these grounds, an Act was passed through the legislature behind the backs of those persons who were claiming the right to get back their own property on these technical grounds; and when the legislation to remedy that had passed the lower House and had gone to the legislative council; the legislative council added the clause to which I have referred. It is only in that way I was instrumental in bringing it about. But it did come about, through the Act which I caused to be introduced in the assembly for the purpose mentioned. I think my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding) will upon reflection admit that my statement regarding that is perfectly accurate.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The point at issue here between my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) and myself is not serious enough to make it a matter of dispute between us. The point I wish to make is this: That the clause inserted in the Act was the work of the Government of the day, and if I may be pardoned for saying it, I drafted the clause myself and my hon. friend and colleague in the Government, the Hon. Geo. Murray, introduced it in the legislative council. However, the main thing to which I wish to call the attention of my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) is this: That that Act which he regards as a very valuable one, and which I, too, think is a wise Act, that Act was not passed at the beginning of the history of mining in Nova Scotia, it was not passed until after we had a century and a half of settled government in Nova Scotia. There are some things that we learn by experience, but my hon. friends opposite seem to think that the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), in the very beginning of the conduct of Yukon affairs, should have had all the experience that came to other provinces in a century and a half of their history.

I would like to point out to my hon. friend that for a number of years the affairs of the province of Nova Scotia were managed by the hon. gentleman who now leads the Opposition. Not for a very long time; my hon. friend does not generally govern very long where he is best known; but for a few years my hon. friend was controller of the

affairs of Nova Scotia, and during all those years there was no such Act on the statute-book as he refers to. It was only in the course of years and under a Liberal administration that that useful Act was placed on the statute-book. And lest there should be any misunderstanding, let me say that the official whose conduct was called in question at the time and gave rise to the passing of the Act, was an official appointed many years ago by the hon. leader of the Opposition himself. I do not say, however, that I have any intention of reflecting on the gentleman referred to. There was no legal and perhaps no moral reason why he should not avail himself of the privilege of taking up the mine. At all events, he was not interfered with further than this, that from that time forward an Act was placed on the statute-book for the future regulation of the matter. The point I desire, however, to make—and my hon. friend will, I think, see the force of this—is that that was something which only came about after long experience; and it was hardly reasonable to expect my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior to learn as much in two years in the Yukon district as other men required generations to learn in the province of Nova Scotia. But I would like to point out that even that Act does not forbid public officials generally from taking up mines. It only forbids those whose offices are in and about the building which contains the Mines Office; and there is nothing to-day to prevent the officers of that Government employed in outside capacities going in and taking up claims. So that the regulation which my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior recently has made, forbidding all Government officials in the Yukon district taking up claims, goes much further than the statute of the province of Nova Scotia to which my hon. friend has referred.

My hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) very well reminds me that the original regulations for the Yukon district were made by the Conservative Government; the Minister of the Interior found them in operation, and the members of the Conservative Government. It appears, were not expected to have all that knowledge and information which was expected of my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior. The regulations which were in force when he came into office, continued in force with some changes; and, therefore, it is only reasonable to suppose that when in the light of experience my hon. friend made such changes as were necessary, he did all that could be expected of any Minister faithfully discharging his duties.

Now, I think the only question, and all that we are concerned in here, is whether or not, when some difficulties occurred, when charges were made, when misunderstandings arose, in the Yukon district, and when sometimes newspaper writers and sometimes

others were complaining of affairs there, the Minister of the Interior took the proper steps to have an investigation. That, I think, is the only question on which the House has a right to challenge the conduct of the Minister. Well, a reference to the public records will show most conclusively that in that respect my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior is not open to any charge. My hon. friend from Halifax—and no one knows better than I do what an excellent speech he can make when he has the material—made use of a great deal of his idle gossip which was turned over to him by the hon. member for Pictou, and I am sure that when he used that in the House, he felt what an exceedingly poor case he had, and how much better he could have done if he had not been obliged to make bricks without straw. But, after labouring with this material for some time, my hon. friend came across one point which seemed to be of some importance. He thought he had struck something, and very naturally he made very much of it when he found it. My hon. friend thought he had discovered that after these accusations were made against the administration of the Yukon district, the Minister of the Interior had allowed many months to pass before taking any action. This point has already been referred to by my hon. friend from Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) and also by my hon. colleague the Minister of Marine and Fisheries; but I wish to refer to it again in order that I may give some precise dates, and emphasize the point which has already been so well made by the two hon. gentlemen to whom I have referred. The hon. member for Halifax—and I am going to quote him at considerable length—said:

The next point made by the hon. member for Pictou was that the investigation which should have been made into the charges which were heralded all over this country and over two continents months ago should have been made promptly and at once. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) claims in his speech that his department acted with great forethought, diligence, promptness and circumspection. Charges were made, as the hon. gentleman himself admitted, before the 15th day of July, 1898, because he said that he fixed on that date as the date on which Mr. Ogilvie should leave for the Yukon; and he says that before that date it came to his knowledge that charges or complaints had been made against Mr. Wade and Mr. McGregor. And, Sir, up to the 1st day of February, 1899, no person had been authorized to investigate these charges. That is the position of the hon. gentleman with regard to the delay. How does he answer that? He tells us that after Mr. Ogilvie had been despatched to the Yukon, while that gentleman was on his way there, he sent him a telegram, the words of which he gave, and which were substantially these: "You have a free hand." Now, I ask any lawyer in this House: What would be Mr. Ogilvie's power of investigation under a telegram announcing to him that he would have a free hand? Does the hon. gentleman say that on such a telegram Mr. Ogilvie would have

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power to subpoena a single witness or that he would have the power to administer an oath to a single witness?

Does he say that he had power, under that telegram, to hold any investigation whatever, any investigation that would be worthy of the name? The only thing Mr. Ogilvie could do under that telegram would be what any private person could do, ascertain what information he could by inquiry in the Yukon district, and report to the hon. gentleman. Why, Sir, the hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches were not so slow as that, when it was a question of issuing a commission to deprive a Tory office-holder of his office. The hon. gentleman says that you cannot run and get a Council meeting at once? Did he have to delay from July until February to get a Council meeting? Council meetings were called pretty promptly for other purposes, but the hon. gentleman, it seems, could not get a Council meeting to deal with this matter between the 15th of July, 1898, and February, 1899. Sir, I say, that under the circumstances, when these charges were ringing throughout Canada, when Liberal journals, as well as Tory journals, were speaking of them, there was most criminal and scandalous delay on the part of the hon. gentleman. I say, it was most unfair to the officers themselves, because we have not pretended that all these officers were guilty of any wrongful act; we have not pretended it for a moment; but when these charges were allowed to go during all these months without any investigation, when innocent men had attached to them the odium which should properly have fallen, perhaps, on some of the men who were guilty, if they were really guilty; therefore, in justice to the country, in justice to the officials, in justice to the hon. gentleman's Government, and in justice to himself, I say, that the delay during those months was scandalous and shameful.

I have read that passage at length in order that we may place beside the most serious accusation my hon. friend was able to make the dates which prove that for all that there was not a shadow of foundation, but that my hon. friend was entirely mistaken. I call the attention of the House again to the fact that before any specific charges were made, in the early stages of this matter, even when there were nothing more than newspaper reports, which the Minister might if he chose have treated with indifference, the Minister of the Interior sent a telegram to Mr. Ogilvie, when on his way out, in which he used the words quoted by my hon. friend, but in a little stronger form. The words of the telegram which the Minister of the Interior sent to Mr. Ogilvie even at that early day, were as follows:—

You have an absolutely free hand in regard to the officials; do what is necessary to put the service on an effective footing.

"Oh," my hon. friend says, "but what good could Mr. Ogilvie do under that telegram except what any private citizen could do?" The hon. gentleman tells us that Mr. Ogilvie could simply ascertain what information he could and report to the Minister of the Interior at Ottawa. I have only to call my hon. friend's attention to the facts to show him how utterly unfair and unjust that statement is. Mr. Ogilvie was not in the

position of a private citizen. He was at that time the commissioned officer of the Government under the Act respecting the Yukon district; and, under that telegram, which gave him a free hand with regard to the officials even before he received any inquiry commission or specific charge, he was commissioned to inquire into everything he wanted to inquire into in the Yukon district, and he was free to suspend any official in the district the moment he could find anything against him. The hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) said that Mr. Ogilvie had no more power at that time than any private citizen. I say the House has been shown how, before the specific charges came in and a commission was issued to Mr. Ogilvie to make a formal investigation, he had a free hand to deal with the officials as he pleased; and those who know Mr. Ogilvie know well that he would exercise that power for the interest of the public.

Then we come to the formal charges, charges which, the hon. gentleman said, were allowed to go seven months without attention. Let us have the dates. My hon. friend from Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) have both referred to this matter. They said that the action taken by the Minister of the Interior was prompt, and so it was. I wish to fortify that statement by giving exact dates. The miners' petition, which contained the first specific charges made against any officials, was dated at Dawson, the 25th of August. It was addressed to the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister, and reached him at the city of Quebec, where he was at the time attending to his public duties, on the 4th October. It was sent immediately to the Minister of the Interior, and was received by him at Ottawa on the 6th October. On the 7th October, the very next day, the Minister of the Interior made his report to the Council recommending an investigation. On the same day the Council met, having been informed by my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior that this matter was up. Council was summoned instantly, and, on the very day on which the Minister of the Interior gave his report—which was twenty-four hours from the time the document came into his hands—Council had passed an order commissioning Mr. Ogilvie to make an investigation. This was on the 7th of the month, and on the 10th of October the commission was issued and a special messenger was despatched to Dawson City to deliver it to Mr. Ogilvie and let him proceed with his investigation. So, my hon. friend will see that that whole house of cards he built upon this idea that there had been no inquiry for seven months falls to pieces. The whole thing was a mere dream. I was about to say a beautiful dream; but it was rather a very unlovely dream, which, I am sure, he will be glad to know had no reality in

it whatever. With the commission that was issued went a letter, which has already been placed upon the records, but which, as it is very brief, I wish to repeat, in order that the country and the House—although I suspect there are not many in the House who will pay very much attention to the debate from this time forward—and all who are concerned may see how thorough was the action of the Minister of the Interior in securing proper investigation. I have said that the Order in Council was passed on the 7th October. On the 10th of the same month the commission was despatched to Mr. Ogilvie, this letter being sent on the same date:

Ottawa, 10th October, 1898.

Dear Sir,—You will receive herewith a commission to investigate charges which have been made by a miners' committee against the administration of Governmental affairs in the Yukon district. This commission has been issued in consequence of the receipt of a formal complaint, a copy of which is attached to the commission. You will at once proceed upon receipt of the commission with the investigation, and you are authorized to notify the persons who have signed the petition, wherever possible, of the time and place and when the inquiry will be opened.

Your legal adviser, Mr. Clement, will give you any professional assistance that may be required in the investigation. You will understand that any person who is charged with malfeasance of office or offence of any kind against the proper administration of the law in any department is entitled, before the hearing of the charges, to due notice of the particulars of the charge, so that he can prepare himself to meet the charge if he so desires.

As to employment of counsel, I will leave you to exercise your own judgment, merely remarking that if the persons preferring the charges desire to appear by counsel I see no objection to such course being followed. In such cases, of course, any accused persons who desire to appear by counsel will have a similar privilege.

It is the desire of the Government that the investigation should be thorough and complete, and that each and every charge that has been made in the miners' petition should be thoroughly investigated, and that you should make a definite report, giving your finding upon the evidence submitted in support of each charge, returning your report along with a copy of the evidence.

It is absolutely necessary that your report should be in my hands before the meeting of Parliament, and I shall, therefore, expect you to send it out by special messenger, if necessary, as soon as the ice is in condition to permit of travel southward from Dawson City.

Yours faithfully,

CLIFFORD SIFTON.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wonder how it is possible, in the face of the public record which the Minister of the Interior has been able to place before this House, for anybody to say that there had been any failure on his part to take proper action for the investigation of these charges. Mr. Ogilvie, on receipt of that commission, issued a public notice, in which he recited the terms of the commission and fixed the time and place for the hearing of all the parties. He is

now holding that investigation; and what we on this side have said, in the amendment which we propose to support, is that, having confidence in Mr. Ogilvie, believing in his integrity, ability and knowledge of that country, we are going to suspend judgment on these matters until we have received Mr. Ogilvie's report. If, then, as a result of the report so issued, anything is disclosed which should demand a further inquiry, this Parliament and this Government will see that that inquiry is made in due course.

Hon. gentlemen cannot question successfully the position of Mr. Ogilvie. I remember a conversation I had with my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior when Mr. Ogilvie went up as commissioner. Everybody was bearing testimony at that time to the ability and character of Mr. Ogilvie, but my friend the Minister of the Interior said to me: "Just you wait, Fielding, until Ogilvie gets out there, and they will begin to blackguard him as they blackguard every person who goes out." That anticipation was realized. Some persons have endeavoured to create the impression that Mr. Ogilvie was unworthy the confidence of the people and the Government in this matter. Let us see what the testimony is as to Mr. Ogilvie. I may find it necessary to repeat briefly some things that have already been brought before the House in this connection. Let me first give the good words of my friend the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague). When the question was before this House of the payment of a small sum—a very small sum—in recognition of Mr. Ogilvie's great services, the hon. member for Haldimand said:

I do not object to this vote of \$5,000 to Mr. Ogilvie. I do not fancy there is a man in this House who will object to it. He has been, it seems, an incorruptible and valuable public servant, and I am sure we will all agree with that vote.

If Mr. Ogilvie was an incorruptible and valuable public servant at that day, he is not less an incorruptible and valuable servant to-day, abundantly worthy the confidence of the Government and the Parliament of Canada. I find the Montreal "Star," a journal which hon. gentlemen opposite now ought to regard as an authority, whatever they may have thought of it a few months ago, in its issue of July 2nd, 1898, said:

His opportunities to enrich himself were immense, but he availed himself of none of them; but took his small salary and did his duty, and came back no richer than if he had been keeping guard over an ice field.

The same paper said:

The country was pleased with the record of Mr. Ogilvie in that district, no matter what his technical duties may have been.

And again, when he was appointed commissioner, the same paper said:

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The appointment of Mr. Ogilvie to a position of trust in the Yukon district is a step for which the Government will be gladly given credit. It is difficult to see how they could have made a better choice.

The Montreal "Gazette" said:

When the First Minister sent Mr. Ogilvie out, the miners, although he had no authority over them, respected his decisions as to claims and boundaries and other disputed questions because he was a just man, and would not make use of his position as agent of the Government to better himself by a dollar.

The same paper again said:

It will be a good appointment, and be a proper recognition of the services of a man whose work did more to make the Yukon known than that of any other man. It will also put in a responsible position a man whose character is respectable, and who is more acceptable than the multitude of speculators appointed to Government positions in the gold district.

The "Gazette" could not miss the chance of having a dig at the Government, but it bore testimony to the high character, integrity and ability of Mr. Ogilvie. Again, on the 11th of July, the Ottawa "Journal," a Conservative paper, said:

The present Government scored a big point by its nomination of Mr. Ogilvie to the important position of commissioner of the Yukon territory.

I was glad to find that my hon. friend from Victoria (Mr. Prior), and my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden), in their speeches, both recognized the fitness of Mr. Ogilvie for his position and did not call in question his integrity. What else did hon. gentlemen opposite say? Oh! they said, Mr. Ogilvie may be a very good man, but he is not a lawyer. I am not sure that the presence of a lawyer in that investigation was absolutely necessary, but that criticism falls to the ground entirely when we note the fact that my hon. colleague the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) appointed to assist Mr. Ogilvie a very eminent lawyer from the city of Toronto. I have not the pleasure of knowing Mr. Clement. I observe that since his nomination was mentioned, one or two hon. gentlemen opposite seem to raise a doubt as to his professional standing. I have since been informed, on what I believe good authority, that Mr. Clement is a gentleman of very high standing at the Toronto Bar. There are many legal gentlemen in the party opposite, but I am informed by one who has a good knowledge of the legal profession that Mr. Clement's standing in that profession is equal to that of any of the hon. gentlemen opposite to-day who are practising at the Bar. So that Mr. Ogilvie is not only a capable man himself but has at his right hand an able lawyer who will be able to render him all the assistance required. Then we have a curious argument raised by my hon. friend who leads the Opposition, and one which is emphasized very strongly by the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster), who closed the discussion on Friday night. Let me quote what the

hon. gentleman said with regard to Mr. Ogilvie :

Do you suppose that that discerning public, looking as to whether the good name of Canada is going to be cleared or not, will think it is cleared when Mr. Sifton's hired man makes his master a report under his monthly salary ?

I do not think, Mr. Speaker, it is an offence for any man to be a "hired man" of any department of the Government of Canada. This expression "hired man" flung across the House in an offensive spirit is an insult to every member of the civil service of Canada, who, in that respect, is a "hired man." If we would realize how very absurd is this contention, that no one but a judicial commission can inquire into matters of this sort, let us just apply the doctrine laid down to some other cases. Suppose I should receive information to-day that an officer of my department engaged in departmental work in an extreme portion of Canada—in Halifax in the east, or Vancouver in the west—was charged with serious dereliction of duty, what would I be expected to do ? Apply for a judicial commission to go out there and enquire into the matter ? Would any one dream of such an absurd thing ? No, I would take one of my "hired men," as hon. gentlemen opposite call them, I would take a gentleman in my department of high intelligence and large experience, and send him out to that distant part of the Dominion with instructions to inquire into the charges. That has been the course hitherto invariably followed. And if there were anything in the circumstances which pointed to the necessity of taking an examination under oath, then application would be made to his Excellency for a commission conferring that power. Suppose the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) had a charge made against one of his officials in a distant part of the Dominion, what would he do ? Would he apply to His Excellency for a judicial commission to make the inquiry ? No, Sir, but he would take his "hired man," one of the men so described in this House by hon. gentlemen opposite—he would take his inspector or chief officer and send him out to hold an investigation. If my hon. colleagues of the Customs or Railways, or any other department, found charges made against any of their employees in distant parts of the Dominion, what would they do ? They would send out one of their "hired men" to investigate. Is not that the usual course followed ? If that is the course usually followed in relation to the Departments of Inland Revenue, Railways and Marine, or any other department, why is it not right for the Minister of the Interior, when an official of his department in a distant portion of the Dominion, is brought under accusation, to follow the same course ? Why should there be a different rule ? Why is a hired man good enough to investigate into such matters in the Customs Department, and a judicial com-

mission required to inquire into the conduct of an official in the Department of the Interior ? The thing is utterly preposterous, and those hon. gentlemen know, when they use that argument, there is no reason in the world why a judicial commission should be appointed in any such case. When you have to inquire into the conduct of a subordinate, a hired man is the proper officer to investigate ; and so long as the accusation is made against officials only, there can be no reason whatever for any other kind of investigation than that which is employed in all the departments of the Government in relation to such matters. Sir, there is one kind of investigation which a "hired man" is not competent to hold, and that is an investigation touching the honour and integrity of a Minister of the Crown ; and if these hon. gentlemen would dare to make an accusation of that character, they would then discover there will be no question of employing a "hired man" in the matter, but either by a royal commission of judges, or, what is better, a committee of the peers of the Ministers themselves, the members of this House, they would get all the investigation they wanted. Then, my hon. friend attacked the Administration for sending out troops. Why, the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) on Friday night said : You are spending a million dollars in sending out 300 or 400 men to that country when every man in the country knows they were not required. Let me quote his words. He said :

Well, Sir, there is just one word with reference to that. Everybody knows now, everybody who was not in a panic knew two years ago, that there was no more necessity of spending a million dollars to send up 300 or 400 militiamen into that country and keep them there, than there was for sending that many men over to the town of Rossland to keep the miners in that district in order. With the large force of mounted police that you have in that country, you have a force that is amply sufficient, provided you went in for treating the miners decently and rightly, to maintain law and order.

My hon. friend said that everybody who was not in a panic knew that we did not need to spend a million dollars for the purpose of sending 300 or 400 men into that country. Let me reply, first, that we did not send up 300 or 400 men but actually 216 men, officers, non-commissioned officers and rank and file, and, secondly, that the expenditure is nothing like a million dollars. I have not the figures at hand, but up to the 30th June—which was of course but a short period—we only spent \$117,000. Then, thirdly, let me say in reply to his remark that everybody knew that was a waste of money, why did not the hon. gentleman, as the financial critic of the Administration, stand up in the House and say so when we asked the vote ?

My memory is good in the matter, but preferring not to trust it, I searched the public records, and I find that when it was proposed in this House by my hon. friend the Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden)

to take a large appropriation to send these troops out there to maintain law and order, there was not a man on the opposite side who raised his voice against it. The ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) rose in his place and asked my hon. friend the Prime Minister if it was true, as stated, that they were going to send a force out there; and my hon. friend the leader of the Government said: Yes, it is true; we are going to send the militia out there to maintain law and order. The hon. member accepted the statement without protest, and neither by vote nor by voice did he ever make a single objection to it. So it is too late for my hon. friend to say that we did not need troops out there when, at the moment they were sent, he seemed to believe that they were needed. Well, I thought until lately, perhaps, we would not need them, perhaps they might as well be brought home after law and order have been established there; but, Sir, if hon. gentlemen opposite are going to make speeches such as have come from influential men in this House, if hon. gentlemen occupying the first rank in one of the great political parties of this country are going to lay down as a doctrine that the money we have collected from the royalties in that country does not belong to the people of Canada but belongs to the foreign miners out there, if we are going to have these hon. gentlemen preaching the doctrine that the country out there is oppressed and misgoverned, then I say we will have such a condition of affairs in Dawson City and the Yukon district that we may require troops to be kept there to protect Canada against the harm that will come from the speeches made on the Opposition side of this House.

Now my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Finance spoke for some time, too, on the question of royalty, and I must do him the justice to say that on that question he talked moderately and reasonably, and though I am not able to agree with him in all that he said as to the excessive royalty, that is a fair matter of discussion. There is no absolute finality in any rate of royalty that we have fixed in this matter. My own judgment is that the royalty grievance is not a very genuine grievance, that the men in that country who are most concerned in remaining there and developing the country, do not regard the royalty as a very great objection. Still, that is a fair matter for future consideration, though for the present we do not propose to change the rate. I was particularly pleased, though, to find the hon. gentlemen opposite learning the very wholesome doctrine that you may sometimes get more revenue from a low rate of taxation. I suspect that the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) has been studying the trade returns during the last couple of years under a Liberal Administration, and that the effect has been to teach him some sound

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political economy. It is true, Sir, that sometimes you can get more revenue by a reduction of the rate of taxation, and the time may come when we shall be willing to apply that doctrine to the Yukon royalties; for the present, we think we have gone far enough when we have increased the exemption from \$2,500 to \$5,000. I think the real difficulty in the Yukon country is not so much the royalty as lack of communication and lack of transportation. We have no reason to complain of the degree of development that has already occurred in that country. Hon. gentlemen say that that country is not going to make any progress under this 10 per cent royalty. Well, Mr. Speaker, it has made fair progress under the 10 per cent royalty; there is a large amount of gold brought out of the country. There is one thing to be said about gold dust, it is not a perishable commodity, and if it is not brought out this year it remains there for another year and will be brought out in due time. We have no great interest in having the gold deposits of the Yukon all cleared up in the first six months of the year. There has been a fair degree of development, which has not been unsatisfactory to the Government, and which has not been unsatisfactory to the country. But I believe that what we need chiefly out there is, as I said a moment ago, communication and transportation facilities, and we would have had them long ago if the Senate had not interfered with our plans. If the friends in the Senate of the hon. gentlemen opposite had permitted the policy of this Government to be carried out, if another Chamber had not interfered with that policy, we would have had long ere this a railway to the Yukon, and with a railway, the trade of the country would have been kept in Canadian channels instead of being diverted to the United States; and with cheaper transportation, food would have come down in price, labour could have been employed, the development of that country would have been more rapid, and its development will take place more rapidly when satisfactory communication is established. When that is done the question of a 10 per cent royalty will be a very small item with regard to the development of the country. Whether the royalty is too high or too low, is a fair matter of debate, but I do not think it requires a judicial inquiry to tell us whether the royalty is too large or too small. I have claimed that we should wait for the report of Mr. Ogilvie. We do not say it is to be final. All we say is that, having commenced an investigation, having put it in the hands of a capable and responsible man, a man who is above suspicion, a man who is loved, and honoured, and revered by the miners in that district as the representative of the Government and the Parliament of Canada, we think it is best to wait until he sends in his report, and then we shall see what next.

Sir, the hon. member for Pictou had very much to say about this matter which I am sure he will have reason to regret. Indeed, it is painfully evident that the chief desire of that hon. gentleman was not to secure reforms in the Yukon district, but simply to make some political capital for his party in that matter. He has been engaged, by common report, in collecting hearsay evidence for many months. If the hon. gentleman had a sincere desire for an investigation into Yukon affairs he would have availed himself of the opportunity which was placed in his power when he and several other gentlemen residing in British Columbia received several months ago the following letter, sent by the Deputy Minister of the Interior, Mr. Smart, by order of the hon. the Minister of the Interior, dated on the 2nd of December last, and addressed to members of this Parliament residing in the province of British Columbia:—

Sir,—You are no doubt aware that statements have been made very freely in the press for some months past impugning the conduct of officials charged with the administration of the affairs of the Government in the Yukon district. Some time since a statement signed by certain persons claiming to represent a miners' institute or committee was placed in the hands of the Minister of the Interior, and thereupon a commission was issued to Mr. William Ogilvie, the commissioner of the district, authorizing him to make an investigation into the truth of the statements made in the complaint, and also to inquire into other complaints that may be made respecting maladministration of officers of the Government. It is apprehended that great difficulty will be encountered in making an investigation by reason of the vagueness of the charges which have been made, and the difficulty of getting information as to any specific acts of wrongdoing, should have taken place. As a public man resident in British Columbia, it is possible that you have been made the recipient of information which would be of value to the department and to Mr. Ogilvie in conducting the said investigation, and I am therefore directed to request that if you are in possession of any information whatever showing or relating to any specific acts of malfeasance of office on the part of any officer of the Government in the Yukon district during the past two years, such information may be forwarded to the department in order that it may be sent to the commissioner for examination and report.

I have the honour to be, sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
JAMES A. SMART,  
Deputy Minister of the Interior.

The hon. member for Pictou who, though representing the county of Pictou, is now a resident of British Columbia, received a copy of that letter from the Department of the Interior, and I submit to every fair-minded man who hears the letter read, that if the hon. member for Pictou had simply desired to see justice done, if he had desired to see whatever wrongdoing, if any, had occurred in the Yukon, inquired into and a remedy applied, my hon. friend, instead of treasuring up all these fables for the last few months, would have sent his information direct to

the Minister of the Interior, or have communicated with Mr. Ogilvie, in order that it might be made the subject of investigation. But instead of doing that the hon. gentleman ignores the commission, gathers up all the hearsay stories he can find, and presents them to this House with a view of trying to make a complaint I have said that Mr. Ogilvie has been commissioned to examine into everything in regard to the officials of the Government, and that he is a competent and proper officer, assisted as he is by a legal adviser, to inquire into every act of the officers of the Government in that district. I have made the point, and I repeat now, that I draw a distinction, and the House will draw a distinction, between complaints against public officials and complaints affecting the honour and integrity of a Minister of the Crown. I repeat what was said before, that while we justify the appointment of Mr. Ogilvie as a proper tribunal for inquiring into the conduct of officials, we do not for a moment say that Mr. Ogilvie should be employed to inquire into any charge, if there were any charge, against the hon. Minister of the Interior, or any other Minister. Although the hon. member for Pictou in his speech made very wild and reckless charges wherein he talked of rascalities and crimes, although he spoke of putting the hon. Minister of the Interior into the criminal box, and made such wild statements as that, it was noticed that, as this debate went on, hon. gentlemen were unwilling to make any accusation against the hon. Minister of the Interior, until at last we had from the leader of the Opposition an attempt made on Friday last, which I do not hesitate to say was unworthy of the position of that hon. gentleman in this House. The hon. gentleman in his second speech did attempt, as his son, the hon. member for Pictou, had done before him, to injure the character of the hon. Minister of the Interior, and he did it by referring again to the transaction connected with the name of a gentleman named Philp, who, some time ago, was the law partner of the hon. Minister of the Interior. He quoted this document, which he said had been given by the hon. Minister of the Interior to Mr. Philp:

This introduces Mr. Philp, who has a permit to enter the Yukon district with such provisions as he may see fit to take with him, without regard to the usual regulations.

Now, the hon. gentleman quoted that for the purpose of showing that it was a permission granted to take in large quantities of something into the Yukon district, regardless of the regulations. The Minister of the Interior had explained that matter fully. It was not a permit to take in a large quantity; it was a permit to go in with a small quantity. Major Walsh, in pursuance of what he supposed to be his authority, made a rule that nobody should be allowed to enter the Yukon territory unless he carried 600 pounds of food with him. Now, I do not think that Major

Walsh had a right to do that as a matter of law, but sometimes in these distant countries an administrator charged with great responsibility might be justified in taking a course that he considered to be in the public interest, and when you consider that there was danger of famine in Dawson City, and owing to the difficulties of transportation, how impossible it was to get food into that country, it is possible that Major Walsh acted wisely in issuing that order that no one should enter that country unless he had 600 pounds of food. It was under these circumstances that Mr. Philp came to Mr. Sifton and said that he was only going into Dawson and out again, that he had no intention of remaining, that there was no reason why he should carry in a winter's supply of food, and he asked the Minister of the Interior that he should be allowed to go in with a small quantity, and not with a large quantity. That was the purpose of the order, but the hon. gentleman opposite (Sir Charles Tupper) quoted it to show the very opposite. But worse than that: hon. gentlemen will notice that the permit was to take in such provisions as he chose. When the hon. leader of the Opposition undertook to comment upon that he translated the word provisions into liquor, and he said that that Mr. Philp obtained a permit to take liquor into the Yukon regardless of the regulations. There is not a word in it about liquor, and provisions do not generally mean liquor to people on this side of the House at any rate, whatever they mean on the other side of the House. The hon. gentleman had no excuse for his accusation, because the hon. Minister of the Interior had explained the transaction.

**Mr. POPE.** You were not in the Yukon.

**The MINISTER OF FINANCE.** My hon. friend has not been there, and he does not know any more about it than I do.

**Mr. POPE.** I know more about that part of it.

**The MINISTER OF FINANCE.** The provisions or the liquor?

**Mr. POPE.** The liquor end of it.

**The MINISTER OF FINANCE.** Perhaps the hon. gentleman knows more about that than I do. I find that the hon. Minister of the Interior, at page 87 of the "Hansard," said:

When Mr. Philp got to the coast, like the partner of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) and a great many other distinguished gentlemen, he desired to become interested in the bringing of liquor into the Yukon. He telegraphed me, asking me to write him that the letter I had given him should include liquor, and his request was properly refused.

In the light of that fact, and in the light of that statement of the hon. Minister of the Interior, that no permit was given to take liquor into the Yukon, that it was never understood to mean liquor, that when Mr. Philp

**Mr. FIELDING.**

applied for a permit to take liquor into the Yukon, he was refused, and when Mr. Philp, according to the evidence furnished to the Minister of the Interior, never took any liquor in, what are we to think of the leader of the Opposition in making that ungenerous attempt to injure the hon. Minister of the Interior by declaring that he gave that permit to take liquor into the Yukon to a partner? Then, the leader of the Opposition said that the hon. Minister of the Interior was identified with him in his interests in exploiting the Yukon district. I am surprised that the leader of the Opposition would dare to make that statement against a brother member of the Privy Council. With all his experience in public life, he ought to have known better, and I venture to draw his attention to it now in the hope that he will take the earliest opportunity of tendering the apology which is due to the hon. Minister of the Interior for the most ungenerous attack which can only be characterized by language stronger than this Parliament will permit me to use. But I am glad to be able to say that we have driven these hon. gentlemen to bay upon this matter of attacks upon Ministers. The hon. member for Pictou began with an attack upon the hon. Minister of the Interior, but when we pressed this matter home on Friday night, when the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) was pointing out, as I have endeavoured to do to-day, that if these hon. gentlemen have any accusations to make against the Minister of the Interior, or any other Minister of the Crown, there is a proper way to bring them before the House if they will take the responsibility and obtain an investigation, when my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries was pressing that point home, what happened? The hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) stood up in this House and said: We do not accuse the Minister of the Interior, but we only complain of the officials in the Yukon district. We have driven them, just as in the Drummond County deal, as they called it, we drove them to acknowledge that they never expected to prove any wrong-doing. I am glad that the hon. member for Beauharnois made the admission, because it is a credit to him, and tends to make this debate a little less bitter than it otherwise might have been.

No member of this Government has any interest in defending any official in the Yukon who has been guilty of misconduct. What concern have we in defending these men if they have done wrong? But I think we should have some better evidence of their wrong-doing than has been given, some better evidence than, as the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries happily described it, mere tittle-tattle, before we drag the reputation of these men into the mire. I believe that every member of this Government and of this Parliament should feel that he is the custodian of the good name of the civil service of Canada, until they have been fairly

accused, fairly tried and justly condemned. Only two of the officials in the Yukon are well known to me. The hon. Minister of the Interior came to me and said that he wanted to obtain the services of a man who had a practical knowledge of mining operations. He communicated with my hon. friend from Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) about the same time on the subject, and we both united in recommending to him a gentleman who had served my government in Nova Scotia faithfully for a long period of years in the office of assistant inspector of mines. I knew the man was able, competent and worthy, and I recommended him, and I am glad to be able to say that his name has never been mentioned adversely in all this debate. But, Sir, this gentleman comes in under the general terms of "minions," and "satraps," and "under-strappers," applied to all these officials by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). There is one other official whom I know well, and who is out in that district. He was attached to my own department, and was transferred by me from the savings bank at Halifax to Dawson City, where he was attached to the Department of the Interior. He was not a Liberal; he was of a Conservative family; he was appointed by my predecessors, but he was a capable and worthy man, and I am sure that, since he went to that country, he has acted the part of a good citizen and a faithful public servant. I am here to defend him against any accusation that can be made, directly or indirectly, until some charges are made against him and he has had a fair trial. That much I would do for the two men, whom I happen to know, and whom I happen to have recommended, and that much I am anxious to do as well for all the other officials who are recommended by other gentlemen who know them well, and who, I have no doubt, will be able to give a fair account of what they have done, when the time comes.

These gentlemen opposite have had a great deal to say regarding the utterances of the press, and, by the way, a very large part of this attack upon the Government appears to have emanated from two gentlemen, American citizens, who are conducting a newspaper in Dawson City.

Mr. PRIOR. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) know they are both Americans?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) says they are not, I will accept his statement.

Mr. PRIOR. One is not.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. You say one is not.

Mr. PRIOR. Yes, I say so; he is a Scotchman.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Well, I am sorry for Scotland, as I shall have occasion to show in a very few minutes.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I do not believe it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I say that the hon. members on the Opposition side seem to have obtained a very large part of their information from these two gentlemen.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Which of them is the Scotchman?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The interjection of my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) is quite pertinent to the issue. Would the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior) tell us which is the Scotchman?

Mr. BENNETT. Read the Winnipeg "Tribune"; that is Scotch.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. If my hon. friend (Mr. Bennett) would read the Winnipeg "Tribune" more frequently, he would have a little more sense than he generally exhibits in this House.

Mr. BENNETT. You are abusive, if nothing else.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I am sorry I did not catch the words of my hon. friend.

Mr. BENNETT. I say that you are abusive, if nothing else.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I do hope that I shall never have the reputation in this House of having a thousandth part of the abusive character my hon. friend (Mr. Bennett) is known for.

Mr. PRIOR. Mr. Semple is the Scotchman.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. When I was interrupted, I was about calling attention to the fact, that a large part of this attack made upon the Government seems to be inspired by these two gentlemen whom I described as Americans, but one of whom, we are now told, is a Scotchman. These gentlemen publish a paper in Dawson City. They have been attacking the Government, they have been attacking Mr. Fawcett. Hon. gentlemen opposite, in a number of instances, have been good enough to say, and it is only fair they should say it, that Mr. Fawcett was guilty of no wrong-doing, though they doubted his fitness for the position. I want to remind these hon. gentlemen that every word they say in vindication of the honesty of Thomas Fawcett tends to discredit their two newspaper witnesses, for these two men have bitterly assailed Mr. Fawcett in Dawson City. I have here an interesting statement, which I shall read. I have not the pleasure of knowing these two gentlemen, and I should think it would

be exceedingly out of place that I should say anything derogatory to them, but I am going to give them the privilege of describing themselves; I am going to let you know what kind of men they are from their own description. This is an article from the paper published by the two gentlemen who have been closeted with leading members of the Opposition from day to day during the past few weeks. The article is headed:

Now is the time.

And it reads:

And now we people of the Klondike have reached the parting of the ways, when quick and positive decision must be made without no time to waste.—

They were in a hurry for the purposes of this article, as you will see:

—Our written prayers to Ottawa have found their way to the waste-basket, and the reforms in the regulations, without which we languish, are apparently as far away as ever. Throughout the English-speaking half-world, the name of Klondike has become synonymous with misgovernment, mismanagement and unjust and oppressive laws. The English Colonial Office is boiling over with it. The Department of the Interior is full of it.—

Mr. IVES. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Let my hon. friends opposite keep their "Hear, hears"; they will want them in a few minutes:

—The press of Canada, England, and her other colonies is using columns on it. The great parties of Canada are making it their issue. Statesmen are fighting over it, and if there was a time to make a strike for reform it is now.

We will see in a moment what kind of a strike they were after.

A personal representative of the Klondike miners who should find himself in the lobby of the House at its opening in March, would have half the politicians of Canada at his back and half the press.

That personal representative has arrived here. He has not had half the politicians of Canada at his back, but he has had quite a number of the hon. gentlemen opposite closeted with him from day to day.

For political reasons the Conservative members of the House would espouse his cause.

These two gentlemen from Dawson had a pretty clear conception of some hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House.

For political reasons the Conservative members of the House would espouse his cause, while the anti-Sifton element of the Liberals, a faction growing daily stronger and more numerous—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. A faction which exists only in the imagination of hon. gentlemen opposite.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. FIELDING.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (reading):

—would welcome gladly an emissary from this section laden with facts and primed with figures, showing the colossal evils under which we stagger.

The kind of figures they were to be primed with will be apparent in a moment:

There never again will be a time so opportune for a personal presentation of our case. Seeing this all so clearly, this paper purposes to extend its crusade against our wrongs from Dawson to Ottawa. We have made our fight here, and we leave it to our readers whether or not we have accomplished any of the tasks we set out to accomplish. We propose now to put a competent representative, perhaps two, into the thick of the fray by sending him as fast as dog teams can forward him or them to the coast, and steam to the Canadian capital. There is now a problem presented for the consideration of our readers. First, it will take money to lobby,—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. You see, the two gentlemen from Dawson had some idea of the difficulties they had ahead, when they met some hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. POPE. They knew which party was in power.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (reading):

First, it will take money to lobby, and the more money in hand the more effective the lobby.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (reading):

Practical Canadian politics has created a third House, which is entirely apart from either the Upper or the Lower House.

Mr. IVES. Since 1896.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. My hon. friend (Mr. Ives) finds that 1896 is a date deeply impressed in his memory, and is likely to remain there for a long time to come.

Sometimes its sessions are in one club and sometimes in another, but it goes by name everywhere as the lobby. It is in this third House that most of our legislation is arranged; speakers booked, and votes first counted.

We have not yet had a chance to count the votes, but we have had the programme arranged and the speakers booked, apparently since the arrival of these two gentlemen.

Every important undertaking in the land has its representative there, and now is the time for a Klondike representative to be welcome. Secondly, our representative is going directly there for the purpose of personally presenting to our legislators the case of the people vs. the Government—the miner vs. the strangling form of misrule.

Thirdly, he will go on this mission "whether you will or whether you won't," but it lies in your power to render his work doubly effective by reasonable financial support. It lies with you whether he shall be doubly fortified by ample munitions of war. We shall do all we can, single-

handed, as we have heretofore done, through the medium of our paper; but this time we propose to fight at shorter range.

The fight has been going on at shorter range, Mr. Speaker, ever since these gentlemen have come to Ottawa.

Mr. LANDERKIN. I believe it will go on as long as the ammunition holds out.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (reading):

Undoubtedly much good will be accomplished, and each and every one of our readers will be given an opportunity of lending a helping hand. If each of our claim-owners or successful laymen contributes even a moiety, the fund so created will return to him and the district a thousand-fold. Things are ripe at Ottawa, and we are going to do what we can to pluck the fruit of the present agitation for the country with which we have cast our lot. You can aid us in this undertaking just as you will.

Here, Sir, we have the confession of these gentlemen that they were coming to Ottawa with a bribery fund to do that which could not be accomplished except with the agency of a lobby and the munitions of war. I do not know just where they expected to place that fund where it would do the most good. It certainly was not necessary to bribe the hon. leader of the Opposition to make a violent attack on the Government in connection with this matter, and I do not know that it was necessary to buy any one of those hon. gentlemen opposite; but it is not a compliment to their intelligence and their reputation that when these gentlemen came from Dawson City, they never troubled the gentlemen on this side of the House, but confined their attentions to hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. BERGERON. They have not arrived yet.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. My hon. friend knows that they have been closeted with him day in and day out.

Mr. BERGERON. My hon. friend, I am sure, is not speaking seriously.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I withdraw it. I can only say that my hon. friend from Halifax stated that he had a pleasant interview with them, accompanied—

Mr. BERGERON. I never had, anyway.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Accompanied by the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior); and I was paying my hon. friend from Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) the compliment of supposing that he might have been invited into the inner circle.

Mr. BERGERON. No, I have not been.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Well, Mr. Speaker, I have shown you from this quotation, not from any statement of my own the character of these two gentlemen as pictured by themselves. They are Ameri-

can lobbyists, accustomed to the methods of the American lobby, and they have come here apparently for the purpose of carrying on the same game. I do not for a moment imply anything to the discredit of hon. gentlemen opposite in that, further than to say that they have been unfortunate in having these gentlemen immediately to cast in their lot with them when they arrived in Ottawa.

Now, much has been said with regard to the position of the English press on this question. Reference has been made to the letters of that able and distinguished lady, Miss Flora Shaw, in the London "Times." I have the pleasure of knowing the lady, and I am quite satisfied that whatever she wrote was written in good faith, although I think she was misled by some persons out there. But what I want to point out is that true information has since reached the English press, and there is not that alarm there which hon. gentlemen opposite would have us suppose. I happen to have in my hand a prominent English paper, the "Pall Mall Gazette," of the 7th of the present month, which contains a letter from its Canadian correspondent which occupies a position on the editorial page; and I ask the attention of the House while I read a portion of that letter:

Has Canada betrayed her trust, and let the gold fields of the Yukon become the opportunity of the place-hunter and a scene for the scuffings of corrupt officials? With angry unhappiness the people of the Dominion heard the first rumours of mismanagement, and worse, borne to them across the prairies from the papers of the Pacific coast. But it is not in the nature of this people to sit down and whimper or to acquiesce in evil of any sort. The thing had to be ferreted out and faced, and for the sake of cleanness of public life in Canada, men of all parties stood united in one resolve to get at the truth and cry it from the housetops, in scorn of consequences. It is difficult to give people at home any right idea of the feelings with which Canadians heard stories of the corruption of their own officials, and saw them repeated in English newspapers. It is enough to say that the whole nation was minded to see this thing through, and to get down to the facts, whatever they might be, and whatever unpleasantry the process cost. As far as the Dominion is concerned, this task is done. Canadian opinion is satisfied, and our only anxiety is to know whether the fuller knowledge which has silenced criticism here, has crossed the Atlantic and had a similar effect in England. The vague and reckless charges which a few months ago loomed so large in the public imagination have now been so sifted and examined that none is found to repeat them.

The hon. member for Pictou had not then discharged his budget of anonymous letters, and so forth, and this correspondent did not suppose that anybody would dream of doing so at this late date.

Mr. CLANCY. Perhaps the hon. gentleman's friends inspired some of that correspondence.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Has the hon. gentleman any knowledge of that? I

can tell him that I know nothing about it, except that I see it in a leading English paper which I do not suspect is likely to appoint any one as its correspondent who is not perfectly trustworthy. The letter goes on :

For the first time we have come to recognize the bottom facts of the situation, to understand as we never did the way in which the gold industry of the Yukon is conditioned, and so to see that the royalty question has been at the root of nine-tenths of the discontent.

At the same time, familiarity with the problem as a whole by no means disposes Canadians to join in the cheap cry that the miners' earnings are over-taxed. Remember that the overwhelming proportion of the men who are exploiting the mineral wealth of the Klondike district are not Canadians. Crowds of aliens, in a hurry to be rich, and without the slightest care for the permanence of interests of the country, are digging for Canadian gold, and in the pauses of their work cry out against the royalty payable to the Government which protects them. Ten per cent of the gold gained does not seem an excessive royalty, when it is remembered that these foreigners are just strangers in the land, who have practically paid nothing whatever for the "claims" out of which they hope to get rich. This is not a case of paying royalty upon gold extracted from land which had been previously purchased, or otherwise subjected to private ownership. All the wealth of the Yukon belongs to the people of Canada, and its Government would be wanting in its duty if it allowed that wealth to be simply carted out of the country by aliens without some sort of compensation. And it must be remembered that these northern gold-fields are exceptional in another and very important way. In the case of many an Australian field it may be truly said that the miners brought more gold to the place than they took away. The mining camp became a village, and then a town, and the town stays long after the mine, which was its origin, has been worked out. The strong attraction of gold brought immigration, and these settlers proved a truer and more permanent form of wealth than the precious metals which were taken away. There can be no such compensations in the case of a place like Dawson City. The gold-bearing gravel may last a shorter or a longer period, but when it is exhausted the district will again become an unconsidered solitude. In other words, the industry is not helping to build up the Dominion, or in any appreciable degree to add to its lasting strength. Under these circumstances, it is to be borne in mind that the people of far-off Ontario and Quebec should be taxed to provide police and mail service, and the whole paraphernalia of Government, only to enable a few Canadian and British adventurers and a crowd of aliens to get rich.

No better proof of the conviction of the Canadian people that the officials of the Yukon have been traduced could be offered than the result of the miniature general election which has just taken place. The constituencies which heard the accusations all through the summer have now given an unmistakable vote of confidence in the Government. They know that Mr. Sifton, the Minister directly responsible for the management of the Yukon, has hunted down the tale-bearers and done his best to bring them to repeat their stories in the open. But what seemed a cloud of adverse witnesses simply moved on, until there was none to pin down to any definite charge of corruption against a single Dominion official. What Mr. Sifton has done in Ottawa, the Gold

Mr. FIELDING.

Commissioner, Mr. Fawcett, and the administrator, Mr. Ogilvie, have done in Dawson City, and with like results. In a country in which, for every man who obtains a good location there are ten who want to steal it, there is certain to be plenty of grumbling and discontent, and suggestion of corruption, but now that the Government has invited complaint and courted investigation, the whole monstrous story has collapsed like a pricked bladder.

This correspondent also quotes a letter regarding Mr. Ogilvie, and I will ask the House to bear with me while I read it.

Mr. IVES. Is it dated Ottawa ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It is headed "From a Canadian correspondent," but is not dated.

Mr. CLANCY. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to interrupt him ? It has been stated and restated, during this debate, that there are only 100,000 Canadian miners in that country, and that the great majority are Americans. Will the hon. gentleman be able to give us the relative proportions of foreign and Canadian miners in the Yukon district ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I am not in a position to do so, and I do not know that any statistics can be given, but the testimony of the writers on the press generally is, that the proportion of Canadians to the total population of Dawson City is exceedingly small. This correspondent quotes a letter from a resident of Dawson City respecting Mr. Ogilvie :

Ottawa may have made him a governor, but the people have made him a patriarch, ruler and father in one. Mr. Ogilvie's technical knowledge, his previous years of experience, and his honest, hearty and simple personality combine to make him the ideal miner's friend. The commissioner's coterie office is daily crowded with men—splendid looking, rugged fellows—who come in from the creeks, long miles over the trail, to have their word with him. And he sees them all ; permits them to tell their story in their own fashion ; advises, warns, explains, sympathizes, and they go away reassured that the real attitude of the Government towards them is one of kindness, fair-dealing and justice—an attitude fairly expressed in the person of the new administrator.

My hon. friend at my right hands me another tribute, one published in the "Outlook," in its issue of April 8th—a well-known English paper, which takes a great interest in Canadian affairs :

Considering the enormous difficulties of governing a sub-Arctic wilderness, remote from all touch of civilization, Mr. Sifton and his Canadian officials have done singularly well in the Klondike. We say this in the face of the six hours' arraignment of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper in the Dominion House of Commons last week.

I have some more testimony here. Hon. gentlemen opposite have been so anxious to show that the country is ringing with these charges that I think, when I quote the testimony of the correspondent of the "Pall Mall Gazette," and when I quote the editorial

article from the "Outlook," I have given a clear answer to their charges in that respect. And now I propose to give them another testimony. You will observe that all these I have quoted are of recent date—the present month of April. I have now a quotation from the "Anglo-American" magazine, published in its April number, which contains an article on the Yukon territory, written by Mr. Thomas Crahan. The writer of this article says that he left Dawson City on the 28th January, 1899, so that his information is of very recent date; and, after a very interesting description of the affairs of the Yukon, he winds up as follows—and let me add that the "Anglo-American" magazine is a magazine published simultaneously in London and New York, and the writer of this particular article happens to be an American:—

What impresses an American most of all, especially if he has been accustomed to rough life in mining communities in the United States is the general enforcement of law and consequent protection to life and property. Men like William Ogilvie, commissioner of the Yukon territory, Gold Commissioner Senkler, and Colonel Steele, commanding the Mounted Police, are perhaps impossible official products under the American system of appointment to office. These gentlemen so faithfully, impartially and strictly enforce the details of Government entrusted to them that there is no place in the United States where a man's life, property and rights are more thoroughly protected than they are in the Yukon territory. Law-breaking, which has often characterized new mining camps in the United States, is impossible in that district.

Such is the testimony, on the 29th January last, of an American gentleman who writes that article in the "Anglo-American" magazine. I am not going to detain the House much longer, but I want to say now that I can well understand what may have happened in the Conservative caucus, or one of those inner circles of the party to which I thought my hon. friend from Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) had been admitted, but which he is disposed to repudiate. We can imagine a leading member on that side of the House saying to his faithful assembled: "Well, it is no use; we cannot make anything on our present ground of attack. Everything we predicted regarding the reign of this Government has been shown to be false. We predicted that the business of the country was going to be ruined, but you know it is more profitable now than ever. You had better turn to the Klondike, and see if we cannot make some capital out of that. We predicted that trade and commerce would fail, but their statistics are greater than ever before. We predicted that factories would close and the operatives be turned out of employment, but our factories are busy night and day, and the wages of the workmen in the great establishments of the country are increased. We predicted that everything wrong would happen under the Liberal Administration, but none of

those things have happened. We predicted that the credit of the country would suffer, but it is higher than ever it was. We predicted an era of deficits, but our revenue is more flourishing than it has been for many years. We predicted a great exposure of corruption in the Drummond deal, but we had an investigation and discovered there was no corruption, and we had to acknowledge there was none. These things are all too near home; better let us look to the Yukon. We have been engaged in making all these charges and anticipations respecting the policy of the Government, but it has all been in vain. The trouble is, all these things we are talking about are too near the minds and eyes of the people, and they can see the hollowness of the whole thing. Let us turn our attention to a country four thousand or five thousand miles away, near the Arctic circle, from which it will take a long time to get the facts of the case, and in the meantime there will be some people ungenerous enough to believe us." That is the position taken by hon. gentlemen opposite. I am confident that the people will understand it to-day, as they did in the past in all the by-elections carried from time to time.

The hon. leader of the Opposition has told us that Canada has been disgraced in this matter. Sir, Canada was never disgraced in the eyes of the world, under a Liberal Administration. It was not a Liberal Administration which held power in 1872, when these events occurred which drove the then Conservative Government from power under circumstances which led the London "Standard,"—the organ of the great Conservative party in England—to say that these public men should never be allowed again to enter public life. It was not Liberals who were in power in 1891, when we had an investigation that brought to light scandals in a public works department which brought the blush of shame to every Canadian travelling in a foreign land. The Liberal Government under the Administration and leadership of Alexander Mackenzie, gave Canada five years of pure and upright administration—

Mr. IVES. But he said he had to stand guard over the public chest.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. But when the chest was left in the keeping of others, there was nobody to stand guard over it; it was robbed and exploited right and left. Under the leadership of Alexander Mackenzie, the Liberal Government of Canada gave Canada five years of pure and upright government, such as no Liberal need blush to have mentioned; and when the time comes, as come it may, when there is another change of Government—when, in the dim and distant future, the Liberal party shall be required to hand over the seals of office to another party—I will venture to say

that it will retire with that same record of honest, vigorous, pure administration under the leadership of the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). It has been somewhat amusing to listen to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding), who has just taken his seat; and it was equally amusing to listen to the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), who spoke last Friday. For two hours the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) has beaten the air, and has proclaimed in the most vehement language his views on this important question. He has gone into the matter with vigour, he has spoken very loudly and spoken at great length. While he was speaking I was reminded of an account that I read once of a Scotch minister, who gave out his text, "For the devil goeth about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." He said: My dear Christian friends, we will endeavour to follow the old, orthodox plan, dividing our subject into four heads. First, we shall inquire who the devil was; secondly, we will proceed with the investigation, and seek to ascertain where the devil he was going; thirdly, we will try to learn who the devil he was seeking; fourthly, I will endeavour to explain that portion of the text which is seldom explained, and show what the devil he was roaring about. It occurred to me that if we analysed the hon. gentleman's logic, or attempt to estimate the force of his argument or the cogency of his reasoning, or the relevancy of the examples he gave in defence of his case, we should find a great deal to be said in support of the analogy I have suggested. I confess that nearly everything that the hon. gentleman said we had heard already several times. Still, I can appeal to the members of this House and to the people of the country, whether they can avoid, the conclusion that, notwithstanding all the hon. gentleman has said, notwithstanding the able defence he has given of the employees of the Government in the Yukon, notwithstanding the papers he has read in this House, there was a great deal of rascality of Government officials in that country, and that the management of affairs was not anything like what it should have been.

Now, I have said that the hon. gentleman had spoken with great vehemence and for a great length of time. I was looking over the papers to-day, and thought it interesting, while the hon. gentleman was speaking, to note what some of his own friends said with regard to the course these hon. gentlemen were taking. I have here the Winnipeg "Tribune," which indulges in some editorial criticism of what is going on in this House. It goes on to note that the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) is "moving in the direction of stopping some of the wind-jamming at Ottawa." It says:

Mr. FIELDING.

John Ross Robertson, of Toronto, one of Manitoba's staunchest friends in the time of her school troubles, and the able champion of anti-monopoly, spoke for just seven minutes in the debate, and expressed more ideas in that space of time than would be found in the speeches of quarter-day desk-pounders in a year. An ex-member for Norfolk, Mr. S. J. Thompson, once said of a member in the local house, that the man was in the habit of setting his mouth going, and then going away and leaving it.

Seeing this reference, I thought it would be interesting to find out what the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Ross Robertson) had said:

I am much mistaken if the demand of the country for the truth of all these proceedings in the Yukon can be suppressed by the tactics of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). An investigation conducted by the friends of that gentleman (Mr. Sifton) under the control of the Minister may suit his followers—I admit that they are not as scarce as I would like to see them—but there is a public opinion which demands more than an inquiry by Wm. Ogilvie, with limited powers. Such an investigation may be very good as far as it goes, but there is great need of an inquiry to show the whole truth about the proceedings in the Yukon. This inquiry when it comes, should not stop short of showing how so many members of the Black Horse Cavalry from Manitoba got so very rich in a very short time on very small salaries. I have no more to say, Mr. Speaker, further than to express the hope that this investigation will be proceeded with, and that the Yukon business will not be allowed to rest until the whole truth is fully brought up.

Now, there is another point to which I think it worth while to refer. I have noticed that when a speech on the other side is finished and a gentleman on this side rises to reply, some hon. gentleman on the other side goes around whispering to his fellow members on that side and causes them to leave the Chamber. Moreover, the Minister of the Interior, who stands charged before this House and the country with mismanagement of the affairs of his department, is rarely in the House either to answer our questions, to defend himself against the charges brought against him or to listen to what is said. Very few of his colleagues of the Ministry remain. I would like to call the attention of the people of the country to this point, and to ask the people if they regard this as proper conduct on the part of the members of the Administration. And I wish to tell these hon. gentlemen that though they can show their petty spite by going around and asking their friends to leave the Chamber so as to show a very thin House while members on this side are speaking, the people of the country, who read what takes place, cannot be answered in this way.

Let me touch briefly on some points in the speech of the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding). The last quotations he made were intended to justify what is going on in the Yukon now. He read an extract from the "Outlook," an English paper. I have a copy of that paper, some gentleman

having been kind enough to send it over. The Minister of Finance read a portion of it that seemed to justify the contention he was making at the time, but he stopped exactly at the point where he should not have stopped. He read :

Considering the enormous difficulties of governing a sub-Arctic wilderness, remote from all touch of civilization, Mr. Sifton and his Canadian officials have done singularly well in the Klondike. We say this in the face of the six hours' arraignment of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper in the Dominion House of Commons last week.

What does it go on to say ?

We all see now that it was a prime mistake to allow the officials to stake out claims for themselves ;—

And that is known all over the world and we admit it.

—the true policy, and the one most in line with British traditions would have been to pay these officials salaries commensurate with the great difficulties and temptations of their position.

If the hon. gentleman can extract any comfort from that, I am quite willing that he should have it.

Next he quoted from the "Pall Mall Gazette," which he said is a reputable English paper, and, therefore, its statements must be worthy of consideration. I am told that the "Pall Mall Gazette" is owned by an American named Astor, that it is one of the radical papers of that country, is an unreliable paper, and is not by any means regarded as a reputable paper amongst the English reading public. I am so told by a newspaper man of intelligence and long experience in the journalistic world, and I give his statement for what it is worth. Then the hon. gentleman read from the Klondike "Nugget," and he went on to tell what these gentlemen were doing for the purpose of accomplishing their object. Their object is the redress of the evils which they found existing up there. He went on to say that one of these gentlemen had written in his paper that they required funds to carry on a lobby down here, because they could not expect success without a lobby. Now, early in his article the proprietor of that paper says : Of course, we know the Opposition are with us. Well, it is natural to suppose that being politically opposed to the Government, this gentleman would expect the Opposition to sympathize with their complaints. But we must remember that the Government party are in a majority in this House and no measure can be carried without a majority. Now if these gentlemen required money for lobbying or for corrupt purposes with whom are they going to use the money ? Certainly, not with the Opposition, but with the supporters of the Government. These gentlemen knew the material they had to deal with, and it is surely a strange defence for their position to say that money collected for lobbying purposes was likely to be used on members of the Opposition. I say these

gentlemen knew the material they had to deal with, and knew on whom they would have to use the money. On the other hand, there is another feature worthy of consideration. It could not be expected that these gentlemen would come away 6,000 miles at their own expense for the purpose of looking after the interests of the miners in that country. Therefore, it was necessary to have some funds to pay their expenses, and it is the most natural thing in the world that they should ask assistance from the miners in that country in whose interests they were coming down here and endeavouring to get redress for their grievances. It was the most natural thing in the world that the miners should contribute a sum to help bear their expenses.

The hon. gentleman went on to read a letter from the department through the Deputy Minister, inviting persons to send into the commissioner any charges that they might have, covering the last two years, so that they might be inquired into. But would it follow that if men having a grievance sent in charges, they would not be interfered with ? We know there was one charge sent in, a charge that Mr. Muller, of Pembroke, published in his paper. He tells us of the troubles a miner had to contend with out there in the mismanagement of the department, and as soon as the officials came to know who this man was, although he was a friend of theirs, and that he had made these charges, what did they do ? Why, in the language of that country, they "fixed" him, they put him into a lucrative position, and in that manner silenced him. Therefore, I say we are entitled to come to the same conclusion with regard to that letter, that letter may have been sent for the purpose of getting hold of these people in order to "fix" them, so that when they came before the commission their evidence would not be likely to hurt the Minister of the Interior or this Government. Now, the Minister of Finance said that when you have to inquire into the conduct of subordinate officials, hired men are the best for the purpose. I would ask that hon. gentleman if he and his friends followed that course when they inquired into the conduct of the customs-house officers and the postmasters throughout the Dominion, after the last election ? Who did they appoint ? One of the officials ? Not by any means. They appointed a police magistrate in some cases, a judge in other cases ; and the defence which they gave for these appointments was that if we desired a fair tribunal, one that was not under Government influence, a tribunal that would do justice to all parties concerned, they must appoint outside officials. Now, if that principle applied to the commissioners they appointed then, it applies with equal force to the commissioner they have appointed to inquire into the charges in the Yukon. Therefore, I say his contention that hired

men are the best to send up there is not justified by the facts. He went on to say that on the 10th of October, 1898, a letter was sent to Mr. Ogilvie accompanying his commission. He says that they acted with all despatch, because they wanted a report of that inquiry before Parliament met. Well, Parliament has been in session for over a month, over six months have elapsed since they sent the commission, and we have no report from Mr. Ogilvie yet. That commission was despatched on the 10th of October, and although we are told by the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) that since last fall the mails have been regular, and the service has been regular outward and inward, with a steady and periodical service, yet strange to say, although a messenger was despatched with that commission on the 10th of October, we hear nothing of its reaching Dawson until some time about the 10th of February. Is that an evidence of an uninterrupted and periodical postal service? Not by any means. But they did not even trust that commission to the postal service of the country, nor to the Postmaster General's servants, as we would expect to be the case if the mails were regular and periodical, but they sent a special messenger with the commission, showing how little confidence they had in the postal service. That does not seem to indicate to me any great hurry or anxiety to expedite matters, but the very reverse.

The hon. gentleman gave us the date of the miners' petition, and he gave us the date of other things. He started out by saying that it was pleasing to know how completely the conduct of the Minister of the Interior had been vindicated. Sir, I do not think his conduct has been at all vindicated in the minds of the supporters of the Government in this House, or in the minds of the poor miners up there who are still complaining. Has it been vindicated in the minds of the people of the country who are still hearing complaints from their friends in the Yukon, day after day and week after week? Has the great public mind been satisfied about it? Not by any means. Their own friends in this House may be satisfied, but I can assure the hon. gentleman that the conduct of the Minister of the Interior has not been vindicated in the minds of the people of this country. The hon. gentleman congratulates himself upon how completely the attacks of the Opposition have been refuted. Refuted by whom? I have not heard them refuted. The charges are on the records of the House, they are strong, numerous and specific, and yet up to the present, not one of those charges has been refuted. The hon. gentleman goes on to say that the Crown prosecutor was alleged to have taken retainers from both sides. But, says the hon. gentleman, there was nothing in it, it was not true that he had taken retainers from both sides. Now.

Mr. SPROULE.

let us see what is set out in the miners' petition. The allegation is this :

With respect to decisions in claim contests, much dissatisfaction has arisen, particularly owing to the fact that the Crown Prosecutor being the only person to whom the Gold Commissioner could look for legal advice, permitted himself to be retained as an advocate by one of the contestants.

While he was retained by one of the contestants who was seeking redress, he was retained to give advice to the Gold Commissioner on behalf of the Crown. If this is not evidence I do not know what is, yet the hon. Minister of Finance has said that every charge has been refuted. That charge has not been refuted beyond a simple denial coming from the party charged, it has not been refuted and stands to-day as it was made, by the miners of that country.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like for a short time to draw attention to what I think ought to receive our attention in connection with this amendment and the amendment to the amendment. The amendment says that we want an impartial tribunal to inquire into the charges so as to satisfy all parties that justice will be done. The hon. Minister of the Interior admits that charges were made before the Government sent out that commission. He admits it, at page 860 of the "Hansard," where he says that some time before the 15th of July, 1898, attacks had been made in the press on Wade and McGregor. He states that in his own speech, and yet the hon. Minister of Finance says: As soon as the first rumours appeared in the papers that complaints were made, he immediately took action. The hon. Minister of the Interior does not say so, because he tells us that attacks had been made in the press upon Mr. Wade and Mr. McGregor, and that he took no action at that time. That was on the 15th of July, while the commission went on the 10th of October. Thus it will be seen an unreasonable length of time passed before he did anything. The investigation began on the 6th of February, 1899. He heard the complaints on the 15th of July, 1898, and the investigation was to be commenced on the 6th of February, 1899, over eight months from the time that he first heard these complaints. That does not seem to indicate that he was in any very great hurry. He made this statement himself on page 892 of the "Hansard." The commission to Mr. Ogilvie to investigate charges was sent forward on the 10th of October. That is absolutely correct. It was not received by Mr. Ogilvie until the 25th January, 1899, although it was sent on the 10th of October, 1898. I give that as evidence that there were very great interruptions in the communication between that country and the outside. There is a continuous line of posts, says the hon. Minister of the Interior, so that you can travel just

as comfortably, almost, as in this part of the country. If that was the case why did it take so long to get in with that commission? I would like to know that, and I think the members of this House ought to know. The Postmaster General says that the mails have gone forward regularly. How is it that the mails did not reach there? Here is a copy of a telegram sent from Vancouver on the 17th of April, 1899, and it comes from the Bank of Commerce, an institution which would not be likely to mislead us in regard to what took place. "The Bank of Commerce acknowledges the receipt of our letter," says Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, "of the 12th of September, on the 12th of March."

It took that letter to get to the Bank of Commerce six months, notwithstanding the fact that the hon. Postmaster General says that the service is regular, periodical and complete. Could any better evidence be afforded of the condition existing there than that letter. It comes from a reputable source. I do not think it is likely to be incorrect, and I am quite sure the party who wrote it could have no object in trying to mislead the country. The hon. Minister of the Interior says that the investigation at Dawson before Mr. Ogilvie would be futile. He says on page 903 of the "Hansard"—I have it here so that hon. gentlemen might not think that I have misquoted him :

To attempt to hold an investigation when nobody would make a charge is an extremely unsatisfactory and futile thing ; and the investigation at Dawson City promises to be futile, though charges have been made.

It promises to be futile, yet the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), gets up and asks this House to say that it is satisfied that the investigation will be a thorough one, that every inquiry will be made by the commission already appointed, and that justice will be done to every party, while the hon. Minister of the Interior admits that the investigation, under the authority of that commission, will be futile. Whom are we to believe—the Minister of the Interior who ought to know most about it, or the member for Centre Toronto, who wishes to whitewash the friends of his party who have gone up there? I leave it to themselves to decide. The hon. Minister of the Interior admitted the necessity of investigation by sending forward a commission, and I want to say in regard to all that has been said on the other side of the House this : The hon. Minister of Finance tells us that every charge has been refuted, that the conduct of the Minister of the Interior has been amply justified, that no injustice has been done to any one. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries stated on Friday night—we want specific and authentic charges ; we have not had them. We want definite charges ; we have not had them. We want charges that can be taken

hold of ; we have not had them, and, therefore, there is nothing to justify the appointment of a commission such as has been moved for by the amendment. If the hon. Minister of Finance be justified in saying that every charge has been refuted, that no injustice has been done to any one, why was that commission appointed? Why was the country put to the expense of a commission? Why did the Government appoint a commission, if, as the hon. gentlemen say, the commission was unnecessary? Though hon. gentlemen say that the commission was not necessary, the hon. Minister of the Interior goes on and appoints that commission. It seems to me that this is an answer to the whole of the arguments that have been advanced by hon. gentlemen opposite for the last week or ten days back, that there has been no wrong-doing, that there is nothing in the charges, that the charges of wrong-doing are idle rumour. It shows that the charges are not foundationless, because they appointed a commission and sent it up with all convenient speed. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries said another thing that attracted our attention. He said that the Order in Council appointing that commission restricted the commission. Why would you appoint another commission? He said that this one has full authority, but it was pointed out that parties wanted to bring before that commission charges relating to matters that had transpired after the 25th of August, the date of the miners' petition, and the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries said : Why should they want to go into that ; he had not authority to do it. We have no power because the authority under which the commission was issued did not permit it. Why did he restrict the power of the commission to inquire into complaints to the period before the 25th of August? Here is the clause of the Act which gives the Government the power to issue the commission :

Her Majesty, by and with the consent of the House of Commons and Senate of Canada, enacts as follows :—

"Whenever the Privy Council deems it expedient to cause an inquiry to be made into and concerning any matter in connection with the Government of Canada, or the conduct of any of the public business thereof, and such inquiry is not regulated by any special law, the Governor in Council may, by a commission in the case, confer upon a commissioner or person by whom such inquiry is to be conducted, the power of summoning before them any witnesses, and of requiring them to give evidence under oath, orally or in writing or a solemn affirmation, if they are persons entitled to affirm in civil matters ; and to produce such documents and things as such commissioners deem requisite for a full investigation of the matters into which they are appointed to examine. Such commission or commissioners shall have the same power to enforce the attendance of such witnesses and compel them to give evidence as is vested in any court of record in civil cases, but no such witness shall be compelled to answer any question by the an-

swer of which he might render himself liable to prosecution.

As I read that Act, it does not at all limit the power to appoint a commissioner to inquire into acts which have been committed between any dates, or for that matter at any time. The law gives the Government power to appoint a commissioner clothed with all authority to inquire into charges which might be made after that miner's petition was received, and, notwithstanding that, the Government have specified a particular time, and conferred authority only to inquire into the charges set out in the petition. If it be denied—I do not think it can be successfully denied—by any gentleman, be he lawyer or layman, that the Government have not power to create a commission to inquire into wrong-doing at any time, this House would like to know the reasons for such a denial. In my judgment it was simply speaking beside the question for any hon. gentleman opposite to say, that this Act limited the Government to any specified time. The hon. gentleman from Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) objects to a fishing expedition. No doubt he does in this case, but when it suits his party they are willing to go on fishing expeditions at any time. What does he think of that fishing expedition which was referred to by the leader of the Opposition and which was instituted by Mr. Sifton, before he became a member of this House, in connection with the alleged election frauds in Manitoba. They had no specific charges then, and although they had only suspicion to go on, yet, on the 26th of June, three days after the election, they telegraphed to Pinkerton to send on his detectives. Not only that, but before these gentlemen had control of the Dominion treasury, they promised to pay the expenses, and although Mr. Sifton was not even then a member of the House they arranged with him to pay the expenses of these detectives on that fishing expedition. The bill was rendered to Mr. Sifton before he became a member of this House; a draft was made on him for \$541, which was afterwards reduced by taxation to \$313.16, and the Minister of Justice (Sir Oliver Mowat) approved of it and paid the bill. Let me ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bertram) if that was not a fishing inquiry? He (Mr. Bertram) objects to the expenditure of public money without definite charges, but what has he to say to that expenditure without any charges at all. What has he to say to that deliberate violation of the law, perpetrated by his friends who now object to what they call a fishing inquiry?

Sir, this commission is unnecessarily restricted to charges made before the 25th of August, 1898. In the Klondike there is a moving population of miners who may be scattered all over the world, and whose evidence cannot be obtained, within a short time, and yet the commission is quite satisfactory to the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram). Then, Sir, the scope of the commission is only partial. There were

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charges made against Major Walsh, but that commission does not authorize Mr. Ogilvie to inquire into the conduct of Major Walsh in any way. The usefulness of that inquiry was destroyed by the limited commission authorized, and there is yet urgent necessity, therefore, for the appointment of some other competent tribunal or commission in which the country will have confidence, and which will render justice to all concerned. The hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) says, that a judicial commission is not desirable and that in fact the judges would not undertake it. Let me ask the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) if it was not a judicial commission that inquired into the charges against Mr. Parnell? Let me ask the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) also, has he not a precedent for a judicial commission in the appointment of Judge Clark to inquire into rumours with regard to irregularities in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway? Hon. gentlemen opposite at that date claimed that the greatest necessity existed for the appointment of an impartial tribunal, one that would have the confidence of the country, but they are playing a different tune to-day. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) stated that the Act did not give authority to issue a commission to inquire into charges that might be made in the future, but I have read the statute, and it is clear from it that it is wide and comprehensive enough to appoint a commissioner to inquire into charges that may have been made after the commission was issued, as well as before. But, complained the Minister of Marine; We have no authentic charges, and he proceeded to lecture the House on that assumption. He contended that the charges were not specific or definite, that they are only idle rumours, that they are not reliable, and he wound up with the statement that there is not a scintilla of evidence to justify such charges, that no wrong-doing nor misconduct on the part of the officials had been established, and, therefore, there was no necessity for a judicial commission. Sir, have we not the petition from the miners who delegated thirteen of their members to prefer these charges, and have we not in that petition specified charges of corruption, bribery and maladministration? That petition was received by the Minister of the Interior, and was believed by him to such an extent that he appointed a commission. And, Sir, who were the parties implicated? They were none other than the crown prosecutor and the officials in the Gold Commissioner's office, and yet the Minister, as reported on pages 792 and 793 of the "Hansard," states that these charges are not definite. Then we have the letters of Miss Shaw to her paper, the London "Times," a very reputable paper, admitted to be so by the Minister of Finance; and the correspondent of that paper would not be likely to say or do what was unfair. What were the charges she made? Corruption and

maladministration. Of whom? The officials of the Department of the Interior and of the post office; and the editorial comments of the "Times" are exactly on the same line. We have next Captain Caddell. What was his charge? Corruption and bribery. Of whom? The officials in the Post Office and Interior Department. Yet it is said the charges are not specific, though they are set forth in "Hansard." Then, we have Dr. Leblanc. What is his charge? Bribery and corruption. Of whom? The officials of the Interior Department. Then we have Mrs. Dubois, and her evidence is confirmed by that of J. F. Murdock. What is her charge? Defrauding miners of their claims. She had been defrauded out of her claim, and the collateral evidence of Mr. Murdock confirmed her charge. What was it? That Hurdman, a clerk in the Gold Commissioner's office, got a portion of the claim to which she was entitled. Then we have C. M. Woodworth. What is his charge? Maladministration of the officials up there generally. Then we have Messrs. Allen and Semple. Their charge is maladministration, blackmail, bribery and general corruption. Of whom? Officials in the Gold Commissioner's office. Yet the charges are not specific, says the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Then we have Col. McGregor, of Glengarry. What is his charge? Corruption and fraud. Of whom? Officials of the Interior Department. This is set out on page 940 of "Hansard." Then we have Mr. J. S. Campbell, a good Reformer, a friend of their own, who charges them with what? With bribery and corruption. Of whom? Officials of the Interior Department. And his charges are set out on pages 1457 and 1458 of "Hansard." And yet we are told that there are no specific charges. Then, we have the press, in which I think we shall find something worthy of consideration. I take the Reform press. I take, first, what is said by the Hon. Joseph Martin:

If the miners have not been telling the truth, there is a strange unanimity in what they are telling. Not only Americans, but Canadians and Englishmen, have entered most vigorous protests against the prevailing condition of affairs, and there does not appear to be much doubt that something is seriously wrong. The fact that the most bitter protests come from British subjects is significant, and it is very difficult to believe that bribery and corruption has not been rampant.

Then I take what is said by one of the members of this House, Mr. Ellis, in his paper:

Every official is looking out for his own interests only, and if a miner without interests wants to find out anything he has to grease somebody's dirty paw. One cannot even see the mining records to find out what claims are or are not recorded without bribery and corruption.

That ought, I think, to be a reliable authority. Then I take Mr. R. C. Muller, editor

of the Pembroke "Observer," Liberal, and he sends this from Dawson to his paper:

For myself, I did not believe the Government knew anything of the dirt here, even if it really existed, as charged though many good friends have indignantly declared to me that it is their business to know. Since I have reached Dawson I have almost been forced to a like conclusion, and have no hesitation in declaring that if they do not take strong and speedy steps to end the orgie that is in progress here, they will not only have become partners in the dirt themselves, but shall have permitted the continuance of a system which must result in a very great financial and moral injury to the Dominion. I have been here now for two weeks, and have been noting and inquiring on every hand, and though I cannot give you facts and figures, I have seen enough to convince myself that it is worse even than the mind of an honest man can conceive. That the mining laws are being set aside on a colossal scale is beyond all question, and that bare-faced bribery is the rule of the day is equally certain.

This is written by one of their own friends, and they say it is not reliable. Yet, strange to say, this is one of the men who came out, and I am told he has got a lucrative office, and is not likely to give any more damaging evidence against them. Then I take the Kingston "Whig," another Liberal paper, and what does it say?

It is nothing but a system of boodling from beginning to end that prevails in the Klondike. The Government, as the district was so far away, gave the officials too much power, and they have used it despotically. There is no service of the Government there which is not corrupt.

Then I take Dr. Steele, a Liberal, of Grahamsville, in the county of Peel, and what does he say?

If it were not for the presence of the mounted police, I firmly believe that every official here except the customs collector, would be publicly hanged, and the Minister of the Interior at Ottawa along with them, if he could be got at. So scandalous has been the treatment of the miners for the last year that such a fate would be richly deserved.

Then I take Mr. W. Baird, a Liberal, of Dawson, who writes this to one of his friends:

I have always been a Grit heretofore, but must admit that this is the rottenest outfit up here that it has ever been my business to come in contact with.

Then I take the Vancouver "World," a Liberal paper, published by a very respectable Liberal, I am told, and it says:

From letters received from reputable gentlemen at Dawson, we have the declaration that more than one of the Dominion officials feathered their private nests pretty well while paid to look after the interests of the public.

The Winnipeg "Tribune," a Liberal paper says:

It is very plausible to cry that no specific charges have been laid. This is not true; but even if it had been it does not help the case. Wrongs have been committed, and everybody

whose intelligence surpasses that of the partisan pigmy recognizes the fact and desires to see the remedy applied as speedily as possible.

Then I take the Edmonton "Bulletin," a paper published by another friend of theirs, and what does it say :

The "Globe" and its western annex the "Free Press" (of Winnipeg), have two ready answers to all criticisms of Yukon mining laws, Yukon officials or Yukon railway policies. First, they say that the critics are Yankees, and, second, that they are Conservatives. One reason why these crushing answers are not self-sufficient may be because they lack what at one time was supposed to be the essential element of truth. As a matter of fact, Canadians and Liberals are as little pleased with the administration of the Yukon as Yankees or Conservatives. The effort of these two papers, the purport of their existence, is to get the Liberal Government—placed in power by the people to give clean administration—to prostitute that power for the benefit of the owners of these papers and the interests allied with them. So far, they have succeeded marvellously, on one hand, in advantaging themselves, and on the other, in making Liberal professions and principles upon which Canadian elections were fought for twenty years, and finally won, a by-word and laughing-stock.

With all this Liberal testimony, will it still be said that there are no specific charges? I could cite other extracts, but I need not do so. The charges, I contend, are specific, and the names of the parties are given. I have given the information contained in these papers—not papers which support the Conservative party, but which are friendly to this Government, and I think I am justified in saying that the charges are sufficiently definite, specific and conclusive to justify the appointment of an independent commission.

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

### After Recess.

Mr. SPROULE. When you left the Chair, Sir, at six o'clock, I was giving the charges which were submitted to this House, and which, in our judgment, justify the appointment of an independent commission. The hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), during his long, laboured and energetic speech, contended that there had been no wrong-doing, and that the allegations of wrong-doing have all been disproved. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) contended that the charges were not definite or specific, that a commission had already been appointed, and he lectured especially this side of the House on the proper, the legal, the parliamentary way of making such charges. He said they must be definite and specific allegations of fact, to the personal knowledge of the members who made them, before they were presented to this House. If his view be correct, how could a member of Parliament bring to the notice of the House allegations of wrong-

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doing in any part of the country in connection with its public administration. Would the hon. gentleman's view not very materially circumscribe or limit the usefulness of members of Parliament? Would we be able to do as we have been doing, session after session, bring to the attention of the House any acts of wrong-doing, whether by officials of the Government or others connected with the Government, which have been brought to light through the press of the country or by means of reliable rumours or specific acts? A member of Parliament would, in that case, be of little use, because he could not then bring to the notice of Parliament acts of wrong-doing that take place from time to time, and we would be prohibited from referring to acts which would reflect upon any Minister of the Crown or his subordinate officer. If the doctrine he laid down be the proper one, how is it that we heard so much during the session of 1881 and 1892, with regard to the conduct of the civil service and their dereliction in connection with the Esquimalt Graving Dock and the works that were going on at Kingston and on the Welland Canal? Why, these charges were repeated over and over again in the House, and no unreasonable exception taken to them. What would, also, have become of the charges that were made, or at least rumoured, throughout the country with regard to the Canadian Pacific Railway; and, in contrast to what has been done to-day, I need only state the fact, that the Minister of Railways of that day availed himself of the very earliest opportunity, even before the charges were made in this House, and when it was only a matter of current rumour in the press that there was wrong-doing in connection with the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, by moving a resolution in this House for the appointment of an impartial and independent tribunal, composed of one of the ablest judges of the land, for the purpose of holding an inquiry and making a report into these charges. That being the case, it seems to me that these precedents amply justify the course of the Opposition on the present occasion. But we have hon. gentlemen opposite, especially the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) contending that these charges made to-day, before they can be taken notice of at all, must be specific in their nature, and arguing that they are not specific, but only mere rumour, and therefore not reliable; that there is not a scintilla of evidence to justify them, and that therefore there can be no question of appointing a commission. The hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) contended to-night that no wrong-doing or misconduct on the part of the officials has been established, but that all the allegations of wrong-doing have been disproved over and over again by hon. gentlemen on that side. I would like to ask how they have been disproved. We have had no evidence

from the parties against whom these wrongs were committed; we have no collateral evidence from those who were in a position to give evidence upon the points in question. We have only the denial of the parties accused, and of their friends in this House. Is that reliable? The criminal invariably denies his guilt—it is the most natural thing for him to do. But that denial is not proof of innocence. You have in this case only the denial of the parties accused, a denial that might be expected as a matter of course.

In face of these allegations that there is no wrong-doing, and that charges of wrong-doing have been disproved, in the face of the allegation that there is no ground for appointing a commission, the Government yet appointed a commission. Is not this a plain contradiction of their pretensions? Is it not an acknowledgment to the world that they believed there was wrong-doing? Surely, if they believe that, that there was nothing in these charges but mere rumour, they would not appoint a commission to investigate. Their very action is an admission that there was something to be investigated. Therefore, we all agree up to that stage—that it was necessary that a commission should be appointed. We disagree with hon. gentlemen, and upon what grounds? We do not approve, as they do, the personnel of the commission. We contend that the commission to be of value, must be an impartial tribunal, one that will do its work properly, ably and efficiently, a tribunal that is under no obligations to the Government or to the subordinates under them.

It would be important to inquire here what are the objects aimed at by the appointment of a commission; for, to ascertain that will better enable us to judge what kind of commission should be appointed. The first object of a commission is to ascertain whether anything is being done that is wrong, and, if so, to punish the wrong-doer. The second object is, if no wrong-doing exists, to vindicate the character and integrity and probity of the official whose character has been aspersed. Now, that is, to my mind, a very important part. Now, will the commission that has been appointed do these things? It is true the commission may fairly inquire into alleged wrong-doing to ascertain if the charges are well founded. But, is it likely to be an impartial tribunal? Now, I think that it is quite unlikely to be an impartial tribunal. Why? Because the commissioner is an employee of the Government and would suffer if these charges were proven to be correct, for in all probability he would lose his situation. Therefore, I respectfully submit that it will not satisfy the country to say that the Minister of the Interior has commissioned one of his own employees, a man who holds office by virtue of his fiat, to inquire into these charges; because, if he is obliged to report that there has been wrong-doing, that will reflect upon the Minister of the Interior particularly and upon the whole Government. Then, again, will this commission

vindicate the character and integrity and probity of those whose character has been aspersed? Now, if it were an impartial tribunal it would do so. The tendency of the commission would be to screen these people as far as possible, out of consideration for the Government, that appointed both them and the commission.

The next, and perhaps the most important object of the commission, is to satisfy the public, to establish confidence in the public mind that fair-play and even-handed justice is being meted out to every one who goes to that country or is interested in it. That is, to my mind, one of the most important aims of the commission. Will the commission appointed by the Government establish that confidence in the country? I respectfully submit that it will not; for, when the public know that this man who is appointed is the creature of the Government, an employee of the Government, and yet upon his report the head of the department will stand or will fall before the country, the confidence of the public in the impartiality of the commission will be destroyed. To reconcile the public to the situation and to establish the confidence which it is very important should be established, I respectfully submit that an impartial tribunal should be appointed and that tribunal either a judge or several judges, they having no connection with the Government. I think that every fair-minded man in the country will say that that is the most likely tribunal to establish confidence in the country. It will not be said of such a commission that it is endeavouring to shield the Government; or when it makes a finding that that finding is unjust or wrong. Those who have interests in the Yukon and believe that their interest will be dependent on the probity and ability of the Government officials will feel greater confidence if they know that a commission such as I speak of is investigating the charges. But with such a commission as has been appointed, the very reverse of this will be the case. Confidence will not be established. The public will not be satisfied that everything has been done as it should have been done. But, in addition to all this, we are told that the present commission has no authority, or rather that its authority is circumscribed. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries on Friday night admitted that. While we contend that the Act gave the Government the right to appoint a commission with full authority, they circumscribed the authority of the commissioner. The Minister of the Interior said himself that the action of the commission would be futile. Well, if it is futile, then why not remedy that at the earliest possible opportunity, and appoint a commission whose action will not be futile, and whose authority will not be circumscribed, so that he may inquire into all allegations of wrong-doing, whether before the 25th of September last, or afterwards and up to the present time? Then, it is said by the Minister of the Interior that

the man who is sent up there to do his duty has already most arduous and responsible duties to perform. He recited to us many of the lines of work that he had to do, and said that he had a herculean task to attend to, in fact it was almost incredible to suppose that one man could perform all those various duties. Yet, in the face of that, he tacks on to his duties another important work which should require a large share of a man's time to attend to properly. Therefore, I think it is utterly impossible for the present commissioner, in view of the amount of work that is already thrown upon him, to give a sufficient amount of time to the investigation which he ought to make to bring out all the facts that ought to be brought out. Now, what is going to take place, when this commissioner starts his investigation? A witness comes up, and the commissioner asks him if his chief is a rogue. Does a man like to say that his chief is a rogue, or is incompetent, or is dishonest? Not by any means. The very reverse is likely to be the case. Then, again, does not the course of the Government suggest that they have something to fear? If, as they contend, there is no wrong-doing, if the charge has been disproved, would it not be natural to suppose that they would be the first to vindicate that contention, and that they would be glad to send up a tribunal that would make a most searching inquiry and bring out all the facts? It seems to me that their conduct is an acknowledgment of weakness, an acknowledgment of fear, an acknowledgment that they are afraid that something wrong has been done that would bring discredit upon the Government, and for that reason they will not allow a tribunal to be established that would bring everything to light. Now, for these reasons, I say that, in my judgment, the Government are not doing what they should do. The hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), in his amendment to the amendment, declares that the Government have, at the earliest possible moment after there were rumours of wrong-doing, appointed an impartial tribunal to inquire into these charges. Then he went on to say that we did not want a searching inquiry. I say, with all respect to that hon. gentleman, that we do want a searching inquiry. Nothing else will satisfy the people of this country, nothing else will restore confidence to the people but a searching inquiry that will bring all the facts to light, so that we may get at the whole truth. I contend that the only commission that will satisfy the people is an impartial one, consisting of a judge of the land. Nothing but a man of that stamp will be able to do this duty thoroughly, a man clothed with authority to inquire into all allegations of wrong-doing, whether before the 25th of August last, or after that date. If the Government do not grant this request, but call upon their supporters to vote it down, they will cause

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a great deal of dissatisfaction throughout the country. The electors are watching their course very carefully at the present time, and I believe I am justified in saying that, if they do not take this course of appointing an independent commission, the people will conclude that the Government are afraid to allow the condition of things up there to become known, that there is something they wish to hide from the world and from the electors, otherwise they would be the first to jump at the suggestion to send up an impartial commission to bring out all the facts. In view of all these things, I shall support the amendment, which asks this House to appoint an impartial tribunal, one clothed with sufficient authority, one not limited as is this commission, one that is under no obligations to the Government of the day. We ask that that be done, because we believe that, if it is done, fair-play will be meted out to all; then, if men's characters have been wrongly aspersed, they will be vindicated, and those wrongly charged will stand free before the world. Then, if the Government have done nothing but what is right, they will be strengthened in their position before the electorate of Canada. But if, on the other hand, they refuse to allow this commission to be appointed, and insist upon passing the amendment of the hon. member for Centre Toronto, it will be an acknowledgment of the weakness of their case, an acknowledgment that they dare not make full discourses, an acknowledgment that they are afraid to lay bare before the people of this country the iniquities of their own officials sent up to do the work of the Government in that part of the country; it will be an acknowledgment of the incompetence and incapacity of the Minister of the Interior and the Postmaster General with regard to the conduct of public affairs in that distant part of Canada.

Mr. T. B. FLINT (Yarmouth). I am glad to congratulate my hon. friend who has just taken his seat upon the fair and reasonable temper with which, in the main, he has discussed the proposition before the House. I was amused at the suggestion he threw out to the effect that there was some kind of conspiracy on this side of the House in consequence of which, when members of the Opposition rose to speak, the members of the Government side would slip out and leave but a small audience for our friends opposite to address. But I could not fail to notice that this conspiracy seems also to extend to the gallery, because, after the Minister of Finance had concluded his speech and my hon. friend rose to reply, the same affection seemed to obtrude itself into the galleries, and there was, one might almost say, a perfect bolt for the door in order to avoid the remarks which my hon. friend was about to make. I do not propose to follow at length the arguments which my hon. friend has just addressed to the House, be-

cause, in the main, he has followed the lines of many of his predecessors on that side. Such observations as I may make will apply to them, although I may more directly refer to the arguments of other hon. gentlemen who have preceded him. I notice that, although the hon. member rather charged the Minister of Finance with stopping short in a quotation he read, the hon. member himself is not altogether innocent of the same fault, probably because the portion of the quotation which he did not read does not serve his purpose as well. Referring to some remarks made by the Minister of the Interior in regard to the charges made by the senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), my hon. friend stated that the Minister had said that the charges, no matter how they might be investigated, would be futile, and in order to prove that, he quoted from the Minister's speech in the "Hansard," as follows:—

To attempt to hold an investigation when nobody would make a charge is an extremely unsatisfactory and futile thing; and the investigation at Dawson City promises to be futile.

There my hon. friend stopped, and argued that even the hon. Minister of the Interior himself, in what he conceded to be a very exhaustive speech, had admitted that this investigation would be futile. But my hon. friend has not finished the quotation presenting the reason given by the hon. Minister of the Interior for this allegation. The hon. Minister of the Interior said further:

—and the investigation at Dawson City promises to be futile, though charges have been made, because the people who have made them have apparently withdrawn them, and will not go before the commissioner and attempt to prove them.

That completes the quotation, and gives the reason why the hon. Minister of the Interior used the language he did. And was he not well supported by the facts? We know that, as a matter of fact, when the commissioner in the Yukon, acting under the large powers given him by the commission from the Government, and within the authority of the letter from the hon. Minister of the Interior that he was to have a free hand—when these gentlemen who made the charges were brought before the commissioner in Dawson City, were invited to go on, they asked permission to withdraw the charges. The commissioner very properly declined to allow the charges to be withdrawn, and insisted that they should be gone on with. The result of that investigation will reach Parliament later on, and we will then know to what extent they complied with the demands of the commissioner and to what extent they were able to produce proof in support of their charges. The hon. gentleman concluded a very interesting argument by the assertion that, after all, we only differ, on the two sides of this House, as to the personnel of the commission and as to the method of making

the inquiry. To a certain extent, that is true and to a certain extent this limits the area of the discussion which should be indulged in upon this question. But I have a much graver charge to bring against hon. members of the Opposition, and particularly against the framer of the resolution which is before the House, and it is this, that no impartial reader would fail to believe, after reading this amendment, that not only was it not the intention on the part of the Opposition to have these charges properly investigated, but that there was a positive intention manifested in this amendment that these charges should not be properly investigated, and that the House and the country should not be expected to enter upon an investigation along the lines suggested by this amendment. This, Sir, I think must be admitted to be a serious charge, but I think a reading of the resolution will show that no gentleman at all acquainted with parliamentary practice, custom or procedure, would, for one moment, believe that any legislative assembly, composed of reasonable men, would appoint a judicial committee along the lines suggested by this amendment. I believe the amendment was put forward as a blind to the innocent and honest people of the country or that it was intended that it should be voted down on account of its inherent defects. I challenge any hon. gentleman, on the other side of the House, to ransack the history of this Parliament or that of any other Parliament, and find a legislature asked to appoint a judicial committee with the scope and powers suggested by this amendment. I do not believe it will be found in the history of any British dominion, or any legislature, in any part of the world enjoying responsible government. Let me read the amendment:

That this House deems it expedient to inform His Excellency that in view of the widespread charges of incapacity, misconduct and corruption in the administration of public affairs connected with the Yukon, it is the duty of the Government to appoint, without delay, an independent judicial commission to make a thorough investigation into that subject and report the result.

In other words, if this resolution should be adopted, we are led to this conclusion, that three or more judges of the land are to be charged with duties no assembly in this country could hand over without derogating from the powers of the constitution, the duties and responsibilities of Parliament. This judicial committee is not asked to investigate charges of misconduct and corruption, which might be a reasonable proposition and might be reasonably argued for, under many circumstances, but they are asked to investigate, without delay, widespread charges of incapacity, misconduct and corruption in the administration of public affairs connected with the Yukon and report the result. In other words, the judicial commission, under this amendment, would be

asked and expected, as the hon. leader of the Opposition insisted in his speech the other night, to investigate all the charges of incapacity connected with the Yukon, that have been in the press and in Parliament since the administration of the territory was assumed by this Government; in fact, in connection with every subject that has to do with the Yukon, they are supposed to investigate, take evidence and report their findings and conclusions, not only upon whether bribery took place at Dawson City up to August 25th or later, not only whether affairs were well and capably managed by the officers there, but whether the administration of affairs showed capacity in reference, we will say, to the construction of the Yukon Railway, in reference to the contract made last year with Mackenzie & Mann. They are to open up the whole of these matters; they are to take evidence and report the result of their judicial views upon this question, a question which has already been passed upon in this House, after one of the most thorough and able and exhaustive discussions that ever took place within the walls of Parliament. Not only is this to be the scope of that commission, but they would have the right under the resolution to enter into an examination after taking evidence and report their findings upon every question connected with transportation in that country, with the letting of contracts, the sending in of the Mounted Police, in fact, with every circumstance that can possibly be conceived as having arisen since the Yukon began to be administered. I contend that the very fact of such an absurd proposition being brought before the House by gentlemen of talent and of some experience, is conclusive proof that they never expected that such a resolution would be received with composure or acceptance. The manner in which this matter was brought before the House was, to say the least, very peculiar. We are now debating the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and for nearly a month hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House have ranged over the whole field and history of Dominion politics since confederation to the present time. They have covered every conceivable subject of discussion and dispute which has arisen between the two great historical parties in the country. They touched upon prohibition, upon penny postage; they discussed the fast line, the rate of expenditure, the increase of the debt, the race and religious cry, reciprocity and tariff and reciprocal arrangements under the tariff; they wandered into the affairs of the recent International Commission, and, in fact, day after day, and week after week they have ranged over the whole field of Dominion politics.

And from what motive it is impossible to conceive—probably because of the force of the arguments from this side of the House, or that the evident weariness of the country at the wide nature of their rangings

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through politics, had shown them they were making no impression on the people, possibly in the hope of shutting off debate from this side of the House upon the numerous important questions they had raised—they concluded by means of this amendment to confine the further progress of the discussion to one subject alone. Consequently hon. gentlemen upon this side of the House who have not already spoken, are prevented from replying to the arguments, the objections, and the taunts of these gentlemen opposite in connection with the many subjects they have discussed. The course of this debate has shown—and I think hon. gentlemen opposite are responsible for it—a great weakness in one phase of our much-boasted parliamentary institutions. We have never been tired of praising the force, the strength, and the flexibility of the English constitution, and the power of Parliament to reach wise conclusions upon public questions. Hitherto debate upon the Address from the Throne has always been of a general character, and has lasted but for a short time. A comparatively few subjects occupied the attention of the House before it proceeded to the despatch of business, where these subjects could be taken up in detail and treated of with force, and to a certain degree of conclusiveness. But in this discussion, no matter how able or interesting may have been individual addresses from hon. gentlemen, no matter with how much talent they may have discussed the various phases of public affairs as they presented themselves to them, yet, no one can deny that a large amount of valuable time has been wasted because no voting conclusion, no result upon which Parliament can pronounce at the conclusion of this debate, can possibly be reached. The intelligent foreigner, our neighbour across the line, can taunt us with the fact that our system, flexible as it is, powerful as it is on occasions, has a great weakness in this regard. In the United States, we are aware that when the executive summons Congress it lays before it in voluminous detail a statement of all the public affairs of the country. Each subject is dealt with at great length, and exhaustive reports are presented to the people, upon these recommendations and these suggestions, with which Congress proceeds to deal. These are referred to the proper committees, and one after another they come before the legislative body for a final expression of opinion. But with the exception of the vote which may take place upon this occasion as to the propriety of an investigation into the affairs of the Yukon, it is not pretended that any vote in this House can deal with the numerous questions that have been so far discussed. The hon. gentlemen of the Opposition were fortunate in some respects, in the gentleman who took the lead in bringing forward these Yukon charges, but the speech of the hon. gentleman from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tup-

per) did not take the House by surprise. Long before Parliament met, it was heralded in the press by telegrams and correspondence from the Pacific Coast, that that hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) would bring forward charges against the Administration in regard to Yukon matters. It was announced with a great flourish of trumpets, and with a great deal of volubility, that when he did bring forward these charges, they would be of such a character, that not only Parliament, but the whole country would be startled by his revelations. I certainly expected from the character of that hon. gentleman; from his vigorous youth—and notwithstanding his youth, his long experience in public affairs—from the fact that he had been in Parliament a long time, had been a Minister of Justice, and was a lawyer of considerable attainments and standing; I certainly did expect, and the House did expect, that when he brought forward these charges they would be presented with much force and vigour, and would be so arranged in their presentation that those who objected to his course in regard to the matter would have a great deal of difficulty in meeting them. But the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), gifted with all these qualities which, I think, every hon. gentleman in this House must envy, occupied a very long time, the whole of one debating session, with his lengthy address. Up to the dinner hour, he had not touched the charges in regard to the Yukon, and from the assembling of the House after dinner, until after midnight, the hon. gentleman dealt with a great copiousness upon this subject. I was amused, and I think hon. gentlemen upon both sides of the House must have been amused, by the taunt levelled at the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) that he had to have four days in which to reply to the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). Now, it would not be at all surprising, that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) might reasonably have asked one day or more, in order to meet charges which he had never heard before, and which required perhaps the examination of the records and the search of correspondence, to answer. But the hon. gentleman from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) took good care that no reply should be forthcoming during that session of the House. He took good care to fill up the time—as many thought somewhat needlessly—until the adjournment of the House was forced by the circumstances of the case, and no matter how ready the Minister of the Interior might have been to have replied to him on the spot, there was no opportunity offered him until the House reassembled after the Easter recess. Well, Sir, we have those charges, and we have had them brought forward with all the force and with all the strength and all the parliamentary experience, that an able member of this

House could lend to them. Now, what was the line of argument pursued by the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), by the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), and in fact, by almost all the members opposite who followed the hon. member for Pictou in reference to these complaints and charges. I think all will agree with me, that his one line of argument was this: That the press had been filled with rumours and charges reflecting on the integrity of the officials in the Yukon; that there had been the gravest and most serious complaints made against these officials, against their administration, against their personal character, and that the necessity for an investigation arose, partly because there might be unworthy members of the civil service who obtained office, but largely on the ground that the character of the country, the reputation of the country at large, and the reputation of the administration of the Yukon, was seriously and adversely affected in the mother country and in other parts of the world. True to his character and his disposition, the hon. the leader of the Opposition, followed by the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), enlarged upon that phase of the subject. No language was too strong for him, in which to represent public opinion abroad. I agree that we are bound as a Parliament to protect the reputation of the credit of Canada abroad in matters of this kind, and we are also bound to protect the character and reputation of the civil service of Canada as a whole. If one were to believe these gentlemen—I do not think they believe it themselves—the whole civilized world was shaken to its very centre, in contemplation of the fearful state of things at Dawson City and its neighbourhood, that in England, in France, in Germany, in the isles of the seas, among the barbarians of the most distant lands, the sad state of affairs in the Yukon was agitating the public mind, and that therefore this Parliament must, if for no other reason, rush to the rescue, investigate these affairs and set the minds of our honest friends in all parts of the world at rest.

Now, what are the facts of the case in that regard? I notice that the hon. senior member for Pictou, in his lengthy speech, very carefully avoided any quotation from any authority of the mother country or the United States or any other country, showing that there was great public alarm or agitation or indignation over the affairs of the Yukon in any of those countries. With the exception of an allusion to Miss Shaw's letter in the London "Times," and to an editorial in the London "Times"—alluding to it, not a quotation from it—the hon. member avoided any illustration of the state of public opinion abroad, and quoted no evidence from any mining journal or review or publicist of any standing whatever, no evidence from any of the great jour-

nals of London or the continent, no evidence from any mining authority, no evidence whatever that these charges affected public opinion at all outside the narrow circle of Seattle, Vancouver and the Opposition press of this country. Is it not strange that a case which seems to have impressed itself on the mind of the hon. senior member for Pictou to such an extent that he could characterize the proceedings of the Government officials of the Yukon as villainy, that he could refer to them as unscrupulous, as scoundrels, as robbers, as tyrants, as dishonest, as corrupt creatures of the Government, as understrappers, as satraps, as men guilty of nefarious conduct, as men who ought to be put in the criminal dock, as blackmailers, as thieves—could not create a ruffle of feeling in England or on the continent; or, if it did, the hon. gentleman could produce not a tittle of evidence from any mining journal or newspaper or any public man of any other country to show that these statements had at all affected the public mind abroad. The hon. gentleman evidently thought that the public would take for granted that all his assertions would be backed up somewhere if they only took the trouble to search for the evidence; and I sat in this House to as great a degree as ever I did upon any question affecting the Government in a judicial frame of mind. Many members on this side of the House, as well as on the other side, were waiting with impartial feeling to see what evidence was to be brought forward; and I am sure there would be found on this side of the House an abundance of public spirit to insist that if the Government did not deal with this matter in the dignified and prompt manner demanded, this House would make themselves heard and insist that it should be so dealt with. But as hour after hour of these denunciations passed away, we found that they were all smoke—that there was no fire to speak of behind it. As we found the evidence filtering out to nothingness, we found that the Administration had shown itself reasonably anxious to protect the interests of the country, and to have an investigation entered into.

I thought it might not be uninteresting to see what was said by the London "Times" which has been referred to. Nine-tenths of the declarations which we heard have been founded on the supposition that these charges affected public opinion in the old country, and the London "Times" was quoted as a force of public opinion of such power that its slightest remark touching the integrity of the Canadian officials should be received with fear and trembling by this Parliament. I need not refer to the history of the London "Times." It is well known that it fills almost as large a portion of British thought and history as the British Parliament itself. It has had a very checked career. It has on other occasions brought charges against public men, and it

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has sometimes found itself mulcted in heavy damages for bringing charges of which it could produce no proof. Perhaps the best known case is the case of the charges against Mr. Parnell, which should serve as a warning to hon. gentlemen opposite. What were the facts of that case, and how did Parliament deal with it? The London "Times" made serious charges against a large number of members of Parliament, scattered through many articles, and it published the fac-simile of a letter alleged to have been signed by Mr. Parnell condoning the Phoenix Park outrages. Public indignation was aroused to such an extent that Parliament felt it its duty to have the charge investigated, because charges of such an atrocious character against fifteen or twenty members of the House of Commons, if not thoroughly investigated, were calculated greatly to diminish the authority and prestige of Parliament itself. Consequently, Parliament passed an Act appointing the royal commission upon the Parnell charges. Leading counsel of the greatest eminence were engaged on both sides, and the commission met. One would imagine, from the observations made by several hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, that this course of proceeding was quite common—that it was quite an ordinary thing for the British Parliament, which we attempt to follow in most cases to appoint commissions of this kind. The judges appointed on this commission themselves stated that its appointment was a legislative act unprecedented in the whole history of Great Britain. It stands alone and by itself in the whole constitutional history of Great Britain as the appointment of a special judicial commission by Parliament to sit and give their conclusions on matters which consisted of complaints and charges made in the press. What was the result of that commission? What was the first act done by that royal commission of judges? The very first step taken by that commission was—and I quote the language of the judges:

We thought it right to order that the accusers should formulate the charges and allegations which they intended to make and proposed to establish by evidence. We also thought right to direct them to furnish the names of the parties accused, and the acts of which they were accused.

The first act of this commission, unprecedented as it was, was to compel those who made the charges in the public press to name the parties whom they accused and to formulate the allegations which they brought against those parties. And this is all that is demanded from hon. gentlemen opposite as regards that phase of the question. This side of the House asks, as an act of simple justice, as a reasonable method of proceeding, that charges of this kind, scattered as they are through numerous columns of the press, hon. gentlemen opposite should name the men accused, mention the acts of which they are accused, and formulate the

charges against them in such a shape that they can be met. But what have these hon. gentlemen done? They have in their amendment condensed into one phrase all the history of the Yukon since 1896, the administration of the country, their opinion of its administration here and at Vancouver and at Dawson City and throughout the Yukon—everything connected with the transportation, with contracts, and in fact every matter with which any of the departments here has had anything to do, is bundled into an undistinguished mass, and Parliament is asked to appoint a judicial committee to inquire into them. Not only is this commission asked to examine all these matters, but also to report the result. In other words, the commission is to take from Parliament the right of deciding what the evidence shows and is to report its opinion on the evidence. A commission of three judges is to decide, for instance, whether the Yukon railway was a wise and prudent undertaking, whether the amount of mineral lands granted and the manner in which they were granted should be radically changed, and whether all these things showed capacity or incapacity or wisdom or unwisdom on the part of this Administration. This commission is to investigate all the mining regulations, the royalty, the exemptions, the land Acts, the whole system of administration in connection with woods and forests, the lease of the foreshores of the river opposite Dawson, and besides whether in any or all of these particulars the Government showed capacity or incapacity and to what extent. I venture to say that never in the history of any British Parliament was such a ridiculous proposition laid before any reasonable men for their adoption. What was the result of the Parnell inquiry? That great organ of public opinion, the "Times," backed up by unlimited capital and conducted with the greatest intelligence and experience, found itself out of court in regard to the most important and direct of its charges. The commission found:

All the charges and allegations into which we were directed to inquire were scattered over several articles in the "Times." We entirely acquit personally Mr. Parnell and the other respondents of the charge of insincerity in their denunciation of the Phoenix Park murders and find that the fac-simile letter on which this charge was chiefly based as against Mr. Parnell is a forgery.

That was the result of the exhaustive investigation into these charges made by so great an authority as the London "Times." The impression that would be given to any person listening to these hon. gentlemen or reading their speeches is that during a portion of the year 1898 the London "Times" was aflame with indignation against the administration of the Yukon, and had evidence which convinced its proprietors that something very rotten was at the root of the whole matter. To show the extent to which the London "Times" was agitated by these

dreadful revelations that were detailed to us the other day by the hon. senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). I took occasion to go carefully through the whole issue of the "Times" for 1898, in order to find out what it said during that year concerning affairs out in the Klondike. On 20th January, 1898, the only reference I could find in that paper to the Klondike was a telegram from Ottawa, stating that the spring rush onwards to the Klondike had begun in earnest, that the new mining regulations had given general satisfaction, and that Conservative newspapers were saying that these regulations were a vast improvement on those of last August. The next reference was on the 24th January, in the shape of a letter from a correspondent in Dakota, in the western states. This is what he says:

The people on the Pacific coast are Klondike crazy. Indeed the whole country has the fever. I do not think it extravagant to estimate that 200,000 to 250,000 people will try their luck in North-western Alaska during the coming spring.

This shows the extravagant estimate formed by the correspondent of the "Times" as to what was to take place in the Yukon. We pass on to April 7th, because from January 24th to April 7th there is no reference in the "Times" at all to the Klondike, but on April 7th we have a letter from that distinguished Klondike prospector and capitalist, Mr. Alex. McDonald, known as the king of the Klondike. From his letter I quote the following:—

On January 24th, when I left Dyea, 15,000 were waiting to go over the Chilkoot Pass. Since then fully 10,000 more have joined them. Many of these men and women are utterly unfitted for the task they have undertaken. There is very little lawlessness with Klondike region. When William Ogilvie, the famous Canadian explorer, went to the gold region in 1896, he laid the foundation for good government, and his action was backed up, and his recommendations followed by the Canadian Government to such an extent that at the present time there is a splendid system of police patrol throughout the entire district. There is now stationed at Dawson City Major Walsh, recently appointed governor of the district.

Then he contrasts the peace, order and good government of the Yukon, under Canadian administration, with the disorder and trouble on the other side of the line. That appeared in the "Times" on April 7th, and there was then not a line of allusion to the difficulties connected with the situation, although he described with great force the difficulties of administering a mining district. Then we pass on to the 28th of May, when we have a telegram from Reuters, at Lake Bennett, dated May 9th:

The police here estimate that 25,000 persons have crossed Pass since January. The majority have gone forth to Dawson. Perfect order prevails, though the crowd is very mixed, all nation-

alties and all classes being represented. Americans, however, largely predominate. The difficulties presented by both passes are being rapidly removed.

On the 8th June the London "Times" published a letter from Mr. F. Richards, the leader of an expedition into the Klondike, and a man of experience. Writing on May 17th, he says :

There were now nearly 5,000 men in Dawson City, many of whom would come out if they had enough money to come out with.

The whole letter is discouraging in tone, but there is not one word of complaint in it with regard to the administration or the authorities of the Yukon. It is remarkable that, up to May 17th, the leader of an expedition, writing a discouraging letter regarding the Yukon affairs has not one word of complaint to utter with regard to these matters. The "Times" of June 11th, 1898, contains the next reference, a glowing account of the route and of the police arrangements. There is a very interesting account of the country, but not a word of complaint of the civil administration of the laws affecting mining or any of those matters brought forward so volubly by hon. gentlemen opposite. There are also telegrams through Reuter, June 30, and the only complaint made is with reference to postal communication : not a word of complaint on any other subject. Reuter's correspondent for the "Times," writing on June 1st, published on June 30th, refers again to the difficulties of postal communication, and says :

Where so much has been done to maintain law and order, and to carry on every other branch of civil government, it might naturally have been expected that facilities would have been provided for the transport of mails.

Here is as good a piece of negative testimony as could reasonably be demanded. This shows what must have been the impression upon the English mind as to the situation in the country as late as the 30th June, 1898.

We pass on until we come to Miss Shaw's letter. Shortly after the date last mentioned, Miss Shaw's letters began to appear in the London "Times." It is not necessary to refer to three of these letters, which do not at all touch on the affairs in Dawson City. There is a letter of August 27th, dated at Lake Bennett, giving a magnificent description of the trip through Canada as far as Dawson City—a letter worthy of perusal by any person interested in this country. On September 10th appeared a letter, dated July 27th, from Dawson City. This letter covers four or five columns, and contains a splendid, well-written description of the great mining centre, with not one word of complaint on any of the matters referred to. It deals with administration, the difficulties of gold-mining, of climate, of procuring labour, and so on. On September 19th appeared another letter of four or five columns, with—

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out a syllable of complaint with regard to any of the matters connected with civil administration. She says :

It must be recognized that the conditions under which a sub-Arctic gold-field is developed present hardships and difficulties of no common kind. When such a field is removed 600 miles from its nearest base of civilization the difficulties may easily be conceived of as insuperable.

On September 27th appeared the letter which has been referred to by the hon. senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) and other hon. gentlemen on that side in the course of this debate. That letter is a very able, interesting and valuable discussion of climate, of the questions presented by this great mining camp, such as labour, transportation, methods of working, administration of the country and attitude of the Government towards the mining community. In the third column, occupying about what the printers call a "square," of her letter, is Miss Shaw's reference to these so-called scandals ; and, that we may have every fairness in presenting to the House what Miss Shaw actually did say, I will read her statement ; and I will ask any reasonable man to say whether that statement, made entirely on hearsay, justified the strong language indulged in by the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), the ex-Finance Minister (Mr. Foster), the senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), and others who have alluded to the subject :

It is deplorable to have to admit, but it is idle to ignore the fact, that the administration of the Klondike district and the relations which exist between the Government and the public leave almost anything to be desired. There is a prevalent conviction that the laws are bad, and that the officers through whom they are administered are corrupt. It is hard on innocent and upright individuals whose administrative duties may be performed with scrupulous integrity to be associated in the sweeping charges which are made against the whole official body. But there is no disguising the universal dissatisfaction—and innocent and guilty stand at present condemned together. It is painful for Englishmen to be compelled to listen to the plain-spoken comments of Americans and foreigners,—

According to Miss Shaw's own testimony, these comments were made by Americans and foreigners, who constituted at that time nine-tenths of the population of the Yukon. She says :

—Apart from graver charges there is much dissatisfaction with imperfections of organization and the unsanitary condition of Dawson.

The concluding part of her letter is taken up altogether with a repetition of complaints which she has had from these people as to the difficulty of surveying mining districts the difficulty of recording mining claims and the difficulty of obtaining information from the recorder's office. She says that these—

—are facts which have come to be regarded by the public as so many purposely designed channels for individual bribery.

She is giving the tittle, and tattle, and scandal of a mining camp which she afterwards described as composed of five thousand workers and twenty thousand loafers.

Scarcely a day passes in which some fresh story does not become current of the number of dollars, which it has cost to obtain letters from a nominally unsorted mail, or to make good an entrance on business into one of the public offices.

That is all. That is every particle of the charge made in that very able letter against the officials of the Yukon. Not one syllable of it does the writer give on her own authority, or as the result of her own observation. Not one name does she give as authority, nor the name of any person accused. She simply mentions these complaints of Americans and foreigners, whom she met in Dawson City. She says :

To some extent the officials of the district are, no doubt, bearing the brunt of the unpopular laws which it has been their duty to administer.

And then she proceeds to discuss the 10 per cent royalty and the reservation of alternate claims. No doubt, these things are at the root of whatever dissatisfaction exists. But these are not questions to be investigated by a judicial tribunal. These are not questions that this Parliament will ever submit to have handed over to a judge or ten judges to decide. They are questions for Parliament to decide, and any member of this House who would vote to hand them over to a judicial tribunal would be recreant to his duty to this Parliament, to his constituents and to the country. She says, writing in August :

Already a change is at hand which renders it unnecessary to labour the subject of the need for political reform.

In the very letter in which she retailed all the gossip and scandal of the Yukon, though without mentioning names, in that very letter which has formed the basis of the vile attacks made by hon. gentlemen opposite, this able publicist has stated that there is already a change at hand which renders it unnecessary to labour the subject of reform any further. She refers to the new commissioner as—

Mr. Ogilvie, whose record is well known, and whose name is a synonym of disinterested integrity,—

No stronger language could be used in reference to any man than that.

A small body of 4,000 or 5,000 men are working. There are 20,000 others, and a large number of idlers waiting an opportunity to whom no inducement short of the sphere of actual want would be sufficient to make work acceptable—hence, while Dawson swarms with idle men labour remains at \$10 per day. These conditions may be held to account in some degree for the abnormal conditions.

Certainly they would account for the abnormal conditions, they would account for the

disappointment and anger, for the gossip, for the scandals which were breathed into the ear of this lady. She says :

The natural difficulties in the way of prospecting the country are all of a nature to be overcome by organization and the development of the means of transport ; the artificial difficulties created by the conditions of administration will be removed, and concurrently with these developments may be expected, that an improvement in the means of communication with the outer world, will offer facilities for more readily drawing off the useless portions of the community. Those are the changes which may be expected from the introduction of capital into the country. They must all depend on the wealth and permanency of the mineral fields for their realization.

This is the whole basis of this mountain of insinuation developed by these ingenious and energetic gentlemen on the other side of the House. One would have supposed that in the presence of these charges assumed to be so startling to the British nation and all other nations, including the barbarians beyond, the London "Times" and its editorials, would have reflected in some degree the impressions which hon. gentlemen said prevailed in Great Britain upon this subject. The article in the London "Times" of September 19th, the one of two articles referring to the Klondike during the year 1898, gave a magnificent account of the difficulties of the miner in that region, the natural difficulties to be overcome. The article of the 23rd of September, which occupied a column of the London "Times," contains this one allusion to the charges made by Miss Shaw :

Unfortunately, it appears to be only too plain from the very grave allegations put forward by our correspondent, that the absence of control has permitted administrative irregularities to become rampant in the Klondike. There are charges of actual corruption, and of the perversion of administrative institutions for corrupt objects. \* \* \* It is necessary that these should be looked into without delay, and that where abuses exist a remedy should be applied. \* \* \* There is happily a general conviction fully shared by the people of this country that the Canadian Government have neither sympathy with such practices nor the slightest disposition to shield the guilty persons.

That expression of opinion, I believe, this House will also endorse when the vote comes to be taken.

Mr. William Ogilvie, whose character stands deservedly high, and who has just undertaken the arduous and responsible duties of commissioner, will find that he has behind him not only the local feeling but the support of the Dominion Government and the public at home.

Here I regret to say that Jupiter has nodded. The London "Times" is not acquainted with the character of the Opposition in this country. It supposes that because William Ogilvie is a man whose name is a synonym of disinterested integrity, a man of experience and high character, he will have behind him the local feeling and also

the support of the Dominion Government and of the public at home. But the "Times" does not count upon the lack of patriotism, and upon the desire for injuring their opponents, even at the risk of injuring the credit of the country, of the Opposition in this House. It will be astonished to find so eminent a politician as the ex-Minister of Finance sneeringly referring to that eminent man as Mr. Sifton's hired man, and to the Government officials in that country as satraps and understrappers of the Government. It will be pained if it supposed that assertions and statements of this kind would find any support from the majority of the members of this House. But we pass on to see what else has been said in the London "Times" as the reasons why all parliamentary precedents should be set aside, why every reasonable precaution for fair-play and honest dealing should be abandoned, as is proposed by this amendment. We proceed to see what else has been said by Miss Shaw in regard to the Yukon, and what public opinion has been formed in England as the result of her attempts to enlighten it. Miss Shaw, on the last of January of this year, delivered a lecture before the Royal Colonial Institute in London, whose proceedings are reported in the journal of the Colonial Institute. After a very thorough and a very exhaustive criticism upon the Yukon and its affairs, she concludes as follows :—

I was no pioneer. I counted, I believe, as the 27,000th person who went over the passes last year. The trail was already beaten for me, means of transport were organized. There were stopping places where food could be obtained; and last, but not least, I went as a woman, to whom everything was made easy.

Then she describes the journey, the courtesy she had received, the honesty and order apparent :

My tent in Dawson City formed my headquarters for only twenty days. I did not visit all the mines of the district. Saw a great deal, and I am convinced that the newly opened gold fields contain a great deal of gold. At present, with labour of the most primitive kind, with no appliances, with the almost overwhelming difficulties of local transport, with unfortunate mining regulations,—

This refers to the royalty and other conditions :

—the fact that about 4,000 at work have produced but two or three millions of pounds sterling is remarkable enough. Those who ask if the Klondike is not a fizzle after all, in view of the results achieved, have evidently no conception of the immense difficulties which have been overcome. I went a sceptic, I returned convinced that though much that is temporary there is bad, the permanent conditions are very good.

That is the result of all the observations of this talented lady. At the conclusion of her address, we have the testimony of a gentleman whose word will be accepted by this House as certainly of considerable value. Mr. Louis Coste, C.E., until recent-

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ly in the Public Works Department of this country, but now entirely disassociated from this Administration, a gentleman who, during all his life has been a consistent Conservative, a gentleman of great experience in engineering matters, who personally visited the Yukon, and is not being sent up there as manager of a company in that region—Mr. Coste spoke as follows :—

I was under the impression that Miss Shaw had not been favourably impressed by the country. In one of her articles in the "Times" Miss Shaw seemed to take to task the civil servants employed in Dawson City, and, as a matter of fact, to imply that a certain amount of corruption existed among them. Now, I take absolute exception to such a charge.

Here is the evidence of a man, I think, whose word can be accepted, when you consider his character, his qualifications and his history.

I am willing to admit that in occasional instances there might have been little irregularities, but, on behalf of the interested parties, I affirm that, on the whole, the service was well conducted and that the employees, who had a tremendous amount of work to do—for very small pay—were honest. This I am the more at liberty to say, because I do not happen to belong to the particular branch of the service in question.

The conditions were such that it was very difficult to satisfy everybody, it was very difficult for a dozen officials or so to have to satisfy some thirty of forty thousand hungry miners—all waiting to be first in the field, all anxious to have their claims recorded, all wanting to register their titles, some of them, no doubt, in order to hurry to the London market and sell property which they had never so much as seen. \* \* \*

The real miner, the man who remained in the country, and who has worked and is still working his claim, has no complaint to make against the administration. \* \* \* It was impossible, as any solicitor will tell you, to give titles to properties which had not even been surveyed, which were situated in a new and altogether unexplored country. No government could meet the demands made upon them under such circumstances.

Other speakers follow—Mr. K. N. McFee, Mr. Rathbone and Lord Strathcona, not one of whom referred to the scandals. Later on Miss Shaw spoke in regard to what had appeared in the London "Times." Miss Shaw, in responding to a vote of thanks at that meeting, said :

As for the civil service as a whole, we can have but one feeling—that of high respect.

With regard to matters in the Klondike, they were matters of detail, belonging, I hope, to the same past as the beans, the pork and the bad fish; and so I hope we may leave it.

In other words, Miss Shaw looked upon these details and minor irregularities as things essential to and characteristic of these extraordinary circumstances with forty or fifty thousand men in the opening rush, with probably an inadequate number of officials, and the difficulties they had to encounter, we can see that the whole scope of the allegations and charges made by Miss Shaw and of the comments made by the London "Times" were possibly exaggerated. The whole line

of attack by hon. gentlemen opposite has been that of wild exaggeration. No one upon this side of the House has doubted that under these peculiar circumstances there were difficulties. None pretends to deny that there might have been irregularities connected with some of the subordinate officials, but with the exception of Messrs. Wade and Major Walsh, I believe, no charge has been brought by name against any leading official in the Yukon, and, even, in regard to the minor officials who are charged by unknown accusers with improper actions, no one has ventured to mention their names. If the state of public opinion suggested were exhibited, very particularly, in the motherland, certainly hon. gentlemen should have found in some of the journals of the country some reference to it; some indication of it. The senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) dwelt at some length and repeatedly upon the reasons why the men, who breathed these suspicions into his ear, would not allow their names to be given. He referred to bankers, men with letters of introduction from Lord Strathcona, men representing large interests in the old country and in the Klondike, as being in a state of abject terror, in fact, that they would not give him permission to use their names, such a state of abject terror that they did not even dare to breathe their complaints into the ears of the mining journals in the mother country. This is not characteristic of the Englishmen abroad. We know the characteristic of the Englishman abroad, especially when his financial and personal rights are touched. His character is known to be that of a chronic grumbler, and he would rush to the London "Times" or to his special journal with his complaints and particularly is this the case with the class of Englishmen referred to by the hon. member for Pictou. Is it not a strange thing that men representing large capital, representing bankers, men with letters of introduction from Lord Strathcona, should rush to pour into the ear of a member of the Opposition, nameless scandals in regard to the administration of the Yukon, while not one of them is upon record as having written a line to a member of the Administration, as having put his pen to his name in any public journal of the country, the United States or Great Britain, complaining of these matters? Is it not strange that men of this stamp should not, in passing through, have called upon the Prime Minister to explain to him the difficulties under which they laboured, and to ask him to cause an investigation to be made? There is not a particle of evidence that anything of this kind has been done, but, on the contrary, these distinguished men are found rushing into the offices of Opposition leaders upon the other side of the continent and breathing into their ear, under the promise of the strictest secrecy, allegations and charges against unknown

parties. The whole thing is contradictory of common sense, and of what we know to be the English character. We are, consequently, led to the conclusion that to a large degree the habit of exaggeration which hon. gentlemen display in other matters has entered into the discussion of this subject. I have thought that if anything could be found which would show something wrong in the Klondike, under some authorized name, where our hand could be laid upon some complaint, we would find it in the "British Mining Journal." So, at considerable trouble to the gentlemen in the library, I examined every number of the "Mining Journal and Commercial Gazette," of London, during the period referred to in this discussion. I had fully expected to find, either in the editorial column or in the letters from correspondents, or in the letters from parties making complaints, extensive allusions to these scandals, extensive complaints and demands upon the Canadian Government that something should be done to rectify the bad condition of affairs, but after going through all the journals I find no allusion whatever to the subject in the editorial columns of the paper, and with the exception on vague general lines, of a letter from a correspondent at Vancouver, there was no reference whatever in the "Mining Journal" to the matter from the 1st of July to the end of the year. The special correspondent of the "Mining Journal" personally, paid a visit to Dawson City, and wrote a letter, dated August 5th, a most valuable letter, superior in many respects to those which appeared in the London "Times." On August 5th the correspondent of the "Mining Journal" was in Dawson City and he gives a very graphic description of the scenery, of the geological nature of the country and of the general situation there. He tells about the butterflies and cariboo, and so on, and continues as follows:—

A good way to see the Klondike is to walk about thirty miles from Dawson south-east to the Dome, the highest hill of the district. From it one sees the lie of all the creeks which have produced gold. They head from near it. A stay in the Klondike soon shows why it has been so grossly misrepresented; the difficulties of the trails prevent all but the most active and eager from observing the facts around them. Most men sent to write about the country find one tramp of one creek more than enough, and finish their stay and their gleaning of facts in Dawson itself. Thus it happens that there has been so little observation of the district; most of our accounts have come from men who, owing to press of labour or lack of education were not qualified to inspire journalists accounts of the Klondike. Nowhere have I found greater ignorance, combined with greater willingness to misinform. "There be liars, damn liars and Yukoners" is an adage well worth carrying in one's head up here.

This is the language in which this correspondent describes a large number of people around Dawson City:

The Yukoner of this adage never says he does not know, but invents a fact in order to give a civil answer. He would think himself unkind not to inform a questioner; this is a charitable view of the case; for, indeed, the civility and general kindness in this far-off land are remarkable and infectious.

Then he goes on to describe the loafers around the district, and referring to the Government buildings proceeds to say:

When we come to the several blocks of Government buildings we find another long line of men at the Gold Commissioner's office; there, too, there is more business to do than the staff can at all cope with, and many a miner has had to wait many hours with the thermometer many degrees below zero. It takes hours to get a license or title to a claim, and men pay a dollar per hour to a man to stand in line for them. All these Government offices are hopelessly undermanned, and I fear, underpaid, with resulting dangers to business. I think, too, that the Gold Commissioner has had far too many things thrust upon him.

In another column he says:

Private enterprise in road making has not been wanting, but has not been backed up by Government support, the contrast between the neat sidewalks of Dawson, growing more numerous every day, and the horrible Bonanza and Quigley trails is painful, and suggests that the authorities are not great travellers.

The point I wish to make is, that in these two able and exhaustive letters on August 5th, written by a man sent to report upon the Klondike, in neither is there a scintilla of a charge of dishonesty, or impropriety, or maladministration in the Yukon. Certainly, if any observer would have had an opportunity of knowing these things, or of hearing them from such a source as would give sufficient authenticity for publishing them in the mother country, it would be this correspondent. But he has not referred to them, and this as negative evidence is of immense value as showing the character of the insinuations and the reckless charges made by the hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House. Treating of this correspondence, the editor of the "Mining Journal," gives expression to the same idea, that it is a land of many difficulties, and there are so many persons who are dissatisfied that it has a tendency to breed rumours and falsehoods.

Now, Sir, I have touched in a general way upon this phase of the subject, and I have shown, I think conclusively, that there is no ground whatever for the assertion of these scandals, be what they may, or that these charges, be they well or ill substantiated, have produced in any degree whatever any effect of a damaging character upon the public mind of the mother country. Therefore, one of the reasons urged by hon. gentlemen opposite for our taking such an extraordinary course as is suggested by this amendment, is entirely done away with. The hon. gentleman from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) brought forward an enormous number of charges for none of which did he present the slightest authority. If he

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could have quoted journalists of standing, if he could have quoted miners or prospectors of character in support of these charges, considerable weight might be attached to them. He spoke about bad regulations, but surely that is not a matter for a judicial commission. It is a matter for this House to decide upon hearing the explanation of the Minister. Parliament would never so stultify itself as to hand over to any judicial commission a decision as to regulations with regard to mines or royalty. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) alleged favouritism in the issue of liquor permits; that charge has been completely exploded and abandoned and there is not a scintilla of evidence to support it. He stated that fees had been obtained by solicitors for obtaining these liquor permits, but there has not been a syllable of evidence to support that charge. And so with the fifteen or sixteen charges which he mustered up, every one of them have been shown to be absolutely unfounded. The contention upon this side of the House is, I think, a reasonable one; it is a contention which has always been insisted upon in Parliament, one based upon common sense and upon fair play and decency, and it is that when public officials are charged with malfeasance in office, some person must be prepared upon his responsibility to make these charges by name, and to back them up by a reasonable amount of prima facie evidence. In no court of the land will the poorest individual be placed upon his trial even for a minor offence until some one has made affidavit, and not until a prima facie case has been laid before a magistrate, or the petty jury, or the grand jury, can an accused be put upon trial. But here, Parliament is asked by this amendment to place not only minor officials, not only the so-called understrappers, door keepers and policemen, but the highest officials of the Government, the Minister of the Interior himself, and public officials from the highest to the lowest, to place them on trial without a single charge being made under oath or specified in a form that could be met by the accused. Hon. gentlemen opposite have insisted that the commissioner who has been appointed is an improper person to carry on an investigation of this kind, and to such a degree has this argument been carried, that men of some eminence in the Opposition have felt themselves called upon to refer to Mr. William Ogilvie as the "hired man" of the Minister of the Interior. Language of this kind is not only unbecoming and unfair towards a gentleman of great distinction in his profession, and one who has been honoured at home and abroad as a sample of disinterested integrity, but it is a severe reflection upon the character of every man in the civil service of Canada. From the highest to the lowest they are branded as men incompetent to pursue an honest investigation into any malfeasance on the part of Dominion civil servants, simply because they happen to be in receipt of a salary. Every investigation in this country

in regard to civil servants has been carried on by commissioners appointed by the Government. In the Finance Department, such investigation is carried on by a leading official of that department, who visits the office with regard to which the complaint has been made. Should there be charges of wrongdoing in the Post Office Department, does the Postmaster General, under the powers given him, or would Parliament, recognize the propriety of appointing a judge of the land to investigate such charges?

No; in the case of the post office inspector, a member of the civil service in that branch of the public service, is sent to investigate charges, and a report is made to the Postmaster General. If the charges appear to be sustained, if a prima facie case is made out against any official in any part of the country, he is brought before the courts of the land and given an opportunity to hear the charges and to defend himself as best he can. Why should a different rule be resolved on by this House in regard to the maladministration of minor officials in the Yukon? There are judges and courts in the Yukon to deal with all who violate the law—to try under the proper forms of law established by the wisdom of Parliament or by our constitution every one who has been accused; so that he has the opportunity not only of being heard, but of having counsel in his defence. The commissioner of the Yukon has abundant power over every civil servant in the Yukon under the commission given him and the letters which followed it, as well as under the general law of the land, to suspend any civil servant in the territory charged with malfeasance in office; and there has been no occasion for setting up this novel and extraordinary tribunal to investigate charges of this kind.

I am convinced the resolution was either drawn with a deliberate intention that Parliament should necessarily reject it on account of its inherent absurdity or drawn without any care whether it should be accepted or not. For my part, and I believe on the part of a majority of the sensible people of this country, who know the character of the commissioner to the Yukon, as described by all the correspondents of the public press who visited that country and who know the reputation the country has for law, order and system, I think Parliament has every reason to have the utmost confidence in any investigation which that officer may choose to make. The only charge which was fairly brought before the House, and which the Government had a right to deal with, was that brought forward by the miners at a special meeting called for the purpose—a meeting which took place on the 25th of August. Whatever was wrong or complained of or unsatisfactory up to that time no doubt made itself known at that meeting; and the committee of representative men which was appointed would no doubt be expected to

bring forward every charge which they had against the administration of affairs in the country. Yet they have only suggested that there was bribery in the office of the commissioner; that officials of the Government had the opportunity, which they exercised, to acquire a special knowledge and to compete with the miners in taking up claims; that the Dominion land agent had been enacting on behalf of one of the contestants; that injustice had been done in consequence of the incapacity or incompetence of one of the officials; that the mining inspector had a lack of experience; that the Crown timber agent had granted improper concessions in regard to timber or cordwood. They demanded that the officials should either be exonerated or removed; and they asked, not that a judicial commission should be appointed, but that a commission of inquiry should be held and given power to subpoena witnesses in order to investigate these charges. In the charges of these miners, which may be supposed to have summed up all the complaints which could reasonably be brought forward, there was no allusion to terrorism on the part of the officials, and no pretense that their rights would be interfered with in case they expressed themselves as ready to bring forward their charges before a commission of inquiry. They did not even complain of the royalties, because they recognized, and reasonably so, that the question of royalty was a question of policy, which would be brought up properly in another way by hon. members of this House who are interested in the administration of the Yukon. There was no reference to any difficulties in the postal service, in regard to the leasing of the water fronts, in regard to sanitation, or in regard to salaries, and no claim that local improvements had not been properly looked after. Nine-tenths of the scandals which have been built up and repeated almost ad nauseum by hon. gentlemen opposite are absolutely ignored by the miners' committee. Consequently this House would be stultifying itself by giving powers to a judicial commission to make inquiries into matters which the miners themselves have not thought of sufficient importance to have brought forward for consideration.

That upon this complaint of the miners steps were promptly taken to investigate it, no one can doubt. From the statement made here by the hon. Minister of Finance we find that this complaint was drawn up on the 25th of August, that it reached the Government on the 4th or 5th of October, and that on the 7th of October the commission to Mr. Ogilvie to examine into all these charges was on its way to the Klondike.

It may be too early to ask the reasons why the charges were withdrawn—why, when the commissioner was prepared, with his legal adviser, to enter into an investigation of them, and had issued his proclamation inviting any person in the Yukon who had charges to bring them forward, these

charges were withdrawn. This is a question which will be answered later. The answer may be that some of the witnesses had gone. As an hon. gentleman who preceded me stated, a mining population is a shifting population, and some of the evidence which was available on the 25th of August may not be available at this late date. But the same argument applies to the judicial commission. If the evidence is not available in November or January before the commissioner of the Yukon, certainly none of it would be available before a judicial commissioner later in the season.

But it is impossible that Parliament can adopt a resolution or amendment of the absurd character of the one now before the House. Previously when charges or complaints have been made of maladministration, we have had hon. members of this House bringing the charge forward solemnly, under their responsibility as members, stating the nature of the charge, giving the name of the accused, and demanding an investigation at the hands of this House. No such statement has been made in this case, and no one has shown any reasonable ground for demanding such an extraordinary tribunal. It is extremely unfortunate that this matter should have been taken hold of in the way it was. One would suppose that hon. gentlemen, knowing their rights, knowing the gravity of the offence with which they were charging civil officials, would, in the time they had at their disposal since the journals of Seattle, and the United States, and the Opposition journals of the Pacific coast started this agitation, have gathered up all the scandal connected with the Yukon and have taken the opportunity to bring forward in something like concrete shape the allegations upon which they demand a judicial inquiry; but we have had nothing but vague and shadowy charges and the nebulous assertions that men of high standing, representing large interests, are so afraid of the officials in the Yukon that they dare not make any complaints, lest their interests would be affected, even when they know that the officials against whom they wish to complain are no longer in the Yukon. Major Walsh, who was the object of the bitterest attacks on the part of these very susceptible individuals, has long since left that country. Mr. Fawcett has returned to Ottawa, and the other officials are no longer there; and all agree that the present administration of the Yukon is honest and satisfactory. Certainly now, therefore, is the time for these timid individuals to send in their names to Parliament and lend the influence of their authority to gentlemen supporting this amendment. But no; we have no such challenge thrown out. Instead of that, not for the purpose of purifying the administration, not for the purpose of punishing certain individuals who may have been guilty of misconduct, not for the purpose of improving matters out

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in the Yukon, not for the purpose of allaying any distrust in public sentiment abroad or any feeling against the credit and integrity of Canada, but solely for the purpose of stirring up party feeling in the Yukon, of making party capital against the Administration, have these vague charges been brought forward. In fact, the hon. senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) made no bones about stating that the person he was aiming at is the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), and that it is the intention of the Opposition to drive that hon. gentleman from public life. But these hon. gentlemen opposite could not succeed in doing that; they would fail in injuring his reputation in the slightest degree, even though they could prove that any of the under officials of the Yukon had been guilty of misconduct or taking bribes. To hold that a Minister of the Crown is personally affected by charges thrust home against subordinate officials exercising their powers 3,000 to 4,000 miles away, is utterly absurd. But we know these hon. gentlemen have a grudge against the hon. Minister of the Interior, because he it was who, perhaps more than any other man, checkmated some of their schemes previous to the election of 1896. He it is whom these hon. gentlemen desire to injure in the estimation of his Liberal friends and the country generally. They are actuated by no desire to purify the administration of the Yukon or to improve public sentiment in the mother country, but solely by a desire to create party capital against the Administration. I would recommend these hon. gentlemen to have patience. I recommend them to await the result of the investigation now under way—an investigation in efficient hands, an investigation on the spot, where all parties will be heard, and where every one accused will have an opportunity of presenting his defence—and when the report of that investigation comes in, the whole country will have an opportunity of seeing to what extent the assertions so frequently made are extravagant or based upon the true interests and welfare of the country. For my part—and I believe I speak generally for the supporters of the Administration—we have every confidence in Mr. Ogilvie as a man of intelligence, capacity and integrity, and believe there is no occasion for supplanting him by the appointment of a judicial tribunal, and no legislature that would respect itself would accept an amendment of this kind, and thus stultify itself in the eyes of the world.

Mr. J. B. MILLS (Annapolis). When the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) closed his speech, Mr. Speaker, I think I had your eye, and consequently the right to the floor, but I saw that my hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule) was loaded, and, not wishing to inconvenience him, I withdrew from my right and gave him prece-

dence. I shall now, however, endeavour to address you and the House on the questions before us. This debate started on a very broad basis, but has become very narrow, relatively speaking, but sufficiently broad to still merit the attention of every well-wisher of his country. It began upon the Address to His Excellency, which allows the opportunity to all members of Parliament to air broadcast before the House their grievances upon every question within the four corners of the Address, and sometimes within the four corners outside of it. But as soon as an amendment to the Address is moved, we are, by the rule of the House, confined to the four corners of that amendment. That amendment is as follows:—

It was moved by the hon. member for Toronto (Mr. Clarke) : That this House deems it expedient to inform His Excellency that, in view of the widespread charges of incapacity, misconduct and corruption in the administration of public affairs connected with the Yukon, it is the duty of the Government to appoint without delay an independent judicial commission to make a thorough investigation into that subject and report the result.

That amendment was spoken to, and afterwards another member for Toronto, the member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), moved an amendment, as follows:—

That all the words after "His Excellency," in the amendment be left out, and the following inserted in lieu thereof:—That we have observed with pleasure that, on receipt of complaints against some of the officials in the Yukon district, His Excellency took action to inquire into the matter of such complaints by appointing Mr. William Ogilvie as a commissioner for that purpose. Having entire confidence in the integrity and ability of Mr. Ogilvie, we are satisfied that his inquiry will be impartial and thorough, and that it will place His Excellency's Advisers in possession of all the information necessary to enable them to do justice to all parties concerned.

These amendments bring the discussion, relatively speaking, within narrow limits. They confine it to one subject, but that subject is broad, and important, and well worthy the attention of all well-wishers of their country. It was directly brought before this House and country by the senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), in his speech, which I had not the pleasure of hearing, as I was absent from the House, not having arrived here, but which I have had the pleasure of reading, and I know that, whatever hon. gentlemen opposite may say with reference to my hon. friend, there is one thing of which they cannot accuse him, as he has been accused in this House, and that is cowardice. There are a great many things that people have said about the Tupper; but let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, there is one thing they cannot say of them—that they ever turned their back upon a foe. And let me tell you, and let me tell this House, that although the senior member for Pictou left this House after delivering his long address, still, I am authoritatively informed this was only a

preliminary canter, and that he will again be heard on this subject. I have it on very good authority that the hon. gentleman did not turn his back upon the arraignment of the government of the Yukon that he made before he left, but that he will return and renew that arraignment, to the discomfiture of the administration of the Interior.

Now, what is the issue before Parliament to-day? Boiled down, it is simply this: It is agreed on all sides that there has been sufficient malfeasance in office in the Yukon to warrant a commission to investigate it; where we differ is as to the personnel of the commission. The Opposition say that the charges and the suspicions of charges—and I speak by the book when I make use of that term—are sufficiently grave to have a non-partisan commission. What authority do I have for the phrase "a suspicion of charges?" No less an authority than Prime Minister Pitt, who, in 1788, on a motion for inquiry into the conduct of the Admiralty in England, said:

That the House—

Not the department—

That the House of Parliament had a constitutional power of inquiry into the conduct of any department of the Government, with a view either of censure or punishment was unquestioned; and whenever a case was made out strong enough to warrant suspicion of abuse that deserved either censure or punishment, he should ever hold it to be the indispensable duty of the House to proceed to inquiry.

Fox, speaking on the same subject and in the same debate, said:

It was the constitutional province and undoubted duty of the House to watch over the executive departments, and, where they had cause to suspect abuse,—

To suspect abuse—note that—

—to institute an inquiry with a view to censure or punishment.

Now, will hon. members of this House tell me or tell you, Mr. Speaker, that they did not suspect abuse when they commissioned Mr. Ogilvie to go out to the Yukon and institute an investigation? But the commission that Mr. Ogilvie had was too narrow in its scope. It only had reference to the petition of the miners. The miners held a meeting and sent a petition to the Prime Minister. That petition was sent to the Minister of the Interior, and a commission was issued to Mr. Ogilvie to investigate the matter—with reference to the miners petition entirely. I will quote that commission and the letter accompanying it. The following is the letter, which I quote, as it was given by the Minister of the Interior in his speech:—

Ottawa, 10th October, 1898.

Dear Sir,—You will receive herewith a commission to investigate charges which have been made by a miners' committee against the administration of Government affairs in the Yukon district. This commission has been issued in

consequence of the receipt of a formal complaint, a copy of which is attached to the commission. You will at once proceed upon receipt of the commission with the investigation, and you are authorized to notify the persons who have signed the petition, wherever possible, of the time and place and when the inquiry will be opened.

You will observe there was no reference whatever to any other charge or set of charges than these contained within the four corners of the petition from the miners :

Your legal adviser, Mr. Clement, will give you any professional assistance that may be required in the investigation. You will understand that any person who is charged with malfeasance of office or offence of any kind against the proper administration of the law in any department is entitled, before the hearing of the charges, to due notice of the particulars of the charge, so that he can prepare himself to meet the charge if he so desires.

As to employment of counsel, I will leave you to exercise your own judgment, merely remarking that if the persons preferring the charges desire to appear by counsel I see no objection to such a course being followed. In such cases, of course, any accused persons who desire to appear by counsel will have a similar privilege.

It is the desire of the Government that the investigation should be thorough and complete, and that each and every charge that has been made in the miners' petition should be thoroughly investigated, and that you should make a definite report, giving your findings upon the evidence submitted in support of each charge, returning your report along with a copy of the evidence.

It is absolutely necessary that your report should be in my hands before the meeting of Parliament,—

That was in October. Parliament has been in session now for about a month, and still we have not that report.

—and I shall therefore expect you to send it out by special messenger, if necessary, as soon as the ice is in condition to permit of travel southward from Dawson City.

Therefore, it will be seen that the contention of members on this side of the House is that the commission given to Mr. Ogilvie has not sufficient scope to go in to all the charges and all these suspicions of charges, all the suspicions of malfeasance in office, that have been reported throughout the length and breadth of this country, not only in the newspapers, but on the floor of this House. We have had the hon. senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), we have had the hon. member for Victoria, B.C. (Mr. Prior), we have had the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), giving these charges, and we have had the hon. leader of the Opposition giving these charges, which surely amount to a suspicion of a charge, at the least; and I think that before I am finished, I will show you that they amount to more than that, sufficient to warrant a thorough investigation, not only into the conduct of the officials of the Yukon, but of the entire administration of the Yukon. Now, I listened with a great deal of plea-

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sure, as I always do, to the speech of the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), but before I got through listening to his speech I came to the conclusion that all the truth had not been told with reference to the administration of the Yukon district. Why? Simply because I have made considerable of a study of that hon. gentleman since I have had the honour of a seat in this Parliament. I have heard the hon. member since 1887 upon the floors of this House, many and many a time, and I have always noticed that when he pounds the desk with fury, causing one to wish that the desk, in order that Government property might be well protected, should be boiler-plated, iron-kneed and copper-fastened in order to withstand the vehement physical attacks of the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and when he turns with such a decided and contorted gesture, first north, then directly south, to the imminent destruction, perhaps, of his vertebræ, I have found it always to be the case that that gentleman is endeavouring to make himself believe that black is white or that white is black, or that there is some kicking back-bencher who has to be brought into line. I do not think that I was far astray in my estimate of the hon. Minister's harangue the other evening, when he thus spoke to this House upon the Yukon administration. He was very vehement, he pictured the hon. Minister of the Interior as almost an angel. He told this House and the country: "We promised you a good and pure administration, and we are bound to give it to you." That raised my suspicions at once; and I believe, Mr. Speaker, that one-half the truth is not yet known with reference to the maladministration of this Yukon district, and it can only be known when we get a thoroughly impartial commissioner, when we get a man who will not be bound by any partisan consideration whatever. It has been hurled across this House that we speak of Mr. Ogilvie as a hired man. We do speak of Mr. Ogilvie as a hired man, but in no offensive sense whatever. Can we not speak of any person being a hired man without being offensive to that man? I have the utmost regard for Mr. Ogilvie, I have the utmost regard for his honour and integrity, and always have had. I have read his report of the Yukon district, and have always been favourably impressed with that gentleman. But for all that, he is a partisan, he is a hired man of the Minister of the Interior, he is a hireling, if you please. I say that in no offensive sense, with no offensive meaning whatever to that gentleman, simply stating the fact that he is a hireling, and being a hireling, is directly under the thumb of the Minister whose administration is at the present time brought to book. He is no more fit to investigate the charges of maladministration in the Yukon than the biggest political partisan that ever stepped. What

we want, what this country wants, and what every well-wisher of this country wants, is that these charges should be thoroughly investigated. Let there be a man appointed who is thoroughly impartial, let there be men—if you wish for more than one—be appointed who are removed by virtue of their position from any political influence. We have such men, the judiciary are such men, even if they have been in former life politicians. Still they are men who can well weigh these matters, they are responsible men, responsible in intellect and in every way. These men can be found, and it is such men who should be appointed to make an investigation into the Yukon affairs.

Now, the hon. Minister of Finance also aroused my suspicions by reason of his address, suspicious, knowing the hon. gentleman as I do, amounting to a conviction, because I have followed the course of that hon. gentleman for a long number of years. It is a well known axiom in Nova Scotia, as testified by the leading Liberal journal in that province, that to know what the Liberal party will do at any time is to note what they have done in the provinces in which they have power. Now, the hon. the Prime Minister of Canada has seen fit to gather around him in his Cabinet some gentlemen who were Prime Ministers of the different provinces of this Dominion. The hon. the Minister of Finance is one of these former Prime Ministers. He led the Government in Nova Scotia for a long number of years, and whenever I hear the hon. gentleman making the kind of a speech that he did this afternoon, I am always sure that he is endeavouring to cover up something. I am always sure that he is endeavouring to make black white, or white black, whichever the case may be. So far as investigations into charges are concerned, the hon. gentleman is a past-master. We have had considerable experience with reference to charges of maladministration in office, and of corrupt dealing with officials in the local legislature of Nova Scotia. I will refer to one of them in order to show you how it is that the Minister of Finance worked, in reference to these investigations in the province of Nova Scotia, and to draw a parallel in reference to the present one. I shall do it very shortly, for I do not, as a rule, make long speeches, and I do not intend to weary the House. There was in Nova Scotia a large expenditure of road money, and the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Cahan, made a charge against the expenditure of these road moneys in the counties of Cape Breton. He formulated a charge, which I shall read, and it is contained in the following resolution:—

Resolved, that the following statements be referred to a select committee, to be composed of seven members of this House, to inquire fully into the allegations therein made, and especially, but without limiting the scope of such inquiry, to investigate all circumstances connected with the construction and repair of roads under the pro-

visions of chapter 2 of the Acts of 1889 and chapter 4 of the Acts of 1890, the appointment of supervisors, inspectors, paymasters, roadmakers, foremen or other officials and employees of the Department of Public Works, under the provisions of said Acts; the expenditure of public moneys apportioned to the several counties or municipalities under the provisions of said Acts, in payments made to contractors, foremen, workmen, or other officials of the Department of Public Works engaged or employed under the provisions of said Acts, with power to send for persons, papers and records, to examine witnesses upon oath or affirmation;

And that the committee do report in full the evidence taken before them, and all their proceedings on the reference, and the result of their inquiries;

Charles H. Cahan, one of the members representing the electoral district of Shelburne, in this House, having declared from his seat in this House, that he is credibly informed and that he believes that he is able to establish by satisfactory evidence:

1. That, under the Road Acts of 1889 and 1890, the sum of six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) was appropriated and apportioned to the several counties and municipalities for the construction and repair of roads;

2. That it was provided by the Road Act of 1889 (chapter 2 of the Acts of 1889), that no part of the three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) thereby appropriated for the construction and repair of roads, should be expended on any section unless such section shall have been brought under the operation of this Act by Order of the Governor in Council;

3. That by the Amending Act of 1890 (chapter 4 of the Acts of 1890) the aforesaid provision was repealed, and the authority to expend these moneys and the responsibility for their proper expenditure were vested directly in the government, acting through the Department of Public Works;

4. That the work of constructing and repairing roads, under the Road Acts of 1889 and 1890 (chapter 2, 1889, and chapter 4, 1890), has not been carried on by contract or otherwise under the direction of the provincial engineer, or of such roadmakers as were appointed for the purpose by the Commissioner of Public Works and Mines;

5. That although six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) was appropriated to and apportioned to the several counties and municipalities, to be expended under the provisions of said Road Acts, the said expenditure was, with the knowledge of the Commissioner of Public Works and Mines, and of the officials of said department, not made, in respect of work or repairs, carried on by contract or otherwise, under the direction of the provincial engineer or of such roadmakers as were appointed for the purpose by the Commissioner of Public Works and Mines;

6. That members of the government, the Department of Public Works and members of this House supporting the government, conspired together to violate the provisions of said Acts governing the appointments of supervisors, paymasters, foremen and other employees of the Department of Public Works; that illegal appointments were made by these members personally; that illegal and unauthorized expenditures were incurred by appointees who had received no commissions from the Department of Public Works, and that expenditures were made without proper supervision on behalf of the Department of Public Works or its regularly constituted officials and employees;

7. That members of the government, the Department of Public Works and its officials, and

members of this House supporting the government, conspired to violate the regulations of said department governing the payment of foremen, workmen and others engaged or employed under the provisions of the Road Acts of 1889 and 1890; and that, in violation of said regulations, members of this House, supporting the government, undertook to make, and did themselves personally make, payments on the said Acts;

8. That payments were made in violation of the instructions issued by the Department of Public Works and in a manner detrimental to the public interest, and to the pecuniary profit of members of this House supporting the government;

9. That false and fraudulent returns of expenditures, purporting to have been incurred on the said Acts, were returned to the Department of Public Works;

10. That there were fraudulently placed on the pay-sheets for certain road sections the names of workmen employed by, and who did not work under the supervision and direction of the foremen to whom commissions were issued by the Department of Public Works, constituting them foremen for and authorizing expenditures in these road sections;

11. That pay-sheets were fraudulently prepared, purporting to show larger expenditures than were actually incurred under the supervision and direction of the foremen commissioned by the Department of Public Works to make expenditures in these several road sections;

12. That vouchers of payments made, or alleged to have been made, were not returned with the pay-sheets to the Department of Public Works by its regularly commissioned paymasters;

13. That the Department of Public Works received and approved pay-sheets to which were appended false and fraudulent declarations as to the accuracy of accounts, and as to the actual expenditure of the sums set forth therein;

14. That members of this House supporting the government conspired with the officials and employees of the Department of Public Works to connive at the making, or to aid, abet and procure the making, of false and fraudulent declarations as to the accuracy of accounts, and as to the actual expenditure of the sums set forth in pay-sheets returned to said department;

15. That members of this House supporting the government appropriating to their own use public moneys which were authorized to be drawn and expended by officials of the Department of Public Works under the provisions of the Road Acts, 1889 and 1890;

16. That owing to the circumstances above set forth, the purpose of this legislature, in making appropriations under the Road Acts of 1889 and 1890, to effect the construction of new roads and the improvement of existing roads, in a substantial and durable manner, was in a great measure frustrated; that these circumstances derogated from the dignity and impaired the independence of this House; that they have reflected discredit upon the government of this province, and that they have brought the administration of the Department of Public Works into scandalous disrepute;

And further resolved, that Mr. Laurence, Mr. Webster, Mr. McGregor, Mr. William Cameron, Mr. Law, Mr. Oxley, and Mr. Welton constitute the said special committee;

That the said special committee be instructed to allow parties to this inquiry to be heard before the committee in person, and, if desired, by counsel;

That leave of the House be given to the committee to employ short-hand writers and type-

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writers for the purpose of taking down the evidence received before the said committee;

That leave of the House be given to the committee to have all the proceedings of, and evidence taken before, the committee printed or type-written from day to day for the use of members of said committee, or of the parties to this inquiry, or of counsel heard before them;

That leave of the House be given to the said committee to adjourn from place to place, as may be found expedient, and to report to this House from time to time, as may be found necessary.

Mr. Fielding, the present Finance Minister in this Government, then called the attention of the mover of the resolution to the fact that he undertook to name the members of the committee, which was contrary to the custom and rules of the House. This resolution was discussed by the members of that day. It was seconded by Dr. Bethune, who has a seat in this House.

Mr. BENNETT Where?

Mr. MILLS. On the opposite side of the House.

Mr. BENNETT How did he get there?

Mr. MILLS. On the Government side of this House. He seconded the resolution moved by the leader of the Opposition in the local House of that day, and it was thoroughly discussed. The discussions, any one can read them, are very much similar to the discussions we have heard upon the charges here that have been circulated in reference to maladministration in the Yukon. The hon. senior member for Pictou was accused of cowardice for not naming the parties. The Prime Minister of that day, the present Finance Minister in this House, did not go so far as to accuse Mr. Cahan and the supporters of that resolution with cowardice for not naming the parties, but he got his colleague, the Attorney General, Mr. James Wilberforce Longley, to utter these charges of cowardice, and it would look as if the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) had been reading the speeches of the Attorney General of Nova Scotia, for they are upon the same lines and would apply equally as well as those of the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Mr. Longley calls them "flippant charges," "serious charges," he also said, made against the Government, must be met and dealt with. He continued:

No person in Nova Scotia outside of a lunatic asylum imagined there was any wrongdoing on the part of the Government in connection with the expenditure of this money.

Thus, Mr. Longley spoke along the same lines as the Minister of Marine, when he (Sir Louis Davies), lifting his hand to high Heaven, and turning with a benevolent and kindly look upon the Minister of the Interior, called every person to witness what an immaculate individual he (Mr. Sifton) was with reference to the administration of the Yukon. Said Mr. Longley:

The course of the member for Shelburne (Mr. Cahan) was unprecedented in cowardice.

Almost the exact language has been hurled from the Government benches towards the senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) with reference to the Yukon charges. Mr. Longley continued :

The charge made by him was opposed to every principle of parliamentary procedure, and only indicated that, in his case, cowardice was added to ignorance.

I read that as a statement of the debate that took place at that time, showing that no investigation would be allowed upon charges that were well formulated, and afterwards the names of the parties given—and I rather think that the same thing will be enacted in this House, for rather than to have parties who should be punished go unwhipt of justice, the names of parties will be given, and a direct charge will eventually be made, as was made in Nova Scotia. I could go on and show you that amendment after amendment was moved, but I do not desire to weary the House with it. I will simply read one amendment, which shows to what narrow limits the charge was brought eventually, and upon what the committee was appointed to investigate. There were a great many amendments put in between the original resolution and this last amendment, but I will forbear to read them, and will simply quote this :

Mr. Cahan moved the following resolution :—

That all the words in the motion of the Hon. Mr. Fielding after "That" be struck out, and the following added thereto :—

"On Tuesday, the 8th day of March, Mr. C. H. Cahan, one of the members of this House for the county of Shelburne, moved for a select committee of inquiry to investigate all the circumstances connected with the construction and repair of roads under the provisions of chapter 2 of the Acts of 1889, and chapter 4 Acts of 1890, and the expenditure of public moneys appropriated under said Acts. That in setting forth the grounds on which the appointment of a select committee of inquiry was urged, the said member declared that he was creditably informed and that he believed that he was able to establish by satisfactory evidence, among other facts, that the Government and the Department of Public Works had not expended these moneys in accordance with the provisions of said Acts, and that illegal expenditures had been made with the knowledge of the Commissioner of Public Works and Mines, and that various frauds had been perpetrated with the knowledge and connivance of the Department of Public Works and its officials in connection with these transactions, and that members of this House supporting the Government would be shown to be implicated in this transaction.

That the said member stated in the course of debate on the said motion "that he was assured that the statutory declarations and documentary evidence in his possession was of such a character as to justify a member of this House in making the statements which he then made."

"That this House by a majority vote passed a resolution under which no inquiry is permitted,

into all the circumstances connected with the construction and repair of roads and the expenditure of public moneys appropriated under said Acts, nor into the allegations that the Government and the Department of Public Works had not expended these moneys in accordance with the provisions of the said Acts, nor into the allegation that illegal expenditures had been made, with the knowledge of the Commissioner of Public Works and Mines ; nor into the allegation that various frauds had been perpetrated with the knowledge and connivance of the Department of Public Works and its officials.

That shows what was cut from the original resolution ; that shows to what narrow scope the investigation finally was confined.

"That instead of exercising its power to strike out from the statements on which Mr. Cahan based his resolution for the appointment of a select committee of inquiry, any which might implicate members of the House, and which were regarded as too vague and indefinite for the purposes of the proposed inquiry before this House by resolution precluded a general inquiry and declared that before it would entertain charges against members of this House it would require the name of each member accused and the particulars of the charges in each case.

"That this House having declined to appoint a select committee of inquiry on the grounds set forth by Mr. Cahan to investigate all the circumstances connected with the construction and repair of roads, and the expenditures of public moneys appropriated under said Acts, has no power or authority to order the said member to make specific charges with more detailed particulars against individual members of this House, nor to order the said member to place on the Table of the House the statutory declarations and documentary evidence in his possession, which justified him in moving for such select committee of inquiry.

It was rightly argued by Mr. Cahan and the members supporting him at that time, that, if he gave all his knowledge to the Government of the day, then, the parties who were accused could very easily—as afterwards turned out to be the case—take to the woods or get out of the country. When that matter did come to an investigation, and when subpoenas were issued—subpoenas that were not allowed to be issued until the names of the parties were given—the parties subpoenaed could not be served, for they had taken to the woods and cleared out of the country. Dr. Bethune, the sitting member for Victoria in this House, seconded that resolution of Mr. Cahan. There was another amendment to this resolution, and that amendment was moved by Mr. Webster and seconded by Hon. Mr. Fielding, the present Minister of Finance in this Government. It was as follows :—

That the following words be added to the amendment :—

"And that this House affirms that its constitutional power of inquiring into any department of the Government with a view either to censure or punishment is unquestionable, and whenever a case is made out sufficiently strong to warrant the suspicion of abuse it is the indispensable duty of the House to institute such an inquiry."

That was seconded by the Hon. Mr. Fielding, then Prime Minister of Nova Scotia, now Finance Minister of Canada, and it follows almost to the exact words the precedent as laid down by the Prime Minister Pitt, and seconded by Mr. Fox, in 1788. The matter went to an investigation, mainly upon what I have read. The committee was appointed, but delay after delay was experienced, and the investigation was only held in the very last days of the sittings of the House. But even though the investigation was so narrowed in its scope, there was sufficient brought out to convince any well-disposed mind that a great fraud had been perpetrated and a great injustice had been done by not having a thorough investigation of all these matters with reference to the administration of that day. I will give to the House a resumé of what was proven at that investigation. It was proved that members of the House, supporting the Government, had connived at the making of false and fraudulent statutory declarations; that fraudulent pay-sheets had been made out, and false declarations attached thereto; and the Commissioner of Works and Mines, the then colleague of the Finance Minister in this Federal Government, had wrongfully ante-dated road commissions for the expenditure of provincial money, and placed them in the hands of members supporting the Government. The investigation also proved that the law had been grossly violated, every safeguard broken down, and thousands of dollars had been unjustly paid out by the Government. To particularize one or two items as a sample, out of hundreds that were brought out by that investigation, out of seventy pay sheets taken up in Victoria County, in Cape Breton, it had been proved that not a single foreman had spent all the money purported to have been expended. Benjamin Roper, of Cape North, spent only \$93, while he was fraudulently reported to have spent \$529. R. G. Burke, a merchant of Victoria, was down for an expenditure of \$142, but he had not spent a dollar, and no commission had been ever issued to him. That money was never expended on the roads, and no steps have been taken to punish the forgery of Burke's name on the fraudulent proceedings which were connected with this disgraceful affair. That, in short is the result of that investigation. As I have said, this investigation took place in the last days of the sitting of the House, when everything was hurried. You all know how time can be killed in Parliament.

Mr. EDWARDS. Yes, we know now.

Mr. MILLS. Not so much now, perhaps, as on former occasions. No one can rightfully accuse me of killing time in this or any other Parliament. I have no desire to hear myself talk. The hon. member for Russell (Mr. Edwards) may have that desire. A member of this House once asked

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me to give him an opportunity to speak in this House, and he offered me \$50 to come into this House and abuse him so as to give him an opportunity to kill time. That member is not a thousand miles from me at the present time. But notwithstanding this imperfect investigation, which was very much narrowed in its scope, what I have read was proved by that investigation, and so impressed was the Government of that day in Nova Scotia with what had been made public by it, that they thought it best to send a commission down into Cape Breton during the recess to investigate the irregularities there; and whom do you suppose they appointed on that commission? No less a man than the Attorney General of Nova Scotia, the colleague of the Prime Minister, Mr. Fielding, the present Minister of Finance of this Government. That gentleman was sent down into Cape Breton as a commissioner to investigate these charges; and how did he do it? He did it a la Longley; he sent a telegram announcing his approach. He sent a telegram to the municipal council of Baddeck telling them that he would be there to investigate all charges or irregularities with reference to the expenditure of public money. The municipal council very properly told him that it did not come within their jurisdiction, that they had nothing to do with the expenditure of road moneys; and therefore Mr. Longley went down into Baddeck without notifying anybody who had anything to do with the expenditure of these road moneys, except the Liberal member for the county and the Victoria road inspector, Mr. Mackenzie. They went down through the county and held an ex parte investigation. There were no cross-examinations on the other side; no member of the Opposition was asked to be there. It was purely an ex parte investigation, and Mr. Longley brought it to a close, and made his report to the legislature at its next session.

Now, this investigation in Nova Scotia was very similar to the investigation proposed here. The investigation proposed here by the Government is a semi-ex parte investigation. It is an investigation that is entirely restricted to the charges in the petition of the miners, whereas there are other charges that have been given to this House and the country. One of those charges in particular I will refer to, that is, the matter of Mr. Philp. I read the speech of the hon. Minister of the Interior in reply to the hon. senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), and I must confess that I was struck, not that it was a complete answer to the arraignment which the hon. senior member for Pictou had made, but rather a speech of confession and avoidance. It was a speech of special pleading and specious argument, and a general whine of what an enormous job he had on hand. If the hon. Minister of the Interior thought it was child's play to take charge of a department of this Government,

I presume that by this time he has found out that he was very much mistaken. I can readily conceive that it is no child's play, and it should be no child's play. But the members of this House are not here to sympathize with any Minister when he comes whining before the public, and assuring them of the tremendous difficulties he has on his hands, and what an enormous job he had to do this and to do that.

We expect him to have difficulties, we expect every Minister to have difficulties, every man who takes a position of responsibility must expect to have difficulties, and if ever there was a coward it would be one who would endeavour to extract from the House and the country sympathy because he had a heavy job on hand. I have no sympathy at all with any one who will attempt to extract sympathy from the House and country on any such pretext. The hon. Minister of the Interior had his duty to perform, he had to create an organization in a new country. That task was beset with difficulties, but to a man of the calibre of the Minister of the Interior, as he is so often described to us by his friends, that should have been but mere child's play. He found, however, that it was not mere child's play, but a pretty heavy job, and he had considerable difficulty in performing it. I shall not attempt to go into all the matters that the hon. Minister brought up in his speech, but I was particularly struck with his reference to this Philp matter. I contend that if any unprejudiced mind will take the facts, not as they have been charged, but as they have been confessed by the hon. Minister himself, such a mind will find sufficient to warrant a commission of inquiry, in accordance with the precedent laid down by the Prime Minister Pitt and seconded by Mr. Fox, in 1878, and endorsed by Mr. Fielding in the legislature of Nova Scotia in 1892. What was that precedent? It was this:

That whenever a case was made out strong enough to warrant suspicion of abuse that deserved either censure or punishment, he held it to be the indispensable duty of the House to proceed to an inquiry.

Now, what have we with reference to this Philp matter. I have not the slightest desire to distort or mistake the facts, and I hope that I have not and shall not in any way. What did the Minister of the Interior say? We find on page 877 of "Hansard," that he is reported as having said:

The story was circulated at the coast that he had given Mr. Philp a liquor permit, and that he had taken liquor into the Klondike, and with that charity which covers a multitude of sins, the story was industriously circulated that I was his partner in connection with the taking of liquor into that country. Well, Mr. Speaker, he never had a liquor permit from me or my department, directly or indirectly, or in any way, shape or form, by or under the authority of any member of this Government. I hold Mr. Philp's written statement, which he is prepared to fortify by a statutory declaration that will render him amenable to an indictment for perjury if not

true, that he never took liquor into the Klondike in any way, shape or form.

That may be all true.

Mr. Philp came to me one day in my office,—  
Now, this is the confession and the avoidance.

—and said that Major Walsh, having made this order about requiring 600 pounds of provisions for each person going over the Pass, he intended going up to the Yukon on a short visit—that he was just going in and out—and wanted me to give him an order to go in without the 600 pounds of provisions. I said to him: We do not need any order, the police will not stop you; you are not going as a prospector, and besides the police have not the authority to stop you.

I believe that if the Minister of the Interior had stopped there, the matter would have been all right.

The order is, to all intents and purposes, an advisory order.

Here is the avoidance:

If any one goes in without that amount of provisions the police will not stop him; they have not the authority to do it. He, however, said he did not want to have any trouble with the police, and asked me to give him a letter, which I did. I wrote this letter:

There is a slight discrepancy between the letter as given by the Minister of the Interior and the letter as read by the leader of the Opposition, which I shall point out. This is the hon. Minister's version:

This will introduce to you Mr. Philp, who will be permitted to enter the Yukon district with such provisions as he may choose to take with him, without regard to the regulations.

Then, and it is a very suspicious circumstance, the hon. Minister of the Interior endeavoured to drag in the partner of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper. He said:

When Mr. Philp stopped at the coast, like the partner of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), and a great many other distinguished gentlemen, he desired to become interested in the bringing of liquor into the Yukon.

Now, the hon. leader of the Opposition the other night, as a sequel to this confession of the Minister of the Interior, read the following:

—, October 4th, 1898.

W. H. Bunting, Esq.,  
"Mail and Empire," Toronto.

Dear Sir,—When in Victoria, B.C., in June last, a gentleman introduced himself to me, and in substance said he had a permit to take a large quantity of liquor into the Yukon district, and wanted to know if I knew a certain distiller. I replied in the affirmative, and wished to see before taking hold of the deal in any way, the bona fide nature of the transaction. A telegram was sent at my suggestion to Victoria, where the original order or permit was held; an answer came back, which I saw, stating that the original, signed by Clifford Sifton, could be forwarded by next steamer if necessary. The party in whose favour the permit was, was Mr. Philp, partner

of Clifford Sifton, of Brandon. I asked who was interested in the matter beside the party who offered it to me; he said that Philp was to receive \$5,000 in cash when order or permit was handed over, and one-third of the profits at the end of the deal. I then would have nothing to do with it; did not think seriously of having anything to do with it at any time.

And this is a copy of the original order, and although it differs slightly from that read by the hon. Minister of the Interior, it is in substance the same:

Ottawa, 13th May, 1898.

To the Officers and Officials in the Yukon Territory:

This introduces Mr. Philp, who has a permit to enter the Yukon district with such provisions as he may see fit to take with him, without regard to the usual regulations.

Now then, we have those facts given by the hon. Minister of the Interior himself and supplemented by the gentleman who writes this letter and who has given an exact copy of the order as shown to him by Mr. Philp in Victoria and which, although it differs slightly from that read by the hon. Minister, is in substance the same. It is in evidence that Mr. Philp was a former partner of the Minister of the Interior. We have the statement of the hon. Minister that when he assumed a position in the Government, he ceased to be associated as partner with Mr. Philp. We are bound to take that statement, and I do not dispute it in any way. I believe it to be true that they did dissolve partnership at that time. Mr. Philp went up to the Yukon. There was a grand job ahead, of getting as much liquor as he could possibly carry into the Yukon. He wanted to get a good round permit from the Minister of the Interior, which, coupled with the fact that he had been a partner of the Minister of the Interior would enable him to sell that order or permit for a good round sum. That is not only plausible, but it is more; it is very reasonable that Mr. Philp when he got that order or permit from the Minister of the Interior did have the intention of using it in order to get as much liquor into the Yukon as he possibly could. He could go to these officials and say: Here is the Hon. Clifford Sifton's signature, as you cannot dispute, and what does he say? "This introduces Mr. Philp," and you all know that I was a partner of the Minister, and he has given me this permit to "enter the Yukon, with such provisions as he (Mr. Philp) sees fit." Provisions! We all know that when we take provisions on a fishing excursion "provisions" means a little jug of the O-be-joyful. Everybody knows that, and none knew it better than the officials of the Yukon, and Mr. Philp. It is fair and reasonable that this was the interpretation that Mr. Philp put upon that order, and he valued it at no less a sum than ten thousand dollars. Now, there is no permit required to take provisions into the Yukon; but Mr. Philp wanted a permit to take in his pro-

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visions. So far as the direct terms are concerned, the Minister did not give him a permit to take liquor into the Yukon. He might not have meant it; but if we are to believe thoroughly the Minister of the Interior and to believe the evidence that is put before us, we have to come to this conclusion—that Mr. Philp pulled the leg, as it were, of the Minister of the Interior, pulled the leg of him, the innocent man, and got an order from that innocent man for carrying liquor into the Yukon, which order Mr. Philp valued at ten thousand dollars. Now, I say there are facts enough in that transaction to cause a suspicion of malpractice against the Administration. There is enough in that transaction to arouse such a suspicion of abuse of the power of the Minister of the Interior as to call for an investigation under the precedent established by Prime Minister Pitt in 1778, which I have already read and which was endorsed by the Prime Minister of Nova Scotia, who is now the Minister of Finance, in 1892.

Now, I listened attentively to what the Minister of Finance said, and endeavoured to understand the points he dealt with. I must confess that he endeavoured to cover up more points than he made. He sought to create the impression that the Opposition were endeavouring to aid aliens, and that he, of all the men in this country was crying out for protection to the British flag. He urged that we put no search-light upon the private life of any individual. I say that it is unworthy the dignity of the Finance Minister of this country to make a stump speech in this Parliament, and his use of such arguments is just what the back bencher would do in making a stump speech here to circulate amongst his constituents. Who wants to have a search-light put upon the private life of any individual in this country? I do not believe that that was the intention of the senior member for Pictou, and I know perfectly well that I have no such intention and it would be news to me to hear that any member on this side of the House had any desire to throw a search-light upon the private life of any individual and expose it before the country. But when a man's private life comes in contact with his public work, it is proper and right that to the extent that his private life does come in contact with his public work, that private life becomes subject to public scrutiny, the motto being: "Hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may." If, in the investigation, it be shown that Major Walsh did do things that he had no right to do, that he abused his power as administrator of the Yukon, then, no member of Parliament, in order to refrain from holding that man's private life up to gaze should refrain from giving his opinion upon facts upon which the public have an interest. If Major Walsh was all right, why need he fear an investigation? If the Minister of the Interior is

all right, why need he fear an investigation? Why do they not do, as has often been done before—declare that they will throw down the barriers, will take no advantage of legal technicalities, but believing themselves to be pure and to have done what was right, submit their case for examination. If they are ready to say with the Minister of Marine and Fisheries: We promised you pure Government, and thank God we are giving it to you, why do they not throw down all barriers and invite investigation into this matter? If you were to do such a thing as that, it would be one of the greatest knock down blows that the leader of the Opposition ever received in his life. The very fact that you do not do it, creates suspicion of abuse, and the country will hold you responsible for that. The Minister of Finance seemed to think that the only thing he needed to mention in order to prove that an officer was good and holy, was that he had been appointed by a Liberal-Conservative Administration; and in order to show that a regulation was good and pure, it was only necessary for him to show that it was the regulation under the Liberal-Conservative regime. I was led to believe from what I had heard the members of the Government say when they were in Opposition, that the Conservatives never did anything that was right, that they never appointed a correct man to a position, that nothing they ever did was right. Now, a great deal was said by the Minister of Finance with reference to the horse dealer and the whaler. The whaler happened to be a man from Nova Scotia, and the Minister of Finance wanted to be sure that Nova Scotians were not maligned, that this whaler was not maligned, for if this whaler was maligned, I am sure some of those fishermen in Sheburne would vote against him in the next election, therefore, he must pronounce a eulogium upon the whalers and the fishermen in Nova Scotia. I consider that clap trap very much beneath the dignity of the Finance Minister of this Dominion, and it is by reason of so much of that being in his speech that the country will conclude that there is a great deal more of malfeasance in office in connection with these Yukon affairs than has yet been developed. He has also talked about blackguarding Ogilvie. Now, nobody has ever blackguarded Ogilvie. Every member of the Opposition, I am sure, has a high respect for Mr. Ogilvie. I have never yet heard one whisper about blackguarding Mr. Ogilvie; all we say is that Mr. Ogilvie is not the proper man to investigate these charges. And why is he not a proper man to investigate these charges? He is a hired man, if you please—I say that in no offensive sense—he is a hireling, if you like, a hireling of the present Administration, and being a hireling, he is not a fit person to investigate these matters. The Minister of Finance asked why should a judicial man be appointed. Why is the Administration so afraid of the judges? When we had the

Franchise Act before us last session, they were terribly afraid of judges, afraid of an appeal to judges. And by the way, I have heard nothing in Nova Scotia of any influence being brought to bear by the Prime Minister of this Dominion upon the Government of Nova Scotia to amend their Franchise Act so as to allow an appeal from the revisers' court to the judges and not to the sheriffs.

The PRIME MINISTER. Do you want to see the correspondence?

Mr. MILLS. I should like to see it very much.

The PRIME MINISTER. Very well, if you will move for it I will bring it down.

Mr. MILLS. I should like to see it very much. Will the hon. gentleman take this as a motion for that correspondence.

The PRIME MINISTER. I think you had better move for it.

Mr. MILLS. At all events the Prime Minister has influence with the Government of Nova Scotia. It was not very long ago that I stood in the presence of a Cabinet Minister of this Dominion and of the Attorney General of Nova Scotia, when the Attorney General turned around in a very dramatic manner and shook his finger in the face of the hon. the Minister of Agriculture, and said: I will tell this country and I will tell this people that you may turn me out of my county, you may turn me out of the legislature, if you like, but I will tell you here in the presence of the Canadian Minister of the Crown that I will no longer be a party hack. I heard him say that. Perhaps it was done for a show of independence, and this correspondence will reveal the grounds on which to base such an assertion as that. But it was very funny, it was very amusing to learn that the very next week some one had such an influence with the Attorney General that he moved in his place in the legislature of Nova Scotia a resolution affecting the reform of the Senate, thereby returning to the traces as a veritable party hack. It seems to me that whenever proper influences are brought to bear, some one, whether it is the Prime Minister of this Government or whether it is a hireling of Mackenzie & Mann, some one has some influence yet with the Attorney General in Nova Scotia and his Government. Now, the Minister of Finance says: Having commenced an investigation we should wait for the report of Mr. Ogilvie. A great many things might happen while we are waiting for the report of Mr. Ogilvie. Besides that, Mr. Ogilvie's power of investigation is very much restricted. He has no power to investigate the maladministration of the department in the Yukon, he has no power to investigate suspicions of charges, as was contemplated by the Prime Minister Pitt, and Mr. Fox, in 1788, We have had suspicions of charges sufficient

to ask any administration to grant a thorough investigation into these matters. I say it ill-becomes any Government who has the welfare of the country at heart, to refuse an investigation of that nature. I can remember when in this House the leader of the Government of that day, Sir John Thompson, when charges were being brought with reference to the civil servants in the different departments, threw down all barriers and gave access to all papers and all documents for that purpose. If the Minister of the Interior has done nothing that was improper, if he is immaculate as the Minister of Marine and Fisheries says he is, if we are to have a pure Government, as we have been promised, then why do you not satisfy this House and the country by throwing down all barriers and opening up a free investigation into these matters? As I said before, if that were done, it would be one of the greatest blows ever delivered to the hon. leader of the Opposition. The Government misses a great opportunity in not doing this.

Now, I do not desire to say very much more in reference to this matter with the exception of this: The hon. Minister of Finance says that we, the members of the Opposition, are forced to the Yukon for grounds of attack as we are devoid of all other grounds. He says that we have no grounds upon which to attack the Government of the day but upon this matter of the Yukon, and that we are endeavouring to drive this matter to the bitter end, because it is the last straw that we have to grasp at, that the prophecies of the Liberal-Conservative party have not been fulfilled under this Administration. He says that we had prophesied that there would be deficits, but instead of deficits we have a surplus, that the country would go to ruin and manufacturers would fail, whereas now the manufacturers are flourishing and the country is in a prosperous condition. As one of the Opposition who has been in this House since 1887, I say that I rejoice with the Government of the day that the country is in the prosperous condition that she is in, that the prophecies of the Liberal-Conservative party have been fulfilled to the very letter, that the prophecies of the Liberal-Conservative party have always been that if the policy of the Liberal-Conservative party were adhered to, the country would go on and prosper. The Liberal-Conservative party prophesied that if the policy that was inaugurated by the right hon. Prime Minister and assented to and promulgated over the length and breadth of Canada by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), and the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), had been carried out in its entirety, this country to-day would be in ruins, that instead of having manufacturers flourishing we would have manufacturers in insolvency, that in-

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stead of having the country prosperous, the country would be in ruins.

I was going on to say something with reference to the exodus. There is as much exodus to-day as ever there was, but the only difference is that the Liberal-Conservative papers are not talking about it the way the Grit papers used to talk about it when the Liberal-Conservatives were in power. There are just as many people going to the United States as ever, but I do not call that an exodus. I never have done so and do not now. There is just as much exodus, however, as ever there was. You can look in the papers that do not desire to boom an exodus, that do not desire to puff an exodus, and they will give you authentic accounts of people going to and from, between the maritime provinces and the United States, precisely the same, and more, than ever was done before. And why? Because business has been extending for the last ten or twelve years; steamship companies have been instituted between the maritime provinces and the United States, and travel has increased. All the prophecies of the Liberal-Conservative party have been fulfilled to the very letter in every regard. I rejoice with the Government that the country is in a prosperous condition, but it is entirely due to the policy inaugurated by the Liberal-Conservative party, and the policy retained by the present administration. Had that policy been brought forward by the Minister of Finance to-day that he preached in Annapolis County and all over Nova Scotia, and his speeches I have here under my hand, in which he said that they were going to make a reduction of the duties on coal, flour, on cotton, and in which he stigmatized protection as legalized robbery—if that had been brought before this country by the hon. Minister of Finance, the prophecies of the Liberal-Conservative party would have been fulfilled to the letter, but, thank God, it was not done, and the Liberal-Conservatives to-day rejoice in that fact. If I should read the speech of the hon. Minister of Finance that he delivered in Annapolis, at Bridgetown and Deep Brook, in my county, it would show this House exactly what is in his mind in reference to the policy that the Liberals when they came into power would bring upon this country, but he has not done it. He has shown himself to be a blatant hypocrite.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. MILLS. He has shown himself to be a hypocrite, as he has shown himself in other things; for instance, on the question of repeal, to be nothing more or less than a blatant hypocrite.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I think the hon. gentleman is going a little too far, and besides, I think he should confine himself in his speech to the question under discussion.

Mr. MILLS. I do not wish to go beyond the discussion in the least, but when the hon. Finance Minister in his speech referred to the prophecies of the Liberal-Conservative party, and spoke in reference to their prophecies not being fulfilled, I think I am fully within my rights—of course, I bow to your decision—if I should adduce argument to confute such an idea as that. However, I do not wish to pursue that; there will be several opportunities to show up the matter, as it will be shown up in a very thorough manner. I am thoroughly determined upon that.

Now, the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries promised us a great many things in his speech. On page 1662 of "Hansard" he said:

And if this commission, by reason of any limitation in its power or in the construction put upon it by the lawyers, cannot attain that end, this Government will enlarge the commission and will see that justice is done. There will be no skulking behind any law points, there will be no attempt to evade the investigation on the ground that the commission has no authority.

But the commission is up there and the commissioner has to make his report. How can the hon. gentleman fulfil any such promise as that? The commission is there for the purpose of investigating some particular charges; other matters have come up which need fuller and greater investigation than even those before Commissioner Ogilvie. I think the Administration would show wisdom, and that it would be for their own credit, for the welfare of their party, and the welfare and good name of the country should they accept the amendment as proposed by the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke).

Mr. MORRISON moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

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

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 11.50 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, 18th April, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS— PROCEDURE.

Mr. SPEAKER. I would like to call the attention of the members of the House to the 85th rule respecting the presentation of petitions, which requires that each member

shall endorse his name thereupon before presenting it. There is the difficulty that if this is not done, it is impossible for the Clerk to tell who presented that petition, and unless that rule is complied with I do not see how his name can appear on the Journals. I would also suggest that the name of the endorser of a Bill, public or private, which is not the name given in the original Bill but that of another member, as well as the second order of the Bill, should both be endorsed on the Bill before it is sent up to the Chair.

### OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE DEBATES.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar) moved that the second report of the committee appointed to supervise the Official Report of the Debates of this House be adopted.

Mr. BRUNEAU. Explain.

Mr. RICHARDSON. The hon. gentleman asks me to explain. Would it not be in order for the Clerk to read the report for his benefit, and for the benefit of the other members of the House?

The Clerk reads the report.

Mr. BRUNEAU. Explain.

Mr. RICHARDSON. The hon. gentleman persists in asking me to explain. I have nothing to explain, the report is before the House. It recommends the appointment of Mr. Albert Horton as Chief of the "Hansard" staff, and it also recommends the dismissal of Mr. J. O. Pelland who has been employed in the capacity of translator. If there is any criticism to be offered with regard to the report, hon. gentlemen may make their criticism, and the other members of the committee will no doubt be heard from with regard to the action that was taken by the committee.

Mr. C. BEAUSOLEIL (Berthier). I have no objection to the adoption of the first part of this report appointing Mr. Horton as the chief reporter on the staff of the Debates. I believe Mr. Horton was the choice of the reporters themselves, and they have recommended his appointment as chief reporter.

The objection I have is to the second part of the report, which recommends that the services of Mr. Pelland be dispensed with, and the principal reason of my objection to this part of the report is that Mr. Pelland has been tried in his absence, without his knowledge and without any notice being given to him that charges were going to be brought against him. He has had no chance to know what the charges were; he has had no chance to give any explanation; he has had no chance to be heard before the committee. He was not informed that these charges were being preferred by the chief translator; he had not been informed, in any way whatsoever, of the intended action of the committee, and I say that in a British colony, a British

subject has never been tried and punished or dismissed from office without at least having a chance to say whether he has an answer to make to the charges made against him or not. This is the first time, within my knowledge and within my reading, that a British Parliament, or a British tribunal, has dealt with a man in respect to a charge without giving him a chance to be heard. In this case, unexpectedly, without any notification, without any information whatever, Mr. Pelland has been tried and dismissed without being given a chance to be heard. I say that, in my opinion, this should not have taken place, and having confidence in the sense of justice and fair-play of the House of Commons, I will ask it to instruct the committee to hear Mr. Pelland, if he has anything to say in his defence. I suppose the committee is composed of reasonable men who will give him a fair trial. If his reasons are bad, the committee will be able to deal with him, and the House will be able to deal with him, with a full knowledge of the facts. For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move in amendment, seconded by the hon. member for Richelieu (Mr. Bruneau), that the said report be referred back to the Debates Committee for further consideration. I do not want to discuss this matter, although I will be prepared to discuss the whole question on its merits when the proper time comes, but I do not think there is anything before the House to justify such a discussion at present. There is a bald report recommending the dismissal of Mr. Pelland, but not a single word of evidence to show why the man has been dismissed or that the committee has had Mr. Pelland before it, that he has been summoned to appear before the committee to give his reasons, if he has any. If he refuses to appear before the committee, it would then be justified in dealing with him in the way it is proposed to do, but in the absence of any chance being given to Mr. Pelland to be heard, I believe it is the duty of the House to send back the report to the committee in order that Mr. Pelland may be heard and that a full report may be submitted to this House. I move that the report be sent back for further consideration.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar). The statement which the hon. member for Berthier (Mr. Beausoleil) has made, in making his amendment renders it necessary that some explanation of the proceedings of the committee should be made to the members of this House. I may say that complaints have reached the members of the Debates Committee almost since the time of coming here this session, and in past sessions that the French translation has not been kept up, that there has been great delay and that members have not been enabled to get their French translation. The committee made up its mind that it would deal with the matter in an effective way, and,

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in order to do so, the committee sent for the Queen's Printer and Mr. Beaulieu, who is chief of the translating staff. Rumours had reached the members of the committee that translators had not been doing their duty, and when we proceeded to examine the chief we found that it was with considerable hesitation that he would say anything to us at all. He acted in such a way as to give us the impression that he was afraid to be frank with us, that he was scared to tell us how his staff were working. My hon. friend the member for North Wentworth and Brant (Mr. Somerville) spoke to him very frankly, informing him that if he did not do his duty, that if he did not tell us exactly the position of affairs, if he did not tell us who were competent and who were not competent, there was nothing left for us to do but to dismiss him. After being threatened in that way he became very frank. We went over the translators one by one, and when we came to the name of Mr. J. O. Pelland, he frankly informed us that this man did not do his work at all. That while he had been appointed as a translator and drew salary as a translator, he actually did not perform his work, but he said that he farmed his work out to other people, that although he drew \$1,000 for being a translator, he was able to get the work performed for some \$200 or \$300 by a person in Montreal. The statement was a very startling one to the members of the committee, and we made up our minds that there was only one way in which we could deal with that man. The logical conclusion of such a statement was that Mr. Pelland, who drew this salary and did not do any work, had no business to be a translator. We had the evidence of the chief translator in the matter and that was perfectly satisfactory to us. Had we not accepted that statement, whose evidence should we have accepted? So far as I was concerned, the one logical conclusion was that this man should be dismissed, and that he should be dismissed promptly. The chairman of the committee, the hon. member for Berthier, refused to put the motion; in fact, he said: "You may carry it with your majority, but I will leave the chair." Well, I just felt, and the other members of the committee felt that that action, on his part, made it all the more necessary that we should act and act summarily, because if we did not act and did not dismiss this translator the whole business was bound to get into chaos, and we could never get the chief translator to again trust us. So I moved that the hon. member for North Wentworth and Brant (Mr. Somerville) take the chair. The hon. gentleman declined, and a motion that somebody else should take the chair was made. He also declined. I felt particularly the urgency of action, and I said that "if nobody else will take the chair I will take it, if somebody will make a motion." I was promptly moved to the chair, a motion was made that Pelland

be dismissed. I put it to the committee; they fully discussed it, and the motion was carried with two dissenting voices. We felt, and we feel now, that unless this House sustains the action of this committee, so far as this action is concerned its usefulness is gone, because we cannot hope to exercise that influence over the staff that we should have. Members of the committee, who are present, have expressed themselves to me very strongly that unless that committee is sustained in its action it will be quite useless to attempt to carry out the reforms which your committee is trying to work in connection with the translation of the debates.

Mr. E. G. PENNY (St. Lawrence, Montreal). I would ask the hon. gentleman for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) if the accusation against Mr. Pelland was for this year or for last year. I would also ask him if it is a fact, that Mr. Pelland has not been attending to his duties this year at all?

Mr. RICHARDSON. I cannot say absolutely as to what period the accusations cover, but I may say—and I think it is a very effective point—that after taking the action which the committee did, there was a meeting of the sub-committee which is trying to work reform in this matter, and a gentleman now sitting in the press gallery came before that committee and stated to us, that he had done the work of this Mr. Pelland, and that Mr. Pelland had not paid him the amount he promised. We cannot ask for more evidence than that, and, therefore, why refer a report of this kind back to the committee? The statements with regard to Mr. Pelland are absolutely true. We have had the evidence before us, and I make a statement to this House which can be proven by the person who actually did the translation for Mr. Pelland and who is now sitting within reach of my voice. Any hon. member of the House could no doubt get the evidence for himself.

Mr. PENNY. The reason why I ask this question of the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) is simply, that I have been informed that up to this year all the translators were in the habit of taking their work home to wherever they lived, and that they had also been in the habit of farming out the work. My information, whether it be correct or not, is that this custom has been going on for some years, but has been stopped this year. I was told by an hon. member of this House, that Mr. Pelland was unable to translate from English into French, but I happen to know Mr. Pelland and I know he understands the English language very well, and I am under the impression that he is quite capable of translating from English into French. Of course, if Mr. Pelland has been guilty of any infringement of the rules of the House I do not want to defend him, but at the same time, under the circumstances and after hearing both sides of the case, I think it is only reasonable to support the amendment of the hon. member

for Berthier (Mr. Beausoleil), and for my part I shall be glad to do so.

Mr. J. SOMERVILLE (North Wentworth and Brant). There may be a little more said with regard to the case of Mr. Pelland and as to the reasons why the committee acted so promptly. I have had the honour of being a member of the "Hansard" Committee ever since I have been in the House, and we have had great difficulty, session after session, in dealing with the translators. There have been continual complaints made by the French speaking members of this House, that the translation of their speeches has been kept back and delayed sometimes for weeks after it should have been ready. We have been trying to deal with that matter year after year. We have endeavoured to get a room in this House where the translators could do their work, but we have always failed, although this building ought to be sufficiently large to provide accommodation for all the officers of the House. The committee secured a room on Sussex street some years ago, and it was determined that the translators should do their work there. The committee have been under the impression for years that the translators were there continuously doing their work. A good deal of the trouble arose from this cause. The chief translator for a number of years refused to speak to the committee in English, and he said he could not make himself understood in that language, and after some years of this being carried on, some of us discovered that he could speak English as well as we could, and we compelled him to make his explanations in English. The whole trouble is that the chief of the staff is in mortal terror of the members of the staff. He has been afraid in times past to tell us with regard to their faults and failings, and we have now discovered that we must get at the bottom of this matter in order to perfect the work of the "Hansard." We had the chief translator brought before us in this case, and we discovered, not as has been stated here to-day, that Mr. Pelland has not done his work, but we have the word of the chief translator that Mr. Pelland is not capable of doing his work, that he is not a translator, that he cannot translate, that he never translated a line since he was appointed a translator. What surprises me is that a man like the hon. member for Berthier (Mr. Beausoleil) should recommend the appointment of a man not capable of translating the debates, because this Mr. Pelland was the nominee of the hon. member for Berthier, and why he should impose on the committee in that way I cannot understand. The English-speaking members of the committee have all along allowed the French-speaking members of the committee to recommend the appointment of their own translators, we taking it for granted that they would only recommend men who are capable of doing the work. In this case we have been utterly deceived; we have been

led into the appointment of a man who, the chief translator says, never could translate and cannot translate to-day. That opinion has been sustained by reporters who are sitting in the gallery now, and my opinion is that the chief translator was right in that regard. Now, what could we do as members of that committee? Could we retain that man in his position and pay him \$1,000 a year when he was getting the work done for \$300 or \$400 a year? I say it is an outrage on that committee, it is an outrage on this House. I do not care who the man is who is guilty of that outrage, this House should sustain the committee in the action it took. We were simply doing our duty, and if we are not to be sustained by the House in the discharge of our duty, then the usefulness of the committee is gone. We can no longer carry on the business of that committee if this House is going to upset such a straightforward and business-like report as this. We did perfectly right in dismissing this man. While on this point I wish to express the hope that you, Mr. Speaker, and other members of this House who have influence, will enable us to obtain a room in this building where we can place these translators so as to have some supervision over them and see that they do their work. It is true that the translations have been sent to Montreal, but we were not aware of that. A number of the reports have been transmitted there for years, the men have not been here to do their work, and it is no wonder that delays have taken place which have caused so much trouble and so much fuss in this House with regard to the French translation. The committee have now determined that this work shall be done here, and if the House does not desire to have the work done in an efficient way, we will know it if it votes in favour of the amendment of the hon. member for Berthier (Mr. Beausoleil). We have done our duty, it has not been an agreeable duty; it is a very disagreeable duty, but people sometimes have to do disagreeable things in order that right may triumph. I have every faith that this House will sustain the committee in the discharge of their duty, and if they do not they will have to get some other committee to do the work.

Mr. G. TAYLOR (South Leeds). As a member of the Debates Committee, I wish to put two of my colleagues on that committee right before this House. Immediately after the action of the committee, on April 10th, the hon. member for Berthier (Mr. Beausoleil) wrote a letter to the Montreal "Gazette," in which he said:

The resolution dismissing Mr. Pelland was moved by Mr. Earle, and seconded by Mr. Davin, two Conservatives, and carried on the following division.

I wish to state to the hon. member for Berthier that that paragraph in his letter is not correct. The motion was moved by the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) and seconded by the hon. member for

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South Brant (Mr. Somerville). When the hon. member for Berthier left the chair, the hon. member for Lisgar was moved to the chair, and he put the motion and it was carried on division.

Mr. J. V. ELLIS (St. John, N.B.). I would like to make one observation with reference to what my hon. friend from Montreal (Mr. Penny) has said. There were no accusations made by the chief translator against this translator. All the facts were dragged from the chief translator under so difficult and rigid a cross-examination that he was unable to escape telling what he knew, and putting the information in possession of the committee. I quite agree with the hon. member for North Brant (Mr. Somerville), that if the committee is to be continued to do its work efficiently, it must be sustained in this case, because it was moved by no other desire than a desire to have the work done properly.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, it has been the invariable practice of this House, when questions of this kind have arisen, to sustain the action of the committee, whatever that action was. We must recognize that it is impossible for us, sitting here, to form any conclusion as to the merits of this dismissal. It may be right or it may be wrong. I am assured that it is right, because the members of the committee have come to this conclusion. I would not go so far as my hon. friend from Brant (Mr. Somerville) and say that Mr. Pelland is not qualified to be a translator.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. That is the chief's word.

The PRIME MINISTER. My acquaintance with Mr. Pelland is not sufficient to enable me to give an opinion on that point; but I believe that he is. At all events, the committee has come to a conclusion on this matter. No doubt, it must have been a painful one to the committee, because it is always painful to recommend a man's dismissal. But what are we to do in such matters? It is impossible for us to revise the whole thing. We have committees of the House appointed for the very purpose of attending to matters which it is impossible for the members of this House to attend to for themselves; and, having full confidence in the judgment of the members of the committee, for my part, though I regret it exceedingly, I see no other course for us to take than to sustain the action of the committee.

Mr. L. N. CHAMPAGNE (Wright). Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry indeed to rise, after the remarks of the right hon. the Prime Minister, and to be put in the very unfortunate position of differing with him on the question now before you. But before this question is put, I wish to offer a few words of explanation of the vote I have

given in the Debates Committee concerning the dismissal of this translator, Mr. Pelland. Before dealing with the merits of the case, I wish to vindicate the French translators, and to refute some charges which have been brought against them by the hon. member for North Wentworth (Mr. Somerville) and the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson). It has been stated by these gentlemen, that for years complaints have been made against the French translators because of the delay in the translation of "Hansard." In view of these charges, Mr. Dawson, the Queen's Printer, and Mr. Beaulieu, the chief translator, were summoned to appear before the committee. Mr. Dawson appeared, and his first words were a solemn declaration that no reproach was to be made against the translators—that if the French translation was delayed, it was not their fault, but was due to other causes. These causes were mentioned by Mr. Dawson, and the majority of the committee know what they were. The delay was due to the fact that some hon. members of this House kept the proofs of their speeches too long, so that Mr. Dawson could not transmit the revised English edition to the translators in due time; and in that connection the names of some very prominent members of this House were mentioned by Mr. Dawson.

Now, in regard to Mr. Pelland's case, these are the facts, as they were established before the committee. Mr. Pelland had been a French translator for three years. He had begun his third session as a French translator. No complaint had been made against him before. Mr. Beaulieu was summoned before the committee at its last meeting to give some explanations in connection with the work of the French translators. He was questioned as to the competency of the different translators whom he had under his control; and, after the inquiry was over, we saw that Mr. Pelland was one of those who were to be accused. In fact, the questions which were put to Mr. Beaulieu were inducements to him to say that Mr. Pelland was not qualified. The very fact that Mr. Beaulieu was so reluctant in answering the questions, and that, as the hon. member for Lisgar has said, he showed so much hesitation in saying that Mr. Pelland was not qualified, until he was himself threatened with dismissal as chief translator, shows that he was compelled to say that Mr. Pelland was not competent. This was the only evidence that came before the committee to justify the dismissing of Mr. Pelland. It was shown before the committee that Mr. Pelland had been appointed on the recommendation of the then chairman of the committee, the hon. member for Berthier (Mr. Beausoleil). I did not myself know what were the qualifications of Mr. Pelland. I did not know whether he was competent or not; but, as he had been appointed on the recommendation of the hon. member for

Berthier, an hon. gentleman who had been for twenty-five or thirty years an eminent journalist, I thought he must have been competent; and, as between the hon. member for Berthier and the chief translator, I thought I ought to give Mr. Pelland the benefit of the doubt. Therefore, I said I would not vote for his dismissal. These are the reasons I gave to the committee. I say it was not fair for the committee to dismiss a man in such a summary way, without giving him a chance to be heard, even if he had been incompetent or guilty of misconduct. I think that British fair-play ought to have been shown, and it was not shown in this case. I do not say that Mr. Pelland is competent. I do not know; but, I say it again, as between the testimony of the chief translator and the hon. member for Berthier, I thought it was only fair to give him the benefit of the doubt, and give him an opportunity to be heard. Now, Mr. Pelland, as the hon. member for Berthier has stated, has not been notified of the charge that has been brought against him. I think, the least that could have been done would have been to have given him the opportunity to resign, if he was not qualified. It has been stated that he had given his work to be done by some outsider. Well, it has not only been shown before the committee, but I think that every member of this House will admit, that other French translators had their work done by outsiders. This is a custom that has been tolerated for years, and I do not think it was a serious ground for Mr. Pelland's dismissal. Under these circumstances, I think the amendment moved by the hon. member for Berthier to refer the report back to the committee for further consideration, ought to be adopted. It is only fair-play, it is only justice to Mr. Pelland to grant him a hearing. He does not ask this simply for the pleasure of appearing before the committee. If he is incompetent, his incompetency will then be shown, and that will be so much the worse for him; but I think he ought to be given an opportunity to defend himself before being condemned, and, therefore, under these circumstances, I shall support the amendment.

Mr. A. A. C. LaRIVIERE (Provencher). The question is not whether Mr. Pelland is competent or not, but it is the question of fact as to whether he has done the work or not. Mr. Pelland was beginning his third session as translator, and it turns out that up to this date he has not translated a single line of the debates of this House, although he was paid for doing that work. I was absent from the city when the committee held its last meeting, and, therefore, took no part in the vote, but having been chairman of that committee for four years during the last Parliament, I know something about its internal affairs, and I know, as has been said by hon. members on this side, that the business of that committee is

conducted without any regard to politics or any other consideration, except fitness and efficient service on the part of those subject to its control. The hon. member for Berthier (Mr. Beausoleil) tried to make it appear in the Montreal "Gazette" the other day that the Conservative members of the committee had determined to dismiss Mr. Pelland because he happened to be a Liberal. Let me say that that was a false statement on his part.

Mr. SPEAKER. Those words must be qualified.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. I am speaking on a question of fact.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the hon. gentleman knows perfectly well that he cannot contradict the statement of another hon. member.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. Then I will say that the statement of the hon. member for Berthier, in the Montreal "Gazette," which has been quoted, is not in accordance with the facts.

Mr. SPEAKER. That is perfectly parliamentary.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. Yes, but it is also perfectly correct. In order to arrive at that conclusion, the hon. member for Berthier (Mr. Beausoleil) was obliged to leave out the name of my hon. friend opposite me (Mr. Ellis), who happened to be at that meeting, and by leaving out the name of the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Ellis) it so happened that perhaps there was a majority of Conservatives sitting on that board who voted on that motion. But apart from this, let me say, with reference to what has been hinted by my hon. friend from Wright (Mr. Champagne), that if there are any other members of that staff who are guilty of the same fault as Mr. Pelland, the committee, I am sure, is ready to deal with them in like manner. We are bound to see that the work is properly done—done in such a way as to satisfy the members of this House. My hon. friend from Wright has told us that Mr. Dawson said it was not the fault of the translators if the reports were behind, but Mr. Dawson on that occasion only spoke about the translation of this session, and my hon. friend from Wright, who had not a seat on that committee, even in this House in the past, does not know that in the past we have had the same trouble. He is not aware of all the trouble we have always had with the board of translators and with the Printing Bureau and the printing of the French, and even the English copy of the debates; and if we want to have expedition in the publication of both the English and French debates, the committee must be given full authority and power to exercise such authority on the Printing Bureau and translators so as to have the work done in an effective manner.

Mr. LaRIVIERE.

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle). I do not want to delay the House on this question at all. I quite agree with the right hon. Prime Minister when he says that questions of fact must be left to the committees, and that the committees should alone judge such questions. I quite understand that if we were to discuss all the facts brought before the committees, the business of this House would be very much delayed; but at the same time I humbly submit that the question now before the House is not whether the facts have been or have not been proved before the committee. We do not question the competency of the committee, but we do think that the committee should have given Mr. Pelland the opportunity that is given to every man before every tribunal, namely, the opportunity of being heard and of refuting, if possible, the charges brought against him. It has been said by the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. LaRivière) that it was proved that Mr. Pelland never did the work himself, but I understand that that charge was made by the head of the translating staff after he was threatened himself with dismissal if he would not make it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. BOURASSA. Well, something like it, because I understand from the hon. members for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) and Brant (Mr. Somerville), that he was very reluctant about making the charge. I do not mean that he was induced to say something which is not true, but what I do say is that he was forced to give his evidence, and I do not see, by any of the utterances of the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), or the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Somerville), or by the report of the committee, or by anything we have heard, that Mr. Pelland was given an opportunity to defend himself. The least that the committee should have done was to grant Mr. Pelland a hearing. I think that the committee should have had both Mr. Beaulieu and Mr. Pelland present, and then have heard Mr. Pelland after Mr. Beaulieu, the chief, had given his evidence.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. Will the hon. gentleman allow me? The only reason why the committee could not get Mr. Pelland to appear before it and defend himself was because he was never here on duty at all, but was in Montreal all the time, and the committee was not going to have a sitting in Montreal to look for him.

Mr. BOURASSA. I do not wish to contradict the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. LaRivière), but I understand that on the day the committee took action, Mr. Pelland was here and ready to appear before them. I do not wish to defend his conduct, nor do I say that he should be kept on the staff or that any other member of that staff, who has acted in the same way, should not be

similarly treated, but what I do say is that the committee should have dealt with the matter as would any other tribunal, inside or outside of Parliament, and have given Mr. Pelland a hearing. Therefore, in voting for the amendment of the hon. member for Berthier (Mr. Beausoleil), I do not see that we are blaming the committee because the next time the committee report, their report may be to the same effect, and then I would be the first to vote for it. But I only say that the same chance should be given Mr. Pelland before condemning him as is given to any other man accused by any tribunal that tries his case. I submit, therefore, that the report should be sent back for further consideration in order that Mr. Pelland should have the opportunity of appearing before us, and also in order that the hon. members for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), North Brant (Mr. Somerville), and Provencher (Mr. La-Rivière), may prove to the House that they have acted fairly. I am not a member of the committee or a personal friend of Mr. Pelland. I only learned that he was translator the same day that I learned of his dismissal, but I say that if any committee wants to be sustained by this House, it must give clear evidence that it has acted fairly. I do not care what Mr. Pelland's politics may be. If he is a Liberal and has acted wrongly, let him be dismissed, and if any of the Tory members of the translating staff are not acting properly, let them be dismissed also. I want the proper rule to be laid down. But, while I am on my feet, I wish to say a few words as to this French translation. I know something about it. I know that very often, when delay has occurred in the French translation of the "Hansard," that delay arises from the fact, as has been stated before the committee, that members keep the first proof of their speeches back too long before making corrections. It must not be forgotten, Mr. Speaker, that delay in sending back the corrections for one speech is enough to stop the work. The staff must keep the speeches in order. Suppose one hon. member makes a speech this afternoon and ten speeches are made subsequently to-day and to-morrow, and the first speaker does not send in his revision—the whole work of translation is delayed; neither the French translators nor the printers can go on. It is not only the French "Hansard," but other public documents in French that are delayed. The other day I went to Mr. Botterell to get a copy of the French translation of the Postmaster General's report, but I could not get it. I had evidence, however, that the copy of the French translation had been sent to the printer, but had been delayed at the Bureau for a long time. So we should not put all the blame upon the French translators. Of course, that is not the question before the House—the point which it seems to me to be the strongest in the case is that delay

should be allowed in such cases as this, so that those who are threatened with dismissal may have an opportunity to be heard.

Mr. F. D. MONK; (Jacques Cartier). The committee has my entire confidence; and I think we are all disposed to uphold the committee in its arduous labours. But there is here a question of principle, and it is upon that question of principle that I am inclined to support the amendment of my hon. friend from Berthier (Mr. Beausoleil). It is not a question whether this man is incompetent or whether this habit of farming out the work had existed in the past or not. These facts, so far as I can see, we are not fully informed upon. I am inclined to think, from what we have been told, that the practice has existed in the past; and, if this is the case, then, before dismissing a man for following that practice, he should be warned. But, Sir, there is a deeper principle and one to which I am more firmly attached, since I have been in this House than I ever was before, and it is a principle which I think we ought to emphasize and safeguard in every possible way—that no man in the public service should be dismissed from that service without having had an opportunity of being heard in his own defence on any charge brought against him. Sir, I do not wish to bring up old sores, but since 1896, in the province of Quebec, in my own county, I have seen so many men dismissed from the public service without knowing in any way with what offence they were charged, without being given the slightest opportunity of presenting their defence, that I have resolved on every occasion—and I am glad that this discussion involving that principle, has arisen—to stand by that principle and do what I can to secure for the public officer an opportunity to be heard in his own defence. As to Mr. Pelland, I am not very well acquainted with that gentleman's attainments as a translator; but I am inclined to believe that, like the most of the French Canadian members of the bar in Montreal, he is quite competent for the work. At any rate, it must be obvious, I think, to every man of justice in this House that if that practice of farming out the work has existed in the past, Mr. Pelland should not be dismissed on that ground without being at least warned that the practice should be stopped. I think there is a question of principle involved. I have, as I say, every confidence in the committee; and if that committee came before us with a finding after the procedure I suggest I should accept that finding. But I think we should declare that no man shall be dismissed without a hearing.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. I rise to make an explanation. The committee was not aware, until the chief of the translating staff told us the other day, that any work has been farmed out.

Mr. MONK. But has it existed?

Mr. SOMERVILLE. Not that we were aware of.

Mr. MONK. But the hon. gentleman is not able to say that it did not exist.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. This is the first of it, so far as we knew. With regard to what the hon. member for Wright (Mr. Champagne) has said, I may explain that the chief of the staff was not forced into making a statement that this man was not qualified. He volunteered the statement, after we gave him to understand that we had not been having his confidence in the past, and that we must have his confidence now. If he was to be chief, we had to have confidence that he would inform us of anything with regard to the capacity or incapacity of the members of the staff that it was desirable for us to know. It was upon that ground that he made the statement; and the reason why Mr. Pelland was dismissed was because the chief stated that he had never translated, that he had farmed out his work, and was incapable of translating.

Mr. F. A. MARCOTTE (Champlain). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, I think the principle laid down by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) is the right principle which should obtain in so far as the civil service is concerned. Nobody should be dismissed from the service of the country without a hearing. Now, Mr. Pelland is being dismissed without being given a chance of being heard in his own defence, and without an investigation into the facts of the case having been held.

I intend to vote in favour of the amendment of my hon. friend from Berthier (Mr. Beausoleil), because I think it unfair to dismiss Mr. Pelland without giving him an opportunity of being heard in his own defence. We, Conservatives, have had in the past too many grounds of complaint in connection with those dismissals from the civil service; we have too loudly denounced the Government for dismissing public servants from their positions without instituting such inquiry as was warranted under the circumstances, for us now to commit a similar error. I am of opinion that the charges laid against Mr. Pelland should be investigated, and that fair-play should be given him.

Mr. BEAUSOLEIL. I would like to say—

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member has already spoken.

Mr. BEAUSOLEIL. This is a question of explanation; I will not discuss the matter before the House. The hon. member for North Wentworth and Brant (Mr. Somerville) has stated that Mr. Pelland was appointed on my recommendation, but that he was unable to do his work and that I deceived the committee. I deny that imputa-

Mr. SOMERVILLE.

tion from beginning to end. Mr. Pelland, it is true, was recommended by me as an able man, a man capable of doing his work; and I know and I affirm again that he is perfectly able to do the work. He has offered the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) to come before the committee and translate reports of debates, and, if his translation is not equal to that of any of the others, he is quite willing to resign. Why was that offer not accepted?

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member (Mr. Beausoleil) cannot go on and make another speech.

Mr. BEAUSOLEIL. I want to answer the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor), who has read a line from a letter I wrote to the "Gazette" the other day. The hon. member for Leeds says that the motion upon which Mr. Pelland was dismissed, was moved by the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) and seconded by the hon. member for North Wentworth and Brant (Mr. Somerville). Such was the first motion, but, after I had resigned the chairmanship, the hon. member for Lisgar was appointed chairman, and the motion was moved by the hon. member for Victoria, B.C. (Mr. Earle), and seconded by the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin).

Mr. LaRIVIERE. I wish to say that that is not in accordance with the records of the committee.

Mr. SPEAKER. I am sorry to say that the House has no access to the records of the committee.

House divided on amendment (Mr. Beausoleil):

YEAS:

Messieurs

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Angers,           | Hale,                 |
| Bazinet,          | Haley,                |
| Beausoleil,       | Kendry,               |
| Bernier,          | McLellan,             |
| Bethune,          | McLennan (Inverness), |
| Bianchard,        | McNeill,              |
| Borden (Halifax), | Madore,               |
| Bourassa,         | Marcel,               |
| Bourbonnais,      | Marcotte,             |
| Bruneau,          | Martin,               |
| Champagne,        | Mignault,             |
| Chauvin,          | Moret,                |
| Copp,             | Monk,                 |
| Dugas,            | Morin,                |
| Dupré,            | Penny,                |
| Edwards,          | Pettet,               |
| Ethier,           | Proulx,               |
| Fortin,           | Rcche,                |
| Gauthier,         | Ross,                 |
| Godbout,          | Savard.—40.           |

NAYS:

Messieurs

|                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Bain,                | Laurier (Sir Wilfrid), |
| Bell (Pictou),       | Lavergne,              |
| Bell (Prince, East), | Lewis,                 |
| Bennett,             | Livingston,            |

|                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Borden (King's),   | Logan,                |
| Bostock,           | Macdonald (King's),   |
| Brown,             | Mackie,               |
| Burnett,           | McCarthy,             |
| Cargill,           | McCleary,             |
| Carscallen,        | McDougall,            |
| Casey,             | McGregor,             |
| Charlton,          | McGugan,              |
| Clancy,            | McInerney,            |
| Cochrane,          | McInnes,              |
| Corby,             | McIsaac,              |
| Costigan,          | McLennan (Glengarry), |
| Cowan,             | McMillan,             |
| Craig,             | McMullen,             |
| Dechene,           | Maxwell,              |
| Demers,            | Meigs,                |
| Douglas,           | Morrison,             |
| Earle,             | Oliver,               |
| Ellis,             | Parmalee,             |
| Erb,               | Prior,                |
| Featherston,       | Quinn,                |
| Fisher,            | Richardson,           |
| Flint,             | Rinfret,              |
| Fraser (Lambton),  | Rogers,               |
| Ganong,            | Rosamond,             |
| Gauvreau,          | Russell,              |
| Gibson,            | Rutherford,           |
| Graham,            | Scriver,              |
| Haggart,           | Semple,               |
| Harwood,           | Sifton,               |
| Hedgins,           | Snetsinger,           |
| Hiclmes,           | Somerville,           |
| Hughes,            | Stubbs,               |
| Hurley,            | Sutherland,           |
| Ingram,            | Taylor,               |
| Johnston,          | Tisdale,              |
| Joly de Lotbinière | Tolmie,               |
| (Sir Henri),       | Tucker,               |
| Kloepfer,          | Turcot,               |
| Lang,              | Wallace,              |
| LaRivière,         | Wilson.—89.           |

Amendment negatived.

Motion agreed to on division.

#### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 61) respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.—(Mr. Gibson.)

Bill (No. 62) respecting the Canada Life Insurance Company.—(Mr. Gibson.)

Bill (No. 63) to amend the Act respecting the Civil Service of Canada.—(Mr. McMullen.)

#### INQUIRY FOR RETURN.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to ask the Government whether it is their intention to bring down a return for which I moved an Address just one year ago to-day, on the 18th of April, 1898, asking for all Orders in Council, memorials, correspondence and every other document in connection with the granting of 150,000 acres of public land in favour of the University of Manitoba, and the transfer of the patents of the same to the university. Up to this date I have had no notice that this return has been laid before the House.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Would the hon. gentleman send a copy of the Address over to me?

#### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bell (East Prince) for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session; the motion of Mr. Clarke in amendment thereto, and the motion of Mr. Bertram in amendment to the amendment.

Mr. A. MORRISON (New Westminster). Mr. Speaker, I feel it necessary to apologize to the House for taking up any time at this late stage of the debate. I would not attempt to apologize were it not for the fact that several hon. gentlemen opposite, in the course of their remarks during this debate, have referred to the fact that, during the recess, I had taken a trip into the Yukon territory. Several hon. gentlemen, in making that reference, went so far as to assume that, in consequence of my visiting that territory, I would be obliged to acquiesce in and support the charges, or the statements in the form of charges, which they have made against the administration of the Yukon district. Perhaps, I would be fulfilling all that any reasonable person could expect of me in this regard, if I were to say no more than to give that assumption a categorical denial. I can assure the hon. gentlemen that they can expect very little comfort from my experience in that territory; and they are very much mistaken, if they suppose that my experience would justify me in sympathizing with the line of action adopted by them in regard to the administration of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), or to the action of the Government generally in reference to the Yukon.

In giving my views, which I will do very briefly, I would like hon. gentlemen opposite to endeavour, if possible, to put themselves in my place in the present instance. The hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), who precipitated this discussion, or, at least, this phase of the debate, formulated, or endeavoured to formulate, two charges against the hon. Minister of the Interior in respect to his treatment of these Yukon matters. The first was, that officials had proved incompetent, that they had violated the trust placed in their own hands, and in the second place, that the hon. Minister and the Government are responsible for the action of the subordinate officials in that territory; indeed, for whatever may have occurred there on the part of the officials. In dealing with the second consideration, namely, the responsibility that is sought to be placed upon the shoulders of the Government in regard to the action of the officials there, I might, for a moment, for the sake of argument, admit that my observations in the Yukon territory led me to believe that the alleged charges, or the statements, made by hon. gentlemen opposite, are substantially true. Is that sufficient ground for me to

condemn the action of the Government in regard to the administration of that territory? Would hon. gentlemen contend that maladministration on the part of subordinate officials, would be sufficient justification for me in condemning the Government? I would like hon. gentlemen to give me the credit of endeavouring to disassociate myself from any party exigencies in this case, and that they would put themselves in my position in this instance. Let us glance very briefly at the facts in connection with the growth of this administration in the Yukon, taking them chronologically. I am within the hearing of the members of this House when I say that in the early part of the session of 1897, there was not a corporal's guard of the members of this House who knew anything about that region. Hon. gentlemen, on both sides of the House, who were members of the Railway Committee of this House, will recall a certain application for a charter made in the early part of that session. The company, formed by virtue of that charter, is now known as the White Pass and Yukon Railway Company. When the application was made before the Railway Committee of the House, hon. gentlemen will remember the paucity of information there was in respect to the territory intended to be traversed by that road. There was even much less evidence of knowledge and information respecting that territory before the Railway Committee of the Senate when the Bill was sent there. It was not until a later period of the session of 1897, that the great excitement about that region began to generate, and that people all over the country began to consider and read and think about the possibilities and riches of what is now called the Yukon territory. There was, of course, no question raised during the session of 1897 as to maladministration in the Yukon. We know that either in June or July of 1897 the Government considered the advisability of sending an administrator into that country, and they cast about for a suitable person to take charge of the affairs there. We all remember that when Major Walsh was selected, there was a unanimous feeling of satisfaction from one end of the country to the other amongst those people who took any interest in the welfare of the country, at the selection of Major Walsh to administer the affairs of the Klondike. There was not a word of adverse criticism. Hon. gentlemen opposite and the papers representing them, joined heartily in congratulating themselves, the Government and the country upon the selection of Major Walsh, and were as heartily in accord as any person on this side of the House could possibly be. Major Walsh went in there; I remember very well his arrival in Vancouver, the hearty reception he received, and the congratulatory expressions that were crowded upon him from all sources—not one jarring note in the whole demonstration. He departed and went into the Yukon country. No reports were re-

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ceived from him of a substantial nature for months. We all know, that when Major Walsh went in there, he consented to go in for only a year. The session of 1898 came and passed without any evidence, particularly in this House, of complaints as to the administration of the Yukon country under the regime of Major Walsh. I remember distinctly, and I am within the hearing of this House when I say, that up to the time of prorogation, there was not a whisper—there certainly was not any complaint made known to this House in regard to the administration of the Yukon under Major Walsh. Major Walsh, in pursuance of the arrangements made with the hon. Minister of the Interior, came out from that country in the middle of the summer of 1898. As against his coming out, of course, the Government had to consider the question of selecting a successor, and I am safe in saying that there was equal unanimity of opinion that the successor of Major Walsh in administering the affairs of the Yukon should be the present incumbent, Mr. Ogilvie. I would like hon. gentlemen opposite to consider for a moment what attitude they would have taken had the Government selected any other person than Mr. Ogilvie as administrator of that country. I venture to say that hon. gentlemen opposite, and the press representing them would, and perhaps with justice, have attacked the Government for overlooking Mr. Ogilvie, a man who was considered to be eminently qualified to act as commissioner of the Yukon. Mr. Ogilvie was selected, and proceeded to Dawson. Just about that time, on the Pacific coast, I admit that murmurings began to arise as to the way matters had been managed under Major Walsh. Several newspaper correspondents who had been in the Yukon territory came out; they were interviewed and they contributed articles to the newspapers. The American papers were particularly active in attacking the administration of Major Walsh, and some of our Canadian correspondents took a hand in it; and, of course, those less charitable wanted to a certain extent, to blame the Government for what had been taking place, as they alleged, up to this time. To consider whether the Government should be held blameworthy for not checking the condition of affairs that existed there, as alleged by these people, we must consider what means of information were opened to the Government up to that juncture. I am free to admit, that if the Government had the facilities for knowing, and if Major Walsh, or anybody else amongst the officials of the Government, had conducted themselves in that Yukon territory in an improper way, and if it did not take prompt steps to remedy the evil that might exist, in respect to the administration, I would be the very first to join in blaming the Government for not performing what we would concede to be its bounden duty. Gentlemen opposite, I fear, have taken that position with too much precipitation, ignor-

ing the fact that the Government had up to that time—and indeed until very recently—only two sources of information as to what was going on in Dawson City. The first and main one was, the information which might come to them through their recognized officials; officials in whom up to the time it would be shown they should cease to have confidence, they were bound to have absolute trust. It is quite clear that none of these officials from Major Walsh down, whose duties it would be to make reports to the Government, would report adversely on their own administration. It would be a little too much official virtue to expect that if they did anything wrong, they would promptly report that to their superiors. The other source of information upon which the Government had to rely was of a haphazard, nondescript kind, such as newspaper correspondence, anonymous and otherwise. There is no reasonable gentleman on either side of the House who for one moment would ask the Government to supersede the information received from their accredited agents, by the information received through newspapers like the Seattle "Post-Intelligencer," or the San Francisco "Examiner," the two chief papers that were made the receptacles for this matter which was gushed all over the country. Or, coming nearer home, I would go so far as to say, that the Government certainly would not be justified in taking the statements of the correspondent of the London "Times," or of any other paper in Christendom, as against the official reports of their accredited representatives in that territory. It would be a most novel precedent for the Government to establish, that before their own agents were discredited, they should go outside and seek information, without relying on the information which they got through the proper channels. No hon. gentleman can seriously contend, that up to a certain stage the Government should have given credence to these reports and statements in preference to the reports of their own officers.

That was the state of affairs up to the 20th September when I left New Westminster, and thought I would take a holiday and go to Dawson. I made inquiries as to the time it would take to come and go there, and I was assured by all the transportation companies to whom I referred, that I could get in and out in six weeks, giving me considerable time in Dawson and vicinity. Up to this time I had been hearing—I hope I will be pardoned for making a personal reference—that the gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) who did us the honour to come and reside in our midst, and who lived in the adjoining town of Vancouver, had been in communication with certain people in Dawson; that he was fortifying himself with all kinds of affidavits, and declarations, and sworn statements, and letters, and verbal communications, as to the turpitude, moral and otherwise, of the officials in Dawson, and that in consequence

of the disclosures that he was prepared to make, the Government would be forced to resign. I considered it a public duty, if I could afford the time and expense, to take it upon myself to go in there and to endeavour, at first hand and without relying upon hearsay, to find out what the facts really were, and to ascertain if these rumours and whisperings of wrong-doing really had foundation in fact. I conceived it to be my duty as one of the representatives of this great Dominion, to devote the time and expense in order to satisfy myself on this matter, because I felt, that if a man like the hon. gentleman from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) would undertake to stand on the floor of this House and on his responsibility as a member make charges that would lead to the discomfiture of the Government, I wanted to be in absolute possession—without depending on the Prime Minister or the Minister of the Interior or any one else—of the facts, so that I might be able to cast a vote consistent with the trust which I felt was imposed on me, be that vote for or against the Administration. I arrived at Skagway, the American port and one of the entrepôts into the Yukon country; proceeded on foot, and arrived in due course at Lake Bennett. I may say parenthetically, although my remarks were intended to be specially directed—

Mr. HUGHES. May I interrupt the hon. member, Mr. Speaker. Did I understand him to say that Skagway is an American port?

Mr. MORRISON. Skagway, as we all know, is at present an American port, whatever that may mean. When you land there as we had to do, we were obliged to conform to certain regulations of the American authorities. We had our baggage examined and we were ourselves detained at the instance of the American collector of customs, because the captain of our ship refused to go to a certain wharf, whereupon this American collector refused to let us land and refused to clear or enter the vessel. Afterwards, we found out that the reason he was so insistent upon our going to this particular wharf was, that he himself was part owner of it, and that he was forcing all the ships that came to Skagway to put up at that wharf. That was our first experience there, and to me it is sufficient proof that at the present time at all events, Skagway is an American port. Whether or not it will ultimately be determined to be an American port, is not pertinent to this discussion. I was proceeding to say, parenthetically, that it might be well for me to mention a few instances of my trip to Dawson, to show how little ground there is of complaint against the Government so far as the administration of the route between Dawson and the American line is concerned. At Skagway, this so-called American territory, there is a military post, and immediately across the agreed-upon international bound-

ary on the summit of White Pass, is a Canadian Mounted Police post called Log Cabin, at which there is also a custom-house. The police post is under the command of Captain Cartwright, and here I may say, that if ever I had reason to be proud of Canada and her institutions, it was on my arrival at the police post of Log Cabin under command of Captain Cartwright. The comparison forced upon one between the efficient soldierly bearing of the Mounted Police who are under the Department of the Interior, and the representatives of the great republic to the south of us, was so very striking that one would be inclined to overlook a great many discrepancies on the part of the Government, and to give them great credit for having such an efficient corps as the Northwest Mounted Police are in regard to the administration of affairs in the Yukon country. From Log Cabin to Bennett, and from Bennett to Tagish, and from Tagish down the various posts to Dawson, the best order is maintained, law is observed, life and property are absolutely safe; as safe as they could possibly be under any mode of government. There is not one of these Mounted Police whom I met—and I think I met every one of them—who would not be a credit to this or to any nation. Whether that is owing to the individuals who have been selected for this duty, or to the administration of the Department of the Interior, I know not; but at any rate, if the Department of the Interior and the Government have no other circumstance in their favour than the maintenance of that corps of Mounted Police, I say, that to be charitable, we should overlook a great deal of inadvertent administration which may have occurred in that district. At these posts I found, and particularly at Lake Tagish—for there it impressed itself upon me more than at any other points through the journey—the tremendous difficulty the Government and the officials in there had to cope with in handling either the mails or discharging customs duties or in connection with any other department of Government. I shall give the House some idea of the number of people who must have passed into the Yukon last year. I may state three of us went in a canoe. When I arrived at Tagish Post, past to which every person going by way of Skagway must go, our canoes were marked 15,780, and we had to register our names in a book kept by the police there. I asked Inspector Strickland why he numbered the boat, and what it signified. He said that was the number of craft which had passed through there on their way to Dawson since some day in the later part of June. That did not include the number who went down by the regular steamers plying between Bennett and Dawson. We had three in our canoe, and I assume that, in any craft going down, there were not less than two, though the most frequent method of transportation between Bennett and Dawson was in large scows,

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which were built by an enterprising British Columbia firm at Bennett. Each of these scows would carry from twenty to thirty persons and a commensurate amount of freight. It can fairly be estimated, therefore, that there would be an average of five people in every craft that passed down to Lake Tagish between June and September. There you have a minimum estimate of 75,000 people who went to Dawson by that route; and the number who went that way did not begin to compare with the hordes who went by way of St. Michaels. It would surprise you, no doubt, as it did me, to find that the number of boats plying between St. Michaels and Dawson, in the short season of 1898, was something like 100. I was amazed, in going to Dawson, to meet four different steamers which were larger than the steamers plying on the Fraser River—magnificent boats, substantially built, each of which would accommodate 800 passengers, with commensurate room for freight—double-stacked, double-decked, with every modern facility—making their way from Dawson to Fort Selkirk. Before landing, we found numbers of boats lying up for the winter above Dawson. All this shows what a tremendous number of people must have gone into Dawson during the latter part of the period in which Major Walsh was trying to administer the country. Picture to yourself the condition of Dawson at that time. The people already there might be estimated at 10,000. People were going in by the Dalton trail, by the Edmonton route, by the Mackenzie route, and from every point of the compass. You can figure for yourself in a conservative way how many people must have been in Dawson and its vicinity at one time or other during the summer of 1898—all adults, every one of earning capacity, every one liable, as no doubt they went with that intention, to have some business with the Gold Commissioner and with the customs officers, and, of course, expecting to get letters. I venture to say, that in the city of Montreal to-day there are not 30,000 adults of earning capacity. When you exclude women and old men, I venture to say, that there are not in the city of Montreal to-day 20,000 people who would have occasion to go to the post office, to the customs-house or to the registry office; and if it were necessary for that many to go, things are so transacted that they would not all be there at one time. The condition of things in Dawson was such that 40,000, or 50,000 people were around those offices, which were the centre of attraction.

Mr. PRIOR. Will the hon. gentleman allow me? Did I understand him to say that there were something like 100,000 hovering around the post office at Dawson?

Mr. MORRISON. I say that, at a conservative estimate, there were 75,000 people who went in by way of Lake Bennett, and there were a great many more who went by

way of St. Michaels. I am speaking of the number who were there during the summer season, before the last boats came out in September. I am not stating it categorically. I want hon. gentlemen to draw their own conclusion. But, putting the number down to 20,000, who were all adults, every one of them having something to do with the Gold Commissioner's office and the post office. I ask you, even if they had ten times the number of officials and clerks they had, would they have been able to cope with the business? I say they could not. I ask you to be fair, and consider the situation. What means had the Government at their disposal in that state of affairs, until Major Walsh and other officials arrived in the fall of 1898? They had only the most casual sources of information. Any information they might receive through their accredited agents, I am quite sure they acted upon. In my opinion, they would have been quite right to ignore the overtures from the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior), or the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), against the statements of their own officials. What better right would I have, even though a supporter of the Government, who had been there and felt that I had grievances to ventilate and observations to make, or in what better position would I be, to foist my opinions or suggestions on the Minister, as against those of Major Walsh, Mr. Fawcett, Mr. Wade, Mr. McGregor, Mr. McFarlane, or any other of the officials who came out? Why should my statement be taken against theirs? I am not so narrow as to think, if I have formed a certain opinion, or made a certain observation, that these are absolutely correct, and that I have a right to foist them on the Government or the Minister. Considering the condition of business at that time, is it any wonder that letters may have gone astray, that complaints may have been formulated, and that numbers of people imagined they were injured and cheated, and humbugged by the officials? When people are isolated, away from their old associations, down on their luck, with everything apparently going against them, what is more natural, even under more favourable circumstances, than for them to turn round and blame something or somebody? When I got in, I found that I could not get out, as the rivers had frozen up. I was advised not to come out before March; so I made up my mind to content myself there. I did not, however, stay in Dawson, with all its alluring enticements, but I went over some of the creeks. I must have travelled some 200 miles while I was there, endeavouring to find out what the conditions were. I did not depend on hearsay. I met very few people whom I knew. In the greater number of cases, I went alone, and I had every opportunity to hear impartially the state of matters, and I availed myself of it. With all due respect to the Klondike

"Nugget," or, in fact, almost anybody else in Dawson. I venture to say, that I must have traversed and seen more of the different creeks than any of those people. The people of the Klondike "Nugget" are very enterprising journalists; I have nothing to say against them. Their course is part of their game: they are advertising their paper splendidly. From a journalistic standpoint, they have taken a very clever move. They were interested in attacking the Government, and they did it in a very strong manner indeed. They left no stone unturned to get grist for their mill. They were often hard up for copy, as newspapers out there necessarily must be, and they did not stop at getting matters founded on absolute facts at all times. Not one of these gentlemen, I venture to say, ever went outside Bonanza or Eldorado Creek. The people I met and who were endeavouring to make complaints had not gone beyond one or two creeks. They had neither the time nor the facilities to do so, because men going in to prospect have necessarily to confine themselves to the one creek on which they have a claim and are unable to travel around sight-seeing as I had the time to do. After having visited every creek in the vicinity of Dawson and throughout the territory, I came back to Dawson somewhat disappointed at not having something more substantial in the way of grievance against the conduct of affairs in that country, on which I could base a suggestion to the hon. Minister of the Interior, because having gone to all this trouble and travelled all that distance in consequence of charges of wrongdoing and maladministration, I expected some substantial wrongdoing. I hoped to be of some service in finding out the actual state of affairs and the need of reforms, so that I could be in a position to go to the hon. Minister and suggest certain reforms. But although I heard a great deal of hard talk against some of the officials, I could not find any instance in which any of those who complained would make a specific charge or state specifically that, of their own knowledge, they knew of anything that would deserve the censure of this House. I resorted to every legitimate means without acting the part of a spy, which I studiously avoided doing, to arrive at the facts and find out whether any grievance really existed. I put myself in the way of the people by putting up at their bunk houses, eating at the same table with men who travelled thirty or fifty miles through creeks, and had all the experience that miners could possibly have, and who had no reason to believe that I was not out there on the same object as themselves, and yet without satisfactory result. I know that in one or two instances I gave my own experience, which led me to feel somewhat hardly against some of the officials; but nevertheless I did not find

that my experience would justify me in standing up on the floor of this House and making a charge against any of these officials for the treatment accorded to myself. I felt that I had been hardly dealt with in some respects, so that I was in the same position as nine-tenths of the people I had met, who complained of grievances. I endeavoured to get some authentic authority for the grievances about which we have heard so much and which one can hear so much in the streets and cabins. But I could not hear of anything sufficiently definite on which to base a charge, although the people in the town knew that I was a member of this House and although I tried all I could to convince them that I would be only too pleased if any tangible evidence were put in my hands, to convey it to the Minister and do everything I could to have any grievance remedied and further the interests of the miners. I did not succeed in getting one case. I asked several people who were complaining about the conduct of affairs there to let me have the material on which they based their complaints, but without success. I even went to the extent of making an appointment with one miner who had travelled all the way from Hunker Creek to Dawson City with me. From my appearance, which was rather weather-beaten, as I had been two weeks on the road, he assumed that I was a miner in hard luck, and offered to assist me in any way he could. He told me that he had a pull with the officials in Dawson City, and would be only too glad to give me a show. I replied—and in this I do not know whether my conduct was reprehensible or not—that I was hard up, and did not think I could afford to buy information from the officials. He said: That is all right, I will find out what the rates are, and if you can borrow money from some of your friends, let me have it and I will fix things all right for you. But I found out afterwards that this man was known as a grafter of the worst kind, and no doubt thought I was sufficiently a tenderfoot to give him \$100 or \$150 in return for which he would give me some stuff he said he could get at the Gold Commissioner's office, and if I had been dupe enough to believe him, I could have made that the foundation of a grievance. I am not denying that there are complaints, but you must consider the sources from which they emanate and the motives which actuate those making them. No doubt, some of the miners have been treated rather cavalierly. I myself was treated cavalierly and discourteously by some of the officials there, who, no doubt, had they known I was a member of this House, would have acted differently, but at the same time I do not see why I should blame the Minister of the Interior or the Government for any treatment accorded myself by certain officials thousands of miles away from the supervision of the Minister. There is no hon. gentleman who would be unreasonable enough to think for

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one moment that any blame could attach to the Administration for conduct of that kind on the part of the officials. Even admitting that there was maladministration—and we have no tangible evidence of any—how could we hold the Government or any Minister of the Crown responsible for the conduct of these remote officials, even assuming that their conduct was such as you would hear it described on the streets of Dawson. Two gentlemen have come to Ottawa from Dawson City purporting to represent the views of the people out there—Mr. Semple and Mr. Allan. Mr. Allan I knew out there, as I used to drop frequently into the newspaper office, where he was employed, but I do not know that he ever saw one of the creeks, and I am strongly inclined to suspect he did not. These gentlemen were hounding the Government for all they were worth. The editor, a very estimable fellow, whom I knew very well, and for whom I did everything I could, without putting myself under the obligation of asking a favour of him, to get information, was in the habit of saying: If I were to show you what is in this bundle of papers or affidavits, you would do so and so, and a certain thing would happen. Well, I did not want to put myself under the obligation of saying to him: Let me see those papers. I did not go to that extent, and felt that in any case it would have been useless. Only on one occasion did Mr. George, the gentleman in question, avail himself of the opportunity of telling me, as a member of this House that he knew of some maladministration on the part of the officials in the Yukon, which would reflect on the Government and the Minister of the Interior by connecting them with the case, but that one instance satisfied me more than anything else, of the groundless nature of these complaints. Mr. George is the gentleman who has formulated the charges against Mr. Fawcett. The ground that Mr. George raised for not appearing before the investigation held by Mr. Ogilvie was that Mr. Ogilvie had limited it to occurrences up to the 25th August. But I did not hear him refer to one matter which had not occurred before that date. There is not one of the so-called grievances I have heard repeated time and again up there which did not occur before the 25th of August. When I was out there Major Walsh was out of office, so was Mr. Wade, and as a matter of fact, Mr. Fawcett had been removed and Mr. Wilson had been superceded. All these officials were therefore out of office, and yet Mr. George and hon. gentlemen opposite who are coached by him and his friends complain that because they are not permitted to go into matters which occurred after the 25th August, they will not go before the commission at all. I venture to say that all the material which was sent into the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), and on which he spoke at such length, related to occurrences that

took place before the 25th August, and were sent in to him before that date, and it is into these matters that investigation is now being had. Why, there is absolutely no point in the contention of hon. gentlemen opposite that they were shut out from producing any evidence except that relating to occurrences which took place before the 25th of August. Nobody there pretends to say that after the middle of July, there was any cause of complaint. Not long after the 25th of August, about September, the post office was put in as good running order, and is now, I venture to say, as efficiently run as the post office in the city of Ottawa. Mr. Hardman, the appointee of the Postmaster General, took hold of the matter with vigour, got the post office into spacious buildings, effected many reforms and adopted a system of handling letters that is a credit to Dawson and would be a credit to any place in Canada. I was there and I would like hon. gentlemen to take my statement that there is absolutely no complaint of the way the post office was run when I left, on the 26th of November last. Mr. Senkler, the new Gold Commissioner, succeeded Mr. Fawcett against whom all these complaints were being made in Dawson up to the 25th of August. Mr. George, of the Klondike "Nugget," time and again, and even while I was there—and I think he appealed to me and made reference to me in his paper—said: If Mr. Fawcett is removed within a short time, we guarantee and pledge ourselves that, from this day, there will be no mention made of his administration. That was the undertaking that the Klondike "Nugget" gave, showing that the principal agitation was against Mr. Fawcett, not against the Government—they disclaimed that. They had their knife into Mr. Fawcett. They foolishly deluded themselves—in my opinion—in believing that the rank and file of the miners were attacking Mr. Fawcett, and they hounded him every day of the week their paper was published. Mr. Fawcett was removed. But I notice that the Klondike "Nugget" is not satisfied, but still keeps attacking the Gold Commissioner's office, and attacking the Government for the way the Gold Commissioner's office is conducted; and not content with that, they have sent out two emissaries with a missionary desire to effect reforms which they think would not be granted unless the great Klondike "Nugget" sent their advocates to Ottawa. All this goes to show the bona fides of the people who attack the Government and the officials there. I was ashamed of the participation of a great many Canadians in this onslaught on officialdom in Dawson. When you corner them closely and try to get at the merits of the thing, it is all so evasive, so intangible, that I, for one, got thoroughly tired and disgusted with the whole matter. In contrast to some of our own people, who are in the minority, was the treatment of the officials there by the

American citizens—who, by the way, so far as I could find, were a most estimable element indeed. They recognized law and order, did what they could to assist the officials in the performance of their duties, overlooked any little difficulties that might arise through the exigencies of the case and conducted themselves in a most circumspect way. I will not insult them by saying that they did so because there is an efficient corps of mounted police and a detachment of militia, not by any means. For my part, I believe—though, I confess, I did not before I had been there—that there would be as good order as there is now, even if the soldiers were not there.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I do not wish to interrupt my hon. friend (Mr. Morrison), but, if he would not object, I would like to ask him, for information, what proportion of the people there are British subjects?

Mr. MORRISON. I do not speak from my own observation, but I believe that the British subjects are to the others about as 1 is to 9. It is quite evident that the Canadian element is a small minority. But I say that we are very fortunate in having an American element there that is of such a high standard, made up of men of such intelligence, education, ability and means. I have heard hon. gentlemen on both sides making remarks that might be considered derogatory to that element in Dawson, speaking of Dawson as being an outlandish place where law and order might be set at naught unless the people had a field artillery or something of that kind constantly before them. That is an erroneous impression. I was agreeably surprised with Dawson and the people there. The people were above the average, I should say, of those of any town of equal size in Canada or elsewhere. They seemed, generally willing to help the Government in carrying out any proposal that might be made. Hon. gentlemen must not suppose that because certain statements are made by irresponsible persons carried away by their pens and by the desire to write something facetious or striking, they correctly represent the state of affairs in that country. I will even go so far as to say that we should take with a grain of salt the statements made by Miss Shaw, who went there when no person could have the facilities for estimating accurately the condition of things throughout that district. Anything she might write, I venture to say, was based upon information got at second hand. After all, with all due deference to Miss Shaw, she, as a correspondent, naturally wanted to get readable, though reliable, copy for her paper, and while adhering to the truth as closely as possible, to write something that would attract attention. I do not think it reasonable to hold the Government responsible for not having accepted the word even of such correspondents as Miss Shaw as a basis for official action or to say that they should

have assumed that because these correspondents said certain things existed that, therefore, they did, as a matter of fact, exist.

Now, in Dawson, as I have said, the post office is run splendidly. The Gold Commissioner's office also is conducted in a proper manner. Complaint was formerly made against some of the minor officials. Mr. Ogilvie promptly investigated these complaints, and, I believe, has meted out the measure of justice that was required in each case; and, I think, has rectified any complaint or cause of complaint that might have existed. I venture to say that at this moment there is no cause of serious complaint. I have had letters recently from Dawson touching upon this point. I do not wish to read them, because they are not sent to me to be used in the House of Commons, nor have I asked my correspondents if I might make use of them. But, writing of other matters, some of my friends have incidentally dealt with the present administration of the Yukon; and all have given me the impression that that administration was all that could be desired. Here, for instance, is a remark in a letter written by a very intimate friend of mine, written, as I say, without any intention of my using it in a political way at all:

If one is to be thankful for large favours in proportion to small ones, there should be great gratitude and thankfulness for the choice of Mr. Senkler as Gold Commissioner. He is undoubtedly the right man in the right place. He is giving great satisfaction to the miners, and I am sure that every one of his actions will be heartily approved of at Ottawa. He caught on to the work far quicker than any of us thought it possible for him to do, and, further, he is very well liked by every one of his staff, which is wonderful, considering the decided changes he has caused to be made.

That is evidence as to the office of the Gold Commissioner as it is at present. The same might be said, I am sure, with regard to the other departments. Even if we assume that maladministration did exist, that some of these officers prostituted the positions they filled, that does not alter the fact that that state of things does not now exist. A new state of affairs has arisen, and the country is properly administered. Why, then, I would ask, should we spend week after week here discussing what has taken place in the past or what has been assumed to have taken place in the past, when we have to consider matters of much moment to the future administration of that country. There is the question of transportation in the Yukon, of trade facilities and possibilities, of expenditures and revenues—I say why should we waste day after day and week after week discussing these nebulous matters when we have questions of constructive policy to discuss—live and important questions? Why do not hon. gentlemen opposite give the Government an opportunity—and I will be the first to join them in such

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a move—to state what their future policy in regard to that country is to be.

I would like hon. gentlemen opposite to give us an opportunity—because I am curious to know myself, not being to that extent in the confidence of the Government—I would like hon. gentlemen opposite to give us an opportunity of knowing what the Government intends to do in regard to transportation facilities, what they intend to do in regard to telegraphic communication there, railway communication, and postal facilities. As to the question of expenditure in Dawson, I venture to say there is not a man up there, Liberal or Conservative, who will thank these gentlemen opposite for wasting the time of the Government and preventing them from formulating a policy of administration, and of letting us know what that policy is. What the people up there want is, not to turn this Government out of power and put the gentlemen opposite into power—they are not actuated by any love for either the Government or the Opposition—but what they want is that something should be done for the advancement of the interests of the people in that district. They want that country opened up, and they look to us necessarily as the source from which they must expect assistance in developing the resources of that country, and in giving the people proper facilities for doing so. Why, Sir, in wasting so much time in this discussion, are we not prostituting the trust imposed upon us in regard to that country? What might we not have done during the last month to help the people up there if we had had an opportunity of legislating here, and of assisting the Government to take wise measures in developing that country? I ask hon. gentlemen opposite: What ultimate advantage do they expect to derive from blocking legislation on this question? For my part, I think it is lamentably poor political tactics on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite to pursue the course they have been pursuing. They are certainly alienating the good wishes of the people of Dawson and vicinity in delaying the Government from showing their hand. If the Government intend to ignore the interests of the Yukon in the future, I am as anxious as anybody else to know it; but if we are going to fritter away the time of this Parliament as we have been doing, I say we will do an incalculable injury, not only to the interests of that remote and deserving community, but to public interests nearer home. At the outset I had to apologize for the necessity of taking up any more time of the House in pursuing this debate.

An hon. MEMBER. Go on.

Mr. MORRISON. No, I do not intend to go on, because I think that hon. gentlemen on this side have so thoroughly met any charges that may have been formulated by our friends opposite that I would only be in-

dulging in surplusage and superfluity in dealing any longer with the matters which have been touched upon so ably by the members of the Government. I may, however, say this in conclusion, that while I admit that due allowance must be made for the early difficulties existing in that territory, yet the Government must sooner or later assume the responsibility for the actual condition of affairs there. That responsibility cannot be evaded, and I say advisedly that the time must come soon, if it has not already come, when the Government must be held absolutely responsible for the conduct of affairs in that country. But I may say that up to the present time, under the circumstances of which I have personal knowledge and which I have endeavoured to place before the House. I think the Government ought not to be held responsible for all that may have occurred up there, and for all the charges which have been made on the floor of this House. I will go further and say that the time must come soon, if it has not already come, when the Government must drop the apologetic defence which they are driven to assume to-day. So far the Government has been driven into an attitude of defence of the conduct of its subordinate officials in the Yukon territory, and have not yet had an opportunity of stating a policy for the future. But they must very soon formulate such a policy, and it depends upon the Opposition how soon the Government may do so. The time must come when the Government will have to formulate a constructive and aggressive policy for the administration of affairs in that country, and I ask hon. gentlemen opposite, I appeal to them on behalf of the people in the Klondike to cease this nonsense and absurdity—I say this in no offensive sense—of prolonging this debate, of following up this will-o'-the-wisp set on foot by my hon. and respected friend from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). I say that no man who has consumed seven hours of the time of this House in an effort to drive home a charge against the Government and their officials in the Yukon, and defending that charge with only such evidence as he was able to bring before us, can have had any case to begin with; I say he has shown by his want of success that he is absolutely without proof, without a shred or a shadow of ground upon which to proceed. I think if the Government are reprehensible at all, it is in putting in a defence to any such lame and feeble charges, because by doing so they give people an idea that something has been done which needs to be defended. For my part I fail to see, applying any test to these charges, whether in law or in reason, that the hon. gentlemen opposite have made out the slightest case against the Government. However, such is the state of political opinion in this country, such is the credulity extant among the electors, that when such charges have been made, and reiterated with so much per-

sistency, a portion of the people may come to believe them unless the Government and their friends take the trouble to show how baseless and erroneous they are. I trust, therefore, that the Opposition will assist the Government in bringing this matter to a conclusion, and that after this debate is over they will join with the Government hand in hand in working for the interests of that deserving and apparently ill-used region of the Yukon. In regard to the investigation now going on by Mr. Ogilvie, hon. gentlemen opposite must admit that at the time Mr. Ogilvie was appointed commissioner, he was the most available man the Minister of the Interior could select for that purpose. What else could have been done? Supposing a judge of the Supreme Court, or a number of judges, had been selected to hold an investigation, what could they have done? They could never have got in there. I met Mr. Clement, who was charged with taking that commission up to Mr. Ogilvie. I do not know when he started from here. I left Dawson on the 26th of November, and at the Hootalinqua, I met Mr. Clement. One of the parties had nearly perished on the route, and would have done so had they not been strong and muscular young men. However, Mr. Clement deemed that it would not be advisable for him to go on with the other party, and he stayed at Hootalinqua. We left him there, and he remained, because the trail was very bad. In returning, we fell into the river several times, and barely escaped with our lives. We advised him that he would be very indiscreet in going on. Supposing that judges of the Supreme Court, men of mature years, had attempted to make that journey, they would not have lived to tell the tale. Mr. Clement was an athlete, a sturdy young man and he had all he could do to stand the climate and to overcome the tremendous obstacles that presented themselves. I imagine the absurdity of appointing judges, whose names would occur to most of us, to undertake the responsibility of investigating matters in that country. They could not possibly have gone in there. Not one of the judges who would be selected for that purpose, would consent to go into that country until he could have gone in by steamer in July, and then what would have been the state of affairs? He would have found the witnesses from whom any testimony could be got, perhaps, scattered all over the country, and it would have been impossible to have communicated with them. He would have been obliged to get through the work of the commission inside of a few weeks, in order to get out before the winter came on. Even if the witnesses were there, he could not possibly, under the state of affairs, have been expected to carry on that investigation in any sort of an adequate manner. This was what the hon. Minister of the Interior knew, and he therefore selected Mr. Clement, a young, sturdy athlete, and gave

him the commission, and said: Hurry in there as soon as you can; give Mr. Ogilvie that commission; supplement it with the letter I have given you, and tell him to go into those matters in the most thorough manner. Is that the reason why hon. gentlemen opposite are accusing the Government for not sending in, possibly, judges of the Superior Courts to investigate these matters in Dawson? If the hon. Minister of the Interior had not sent in this commission to Mr. Ogilvie, one of the strongest grounds that hon. gentlemen opposite would have for accusing this Government, in this debate, would have been for their delinquency in not sending this commission in. I know that there is not a reasonable member on that side of the House who can, conscientiously, criticise the hon. Minister of the Interior, or the Government, for having acted as they did in that respect. I am free to admit that it may possibly be that that investigation may prove inadequate, although we can know nothing until the report of Mr. Ogilvie will have come in. Hon. gentlemen should possess themselves in patience, and allow this report to come in, and let us see what the report says. If the investigation is inadequate, I will be the first amongst the members of this House in calling for a thorough and adequate investigation into the alleged charges, if properly formulated, against the administration or the Government. I think it is a waste of time to ask the Government to look into the conduct of officials who have severed their connection with the Government. What good would it be to do so? Could you put them in jail; could they be imprisoned for anything they may have done in the line of the charge of hon. gentlemen opposite? Could any sane elector cast his ballot against the Government for conduct on the part of officials of which the Government were absolutely ignorant up to a certain period? But, notwithstanding that, I would willingly join hon. gentlemen opposite in demanding a thorough investigation, if the report shows that the investigation has been inadequate; but I think hon. gentlemen opposite would be pursuing a wiser course by awaiting the arrival of the report before insisting upon any further step in regard to this matter, and, for my part, I consider that sufficient justification for me to vote against any attempt, on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite, or elsewhere, to force another investigation, until we have heard the result of the one that is at present pending. In the meantime, I do not want to be understood by either side of this House to be standing up as a sponsor for Yukon officials, or to have hon. gentlemen think that it will be the interest of the Government, or the wish of the Government, that I should do so. I do not go so far as to say, that the officers sent into that country are the best that could be got, but at the time they were selected, I and other hon. gentlemen in this House were of the opinion

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that they were the best. I do not say that Mr. Ogilvie is the best man to hold this investigation; but I do say, that at the time he was selected, he was the only person to select. A mistake may have been made in regard to these officers who have gone in there; but, if so, it is a mistake that might be made by any Government, Grit or Tory. Taking a man with a reputation in one sphere of activity, a mistake might be made in putting him into another sphere, and no discredit could be attached to any Government that did so. Therefore, I have the utmost confidence, that, as far as the Government is concerned, notwithstanding what the alleged turpitude of these officials may have been, that the Government have done everything that could be done to advance the interests of the community in that country. I am glad to say, that I have had occasion to confer with the hon. Minister of the Interior, and to communicate with friends in Dawson City, who stand in favour there, and I have been able to assure them that, so far as I was concerned, and I believe also, so far as Parliament was concerned, that, notwithstanding the opposition that had arisen, everything possible would be done to advance the interests of this community; and I appeal again, in behalf of the people there, that, apart from partisanship, hon. gentlemen opposite will cease their arbitrary conduct and cease from putting obstacles in the way which tend to make a situation, very difficult in itself, more so, and that they will assist the Government to get down to some of the work of the session, if not in regard to other matters, at any rate, in regard to the Yukon. I am sure that, if we do so, we will have, not only the consciousness of having done the right thing, but we will have the thanks of that community in that far-off district of the Yukon.

Mr. T. D. CRAIG (East Durham). Mr. Speaker, I have listened with very great interest to the address of the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison). I listened with interest, because I understood he had been out in Dawson, and I wanted to hear something about the way in which the conditions there impressed him. I am rather disappointed with his speech, because he does not seem to have seen very much, after all. I am reminded of a story, which occurs to me at this moment, of a man who was accused of stealing a certain article. Four or five witnesses were called, who swore that they saw him steal it. However, he said that he was not guilty, and that he could bring fifty men to swear that they did not see him steal it. I am reminded very much, by the remarks of the hon. member for New Westminster, of that story, because we find that he says that he saw nothing that was wrong. He made an apology for the Government, and yet I do not think that I would want him to apologize for me in the same way. It was a weak

apology. He said that no one supposed the Mounted Police would be such a good force and would do its work so well; therefore, we ought to overlook a great many of the mistakes of the Government. As I followed the hon. gentleman, I couldn't help thinking that the party to which the hon. gentleman belongs, is the party which constantly tried to reduce the Mounted Police, and almost tried to get rid of it. The party on this side of the House is the party that always tried to keep the Mounted Police up to the utmost state of efficiency. If any Government deserves credit for the Mounted Police, it is not the Government which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Morrison) supports, but rather it is the Conservative Government who maintained that force in a high state of efficiency. The hon. gentleman claimed that a good many faults of this Government should be overlooked, because the Mounted Police in the Yukon are an efficient body, but the Government of the present day had nothing to do with making them efficient. I do not think I would like the hon. gentleman (Mr. Morrison) to apologize for me in language similar to that in which his apology was offered for the Government. He told us, and I took down his words, that on account of the Mounted Police we ought to overlook the many inadvertences, to put it mildly, which the officials in the Yukon had been guilty of and for which hon. gentlemen on this side of the House hold the Government responsible.

**Mr. MORRISON.** I do not think I used the words "of which they had been guilty." What I said, or what I intended to say, was: "with which they had been charged."

**Mr. CRAIG.** I think I quoted the hon. gentleman correctly, but of course I shall accept his correction. I am not disposed, however, to accept his statement that 75,000 people went into Dawson City by the Skagway route, which the hon. gentleman followed, and about five times that number went in by the Yukon River route. If the hon. gentleman will make a calculation on that basis, he will find that he stated that 75,000 went via Skagway and 375,000 via the Yukon River, and as a great many must have gone in by other routes, that would make over 450,000 adult men in the neighbourhood of Dawson. It seems to me that these figures are perfectly absurd, and I say it with all respect, if the other statements made by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Morrison) are based on as little foundation as that statement, we can see that they are worth absolutely nothing. The great apology made by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Morrison) for the Government was that they could not possibly know all these facts. Now, I think the Government could have known these facts; it is the business of the Government to know these facts, and we charge them that they did not take proper means to ascertain the facts. We charge

them with sending officials in there who—some of them, I do not say all—were not fit for the positions. I think that is admitted by the hon. gentleman. Perhaps in one sense the Government were not to blame for sending in some incompetent men, but they certainly are to blame for not discovering that, and for not instituting an inquiry the moment the slightest rumour reached them. Further, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Morrison) makes the remarkable statement that the Government should accept the reports of their own officials in preference to the reports of anybody else. Why, Sir, the answer to that argument is that the officials who made these reports were the very men who were charged with malfeasance in office, and is it not absurd for any intelligent member of this House to contend that the reports of the officials who are charged with wrong-doing should be accepted in preference to the reports of disinterested persons? That is a very lame apology indeed for the Government. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Morrison) also told us that after being in Dawson City all this time, after interviewing the miners and almost everybody there, and after seeing, as he tells us, more than the proprietors of the Klondike "Nugget," he came away rather disappointed because he found so few grievances. He told us that when he went around he thought he would find a good many things going wrong, and that he would get the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) to remedy them; but he found there were very few things to complain of. That the hon. gentleman found hardly any grievances and that everything was about as proper as it should be, invalidates the whole statement of the hon. member. It is admitted that there were grievances; the Government does not deny that there were things done that should not have been done, men all over the country who belong to the Liberal party concede that, and yet this hon. gentleman (Mr. Morrison) tells us that he saw more than any one else in the Klondike, more than people who had been living there, and yet he found nothing wrong. In my view—and I am approaching this subject with a perfectly unprejudiced mind—such a statement as that invalidates his whole evidence and demonstrates. I am afraid, that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Morrison) was trying to make his apology too strong. The hon. gentleman states that he does not like the tactics of the Opposition, and he complains that we are obstructing useful legislation on behalf of the Yukon territory. I admit that four weeks is rather long to debate these questions, and I am sorry it requires such a period of time, but even if this debate had not continued for four weeks I am pretty sure that no very useful legislation would have been brought down by this Government. I feel I can promise that if any good legislation is introduced in respect to

the Yukon the Opposition will join with the Government in perfecting it. I do not promise we will agree to any new Yukon railway schemes, but we are just as anxious on this side of the House—representing as we do half of the people of Canada—that the affairs of the Klondike should be well managed as are members on the other side of the House. I do not know that there is anything more to answer in the speech of the hon. gentleman, but I may remark that for the time he spent in Dawson City and in the Klondike he seems to have seen very little indeed.

An hon. MEMBER. He did not want to see anything.

Mr. CRAIG. I do not know whether or not his eyes were blinded by party prejudices, but it really looks to me, as my hon. friend here remarks, that he went up there with the intention of seeing nothing.

Now, Sir, I had hoped that when this amendment was first suggested the Prime Minister would have seen his way to accept it. I do not pretend to be a politician of much experience but it appears to me that if I had been in the position of the Premier, I would have at once said: We accept that amendment, because in that case, if the charges made could not have been proven those who made the charges would have been placed in a very awkward position. It cannot be denied that vast interests are involved in the question of the Yukon administration. People are flocking to that territory, and it will demand the careful attention of the Government for a long time to come, and I have no doubt it will receive the attention of both sides of the House. Therefore, the question is one which demands and deserves time for discussion. One hon. gentleman on the other side during the course of the debate, stated that the Opposition brought forward this matter simply to help their party and to injure the Government. Sir, I care not what the motives were; that does not alter the facts of the case. In thinking this matter over, I have concluded that some charges which have been made cannot be challenged by the members of the Government or their supporters. I have put these down in order so that I may make my speech short, as I always try to do. First of all, it cannot be challenged that there have been charges against the administration in the Yukon made in newspapers all over the country, and not only in newspapers opposed to the Government, but in Liberal papers friendly to the Government. I intend to read three or four of these newspaper comments, and I shall read only from Liberal newspapers, some which are edited by gentlemen who have the honour of sitting in this House as supporters of the present Government. The first statement I shall read is from the paper edited by the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Ellis). It says:

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Every official is looking out for his own interest only, and if a miner without influence wants to find out anything he has to grease somebody's dirty paw. One cannot even see the mining records to find out what claims are or are not recorded, without bribery and corruption.

The hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison) spoke only of the reports published in papers in Seattle and San Francisco, and I myself certainly would not pay so much attention to them as I would to Canadian papers; but when we find that the paper edited by the hon. member for St. John, N.B. (Mr. Ellis), a gentleman who supports the Liberal party in this House at all times, publishes such a statement as that, it cannot be lightly thrown aside with the remark that it is all done for party politics. We must acknowledge on both sides of the House, that after all there must be some reason for such a newspaper making a charge like that. I am sure we would not do the hon. member for St. John the injustice to say that he would allow a statement of that kind to go in his paper—a statement a great deal stronger than I would like to make, even if I knew the facts—unless he thought it was true. So that he, at all events, must have thought that there was something in these charges. Now, I am going to read from the Winnipeg "Tribune," which is edited by the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), a Liberal member of this House:

It is very plausible to cry that no specific charges have been laid. This is not true;—

I might stop right there and sit down, and let the Government argue it out with their own supporter. They say, lay specific charges. He says specific charges have been laid. I will just read that again—I did not know before that it was so strong:

It is very plausible to cry—

We know who have been doing the crying—

It is very plausible to cry that no specific charges have been laid. This is not true; but even if it had been, it does not help the case. Wrongs have been committed, and everybody whose intelligence surpasses that of the partisan pigmy recognizes the fact and desires to see the remedy applied as speedily as possible.

That is a stronger language by a great deal than I would use myself. I am afraid it is rather hard on a good many gentlemen on that side of the House, and I think it is especially hard on the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison). I will leave him to settle that with the hon. member for Lisgar. Now, I have a selection to read from the Pembroke "Observer," another Liberal newspaper, which was edited by Mr. Muller, who, I am told, though I do not know it, has been appointed to a Government berth by the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton).

Mr. DAVIN. At \$1,500 a year and expenses.

Mr. CRAIG. This is the selection:

I have been here now for two weeks, and have been noting and inquiring on every hand, and though I cannot give you facts and figures, I have seen enough to convince myself that it is worse even than the mind of an honest man can conceive. That the mining laws are being set aside on a colossal scale is beyond all question, and that barefaced bribery is the rule of the day is equally certain.

I am glad that the hon. member for New Westminster was not there at that time, or he would have received a great shock.

Mr. WOOD. Do you suppose that gentleman knew as much about it as the member who was there?

Mr. CRAIG. Well, I think the man who wrote that knew as much about it as the member for Hamilton. The member for Hamilton knows nothing about it, and yet he is prepared to give his views about it without any hesitation.

Mr. TAYLOR. The man who wrote that was there six months.

Mr. CRAIG. I have a selection from another paper, the London "Times." The hon. member for New Westminster said he did not pay much attention to the statements in the London "Times," but the reason I read this is that the London "Times" is read by a great many people who do pay attention to what appears in it; and, even if the reports are exaggerated, still, they may have a great effect on people going to the Yukon and on the fair name of Canada. So I will read this:

The colonial editor of the London "Times," Miss Flora Shaw, was not sparing in her denunciations of the flagrant misuse of power and the scandals she saw in the course of her Yukon travels, which for the first time in her varied experience "caused her to blush for British justice."

The PRIME MINISTER. That is not the London "Times."

Mr. CRAIG. No, I see it is not; I see it is from somewhere else. But part of it is from the London "Times": "caused her to blush for British justice."

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

### After Recess

Mr. CRAIG. When the House rose at six o'clock, I was reading some selections with reference to the conduct of officials in the Yukon territory. All these selections were taken from Liberal journals, and all were couched in very severe language. I read a selection which I said was from the London "Times," but I notice it is a remark from another paper, but there is a small portion of it which is a selection from the correspondence of Miss Shaw, and that is the portion referring to her experience,

which caused her to blush for British justice. Miss Shaw was the colonial correspondent of the "Times."

My hon. friend from New Westminster (Mr. Morrison) spoke rather slightly of the London "Times," and the letters it published on the Klondike, but he should remember that although he may not attach much importance to that correspondence, the British public would attach great importance to any letters from the colonial correspondent of that paper. I read these selections before recess in support of my first proposition that a great many charges had been made in the newspapers of this country with reference to the state of affairs in the Yukon, and I think it is important to notice that these papers from which I have read extracts are all Liberal journals. If they were Conservative papers, it might perhaps be said, with some show of justice, that these articles were dictated by prejudice and written for the purpose of injuring the Government, but such an imputation cannot be made against newspapers which, on all occasions, when they can do it, support the Government, and which sometimes stretch things a good way in order to aid their party. I think, therefore, the argument is a fair one, that the reports which came to these papers must have been very bad reports indeed, when these papers would publish such remarks as I have quoted. There is one selection which I think I did not read, and that is from the Edmonton "Bulletin," a paper edited by a supporter of the Government in this House, the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver). It is a very short selection, but expresses a good deal. We have heard it remarked very often, in the course of this debate, that the information given to those who have made charges has come from American or, as sometimes has been said, Yankee speculators, and some discredit has been attempted to be thrown on these reports on that account. But this selection I am about to read comes from a member of this House, supporting the Government, and is, therefore, not open to any such imputation. It is as follows:

As a matter of fact, Canadians and Liberals are as little pleased with the administration of the Yukon as Yankees or Conservatives.

I understand that my hon. friend from Alberta intends speaking in this debate. I do not know whether he will emphasize what he said in his paper, when he makes his speech to-night, but I am sure we shall wait with some expectancy to see how he feels on the matter since he has come to the capital. It must have struck hon. members as remarkable that some who have spoken against the Government and its administration of the Yukon before coming to Ottawa, have changed their tone after being here a little while. I suppose there must be some very good reasons for this change. Perhaps the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), or some other members of the Government, have explained matters to these gentlemen to their

satisfaction. Of course, we know that politics is a very strong factor, and they may have been shown that it was impolitic on their part to speak as they did, and I am inclined to believe that my hon. friend from New Westminster (Mr. Morrison), who spoke this afternoon, might have told us a little more than he did, if it were not for fear of injuring his party. I have another selection to read—one which has been read before—but these selections are most interesting, and I think it will not do any harm to read them again. The selection I propose to read now is from the language used by a gentleman of the name of Mr. Joseph Martin—a gentleman well known to a great many members of this House, a gentleman of great ability, and not afraid to say what he thinks. I know that when he was a member of this House, that was the impression I formed of him, but at the same time he is a very strong Liberal and did yeoman service for his party here. The newspaper I have in my hand reports Mr. Martin as saying :

Though the returning miners may not be telling the truth, yet, if this is the case, there has been a strange unanimity in the lies they have been telling. Not only Americans, but Canadians and Englishmen, have entered most vigorous protests against the prevailing condition of affairs, and there does not appear to be much doubt that something is seriously wrong. The fact that the most bitter protests come from British subjects is significant, and it is very difficult to believe that bribery and corruption of officials has not been rampant.

Now, I am sure if we could have a meeting between the Minister of the Interior and Mr. Joseph Martin and see them discussing this matter between them, that it would be a very interesting sight. I hardly think that the hon. Minister would be pleased with what Mr. Martin says on this subject. Although they both belong to the same party, I am inclined to think that on this question they would hardly find themselves in accord. It might be possible, however, that if Mr. Martin were in Ottawa, he might become subject to some of the same influences which have affected others, although I very much doubt it, from what I know of him.

I now proceed to state my second proposition, which is this : Not only have many charges been made in the newspapers all over the country, including a great many Liberal journals, but serious charges have been made in this House. It has been argued in this debate by hon. gentlemen opposite that these charges do not amount to anything—that the charges made by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) and by the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior), and repeated by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) and the hon. leader of the Opposition, all amount to nothing. That may satisfy hon. members opposite. It may suit the Government very well to pooh-pooh these charges, but I must say that all through this country the strong impression prevails, even among a great many supporters of the

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Liberal party, that those charges are not without some foundation. It is all very well for hon. gentlemen opposite to say that they are made from political motives, but the country will hardly be disposed to think that men occupying responsible positions in this House—such men as the leader of the Opposition and the senior member for Pictou, and the hon. members for Halifax and Victoria—would make serious charges such as these against officials and connect the Government with them unless there was some foundation for them. I propose to read a very few of the charges that have been made in this House. It is said that they are not specific. Well, I think that some of them are very specific. I know that if they were made against me, I would think them very specific. If I were a member on the other side, I think I would consider them very specific, and when I read them it will be seen that they are not only serious but specific. I shall read, first of all, some of the charges made by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden). This is what the hon. gentleman said, as reported in "Hansard," page 930 :

What are the charges which have been made by the hon. member for Pictou as to what has taken place in the Yukon district? The charges, briefly summarized, may be said to be these :

1. That a notorious system of bribery amongst Government officials has been rendered necessary by the inability to otherwise procure them to perform their duties.

I should think that was a sufficiently specific charge.

1. That a notorious system of bribery among Government officials has been rendered necessary by the inability to otherwise procure them to perform their duties.

2. That blackmailing by officials of persons applying to record claims has prevailed.

3. That unfair and fraudulent use has been made by officials of knowledge acquired in the discharge of their duties.

4. That the Gold Commissioner's legal adviser accepted retainers from persons contesting claims before the commissioner.

5. That the Dominion Lands agent has accepted retainers to procure grants issued by himself, and used the police to dispossess squatters of these lands.

6. That the Dominion Lands Agent was interested in the grant of the water front as well as other officials.

7. That unsanitary conditions have unnecessarily prevailed in the district.

8. That defective postal accommodation and arrangements have prevailed.

9. That there has been an abuse of liquor permits.

Now, the hon. member for Halifax, a little further on in his speech gives specific charges as follows :—

1. The corrupt leasing of the water front to Morrison & Macdonald by private contract, in disregard of the rights of the squatters, and at a yearly profit of some \$80,000 or \$90,000 to them.

2. The charge that Mr. F. C. Wade and other Government officials are interested in that grant.

3. The retainer of Mr. Wade by the applicants for that lease and the payment to him of a large retainer.

4. The retainer of Mr. Wade by persons having claims contested before the Gold Commissioner, whose legal adviser he is.

5. The case of the miners William Huslig, Arthur Brown and John Statton.

6. The case of Dr. Leblanc.

I read this to show that charges have been made which we might fairly call specific. Now, the Government have said more than once that if any hon. member will make a specific charge, they are willing to appoint a commission. I suppose they mean that the member must make the charge on his own responsibility. Well, these charges have been made by the hon. member for Pictou and have been repeated as I have read, by the hon. member for Halifax, and yet the Government refuses a commission on the ground that no specific charge has been made.

At page 1027 of the "Hansard"—and this is the only other thing I intend to read on this point—the hon. member for Victoria after making a long charge, which I shall not read, says :

Now, Sir, that is a specific charge, made by the man who went himself, who took in a partner and signed a power of attorney to the claim which was in Wade, Clark & Wilson's office, and can be got at any moment, when there is a commission appointed. Sir, that is not the only one. If that commission is appointed, there is no doubt about it, there will be dozens and dozens of similar cases.

These statements are very strong, and I cannot imagine that members of Parliament of such standing as the hon. member for Victoria, the senior member for Pictou, and the hon. member for Halifax should make such statements, unless there was some foundation for them. These charges have been scattered all over the country. There was another serious charge against an individual made by the senior member for Pictou. I thought it was only too specific, but it does not seem to have been specific enough to satisfy the hon. gentlemen on the other side. It seems to me quite clear that these charges being scattered all over the country through the newspapers cannot but be injurious to Canada and the Yukon, unless a judicial commission is appointed to make an impartial investigation and let us know whether these charges are true or not. This is what the people want to know. These charges are repeated in the United States and in England, and I suppose in Europe as well; and if they are not investigated by an independent commission, they cannot but tell to the injury of Canada and especially of the Yukon territory. The hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison) said that he went to that country but saw nothing wrong. The Government admitted that there was something wrong by appointing Mr. Ogilvie to investigate. It seems a pity that the Minister of the Interior had not seen the hon. member for New Westminster first, for then he might have saved himself the issuing of that commission. The hon.

member (Mr. Morrison) told us that he had remained at Dawson City for several weeks and had travelled up the gold-bearing creeks interviewing the miners, and had tried to get some miners to make a statement that something wrong was going on, but he could not find anything wrong. And yet in such a state of affairs—it was like a second paradise where nothing was wrong—the Government issued a commission to Mr. Ogilvie to investigate wrong-doing. But what sort of an investigation is the Government having? To whom has the work of investigation been intrusted? Now, Sir, no one in this House has said a word against Mr. Ogilvie. I am glad that is the case: I am glad that Mr. Ogilvie is such a man that nothing can be said against him. The Opposition do not want to slander any one. I know that, personally, my desire is that all these charges may be refuted. I should be glad to know that there is nothing serious in any of these charges. But I can never know that nor can the people know it until a proper investigation has been held. Even though we admit that Mr. Ogilvie is a good man and a man of ability, we do not admit that he is the right man to make this investigation. One reason is that he is a Government official. I feel satisfied in my own mind that he will constantly bear in mind that he is an official of this Government whom he is asked to pass censure upon. Of course, the Government say they are not to blame. The hon. member for New Westminster, while declaring that there was nothing wrong very strangely went on to say that if it was proved that there was anything wrong the Government was not responsible. Who, then, is responsible? Some one must be, if the officials have done wrong, and we have the right to look to the Government as primarily responsible in this matter. In this House we can reach nobody but the Government. I cannot imagine that Mr. Ogilvie wishes to do anything to injure this Government. But I can imagine a case of Mr. Ogilvie reporting something which might injure the Government and reflect upon them; but I think we probably should not hear much about it. But I do not think that Mr. Ogilvie would feel, in the first place, that he was called upon to make such a report. Mr. Ogilvie is a good man in his present position, we do not deny that. But he is not the man to carry on this investigation, because his report, even if impartial and thorough—which is hardly likely to be for he cannot have the time for this together with his other duties—it would not command the confidence of the people of this country. I am not alone in this. I must say, I do not say this because I am a member of the Conservative party. It is unfortunate that even when one of us states a thing that is admitted by everybody, people are apt to say: He is talking from a party point of view. I will read a statement which appeared in a newspaper which is edited by a member of the Liberal party and

which, I think, will command the respect of hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House. It bears on this very point about Mr. Ogilvie being the person to make this investigation. The Victoria "Times" says this:

In the opinion of the "Times" the course which the Government should take is quite clear. All charges should be thoroughly investigated, and by a commission having the confidence of the country. The Government, and not the Opposition, must take the lead in prosecuting such an investigation. If officials have done wrong they should be exposed and punished, it matters not what their politics or by whom appointed. Now that direct charges have been formulated on the floor of Parliament by a prominent member of the House, nothing short of an exhaustive inquiry by a non-partisan commission will properly meet the situation. The investigation by Mr. Ogilvie may be good enough in its way—his findings may be absolutely fair and just, and cover the whole ground; but partisan politicians, who think more of making a point against the Government than of reforming abuses, will not accept them as final. An investigation that does not silence criticism has failed in its object.

Now, I think that is a very strong statement, and I agree with everything it says. While it might be possible that Mr. Ogilvie's report might satisfy a great many members of the Liberal party scattered over the country—but, according to what some of them say in their newspapers, it would not satisfy them all—I am satisfied that those who belong to the Conservative party would still feel that something is concealed, that the investigation was not as thorough as it should be. On the other hand, if a judicial commission, consisting, say, of three judges, was appointed by the Government, then, if the charges were not proved, what would happen? If the charges were not proved, they would recoil on the Conservative party, who demand the commission, who admit the truth of a great many of these charges, who stand behind them—I say, if these charges were not proved, then the Conservative party would receive a blow from the appointment of this commission. I cannot imagine, therefore, why the Government should refuse to appoint this commission, under such circumstances, because they say they are perfectly innocent, they say there is not a word of truth in these charges, and so they stand out against the appointment of a commission such as that. But, on the other hand, if the charges were proved, then the appointment of a commission would be amply justified, and it would be a great thing for Canada and for the people generally to feel that, when wrong was done, it would not be covered up by a partisan investigation, that a real investigation would take place, and those who are guilty would be punished.

Mr. Speaker, the Liberal party has always claimed to be the party of purity, and has always claimed to be the clean party. Well, Sir, a great many of us have not admitted that claim. We claim that the Conservative

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party is the clean party, if there is any difference between the parties. But the Liberal party has always made that claim; they have paraded that claim before the country. Now they have an opportunity to show whether their claim is well founded, and I ask them to do it. I ask them to show to this House and to the country that they are the clean party which they have always claimed to be. I suppose we shall find that most of the members, or perhaps all the members belonging to the Liberal party will vote for the amendment to the amendment. Now, what is the amendment to which a great many of them take objection? I wish to look at it for a moment and examine it:

That this House deems it expedient to inform His Excellency that in view of the widespread charges of incapacity, misconduct and corruption in the administration of public affairs connected with the Yukon, it is the duty of the Government to appoint, without delay, an independent judicial commission to make a thorough investigation into that subject, and report the results.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I cannot see anything in this amendment to which objection could be taken. I see no reason why there should be the slightest objection to this amendment. The statement made in the first part of this amendment surely cannot be denied, that there have been widespread charges of incapacity, misconduct and corruption in the administration of public affairs connected with the Yukon. I have read those charges in Liberal journals, strong charges, stronger than I would be disposed to make myself on the floor of this House, couched in very strong language, with no qualification at all; so that no one can deny the first part of that amendment. The amendment goes on to say:

It is the duty of the Government to appoint without delay an independent judicial commission.

Well, Sir, there can be no objection to a commission of that kind. The Government would have the appointments themselves. They could pick out three judges, three men in whom they had confidence, and in whom the country would have confidence, men who are independent, who would search the thing thoroughly. And what is the object of that commission? "To make a thorough investigation." Just the very thing we want, just the thing the country wants, the only thing that will satisfy the country. "Then report the result." Report the result to the Government, and through the Government to the country. As I said before, it does seem to me that the Government act very foolishly and stand in their own light by refusing to accept that amendment. I cannot see the least objection to it. There might be some objection to it on the score of expense. But on that score the Opposition could not criticise them, because we urged the acceptance of the commission; and I am sure their supporters would not

find fault with them; no one would find fault with an expenditure of that kind. It would amply repay itself by making this thorough investigation, and letting the people see that things had been conducted in a proper way and with impartial justice in that country. It may be said, and no doubt it is said, by hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House that they cannot accept this, because it is moved by the Opposition. I suppose that is the real reason, after all. If it were not for the fact that this amendment is moved by the Opposition as an amendment to the Address, then they might possibly accept it. But they say to their supporters: We cannot accept this; it looks like a motion of want of confidence. Well, Sir, I do not think that it is anything of the kind. But there is nothing in that amendment at all that conflicts with the Address. It seems to me that the Government might accept that without the least hesitation, and appoint the commission, and make this investigation. Now, Sir, in order to provide a loop-hole of escape for the members of the Liberal party, the Government have presented an amendment to the amendment, moved by the Opposition. Let us look at this amendment to the amendment for a moment, and see what it is:

That we have observed with pleasure that on receipt of complaints against some of the officials in the Yukon district, His Excellency's Government took prompt action to inquire into the matter of such complaints by appointing Mr. Wm. Ogilvie as a commissioner for that purpose. Having entire confidence in the integrity and ability of Mr. Ogilvie, we are satisfied that his inquiry will be impartial and thorough, and that it will place His Excellency's advisers in possession of all the information necessary to enable them to do justice to all parties concerned.

Now, Sir, the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison) stated that he was going to vote for the amendment to the amendment, but he qualified it by saying that, if the report of Mr. Ogilvie was not satisfactory to him, then he would be in favour of appointing a judicial commission. I know there are gentlemen on the other side of the House who are taking the same position. They think themselves that there ought to be a thorough investigation, and yet they say: Why not wait until we have Mr. Ogilvie's report? If that report is not thorough, is not satisfactory, then we are willing to vote for an independent judicial commission. But I would just call the attention of these gentlemen who intend to vote for this amendment to the amendment, that it states emphatically and without qualification:

We are satisfied that the inquiry of Mr. Ogilvie will be impartial and thorough.

Now they turn round and say: If it is not thorough, if it is not satisfactory to us, then we will vote for an amendment such as you propose. Why, Sir, they stultify themselves by such reasoning, because, in voting for

this amendment to the amendment, they say they are satisfied that they will have an impartial, and thorough investigation which will place His Excellency's advisers in possession of necessary information. I think, if they vote for that, they close their mouths, and they are not able to say anything about it afterwards. I noticed that the member for New Westminster said that at present everything is satisfactory in the Yukon, and he laid great emphasis on the words "at present." He goes on to say that Mr. Senkler, the new Gold Commissioner, has made a decided change since he took charge; yet, almost in the same breath, he says that there was nothing wrong. It is evident that the hon. member had a very hard task given him, when he was asked to stand up and say that, while he went to the Yukon and travelled all over it, yet he saw nothing wrong. I do not dispute the hon. gentleman's words, but I think his eyes were blinded, or his memory has failed him since he came home. I notice that the hon. gentleman has placed some very interesting questions on the Order paper with reference to the Yukon. He goes on to say: Why should we discuss the past? I think there is a very simple answer to that, the past is all we have to discuss in reference to the Yukon. We do not know what is going on just now; we can only speak of what we know, and we discuss the past because it is most important that all these scandals should be set at rest. It is all very well for hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House to say, let the past go, but I will call to mind the fact that when they were in Opposition they did not practice that rule at all. They were constantly harping upon the past. They were constantly reminding the Government of their sins of omission and keeping them before the country. We propose to do the same, and we propose that if their conduct is wrong, as we claim it has been, in reference to the Yukon, that we shall discuss it. We feel that it is our bounden duty to do so; that is what we are here for. The Opposition has no right to allow wrong to go on without bringing it to the notice of the country. The Montreal "Star" at one time said that an active Opposition was the attorney for the people. I think that is true, and I hold that we have a duty to perform for the people. It is not our duty to let the past go; it is not our duty to overlook all the wrong that has been done in the Yukon and join hands with the Government for the future. We are willing to join hands with the Government for the future; we want the Yukon administration improved; we want the communication improved; we want the telegraph communication improved; we want to see that country become what it ought to be, and we want to see that the officials are good, that they are honest, and that they are qualified for their work. It can-

not be expected that the Opposition will remain silent in the face of scandals such as those which have been circulated all over the country, and we feel that we are only doing our duty in urging upon the Government to appoint a commission such as we asked for. I do not suppose my advice will have any weight with the Government or with the right hon. Prime Minister. I have had the honour of giving him advice once or twice which he has accepted, but I am afraid that he will not accept my advice just now.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Hear, hear.

Mr. CRAIG. I repeat, in closing, that I think he is making a great mistake, not only in his own interest, but in the interest of the country, in rejecting the proposition for the appointment of an independent judicial and impartial commission, which could examine into all these charges that have been made, many of them by Liberal journals all over the country, and by members on the floor of this House, charges which are serious, charges which have been made specifically, and charges which involve the hon. Minister of the Interior, according to some members of this House. Mr. Speaker, I would like to hope, but I am afraid that I cannot hope, that the right hon. Prime Minister will accept my advice upon this occasion.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar). Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to have spoken in this debate at all, but I find that I am unable to remain silent and vote on this question without a word of explanation. I have listened with the very greatest care and patience to almost all that has been said on this question. In addition to that, I have followed, as a newspaper man, very closely, for the last year, all the reports that came from the Yukon. One of the first charges that was made in reference to misconduct, if that term properly describes the action in regard to the Yukon, was that officers were allowed to stake claims and to stake claims in competition with miners in that country. I felt at the time, Mr. Speaker, that that was a mistake: I felt that it was not wise that officials of the Government should be allowed to compete in any way with the miners: I took occasion to enter a moderate protest at the time, and I have seen no reason to change my view up to the present. I can congratulate the Government on the fact that they have discontinued that practice, and that an Order in Council has been passed prohibiting officials from staking claims in competition with miners. I also wish to congratulate the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) on the position that he took, in a letter, which he gave to an official who was recently appointed to the post office, absolutely prohibiting him from taking up any claim in the Yukon in competition with miners, and from

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speculating in claims. Now, in regard to the charges themselves, I hope that I may be able to take a moderate view of this question. I think that, perhaps, both sides of this House and the country generally, will admit that there has been at least considerable recklessness indulged in, in making some of the charges that were made; at the same time, I am free to confess that I am utterly unable to share the views of the majority of my fellow Liberal members that nothing serious or specific has been charged with regard to official misconduct in the Yukon. It is my distinct belief, Sir, that a state of affairs, and a disgraceful state of affairs, existed in that country for a very considerable time. In making this admission, I think it only fair to say that there is very considerable excuse in that connection. There was no telegraphic communication between the Yukon and Ottawa, and it was absolutely impossible that the Government should have its finger on the situation there, or that it could regulate it promptly. I think it is only fair to admit that in a new country such as that, with new conditions and conditions such as we had there, it was almost impossible that some corruption or that some mismanagement should not have occurred in that country. However, I took the view at first that when general charges were made an investigation should be undertaken as promptly as possible. I took the view that the investigation should be of a judicial character; I still entertain the same view, Mr. Speaker. The Government, in its wisdom, however, saw fit to appoint as investigator Mr. William Ogilvie, who had been appointed to the position of administrator of the Yukon. I am free to confess that the people generally, and, I think, absolutely regardless of political predilections, endorsed the appointment of Mr. Ogilvie, at least, as administrator of that country. I am not even prepared to dispute that probably the majority of the people thought that when he was appointed a commissioner to investigate these charges the proper thing was done. I, however, differed from that view, and I still see no reason to change my opinion in that regard. However, as I say, I think the general public endorsed the appointment of the Government in that connection. Mr. Ogilvie has been holding an investigation; what the result of that investigation may be it is difficult for us to say. According to some reports received, it looks as if the investigation would not be attended with satisfactory results. However, the Government has taken the view that, inasmuch as Mr. Ogilvie is making that investigation it is only fair to ask that we should hold our hand until his report, which is expected in a few days or a few weeks, at least, is received. I have no hesitation in concurring in that view. The Government and the members of the Liberal party in this House have made it very clear to my mind, and I think made it clear also

to the minds of the majority of the members of this House, that they do not propose in any measure whatever to shield guilty officials in that territory. We have the declaration of the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), who moved the amendment to the amendment that so far as he, at all events, was concerned, he proposed to do his duty in that regard. Let me read this brief extract from his speech :

There is one point, however, which I wish to make clear. That is that I will not stand in my place in Parliament and support any Government that desires to shield corrupt acts on the part of any officials of this country. So far as I am concerned, so far as the Liberal party are concerned, we are prepared to punish wrong-doing on the part of any official. Therefore, when the report of the investigation now going on is made, if it appears that that investigation has not been a complete or satisfactory one, or that the charges have not been fully investigated, I for one, would have no hesitation in supporting any effort made by any member of Parliament to secure a further investigation, if necessary. But until we hear from Mr. Ogilvie, I consider that we should not take any further action in relation to the appointment of any tribunal for the purpose of investigating these charges. Let the commission which has already been called into existence by the Government, and which is now at work, complete its work and report before we take any further action.

Then, Mr. Speaker, we had also the declaration of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), who made a very vigorous speech in this debate, and who declared, at the conclusion of his address :

But let me say this : When that report comes down before this House, if there is any body of men in this House who believe that the investigation should be prosecuted further, who think it should be continued after the 25th August, who believe that any special charge has been left without thorough investigation, the Government will see that the fullest investigation is given. We are determined that not a stone shall be left unturned to get to the bottom of every charge which has been made against any Government official in that territory.

Let me repeat these words :

We are determined that not a stone shall be left unturned to get to the bottom of every charge which has been made against any Government official in that territory.

To my mind this is a very broad statement, and had I not received declarations of that kind from members of the Government, I should have deemed it my duty to vote for the amendment (Mr. Clarke's), and against the amendment to the amendment, because, Sir, I believe it is good, sound Liberal doctrine that you cannot throw too much light on all wrong-doing of public officials no matter where it may occur. I believe that it is in the interests of the Liberal party itself, in the interests of the members of the Government—and I am quite sure that the hon. members of this House and the people of the country do not suppose that the Government itself is corrupt in this matter—I say that it

is in the interests of the Government, in the interests of the Liberal party, and in the interests of the people of Canada that all possible light should be thrown on this matter, and inasmuch as we have the clear declaration of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries that every charge shall be investigated to the full, then so far as I am concerned, and inasmuch as Mr. Ogilvie is a man of acknowledged probity and honesty, I am prepared to extend to him the courtesy of waiting until his report is received before I consider the question of further action. If the report of Mr. Ogilvie is not satisfactory, I take the same position as my hon. friend the Minister of Marine (Sir Louis Davies), that I for one shall vote for a most thorough inquiry, such an inquiry as may commend itself to both sides of this House. I, Sir, do not propose as a Liberal to stand in this House, or on any platform in Canada, to say one word to shield any official who has been guilty of stealing, or who has been found using his office for his own aggrandisement; nor do I believe that there are any considerable number of Liberals in this country who would be prepared to do that. Why, the Government has everything to gain and nothing to lose by having the fullest investigation. Even suppose you do sacrifice half a dozen officials; it is the feeling of all true Liberals that if these men are rascals they should be turned out and punished. I would not have desired to speak at all on this occasion had the amendment to the amendment been a logical conclusion of the speech of the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), who is practically my deskmate in this House, and who despite his heretical views on the tariff is a very agreeable and pleasant companion indeed. I had myself intended to have moved an amendment to the amendment, but my hon. friend (Mr. Bertram), who is always ready, got the start of me, and precluded my moving the amendment which I had prepared. I will read that proposed amendment of mine, so that the House may see I was anxious to make good any words which I am now uttering. It is as follows :—

That this House is of opinion that all charges of misconduct and corruption in connection with the administration of public affairs in the Yukon, should be thoroughly investigated by a tribunal acceptable to both sides of the House; but that inasmuch as Mr. Ogilvie, authorized by the Government, has been holding an investigation, and his report is daily expected in Ottawa; it would be better before taking further action to await its receipt, as it may throw additional light upon the question and enable the House to deal more intelligently with the whole subject.

As to the charges which have been made, they were undoubtedly of a general character; but it does seem that almost all those who have returned from the Yukon told the one story about official corruption there. Even supposing that we discount these statements very considerably, yet you have per-

sons of the very highest standing, persons whose reputation is probably as good as that of any member of this House, who tell the same story. We have the statement of Miss Shaw, and I am quite sure that no man who has met that lady, would for one minute think of imputing to her any dishonest motive. I had the pleasure of having a conversation with Miss Shaw in Winnipeg, and I was perfectly satisfied of her bona fides: I was satisfied that she, recognizing the high standing of Canada as a part of this Empire, had no other object in view than that of clearing out any corruption that might exist in the Yukon, and rehabilitating the fair name of the Dominion. Then we had the testimony of Mr. White, Reuter's agent, a man personally known to me, and a man who I believe would not misrepresent the state of affairs in Dawson City. We had also the testimony of Mr. Millar, the editor of the Pembroke "Observer," and I do not think Mr. Millar would say anything that was untrue. These charges are sometimes met with the statement, that after all they are the inventions of returning Yankees. Well, some returning Yankees may have told these stories, but they were not all Yankees, and for my part I would place more credence in the general statements made by these people from the Yukon than I would in the denials of the officials. These returning Yukoners have interests in that country, and have rights that should be protected, and even if ninety-nine out of a hundred of these statements were reckless, yet if one single miner was defrauded out of his claim, it is the bounden duty of this House to see that that claim was restored to him and justice done in the premises. In that view, I feel very strongly that unless the report which we are soon to have from Mr. Ogilvie is entirely satisfactory, we should have such an investigation as will satisfy all people concerned. Partisans may say that they do not propose to have a policy laid down for them by opponents: but I do not believe that is a proper attitude. To me it is a question of what is right and what is wrong. If wrong has been done in the Yukon, I think it ought to be righted, and righted as soon as possible. I am free to admit that since Mr. Ogilvie has gone in there, a new order of things has been created. I do not believe that at the present time there exists the corruption among the officials which I believe existed in the past. I believe a different order of things has been created; and, feeling so, I cannot resist the conclusion that no harm would be done by delaying this matter until Mr. Ogilvie's report is received. I listened to the various speeches that were made by the members of the Opposition, and I do not believe in the doctrine that simply because a speech may be made by a gentleman at your left, the people on this side should take no stock in it. I think members on that side have practically the same responsibility that we have, and, if they have charges to make,

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I think they should be listened to. I do not think they should be entirely scouted simply because they sit at your left. Among the different speeches that were made, the one that impressed me most was that of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), who, in addition to his own moderate remarks, gave a very careful review of the speech delivered by the hon. member for Pictou. In that review he gave a summary from which I extract certain charges. One is:

That the Gold Commissioner's legal adviser accepted retainers from persons contesting claims before the commissioner.

To my mind, that is a very serious charge. It may be quite true that the hon. gentleman does not rise in his place and on his authority as a member make a charge and ask for an investigation and undertake to prove it. For my part, I do not see how any hon. member could be ready to stand in this House and make a series of charges, and offer to produce the proof; because the Yukon is a long way from here, and it would be a very costly undertaking; but if any hon. member offers substantial charges, and says that men are willing to come forward and substantiate them, to my mind that is going far enough to justify an independent investigation. Now, with regard to specific charges, the hon. member for Halifax gave this one:

The corrupt leasing of the water front to Morrison & Macdonald by private contract, in disregard of the rights of the squatters, and at a yearly profit of some \$80,000 or \$90,000 to them.

Of course, the hon. Minister of the Interior, in his admirable and able speech, pointed out that tenders had been called for and received, which to some extent minimizes that charge. Another charge is that Mr. F. C. Wade and other Government officials are interested in that grant. It seems to me that that is a specific charge. The man's name is mentioned—the man supposed to be guilty, and the charge was made from several sources.

Mr. WOOD. But not a single name given.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I will read one charge in which the name was given. Suppose you take the statement which the hon. member for Pictou read, as coming from Messrs. Allen & Semple, the proprietors of the Dawson City paper, who were here. They offered to go before a tribunal and give evidence in support of their statements. The statements these gentlemen made were as follows:—

There were two side doors to the office, one marked "Private," the other marked "No Admittance." It was possible to obtain admission to the door marked "Private" by payment of a bribe of \$5 to \$10, and to obtain admission to the door marked "No Admittance" by payment of a bribe of from \$15 upwards.

Twenty-five dollars was the average bribe for this door. The men who obtained admission by this system of bribery got their claims recorded

ahead of the men who remained in line before the front door. The \$25 door was higher-priced because more expeditious. The man who got his claim recorded first had the registered title.

The money was paid to the guard at the door. The deals to get in in this way were usually made the night before.

Another man, whose name is withheld at his request, paid \$400 to an employee occupying an official position for inside information from the Gold Commissioner's office.

Opposite 49 below discovery on Bonanza Creek a miner was cheated out of a rich find by the connivance of officials in the Gold Commissioner's office. The name will be given, and evidence, when a proper investigation is ordered.

Mrs. Dubois was deprived of a claim by one Murdock with the connivance of an official, Hurdman, in the Gold Commissioner's office. Hurdman got one-third interest. We understand that Mr. Senkler has restored the claim to Mrs. Dubois.

J. F. Riley, clerk for Inspector of Mines Mad-den, is located at Bonanza Forks, and is an employee of the Government. He staked and recorded on October 10th, 1898, a fraction of 24,164 square feet, the legal statement being 10,000 square feet. He holds a certificate of record for this in direct violation of the regulations. A copy of the abstract of the title is in our possession, and can be produced. We have in our possession passes in use in the Gold Commissioner's office for admission by the side door. They are stamped with the office stamp "Interior Department, Yukon Territory," and are initialed by officials.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the reason why I take some stock in these charges is this: These men say they are willing to go before a properly constituted tribunal and prove them. Even supposing they are not true, these people say they are true, and they offer to prove them if an investigation satisfactory to them is ordered. I am not prepared to say that I would advise the Government to hold an investigation just to satisfy them; but I am quite satisfied, from the declaration of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), the other evening, that if the investigation now being held by Mr. Ogilvie is not satisfactory, such a one will be ordered as will be satisfactory to the members of this House and to the people of this country. Even if ninety-nine hundredths of these statements are untrue, the very fact of the impression being given that they are not to be properly investigated would be a serious injury to the country. But we have the declaration of the members of the Government that a satisfactory investigation will be ordered. In conclusion, I wish to say that if Mr. Ogilvie's report is not down in a reasonable time, and before this House rises, so far as I am concerned, I shall be prepared to vote for the appointment of such a commission as will thoroughly investigate these charges, and as will be satisfactory to both sides of this House.

Mr. JAMES DOMVILLE (King's, N.B.)  
Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to have said anything on this occasion, and I do not propose to go very much into the question until I see the hon. leader of the Opposition here,

because I have something to say to him, and I will reserve these remarks until he gets in his place. It seems to me that this attack on the Yukon officials is more largely directed to the Minister of the Interior than to the officials, because it has been narrowed down at last to an impeachment of him. Now, I have been in that country, and I have heard my hon. friend from New Westminster (Mr. Morrison) tell us something about it to-day. Probably he and I are the only members of this House who have gone into that country. I have said very little about it, and it may not be taken amiss by members on both sides, if I give my candid opinion as to what should be done by either party, and make some reference to what has taken place out there; but, as I see the hon. leader of the Opposition is now in his place, I shall address myself to him for a little while. Sir, after reading his very long speech, I can only regret that I cannot find just what I was looking for in it, but I may say that, when he addressed the House in the first part of the session, and was appealing to hon. members on both sides to accord to him, as an old and valued servant of his country, the respect due to his services, I think he said—although I cannot find it in his speech, and if I am wrong, I shall apologize—I have not very long to live, probably three or four months. I may recall to the hon. gentleman that one month of the four has already gone by, and yet he has not begun to prepare himself to meet his future. There is no man in this country who can afford, when his last day is approaching close at hand, not to consider his past and look to his future; and, if he is not a good Christian, as some of us hope we are, then he should make all the more preparation, and, before making such statements as he did, consider how he is going to damage another and a younger man than himself, and men that will live and be in power, when he has been wiped off the slate and has disappeared. I am surprised and sorry that he should have abused his position in this House to attack a man who is not in this House, and therefore cannot here defend himself. I am free to say that Major Walsh, whom the hon. gentleman so violently attacked, is not a friend of mine, and I have no particular liking for him; but, when I was out in the Yukon, I saw him at work, I saw what was going on, and, although I have no friendship for him, I felt it my duty, when he was attacked here, in his absence, to say something in his defence, as between man and man. I would be recreant to my duty before a tribunal of public men, if I did not defend a man who was attacked where he could not defend himself. The hon. leader of the Opposition traded on his age and his position in this House, when he made the statements he did. And, when he repeated the charges of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), who, I believe, is a friend of his, I thought he made a great

mistake and was getting out of his depth ; and, as I saw a man of his age and experience throwing broadcast those assertions against the character of an absent gentleman, I thought it time to interrupt, and simply said : " That is not true." " Silence," said Sir Charles Tupper, no doubt thinking, for the moment, that he was in power and could flash the whip over his followers, as I told him he did, many years before, when I brought before him a scandalous business regarding the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, for which he never forgave me. He then went through my county, and did all he could to bring about my defeat, and succeeded at the time ; but I have lived to see the day when he was turned out of power, and I was again elected to a seat in this House. He said : " The hon. gentleman had better take care of himself." I replied, that I could take care of myself. Then he retorted, that I was not responsible for what I said after a certain hour of the day. I would like to know from my hon. friend what hour of the day that is. Yes, the hon. gentleman laughs. He may well appeal to his friends around him for sympathy, when he undertakes to slander me and injure me with my own constituents, just as he slandered Major Walsh, little heeding the feelings of Major Walsh, his wife and family, and caring nothing for the consequences, when she would ask her husband : Is it true what Sir Charles Tupper says about your conduct in the Yukon ? But he has not the slightest care for the feelings of innocent people, provided he can make some little political capital by his bitter and slanderous attacks, and gratify his spleen—

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not think the hon. gentleman should impute improper motives to an hon. member of this House, as he is doing when he says that the hon. leader of the Opposition made a statement merely to gratify his spleen.

Mr. DOMVILLE. I am trying, Mr. Speaker, to be moderate, and if the hon. gentleman had not made use of the language he did, I would have no right to reply to him as I have done ; but, when he did make use of such language, I have the right to clear myself and set myself right in " Hansard." Had I said that, in my opinion, he was not responsible for the language he uttered, I might have been unparliamentary in my speech. Had I said that I thought he was hardly in a position to recognize the force of his own arguments, and that perhaps at another time he might have made different remarks, you, Sir, might have justly called me to order. Had I said that a prominent member of the Opposition, such as the hon. gentleman is, had been drinking hot whisky in a private assembly in order to brace himself up to make a three hours' speech, and had I named the persons who were present with him at that assembly, I would, no doubt, have been

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guilty of a breach of parliamentary decorum. I could give the names of those who were drinking hot whisky with him at three o'clock in the afternoon, and retort to the hon. gentleman, that I do not need to drink that powerful stimulant at that hour of the day in order to brace myself up to slander people who are absent, and be heralded throughout the country as a marvellous old man, who could make a three hours speech, and keep, at his advanced age, abreast of the times. Were I in the position of the hon. gentleman, I would rather come to the conclusion that I should be placed in a glass box and labelled " Past History." Instead of going back to the debates of ten or twenty years ago, let us occupy ourselves now with the present and the future of Canada and the Yukon, and with the opinions of the people who have been out in the Yukon and know something about it. Let me point out to the House, that, in the speech by the hon. gentleman at Brockville last night, he denied having made any charges against Major Walsh in this House. Here is his denial, as published in his own newspapers. I made no charge, he says, against Major Walsh, who is a friend of mine. Would any friend of Major Walsh get up in this House and make the statements concerning him that were made by the hon. leader of the Opposition, and which, if made outside the walls of this House, would be libellous ? But, after attacking this man where he could not defend himself, the hon. gentleman, in his speech at Brockville last night, said that he had never made any charge against Major Walsh in this House, and that he was a friend of Major Walsh. Well, we do not want any such friends around us here. I was a friend of the hon. gentleman in years gone by, but I am proud to-day to be able to say that I am not his friend, and do not require his friendship.

I shall not waste much time with my hon. friend, because I can see that, whatever I may do here I shall bring down his censure upon me—because I drove his ally, who is not here to-night out of the county of Kings, as that hon. gentleman will be driven out of New Brunswick if he tries to get a constituency again. He talks about maintaining the honour of Canada and defending her reputation. He declares : I shall be recreant to my trust if I do not rise in this House and defend the fair name of Canada. Hon. gentlemen talk a great deal about what will be the verdict of the people when the appeal is made to them. We have had a little illustration of that the other day in New Brunswick. The hon. ex-Finance Minister (Mr. Foster), who is not here to-night, went to New Brunswick and threw out a challenge to fight the contest out on certain lines. And what was the result ? He and his friends only elected five men in the whole province. That was an intimation of what will happen in the future. They will be defeated in the country as they were de-

feated in New Brunswick, horse, foot and artillery. My hon. friend will not be here, because as we read in "Hansard," or as I heard him say the other day, his time is very limited. Had it not been for references made to me, I would not have trespassed on the time of the House. Because a great deal has been said, and very few can give us any information on this subject except experts on this subject. We have had hon. members speaking on this subject whose information on it was very limited. Perhaps hon. members will laugh at me, but it is the fact, we have had one gentleman here laying down the law as to the proper course for Canada to pursue, who attempted to get horses up the Stikine by putting horse-shoes on their fore feet? It was a new idea—new wine out of an old bottle. The Yukon is a very difficult subject to deal with, especially to a Government that has never had anything to do with it in the past. I went there myself the other day. I was two years trying to find the best way to go in. We went down the river as my hon. friend from New Westminster (Mr. Morrison) has told you. We learned a great deal from the map, but we found that the map was not always right—and it was a very good map prepared by Mr. Dawson. We met many difficulties which we had not anticipated, and made many mistakes which, if we had to make the trip over again, we would avoid. Of course, in the rush, there were many disappointments and many complaints. Within two days ahead of me and two days behind me, there were probably ten thousand vessels afloat. It is stated eighteen hundred people lost their lives. Why? Through ignorance. Many of these people were tenderfeet, who went in there expecting to find mines everywhere. But they found that sharper wits than themselves had been in before them. And so, in their disappointment, they made these claims against the officials. It is not my business to defend all the officials there, here or elsewhere. I agree very largely with my hon. friend from Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), that if there has been anything wrong, it can be found out and punished. But why make such a sensational talk? And why try to warp in the Minister of the Interior and make what amounts to a criminal charge against him; for, if as a member of the Cabinet and adviser of the Crown he is a party to these things, he has been guilty of a criminal wrong. When we arrived at Dawson, of course there were difficulties owing to the crowd. We found difficulties about the mail. I had a photograph which showed, perhaps, a thousand people waiting for their letters. Why? Who were to deliver the letters? Where was the staff? The people had all come down as the river opened, advancing as the ice broke in Lake Bennett. We all got there at one time. It is no wonder that there had to be a good deal of waiting at the post

office. Fancy a thousand or two thousand people waiting until four or five police officers sorted the mail. The Post Office Department had not had time to get people in. The mails were brought in by anybody who would take them. We brought 39 sacks of mail in our spare boat, in order to try and help the people along. The department could not get any regular conveyances, and there were not police enough there to keep the mails going backward and forward. Of course there were delays, how could they be avoided? But to-day I got a letter from Dawson, dated the 21st March—less than a month. That is not bad. They have got things into good shape there. They have found that by having a shack every 30 miles on the river they can get along from point to point, and if the weather is very bad the carriers can lie by. The difficulties of men going five or six hundred miles over a trail that is so well kept open by constant travel are comparatively light. Now, as to Major Walsh. I have already said that I am not a friend of Major Walsh; but I defend him as a matter of justice. He had a very difficult position to fill there. If there were from twenty to forty thousand people present at Dawson, as hon. gentlemen say they were—they are able to make the case all the stronger against the Government by making the number a large one—one can understand the difficulties, considering that there was only a handful of police to keep the people in order. Do you hear of murders or shooting in Dawson? There were only difficulties there. One was on Thirty-Mile River, where the mate and one of the crew on a boat got into an altercation and one of them was killed. In the other case four Indians shot two white men, one of the men dying as a result of his wounds. This latter can hardly be classed as crime, because the Indians believe that where one of their tribe has been killed by a white man it is their duty to avenge him by shooting the first white man they meet. But in Dawson there is the most perfect order. The policemen say: Do so and so, and the people do it. I have never found one person who has been in the country who had a charge to make against the Mounted Police or one of their officers. They are the friends of everybody. They act in the most judicious way. They do not act arbitrarily, but keep an eye on the sa- loons and on everything going on. If they find anything arises that they think should be stopped, they simply go to the people and say: Don't do it.

You had Livernash here last year and another gentleman, and what did they do? Did they come to the Government and ask the Government to look into their case? Did they place a proper case before this House and ask for our assistance? No, they went elsewhere, and they threw themselves into the hands of the enemies of the Government, who expected by a hostile stand like that to get what they wanted

here. What they wanted was a reduction in the royalty on gold. I suppose I may disagree with the Government, and I may say that I think the high royalty a mistake. Still, I may not be right. I think that royalty should be very largely reduced. It is not beyond being done, it is only a matter of a moment. Of course, there is the large argument about the Americans. Somebody spoke about the percentage of Americans that were there. I have no hesitation in saying that 95 per cent of the people there are Americans. I do not think that there is any doubt about that, and an excellently behaved class they were. But the high royalty has the effect of locking up those mines, that is to say, people will only work enough to keep their claims good and to make enough to get along, hoping that the day may come when they will be able to bring out a million dollars, and when they will only have to pay \$20,000 on it instead of \$100,000. That is what they are hoping for. I have no hesitation in saying that at least \$10,000,000 in gold have been brought out of that country, yes, I will say \$15,000,000. I think if we were to trace up the matter in the banks and warehouses there and among the trading people we would be able to ascertain that from \$8,000,000 to \$10,000,000 have been taken out during last year, and I am informed from excellent authority that at least \$30,000,000 to \$35,000,000 will come out this year after the wash up. If such is the case, and the Government have no doubt sufficient information to enable them to act upon, I think they have the means of opening up that country. What that country wants is a line of communication, a telegraph line and a cable up the coast from Vancouver, B.C. People in the outside world who have investments there want to know what is going on, and they cannot afford to wait. Why, three weeks hence there will be no communication at all. I do not care what Government were in power, or what chances they had, three weeks hence there will be no communication, because the ice on Lake Bennett and Lake Labarge will be weak, and until the ice breaks up, will be unfit to travel on, except at the canyon at White Horse Pass where the river is open earlier. That leads us to say that if the Government get a large revenue out of that country, and they will collect a large revenue off customs, off mines, off licenses and other things, they will be able to open up these creeks with tramways, and assist them with light trails. As lines of communication are opened in various places, the miner that cannot now afford to spend the time during the short season to make explorations, will then have more time to prospect, and we shall find gold everywhere. I do not believe this House or the world appreciates the gold riches of that country, they can have no idea of it. I have seen it brought down in small cart loads, and mule trains packed with gold. Anybody that has been there

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will tell you the same story, that they have seen mules loaded with gold. Still, there has been a good deal of dissatisfaction. Men went there who knew nothing about the country, and they were willing to find fault with every one. They start in there without any preparation, they get the fever, or cholera, or dysentery, they find the conditions so different from those that they left at home. Some of them are poor men who go in there for the purpose of making a little money to help their families in the future, they are in fact risking their lives for their families. Therefore, we should not be too hard on them in our taxes.

I do not believe one of these charges made by the Opposition are true. I have no doubt that there are lots of things that are wrong. But if the leader of the Opposition would have candidly given us the names in all these charges, I for one would have voted with that hon. member. Having been there myself, and knowing the circumstances and the conditions of the country, had he been able to pin any of these charges on the Minister of the Interior, I would certainly have voted with him. But, Sir, he has not dared to give the names. I ask him now: Give us some slight idea of who some of his friends are who have given him the information. I heard of a gentleman the other day that was prepared to furnish him with information provided he could get certain—well, we will say friendly acts. Let him now say who his informants are. I have been there and I know most of these men myself. I met some of these men in London, I have met them wherever financial men are congregated. Take any of the leading men, take Mr. Archie Macdonald, take Mr. Marshall Bond or Mr. Erickson, take any of the men who have been there from two to twelve years; they would say that the officials, perhaps, were not giving them that satisfaction that they should give them, but they would make no charges such as we now hear of. Would my hon. friend name the gentleman who gave him that charge? I am interested to know it. He read in the House a letter from some gentleman under the bond of secrecy, he could not give his name. Why not give it? I say tonight that if the hon. gentleman, the leader of the Opposition, can bring in, before this debate is closed, any papers that will incriminate, or tend to incriminate, or throw the slightest suspicion on the Minister of the Interior, I will vote for him against the Government. Is that not fair?

Now, we will pass on to another subject and take the "Nugget" newspaper. What is the "Nugget" newspaper? Will the leader of the Opposition say I was doing him and his party an injustice if I were to state—but I do not state it, because I am like himself. I cannot put the evidence on the Table—that some members of his party put \$8,000 into the "Nugget" to clear it of its debt and get it out of its difficulties. Now, why should they go to Dawson to get

hold of the "Nugget"? Why should the "Nugget" make all these charges broadcast? Who induced them to do it? These men were there to make money, they had nothing to do with politics. But there were people out there who were interested in politics. I might name a gentleman who came to me and wanted the address of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper. I do not know whether he is a member of Parliament or not, but he lived in Victoria. This gentleman wanted to get his address to send him all these charges. If my hon. friend wants the name I will give it—it is Barney Segrew. Perhaps it will save my hon. friend a little trouble if I give his name now. Surely he need have no delicacy in keeping back his name when he is bringing up his papers. He had another man from Australia, rather a nice fellow, who was a moving spirit in stirring up dissatisfaction. But these men were looking for what they could get. There were two games to play: One was to play in with the officials, and the other was to play against the officials. Well, the officials had the best hand. I do not mean to say that something did not take place that ought not to have been done? But what about Mr. Davis? Mr. Davis, formerly a member of Parliament, the collector of customs, is a man who is beloved out there, a man against whom a charge never was made or a word ever said. And then we have Mr. Norwood, from Nova Scotia. There is not a man out there who ever charged Mr. Norwood with a single corrupt act, although he held a most important position. He was one of the men sent to collect the royalty up the creeks. Why should he try at this vast distance, where it is impossible to know what is going on, to hunt up something against the Department of the Interior? Why is it necessary to find a criminal act in everything? I cannot for my part understand the matter at all. It is a difficult thing and it is going to be a very difficult thing for any man to govern in a country like that, I do not care who he is, at such a distance, and know what is to be done. Supposing my hon. friend here, if he had been a little younger, had been sent out as commissioner of the Yukon. He cannot communicate with Ottawa because there are no telegraph wires. He finds, all of a sudden, that there has been a great discovery of gold up a creek. He may not have an officer; he may find it necessary to appoint a man to go up there, and he has to send the best man that he can get, without, perhaps, any authorisation from the Government. It may be found afterwards that he made a great mistake, still, if he had not done it, if he had not, for instance, sent police up there, to see that all was right, there might have been great loss of life. Who is to defend that man if he has made a mistake? Nobody; he has to be charged with all the crimes if he has made a mistake, but if he has made a great success it is doubtful, even, if my hon. friend, the leader of the Opposition, would give him credit for what he has done.

Now, it is as the hon. member for New Westminster said, we all wanted to go down this river, the White Horse, the Miles Canyon, the Thirty Mile River, the Five Finger Rapids, where we might have lost our lives. I say, how can the Government, when the distance to be traversed is 800 miles from the coast, when in the spring of the year the ice is breaking up, and when it comes from the more southerly rivers and blocks up the passage, or in the fall, as these rivers freeze earlier at the north than at the south, how are you going to get your mail service in or get people to carry it, the way that you do with a well organized service and a perfect system in this part of the country? I think that both sides of the House should bend their energies, not to throwing these aspersions upon the officers of the Government in that country, but, as my hon. friend has said, to await the result of the investigation now being conducted by Mr. Ogilvie. Mr. Ogilvie, as far as I know, and I know very little of him, bears a record of being an honourable man in this country. That the Opposition members will admit; let him have a chance of saying what he saw up there, and of reporting what he has found. Then it will be time enough for this Parliament to move in the direction that has been proposed. I am satisfied that the country, far and wide, will not lend its ear to what hon. gentlemen opposite are saying until there is something more laid on the Table of Parliament than vague charges, and letters given by gentlemen to gentlemen, whose names are withheld from the public. It looks very pretty, but let me close my remarks by speaking in the same way as the hon. leader of the Opposition spoke the other night. I may not have a very long while to live, perhaps only a month or two longer than himself, but I would hope that the time that I have spent in this House will be devoted, not to turning my hon. friends out of power, not to bringing another party into power, but rather to weighing well what is before Parliament, instead of directing my energy and my force to turning a party out in order to strengthen my own hands and benefit myself. This is what we are looking to; this is what would be dignified. England looks to Canada from an Imperial standpoint; England is not looking to our parish politicians, who are willing to cry one thing in one way and another thing in another way. England is looking to the party that realizes its responsibility to the Empire, which takes an Imperial view of the affairs of this country, and which is proud of the empire. It is in that way that she looks to Australia, New Zealand and Africa. On both sides of this House there should be statesmen willing when one party gets into power to give them fair play, and not, from the hour of their birth to the day of their death, attacking them and bring scandalous charges against them, because, we all know, that if the searchlight were turned upon everybody in this House, I care not who he is, it would be a very terrible thing to do.

Instead of trying to run down our country and trying to run down the men who are building it up, I hope that we may in future endeavour to strengthen their hands. There is a young party coming on; some of these old men must disappear; they have to be wiped off the slate; they cannot help it. I see about me only about ten or twelve gentlemen who were here when I first came into Parliament. They are disappearing, one by one, and we regret to find that it is so. There is a new Canada coming out. I may not be a prophet or the son of a prophet, but let me tell the hon. leader of the Opposition that this young Canada is not behind him, that the young men are not behind him. There is a change now from the days of the old compact when it was criminal to do anything that was antagonistic to their party interests. The little children, as they grow up, are now wearing a red ribbon on their breasts, and they go through the country and say "We are Liberals." That is the tone of Canada to-day; Canada is Liberal and Canada has only commenced. The Opposition have criticised this party that I have allied myself to, but the party I have allied myself to is my own business and my constituents who elect me by the same token, but the party I have allied myself with certainly, whether by good luck or good judgment, have brought things to a very much better state than they were before. The country is not grumbling; the country is satisfied. There is not a Tory Government in power with its aristocracy behind it, but there a democratic Government in the interest of the people and for the people. Once put in the minds of the people that they are being properly treated, let them see that the Government will treat them honestly and fairly, and then let the elections come on to-morrow or next day, and I can tell the leader of the Opposition that in the maritime provinces—I know very little about the other provinces—it will be a clean sweep for the Liberal party from Halifax up to Quebec. We have the evidence that hon. gentlemen opposite recognize this. We see that the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has gone to British Columbia to look for a seat, because he cannot get a seat in Nova Scotia again, and the ex-Finance Minister (Mr. Foster) is driven out of York county. My hon. friend from Queen's (Mr. Blair) turned the searchlight on him the other day, and he was beaten by 1,500 in his own constituency. These are facts; they are not manufactured charges. I have known the leader of the Opposition for twenty-seven years, sitting in this House, and I regret that an old man like him, a man old enough to be my grandfather—because I undertook to say a good word for Major Walsh, for his family, his children and his home—should make a charge against me in this House which he knew was deliberately false.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Domville) will please withdraw that adjective.

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Mr. DOMVILLE. Withdraw what?

Mr. SPEAKER. Withdraw the statement, that an hon. member of this House made a charge which he knew to be deliberately false. My recollection is, that the charge made by the hon. the leader of the Opposition was withdrawn by him at my suggestion, and I therefore call upon the hon. member (Mr. Domville) to withdraw the language which he used with reference to that charge. A denial of the charge is, of course, in order.

Mr. DOMVILLE. I bow to your decision, Mr. Speaker, as I shall always do; but it may easily be understood by hon. members, that, when the leader of the Opposition records such a statement on "Hansard," the member with reference to whom such a statement is made, may have some difficulty in choosing language to properly stigmatize the leader of the Opposition. If you, Mr. Speaker, think that I should not have said that the charge is deliberately false, then I withdraw it; but I wish to express my regret that, before the leader of the Opposition spoke, he did not take the trouble to ascertain that it was deliberately false.

Mr. FRANK OLIVER (Alberta). Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry to trouble the House longer on this question, particularly at this time. But, although I have come to the same conclusion as, possibly, the majority of the members, I wish to say that I have reached that conclusion for different reasons, from most of those who have already spoken, and it is only fair to myself and to others who think as I do, that I should place those reasons before the House and before the country in so many words. It seems to me that the greater part of our discussion has been on a subject that is not before the House, namely, the character of Government officials in the Yukon and their official acts. I do not understand that we are a committee to inquire into the action of these officials, nor that the motion before the House is a motion of censure, or of approval, upon them. The question is of confidence in the Government, not in its officials. Therefore, the making of their actions the main subject of discussion during this debate is, to my mind, aside from the issue. I, for one, do not propose to discuss them, more than to say, that I do not altogether share in the childlike confidence, in the absolute, in the supreme, in the almost angelic confidence which so many members of this House place in them. I cannot bring myself to take that position in regard to the past, the present and the future acts of the officials even of this Government, to say nothing of officials of the late Government. My idea in regard to Government officials is, that they are the servants of the people, and that we are the agents of the people in seeing that they render their service. I would not wish to be considered as a party to any argument, or any line of argument, that places the public

servants of this country in the position of masters of the people, or which supposes that they can only be dealt with by impeachment, as though they were judges, or some such high functionaries.

Another view I want to place before the House is this: We have heard a great deal about the character and conduct of these officials, but we have heard very little said favourable to the miners and prospectors of the Yukon. I will take it upon myself to say a word for these men. The miners and prospectors do not exist for the officials, or for the regulations; but the officials and regulations exist for the miners and prospectors. And when the miners and prospectors of the Yukon report that they are not properly treated by the officials of the Government, I am one who will give attention to these reports, and who will consider that these men are possibly justified in making these complaints. I shall not cry them down and talk of them as outlaws or cut-throats, because they see fit, in their capacity as citizens of Canada—as men who are spending their time and their money in developing this country for the benefit of themselves, and incidentally for the benefit of the country at large—to stand up for their rights and to say that things are thus and so, and do not suit them. I say, Sir, that these men have a right to be heard; I say that their interests have a right to be considered, and I say that we have just as much right to take their word as we have to take the word of anybody else. These people have reported that matters in the Yukon were not satisfactory to them, and I believe their complaints to a certain extent. I believe those who make the complaints to be credible persons, and persons who are entitled to consideration. I do not take any stock in the cry against these people, that they are Americans, or Yankees, if you like. I have seen a good many of these Yankees who started for the Yukon, and although I am not prejudiced in favour of Yankees, either individually or collectively, these were very decent people, very worthy people and very desirable people to settle in Canada and become citizens of the country. If the Yankees in the Yukon are in the proportion of nine to one, then it is the Yankees who are digging the gold of the Yukon, and are paying to this Government the royalty. For all practical purposes, therefore, as long as they are in that country, they are citizens of Canada, and are entitled to the same consideration as any other men who are working for the benefit of Canada. The fact that they are there and working as Canadians, makes them sufficiently Canadians for our purposes; that is to say, the purposes of governing them and laying tribute upon them; and that fact entitles them to fair consideration at the hands of this Government and this House.

I have said that the people of the Yukon reported that the officials were not

conducting themselves properly, and I have said also that I did not consider that it was necessary to have an impeachment of these officials. When the people report that their servants are not acting properly, I consider that it is the business of their agents, the Government of the country, to see that these officials do act properly. There is no necessity for a trial or an impeachment or a commission. It is a matter of business on the part of the agents of the people, that is to say, the Government, to at once, without ceremony, attend to the matter. It is because it appears to me that the matter has been attended to in a practical way that I am prepared to vote in support of the address.

It has been complained that there was too much liquor going into the Yukon. I believe there was. I understand that there is now an Order in Council absolutely prohibiting liquor going into the Yukon; or certainly providing that any that goes in in the future shall be in limited quantities and under proper regulations. We have had complaints against the late administrator of the Yukon, both personally and on account of the large authority, civil and military, with which he was vested. That gentleman is not now connected with the Yukon; he is not in the service of the Government at all. The authority in the Yukon has been divided into civil and military department. A gentleman who has been lauded in this House until I am sure he would blush at hearing it, if he had heard it, is now the civil administrator of the country, and there is no allegation against his conduct. The military or police part of the authority is in the hands of Major Steele; and, as nobody in the House so far has given Major Steele a puff, I may take the liberty of doing so. From a very considerable knowledge of matters and things in the North-west Territories, I have no hesitation in saying that Major Steele is the best officer in the Mounted Police force, and he was the man above all others who was the proper man to be placed in command of the military and police force in the Yukon. There has been no breath of slander, and no allegation of any kind against the military administration of the Yukon, since Major Steele went there. Therefore, I may take it for granted that that is disposed of. There were very grave complaints against the late Gold Commissioner; but he has been displaced by another man, for whom there is another chorus of praise, joined in by everybody, and I have no doubt justly. The Crown prosecutor or legal adviser of the Government has, I believe, disappeared from the scene, and has been replaced by another gentleman of good repute.

I have not held, nor is it necessary for the purpose of my argument to hold, that there was not cause for grave dissatisfaction on the part of the miners of the Yukon with the conduct of affairs there during the year

1897-98; but I say that the fact that that condition of affairs has been entirely changed, and that there is now absolutely no complaint from the Yukon country along those lines, is a sufficient warrant to me of the good faith of the Government in its administration of that country.

This radical change having been made is sufficient cause for me to vote confidence in the Government on this motion, which I understand to be a motion of want of confidence. While to my mind the question of the charges of misconduct on the part of the officials has very largely been disposed of, so far as the responsibility of the Government is concerned by the action which has been taken, I am not by any means taking the position that there was no cause for the changes which the Government has seen fit to make. I take for granted that the fact that such radical changes were made is proof that there was sufficient cause for them, and that the cause was very largely the complaints which came down from the Yukon.

I do not wish to be considered as altogether agreeing with all parts of the Government's policy in the Yukon. As was said by the Minister of Interior in his speech on this subject, the question of administration should be separated from the question of policy. I am dealing with the question of administration, and not the question of policy in regard to reserved claims or royalty, as to which I have the misfortune to differ. I am afraid, from the majority on either side of the House; I do not believe in the one or the other.

But on the question of the amendment before the House asking for a judicial inquiry, I say that the Government having made the changes which they did make, and having provided for an investigation into the charges which had been alleged against the old officials, however meritorious the proposition of a judicial inquiry may be, the difference between the inquiry suggested by the amendment and the inquiry now being held by the Government, is not sufficient to my mind to warrant me in voting want of confidence in the Government. I will therefore vote for the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. N. F. DAVIN (West Assiniboia). Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman who has just sat down has very carefully argued the position that he is compelled to take in this matter; but if the hon. gentleman will do me the favour of giving me his attention for a few minutes, I am not without hope that I shall convince him that instead of voting for the amendment of the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) he will be forced to vote for the amendment of the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke), for which he now says he cannot vote. Let me point out to my hon. friend what is the character of the inquiry called for by the hon. member for

Mr. OLIVER.

West Toronto (Mr. Clarke). What he wants is a judicial investigation, and my hon. friend does not see a sufficient difference between a judicial investigation and the investigation approved of by my hon. friend from Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), to make it necessary for him to reject the latter and to choose the former. What are the facts before us as brought into light by the Minister of the Interior, and by the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) in supporting the Minister of the Interior and replying to this side? The amendment of my hon. friend from Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) says:

We observe with pleasure that on receipt of complaints against some of the officials in the Yukon district, His Excellency's Government took occasion to inquire into the matter of such complaints by appointing Mr. William Ogilvie as a commissioner for that purpose. Having entire confidence in the integrity and ability of Mr. Ogilvie, we are satisfied that his inquiry will be impartial and thorough.

That is what, at this time of the day, we are asked to affirm, although we have it on record that the Minister of the Interior tells us that such inquiry has already proved futile. In speaking of this very inquiry he said:

The attempt to hold an investigation, when nobody was making a charge, is an extremely unsatisfactory and futile thing, and the investigation at Dawson City promises to be futile. No charges have been made, because the people who complained have apparently withdrawn their charges, and will not go before the commissioner and attempt to prove them.

All that is fully quoted by the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) and the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries denounced the amendment of the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) as a demand that is not supported by precedent or practice, and not justified by the course hitherto taken by any Government. What these hon. gentlemen contend is that there shall be no inquiry, even though the scandals should be as wide as Christendom. No matter how grave the scandals may be, no matter how grave the charges may be, they are to be investigated in no other way than either by having a committee of this House, which, after all, to use a vulgar but expressive phrase, would be going to law with the devil in the court of hell, judging by the way we see things going or else that we shall have a departmental inquiry such as is now being held in the Yukon, and which is declared by the hon. Minister of the Interior to have already proved futile. I have in my hand the commission issued to Mr. Ogilvie and the letter from the Minister of the Interior accompanying it, and from these one can easily see that not only is the inquiry narrow, but what we have is an inquiry of this kind: The commissioner sits there, he has the right to take evidence under oath, he has the right to listen to charges, if any are made, but

this House and the country, all Canada and the British Empire, are told that their anxiety to know whether a great wrong has been done to the miners, whether our officials have acted corruptly, whether bargains have been made that touch the Government of this country close on a question of its purity, is not in any way to be relieved further than can be done by such an inquiry as this. And when we say that that is not satisfactory, then we have the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), and other gentlemen on that side saying that we have no precedent for any such inquiry as we demand by our amendment. Now, it so happens that a previous Government of this country set the example, under conditions parallel to the present, and this example the present Government are called on to follow by the amendment of my hon. friend from West Toronto (Mr. Clarke). Sir, your memory will go back to the time when all sorts of charges were scattered broadcast throughout the country regarding the Canadian Pacific Railway. Did the Government of that day content itself with appointing a departmental commission? Did it appoint the Deputy Minister of Railways and Canals a commissioner to inquire into the conduct of that department? Not at all. Did it appoint a tribunal that would investigate no charges unless charges that were formulated? Not at all. Did it appoint a tribunal such as we now have in the Yukon that was to do nothing unless persons came in to make charges? I have in my hand the commission that was issued nearly twenty years ago at the instance of the Minister of Railways—in 1880:

Whereas, it appears from a report of our Minister of Railways and Canals of Canada, bearing date on or about the 20th day of May, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty, among other things, that an expenditure has been incurred from the month of April in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine, and charged to the account of the Canadian Pacific Railway, amounting to the sum of fourteen million two hundred and eighty-seven thousand eight hundred and twenty-four dollars.

That two changes in the Government of Canada have taken place during that period; that important questions have arisen and become the subject of discussion, both in and out of the Parliament of Canada, touching the propriety of and responsibility for, large expenditures connected with this work.

That allegations have been made as to divers irregularities and extravagances, neglects and other derelictions of duty on the part of the officers and others employed in the said work, and that sundry irregularities and improprieties have taken place in the obtaining of contracts for portions of said work, and in the performance of the same.

And, whereas we deem it expedient, in the interest of and as connected with the good government of Canada, to cause inquiry to be made into and concerning all the facts connected with such work, and the prosecution thereof, from its inception to the present time;

Now know ye, that we, by and with the advice of our Privy Council for Canada, do by these

presents nominate, constitute and appoint George M. Clark, Esquire, Junior Judge of the united counties of Northumberland and Durham, Samuel Keefer, Esquire, Civil Engineer, and Edward Miall, Esquire, junior, Assistant Commissioner Inland Revenue Department, Commissioners to make inquiry into and concerning all the facts connected with the conduct and prosecution of the Canadian Pacific Railway from its inception to the present time. And we do hereby authorize and require them to report fully, from time to time, all matters that they may think it right and proper for them to report under their commission, and especially their conclusions to the mode in which said work has been carried on, both from an engineering and financial point of view, and the proper discharge of their duties by all officials and others in relation to the said railway; and also as to the manner in which all contracts have been obtained and executed on the said work, and as to the payments made for and in respect of said work.

That was an inquisitorial commission and two large volumes of evidence was taken. What was done? Did these two commissioners wait until the prosecuting counsel came forward, either lay or professional? Not at all. The inquiry was strictly inquisitorial. The commissioners went to the various parts of the country where an inquiry could best be made; they sought out the names of individuals who could give them information on the subject of the Canadian Pacific Railway and on every scandal that had been ventilated by the press of the time—and they summoned these people before them, having the power of a court of record—and inquired as to the parts they took in regard to the transactions respecting which accusations had been made in the press. This is an instance entirely refuting the position taken by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) and by other gentlemen, that there is no precedent for the course proposed by the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke). On the contrary, in 1880, we had a Government that, seeing that charges of corruption, misconduct and crooked work were made in the press in connection with the various contracts, did not do what is done by this Government, issue a departmental inquiry—though it is admitted by one of our Ministers that the inquiry made by Mr. Ogilvie has been futile—and ask the House to pass a resolution which gives us no guarantee whatever that any such inquiry as was made in 1880 and resulted so satisfactory, shall be made. We have a precedent set by the Government of Canada itself, when the conduct of a great department had been impugned, a precedent that fits in precisely with what is demanded by the resolution of my hon. friend from West Toronto. I think if my hon. friend from Alberta will take up the volume of the Canadian Pacific Railway commission and see what was done, see how Judge Clark and his fellow-commissioners summoned the very persons who were charged to come before them, summoned officials, summoned deputy ministers, summoned Ministers of the Crown, and these Ministers

came and were examined, he will see that there was a precedent to justify him, not in taking the course he intends to take, but to justify him in supporting the motion of my hon. friend from West Toronto.

House divided on the amendment to the amendment (Mr. Bertram).

## YEAS :

## Messieurs

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Angers,                  | Laurier (Sir Wilfrid), |
| Bain,                    | Lavergne,              |
| Bazinet,                 | Legris,                |
| Beausoleil,              | Lewis,                 |
| Belcourt,                | Livingston,            |
| Bell (Prince, East),     | Logan,                 |
| Bernier,                 | Mackie,                |
| Bertram,                 | McCarthy,              |
| Bethune,                 | McGregor,              |
| Blair,                   | McGugan,               |
| Borden (King's),         | McHugh,                |
| Bostock,                 | McInnes,               |
| Bourassa,                | McIsaac,               |
| Bourbonnais,             | McLellan,              |
| Britton,                 | McLennan (Inverness),  |
| Brown,                   | McMillan,              |
| Bruneau,                 | McMullen,              |
| Burnett,                 | Madore,                |
| Cartwright (Sir Rich'd), | Marcel,                |
| Casey,                   | Martineau,             |
| Champagne,               | Maxwell,               |
| Copp,                    | Meigs,                 |
| Costigan,                | Mignault,              |
| Dechene,                 | Monet,                 |
| Demers,                  | Morrison,              |
| Dobell,                  | Oliver,                |
| Domville,                | Parmalee,              |
| Douglas,                 | Paterson,              |
| Dupré,                   | Penny,                 |
| Edwards,                 | Pettet,                |
| Ellis,                   | Proulx,                |
| Erd,                     | Ratz,                  |
| Ethier,                  | Richardson,            |
| Featherston,             | Rinfret,               |
| Fisher,                  | Rogers,                |
| Flint,                   | Ross,                  |
| Fortin,                  | Russell,               |
| Gauthier,                | Rutherford,            |
| Gauvreau,                | Savard,                |
| Gibson,                  | Scriver,               |
| Godbout,                 | Semple,                |
| Graham,                  | Sifton,                |
| Haley,                   | Snetsinger,            |
| Harwood,                 | Somerville,            |
| Holmes,                  | Stenson,               |
| Hurley,                  | Stubbs,                |
| Hutchison,               | Sutherland,            |
| Johnston,                | Tolmie,                |
| Joly de Lotbinière,      | Tucker,                |
| (Sir Henri),             | Turcot, and            |
| Lang,                    | Wood.—101.             |

## NAYS :

## Messieurs

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Beattie,          | Kaulbach,             |
| Bell (Pictou),    | Kendry,               |
| Bennett,          | Klock,                |
| Blanchard,        | Kloepfer,             |
| Borden (Halifax), | LaRivière,            |
| Cargill,          | Macdonald (King's),   |
| Carscallen,       | McCleary,             |
| Chauvin,          | McDougall,            |
| Clancy,           | McInerney,            |
| Clarke,           | McLennan (Glengarry), |

Mr. DAVIN.

Cochrane,  
Corby,  
Craig,  
Davin,  
Dugas,  
Earle,  
Ganong,  
Gillies,  
Gilmour,  
Haggart,  
Hale,  
Hodgins,  
Hughes,  
Ingram,

McNeill,  
Marcotte,  
Martin,  
Mills,  
Moore,  
Morin,  
Pope,  
Prior,  
Quinn,  
Roche,  
Taylor,  
Tupper (Sir Charles),  
Wallace, and  
Wilson.—48.

## PAIRS :

## Ministerial.

## Opposition.

|                          |                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Christie,                | Roddick,                         |
| Davies (Sir Louis),      | Tupper (Sir Charles<br>Hibbert), |
| Angers,                  | Casgrain,                        |
| Cartwright (Sir Rich'd), | Tupper (Sir Charles),            |
| Cowan,                   | Montague,                        |
| Mulock,                  | McAlister,                       |
| Fitzpatrick,             | MacLaren,                        |
| Davis,                   | Tyrwhitt,                        |
| Guité,                   | Ives,                            |
| MacPherson,              | Osler,                           |
| Dyment,                  | McCormick,                       |
| Tarte,                   | Foster,                          |
| Campbell,                | Seagram,                         |
| Fielding,                | Powell,                          |
| Landerkin,               | Broder,                          |
| Calvert,                 | Reid,                            |
| Fraser (Guysborough),    | Henderson,                       |
| Macdonald (Huron),       | Maclean,                         |
| Talbot,                  | Bergeron,                        |
| Frost,                   | Caron (Sir Adolphe),             |
| Geoffrion,               | Poupore,                         |
| Brodeur,                 | Tisdale,                         |
| Beith,                   | Robertson,                       |
| Malouin,                 | Bell (Addington),                |
| Macdonell,               | Ferguson,                        |
| Leduc,                   | Rosamond,                        |
| Carroll,                 | Sproule,                         |
| Charlton,                | Robinson,                        |
| Préfontaine,             | McK.,                            |
| McClure,                 | Gullet,                          |

Amendment to amendment agreed to.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. members for Sherbrooke (Mr. Ives) and Restigouche (Mr. McAlister) have not voted.

Mr. IVES. I am paired with the hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Guité). Had I been free to vote, I would have voted against the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. McALISTER. I am paired with the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), otherwise I would have voted against the amendment to the amendment.

Motion (Mr. Bell, East Prince), as amended, agreed to on division.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved :

That the said Address be engrossed, and be presented to His Excellency the Governor General by such members of this House as are of the Honourable the Privy Council.

Motion agreed to.

## SUPPLY.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE** (Sir Richard Cartwright) moved :

That this House will, on Wednesday next, resolve itself into a committee to consider of a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Motion agreed to.

## WAYS AND MEANS.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE** moved :

That this House will, on Wednesday next, resolve itself into a committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Motion agreed to.

## ADJOURNMENT—ENGLISH STAMP DUTIES.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I move the adjournment of the House. But before this question is put, I will take advantage of this opportunity to communicate to the House a telegram which has just been received from the High Commissioner in London, in reference to the subject to which my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition called attention the other day. The telegram is as follows :—

London, 18th April, 1899.

Laurier, Ottawa.

Government Bill re Stamp Duties not yet printed. According to resolutions, new duties only affect securities not low subject stamp duty. Consequently Government and other colonial stocks issued and registered here not affected. Will affect stocks of all kinds issued in Canada and interest payable there, if sent here for sale or negotiable purposes. Had meeting my office to-day, colonial agents general, and am watching matter closely. Wrote Courtney fully Saturday's mail.

## STRATHCONA.

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

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 19th April, 1899.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

## PRAYERS.

## FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 64) to amend the Yukon Territory Act.—(Mr. McInnes.)

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier.) Will the hon. gentleman please explain the Bill ?

Mr. McINNES. The explanation is this : There is no provision in the Yukon Territory

Act, or in the mining regulations, whereby a speedy appeal can be obtained if any one is displeased or dissatisfied with the decision of any mining recorder, gold commissioner or mining inspector, in the Yukon territory. The object of this Bill, briefly stated, is to provide for such an appeal.

## CANADA EASTERN RAILWAY.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** (by Mr. McDougall) asked :

Has the application to the Governor in Council for the approval of the sale of the Canada Eastern Railway Company to the Alexander Gibson Railway and Manufacturing Company been granted, and if so, on what date ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). Yes, the application for the approval of the sale of the Canada Eastern Railway Company to the Alexander Gibson Railway and Manufacturing Company has been granted. The date of granting is 25th February, 1899.

## STEEL RAILS FOR THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** (by Mr. McDougall) asked :

Has a contract or contracts been entered into for the supply of 5,000 tons of steel rails with fastenings for the Intercolonial Railway and for the supply of 1,000 tons of steel rails without fastenings for the Prince Edward Island Railway, as per tenders invited in 1898, and if so, with whom and at what price ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). Tenders were called for steel rails as stated in this question, but no contract was let to any of the tenderers. The department accepted the lowest and notified the tenderer, who declined to enter into a contract, alleging as a reason that freight had suddenly and unexpectedly risen, which the department, upon inquiry, ascertained to be the fact, so that he could not supply the rails at the price offered. While the question was under consideration by the department as to whether the next highest offer, which exceeded \$20 per ton, should be accepted, the Rail Manufacturers' Trust or Combine withdrew their offers and declined to make any bids until late in November or early in December 'ast, after which no new tenders were advertised.

## COST OF PROHIBITION PLEBISCITE.

Mr. McDOUGALL asked :

What was the cost to the Dominion Treasury of the Prohibition plebiscite taken during last year ?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Total expenditure to date (17th April, 1899) : \$183,684.58. There are yet a few outstanding accounts.

**LEASE OF LAND NEAR VALLEYFIELD.**

Mr. BERGERON (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

Has the Department of Railways and Canals leased, or promised to lease, a certain piece of land above Valleyfield, in the county of Beauharnois, to S. A. Brodeur, an employee of the said department ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). The Department of Railways and Canals, in 1884 and 1885, leased certain pieces of land above Valleyfield to Mrs. Barbour and S. A. Brodeur. Mrs. Barbour's lease subsequently came into the hands of S. A. Brodeur in 1896. An Order in Council was passed cancelling these leases, since which no new lease has been given to S. A. Brodeur nor has a lease been promised to him.

**COST OF INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION.**

Mr. KLOEPFER asked :

What has been the total cost of the commission relating to affairs between Canada and the United States, including travelling expenses, living expenses of the commissioners, their secretaries, messengers and assistants, also cost of other members of the Government and civil servants, who attended at Quebec and Washington ?

What was the cost of entertainments given by the Canadian Ministers at Quebec and Washington separately ?

What sum was allowed Mr. John Charlton as member of the commission, including living and travelling expenses ?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The total cost to Canada of the International Commission, including travelling and living expenses of the commissioners and their staff, as well as office rent, telegraphing, postages, printing and stationery, to date is \$33,660.80. There was one dinner given to the commissioners in Quebec at a cost of \$308.35; also a banquet at Washington, Canada's share of which amounts to \$606.25. There were also certain trips on board the Government steamers, given to the members of the commission while in Quebec, which cost \$722.07. Mr. John Charlton received nothing beyond his travelling and living expenses, which amount to \$1,766.48.

**DEADMAN'S ISLAND, VANCOUVER.**

Mr. PRIOR asked :

1. Under what title does the Canadian Government hold the island in the harbour of Vancouver known as Deadman's Island ?

2. Under what statutory authority, if any, does the Department of Militia and Defence administer this property ?

3. Does this island form part of the Naval Reserve, or Dominion Government Military Reserve, in which Hunter Park is situated ?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

4. Was this reserve handed over to the corporation of Vancouver City for use as a park in 1887 ?

5. What is the estimated value of this island ?

6. Did the Government obtain any official report as to the fair annual rental of this island, and if so, what was it reported to be and by whom ?

7. What officer, if any, drew the lease of this island dated 14th February, 1889 ?

8. Who compose the Vancouver Lumber Company mentioned in this lease ?

9. Is this company a body corporate, and if so, when and where was it incorporated ?

10. Is the following a correct copy of one of the provisions of the lease above ? "It is hereby agreed that this demise may be determined by either party giving to the other notice thereof in writing \_\_\_\_\_ months before the expiration of the first or any subsequent" —

11. Under what clause of the lease and upon what ground, if any, is the Government now at liberty to cancel or determine this lease ?

12. Was it represented to the hon. the Minister of Militia that a large amount of money was to be expended by the lessee and that many men were to be employed in a saw-mill to be erected ?

13. Does any provision of the lease secure either the expenditure of a dollar outside of the rental of \$500 a year, the employment of a man, or the erection of a building ?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). 1. Under the British North America Act, and the terms of union. 2. The Department of Militia and Defence administers the naval and military lands under the above Act. 3. Deadman's Island is a naval reserve. Hunter's Park is unknown to the department. 4. Deadman's Island was not handed over to the city. 5. This island being known to be a resort of squatters, and to have been used by the city of Vancouver as a location for a hospital for infectious diseases and a burial ground in connection therewith, was not considered valuable. 6. The officer in charge of militia properties recommended the fixing of the annual rental at \$500, and that in addition Canadian Government vessels and British men-of-war should have the free use of wharfs at all times. 7. The keeper of military properties upon the usual departmental form. 8. The lease was asked for in the name of the Vancouver Lumber Company, of the city of Vancouver. The names of Robt. Stewart and Thomas E. Wells, of Chicago, were mentioned, the former being vice-president and the latter a director of the American National Bank of Chicago. 9. Not known. 10 and 11. The clause under which the department may resume possession is : "The said party of the first part may determine this demise at any time by a demand of possession of the said leased premises, or any part thereof, if required for naval or military purposes, and the said lessees to have no claim for compensation for buildings erected or improvements made thereon. 12. It was represented to the Minister that \$250,000 would be expended in the erection of buildings, lumbering plant, &c., upon the island, and the employment of 1,000 men, who were to reside in the city of Vancouver;

collect the debts of the Government. It is bad policy to set one farmer against another, to introduce strife into our community in that way. And there is a very important feature that the farmers are fully alive to and it is this: When this seed grain was lent, it had not been demonstrated that the North-west was what we now know it to be, one of the best places where farmers can settle who desire speedy success as farmers—I will go even further and say, who desire to make a moderate fortune rapidly. Men who understand farming and aim at making a moderate fortune and making it rapidly cannot do better than come into our North-west Territories. Well, Sir, these men who have shown that that is the position of things, when this grain was lent were, in reality, associated with the Government in making an experiment as to whether or not that portion of Canada was what it now has turned out to be, and to say to these people after they had bet, as it were, on the Territories: We are going to hold you responsible for the indebtedness of men who have left the country—that seems to me to be unjust; it seems to me to be impolitic.

Now, I will ask the attention of the House for a very brief period while I go back a little in the history of this question. I find, on consulting "Hansard," that so far back as 1880, the question was asked in this House of the then Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Carling, as to settlement of seed grain indebtedness in Manitoba incurred in 1876. Again, in 1891, when an item for seed grain was before the House, the question was again discussed. And, in 1895, when the item came up to pay for the purchase and distribution of seed grain to needy settlers resident in the North-west Territories, chiefly in the district of Assinibola, (to cover Governor General's warrant of \$50,000), Sir Richard Cartwright asked:

Has the money been paid, and if so, how has the distribution been made?

Then the predecessor of my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior made these remarks:

Although the Government were opposed to the granting of seed, the case was put in such a strong light that they came to the conclusion that although they did not desire to follow the precedents created by giving seed grain to the people, that, under the circumstances, they were fully justified.

And then, again:

So far as I am personally concerned, I may say that I am opposed to the Government being called upon to make grants similar to these, because I think the people in the Territories should deal with these matters the same as they do in Manitoba, and if aid is given to them, that it should be given by the local assembly, or by the municipalities.

I rather think that the Minister of that time was wrong in his remarks, because undoubtedly the Dominion Government had lent seed grain to the farmers in Manitoba at an earlier period. He went on:

We had to deal with the facts as they were presented to us; and, in consequence of the conditions I have mentioned, the Government had to give this aid. The aid was principally given to farmers in the neighbourhood of Pense, Moosejaw, Regina and Balgonie, and a little in the eastern portion of Assinibola. Demands were made upon us at first to the extent of \$125,000; but we thought they were extravagant, and, after inquiries by officers of the department, they were cut down some 40 per cent.

Well, then the declaration is given that these men had to make, and besides making that declaration he had to give a bond and two sureties. In other words, he could not have had the seed grain on his own bond, he could not get the seed grain on the credit of his own homestead, and he had no choice whatever but to get two sureties and to go surety also for others. Well, Sir, we find that on June 13th, 1895, not only Sir Richard Cartwright but Mr. Mulock was desirous of criticising adversely the action of the Government on that behalf, and reference was made as to the course taken that was taken in order to get that grant; and anybody who reads the debate, will see that I had to put pressure on the Government of that day, first to give us the grant, and next to give us the further grant in order that the district that needed to be covered should be properly covered. Last session I asked the Minister:

How much is owed the Government for seed grain by settlers in the North-west Territories? And the Minister is reported here—page 5135 of "Hansard"—as answering:

On the 1st of April, 1898, there was owed, for seed grain by settlers in the North-west Territories, \$145,235.49.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the Government that the indebtedness against abandoned quarter or half sections should be written off. If the Minister speaks with farmers in that part of the country where there are abandoned quarter sections or abandoned half sections with this indebtedness, he will find that they consider a great injustice is done to the incoming settler, that the incoming settler should not be asked to pay the indebtedness of somebody who has abandoned the land. I think it is a fair and legitimate thing to ask the Government to deal with this indebtedness just as a business man deals with a certain item in his profit and loss account—write it off to profit and loss. I do not think that there can be two opinions as to the necessity of cancelling the abandoned indebtedness, because that abandoned indebtedness is calculated to fill with a sense of injustice and a sense of resentment, the minds of the settlers against the Government of the day. Suppose the settler has paid the claim of the Government on him for this abandoned homestead, and suppose he then says: I am going to recoup myself and I will sue my brother farmer. Why, Mr. Speaker, you have only to state the matter to have it brought home to the House and home to the

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). The travelling and living expenses of the Minister of the Interior from the 1st of July, 1898, to the 28th of February, 1899, inclusive, amounted in all to \$920, and his cab-hire to \$25, making a total of \$945. The travelling and living expenses of his private secretary for the same period amounted in all to \$408.30, and his cab-hire to \$4.50, making a total of \$412.80. The expenses of his messenger amounted to \$9.65; making a total of the expenditure referred to in the question of \$1,367.45. The expenses of friends accompanying the Minister were not paid by the Government.

#### ABSENCE OF MINISTERS FROM OTTAWA.

Mr. HENDERSON asked :

How many days has each member of the Government been absent from the capital and his office since the House prorogued last session, up to the first day of March, 1899 ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). There is no record kept in any of the departments of the presence in or absence from the capital of any members of the Government. When members of the Government were absent from the capital on official business, the time of their absence from the capital can be ascertained by reference to certain public documents. Thus, it is possible to inform the hon. gentleman that the members of the Government who were members of the Anglo-American Commission were in Quebec from the 23rd of August to the 2nd of September, 1898, and again from the 20th of September to the 10th of October. They were in Washington from the 10th of November to the 19th of December, and again in Washington from the 5th of January to the 20th of February last. The Postmaster General and the Minister of Agriculture were also absent in Europe on official business during the months of July and August last. When members of the Government were absent from the capital on business which was not purely official, it is not easy to state accurately how many days they were away, but by reference to the public press, the fact can be approximately ascertained. Thus, I can inform the hon. member that the Minister of Railways was away from the capital for a week or two in the province of New Brunswick at the time of the provincial elections; that the Minister of Customs and the Minister of Public Works and the Postmaster General were for a few days in the county of West Huron during the last contest therein.

#### VOTERS' LISTS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

1. Has the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery received, under the provisions of sec. 10, ch. 14, Mr. CARSCALLEN,

Act 1898, a certified copy of the list of voters in any province of Canada, which is declared to be the original and legal list of voters ?

2. In what constituencies has there been a revision of the list of voters for the purposes of provincial elections since 13th June, 1898 ?

3. In what cases has there been a compliance with sec. 10, ch. 14, Act 1898, which directed the custodian of the provincial list of voters to transmit to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery certified copies of said list ?

4. What lists have been printed under the provisions of sec. 10, ch. 14, 1898, subsection 3 ?

5. Has subsection 4 of sec. 10 above been complied with ? If so, to what number have said copies of the lists been mailed by Queen's Printer as provided by said clause ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. Yes. 2. In almost every electoral district of the province of Ontario; in the electoral districts of Bonaventure and Gaspé, and presumably in the five electoral districts of the city of Montreal, the three electoral districts of the city of Quebec, and the city of Three Rivers, in the province of Quebec; in the electoral districts of Albert, Gloucester, St. John City and County, Westmoreland, and presumably in all the other electoral districts of New Brunswick, and in all the electoral districts of British Columbia. 3. In the cases of almost every electoral district of the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia. 4. Those of the electoral districts of West Huron, in the province of Ontario, and those of Bagot, Bonaventure, Montmagny and Lévis, in the province of Quebec. 5. I am not in a position to-day to give an answer to this part of the question.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

1. What lists were used in the various by-elections for this House since June, 1898, respectively, that is to say, when were such lists respectively prepared or last in force ?

2. In what cases, if any, had there been a final revision of said lists since June, 1898, previous to any of such by-elections ?

The PRIME MINISTER. 1. In the by-elections held in the electoral districts of the West Riding of Lambton and the North Riding of Simcoe, in the province of Ontario, part of the voters' lists revised in 1897 and part of those revised in 1898 were used at those elections. The reason for this was due to the revised voters' lists of 1898 for some of the municipalities not having come in force for Dominion election purposes at the time those elections took place, owing, presumably, to appeals having been made from their revision. In the by-election held in the West Riding of Huron, the voters' lists used were those revised in 1898. In the by-elections held in the electoral districts of Bagot and Montmagny, in the province of Quebec, the voters' lists used were those revised in 1898. All those lists were prepared and came in force at the time fixed by the laws of the provinces. 2. In the cases of the West Riding of Huron; in the villages of

Point Edward and Wyoming, and in the township of Sarnia, in the West Riding of Lambton: and in the towns of Collingwood and Stayner, in the village of Creemore and in the township of Vespra, in the North Riding of Simcoe. The balance of the voters' lists for these two electoral districts were revised and came in force later on. The voters' lists for Bagot and Montmagny were revised and came in force in April, 1898.

### THE PROVINCES AND THE SENATE.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

1. Is the following statement published in the newspaper "Le Soleil" of the 10th of March instant, under the heading "En Conférence," true:—"Sir Wilfrid Laurier et l'honorable M. Tarte ont eu ce matin une longue conférence avec l'honorable M. Marchand dans le salon particulier de l'honorable Premier-Ministre de la province."

2. Was this conference held with a view of impressing upon the said Premier of the province of Quebec or upon his colleagues, the desirability of obtaining from either or both Houses of the legislature of the province of Quebec an expression of opinion in approbation of the policy in relation to the Senate announced by the Right Honourable the Premier, at the city of Montreal, at a meeting held at the Monument National?

3. At the said conference did the Right Honourable the Premier obtain from the Premier of the province of Quebec any expression of approval of the said policy in relation to the Senate or any assurance that the said question would be submitted to one or to both branches of the Quebec legislature at the session then being held or at any subsequent session?

4. Is it the intention of the Government to obtain a similar expression of opinion from all the provincial legislatures?

5. Does not the Government consider that in expressing their opinion upon the subject of Senate reform, the provincial legislatures are overstepping the bounds assigned to them by the constitution?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1, 2, 3 and 4. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Hon. Mr. Tarte had an interview with the Hon. Mr. Marchand, Prime Minister of Quebec, at about the date mentioned. The subject of the interview was confidential. 5. Far from considering that, in expressing their opinion upon the subject of Senate reform, the provincial legislatures are overstepping the bounds assigned to them by the constitution, the Government are of opinion that the provincial legislatures have a vital interest in the question, and that it is eminently proper for them to express their views on the same. If the hon. gentleman holds a different view, he is at variance on this point with the leader of the Opposition, who, in the debate on the Address, speaking of the conditions which he held essential to justify a reform in the constitution of the Senate, said ("Hansard," page 86): "Why, Sir, the unanimous vote of this House and of the Senate of Canada

would not accomplish the object, unless every province in this Dominion, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, that is a constituent part of this confederation, on due notice and after an election, ratified it as well."

### THE MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

1. Has there been any correspondence, since this House was last in session, between His Holiness the Pope or the Sacred College of the Propaganda, or any of the Roman Catholic Archbishops or Bishops of Canada and the Government or any member thereof, in relation to the Manitoba school question?

2. Has the Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba accepted what is generally known as the "Laurier-Greenway settlement" of the said question?

3. Is the said Manitoba school question fully and finally settled?

4. If so, what are the final arrangements agreed to and the terms of settlement?

5. When was the final settlement made and agreed to by the Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. As a question of fact, there has been no correspondence between the Government, or any member thereof, and His Holiness the Pope or the Sacred College of the Propaganda in relation to the Manitoba school question. As a question of right, every subject of Her Majesty who belongs to the Roman Catholic Church, has the right to correspond with His Holiness the Pope or the Sacred College of the Propaganda, or any of the archbishops, or bishops, of Canada or of any other part of the world, and for the exercise of that right, which is not abridged by the fact that he may be an adviser of the Crown, he owes no account to the hon. gentleman, or to any other fellow-subject. 2. The Government have reasons to believe that the settlement known as the "Laurier-Greenway settlement," has been accepted by the majority of the minority, though not unanimously. 3, 4 and 5. In so far as federal jurisdiction is concerned, if the hon. gentleman is not satisfied that the settlement should be final, it is open to him, or to any member of Parliament, to attack it. In so far as provincial jurisdiction is concerned, Mr. Greenway, at Montreal, on the 30th of December, 1896, declared :

Having a knowledge of the state of affairs which existed prior to 1890, as we had, we thought it was not in the best interests of that country that it should be done. But, sir, we said then, and we say now, if you can suggest at any time during the discussion of this matter anything that we can do in the way of amending the law to make it more acceptable to all classes, we are prepared to accept it.

I know I am speaking for the people of Manitoba, and I repeat again, and I want you to make a note of it, that we propose to work out this sys-

tem in a fair and generous spirit, and not to undertake the responsibility of closing up 50 or 60 schools, leaving the children of those schools in a state of ignorance. It is they who are assuming the responsibility. If they can from time to time suggest any way by which we may meet their views to a further extent, we shall always be prepared, Mr. Premier, to consider it.

#### THE GOLD COMMISSIONER.

Mr. MORRISON asked :

1. Is Thomas Fawcett still acting as Gold Commissioner at Dawson, Yukon territory ?
2. If not, who has succeeded him ?
3. Is his successor's appointment a permanent one ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). In reply to the hon. gentleman, I beg to say : 1. No. 2. Mr. Edmund C. Senkler. 3. Yes.

#### YUKON TIMBER INSPECTOR.

Mr. MORRISON asked :

Is J. W. Willison still acting as timber inspector for the Yukon territory ? If not, who is his successor ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Mr. J. W. Willison is acting as one of the timber inspectors for the Yukon territory under the authority of a head timber and land agent.

#### LEGAL ADVISER AT YUKON.

Mr. MORRISON asked :

Who is acting as legal adviser to the Yukon administrator ? When was he appointed, and is his appointment a permanent one ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I beg to reply as follows :—1. Mr. W. H. P. Clement. 2. 7th October, 1898. 3. Yes.

#### ALLEGIANCE OF GOLD COMMISSIONER'S CLERKS.

Mr. MORRISON asked :

1. How many officials and clerks are employed in and about the Gold Commissioner's office, Dawson ?

2. Are they all British subjects ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I beg to reply as follows :—1. 21. 2. Every official of the department, whether in the inside or outside service, is required to take the oaths of allegiance and office. Whether any of the clerks employed temporarily by the Gold Commissioner are other than British subjects is not shown by the information in the possession of the department.

#### MAJOR WALSH.

Mr. MORRISON asked :

Is Major Walsh connected officially or otherwise with the administration of the Yukon territory ?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.  
No.

#### GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN YUKON.

Mr. MORRISON asked :

Has the Government taken any steps to prevent or regulate the locating and recording of mining claims or interests by Government officials in the Yukon territory ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). The Government has, by Order in Council, prohibited the staking or recording of claims by Government officials, under their own names or under the names of any other persons or corporations for their benefit ; and has prohibited them from securing by purchase or otherwise any mining claim of any kind whatsoever in the Yukon territory. The same Order in Council prohibits any official from acting as the agent of any person or corporation in or with respect to the staking, recording, purchase or acquisition of any mining claim or property in the said territory.

#### SALARIES OF YUKON OFFICIALS.

Mr. MORRISON asked :

1. What is the scale of salary of officials in the Yukon territory ?

2. Has the Government information as to the cost of living in Dawson and vicinity ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. The salaries of permanent officials in the Yukon range from \$900 to \$5,000 a year. 2. The Government has information as to the cost of living in Dawson and vicinity, and the information was such as to lead it to provide board and lodging for the officials in addition to their salaries, or an extra allowance when they preferred to board and lodge themselves.

#### CURRENTS ALONG CANADIAN COAST.

Mr. MONK asked :

1. Is it the intention of the Government to carry out without delay the survey and investigation of the currents along the Canadian coast, as recommended and asked for by the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1884 and 1897, by the Royal Society of Canada ever since its formation, and by the shipping interests of Canada ?

2. Will a sufficient sum be placed in the coming Estimates to enable such a survey and investigation to be materially advanced during the coming year ?

3. What sum was expended in this connection during the last financial year ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The Department of Marine and Fisheries has found a very great difference of opinion as to the possible benefits which might accrue from the expenditure necessary to make the suggested investigation. It is not correct to say that the shipping interests of Canada

have made any such request as suggested in the question. The question is now under consideration. The sum expended last year was \$3,081.45, chiefly in maintaining tide gauges and preparing and publishing tide tables, and the sum of \$4,000 for the current financial year, which sum will have to be supplemented, having been already spent.

**KINGSTON PENITENTIARY BINDER TWINE.**

Mr. TAYLOR asked :

1. To whom and at what price was the binder twine manufactured at the Kingston Penitentiary between the first day of July, 1896, and the 30th June, 1897, sold ? Were tenders called for ?
2. To whom and at what price was the binder twine manufactured at the Kingston Penitentiary between the first day of July, 1897, and the 30th June, 1898, sold ? Were tenders called for and in what papers were they advertised ?
3. To whom and at what price was the binder twine manufactured at the Kingston Penitentiary since the 1st July, 1898, and to be manufactured up to the 30th June, 1899, sold ? Were tenders called for ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I beg to reply to the hon. gentleman: 1. To Hobbs Hardware Company, of London, at the following prices:—Sisal, \$4.40 per cwt.; Beaver, \$4.75 per cwt.; Maple Leaf, \$5.25 per cwt. Tenders were called for by advertisement in the newspapers. 2. To H. N. Bate & Sons, Ottawa, at the following prices:—Sisal, \$4.15 per cwt.; Beaver, \$4.45 per cwt.; Maple Leaf, \$4.95 per cwt. Tenders were called for by circular addressed to leading dealers throughout the Dominion. 3. To Hobbs Hardware Company, of London. Tenders were called for by advertisement in the newspapers, and the highest tender accepted. The prices cannot yet be made public as the twine has not yet been marketed by the purchasers.

**TRAVELLING AND LIVING EXPENSES OF MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.**

Mr. DAVIN asked :

What is the amount of travelling and living expenses for the hon. the Minister of Agriculture, also the travelling and living expenses of his private secretary, messenger or other servants or friends accompanying him, including cab, railway, or steamboat travel, private cars and all other expenses, paid by the Government, since the first day of July, 1898, till the 28th February, 1899, inclusive ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). In reply to the hon. gentleman, I beg to give him the following particulars:—

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Travelling expenses, July 1st, 1898, to February 28th, 1899, including trip to England (Mr. Fisher).....  | \$ 621 28  |
| Travelling expenses, July 1st, 1898, to February 28th, 1899, including trip to England (Mr. Doherty)..... | 487 36     |
|   | \$1,108 64 |

There were no private cars used by the Minister. There was no messenger, servant or friend ever with the Minister on any of his trips at the country's expense.

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ON THE PLEBISCITE.**

Mr. MOORE asked :

Did the hon. Minister of Agriculture make the following speech at the Ottawa convention in 1895 ? If so, how does he reconcile his utterances on that occasion with his retaining office in the present Government after its refusal to act on the vote cast at the recent plebiscite ?

“Temperance sentiment now asks for something more than local option.

“I am glad, therefore, that the great party to which I belong, with which I have worked, is prepared to take a stand upon the temperance question, and to declare in its platform in favour of a step in the right direction upon this subject. I understand that this is the first time a great political party in this country has ever faced this question in a fair and true spirit. I am not aware that any political party in this country has ever declared itself squarely upon this question. I was aware that the House of Commons itself passed a resolution to the effect that when the country was ripe Parliament should enact a prohibition law. It is some time since that was passed. The Tory party has been long in power, but has not taken any steps to obtain the vote of the country upon this question. It is true, as you know, that Finance Minister Foster—and when I speak his name I have to look back to the first years when he and I were in Parliament, when he was looked upon as a temperance champion. I regret to say that that hon. gentleman on the floor of Parliament has told the country that he—one of the leaders of the Tory party—only advocated temperance ‘in a moment of weakness,’ and that when he came to his sober senses—if we may call them sober senses—he went back on that record. The Tory party has not done justice in favour of temperance; it has only appointed a royal commission to go about the country and find out something, but, as Mr. Laurier said, we have all the information necessary of the kind that a royal commission can collect. They have put off the question; they have shunted it, and have not taken steps to find out the attitude of the country upon this question.

“I am glad to be here to ask this Liberal convention to take a step which will bring about an opportunity for the people to express themselves upon this question. We know that in three of the provinces the Liberal governments of those provinces have brought about local or provincial plebiscites, thus giving the temperance people the opportunity to show what they believe to be the truth, that the temperance sentiment of this country is strong enough to enforce a prohibition law if it is given us. I propose to read the resolution which will bring about this result, and which pledges the Liberal party, if returned to power, to give the people of Canada an opportunity to express their views upon this question, and the Government in power must necessarily carry out the expressed will of the people. There is no doubt that this is what the Liberal party would do, for we know their pledges can be trusted.”

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). In reply to the question, in which there purports to be a quotation from the speech made by myself at the Ottawa convention, I may say that the quotation

is apparently a fair report of my utterance on that occasion, that I am not aware and do not perceive that there is any reason or occasion for any difference of opinion between myself and my colleagues in consequence of or based upon that utterance, as the Government of which I am a member has fulfilled to the letter the pledge made and the utterance quoted by the hon. gentleman.

#### MONTREAL POSTMASTERSHIP.

Mr. TAYLOR asked :

1. Has Mr. Arthur Dansereau resigned as postmaster of the city of Montreal ?
2. If so, when ?
3. Has any person been appointed in his place ?
4. If not, why not ?
5. When will the appointment be made ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). In reply I beg to say : 1. Mr. Arthur Dansereau, postmaster of Montreal, has resigned that office. 2. His resignation took effect on the 1st of March, 1899. 3, 4 and 5. His successor has not been appointed. The Postmaster General has ordered an investigation into the condition of the post office. As soon as the report has been received, an appointment will be made.

#### THE KLONDIKE OFFICIAL GUIDE.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

Whether the publication entitled "The Klondike Official Guide" prepared by Wm. Ogilvie, Dominion lands surveyor and explorer, was prepared by the said Ogilvie ? Whether there are any parts of said publication for which the said Ogilvie is not responsible ? If so, whether the hon. Minister would have these parts pointed out and marked ? Whether Mr. William Ogilvie has stated that he is not responsible for the whole of the publication which is described as "prepared by" him ? Whether a written remonstrance from him has been sent to the Department of the Interior ? If any portions were inserted without Wm. Ogilvie's sanction, who added or authorized them ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). So far as the department is aware, the Klondike Official Guide was prepared by Mr. William Ogilvie. The Minister of the Interior is not aware of any portions of the said guide which were not prepared by Mr. Ogilvie, nor is he aware that Mr. Ogilvie has stated that he is not responsible for the whole of the publication. Mr. Ogilvie has not sent any written remonstrance upon the subject to the Department of the Interior.

#### BOUNTIES PAID ON IRON.

Mr. WALLACE asked :

What is the number of tons of pig iron on which bounty has been paid, and the amount so paid—(1st) for the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1898 ; (2nd) from 1st July, 1898, up to the

Mr. FISHER.

present date ? Also the number of tons of malleable iron and steel on which bounty has been paid, and the amount so paid during the same date ? Also, what further amounts, if any, are claimed or for which claims are put in but not yet paid ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). 1. \$163,889.16 have been paid for bounty on 75,895 tons and 778 pounds pig iron for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1898, besides \$1,765.09 paid for bounty on pig iron manufactured during the previous fiscal year. 2. \$130,256.39 have been paid for bounty on 54,577 tons and 1,529 pounds pig iron manufactured from 1st July, 1898, to date, besides \$4,651.09 paid for bounty on pig iron manufactured during 1896-97. 3. \$7,705.78 have been paid for bounty on 2,568 tons and 1,187 pounds iron puddled bars for the year ending 30th June, 1898. 4. \$12,359.70 have been paid for bounty on 4,119 tons and 481 pounds iron puddled bars manufactured from 1st July, 1898, to date. 5. \$64,236.07 have been paid for bounty on 23,049 tons and 851 pounds steel ingots for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1898, besides \$3,217.96 paid for bounty on steel ingots or billets manufactured during the previous fiscal year. 6. \$50,108.34 have been paid for bounty on 16,702 tons and 1,560 pounds steel ingots manufactured from 1st July, 1898, to date, besides \$4,617.46 paid for bounty on steel ingots manufactured in 1896-97. No further amounts are claimed which have not been paid. The balances for the productions of the previous fiscal year paid since 1st July, 1897, are accounted for by the amendment made to the Bounty Act in 1898, which extended the provisions for increased bounties to iron and steel products from 23rd April, 1897 (the date of the Tariff Resolutions) instead of from 29th June, 1897 (the date when the Act was passed).

#### BOSTON AND ALASKAN TRANSPORTATION COMPANY.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

1. Is the Government aware that the Boston and Alaskan Transportation Company, of Seattle, Washington Territory, U.S.A., is in liquidation, and that in a statement of its assets filed in court is the following :—"Canadian Government contract of \$154,000, on which \$60,000 has been paid, leaving a balance of \$94,000" ?
2. To what contract does this relate ?
3. What services were rendered by the company for which any payment was made, if made ?
4. Has the Government paid any amount, and if so, how much, to the said company, and when ?
5. Is any further amount payable by the Government to the company, and if so, how much, and for what services, if any ?
6. Is this the company referred to by the hon. the Minister of Militia and Defence, on May 13th, 1898, in the House of Commons, when he said : "The Boston and Alaskan Transportation Company, as I said before, are carrying 250 tons of freight to Fort Selkirk for the Government of Canada" ?
7. If any freight was carried by this company for the Government, what became of it ?

8. Did this company carry any of this freight to Fort Selkirk ?

9. Did this company guarantee delivery of freight at Fort Selkirk on or before a certain date, and if so, what was the date ?

10. To what extent, if any, was the contract performed by the company ?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). 1 and 2. The Government is aware that a receiver has been appointed for the Boston and Alaska Transportation Company but has no knowledge of the alleged statement referred to in the question. 3 and 4. No payment has been made. 5. No amount will be paid until all the goods are delivered in good order. 6. Yes. 7 and 8. More than half the freight has been delivered at Fort Selkirk. The balance is stored in warehouse at Circle City. 9. The goods were to have been delivered on or before August 31st last. 10. This is answered by reply to Nos. 7 and 8.

#### STOLEN REGISTERED LETTERS.

Mr. **HENDERSON** asked :

1. Is the Government aware that on the night of the 12th January last a mail bag containing about \$220 in registered letters was lost or stolen from Campbellville station on the Canadian Pacific Railway ?

2. Is it the intention of the Government to make good to the persons who mailed such letters the moneys so lost or stolen ?

3. If not, to whom shall such persons look for redress ?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. The Government is aware that a bag, in which were six registered letters, containing an aggregate of \$220 in money, was lost from the catching post at Campbellville station, on the night of the 12th of January last. 2 and 3. The Government has no authority under the law to make good out of public revenue the amounts contained in the letters in question.

#### CANADA AT THE PARIS EXPOSITION, 1900.

Mr. **LEMIEUX** asked :

1. How many commissioners have been appointed by the Government to represent Canada at the "Exposition Universelle," to be held in Paris in 1900 ?

2. What space has been reserved for Canada within the grounds of the exposition ?

3. Is the Government obliged to pay for the space, and if so, to whom and how much ?

4. What is the number of Canadian exhibits to date ?

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. Fisher). 1. The Canadian Board of Commissioners, the working board, is composed of nine members. 2. The space reserved for Canada is made up of 12,000 feet of floor space among the Imperial exhibits, and 27,100 feet of floor space in a special colonial building. 3. The Canadian Government will pay for the space. The cost of space

among the Imperial exhibits will be four shillings sterling per square foot, which will be paid to the Imperial Committee. The colonial building is to be paid for in proportion to the amount of space occupied by the various colonies. The estimate made on the 20th April was that Canada's space in that building would cost from 8 to 10 shillings per square foot. 4. It is not known yet how many exhibits there are. The commissioners are receiving applications for space from all over the country, from Vancouver to Halifax. The inquiries for information are very numerous, showing the great desire amongst manufacturers, farmers, miners and all other people to exhibit.

Mr. **PRIOR**. The hon. Minister says "from Vancouver to Halifax." Has he had no applications from Victoria ?

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. One of the commissioners has visited Victoria, and I have no doubt there are many applications from that city.

Mr. **PRIOR**. Then, I would say "from Victoria to Halifax."

#### THE REPRESENTATION OF WINNIPEG.

Mr. **ROCHE** asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to allow the city of Winnipeg to remain unrepresented during the present session ? Or is it their intention to take immediate steps for the holding of a new election in that constituency ?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I may inform my hon. friend (Mr. Roche) that if the city of Winnipeg is not represented during the present session it will not be the fault of the Government. The lists of the city were more than 12 months old, in fact, two or three years old. Steps have been taken to have a new list prepared. An officer has been appointed, in accordance with the statute, and he is now taking proceedings to that end.

MR. F. C. WADE.

Mr. **PRIOR** asked :

1. What official positions have been held by F. C. Wade, Esq., in the service of the Government since July, 1896 ?

2. How much public money, if any, has been paid to him, and on what account ?

3. Is he now in the employment or service of the Government, and if so, in what capacity ?

4. Has he held any of the following positions in the Yukon territory, viz., (a) Dominion Lands Agent, (b) Crown Prosecutor, (c) Registrar of Lands, (d) Clerk of the Court ; and if so, which, and for what periods ?

5. Was he accustomed to advise Mr. Fawcett, the Gold Commissioner or Mining Recorder, respecting the recording of mining claims or duties of his office ?

6. What travelling expenses, if any, have been allowed or paid to Mr. Wade, and on what occasions and at what periods ?

7. Was Mr. Wade authorized by the Minister of the Interior, when holding any of the positions above, to become interested in mining claims and to practice his profession as a barrister, advocate and solicitor?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). 1. Land Registrar of Yukon District, Clerk of the Court and Crown Prosecutor. He was appointed Legal Adviser of the Council, but never acted in that capacity. 2. \$2,081.82 on account of salary; \$550 on account of expenses; \$500 on account of clerical assistance. Total, \$3,131.82. 3. Yes, as Crown Prosecutor. 4. In addition to the positions named above, Mr. Wade acted as Dominion Lands Agent at the request of Mr. Fawcett, although he had not been so appointed by the department. Mr. Wade held the said positions, except that of legal adviser, during the time he was in Dawson City from his arrival on or about March 20, 1898, to his departure in the early part of August of the same year. 5. The department has information to the effect that Mr. Wade was accustomed to advise Mr. Fawcett respecting the recording of mining claims or duties of his office. It was no part of Mr. Wade's duty to so advise Mr. Fawcett, nor had he any instructions so to do. I may say further, with regard to that, that my attention was not drawn to that part of the hon. gentleman's question until some time to-day. But Mr. Fawcett is now in Ottawa, and I will consult with him and ascertain what the fact was. The information in the possession of the department is as I have stated. 6. Answered by No. 2. 7. Mr. Wade was told, as the fact was, that there was nothing in the regulations to prevent him from staking a mining claim in his own name. He received no other authority or instructions respecting mining claims. Nothing was said to him by or on behalf of the Minister of the Interior as to the practice of his profession.

#### MILITIA FORCE IN THE YUKON.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

1. What is the number of the militia force now in the Yukon?
2. What was the cost of transporting them there?
3. What was the cost of transporting supplies for them?
4. Whether Mr. Justice Dugas has not reported that they are not needed?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). 1. 202 officers, non-commissioned officers and men. 2. \$19,838.78. 3. \$158,686.40. 4. No.

#### TATE'S DRY DOCK.

Mr. MONK asked :

1. What amount of rent per annum does the Government of Canada receive from the present lessees of the Island dock in Montreal known as "Tate's Dry Dock"?
2. Who are the lessees of said dock?

Mr. PRIOR.

3. How much have the lessees paid to date?
4. Did the Messrs. Tate, the former occupants, ask to lease said dock before the present lease was made, and at what price?
5. Were any tenders invited for said lease, and how were tenders called for?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). The amount of rent per annum received from the present lessees of the parts of the Tate Dry Dock property leased is \$3,000. James Ferrier leases buildings and ground on which they stand for a nail factory. Pierre Letendre leases the dry dock proper. James Ferrier has paid \$8,621.92. Pierre Letendre has paid \$1,500. No record can be found in the department of the Messrs. Tate having submitted an offer to rent or lease this property. Tendere were not invited for said lease.

#### PRINTING IN PENITENTIARIES.

Mr. MONK asked :

1. Is it the intention of the Government to teach printing in any of the penitentiaries under its control?
2. Is it the intention of the Government to have any of its printing done in the said penitentiaries by convict labour?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. A small printing press is being installed at Kingston Penitentiary. One or two convicts will be employed in operating it. 2. The intention is to utilize it in printing forms, &c., required for the various penitentiaries.

#### NAMES OF THE YUKON COUNCIL.

Mr. DOMVILLE asked :

What are the names of the Yukon Council and date of appointment of each member? The term of years of appointment? The position each member of the council has been appointed to?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). Samuel Benfield Steele, Superintendent of the North-west Mounted Police, appointed a member of the Yukon Council by Order in Council of the 7th July, 1898; Joseph Ena Girouard, registrar of lands, appointed a member of the Yukon Council by the same Order in Council; William H. P. Clement, legal adviser to the Council of the Yukon, appointed a member of that Council by Order in Council of 7th of October, 1898; Mr. Justice Dugas, who is a member of the Council, ex-officio by statute. The term of his appointment is not stated; it is during the pleasure of the Government.

#### DOMINION OFFICIALS IN THE YUKON.

Mr. DOMVILLE asked :

What are the names of the Dominion officials in Dawson and the Yukon territory? The position held by each and the date of each appointment? The names of those who have given up such positions and the reasons in each individual

case? The names of those remaining in office? The positions held by them and their term of service and salaries?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). The information asked for by the hon. gentleman can only be given in the form of a return, which will be brought down, upon being moved for in the usual way.

#### CHARGES AGAINST T. R. SECORD.

Mr. McCLEARY asked:

1. Were any charges made against T. R. Secord, Esq., prior to his dismissal from the position of divisional superintendent on the Welland Canal?
2. If any charges were made, what were they?
3. If such charges were made, by whom were they made?
4. If no charges were made, who recommended his dismissal?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). Charges were preferred against T. R. Secord prior to his dismissal. The charges made against T. R. Secord were, that he had for years past made a practice of entering labourers on the time-lists for longer times than they really worked, and of certifying the amounts to be paid them at a larger sum than was actually due, dividing with them the amounts so overpaid. The charges were made by Mr. J. H. Stanley, a merchant of Port Colborne.

#### NAME OF EMPLOYEE IN YUKON.

Mr. DAVIN asked:

Whether there is a person named Bourassa employed in the Yukon post office or in the Yukon customs office? If so, is he related to the hon. member for Labelle?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS** (Mr. Paterson). No. There is no person named Bourassa employed in the Yukon customs service.

#### ACCIDENT TO MAJOR DEMERS.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Taylor) asked:

1. Whether the Department of Militia and Defence is aware that, in the month of April, 1898, Major Isaïe Emile Demers, 17th Battalion, Lévis, while taking a course at the Riding School in the city of Quebec, fractured his left leg?
2. Is he entitled to claim indemnity, and what?
3. Has he filed a claim?
4. If so, has the claim been settled?
5. If the claim has not been settled, why not?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). 1. Yes. 2. Yes, net pay of his rank, with an allowance of one dollar per diem for the period during which he shall have been actually and necessarily incapacitated from following his ordinary occupation. 3. Yes, three different ones: (1) \$948.50; (2) \$1,060.50, and (3) \$735.10. 4. Not yet. 5. Still under consideration.

#### EXPENSES OF HON. G. E. FOSTER.

Mr. McMULLEN asked:

What is the amount of the travelling and living expenses of the Hon. G. E. Foster, ex-Minister of Finance, whilst a member of the Crown; also, what is the amount of the travelling and living expenses of his private secretaries, messengers or other servants or friends who may have accompanied him, including cab-hire, railway or steamboat travel, private cars and all other expenses paid by the Government during the same period?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am sorry I cannot give this information to-day.

#### HOPE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE.

Mr. BENNETT asked:

1. Who is the lighthouse keeper of the Hope Island lighthouse, Georgian Bay?
2. If there is an appointee to the position, what salary is paid to him and upon whose recommendation was he appointed?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). 1. Charles Valée, who was appointed as temporary keeper 7th April, 1898, and remains as such still. 2. Salary, \$450 per annum. He was appointed to take charge on the recommendation of the inspector of lights.

#### MIDLAND HARBOUR.

Mr. BENNETT asked:

1. What amount of dues were collected by John White, harbour master at Midland, Ont., during the year 1898?
2. What amount was returned by him to the Government, and what amount retained by him for his services?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). 1. \$207. 2. Deposited to credit of Receiver General, \$7; remuneration retained, \$200.

#### KEEPER OF GIANT'S TOMB LIGHTHOUSE.

Mr. BENNETT asked:

What salary is paid to Alfred H. Griffith, lighthouse keeper at Giant's Tomb lighthouse, Georgian Bay, Ont.?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). \$250 per annum.

#### EXPORTATION OF SAW-LOGS.

Mr. BENNETT asked:

1. Does the Government intend to prevent the exportation during the coming summer of saw-logs cut on Indian reserves on the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron, with a view to causing the manufacture of the same in Canada?
2. What quantity of lumber has been cut on such reserves during the winter of 1898-99?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). 1. No. 2. No returns of timber cut on the reserves mentioned during the season of 1898-99 have as yet been made to the department by the licensees. The licensees, under the provisions of the timber regulations of the department—sections 11 and 12—are not compelled to make their returns before the 1st of July in each year.

#### PLAINS OF ABRAHAM.

Mr. **CASGRAIN** (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

1. Is the Government aware that the lease or title under which the Crown holds the property in the city of Quebec known as the "Plains of Abraham" will shortly expire?

2. To whom does said property revert?

3. Has the Government received any memorials, correspondence or petitions in relation to the renewal of said lease or acquisition of said property, and if so, from whom?

4. Is it the intention of the Government of renewing said lease or of acquiring said property?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). 1. Yes, 1st May, 1901. 2. To the Ladies, Ursulines, of Quebec. 3. Copy of a resolution of the Nova Scotia Historical Society of Halifax, dated 10th January, 1899. 4. Under consideration. The Government is disposed to consider favourably the proposition to acquire the property, if the price is reasonable.

#### EXPENSES OF HON. SIR CHARLES TUPPER.

Mr. **McMILLAN** asked :

What is the amount of travelling and living expenses for the Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., also the travelling and living expenses of his private secretary, messenger, or other servants or friends accompanying him, including cab-hire, railway or steamboat travel, private cars and all other expenses paid by the Government whilst he was a Minister of the Crown and High Commissioner?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am not in a position to answer that question to-day.

#### OFFICIAL CARS.

Mr. **BENNETT** asked :

How many private cars have been purchased or constructed by the Department or Railways since the 1st of July, 1896, with names of cars, if any, and cost of each?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). No private cars have been purchased or constructed, but one official car was purchased by the Department of Railways and Canals, since 1st July, 1896, for the use of the general traffic manager. The name of the official car is "Montreal." The purchase price was \$4,500.

Mr. **BENNETT**.

#### TIMBER REGULATIONS IN YUKON.

Mr. **DOMVILLE** asked :

Has any person, or persons, or company, outside of those who have purchased and are holding timber berths in the Yukon territory, the right to cut timber for barter or for sale, and if so, under what conditions and regulations, and are there any regulations for cutting timber under special permits granted in Dawson or the Yukon territory by the Crown timber agent there? Were any permits of this description issued; if issued, to whom, and the name of the Government official who issued them? Are there any regulations providing for the issuing of special permits?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). Persons outside of those holding timber berths under license in the Yukon territory may obtain permits to cut cordwood for barter or sale upon payment of \$5 for a permit and dues at the rate of 50 cents per cord, but such permit will not authorize the cutting of timber to be manufactured into lumber. The regulations and the names and particulars of each permit granted thereunder will be brought down on motion for a return. I may explain that the information will be somewhat voluminous, and I would prefer that the hon. gentleman would ask for a return.

#### MINER'S RIGHT TO CUT TIMBER.

Mr. **DOMVILLE** asked :

Has a free miner, who has purchased a miner's license, the right to cut timber for the building of a dwelling in Dawson City or any location outside of the claim he is operating or has recorded, and is he entitled to cut fuel for this dwelling without paying Crown dues?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). A free miner's certificate entitles the holder thereof to cut timber free of dues for actual necessities, for building houses and boats, and for general mining operations; such timber, however, to be for the exclusive use of the miner himself; but such permission shall not extend to timber which may have been heretofore or which which may hereafter be granted to other persons or corporations. The certificate does not state that the holder thereof cannot use any of the timber he actually requires in a building which he may erect in Dawson, or any other town, but the department has not yet been called upon to rule upon the point.

#### RIGHT OF STEAMBOAT OWNERS TO CUT FUEL.

Mr. **DOMVILLE** asked :

Have the owners of steamers plying on the Yukon or its tributaries the right to cut fuel for operating their steamers without first having purchased timber berths, or are permits issued to them for the privilege of cutting wood for this purpose, and on what terms and conditions, and if so, how does this effect timber berth owners who have paid for berths from which steamers have been cutting wood?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). A number of permits have been issued, upon payment of dues only, to steamboat owners. The returns show that steamboat owners received permission to cut fuel at 50 cents per cord. The permittees were not authorized to cut timber on berths which at the date of the issue of the permit the agent of the Crown was aware had been disposed of. If any claims for damages arise they will be dealt with when presented. There is nothing in the returns to show whether there were any special conditions attached to the permits issued.

#### ANTI-CHINESE LEGISLATION.

Mr. **PRIOR** asked :

1. Has the attention of the right hon. the Prime Minister been called to the following report of the proceedings at a public meeting held in Vancouver, B.C., reported in the "Daily News Advertiser" of 15th December, 1898 :

"Mr. G. Bartley then rose and referred to the Hon. D. C. Fraser's recent visit and the anti-Chinese question, and asked Mr. Maxwell what prospects there were of an Anti-Chinese Bill being pushed through the House at its next session.

"Mr. Maxwell stated that after his first speech in the House he had felt its pulse on the question and found that a good deal of lobbying and personal talk with the members was needed, also a good deal of 'drumming' the question into them. Premier Laurier had, when speaking of the subject privately, said: 'If you want it you'll have to get it, but it would be best to leave the matter till another session.'"

2. Is it the intention of the Government to introduce an anti-Chinese Bill during the session ?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. The attention of the Prime Minister has not been called to the report of the proceedings at the public meeting referred to in the question. 2. It is not the intention of the Government to introduce an anti-Chinese Bill during the session. A Bill to that effect has already been introduced by a private member, and the question can be considered when it comes up before the House.

#### TENDER FOR BINDER TWINE.

Mr. **HENDERSON** asked :

1. Has the tender of Martin P. Connolly for the current season's make of binder twine, at Kingston, been accepted by the Government ? If not, to whom has such twine been sold ?

2. What are the prices to be paid to the Government by the purchaser for the different brands of such twine ?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. The tender of Martin P. Connolly has been accepted and a contract based upon that tender has been executed with the Hobbs Hardware Company of London. 2. The prices cannot be given until the output has been marketed by the purchaser.

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MAILS.

Mr. **MARTIN** asked :

1. What are the present arrangements for conveyance of the Prince Edward Island mails between Cape Tormentine and the Intercolonial Railway in New Brunswick ?

2. Are those arrangements the same as in previous years ?

3. If not, why was the change made ?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. The Prince Edward Island mails are conveyed between Aulac station on the Intercolonial Railway and Cape Tormentine by stage. 2. No. 3. Because it was found that the mails going to Prince Edward Island could, without additional cost, be delivered twenty-four hours in advance of the time under the old arrangement.

#### THE MEMBER FOR BURRARD.

Mr. **SPEAKER**. Before calling the next question (No. 81), I would like to draw the attention of the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior) to a decision, in the English House of Commons, by a very distinguished person, Mr. Speaker Denison, who says :

It is not a becoming expression to allude to an hon. member as "hon. and rev."

An hon. gentleman had done so in the House of Commons, and the question was raised. Mr. Hadfield appealed to the Speaker to say whether such language was parliamentary. The Speaker said it was not a becoming expression, and the hon. member would no doubt withdraw it. So I have no doubt the hon. member for Victoria will withdraw that portion of his question.

Mr. **PRIOR**. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw that expression if it is not parliamentary, but it is correct. I beg to ask the following question :—

1. Has the attention of the right hon. the Prime Minister been called to the following extract from a speech of the hon. member for Burrard, reported in the "Daily News Advertiser" of Vancouver, B.C., of the 15th December, 1898 : "At home he had a book three inches thick of applications. He pointed out, however, that since he had been the member for Burrard \$26,000 or \$28,000 had gone into the pockets of Vancouver Liberals from the Dominion Government revenues" ?

2. Is the Government able to explain in what manner \$26,000 or \$28,000 have gone into the pockets of Vancouver Liberals from the Dominion Government revenues, if the statement be correct ; and if so, from what parliamentary appropriations has this money been expended ?

3. If the above mentioned amounts have not gone into the pockets of the Vancouver Liberals from the Dominion Government revenues, can the Government state how much has ?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. The attention of the Prime Minister has not been called to the extract mentioned in the question from a speech of the hon. member for Burrard. 2 and 3. The

Government does not undertake to interpret 'ex cathedra' speeches delivered by members of this House; it allows full liberty to every member to do that for himself, and trusts to their intelligence to do so.

#### CHARGES AGAINST LIEUT.-COL. DOMVILLE.

Mr. DOMVILLE asked :

Inasmuch as on the 12th May, 1898, (page 5393 "Hansard") the following debate took place on certain charges made against Lt.-Col. Domville:

"Mr. FOSTER. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence if he would, without formal notice, bring down copies of all charges made against Lt.-Col. Domville, commanding officer of the 8th Hussars. I understand that these charges were made and that the general refused any investigation and that the only method now is to have the papers called for. I trust my hon. friend will bring them down without formal motion.

"The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). I think that is a very unusual request to make. I may say to my hon. friend that I have not yet seen the charges to which he referred. I have heard that there were some such charges. I wish he would allow the matter to rest where it is, and I will be able to give him a reply."

And again on the 25th May, 1898, page 6031 "Hansard") the following further remarks have been made on the same subject:—

"Mr. FOSTER. I asked the Minister of Militia a few days ago for the papers in connection with some charges made against the colonel of the 8th Hussars, and he said he would be able to give me an answer later. Has he yet made up his mind?

"The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). I think, as the matter is not yet disposed of, it would be very undesirable to bring the papers down now. I may tell my hon. friend that the position is this: Charges were made against the colonel commanding the 8th Hussars by the senior major. They went before the general and the general reported that they had better not be proceeded with, and advised the senior major to that effect. The senior major did not see fit to accept that advice and the matter now comes under my notice. I have not had time to look into it, but as soon as the session is through I shall take the matter up.

"Mr. FOSTER. I am very glad to hear my hon. friend say that. I made the inquiry largely in the interests of all parties and of justice, I think. I happened to have seen a copy of the charges, and I think they are charges which no militia officer should be under. I do not know what motivated the course of the general commanding, but I know that the charges have been made for a considerable length of time, and, if I mistake not, arrangements were made at one time for hearing them. There was delay, however, and afterwards the suggestion was made by the general that the matter should be allowed to pass over, but I submit to my hon. friend that a charge of that kind ought not, in the interests of the force or any officer of the force, be allowed to be passed over.

"The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Perhaps I ought to add that a certain limited investigation was made, and certain documents, some bank receipts, were asked for, and

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

the general reported so far as he had gone he thought the charges were not sustained, and advised the senior major to withdraw them. I have only looked at the papers cursorily, but, as I have said, the matter has now come before me officially, and I shall look into it."

In view of the foregoing remarks, I beg leave to inquire :

1st. What is the name of the senior major ?  
2nd. Were the charges referred to made to General Gascoigne ?

3rd. Did this senior major make charges to Generals Middleton and Herbert, and with what results ?

4th. Did the Militia Department supply Mr. Foster with the copy of the charges which he says he saw, or does the Militia Department know who supplied a copy of these charges to him ? Did this senior major, by direction of the general commanding, write a letter expressing regret and promising to be loyal to his commanding officer for the future, and is not a copy of it, or the original, in the department ?

5th. Did this senior major, officially, at a later date, some time in the year 1898, again formulate charges against the colonel commanding the 8th Hussars, for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman consequent on certain evidence taken before the Public Accounts Committee, session 1898 ? If so, what action was taken on it ?

6th. Will the department lay before the Public Accounts Committee of this session all the evidence taken before it last session on this subject, and permit papers, persons and records to be sent for in connection therewith ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The answer to the first question is, Major and Lieut.-Col. Markham; second, yes; third, no. To the first and second part of the fourth question, the answer is, no, so far as the General officer Commanding is aware. To the third part of the fourth question the answer is, yes; to the fourth part of the fourth question, yes. The answer to the fifth question is, no, and to the sixth, yes.

#### WOLSELEY BARRACKS PROPERTY.

Mr. CALVERT (by Mr. Fraser, Lambton) asked :

1. Whether any land has been acquired by the Department of Militia and Defence as an addition to the Wolseley Barracks property at London, in the years 1896, 1897 and 1898 ?

2. If so, when and how was such land acquired by the Department, and what price was agreed to be paid for the same ?

3. Has such price or any part thereof been paid, and to whom, and is any portion of such price yet to be paid ?

4. When and how was such price fixed ?

5. What evidence, if any, had the department as to the value of such lands ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. 25 73-100 acres. 2. Authorized by Order in Council on the 25th March, 1895; deed completed 2nd September, 1898; \$25,000 with interest at 4 per cent. 3. \$25,000 to the Bank of British North America, 25th November, 1898; interest yet to be paid. 4. On valuations furnished in June, 1896, and on the opinion of the Justice Department that the Crown was

legally bound to pay for the property. 5. The valuation was made by A. B. Powell, A. I. McMahon, J. W. Jones, Lieut.-Col. Dawson and Col. Lake.

#### NEW MINING REGULATIONS—YUKON TERRITORY.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

When were the mining regulations of January 18th, 1898, applicable to the Yukon territory, and then in force, promulgated or published in that territory ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). The regulations were published for the fourth time in the "Canada Gazette" on the 5th March, 1898, and became law on that date. No advice has been received from Dawson as to the date they were received by the Gold Commissioner.

#### ISLAND OF ANTICOSTI—CORRESPONDENCE WITH BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

Mr. TAYLOR asked :

Has there been any correspondence between the British Government and the Government of Canada, or any members thereof, relative to the Island of Anticosti during the year 1898 ? If so, will it be laid on the Table of the House ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). There has been correspondence between the British Government and the Government of Canada, relative to the Island of Anticosti during the years 1898 and 1899—I believe it was all in 1899 for the matter of that. The correspondence will be laid on the Table of the House at an early date.

#### MR. OGILVIE, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YUKON.

Mr. TAYLOR asked :

Is Mr. Ogilvie, the administrator in the Yukon district, a relation of the Minister of the Interior ? If so, what is the relationship ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I beg to say that Mr. Ogilvie, the Administrator of the Yukon, is no relation of the Minister of the Interior.

#### KLONDIKE MILITIA FORCE—SUPPLIES.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

1. What is the number of the militia force in the Klondike ?

2. What was the cost of transporting to the Klondike the militia force now there ?

3. What was the cost of supplies for the said force and of transporting the supplies ?

4. What firms got the contracts for the supplies ?

5. What firm or firms, what company or companies got the contract for transporting these supplies ?

6. Whether the sending of the militia to the Klondike has not proved to have been quite unnecessary ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. 202 officers, non-commissioned officers and men. 2. \$19,838.78. 3. The cost of supplies purchased was \$83,672, and the amount of freight which has been paid thereon is \$158,686.40 up to date. 4. Geo. Black, Montreal, clothing; Doull & Gibson, Montreal, clothing; W. E. Sanford Mfg. Co., Hamilton, clothing; J. A. Seybold & Co., Ottawa, clothing; J. W. Woods, Ottawa, clothing; Hodgson Bros. & Co., Alexandria, boots; Ottawa Boot Co., Ottawa, boots; Daniel Green, Dolgville, felt boots; A. Congdon, Winnipeg, felt boots; Z. Paquet, Quebec, socks; Hudson Bay Co., Winnipeg, provisions; H. N. Bate & Sons, Ottawa, provisions and groceries; Bovril, Montreal, vegetables, &c.; Kerr Vegetable Evap. Co., Kentville, vegetables, &c.; Simson Bros., Halifax, lime juice; W. C. Caldwell, Lanark, blankets; Butterworth & Co., Ottawa, hardware; W. J. Charleson, Ottawa, hardware; Graves Bros., Ottawa, hardware; Walters & Sons, Hull, hardware; McDougall & Cuzner, Ottawa, hardware; McLeary Mfg. Co., Montreal, hardware; Cole's National Mfg. Co., Ottawa, palliasses, &c.; Skinner & Co., Ottawa, medical supplies; J. A. Musgrove, Ottawa, druggist; Hugh Carson, Ottawa, tumplines; Adam Bros., Toronto, Oliver equipment. 5. Hudson Bay Company and the Boston and Alaska Transportation Company. 6. No.

#### YUKON MILITIA FORCE—MR. JUSTICE DUGAS.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

Whether Mr. Justice Dugas has not written to the Prime Minister informing him that the militia at Dawson and wherever else they may be in the Canadian Yukon are not wholly necessary ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Justice Dugas has not written to the Prime Minister informing him that the militia force at Dawson are not necessary. I have not received any letter from Mr. Justice Dugas since he left Montreal.

#### YUKON DISTRICT—CERTAIN TAXES.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

Whether it is true that Mr. Ogilvie, the Commissioner of the Yukon, imposed a duty or tax on women of professed immoral character in Dawson ? If so, what was the amount of the tax or license ? If so, is it still continued ? If so, how much did the first impost yield ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). The Government have no information that any such taxes were imposed by Mr. Ogilvie or by the local authorities at Dawson, and the Government have no idea that such a tax was imposed as is mentioned.

**Mr. SOMERVILLE.** Is Mrs. McManus up there ?

#### N. W. MOUNTED POLICE—SPECIAL CONSTABLES.

**Mr. DAVIN** asked :

1. What is the number of special constables employed in connection with the North-west Mounted Police ?

2. Whether an order has been made to give all the specials in the North-west Mounted Police force a month's notice ? Whether it is the intention to re-engage all of them who can and will do police duty when called on ?

3. Henceforth will a certain number of regulars have to do the work of specials ?

4. If so, will it not be only just that regulars asked to do special work have extra pay ?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. Ninety-two. 2. To the first part of the question, yes. To the second part, it is the intention to re-engage permanently all who are competent to perform regular police duty, and any of the artisans whose services are required. 3. Henceforth permanent members of the force will perform much of the work which hitherto has been done by specials. 4. The regulations of the force provide for extra pay for extra or special duty.

#### PAYMENTS TO BAIE DES CHALEURS RAILWAY COMPANY.

**Mr. MARCOTTE** asked :

How much money has been paid to the Bay of Chaleurs Railway Company, up to this date, by the Government ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). The amount of money paid to the Baie des Chaleurs Railway Company up to this date, 27th March, 1899, is \$620,000.

#### YUKON LIQUOR PERMITS.

**Mr. DOUGLAS** asked :

1. What number of permits, licenses, or privileges to import liquor into the Yukon territory, have been issued or granted by the Department of the Interior, from 1st September, 1897, to this date ?

2. What are the names of the persons to whom such permits, licenses or privileges have been granted, the total number of gallons of liquor and the amount of revenue derived from the same, and the purpose for which the permit was granted ?

3. What number of permits to import liquor into the Yukon district, if any, had been issued by the Government of the North-west Territories prior to the passing of the Act separating the Yukon territory from the North-west territory ? Were permits granted by the North-west Government granted at the request of, or at the suggestion of the Government of Canada or any member or department thereof ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). 1. Five. 2. These permits were  
**Mr. SIFTON.**

issued to : J. H. Brown for personal use ; Dr. Rimer for pharmaceutical purposes ; Bank of British North America for personal use of office staff ; Canadian Bank of Commerce for personal use of office staff ; T. Trotter for personal use. The total number of gallons covered by these permits was 120, and the amount of revenue derived from them \$240. 3. Twenty-three permits were issued by the Government of the North-west Territories. They were not granted at the request or suggestion of the Government of Canada or any member or officer thereof.

#### FRENCH CANADIAN REPATRIATION.

**Mr. CASGRAIN** (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

1. What efforts have been made by the Government, since last session, towards repatriating French Canadians who have emigrated to the United States ?

2. How many French Canadian families have been so repatriated ?

3. From what places in the United States have the said families come ?

4. In what places in Canada have they settled ?

5. What special inducements did the Government offer to induce them to return to their country ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). The Government has placed at the disposal of the Repatriation Society of the province of Quebec a sufficient subsidy to enable that society to meet the salary and travelling expenses of one agent, besides subscribing \$25 per month towards the maintenance and free distribution of the society's paper "Le Colonisateur," and providing for the free transmission of the society's advertising matter through the mails. The Quebec and Lake St. John Railway Company also has been given financial aid in its colonization work, the main feature of which is repatriation, and four agents have been steadily employed by the department in this special work in the immediate service of the Government. French pamphlets have been published, and distributed in large quantities through these agents, and directly from Ottawa, and direct communication has been had with parties in the United States in the interests of the movement. 2. The returns available are for the calendar year 1898. In that period we have definite record of 339 families of French Canadians having been repatriated through our efforts, but that is not the whole number, as many others have gone into the Maritime provinces, particularly New Brunswick, of whom we have been unable to keep track, and many in the North-west have been classified as "returned Canadians" without reference to their French extraction. 3. The great bulk of the people have come from places in the New England States, in which there is a considerable French Canadian population. 4. They have been settled for the most part in the rural districts of New Brunswick, the province of Quebec, the Nipissing district in Ontario, and in Alberta. 5.

The inducements have been offers of free grant lands, and of low railroad rates, supervision and assistance by officers of the department. The inducements are the same as are given to other settlers and have been considered sufficient.

#### THE 8th HUSSARS, NEW BRUNSWICK.

Mr. DOMVILLE asked :

Inasmuch as on the Journals of the House of Commons, Vol. XXXIII., 1898, Appendix No. (2) A, 1898, Public Accounts Committee, Mr. Fred. V. Wedderburn was called, sworn and examined :

"By Mr. Foster :

"Q. When did you undertake the care of arms at Hampton?—A. I bring some books I have.

"Q. Certainly.—A. This is the regimental order book, in which I can find the date I was appointed. It may take me a little time.

"Q. Well, take your own time.—A. These have been out of my hands for some time, and I am not as familiar with them as I used to be.

"By Mr. Hughes :

"Q. What was that question again?—A. It was when I was appointed to take charge of the stores. It would be about 1892, I think.

"Q. You were appointed major then?—A. No ; I was appointed to the stores. It is here in this regimental order book I only got this book from Col. Markham yesterday, and haven't had an opportunity to look it over, but I know there is such an order in the book.

"Regimental orders by Lieut.-Col. Domville, commanding 8th Hussars, New Brunswick Regiment of Cavalry :

"Rothesay, 29th of August, 1891.

"1. Captain Wedderburn, adjutant, is hereby appointed regimental storekeeper, vice Major R. W. Otty, storekeeper, deceased ; such is to be temporary, pending the appointment of a permanent officer. He will at once take over in charge the arms, accoutrements and equipment of A, B, C, D, E, F, G Troops (7), and provide a safe place for keeping them. Attention is called to paragraphs 298, 299, 300, 305, 306, R. & O., 1897."

In view of this evidence, I beg leave to inquire :

1. In whose custody the regimental order book referred to is now ?

2. How long has it been so ?

3. If in the custody of the Militia Department, will it be produced before the Public Accounts Committee this session ?

4. If not in its custody, will steps be taken to procure this book or books for the information of the members of the committee ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND FENCE (Mr. Borden). The book is at present in the custody of Major Markham, brevet lieutenant-colonel. 2. I have not been able to ascertain the date. If the hon. gentleman desires to leave the question on the Order paper, I will return it, or I will get it and give it to him privately. 3. This is answered by the answer to No. 1. 4. The book will be produced before the committee which is investigating this matter.

#### THE QUEBEC COURTS.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

1. Has the Government been notified of the

passing by the legislature of the province of Quebec, at its last session, of a law increasing by three the number of the judges of the Superior Court of the said province ?

2. Has the Government been called upon to act upon such law, and to provide for the salaries of the said judges ?

3. Is it the intention of the Government to ask the House, at the present session, to vote the salaries of the said three judges or of any of them ?

4. Is the Government aware that there are actually in the said province thirty-one judges of the said Superior Court ?

5. Is it a fact and is the Government aware that during the year 1897, eleven of the said judges rendered less than thirty-five judgments each in contested cases ?

6. Is it a fact and is the Government aware that at least ten of the said judges have less than two months' work during any one year ?

7. Has the Government, since the last session, had any communication or correspondence with the Executive Council of the province of Quebec, or the Attorney General thereof, or any member thereof, in reference to the reorganization of the law courts of the said province ?

8. Is it the intention of the Government to correspond with the Executive Council of the said province, or the Attorney General thereof, or any other member thereof, with a view to coming to an understanding as to the reorganization of said law courts

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. The Government have not been officially notified of the passing by the legislature of the province of Quebec, at its last session, of a law increasing by three the number of the judges of the Superior Court of the said province. 2. The Government has not been called upon to act upon such a law. 3. The Government is not in a position to answer this question. 4. The Government is aware that there are actually in the said province thirty-one judges of the said Superior Court. 5 and 6. The Government has no knowledge of the amount of work performed by any one of the said judges. 7 and 8. The Prime Minister has invited the Attorney General of the province of Quebec to come to Ottawa to confer with him and the Minister of Justice concerning the matters referred to in these two questions.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF CYRILLE O. LABREQUE.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

1. Has Cyrille O. Labreque, advocate, of Roberval, in the county of Chicoutimi, been employed by the Government, as an advocate or otherwise, since June, 1897 ?

2. Have the Government paid him any money since that date ?

3. If so, what amount and for what reasons ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Cyrille O. Labreque, of Roberval, has been employed by the Indian Department in connection with liquor prosecutions in the Pointe Bleue Agency. 2. Mr. Labreque's accounts for these services have

been paid to him after the same were duly taxed by the Department of Justice. 3. The amounts paid to Mr. Labreque since June, 1897, are as follows: 7th July, 1897, \$17.50; 29th September, 1897, \$45; 28th March, 1898, \$175; 11th May, 1898, \$30; 6th August, 1898, \$70; 8th August, 1898, \$70; total, \$407.50.

#### POSTMASTER OF ST. JOSEPH d'ALMA.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Taylor) asked:

1. Has Francis Gagné, postmaster of St. Joseph d'Alma, in the county of Chicoutimi, received an increase of salary since June, 1897?

2. If so, what is the amount of such increase?

3. Have the Government paid him any other moneys, and if so, how much and what for?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1 and 2. Yes, twice. On the 1st of July, 1897, from \$76 to \$80, and on the 1st of July, 1898, from \$80 to \$90. Forward allowance was also increased on the 1st July, 1898, from \$2 to \$10. 3. No other payments were made to him so far as this department is aware.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF DR. JULES CONSTANTIN.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Taylor) asked:

1. Has Dr. Jules Constantin, of Roberval, in the county of Chicoutimi, been in the employment of the Government since June, 1897?

2. Have the Government paid him any money since that date?

3. If so, what amount and for what?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. Dr. Jules Constantin has given professional services when necessary to the Indians of the Pointe Bleue Reserve, Lake St. John, County of Chicoutimi, since January, 1893, and has furnished his accounts quarterly through the Indian agent. 2 and 3. The following amounts have been paid to Dr. Constantin since June, 1897: September quarter, 1897, \$335.25; December quarter, 1897, \$64.50; March quarter, 1898, \$90; June quarter, 1898, \$97.50; September quarter, 1898, \$191; December quarter, 1898, \$167, a total of \$945.25. It should be added in explanation of the large amount paid in the month of September that an epidemic of measles necessitated the almost constant attendance of the doctor upon the reserve.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF W. H. LYNCH.

Mr. POWELL (by Mr. Taylor) asked:

1. Was N. H. Lynch in the employ of the Government in the Yukon district, and is now in the employ of the Government, and if so, what is his employment and the amount of his salary?

2. Did he make a report in connection with the Yukon district or concerning the matters with respect to which he was employed?

Mr. SIFTON.

3. If he made such a report, will it be laid on the Table without an Order of the House?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. Mr. W. H. Lynch, not N. H. Lynch, was in the employment of the Government in the Yukon district, but is not now in such employment. His remuneration was \$200 per month and his expenses. 2. He made such a report. 3. It will be laid upon the Table when ordered by the House.

#### COUNTY JUDGE OF ONTARIO COUNTY.

Mr. HUGHES asked:

1. Who is the senior judge of Ontario County, Ontario?

2. Is it the intention of the Government to appoint an additional judge, senior or junior, in that county?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. There is no senior judge at present, Judge Dartnell having died. 2. Yes.

#### MEDALS TO CANADIAN MILITIA.

Mr. HUGHES asked:

1. What is the prospect of an early issue of the medals for Fenian raids of 1866 and 1870, and for the Red River Rebellion of 1870?

2. What are the facts in the case of the "Long Service" medal for members of the Canadian Militia?

3. What are the terms relating to the issue of—1. The Fenian Raids and Red River Rebellion medals; and 2. The Long Service medals?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). In reply I beg to say: 1. The medals for Fenian raids, 1866-70, and for Red River expedition, 1870, may be expected from England this coming summer; but we have no positive information as to the date. 2. Prior to 1897 the Imperial authorities were disinclined to entertain the idea of a long service medal for Canada similar to that granted to the volunteers of the United Kingdom, but in December of that year the matter was submitted to an inter-departmental committee, with the result that there is a strong probability that a long service medal will be granted for Canada. 3. The terms for the Fenian raids and the Red River medals have been published in the General Orders for the militia. 4. The terms will be made known when the medal is granted.

#### PLEBISCITE VOTERS, SOUTH LEEDS.

Mr. TAYLOR asked:

How many voters were reported by the returning officers as being qualified to vote on the prohibition plebiscite for the electoral district of South Leeds?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). A voters' list of 6,433 names was paid for and used.

**FUNERAL WREATH TO RIGHT HON.  
SIR JOHN THOMPSON.**

Mr. McMULLEN. I understand that the matter of dispute to which my question refers is settled.

Question dropped.

**POSITIONS IN TORONTO CUSTOM-  
HOUSE.**

Mr. E. F. CLARKE asked :

What are the names of persons appointed to positions in the Toronto custom-house since July 13th, 1896 ? The date of each such appointment ? The salary paid to each such person ? The office to which each such person was appointed, and by whom recommended for appointment ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). I beg to submit the following list :—

| Name.             | Rank.                  | Date of Appointment. | Salary.              |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|                   |                        |                      | \$ ct <sup>s</sup> . |
| E. W. Miller.     | Appraiser.             | Nov. 30, '96         | 1400 00 p.a.         |
| James Sinclair    | Ass't appraiser        | Oct. 3, '96          | 1000 00 "            |
| John Head.        | Prev. officer.         | June 4, '97          | 800 00 "             |
| Alexander Calder. | Act'g mess'ger         | Mch. 6, '97          | 500 00 "             |
| E. L. Darby.      | Act'g mess'ger         | July 26, '97         | 240 00 "             |
| W. A. Gunn.       | Acting landing waiter. | July 28, '97         | 600 00 "             |
| J. W. McKay.      | Act'g porter &c        | June 9, '98          | 1 50 p.w.d           |
| W. H. Dickson     | Acting landing waiter. | Sept. 25, '98        | 700 00 p.a.          |
| W. B. Oxley.      | Acting officer.        | Aug. 26, '98         | 1 50 p.d.            |
| P. Smith.         | Act'g porter & packer. | Dec. 12, '98         | 1 50 "               |
| R. Custaloe.      | Act'g porter & packer. | Aug. 27, '98         | 1 50 "               |

Officers Oxley and Custaloe have not been employed continuously.

**INTERCOLONIAL WORKING EXPENSES  
AND EARNINGS.**

Mr. FOSTER asked :

What are the gross working expenses and earnings respectively of the Intercolonial Railway for each month from 1st July, 1898, to date ?

What were the gross working expenses and earnings respectively of the same road for the similar months of the preceding year ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I shall have to ask the hon. gentleman to move for a return.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman will see that that will take a great deal of time.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I shall not delay bringing it down.

Mr. FOSTER. I think it is usual to give such information in reply to a question.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I shall bring it down in good

season for any discussion that may take place.

Mr. FOSTER. Of course, I will have to take what the hon. gentleman chooses to give, but I may say that the class of questions has been invariably answered by the Ministers.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). Not for a month.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. It is not convenient to have to read columns of figures to the House, but I will give the hon. gentleman the return without delay if he will move for it directly and expeditiously.

**PROSECUTIONS FOR SELLING LIQUOR  
TO INDIANS.**

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Taylor) asked .

1. Were the following persons prosecuted and committed, since October, 1897, for selling liquor to the Indians of Pointe Bleue, namely :—Joseph Tremblay, Carter and Thomas, alias Tommy, Ross, both of Roberval, and Mr. Parent, farmer, of St. Prime, county of Chicoutimi ?

2. What was the penalty imposed ?

3. Have the Government granted the remission ?

4. If so, what remission, and on whose recommendation ?

5. Who laid the complaint against the said parties ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). In reply I beg to say :

1. Joseph Tremblay, Thomas Ross and Alfred Parent were prosecuted and convicted of selling liquor to the Indians of the Pointe Bleue reserve during the past year. 2. The penalty imposed in the case of Tremblay was a fine of \$50 and costs or three months' imprisonment; in the case of Thomas Ross, a fine of \$75 and costs or three months' imprisonment; and in the case of Alfred Parent, a fine of \$100 and costs or four months' imprisonment. 3. In all the above cases the culprits refused to pay the fines and were sent to prison. The Government have not granted a remission. 4. Answered by No. 3. 5. The complaints against all the said parties were laid by the Indian agent, Mr. P. L. Marcotte.

**CHAMBORD CUSTOMS COLLECTIONS.**

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

1. What amount has been collected at the customs office at Chambord, from the date of its establishment up to the present time ?

2. What is the amount of the expenses of the said office ?

3. How much has been paid to Auguste Gagné, by way of salary, since the opening of the said office ?

4. Has the said Auguste Gagné asked for and obtained an increase of salary, and if so, what increase?

5. How much has been paid to him during the same period, for office rent, stationery, heating, travelling expenses, &c.?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). In reply I beg to say: 1. \$1,304.75. 2. Exclusive of salary, nil. 3. \$535. 4. No increase granted nor asked for. 5. Nil.

#### GERMAN DISCRIMINATING DUTIES.

Mr. FOSTER asked:

What discriminating duties does Germany now impose upon the following Canadian imports:— Canned lobsters, canned salmon, butter, apples, barley, beans, peas, buckwheat, oats, rye, wheat, clover seed, agricultural implements, bicycles?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). As far as can be determined from the German tariff the discriminating duties would be as follows in the memorandum I am about to read, but I would also state that there is some difficulty in determining some of the items which are not specially mentioned in the German tariff, inasmuch as it is not easy to say under what classification they might be placed, but the rates given are those probably in force:

| Articles.                 | Discriminating Duty.  |
|---------------------------|---|
| Breadstuffs:—             |   |
| Grain:—                   |   |
| Barley.....               | $\frac{1}{4}$ mark per 100 kilog, or<br>5 $\frac{1}{10}$ cts. per 220·4 lbs.<br>= to about 1 $\frac{3}{10}$ cts.<br>per bushel of 48 lbs.     |
| Beans and Peas.....       | $\frac{1}{2}$ mark per 100 kilog, or<br>11 $\frac{3}{10}$ cts. per 220·4 lbs.<br>= to about 3 $\frac{3}{10}$ cts.<br>per bushel of 60 lbs.    |
| Buckwheat.....            | None.   |
| Oats.....                 | 1 $\frac{2}{10}$ cts. per 100 kilog, or<br>28 $\frac{5}{10}$ cts. per 220·4 lbs.<br>= to about 4 $\frac{1}{10}$ cts.<br>per bushel of 34 lbs. |
| Rye and Wheat....         | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ marks per 100 kilog,<br>or 35 $\frac{7}{10}$ cts. per 220·4<br>lbs. = to about 9 $\frac{7}{10}$ cts.<br>per bushel of 60 lbs. |
| Fish:—                    |   |
| Canned Lobsters.....      | None.   |
| Canned Salmon.....        | None.   |
| Fruits:—                  |   |
| Apples.....               | None.   |
| Provisions:—              |   |
| Butter.....               | 4 marks per 100 kilog, or<br>95 $\frac{2}{10}$ cts. per 220·4 lbs.<br>= to about 1 $\frac{9}{10}$ ct.<br>per lb.                              |
| Seeds:—                   |   |
| Clover.....               | None.   |
| Manufactures:—            |   |
| Bicycles.....             | None.   |
| Agricultural Implements.. | None.   |

Mr. CASGRAIN.

#### SERVICE AND AGE LIMITS FOR LIEUTENANT-COLONELS IN THE MILITIA.

Mr. FOSTER asked:

What, according to present regulations, are the service and age limits for Lieutenant-Colonels in the Militia? When did these come into force? What Lieutenant-Colonels have been retired thereunder, and what was in each case his age and term of service? What Lieutenant-Colonels, who have exceeded the regulation terms, have been retained, what is in each case his age and term of service and the reasons for retention?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). I am getting the information ready, but it involves a good deal of delay, and the answer would be a very long one. I hope to have it in a day or two.

#### EXEMPTION OF SALARIES OF DOMINION OFFICIALS.

Mr. CHAUVIN asked:

Whether it is the intention of the Government to give effect to the undertaking entered into by the hon. the Prime Minister to reintroduce in Parliament, this session, the Bill to render the salaries of Dominion officials liable to seizure?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). It is not the intention of the Government to introduce in Parliament this session a Bill to render the salaries of Dominion officials liable to seizure, as such a Bill has already been introduced by the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson).

#### CROW'S NEST PASS COMMISSION.

Mr. DUGAS asked:

Have the Government caused to be translated into French the report of the commission appointed under the chairmanship of His Honour Judge Dugas, to inquire into the treatment of the workmen employed in the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway? When will the report be distributed?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). The report of said commission was laid upon the Table of the House at its last session to be dealt with as the House might direct. No action has been since taken by the Government in regard to translation or circulation.

#### LAKE ST. FRANCIS CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT.

Mr. TAYLOR asked:

What dates were set for the completion of the contracts for the St. Regis Bar and Hamilton Island Bar (improvement of channel of Lake St. Francis)? Have these works been finished according to contract? If not, has any action been taken by the department to enforce the conditions of the contracts? Has an extension of time been granted; if so, on what date, and what are the conditions?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). The date named in the contract for the completion of the works at St. Regis Bar and Hamilton Island Bar was 30th November, 1898. The works have not been finished, but a channel for 14-foot navigation is made of sufficient width to enable vessels to pass through. The contractors have been urged to prosecute the work vigorously to completion as soon as the state of Lake St. Francis will admit of it. An extension of time has been granted to 1st May, 1899, all other provisions of the contract to remain in full force.

#### CORNWALL CANAL.

Mr. TAYLOR asked :

Has the contract for the improvement of the upper entrance to the Cornwall Canal, tenders for which were advertised for under date of 6th April, 1898, been awarded, and to whom? Was the work completed by the 30th November, 1898, as required by the special conditions stated in the advertisement calling for tenders? If the contract was not awarded, why not?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). No contract has been awarded for the improvements at the upper entrance of the Cornwall Canal. As the works were not proceeded with they were not completed by 30th November, 1898. The contract was not awarded because it was not considered to be an urgent matter.

#### INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY—DELAY IN FURNISHING CARS.

Mr. GAUVREAU (by Mr. Légris) asked :

Whether the Minister of Railways has been in receipt of complaints from exporters of sea-moss at Isle Verte as to delay in furnishing them with the number of cars necessary for their traffic? If the department has not received complaints, have the Moncton officials been notified of the said delay, and if so, have orders been issued to put a stop to such grounds of complaint?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). The Minister of Railways has received complaints from exporters of sea-moss at Isle Verte, as to the delay in furnishing them with the number of cars necessary for their traffic. The Moncton officials have been notified of the said delay, and orders have been given to furnish cars as promptly as possible for this and other traffic.

#### VETERANS OF 1864-65.

Mr. BERGERON (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Is the Government aware that there are still living a good many of the volunteers of the Canadian Militia who were performing public duty on the frontier of Canada in 1864-65?

2. Is it the intention of the hon. the Minister of Militia and Defence to have medals granted to the men who for several months were on duty

after the St. Alban's raid, and the assassination of President Lincoln, and deserve recognition at the hand of the country such as is or will be granted to the members of the force who acted in the Fenian raid, in 1866 and 1870?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). 1. Yes. 2. This matter is under consideration of the Government.

#### P. E. I. RAILWAY—CURVES AT NORTH WILTSHIRE.

Mr. MARTIN asked :

1. Has the work of straightening the curve on the Prince Edward Island Railway, at North Wiltshire, been completed?

2. If so, what is the total cost?

3. If the work is not completed, what is the cost to this date?

4. What is the length of track newly built, and what is the cost rate per mile?

5. Were the old rails and sleepers used on the new track?

6. How much has the railway mileage of the road been shortened by the change?

7. What was the degree of curvature at North Wiltshire, on the Prince Edward Island Railway, before the work of straightening began?

8. What is the degree of curvature at this point to-day, after the change is made?

9. What was the gradient at this point before work began?

10. What is the gradient now?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). 1. The work of straightening the curves on the Prince Edward Island Railway at North Wiltshire has not yet been completed. 2. The total cost of the work cannot be given until it is completed. 3. The cost of the work up to the end of February, 1899, is \$24,410.97. 4. The length of new built track is 5,100 feet. The cost per mile cannot be given until the work is completed. 5. Some of the old rails were used and others were taken from rails in stock, new sleepers were used. 6. The railroad has been shortened by 3,281 feet by the change. 7. The sharpest curves before the work of straightening commenced were three long ones of 9° 30". 8. The sharpest curves after the work of straightening is made will be one short one of 9°. 9. The maximum grade before the work began was 58 feet to the mile. 10. The maximum grade now is 103 feet to the mile, but when the work is completed it will be 66 feet to the mile.

#### CLAIMS—ROCHE FENDUE AND CALUMET DAMS.

Mr. POUPORE (by Mr. Hughes) asked :

1. Have any of the cases of those who suffered from the construction of the Roche Fendue and Calumet dams in 1883 been adjusted?

2. If so, what are the names of the persons whose claims were so settled?

3. Has the Government appointed valuers to examine and report upon certain claims that had not previously been dealt with ?

4. If such valuers have been appointed, what are their names, and by whom were they recommended ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). I will have to ask the hon. gentleman to move for a return on this subject.

**MR. RICHARD DICKSON.**

Mr. ROCHE asked :

1. Was Mr. Richard Dickson, appointed by Mr. McCreary, Government immigration agent at Winnipeg, to superintend the improvements of the Selkirk round house for the reception of the Doukhobors ?

2. If so, was he dismissed, and for what reason and upon whose recommendation ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). Mr. Richard Dickson was temporarily appointed to do some work at Selkirk round-house, by Mr. McCreary, Commissioner of Immigration at Winnipeg, on the 6th January last, when the preparation of the building for the reception of the Doukhobors was commenced. He was so employed for 18 days. Mr. McCreary dispensed with his services at the end of 18 days, because they were no longer required.

#### B. C. RAILWAY BELT—LAND SALE NEAR ASHCROFT.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

1. Has the Government authorized the sale of some 4,000 acres of land in the railway belt near Ashcroft, B.C., to the Ashcroft Water and Electric Company ?

2. If so, what is the purchase price per acre ?

3. What conditions, if any, are attached to the sale of the same ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). 1. The Government has authorized the sale of upwards of 4,000 acres of land in the Railway Belt near Ashcroft, B.C., to the Ashcroft Water and Electric Company, of which the company has given a description of 1,577 acres. 2. The purchase price is \$1 per acre. 3. The sale has been authorized on the condition that the company shall, within five years from the 16th March, 1899, construct and have in operation irrigation works reclaiming and irrigating the lands so sold. The lands are not to be patented to the company until an examination has been made and a report presented to the department by one of its officers that the lands applied for have been irrigated.

#### SALE OF THE FISHERY CRUISER "DOLPHIN."

Mr. SPROULE (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

1. Who was the purchaser of the fishery cruiser "Dolphin" ?

Mr. POUPORE.

2. Was the sale by public auction, public tender or by private sale ?

3. If by public tender or public auction, in what paper or papers did the notices appear inviting such tenders or announcing such proposed sale ?

4. For what figure was she sold, and who was the purchaser ?

5. What was the cost of repairs and fittings of this boat for the years 1895-96, 1896-97, 1897-98 ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). 1. H. B. Harrison, of Owen Sound. 2. Private sale, first having been offered to the Government of Ontario for \$600 and declined. In 1893 the department offered her for sale for \$700, but could not get a purchaser. 3. Answered by No. 2. 4. \$700. H. B. Harrison, of Owen Sound. Repairs and fittings : 1895-96, \$414.08 ; 1896-97, \$346.64 ; 1897-98, \$335.22.

#### SALE OF GOVERNMENT LAND.

Mr. ROCHE asked :

Was S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  22, 14, 8 Government land sold ? If so, to whom, and at what price ? How many offers to purchase the land were received and what were the prices offered ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). The south-west quarter of Section 22, Range 8, west meridian, has not been sold. Two offers were received for it. The prices offered were \$5 per acre and \$3.50 per acre respectively.

#### I. C. R. REVENUES—CHAUDIÈRE TO MONTREAL.

Mr. POWELL (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

What is the total amount of revenue collected by the Government (a) from passenger traffic, (b) from freight traffic at the stations, freight agencies and passenger agencies along the extension of the Intercolonial Railway from Chaudière to Montreal, both included, (1) from the 30th day of June, 1898, exclusive, to the 1st day of March, 1899, exclusive ; (2) from the 1st day of March, 1899, inclusive, to the 1st day of April, 1899, exclusive ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). A return will have to be moved for for this information.

#### STEAMERS "GOVERNOR PINGREE" AND "J. B. LOWE"—REGISTRY.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

1. Have two American-built steamers named the "Governor Pingree" and "J. B. Lowe," plying in Yukon waters, been granted Canadian registry ?

2. If so, at what valuation ?

3. If registry was granted, were they examined by a Canadian master and engineer as required by law ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). No information of these vessels having been registered has yet reached this department. The collector of customs at Dawson City has

been requested to furnish a list of all the vessels registered by him. (Dawson City was made a port for the registry of ships by Order in Council). Customs Department has no information re the valuation.

#### DAM AT NASSAU.

Mr. KENDRY asked :

From whom was the land purchased upon which a dam is being constructed at Nassau, on the line of the Trent Valley Canal? What was the amount paid therefor?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The land upon which the dam at Nassau in connection with the Trent Canal was constructed was purchased from the Canadian Bank of Commerce, they being the mortgagees of the property, and the property ultimately falling into their hands. The amount to be paid therefor is \$20,000, with interest at 4 per cent per annum from the date of the Government taking possession, 27th July, 1895; when expropriated the land was the property of Mr. Jas. Irwin, who demanded \$70,000 for what we subsequently arranged to pay \$20,000.

#### ARMOURY AT SUSSEX, N.B.

Mr. DOMVILLE asked :

Whether it is the intention of the Government to build an armoury for the 8th Hussars at Sussex, N.B., this year?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). It is expected that the Government will be able to construct an armoury this year.

#### DISMISSAL OF CYRILLE ROBERGE.

Mr. GAUVREAU (by Mr. Legris) asked :

1. On what date was Cyrille Roberge, of River du Loup, dismissed from his position on the Intercolonial Railway?

2. How much was he paid for salary or wages, between the 10th March, 1898, and the date of his dismissal?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Cyrille Roberge, of Rivière du Loup, brakeman, was dismissed from his position on the Intercolonial Railway on the 3rd of September, 1898. He was paid \$238.60 for salary and wages between the 10th March, 1898, and the date of his dismissal.

#### DUNN AVENUE CROSSING, TORONTO.

Mr. CLARKE asked :

1. Has the question of protecting the Dunn Avenue railway crossing in Toronto been considered by the Railway Committee of the Privy Council? If so, has any and what decision been reached?

2. If any decision has been reached, has such decision been communicated to the city council of Toronto and the railway companies interested?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The records of the department do not show that any question as to Dunn Avenue, Toronto, has been up before the committee, nor can it be found that any application for a hearing has been received.

#### INSPECTION OF POTASH.

Mr. PENNY (by Mr. Legris) asked :

Does the Government intend this session to comply with the request of the Montreal Board of Trade and others, asking for legislation regarding the compulsory inspection of potash?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). As this would affect not only Montreal but the whole Dominion, the Government is now seeking for fuller information before acting.

#### STORES OF 8th HUSSARS.

Mr. DOMVILLE asked :

Is the Government aware that the Intercolonial Railway at Hampton, N.B., has given the following notice:—

“F. V. Wedderburn:—This bill has been standing for five months (freight on stores belonging to the 8th Hussars), and the Intercolonial Railway are threatening to sell these articles to pay the freight.

“H. M. TRAVIS,  
“Station Master.”

If so, what steps do the Government propose to take to stop the sale? Who is now in charge of the arms and equipments of the 8th Hussars? When was said storekeeper appointed?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Yes, the Government is aware that the station-master has given notice to T. V. Wedderburn that a bill has been standing for five months for freight on stores belonging to the 8th Hussars, and that the Intercolonial Railway are threatening to sell these articles to pay the freight. I am not aware that any special orders have been given to sell.

#### COMMISSIONER LEBEL.

Mr. McALISTER asked :

1. What was the total cost of the investigation held by Commissioner LeBel into charges preferred against Dr. Venner, Indian agent of the Restigouche Indians, in September, 1897? How many days did the investigation occupy?

2. What amount was paid Mr. LeBel (a) for travelling expenses, (b) taking the evidence of witnesses, and (c) for making his report?

3. Has the salary of the Indian agent been paid in full up to the time of his dismissal? If not, how much remains unpaid, and why is the same withheld?

4. Was Mr. LeBel authorized, under his commission, to investigate charges against said Indian agent for neglect of duty? Was he paid for taking the evidence of Polycarpe Martin, Indian chief, as to neglect on the part of the agent and the general condition of the Indians?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). 1. The total cost of the investigation was \$221.10. 12 days were occupied in the investigation. 2. (a) \$72.10 were paid for travelling expenses; (b and c) Mr. LeBel was paid \$10 per day for 12 days' services, which included summoning witnesses, taking evidence, correspondence and preparing report. The items for each one of these services were not given separately, and have, therefore, to be given under one heading. 3. \$66 has been withheld from Agent Venner's salary because of dereliction of duty in connection with the seizure of timber, whereby the dues on the same were lost to the department. 4. Mr. LeBel was not authorized under his commission, but by a letter from the department to investigate charges of neglect of duty against Agent Venner. The above amount of \$10 per day included payment for time occupied in taking the evidence of Chief Polycarpe Martin. The balance of the amount of \$221.10 was paid for rent of room, witness fees and services of clerks; in all for these amounts, \$29.

#### YUKON LIQUOR PERMITS.

Mr. **FOSTER** asked :

Are liquors intended for the Yukon district, and for which permits are or have been granted by the authorities of the North-west Territories, admitted to the Yukon without any further sanction from the Minister of the Interior?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). A permit lawfully granted by the authorities of the North-west Territories authorizes the holder to import liquor into the Yukon territory without any further sanction from the Minister of the Interior. To prevent possible use of forged or fraudulent permits, lists of permits issued by the North-west Government were forwarded to officers of the North-west Mounted Police, with instructions to recognize only those upon the list. Such lists comprised all the permits of which the department had been advised when they were respectively forwarded.

#### DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OUELLETTE.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER** asked :

Has District Superintendent Ouellette, of the Intercolonial Railway, been suspended at any time during the present year? If so, on what date, for what reason, and has he been reinstated, or what action has been taken in this case?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). District Superintendent Ouellette of the Intercolonial Railway was suspended on the 9th March, 1899, for absenting himself from duty without leave. He has not been reinstated.

#### ALIEN LABOURERS AT LAKE BENNETT.

Mr. **PRIOR** asked :

1. Is the Government aware that men from Pittsburg, Pa., U.S.A., have been imported to  
Mr. McALISTER.

work on the construction of a steamer at Lake Bennett, B.C.?

2. If so, is this not an infringement of the Alien Labour Act, chap. 2, 60-61 Vic.?

3. Is it the intention of the Government to appoint an agent at Victoria, B.C., to enforce the above mentioned law?

4. If not, why not?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). The Government is not aware of the alleged facts referred to in the question.

#### WAGES ON INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Mr. **McLELLAN** asked :

1. What is the average length of sections on the Intercolonial Railway?

2. What is the average number of men employed on each section?

3. What wages per diem are paid to foremen and section men respectively on said railway?

4. Are any of the section men placed on half-time during the winter season?

5. What men, if any, are on half-time during the winter season on the said railway?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). 1. The average length of sections on the Intercolonial Railway is 6 miles. 2. The average number of men employed on each section is 3 men. 3. The wages per diem to foremen are \$1.60; the wages per diem to trackmen are \$1.15. 4. No section men are placed on half-time during the winter season. 5. No men are on half-time during the winter season on the Intercolonial Railway.

#### REPORT.

Report of the Department of Trade and Commerce for 1897.—(Sir Richard Cartwright).

#### PASSES OVER THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Mr. **FOSTER** moved for :

Statements of all passes, other than to members of the Dominion Parliament and employees of the railway, issued by or on behalf of the Intercolonial Railway, including the Prince Edward Island Railway since August 1st, 1896, with the names of the persons to whom granted and the reasons therefor.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). I may say to the hon. gentleman that, in the present form, the order cannot be complied with. I would suggest to him that he change the date, substituting the 31st of December, 1897, for the 1st of August, 1896. The Deputy Minister tells me that it has been usual or customary in the department to destroy the stubs as soon as the year runs out, so that he has not any of them in his possession.

Mr. **FOSTER**. What is the date?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. 31st of December, 1897. That

will enable the hon. gentleman to get a list of the passes issued in 1898, and down to the present time in 1899.

Amendment agreed to, and motion, as amended, agreed to.

#### INTERNAL AND OCEAN FREIGHT RATES.

Mr. DAVIN moved for :

Copies of all letters or reports, official or otherwise, addressed to or in possession of the Department of Agriculture or any departments of the Government on the subject of freight rates from Canadian or other ocean ports on this continent to any part of Europe; also of all letters or reports on the subject of freight rates from Chicago and other points to ocean ports, to Montreal, New York or elsewhere; also of all letters or reports on the subject of freight rates from Chicago or other points to Liverpool.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). There is no objection at all to granting the motion of my hon. friend, but I would call his attention to the fact that he asks for "letters or reports, official or otherwise." We can only give him what is official; we cannot give him copies of letters that may be confidential. I move, therefore, that the words "or otherwise" be struck out.

Amendment agreed to, and motion, as amended, agreed to.

#### SOULANGES CANAL CONTRACTS.

Mr. TAYLOR (by Mr. Mills) moved for :

Copies of all letters or notices sent to the contractors by the Minister of Railways and Canals, or the Chief Engineer, with relation to the carrying out of the work on the several sections on the Soulanges Canal, and the replies made there-to by the contractors.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). If the hon. gentleman will consent to limit that to the re-letting of the work, it will go as a matter of course. As it is worded now, he will see that it goes back over a very long period of time, and it would take the whole session to prepare the papers. I move that the words "carrying out" be struck out, and the word "re-letting" be inserted instead.

Amendment agreed to, and motion, as amended, agreed to.

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

#### After Recess.

#### OMISSION OF NAME FROM DIVISION LIST.

Mr. FRASER (Lambton). Mr. Speaker, I desire to call your attention and the atten-

tion of the House to an error which I desire to have corrected. Last night I voted "yea" on the amendment to the amendment moved by the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram). I find, however, on referring to the Votes and Proceedings, that my name has been inadvertently omitted from the list. I desire to be recorded as having voted "yea."

Mr. SPEAKER. The correction will be made in the Votes and Proceedings—at least, a note of it will be inserted.

#### SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 52) to incorporate the Canadian Yukon Railway Company.—(Mr. Morrison.)

Bill (No. 57) respecting the British Yukon Mining, Trading and Transportation Company, and to change its name to the British Yukon Railway Company.—(Mr. Fraser, Guysborough.)

Bill (No. 58) respecting the Central Counties Railway Company.—(Mr. Edwards, by Mr. Gibson.)

Bill (No. 59) to incorporate the Russell, Dundas and Grenville Counties Railway Company.—(Mr. Edwards, by Mr. Gibson.)

Bill (No. 60) to authorize the amalgamation of the Erie and Huron Railway Company and the Lake Erie and Detroit River Railway Company.—(Mr. McGregor.)

#### CONSTRUCTIONS OVER NAVIGABLE WATERS.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston) moved that Bill (No. 19) to amend the Act respecting certain works constructed in or over navigable waters, be read a second time. He said: This is an Act of rather a formal character, but it is of considerable importance. The Revised Statutes of Canada provide for two classes of cases in reference to obstructions over navigable waters. When a pier is to be built, or anything else that interferes with navigable waters, an application has to be made to the Governor in Council through the Minister of Public Works. That provides for two classes of cases: One, where the work was to be constructed, the other where the work had already been constructed. These Revised Statutes were passed, as the House will remember, in 1886. Therefore, the law provides for works to be built at any time, and it also provides for works that have been constructed prior to the passing of that Act. Now, since the passing of that Act certain works have been constructed in several of the lake ports of the Dominion and certain ports on the Pacific Coast. A question has come up on an application for the consent of the Governor in Council to such a work, and it has been held that there is no jurisdiction to grant a consent, that the statute I have just referred to only applies to these two classes of cases I have mentioned. Now,

this Act proposes that Section 6 of the Act respecting certain works constructed in or over navigable waters, being chapter 92 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, shall be repealed, and the following substituted therefor :—

The Governor in Council may approve of any work constructed prior to the 1st day of March, 1889, and of the site and plans of such work, and any local authority, company or person may proceed in such manner as the Minister of Public Works directs to obtain such approval.

When the case came up on my application to the Minister of Public Works, it was suggested that legislation might be had that would legalize any of these piers that have been constructed, but the answer to that was that that would be in the nature of a private Bill, and so it was thought better to amend the Act and bring it down to date, so that works constructed prior to the 1st of March, 1889, would stand in exactly the same position as works that had been constructed prior to 1886. That is the object of this statute. There seems to be no objection on the part of the Ministers to whom I have spoken about it.

Mr. TISDALE. Would the hon. gentleman say if there is any difference between the wording of this clause and the statute, except in the dates ?

Mr. BRITTON. Yes, there is.

Mr. TISDALE. Then it might affect the principle.

Mr. BRITTON. No, it does not affect the principle at all, but it affects the mode of obtaining consent. The hon. gentleman will see that section 5 reads thus :

The local authority, company or person proposing to construct any work in navigable waters, for which no sufficient sanction otherwise exists, may deposit the plans thereof and a description of the proposed site with the Minister of Public Works, and a duplicate of each in the office of the registrar of deeds for the district, county or province in which such work is proposed to be constructed, and may apply to the Governor in Council for approval thereof, and shall give one month's notice of said deposit of plans and application, by advertisement in the "Canada Gazette," and in two newspapers published in or near the locality where such work is to be constructed.

#### Section 6 :

Any local authority, company or person may proceed in like manner to obtain the approval by the Governor in Council of the site and plans of any work heretofore constructed.

In drafting the Bill I drafted it in accordance with the section as it stands in regard to the mode of applying to get the approval of the Governor in Council, but I thought that no harm could be done if the section were passed as it appears in the Bill, so as to provide, that instead of requiring that the advertisement should appear in the "Gazette" and in a local paper, and that plans should be registered, as provided

Mr. BRITTON.

in the preceding section, any person may proceed in such a manner as the Minister of Public Works directs to obtain such approval. That is the only point of difference.

Mr. D. TISDALE (South Norfolk). It seems to me that this is a very serious business. It is a most important matter to interfere with navigable waters. As I understand the distinction, under the present law, you must give a month's notice and proceed by Order in Council. I have only read this section since the hon. gentleman brought it up, but, as I understand the section, it will put the whole matter in the power of the Minister of Public Works. The proposed section reads, as applying to all future applications :

And of the site and plans of such work, and any local authority, company or person may proceed in such manner as the Minister of Public Works directs to obtain such approval.

It seems to me that that supersedes the necessity of the notice if the Minister sees fit, and it will not require the authority of an Order in Council.

Mr. BRITTON. Oh, yes, it certainly requires an Order in Council.

Mr. TISDALE. Is it your intention that an Order in Council shall be required ?

Mr. BRITTON. Yes, clearly so.

Mr. TISDALE. It seems to me, though I have not read the Bill before, to make a wide departure from the old Act. The section says :

The Governor in Council may approve of any work constructed prior to the 1st day of March, 1889,—

As I understand the hon. gentleman there have been works constructed without any approval.

Mr. BRITTON. Yes.

Mr. TISDALE. And without some such authority. Then there would be no way of getting approval. It seems to me reasonable that there should be a remedy for that, but the subsequent part of the section says :

—and of the site and plans of such work.—

And then as to the future :

—And any local authority, company or person may proceed in such manner as the Minister of Public Works directs to obtain such approval.

Not to do the work but to obtain such approval.

Mr. BRITTON. That is right.

Mr. TISDALE. Does that mean the approval of the Governor in Council ?

Mr. BRITTON. Yes.

Mr. TISDALE. Well, why do you change section 5, which is very simple and says that notice shall be given. The object of that notice is, in case there may be interests affected thereby, and that would mean, of

course, public interests, that the people, or locality, or whoever may be interested, should have some notice. There may be good reasons why contemplated works should not be approved or where there should be special conditions attached to that approval. Speaking for myself, I think it very wise that in the case of any interference with navigable waters everybody should be given an opportunity of being heard. Probably the hon. gentleman in framing the clause might not have fully considered that, because it is a very important distinction. I do not think it should be any hardship, and it is a wise provision in the old law, that notice should be required. Am I right in that, because I know the hon. gentleman has considered it more than I have, that the only variation is that he dispenses with the notice.

Mr. BRITTON. It dispenses with the notice and the registration of the plans in the registry office, that is all. It is a matter of importance for different reasons. I thought that that was hardly necessary because I thought that, in any case, where any interest would be affected, the Minister of Public Works would require notice to be given. There are some cases in which the interference might be very slight, and yet my hon. friend knows, as a lawyer, that the result might possibly be very serious. For instance, the extension of a pier, a very few feet into a channel, while put there with the entire approval of the municipal authorities, after the definite approval of the mayor, and with the knowledge and approval of the Minister of Public Works might, if an obstruction to navigation be caused, render the person putting it there liable, and it was for the purpose of getting approval, as provided for by chap. 92 of the Revised Statutes that I introduced the Bill. In such a case as that where there would be really no opposition, it seems to me, unnecessary to put a party to the large expense in order to obtain the approval. However, if the House is of the opinion that that precaution ought to be taken, the Bill can be amended in committee. I will be willing to have that done.

Mr. TISDALE. I would not object for a moment to the Bill going to committee. I think the hon. gentleman can hardly have considered the full significance of omitting the notice, and of the principle that underlies it. However, in such a case as he mentions it might be of no account, but it is equally true that a very important change might be made if the notice were dispensed with, and it is a very different principle to say that the Minister should have the power of approval, without notice, so that the whole responsibility is left upon him. It seems to me it takes away the safeguards of those who may be interested. As we are only discussing the principle, I have no objection to its going to a second reading.

Mr. DAVIN. Before this Bill goes to its second reading, I would like to ask whether the expense that the hon. gentleman wishes to obviate is the expense entailed by section 5, of the notice in the "Gazette"?

Mr. BRITTON. Yes.

Mr. TISDALE. And the expense of registration?

Mr. BRITTON. Yes, and the expense of registration.

Mr. DAVIN. Practically, then, it is proposed to substitute this for the present section to a certain extent. It repeals section 5?

Mr. BRITTON. No.

Mr. DAVIN. To a certain extent it will do so. It amends section 5, actually, by implication, because, if the Bill of my hon. friend became law, any local authority that constructed any works, of any kind, all they would have to do would be to go to the Minister of Public Works, lay their plans before him, and, according to his directions, and under his approval, proceed to get the approval of the Governor in Council.

Mr. BRITTON. It is not to be assumed that a person constructing public works would go deliberately about that construction without applying for the sanction of the Governor in Council. Section 5 only applies to public works to be constructed and a person had to get the approval of the Governor in Council before proceeding with such construction. This Bill is only to provide for a case where, with the knowledge of all parties the works have been constructed, but where the sanction of the Governor in Council has not been obtained.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The object of this Bill seems to be a deserving one, and nobody objects. It is intended to legalise works which have been constructed without the sanction of the law and without complying with all the formalities of the law. I believe this is quite proper, but I rather agree with the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) that when we give to a man who has erected works without the sanction of the law, without taking the precaution of coming to the Governor in Council as he might have done, we may give him the privilege of doing what he could not do unless we permit him. We may give him the privilege to come before the Governor General in Council to do that which he should have done, but if he is allowed to do that because he contravened the law, he should not be placed in any better position than if he conformed to the law. Therefore, I think the hon. gentleman from South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) is right when he says, that the same formality should apply to this tardy application which would apply if it had been made in due time under the law. I think it is proper the Bill should be

read a second time, go to the committee, and be amended in committee so as to provide that the same procedure shall apply as in an ordinary case.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

#### WINDING-UP ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. THOS. FORTIN (Laval) moved second reading of Bill (No. 31) to amend the Winding-Up Act. He said: I may state that the object of this Bill is to empower the court in the case of the liquidation of joint stock companies, to appoint inspectors as well as liquidators. It is well known to the members of the legal profession that the Winding-Up Act is the Insolvency Act of joint stock companies. The business carried on by joint stock companies, whether incorporated by Letters Patent or by Act of Parliament, is nearly always important and extensive. Their business is generally in the line of manufacturing industries, and when they come to liquidation their estates are generally very important. The law as it stands provides for the appointment of one or more liquidators, and of course for the payment of the liquidator, the amount being determined by the court. There is, however, no provision for the appointment of inspectors or advisers to the liquidators, and in the absence of such provision, in the district of Montreal, the judges have adopted as a rule, to appoint inspectors—a very necessary proceeding in some cases but an obviously illegal one as the law does not provide for such appointment. In view of the importance of the liquidation of such estates as may be possessed by joint stock companies, it is useful, if not absolutely necessary, that the liquidators shall be advised by a board of inspectors. This Bill, which I propose, provides for the amendment of two sections of the Winding-Up Act. In the first place, it provides for the appointment of inspectors at the same time the liquidator is appointed. The first section of the Bill which is to amend section 20 of the Winding-Up Act, reads as follows:—

The court may also appoint one or more inspectors, whose duty it shall be to assist and advise the liquidator and supervise generally the liquidation of the company.

Now, section 20 of the Winding-Up Act, reads as follows:—

The court, in making the winding-up order, may appoint a liquidator, or more than one liquidator, of the estate and effects of the company, but no such liquidator shall be appointed unless a previous notice is given to the creditors, contributories, shareholders or members, in the manner and form prescribed by the court.

My amendment to section 20, therefore, gives the court power to appoint inspectors as well as liquidators. Section 2 of this Bill is to amend section 28 of the Winding-Up Act, which provides as follows:—

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

The liquidator shall be paid such salary or remuneration, by way of percentage or otherwise, as the court directs upon such notice to the creditors, contributories, shareholders or members, as the court orders; and if there is more than one liquidator, the remuneration shall be distributed amongst them in such proportions as the court directs.

Now, the second section of this Bill provides that the following subsection shall be added to section 28:—

The court may also determine the remuneration, if any is deemed just, of the inspector or inspectors.

It will be seen that the object of the amendment is not to provide for the payment of inspectors in every case. If the estate were a small one, for instance, the circumstances of the case might not warrant the court providing for the payment of inspectors. But on the other hand, it may be a very important estate and the services rendered by the inspector may justify the court in ordering payment. The third section of this Bill has for its object to amend section 31 of the Winding-Up Act.

Mr. TISDALE. You want to amend subsection (f) of section 31?

Mr. FORTIN. Yes. Section 31 of the Winding-Up Act enumerates the powers which might be exercised by the liquidator under the authority of the court, and it will be noticed by the Winding-Up Act that the liquidator may even be authorized to continue the business of the company in liquidation. A case in point of a joint stock company which was put in liquidation a few months ago in the city of Montreal is the Pratte Piano Company. The business is of such a nature that it was impossible to stop it at once. Some pianos were in the process of manufacture, and there was a good deal of material prepared. These instruments had to be completed and the liquidator was authorized to continue the business. In such a case the board of directors no doubt would render assistance, as the liquidator was only one man and evidently would require somebody to advise him. Now subsection (f) of section 31 authorizes the liquidator to—

Draw, accept, make and indorse any bill of exchange or promissory note in the name and on behalf of the company; raise upon the security of the assets of the company, from time to time, any requisite sum or sums of money; and the drawing, accepting, making or indorsing of every such bill of exchange or promissory note, as aforesaid, on behalf of the company, shall have the same effect, with respect to the liability of such company, as if such bill or note had been drawn, accepted, made or indorsed by or on behalf of such company in the course of the carrying on of its business.

The second sentence in this clause:

To raise, upon the security of the assets of the company, from time to time, any requisite sum or sums of money.

authorizes the liquidator to contract obligations upon the security of the assets in liqui-

dation, but it does not say how the contract is to be executed. Now, it is impossible, under the general law, to pledge the assets of a company without the delivery of the goods pledged; at least, in the province of Quebec no contract pledge is valid unless the goods given by way of security are delivered to the creditor or to a third person agreed upon by the parties. The object of the third section of my Bill is to declare that in such a case the lien or pledge shall be good without delivery of the goods. I propose to add to paragraph "f" of section 31 of the Act these words:

And no delivery of the whole or any part of the assets of the company shall be necessary to give a lien to any person making a loan to, or discounting any negotiable instrument of, the liquidator in virtue of the provisions of this section.

This I deem to be a very useful provision, because, as in the case I mentioned a moment ago, the liquidator required a considerable sum of money to carry on the business in the best interests of the creditors. It was necessary for him to borrow money from a bank, and he had considerable difficulty in arriving at the contract by which security could be given to the bank owing to the law requiring the goods pledged to be delivered. The object of this third section is to provide that in such a case no delivery shall be necessary. If delivery is necessary, it is obvious that it would embarrass the liquidation, because there can be no liquidation if the liquidator is not in possession of the assets, and cannot dispose of them for the benefit of the creditors. I do not think there can be any serious objection to this Bill. It is a remedy for what perhaps was not foreseen, and its purpose is to improve the efficacy of the Act, and to render liquidation more profitable for the creditors of the joint stock company.

Mr. D. TISDALE (South Norfolk). Mr. Speaker, I think there is more in this Bill than the hon. gentleman seems to have considered. As to the question of inspectors, that is a very small question. It is largely a question of expenditure; and as to that, so far as I have heard, there has been no serious complaint about the Winding-Up Act in its present shape. One or two liquidators may be appointed, and they can only be appointed by the court, after notice to the creditors. So that if we accept the principle of inspectors, we must provide proper protection for the creditors; that is, the court shall not appoint an inspector without notice to the creditors, so as to give them the same opportunity of appearing at the hearing as the liquidators. But unless the hon. gentleman is prepared to show that trouble has arisen, it seems to me a matter of serious consideration whether we are to add a new class of officials to be paid out of the estate, to advise those who, so far as I have heard, have managed

these matters under the instructions of the court, without the necessity of inspectors.

Mr. FORTIN. They have not necessarily to be paid.

Mr. TISDALE. The second clause says that they are to be paid by the court.

Mr. FORTIN. If any remuneration is deemed just by the court, they may be paid.

Mr. TISDALE. We know what "may" means in these cases. If inspectors are necessary, it is quite proper that they should be paid, because we know that competent gentlemen cannot afford to give their time unless they are paid out of the estate. The amount of the liquidators' pay is in the discretion of the court. I do not suppose the hon. gentleman would for one moment ask us to pass the Bill if we said they should not be paid; nor do I think it would be just to them. Under the present law, there can be more than one liquidator if the estate is large enough. The great difficulty I have always found in any of these cases, as well as in cases coming under the bankruptcy law, has been the difficulty of expense. Simplicity is the great object in all these Acts. Therefore, before the House is asked to increase the machinery, we should be sure that it is absolutely necessary to do so; otherwise I do not think it would be wise. When we come to the third section, we find a most extraordinary provision. We are asked to say that the property of an estate shall be bound, and a lien put upon it, by a simple promissory note. This is a provision unparalleled in the legislation of this country.

Mr. FORTIN. Will the hon. member allow me one word?

Mr. TISDALE. I shall be glad if the hon. gentleman will explain in what Acts provision is made for giving a lien by a simple promissory note.

Mr. FORTIN. Perhaps I did not explain it clearly enough. Under the law as it stands, there is a liquidator to raise money on the security of the assets of the company from time to time.

Mr. TISDALE. I quite understand that.

Mr. FORTIN. Allow me one word more. The object is not to authorize the liquidator to raise money. He is already authorized to do so; but the object is merely to provide that he can raise such money on the security of the assets of the company without turning over the assets into the hands of the money-lender, which would make the liquidation impossible.

Mr. TISDALE. The hon. gentleman has totally misconceived my point. The general law of the country is this, that a promissory note binds the property of a man after he gets judgment, until the note is paid. The hon. gentleman's argument that the general law of the land does not give any direction how the liquidator is

to pledge the property of the company is what I am speaking about. It allows the liquidator to give such security as the law authorises and makes necessary, because, to all intents and purposes, he is the company. He represents the company, and the statute says that his notes and bills shall be the same as if the person he represents gave them. What does my hon. friend ask? I have yet to learn that there is an Act upon our Statute-book that authorises any person or representative or trustee to give a promissory note and make it a lien upon the general property. What might happen? You might be overriding a lien that did exist. At all events, you are introducing a confusing principle, because you are saying that by a process so far unknown to the law you can put a lien upon the property. You would be introducing a most general and most dangerous principle. We must be careful, above all other things, to follow general principles, and the general principle in the Winding-Up Act, the Bankruptcy Act, and in the Act relating to warehousing and all these matters is that to bind a property you must give a specific security on the particular property, so that those interested may know how they stand. You may say that he may give a note, which shall bind the property, but he may give a hundred notes, and which is to have the priority? We ought to proceed cautiously. Has the hon. gentleman consulted the Trade and Commerce Department or obtained the opinion of the Minister of Justice? Because, before we are asked to pass upon this Bill, we should have the opinion of the Justice Department as to whether it is proper legislation for us to pass. I am strongly of opinion that the right hon. First Minister will largely agree with me, because these are far-reaching and most important principles, and we certainly ought not to make such sweeping legislation without having the opinion of the Justice Department.

Mr. FORTIN. It seems to me that the hon. gentleman—

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not wish to interrupt but hon. members should remember that we are not in Committee of the Whole, and that on a motion for the second reading, one speech only is allowed to each member, otherwise we would be repeating ourselves in committee.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I must say to my hon. friend from Laval (Mr. Fortin) that I am disposed to agree largely in the views expressed by the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale). The proposition of my hon. friend from Laval that inspectors should be appointed is one as to which I would like to have the views of the trade at large. There is great force in what has been said by the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) to the effect that all legislation of that kind should be made as simple as possible. At

Mr. TISDALE.

present the judge is authorized to appoint one or more liquidators and is not limited as to the number, if the estate is of such a character and magnitude as to require more than one liquidator, and I think it is just as well to leave to the judge the discretion of appointing more than one liquidator rather than give him the additional privilege of appointing inspectors. If inspectors are appointed, it will be because it is considered that they are necessary to the liquidation of the estate, and under such circumstances they will have to be paid. Creditors have a strong objection to all these acts because of the expense they entail, and I believe the object of legislation is to make the expenditure as light as possible. But the gravamen of the objection is the last one mentioned by the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale.) I think I can understand the view in the mind of my hon. friend from Laval (Mr. Fortin.) It is very true that power is given in subsection F of section 31 to the liquidator to raise upon the security of the assets of a company, from time to time, any requisite sum, but under such circumstances he says that the liquidator is to be authorized to raise money for the security of the assets without any delivery of the whole or any part of the assets being necessary. My hon. friend had in view evidently the law of the province of Quebec which provides that no security can be valid by contract alone, but that there must be an actual delivery into the hands of the man who makes the advance. Under such circumstances, if the liquidator were to raise \$5,000, and he would, under the law of Quebec, have to give actual possession of his security, and if he were to give an asset, say to the value of \$20,000, he could not realize on that security unless it came back to his possession, and the creditors might be deprived of a very valuable asset. The question is not free from difficulty, and I think it is wise that we should have the opinion of the trade and also that of the Minister of Justice before proceeding further. I would move, therefore, that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. FORTIN. Before the motion is put, I wish to add a few words of explanation. It must be remembered, in the first place, that there is a great difference between inspectors and liquidators. It is true that the law provides for the appointment of one or more liquidators, but by the law the liquidators must be paid in every case, whereas the inspectors, under this Bill, need not be paid in every case but only at the discretion of the court.

Now, as a matter of fact, it is well known that the inspectors are always chosen from amongst the largest creditors, those who are most interested to avoid any useless expense in the liquidation of the affairs of the company. So, it seems to me, that the objection of expense does not apply to the Bill as I propose it; because, I repeat, it is left to the discretion of the court to

fix or to refuse any remuneration to the inspectors.

Now, as regards the necessity for the appointment of inspectors, I have stated some reasons for that already. The best evidence that they are necessary is to be found in the fact that the courts in nearly every case do appoint inspectors. I think the hon. member for St. Anne's, Montreal (Mr. Quinn) who is present, will bear me out when I say that in many cases the judges of the Superior Court of the district of Montreal agree among themselves and have established as a rule to appoint inspectors to advise the liquidators. The moment a thing is found to be necessary to such an extent as to have the courts practically make the law, it seems to me merely a matter of regularity that the proper authorities—this Parliament—should step in and change the law so as to bring the law into accord with the practice.

Now, with regard to the third paragraph, the hon. member (Mr. Tisdale) seems to be afraid lest the principle involved in this paragraph should, in practice, be disadvantageous. But it ought to be borne in mind that the moment a company is put into liquidation, the moment a contract is entered into by the liquidator for the liquidation, all the assets of the liquidation are pledged as security for the payment of that debt. In other words, when the liquidator enters into a contract, the liquidation is considered as a judicial person. All the debts contracted by the liquidator in the course of liquidation are to be paid by the liquidation, one hundred cents on the dollar. These debts are not to rank as the debts of the company before the insolvency. Therefore, there can be no possible objection, it seems to me, so far as the pledging of the total estates of the company is concerned. The hon. member says that this will be equivalent to giving the assets of the company as security for the payment of a debt created by the signature of a note by the liquidator. It does not extend the scope of the law as it is to-day, it does not confer any new power upon the liquidator. The liquidator to-day, if he signs a note on behalf of the liquidation and for the purpose of the liquidation, binds the liquidation to pay that note in full. As I have said, and as the Prime Minister said, it is obviously impossible for the liquidator to go on with the liquidation of a company if he has to deliver any part or the whole of the assets to a bank or any other person. The hon. member (Mr. Tisdale) says that perhaps the Minister of Justice has not been consulted. It seems to me that for these difficulties that are found in practice, amendments may be made to meet them without in every case, calling upon the Minister of Justice. As regards the trade, I may say that it is in accord with the wishes of all those who have anything to do with liquidations of that kind. The defect of the law has been pointed out repeatedly;

and, just a very few months ago, the same thing occurred. As I have said, it would not add anything to the expenditure. It may add to the expense in some cases where the inspectors have any work. However, whenever it might be necessary to pay the inspectors, it would be in the best interest of the creditors. When the inspectors are called upon to take an active part in the liquidation, it is only fair that they should be paid. It is in the interest of all parties concerned that inspectors should be paid for all work done by them.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). In so far as the Bill provides for the appointment of inspectors, I am thoroughly in accord with it. I think that the effect is to some extent, to make it more like the Ontario Winding-Up Act. The defect in the Ontario Act is that it gives the shareholders too much power and the creditors too little power. Perhaps there should be some amendment in that that would give the court power over inspectors, as to appointment and remuneration, more than exists at present. So far as I have been able to consider it, the Bill seems unobjectionable so far as the power of appointing inspectors is concerned, and it follows, as a matter of course, that if they are appointed and do their work, they are entitled to remuneration for it. Therefore, I have nothing to say against the first two sections of the Bill. But, as I may not have another opportunity, I desire to state now that I am entirely opposed to the last clause. It is not in accordance with any legislation with reference to property and creditors as we understand it in Ontario—and it must be remembered that this is a Dominion Act, and applies to every province. I object to this clause for two reasons. In the first place, according to the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Fortin's) own remarks, it is entirely unnecessary. The liquidator has power to carry on business and to do everything in reference to the estate—of course, under the direction of the court—and therefore it follows that any liability by the liquidator as such, must be paid as a first claim out of the estate. It cannot be supposed that first the company may become insolvent and go into the hands of a liquidator, and that the liquidator as liquidator may become insolvent in regard to carrying on the business. Therefore, there will be ample security to pay the liabilities of the liquidator as such, and so the Bill is unnecessary. Further, the Act provides, if it is necessary to give a lien upon the property of the company the liquidator has power to hypothecate and give any instrument that an individual could give under similar circumstances if the property were his own. On this ground also, this Bill seems unnecessary. Then being unnecessary it may be exceedingly dangerous. It, by implication, gives a lien to every creditor who holds the promissory note of the liquidator. If it gives

a lien to one creditor, it gives a lien to every one, and there arises the difficulty, suggested as a difficulty at first blush, by the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale). But besides that it goes directly against the legislation which obtains in this province, that no security shall be given upon any property unless it is in writing and registered, or unless the transfer of it is accompanied by an actual delivery and a continued change of possession. It is going too far to cover the mere giving of a promissory note, because that is what it says by implication :

And no delivery of the whole or any part of the assets of the company shall be necessary to give a lien to any person making a loan to, or discounting any negotiable instrument of, the liquidators in virtue of the provisions of this section.

Now a liquidator has power to borrow money and to give a note for that money, and he gives with it—that is a necessary inference from the wording—he gives with it a lien to the person with whom this note is discounted. Therefore, this result might follow, that although the creditors are fully protected by the fact that the liquidator must pay these debts created by him first, before the ordinary debtors of the company can get their pay, a holder of a note from the liquidator, by virtue of that lien, may take proceedings to enforce his lien as against the liquidator and practically take the property out of the liquidator's hands. That seems to be one result that might come from a section such as that. Therefore, I submit it is too dangerous a section to be allowed to pass.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

#### SALE OF RAILWAY PASSENGER TICKETS.

Mr. T. BEATTIE (London) moved that Bill (No. 32) to amend the Act respecting the sale of railway passenger tickets, be read the second time. He said: I may say that this amendment is asked for in the interest of the Steam Ferry Boat Company between Windsor and Detroit. They have a very excellent line of ferry boats, five or six in number, worth something like half a million dollars. Under their charter they are obliged to sell 10 tickets for 25 cents, but they go further than that, and sell them for a cent and a half a piece to any person buying one dollar's worth. Speculators buy them in quantities for a dollar, and sell them out to newsboys and make a profit out of them. This Bill is to prevent scalping those tickets. I do not think there should be any objection to it.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am sorry that I cannot agree with the Bill of my hon. friend, as it is framed at present, at all events. I do not find fault with the object that he has in view, which is to prevent scalping of ferry

Mr. BRITTON.

boat tickets as well as of railway tickets. The objection I have is this, and the hon. gentleman will understand it, perhaps it has escaped his notice. There are on the Ottawa River, and other rivers also, ferry boats plying between rural portions of the community, boats of a minor importance. There is one, for instance, between Ottawa and Hull, there is another, I believe, on the Ottawa River above here. They are mere ferry boats; but they are under the laws of Canada, and they would come under this Bill. But they are of such minor importance that they would be subjected to a great deal of inconvenience if they were brought under a law such as this. I would have no objection at all to the Bill of my hon. friend if it were limited to the case he has in his mind. I do not intend at this moment to object to his Bill, but I will ask that the debate be adjourned so that the case may be looked into, and in the meantime he may, perhaps, find some means of obviating the very serious objection I have pointed out to him. He will recognize at once that a small ferry, say, on the Ottawa River, between small villages, doing a very small business, where the merchants of the locality are allowed to sell tickets, one or two, or so—if you were to subject them to the penalty which this Bill provides, they would feel it a serious grievance.

Mr. INGRAM. I would ask the hon. gentleman if these small ferry boats sell tickets? I always understood that you simply pay your fare on the boat.

The PRIME MINISTER. I think they do.

Mr. BEATTIE. I am willing to accept the Premier's proposal.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

#### RETURNS ORDERED.

Copies of specifications and plans for the construction of deep water terminal facilities at St. John, N.B., including wharfs, warehouses, elevators, tracks, &c., together with copies of tenders for the said works and of any contracts entered into therefor.—(Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, by Sir Charles Tupper.)

Copies of advertisements issued during 1898, inviting tenders for steel rails and fastenings for the Intercolonial and Prince Edward Island Railways, copies of tenders received therefor, of all correspondence in connection therewith, and of any contract or contracts entered into.—(Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, by Sir Charles Tupper.)

Statement of the number of gallons of intoxicating liquors taken into the Klondike district since July, 1896, the number of permits granted therefor, with the names and post office addresses of those to whom said permits were granted and the amount paid therefor.—(Mr. Foster.)

Statement of all persons appointed to office or assigned to duties of any kind in the Yukon district since August 1st, 1896, giving the names, post office addresses, rate of salary and allowances for expenses of each person, the duties assigned, the date of his appointment, the date of resignation or dismissal, and the reason

therefor in the case of each resignation or dismissal. The above statement not to include mounted police or Canadian militiamen, but to include paymasters in each branch.—(Mr. Foster.)

List of all persons employed since August 1st, 1896, by the Minister of Interior outside of the Civil Service employees in Ottawa, for purposes of immigration, detailing the names and post office addresses of the appointees, their rate of wages and allowances, the date and reason for dismissal, where dismissals have taken place, and the country or districts in which their work has been performed.—(Mr. Foster.)

Statement of all separate issues of postal stamps, cards or notes since January, 1st, 1897, noting those that have gone out of use, the quantity and date of each issue, and a sample of each issue, and giving in the case of the Jubilee stamps the cost and amount of cash returned to the Treasury for each denomination.—(Mr. Foster.)

Papers and correspondence, including Orders in Council, tenders and contracts in connection with the engraving, printing and supply of paper for the denominational postal notes, with a sample of the notes printed.—(Mr. Foster.)

Copies of instructions given to Mr. F. C. Wade, whether before he left for Dawson to act in several official capacities or subsequently, more particularly a copy of the permission given him, if the permission was in writing, to stake claims in the Klondike.—(Mr. Davin.)

Copies of all correspondence connected with the Department of the Interior at Ottawa authorizing the agent at Yorkton, North-west Territories, to grant entry for the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 14, township 24, range 3 west of 2nd Meridian, to Mr. W. C. Middleton.—(Mr. Davin.)

Statement showing the amounts voted and the amounts expended, under their proper headings, by the Dominion Government on the harbour of Montreal during the last twenty-eight years; also the amounts voted and the amounts expended, under their proper headings, by the Dominion Government on the harbour of Victoria, B.C., during the last twenty-eight years.—(Mr. Prior.)

Copies of all correspondence, from July 1, 1896, to the present date, between the Canadian Government and the Imperial authorities, and between the Canadian Government and the office of the High Commissioner of Canada in London, relating to the cattle embargo.—(Mr. Montague, by Mr. McCleary.)

Copies of all communications, orders and instructions issued by the Department of the Interior to the administrator, or any of his officials, in the Yukon district, with the dates of their despatch.—(Mr. Foster.)

Return of all liquors taken into the Yukon since July 1, 1896, giving the names of the persons or companies taking them in, the quantity in each case, the date of issue of permit and the authority granting the permit; also, all correspondence had with any parties in connection with the demand for, or granting of, permits for taking liquors into the Yukon.—(Mr. Foster.)

Copies of the contract and specification in connection with the north channel improvement, below Prescott, with copies of any supplementary agreement or agreements entered into with the contractor; also, plans showing the location on which the contract was let and the present location.—(Mr. Taylor, by Mr. Mills.)

Copies of any Orders in Council passed up to date respecting any officers of the Department

of the Interior taking up mining claims; respecting any Government officers taking up mining claims; respecting officers of the Department of the Interior making homestead entries or buying lands.—(Mr. Davin.)

Copies of all correspondence and papers connected with the removal of Mr. Fawcett from the position of Yukon Gold Commissioner.—(Mr. Davin.)

Copies of letters, instructions, correspondence and report of the commissioner appointed to inquire into the grievances of the workmen on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, and into the circumstances attending the death of two of said employees, named Macdonald and Fraser, at or near Pincher Creek.—(Mr. Bell, Pictou.)

Copies of the reports of Walter Shanley, C.E., and T. C. Keefer, C.E., in connection with the proposed large locks at Iroquois and Farran's Point.—(Mr. Taylor, by Mr. Mills.)

Return showing when and for what period the steamer "Alaska" was engaged on the survey of the channel in Lake St. Francis, and the service the steamer "Alert" was engaged in during the same period. (Mr. Taylor, by Mr. Mills.)

Return showing the amounts paid to Tom S. Rubidge, superintending engineer of the Cornwall Canal, for salary and expenses from 1st January, 1897, to 1st January, 1899. A detailed statement of the amount paid for cab or hack hire in the same period. A statement of the total expense incurred in connection with the steamer "Alert"; also, a statement showing how many days the steamer "Alert" was engaged in actual survey work, from 1st January, 1897, to 1st January, 1899, and how many days in any other service and the nature of the same.—(Mr. Taylor, by Mr. Mills.)

Statement of the number of sheets of notes of \$1 and \$2 delivered to the Government from the 1st of August, 1897, by the new contractors, together with the number of back, tint and face plates of the above denominations, delivered to the Government to date, as per the contract.—(Mr. Foster.)

Copies of all correspondence had with the Department of Inland Revenue, during the last ten years, in relation to the compulsory inspection of potash at the port of Montreal.

2. Copies of all petitions presented on the same subject to the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue. Also, copies of resolutions adopted by the Montreal Board of Trade and others, urging the Government to adopt some measure to protect the Canadian trade in potash.—(Mr. Préfontaine, by Mr. Legris.)

Return showing details of expenditure on capital account in the North-west Territories up to date.—(Mr. Douglas.)

Copies of all correspondence which has taken place between the hon. the Minister of the Interior, or any officer of his department, and the Government of the North-west Territories respecting the issue, granting or withholding of permits for the conveyance of liquor into the Yukon Territory.—(Mr. Clarke.)

That the report of the commissioners appointed in 1897 to inquire into the state of the public records and of the public buildings, be laid on the Table.—(Mr. Belcourt, by Mr. Britton.)

Copies of all statements, claims, memoranda, correspondence, telegrams, &c., with the Government of Prince Edward Island and a delegation from that province, in March last, consisting of the Hon. Hector C. Macdonald, Jas. W. Richards,

and Benjamin Rogers, in regard to questions at issue between the Government of Prince Edward Island and the Dominion of Canada.—(Mr. Martin.)

Correspondence had with the Post Office Department, or any member of the Government, in reference to the quality of the post cards issued by the Post Office Department since July 1st, 1896.—(Mr. Foster.)

Copies of all petitions, memorials, letters and correspondence addressed to the Government, or to any of the members thereof, since the last session, by the Board of Trade of the city of Quebec, the council thereof, the city council of the city of Quebec, or any other public bodies or citizens of the said city, in relation to a letter service between the Intercolonial Railway and the city of Quebec.—(Mr. Casgrain, by Sir Charles Tupper.)

Copies of all correspondence, minutes of Council, commission of appointment relating to the appointment of the Hon. the Chief Justice of the province of British Columbia from the date of the decease of the Hon. Chief Justice Davie to the appointment of the present incumbent; also, relating to the appointment of the Hon. Mr. Justice Irving and the Hon. Mr. Justice Martin of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.—(Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, by Sir Charles Tupper.)

Copies of all correspondence with the Imperial and colonial governments, and other parties, relative to the proposed Pacific cable, since the return brought down last session; also, of the report of the Imperial commission on this subject, if leave has been obtained to publish it.—(Mr. Casey, by Mr. Gibson.)

1. Statement of the expenditures connected with the Royal Military College, Kingston, every year since its foundation.

2. Of the number of graduates in each year, and of their present place of residence and occupation, as far as known to the college authorities.

3. Of all general orders or regulations relating to the employment of these graduates in the permanent corps, volunteers or other branches of the public service.—(Mr. Casey, by Mr. Gibson.)

That the report of the commission appointed to investigate the affairs of the St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary, which was laid before this House during the last session, be printed and distributed according to law, and that to this end the provisions of Rule 94 of this House be suspended.—(Mr. Fortin.)

Return of all papers, documents and correspondence between the Winnipeg Grain Exchange and the Department of Public Works in reference to keeping the harbour at Fort William free of ice to the latest possible date.—(Mr. Roche)

The PRIME MINISTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 9.30 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 20th April, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### EXPENSES OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE.

Mr. GILLIES (by Mr. Wilson) asked :

What is the amount of travelling and living expenses for the hon. the Minister of Finance, also the travelling and living expenses of his private secretary, messenger or other servants or friends accompanying him, including cab-hire, railway or steamboat travel, private cars and all other expenses paid by the Government since the 1st day of July, 1898, till the 28th February, 1899, inclusive ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The amount paid to the Minister of Finance for travelling expenses from 1st July, 1898, to 28th February, 1899, inclusive, including expenses while acting Minister of Railways and Canals and trips to the United States in connection with the Washington negotiations, was \$700. The expenses of the Minister's private secretary during the same period were \$215.85.

### EXPENSES OF THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Mr. BERGERON (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

What is the amount of travelling and living expenses for the hon. the Minister of Public Works, also the travelling and living expenses of his private secretary, messenger or other servants or friends accompanying him, including cab-hire, railway or steamboat travel, private cars and all other expenses paid by the Government since the 1st day of July, 1898, till the 28th February, 1899, inclusive ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I am instructed to say that the travelling and living expenses of the Hon. J. Israel Tarte, as Minister of Public Works for the period named, were \$150; the expenses of his private secretary, including cab fares for the same period, were \$626.18; the expenses of messengers and servants were nil; the expenses for cab-hire, nil; the expenses for private cars, \$32.90.

### THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS—TOUR OF INSPECTION.

Mr. BERGERON (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

What was the name of the steamer used by the hon. Minister of Public Works last season on his tour of inspection of wharfs, harbours, piers, &c., from Montreal eastward, including his trip to or

around the Island of Anticosti? Is or was said steamer owned by the Government?

What was the cost of the trip, including pay of crew, living expenses of the Minister, his secretary or messenger, or other servants or friends who accompanied him on said journey?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). The answer to that question involves such a large amount of detail that I am requested by the Minister of Public Works to ask that a motion be made for it.

#### REVISION OF THE STATUTES.

Mr. **BRITTON** asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to appoint a commission during the present year and otherwise to provide for the revision of the Statutes of Canada?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I have to inform my hon. friend that this question is under consideration.

#### GANANOQUE PUBLIC BUILDING—COAL CONTRACT.

Mr. **TAYLOR** asked :

1. To whom was the contract given at Gananoque to supply coal to the custom-house and post office for heating for the fall and winter of 1898-1899?

2. What price per ton was paid?

3. How many tons have been delivered?

4. Were tenders called for; if so, in what papers were they advertised?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). 1. To Mr. C. E. Britton, of Gananoque. 2. \$4.75 per ton, which is 45 cents per ton less than last year. 3. Thirty-six tons, the number contracted for. 4. A general advertisement covering all the public buildings in the Dominion was inserted in newspapers throughout the whole of Canada, calling for tenders for the coal required for the said public buildings. The form of the advertisement is annexed.

#### GODERICH HARBOUR IMPROVEMENTS.

Mr. **HENDERSON** asked :

1. Did the hon. the Minister of Public Works give a contract to one Mr. McGillicuddy for certain improvements in Goderich harbour?

2. Were tenders called for? If so, in what papers were advertisements inserted calling for tenders?

3. What is the amount of the contract price?

4. When is the work to be completed?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). The Minister of Public Works instructs me to answer: 1. No. The contract was awarded to Smith & McGillicuddy, the lowest tenderers. 2. Yes. The advertisement calling for tenders was published in the following papers:—Goderich "Huron Signal," Clinton "New Era," Hanover "Post," Hastings

"Star," Sault Ste. Marie "Sault Express," Seaforth "Huron Expositor," Wroxeter "Observer," Thessalon "Algoma Advocate," Brantford "Expositor," Blyth "Standard," Brussels "Post," Chatham "Banner," Guelph "Mercury," Hamilton "Times," Hamilton "Herald," Kingston "Whig," Kingston "Freeman," London "Advertiser," Paris "Star-Transcript," St. Catharines "Journal," St. Thomas "Journal," Ottawa "Free Press," "United Canada," "Le Temps," Belleville "Ontario-Sun," Sarnia "Observer," Windsor "Record," "Le Progrès," Toronto "Globe," "Monetary Times," Montreal "Herald," "La Patrie," "Journal of Commerce," "Le Moniteur du Commerce," "Shareholder," St. John's "Le Canada Francais," Valleyfield "Le Progrès," Owen Sound "Advertiser," Collingwood "Bulletin," Napanee "Express," Sherbrooke "Le Progrès de l'Est," Mount Forest "Confederate," Ingersoll "Ingersoll Chronicle." 3. \$56,700. 4. The date named in the contract for completion of work, 30th November next.

#### ST. JOSEPH DE LEVIS GRAVING DOCK.

Mr. **CASGRAIN** (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Is it the intention of the Government to ask the House, at this session, to vote a sum of money towards lengthening and otherwise improving the graving dock at St. Joseph de Lévis?

2. If so, what amount will the House be asked to vote?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). The Minister of Public Works instructs me to say that the subject matter of that question is now engaging his attention.

#### VALLEYFIELD WATER POWER.

Mr. **BERGERON** (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

Has the Minister of Public Works promised during the local election which took place in the county of Beauharnois, in the month of December, 1898, to deepen the bay at Valleyfield, so as to increase the water power for the manufacturers of that town, and is it the intention of the Government to carry out such works?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). The Minister of Public Works desires me to say, in answer to the hon. gentleman, that he did not make any promise to the manufacturers of Valleyfield to deepen the bay so as to increase the water power, but that he is giving to that question his best consideration.

#### PUBLIC BUILDINGS FOR VALLEYFIELD.

Mr. **BERGERON** (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

Has the Minister of Public Works promised the electors of Valleyfield, during the local election which took place in the county of Beauharnois,

in the month of December, 1898, that the Federal Government would build a post office, an excise office and a custom-house in their town, and is it the intention of the Government to have such buildings erected, and when ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). The hon. the Minister of Public Works did not make any promise to erect a post office, excise office or custom-house office in Valleyfield. But representations having been made to him by the citizens of that thriving town that they had been greatly neglected in the past, the hon. the Minister of Public Works promised to look carefully into their complaints.

#### BEAUHARNOIS WATER POWER.

Mr. **BERGERON** (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

Has the Minister of Public Works promised the directors of the woollen mills at Beauharnois, during the local election which took place in the county of Beauharnois in the month of December, 1898, that he would have some works made in the River St. Louis so as to increase the water power for their mills, and is it the intention of the Government to have such works made ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). In answer to the hon. gentleman the Minister of Public Works begs to state that he never promised the manufacturers of Beauharnois to have works made in the River St. Louis, so as to increase the water power, but that he has been requested to do so, and that he will give his best consideration to the representations that have been made to him.

#### MESSRS. PETERSEN, TATE & CO.— DEPOSIT.

Mr. **WALLACE** asked :

Has any application been made to the Government, or any member thereof, by Messrs. Petersen, Tate & Co., of Newcastle-on-Tyne, or any one in their behalf for a refund of the deposit (\$50,000) required of them for the proper fulfilment of their contract to establish a fast Atlantic service ? If so, what decision has been reached by the Government regarding such application ?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). Messrs. Petersen, Tate & Co. are seeking the return of the amount deposited, but no action has been taken by the Government in the matter.

Mr. **WALLACE**. What amount have they on deposit ?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. Ten thousand pounds sterling,

Mr. **WALLACE**. What about the guarantee ?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. The guarantee is not covered by the question ; that is dealt with otherwise. The question refers to

Mr. **BERGERON**.

the cash deposit and my answer has relation to that.

#### RIVIERE DU LOUP WHARF—COM- PLAINT BY JOSEPH GAGNE.

Mr. **CASGRAIN** asked :

1. Whether the Government or the Minister of Public Works have received a complaint in the following terms :—

“ Fraserville, P.Q., this 16th Sept., 1898.

“ To the Honourable Minister of Public Works,  
Ottawa.

“ Sir,—I have the honour to communicate to you the following facts which occurred in the course of the work now being done at the wharf at Rivière du Loup :—

“ 1. In the fall of 1897, and in 1898. F. F. Chamberland, superintendent of the said work, did, it appears, take into his possession and sell for his own profit the old deals taken from the said wharf, for the sum of about \$60.

“ 2. The said F. F. Chamberland did, moreover, it is alleged, take, remove and convert to his own use about 37 to 47 new, choice pine deals, received from Arsène Dubé, of St. Louis du Ha Ha and worth from 50 cents to 60 cents each.

“ 3. The said F. F. Chamberland did, it is alleged, use the said deals in work done by him for private parties, in and out of the town of Fraserville, during the course of the spring.

“ 4. The said F. F. Chamberland did, it is alleged, take, remove and appropriate to himself the whole cedar taken from the said wharf, did have it cut up into cord-wood and removed to his private house.

“ 5. The said F. F. Chamberland did employ two workmen in the employ of the Government on said wharf, for private parties, and to haul, saw and cord the said wood in his yard, while he allowed their time to run and paid them for the Government.

“ I beg to ask for an immediate inquiry into all the said facts.

“ Your devoted servant,

his  
“ **JOSEPH X GAGNE**.  
mark

“ Witness :

“ J. A. LeBEL..”

2. If so, has the Government or the Minister of Public Works given any and what reply to the said complaint ?

3. Is it the intention of the Government to institute an inquiry in order to ascertain the truth in relation to the said complaint ?

4. If not, why not ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). The Minister of Public Works desires to answer this question as follows :—1. To the hon. gentleman's first question I beg to answer that I have received the said letter. 2. I have not given any reply. 3. It is not the intention of the Government to institute an inquiry. 4. Because Joseph Gagné, the complainant, is very well known in Fraserville and in the neighbourhood as a man of doubtful character. I may add that if any man of good standing will make any complaint against Mr. Chamberland, I will order an immediate investigation.

**COST OF THE LIQUOR COMMISSION.**

Mr. SUTHERLAND asked :

What was the cost to the Dominion Treasury of the Royal Commission issued by the late Government appointing the Rev. McLeod and others commissioners to inquire into and report upon the "Liquor Question" ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). \$86,984.25.

**HON. GEO. E. FOSTER—TRAVELLING EXPENSES.**

Mr. McMULLEN asked :

What is the amount of the travelling and living expenses of the Hon. G. E. Foster, ex-Minister of Finance, whilst a Minister of the Crown ; also, what is the amount of the travelling and living expenses of his private secretaries, messengers, or other servants, or friends, who may have accompanied him, including cab-hire, railway or steamboat travel, private cars and all other expenses paid by the Government during the same period ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Hon. G. E. Foster, \$8,297.02 ; private secretary, \$748.08 ; total, \$9,045.10.

Mr. HUGHES. For 18 years ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). He was not in office 18 years.

**SIR CHARLES TUPPER—TRAVELLING EXPENSES.**

Mr. McMILLAN asked :

What is the amount of travelling and living expenses for the Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., also the travelling and living expenses of his private secretary, messenger or other servants, or friends accompanying him, including cab-hire, railway or steamboat travel, private cars and all other expenses paid by the Government whilst he was a Minister of the Crown and High Commissioner ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). As Minister, including private secretary, \$11,936.04 ; as High Commissioner, \$5,045.25, in addition to whatever he spent in travelling expenses out of the allowance of \$2,000 a year voted by Parliament towards the contingent expenses (water, light, fuel, carriage hire and railway fare) of the High Commissioner, of which no details are given.

**STIKINE-TESLIN ROUTE—Mr. COSTE'S REPORT.**

Mr. BENNETT asked :

Did the late chief engineer of the Public Works Department report in writing to the Minister of the said department the result of his survey on the Stikine-Teslin route ? Is it intended to distribute such report, if one was made ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). In answer to the first part of the question the Minister of Public Works says : Yes, such a report was received, and if the hon. member desires it to be distributed, a motion must be made to that effect.

**L'ARDOISE BREAKWATER.**

Mr. GILLIES asked :

1. How much of the grant of \$3,500, voted last session for the repairs of the L'Ardoise breakwater, has been expended ?

2. Upon what dates were the payments made of the amount so expended ?

3. For what purpose were these payments made ?

4. What portion of the amount voted has been paid out for stone and other material ?

5. What portion, if any, of the said grant of \$3,500 has been paid out for labour actually performed in making repairs upon the breakwater ?

6. As a matter of fact, have any repairs whatever been made to the said breakwater since last session ?

7. What amount has been paid for inspection of material and supervision, and to whom paid, since September, 1898 ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). 1. Expenditure to date, \$1,126.66. 2. Paid 16th February, 1899, \$269.40 ; pay-lists and accounts for January and February in hands of paymaster who is now in Cape Breton and will probably make this payment about 28th of March, \$857.26 ; total, \$1,126.66. 3. Providing material for the work of repairing the breakwater, which is to be commenced in the spring. 4. Stone, \$991.41 ; sundry supplies, \$3 ; total, \$994.41. 5. None as yet. 6. None as yet. 7. Paid to J. G. Monbourquette for superintending and inspecting materials delivered November to February, \$120.25 ; paid labourers preparing place for deposit of materials, \$12 ; total, \$132.25. Grand total, \$1,126.66.

**PETIT DE GRAT BREAKWATER.**

Mr. GILLIES asked :

1. Has the work upon the Petit de Grat breakwater, Richmond County, Nova Scotia, been completed ? If so, when ?

2. When was this work commenced ?

3. Who was the local superintendent or inspector of this work ?

4. What amount has been paid to him for services as inspector or superintendent ?

5. What has been the total amount expended up to date in the actual construction of this work ?

6. How much does the Government intend expending during the year 1899 upon this work ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). 1. No. Work was suspended on 30th November last, to be resumed in the spring. 2. On the 24th October, 1898. 3. Mr. Dominique Boudrot was the foreman. 4. \$27. 5. \$1,046.41. 6. \$453.59. The balance of the appropriation of \$1,500.

VICTORIA, B.C., POST OFFICE—TENDERS FOR SAFES.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

1. Were tenders called for, for the supplying and erecting of the elevators and safes or safe doors in the post office at Victoria, B.C. ?
2. If so, what were the names of the tenderers, and what was the amount of the tenders ?
3. To whom were the contracts, if any, given, and at what figures ?
4. If tenders were not invited, to whom were the contracts given, and at what prices ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). 1. Yes. 2. The following two tenders were received for the elevators : The Fensom Elevator Works of Toronto, \$6,687 ; Lewis Bros. & Co., of Montreal, \$9,400. Two tenders were also received for the vault, viz. : Messrs. J. and J. Taylor, of Toronto, \$17,650 ; Goldie & McCulloch, of Galt, \$20,000. 3. Contract for the elevators was given to the Fensom Elevator Works, Toronto, for the sum of \$6,687. Messrs. J. & J. Taylor, of Toronto, were awarded the contract for the vault for the sum of \$17,645. 4. Answered above.

MR. L. V. LABELLE.

Mr. DUGAS asked :

1. What official positions have been held by Ls. V. Labelle in the Department of Agriculture, since July, 1896 ?
2. What moneys have been paid to him, and for what ?
3. Is he now in the service of the Government, and in what capacity ?
4. Was he employed to go to the United States in order to examine certain industries, and report thereon to the Government ?
5. If so, what was the amount of his salary, and of his travelling and hotel expenses ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). 1. Mr. L. V. Labelle has been employed to give lectures, and information by other means, on the growing and handling of tobacco, at various times from 21st July to April, 1899. 2. \$416.66 has been paid to Mr. Labelle for services, and \$401.23 for travelling expenses. 3. Mr. Labelle is engaged as tobacco expert for the Department of Agriculture, his engagement being for one year from 18th April, 1899. 4. No. 5. Not being engaged in that capacity, nothing was paid.

DR. J. A. DUCHESNE.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Did the Government give instructions to Dr. J. A. Duchesne, veterinary surgeon, of Chicoutimi, in the county of Chicoutimi, to give lectures on tuberculosis during the winter of 1898-99 ?
  2. If so, who recommended the said Duchesne, and on what grounds ?
  3. What is the salary of the said Duchesne, and how long is his term of service to last ?
  4. How much has been paid to him up to date ?
- Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). Mr. Duchesne was paid \$3 a day and expenses while at work. He was to attend a certain series of meetings laid out by the Department of Agriculture in company with a lecturer on dairying and cold storage. \$335.95 were paid to Mr. Duchesne altogether while in his employment. Mr. Duchesne was employed by the Department of Agriculture to give lectures on tuberculosis during the winter of 1898-99, and was recommended by Mr. Scriver, M.P., on the ground of his fitness for this work.

SCOWS FOR DREDGING AT ROBERVAL.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Is it true that the Government is having constructed at Roberval, county of Chicoutimi, by one W. Donaghoe, scows for carrying the earth raised by the dredge at that place ?
2. Are the said scows being constructed under contract, or by day's labour ? If so, who recommended the said Donaghoe for the said work and what are his prices, in detail, paid to him therefor ?
3. Who are his sureties ?
4. What work is he to perform for the Government in return for the prices agreed upon ?
5. What kind of lumber and timber is to be used, and at what prices ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). In reply I beg to say: 1. No. 2. The scows will be constructed by day labour, under the direct supervision of an officer of this department, Mr. Donaghoe not having anything to do with the construction of said scows.

LEONCE P. BILODEAU—CONTRACT FOR STOREHOUSES.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Were the storehouses erected on the wharfs at Mistassini and St. Méthode or Tekouapé, constructed under contract by one Léonce P. Bilodeau, of Roberval ?
2. If so, had the Government asked for tenders, and had the said Bilodeau made the lowest tender ?
3. If the Government had not asked for tenders, who recommended the said Bilodeau for the work, and what reasons were urged to induce the Government to so act ?
4. How much has been paid to the said Bilodeau ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). In reply I beg to say: 1. Yes. 2. An agreement was made with Mr. Bilodeau for the erection of the sheds in question for \$150 each. 3. Mr. Bilodeau's offer was found by the local engineer to be satisfactory. 4. \$150 each for the two sheds in question.

PARAGRAPH IN "LE SOLEIL."

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Whether the Government or the Controller of Customs have had cognizance of the following

paragraph published in "Le Soleil" of 22nd March instant :—

"Mr. Wenceslas LeBel, customs officer, has been entrusted by Mr. Carroll with the task of revising the electoral lists, and is now going through the county" (of Kamouraska) ?

2. Should the statement of fact embodied in the foregoing paragraph be correct, are the Government prepared to dismiss the said Wenceslas LeBel, for political partisanship ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). In reply I beg to say : 1. Neither the Government nor the Minister of Customs have had cognizance of the paragraph referred to. 2. The facts relative to the matter would have to be obtained before an expression of opinion could be given.

#### INFRACTIONS OF CUSTOMS LAW.

Mr. FOSTER asked :

1. When did the Government first become aware of alleged infractions of the customs law on the part of Frederick Schafheitlin and Michael Fitzgibbon, doing business in Montreal ?

2. What steps were taken to investigate the alleged frauds by the Department of Customs, and did they result in confirming the charges against these parties ?

3. Was information laid against them in the Exchequer Court or any other court for the recovery of duties and enforcement of penalties ; and if so, when and for what amount ?

4. Has any offer been made to the Government for settlement before or since the commencement of the suit for recovery ?

5. Has the case been yet disposed of either by decision of the court or by settlement with the Government, and if so, what has been the amount paid, and what penalties have been exacted ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). In reply I beg to say : 1. Formal charges in respect to infractions of the customs laws on the part of Frederick Schafheitlin and Michael Fitzgibbon, doing business in Montreal, were first transmitted to the Customs Department by the Collector of Customs at Montreal on December 11th, 1897. 2. The usual notice in such cases was sent to the parties on the 14th December, 1897, and the customs entries made by them for a series of years were inspected and tabulated. After consideration of the information furnished by the informant and the evidence collected in support thereof, and also papers filed by the said parties in their defence, it appeared that some infractions of the customs laws (the extent of which was undetermined) had been committed in respect to the goods entered for these importers. The documents and papers relating to the matter were transmitted to the Department of Justice. 3. After further investigation by the Department of Justice, informations were filed October 7th, 1898, against these importers as co-partners, under the name, style and firm of Fitzgibbon, Schafheitlin & Company, and also against them as co-partners formerly doing business under the name, style and firm of Thouret, Fitzgibbon & Company.

The following are the amounts claimed on the information, viz. :—

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| In the case of Fitzgibbon, Schafheitlin & Co.—                                      |             |
| (a) Balance of customs duties....   | \$ 2,584 37 |
| (b) Value of goods forfeited.....   | 59,284 25   |
| (c) Additional value of goods forfeited .....                                       | 59,284 25   |
| (d) Penalties (other).....  | 23,200 00   |
| In the case of Thouret, Fitzgibbon & Co.—   |             |
| (a) Customs duties on importations from 1st January, 1892, to 30th April, 1895..... | 9,649 83    |
| And on importations from 1884 to 1892 .....   | 34,272 00   |
| (b) Interest on foregoing .....   |             |

4. No offer has been made to the Government for settlement before or since the suit for recovery. 5. The case has not been disposed of by decision of the court or by settlement with the Government.

#### A RAILWAY COMMISSION.

Mr. McMILLAN asked :

As a sum of money was placed in the Estimates last year for the purpose of collecting information and otherwise respecting a railway commission, is it the intention of the Government to take steps during the present session with a view of appointing a railway commission ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I have to inform my hon. friend that this matter is still engaging the attention of the Government.

#### CONTRACTS FOR TELEGRAPH LINE ON NORTH SHORE OF ST. LAWRENCE.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Before the contract was awarded to L. P. DeCourval for the putting up of the telegraph line on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, did the Government let the same work done by contract or by day's labour ?

2. If contracts were at any time awarded for the said work, before the date of the contract with the said L. P. DeCourval, what was the price per mile for putting up the said telegraph wire ?

3. If the work was done by the day, what was the price per day paid to the working hands, and were they not boarded, in addition to their pay ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). In reply I beg to say : 1. The various sections of the line between Murray Bay and Pointe aux Esquimaux were built partly by contract and partly by day labour. The section between Murray Bay and Mille Vaches (89 miles) was built by contract by the Montreal Telegraph Company in 1881. The section from Mille Vaches to Bersimis (53½ miles) was built by contract with the Great North-western Telegraph Company in 1882. The section from Trinity Bay to Moisie (129 miles) was built by contracts, of 16th March, 1883, and 13th June, 1884, with Messrs. Gagnon & Frères, while the sections on

Manicouagan Peninsula (18 miles), from Godbout to Trinity Bay (32 miles), and from Moisie to Pointe aux Esquimaux (142 miles), were built by day labour. 2. The price of the first contract, with the Montreal Telegraph Company, was \$135 per mile. That of the second, with the Great North-western Telegraph Company, from Mille Vaches to Bersimis, was \$250 per mile. The contract price of the section built by Messrs. A. Gagnon & Frère was \$89.75 per mile, not including wood clearance, which was subsequently made by day labour. 3. The price per day to the labourers employed was \$1.30, partly in cash and partly in provisions. The total cost of construction per mile having been on an average of \$139 per mile. The price paid to Mr. DeCourval was \$105 per mile, to which must be added \$22 per mile for wire, spikes and insulators, bringing the cost to \$127 per mile.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Did the Government call for tenders before awarding the contract for putting up the telegraph line on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, in the county of Chicoutimi, to L. P. DeCourval ?

2. If so, how many tenders were forwarded to the Public Works Department ?

3. What was the amount of each tender, and the name of the party tendering ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I beg to reply : No public tenders were asked, the arrangement with Mr. L. P. DeCourval at \$105 per mile being looked upon as very satisfactory, and his tender being favourably reported upon by the superintendent of the telegraph service.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Who were the persons who recommended L. P. DeCourval as contractor for the telegraph line on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, in the district of Chicoutimi ?

2. Is it true that at some date since June, 1896, the Government passed an Order in Council freeing L. P. DeCourval from the obligation of using cedar posts for the said line, and allowing him to use the timber he found on the spot, and even to attach the wire to standing trees along the line ?

3. If so, does that permission still stand ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I beg to reply : 1. Mr. DeCourval, as a land surveyor, had occasion to explore several times the region over which the line of telegraph was to pass. His tender, which was reported upon by the superintendent of the telegraph service as a fair and reasonable one, was accepted by the department. 2 and 3. No such Order in Council was passed.

#### WHARF AT RIVIERE LA PIPE.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. What prices were paid for the stone used in building the wharf at Rivière La Pipe, county of Chicoutimi ?

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

2. What prices were paid for the several kinds of timber and lumber used in the said works ?

3. Who recommended the man Pednault as supervisor of the said work ?

4. How much money had been paid to the said Pednault for services of any kind, for travelling expenses, for board, and on other grounds, before, during and after the construction of the said wharf, since 1st July, 1896 ?

5. Why did not the Government select for the said work a resident of Lake St. John district ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I beg to reply : 1. \$4 per toise. 2. The prices paid for timber and lumber were the following :—Round, 9 in. to 11 in. diameter, spruce or pine, 5c. per lineal foot ; square, 11 in. x 11 in., spruce or pine, 10c. per lineal foot. All prices certified fair and reasonable by local engineer Blais. 3. Satisfactory to department. 4. The only payments made to A. Pednault, foreman, were the following :—Wages—March, 1898, \$48 ; April, 1898, \$44 ; total, \$92. 5. The reason why Mr. Pednault, a resident of Chicoutimi, was entrusted with the construction of the works at Rivière La Pipe was that in the opinion of the engineer no competent foreman could be found at Rivière La Pipe, and the department is always anxious to employ practical carpenters.

#### PERMANENT MILITIA IN THE YUKON.

Mr. FOSTER asked :

1. What is the number of the permanent militia now in the Yukon district, men and officers ?

2. How are they distributed ?

3. What duties are they performing ?

4. What is the cost per day of the total force, maintenance and pay ?

5. Have they been called upon to quell any disturbances since their arrival in the Yukon ?

6. What was the total cost of transporting them from Ottawa to their several posts, and by what routes did they go ?

7. What were the dates of their leaving British Columbia and their arrival in the Yukon ?

8. Is it proposed to augment or diminish the force ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. 202. 2. Ten officers and 120 non-commissioned officers and men at Fort Selkirk, and 2 officers and 70 non-commissioned officers and men at Dawson City. 3. Ordinary garrison duties. 4. The pay of the force at present, including extra pay and allowance, is about \$235 per diem, and maintenance about \$454 per diem at present prices of food and rates of freight. 5. Not up to date of latest report. 6. The cost of transporting the force to Selkirk was \$19,838. They went via Wrangel, Telegraph Creek and Teslin Lake routes. 7. Left British Columbia 14th May, 1898. The first detachment arrived at Fort Selkirk 25th July following ; second and last, 11th September. 8. This matter is under consideration.

**POST OFFICE, BERTHIER (EN HAUT).**

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. What was the price paid by the Government for the purchase of the ground on which the post office of Berthier (en haut), in the county of Berthier, stands ?

2. What was the price originally paid by Government for the building wherein the post office is located ?

3. What has been the cost of repairs done to the building since its acquisition by Government ?

4. Who are the contractors who carried out the said repairs ?

5. Does the postmaster of Berthier occupy the said building ? If not, who does, and on what terms ?

6. What is the salary of the postmaster ?

7. What is the salary of any and every other person attached to the office or occupying the said building ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). 1 and 2. The price paid for the whole property, including the building wherein the post office is located, was \$3,200. 3 and 4. The cost of repairing and improving the building was \$1,246. The work was done by Grotée & Frères. The cost of box-fronts was \$72.85 ; said box-fronts were supplied by Rubenstein, of Montreal. 5. He occupies the post office part of the building during office hours. The caretaker occupies the balance of the building ; he receives no salary, but is provided with fuel and light. 6 and 7. The Post Office Department, to which these questions relate, is preparing answers. The question had better be allowed to stand.

**BOON & ARMSTRONG'S CONTRACT, COLLINGWOOD.**

Mr. BENNETT (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

Have Boon & Armstrong, contractors for harbour works at Collingwood, assigned the original contract held by them to any person or persons ? If so, when was such assignment made ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). No, the contractors have not assigned the contract.

**MESSRS. COSTE AND LAFONTAINE IN THE YUKON.**

Mr. QUINN asked :

What instructions were given by the Government or by the Minister of the department to Messrs. Coste and Lafontaine on their going to the Yukon ? What amount of money was spent by them in their work ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The subject matter to which this question refers can more properly be made the subject of a motion. I will have to ask my hon. friend (Mr. Quinn), if he desires the information, to move for a return.

**OVERFLOW OF RED RIVER, ST. NORBERT.**

Mr. LARIVIERE asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to put a sufficient amount in the Estimates to indemnify the owners of lands in the parish of St. Norbert, in the province of Manitoba, who have suffered from the overflow of the Red River on lot 50 of that parish ; and to do such work as may be required to prevent this overflow in the future ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). This subject is engaging the attention of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), and the hon. gentleman (Mr. LaRivière) will see the result when the Estimates are brought down.

**CLAIM OF J. P. O. ALLAIRE.**

Mr. LARIVIERE asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to include in the Estimates an amount to cover the claim of J. P. O. Allaire, of St. Boniface, as the same appears in a return made by the accountant of the Inland Revenue Department, dated 4th January, 1896, and presented to this House during the session of that year ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). This subject is now under consideration.

**PAPERS RESPECTING THE PLEBISCITE.**

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to call the attention of the First Minister—the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), I see, is not present—to the fact that the returns held by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, from which the Minister of Agriculture quoted in an address he gave here a few days ago, have not been laid on the Table of the House. When I made the request that this be done, the ruling of Mr. Speaker was, that these papers ought to be brought down, and brought down as soon as possible after being quoted from. Now, if my hon. friend will allow me, I may say that the subject matter ranged over a very wide series of counties and polling places. I do not wish to put the Government to the trouble of bringing all these down at present. If they would bring down the papers for the counties of Beauce, Lévis, Montmagny, and Kamouraska, it would be sufficient for the present. I only want the polling-books and copies of the voters' lists, as they were used at the time of the vote.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I must say, that I cannot agree with the statement of facts just made by my hon. friend (Mr. Foster). My recollection is, that my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) expressly disclaimed quoting from any document in the hands of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery.

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose it would be out of the usual order to have a discussion on this matter now; but I would like to point out to the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) how very—I do not like to say, how thin that excuse is—how very fragile is the excuse he gives for not bringing down these papers. If you, Mr. Speaker, object to my going on at this time, I have only to say I will put myself right by a motion afterwards. But I should not take more than two or three minutes to explain the matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. It will be necessary to have a motion.

Mr. FOSTER. I will put myself in order.

The PRIME MINISTER. It is hardly necessary to make a motion. I would ask my hon. friend (Mr. Foster), if he wants to bring the matter up, to wait until the Minister of Agriculture is present.

#### EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE (West Toronto). I would like to ask the First Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), if his attention has been drawn to a telegraphic despatch in the Canadian newspapers respecting the exodus of our people, especially from the province of Quebec, to the United States. I hold in my hand a copy of a portion of yesterday's Montreal "Star," in which appears the following despatch, copied from a special despatch to the New York "Commercial Advertiser":

Boston, April 19.—The influx of Canadians to New England this spring is the heaviest known for many years and is causing the Canadian Government officials some uneasiness. The backward spring in Canada, higher wages and improved outlook in manufacturing towns on this side of the line are the causes of the movement. It is estimated that almost 20,000 persons, a large proportion of whom are French Canadians, have crossed the line this season. Usually at this time the tide of travel favours Canada, but this year the annual exodus is very limited.

The influx has upset the plans of the Canadian Government, which proposed to take thousands of French to Quebec and settle them on free land. The labour market here is oversupplied and lower wages for farm labourers are predicted. Many of the cotton mills report that they have more applications for employment than they can accept.

I would like to ask if the attention of the right hon. the Prime Minister has been drawn to this despatch, if there is any foundation for it, and if so, what is the intention of the Government respecting the matter?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). My attention has not been drawn to this despatch. I have only to say that I do not believe the statement of the "Star," not even when it is backed up by an American paper.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

#### CONSTRUCTIONS OVER NAVIGABLE WATERS.

House resolved itself into Committee on Bill (No. 19) to amend the Act respecting certain works constructed in or over navigable waters.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. BRITTON. In deference to the opinion expressed in the House yesterday, I beg to move that, instead of the words as printed, the following shall be the section:—

Any local authority, company or person may proceed in like manner to obtain the approval by the Governor General in Council of the site and plans of any work constructed prior to the 1st day of March, 1899.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the object of the hon. gentleman's amendment?

Mr. BRITTON. The object of the Bill is to provide for obtaining the sanction of the Governor General in Council to works constructed after the passing of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1886, and down to date. The Revised Statutes provide for two classes of cases: One class is works to be constructed, and for such works the consent of the Governor in Council might be obtained by giving notice and filing a plan, and then applying to the Governor in Council for that consent. Then section 6 provides that in like manner consent could be obtained to works heretofore constructed. But apparently persons thought that they could obtain the consent of the Governor in Council after they had constructed their works, and so certain works were constructed, docks on the Pacific coast, and docks and wharfs on the St. Lawrence. Application was made, but the interpretation put upon the statute was, and I suppose properly so, that they could not get their consent after the construction had been completed, after the wharf was built. So it results that there are now in several parts of the Dominion wharfs and piers, in many cases small ones, constructed since the passing of the Act in 1886, for which no consent has been obtained. This is to give power to the Governor in Council to consent to these constructions, on an application, in the same manner as if they had applied before the construction.

Mr. FOSTER. But it only applies to such works as have been already constructed, and does not go on to apply to any that from this date on shall be constructed without consent.

Mr. BRITTON. No.

Mr. HAGGART. Do I understand the hon. gentleman to say that a pre-requisite to all this is that the necessary notice shall be given the same as if the work was commenced de novo?

Mr. BRITTON. Yes.

Mr. TISDALE. That is provided for by section 5.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I agree with the hon. gentleman that it should be so. The only question is whether the object the hon. gentleman has in view can be obtained if you put in that pre-requisite. If I understand it aright this question provides that before you commence to build you shall get the sanction of the Governor General in Council to your plans and to the location. The hon. gentleman's amendment has reference to works which are already built, and which did not obtain the sanction of the Governor in Council, having been built by parties under the assumption that that was not necessary. The hon. gentleman seeks to obtain their subsequent sanction to the work already constructed. I do not understand that therefore the exact forms must be complied with, but it ought to be necessary to give public notice.

Mr. HAGGART. The hon. gentleman says this will be done before the Governor in Council shall give his consent.

Mr. BRITTON. Yes, that is right. Section 5 requires these notices to be given and the plan to be registered. Now I say in my amendment that, in reference to works already constructed, the person shall in like manner proceed to get consent.

Mr. TISDALE. This repeals section 6. Now what was section 6 for, in 1886, when that law was passed? Under the law as it now stands, you can get consent before you commence, by giving notices. Section 5 regulates the manner of getting consent; section 6, which the hon. gentleman proposes to repeal and substitute this for, provides:

Any local authority, company or person may proceed in like manner—

That is, as provided in section 5.

—to obtain the approval by the Governor General in Council of the site and plans of any work heretofore constructed.

Now since 1886, as the hon. gentleman explains, many works have been constructed without consent. He proposes now, and this section provides that any work built between 1886 practically and now shall be entitled to get that consent as provided in section 5 and after the work is constructed without depositing plans and giving notice. It was all discussed last night, and it was understood that the hon. gentleman would change it in that way.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). My criticism was, that if you are to proceed in like manner, then you must file your plans with the Governor in Council before the work is built.

Mr. FOSTER. No; read section 5.

Mr. TISDALE. Section 6 is to obviate section 5, providing that you must get consent before.

Mr. FOSTER. All you have to do is to deposit plans, give a description, and give the necessary notice.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Is that before, or after the work is done?

Mr. FOSTER. In the case of a work that is not constructed, it must be before; in the case of one that is constructed, it must be afterwards.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It strikes me that the provision, as the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) originally introduced it, was much more apt. You are making it necessary to file plans before the work is constructed. The section cannot mean that, because it has reference to work already constructed. As he originally introduced the Bill, he provided that the Governor in Council might sanction or approve of works already constructed, after a certain notice is given.

Mr. TISDALE. No; no notice at all. The objection to the other clause was, that it vested power in the Minister of Public Works to give no notice or chance for anybody who wished to be heard. That was the reason that the hon. gentleman consented to the change. That provision has been for years in the public statutes in regard to navigable waters, precisely the same provision as when the Act was consolidated.

Amendment agreed to, and Bill reported.

#### PUNISHMENT OF SEDUCTION AND ABDUCTION.

Mr. JOHN CHARLTON (North Norfolk) moved that Bill (No. 2) to amend the Criminal Code, 1892, so as to make more effectual provision for the punishment of seduction and abduction, be read a second time. He said: Mr. Speaker, I rise to move the second reading of Bill (No. 2) to amend the Criminal Code, 1892, so as to make more effectual provision for the punishment of seduction and abduction. The provision, as contained in the first section of the Bill, is:

Section 181 of the Criminal Code, 1892, is hereby amended by substituting the word "eighteen" for the word "sixteen" in the fifth line thereof. Section 181 of the Criminal Code is as follows:—

Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two years' imprisonment who seduces and has illicit connection with any girl of previously chaste character of or above the age of fourteen years and under the age of sixteen years.

The Bill proposes to change the term of the age of consent from sixteen years to eighteen years. The Bill, no doubt, Mr. Speaker,

will be criticised as a piece of moral legislation which, possibly, in the estimation of some hon. members of this House, may be a kind of legislation not properly coming within its jurisdiction. We have, however, I believe, Mr. Speaker, the right, and not only the right, but the duty, rests upon this House to care for the public welfare of this Dominion; and much of our legislation, legislation of the most necessary kind, is legislation of a moral character. Legislation in regard to the rights of life and property is, in a sense, moral legislation, because all of these offences are provided against in the Decalogue. We have the commandments: Thou shalt not kill; Thou shalt not steal; Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour; and all of these commandments are necessarily supplemented by legislation. We have laws for the punishment of murder, for the punishment of assault, for the punishment of theft, for the punishment of perjury. Crimes against the seventh commandment are, perhaps, just as subversive of the best interests of society as crimes against the sixth, or the eighth, or the ninth commandment, and it is advisable for the legislature of a country to make provision with reference to these infractions of the commandments, handed down to man for his observance, and it certainly is in the interest of society that safeguards should be adopted bearing upon the morality of the people. No vice will more speedily sap the foundations of public morality and of national strength than licentiousness, and any legislation adopted by the legislature that is calculated to preserve the chastity of women, that is calculated to restrain the passions of men, that is calculated to give to society a better tone and a greater degree of purity, is a class of legislation most desirable in the public interest. The importance of this Bill I do not need to urge upon the House. The Bill will explain itself; the provision is a very plain one, and opinions will, no doubt, be formed upon this question, either for or against the provision. We have legislation upon the statute-books by which it is provided that the age of consent shall be sixteen years. That provision has been in the law of Canada for a number of years. I was connected with the introduction of that legislation. I have a very distinct remembrance, Mr. Speaker, of, I might almost say, the odium that was visited on my head as the promoter of that legislation. It received scant courtesy at the hands of this House when first introduced. The Bill eventually became law, and the law has been in operation for many years. The character of the law is well understood, and the effect of that provision placing the age of consent at sixteen years has been a salutary one beyond all doubt. I do not believe that the better class of the population of this country would for one moment listen to a proposition to abrogate that law, and remove that safe-

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guard applied for the safety and protection of young females in this country. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that if the fixing of the age of consent at sixteen years, has been a satisfactory and beneficial provision, it would be equally satisfactory to extend the age of consent two years later, and make it eighteen years. Laws of this character mark the highest and most advanced civilization. Great Britain has a law of this character; in nearly every state of the American union laws of this character are upon the statute-book; we in Canada have such a law. The three most enlightened commonwealths or nations in existence have deemed it necessary to protect virtue, and to throw the mantle of protection around young females, by the enactment of a law making it a criminal offence to seduce a female under a certain fixed age. With regard to this age of consent, various periods have been selected by various legislatures. I believe that in the American Union, not a great number of States have adopted the limit of eighteen years; but some of the most advanced and populous and enlightened of these States, for instance, the great commonwealth of the State of New York, with a population of six millions, has a statute fixing the age of consent at eighteen years. In some States it is sixteen years, and in some as low as fourteen years. It is unnecessary, Mr. Speaker, to dwell further upon this question. I do not desire to detain the House with reference to this matter further than to state that we are not without evidence that public opinion in this country sets decidedly in the direction of enacting this amendment to the Criminal Code. We had last year a number of petitions presented to this House; we had a number of deputations waiting upon the Premier of this country and other members of the Ministry asking for this change. We have had no voice in the opposite direction; no protest against this demand, but so far as we have the voice of the Christian sentiment of this country, so far as we have the expression of opinion of the various organizations representing morals and Christianity in the Dominion, we have a unanimous endorsement of the change asked for in this Bill, making the age of consent eighteen years instead of sixteen. I claim, Sir, that the result of the law as it at present stands, would justify this change. It is unnecessary for me at this time to enlarge upon the assertion, that in laying the foundations of the institutions of a young nation like Canada, it is of the highest importance to lay them aright, and any provision that will tend to make our population more virtuous, that will tend to restrain vice, that will tend to protect the innocent and defenceless, is a provision that should be adopted in this House without question. I beg to move the second reading of this Bill, seconded by my colleague, Mr. Scriver, of Huntingdon.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

## TRANSIT OF GRAIN IN MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Mr. J. M. DOUGLAS (East Assinibola) moved second reading of Bill (No. 16) to regulate the trade in grain in Manitoba and the North-west Territories.

He said: I beg, Mr. Speaker, to move the second reading of this Bill, seconded by my hon. friend (Mr. Rutherford). I may explain to the House the condition of things in the North-west that has given rise to the necessity for the introduction of this Bill. Some few years ago, an arrangement was entered into by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the gentlemen who control what is known as the elevator system, handling grain in the North-west Territories; and they have come to such an agreement that these gentlemen investing their capital for the purpose of constructing elevators holding not less than 25,000 bushels of grain, should enjoy the protection of the company, and that no one else should be allowed to do business at points where such elevators were constructed. As hon. gentlemen will readily understand, this agreement shut out a large number of men who were engaged in the grain business, and who had buildings of less size than had been decided upon by the railway company and the other parties to the agreement. Consequently, two years ago the owners of flat warehouses and men who had smaller buildings, were notified that they could not do business longer through that medium, and that they must ship their grain through the standard elevator system. That was felt to be a grievance by the owners of these smaller buildings, for not only had they lost their property, but they were driven out of the business that they had followed for years previously. Further, it was a grievance felt very keenly by the producers of grain in Manitoba and the North-west Territories generally. We can very easily show, that the men doing business in these smaller buildings had given great satisfaction to the public generally, and when this matter was before the House last session, hon. gentlemen will remember that we showed upon sworn testimony that the men engaged in this line of business were able to pay prices ranging from 3 cents to 15 cents per bushel more than had been paid by the men interested in the larger elevators. This led last year to the introduction of a Bill to correct that evil. We had the opportunity of discussing the subject at length, with the officials of the railway companies, especially those of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and I am glad to inform the House that the officials of that company were honest enough to state that they were not prepared, either publicly or in any other way to defend the arrangement that had been entered into between them and the builders of what are known as standard elevators. They felt that their agreement, however convenient to themselves, was in

contradiction to the spirit of the General Railway Act of the Dominion of Canada. This was a concession of no small importance to us in seeking to rectify the evils that exist. In order to meet the wishes of the people generally, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company acceded to our wishes to this extent, that they allowed the producer last season to load directly from his conveyance into cars; and I am glad to state to this House, after conference with the traffic manager of that company, that a large amount of grain has been shipped during the present season by that arrangement. The difficulties that were predicted by the elevator companies seemed to vanish. They supposed that such was the rush in the grain season that the cars would be unduly detained, and that in consequence the rapidity and facility of getting the grain out during the season, before the close of navigation, would be interfered with. But no difficulties of that kind were apparent. Only three or four cases occurred where cars were detained beyond the proper time, and demurrage had been charged by the railway company. In those cases cars had been detained three or four days.

The present Bill seeks to secure for the people, not any new privilege, but the restoration of privileges that have been enjoyed for years past—privileges that are now enjoyed along other lines of railway in Manitoba and the North-west Territories—along the Manitoba and North-western, the Manitoba and Southwestern, and almost every other line in operation apart from the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The Bill seeks to provide that those men who have been driven out of business because they have not a standard elevator, shall have the privilege of returning to their business and utilizing the property they now possess. Furthermore, I desire hon. gentlemen to look at the matter in this light, that the restoration of this privilege is the want of the people to-day, and is a subject of continual agitation throughout the whole length and breadth of the land.

Various reasons may be given why we should have the restoration of shipping facilities to the people through flat warehouses. I might enumerate some of these to make the position more plain. In the first place, we believe that no company has a right to dictate as to who should engage in this business, or as to who should buy and ship grain and offer it on the market for sale. Every man has a right, as a loyal Canadian subject, to claim this privilege, and ought to possess it if he feels so disposed. Then there are objections to the use of the elevator system exclusively. One of these is that grain for seeding purposes in the other provinces cannot be shipped through the elevator system. There are not a sufficient number of compartments to keep such grain pure and unmixed; so that it is impossible to-day to

tranship such grain through these elevators to Ontario, Quebec and the provinces by the sea. Then there is a further difficulty. The present state of the market requires competition. It is not a wise thing that a trade of this kind, especially the grain trade, which is assuming such vast importance, and growing in extent every year, should be exclusively in the hands of a few companies. It is felt that the fact, for example, that one telegram going out from Winnipeg to all the points where grain is purchased, and fixing the price for that day, is not a safe thing in the public interest; but that it is in the public interest to have men outside of this combination who shall exercise a healthy influence upon the price that is offered for grain each day as the work progresses.

Then there are difficulties which have arisen during the past season. For example, certain towns are apparently boycotted in the matter of price. I may mention the towns of Morden, Moosomin and Wolseley. It is perfectly safe for me to say that the town of Moosomin, which is in the centre of a large grain-growing country, did not this season receive 10 per cent of the amount of grain that was grown in the district. The prices were such that farmers and producers sent their grain further west or further east, and received better weight and better prices for it. To illustrate this, I may give you a case in point. Mr. J. R. Fhinn, who is a member of the grain standard board and is a graduate and gold medalist of the Agricultural College at Guelph—so that it may be taken for granted that he understands his business and knows whereof he speaks—last autumn shipped about 2,000 bushels of grain through the elevator to Fort William, and there stored it. He did not sell at the time, but waited until the 23rd of November, when he sold to a member of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. On that day the Fort William quotations were 71c. and 72c., and he got 71½c. for his wheat. The certificate stating the quantity and quality, namely, 2,000 bushels of No. 1 hard was all the guarantee the buyer wanted, and of course Mr. Fhinn got his price accordingly. Now, allowing for all charges, storage over twenty days included, he was able to realize at Fort William that day 57½c. net for his wheat. On the same day wheat at Moosomin was worth only 50c. according to the buyers on the market. This case has been perfectly established and verified; and here were 7½c. gained on every bushel; so that the gain to Mr. Fhinn on the 2,000 bushels, as a result of shipping to Fort William, was \$150. You can easily understand that if this was true in his case, it was true in the case of every producer who offered grain on the market that day, had realized a corresponding loss, and there are four elevators taking in grain at that point. This instance is an evidence that there is need of some check on the elevator system; and we believe that the only

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safety for the people is to re-establish the smaller warehouses and to allow other men outside of the combine to engage in this trade.

There is another feature in which the Bill differs from the Bill that was introduced last year and withdrawn at its third reading. It is the introduction of grain chutes. The railway company was pleased this season to grant the privilege to farmers loading directly from their conveyances to the cars. This was a relief, but only a partial relief. It will easily be seen by hon. gentlemen that producers living six or eight miles from the railway on either side could not avail themselves of this privilege, because they were not able to load a car in time to take advantage of this means. Hence the introduction of the grain chute.

The grain chute will extend the same privilege perhaps to a further extent on either side of the line, by allowing people living from twenty to twenty-five miles from either side to ship directly by this method. This grain chute is supposed to hold from 700 to 1,400 bushels, not less and not more, and it is so constructed that by the force of gravity, without machinery, the farmer can run his grain directly into the car and so escape the expense of one and a half cents per bushel for shipment charged by the elevator company.

Another and perhaps the main feature of the Bill is the appointment of a Chief Inspector to oversee the entire grain trade in Manitoba and the North-west Territories. I am satisfied that various reasons may be advanced why this inspector should be appointed, and in asking his appointment we are within the provisions of the Inspection Act, for it will be known to hon. gentlemen that section 2 and subsection 3 of that Act provides that such an official may be appointed. The reasons we advance for his appointment arise out of the dissatisfaction experienced, both in Manitoba and the Territories, by the producers on account of the weights and the dockages and demurrages. The weights in these elevators are only examined once in two years, I believe, under the General Inspection Act.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). My hon. friend knows we have amended the law so as to allow us to examine the weights more frequently, and it is our intention to do so.

Mr. DOUGLAS. The point, however, is this. There is a great deal of dissatisfaction among the people and very little confidence between the buyers generally and the producers on the question of weights. Dockages are made on account of the grain not being considered sufficiently clean, and an estimate is formed as to the amount which should be taken from the producer, which amount is sometimes excessive. At any rate that is a continual ground of complaint. Then again there are the dockages charged for various reasons, but the chief dockage

that this Bill has to do with is that made for transshipment, making the producers responsible for any leakage in transshipment from the point where the grain is bought to the port where it leaves the country. Take, for example, the crop of last year, which amounted perhaps to 40,000,000 bushels. This would represent 57,142 car-loads of grain of 700 bushels each. The dockage on this number of cars charged by the grain dealers—and this is no question of dispute—is away in excess of anything charged in the United States or the grain-growing countries across the border. Our producers contend that only three bushels of dockage should be charged on each car-load. This would represent on the crop of this year 171,426 bushels, and if we calculate that at sixty cents per bushel, it represents \$102,855. The Bill proposes to cut down this dockage two-thirds, and to allow the grain buyers or dealers only sixty pounds for each car-load as dockage. In doing so, we feel that we are within the mark, because in Wisconsin and in Illinois and Dakota, the great grain-growing states of the Union, the grain is carried out by the railway companies on a margin of 45 pounds to the car-load. We have seen fit to recommend in this Bill that the allowance should be sixty pounds to the car-load. This will leave in the hands of the producer two-thirds of the amount now charged, and I feel satisfied that in the amount provided for by the Bill the buyer has ample room to protect himself.

Then we urge upon the Government the appointment of this grain inspector because of the dissatisfaction that is known to exist. This dissatisfaction is not confined to any one portion of the province or the territories, but there is a general want of confidence between the grain dealers and the producers, and it is felt that if such an inspector were appointed, when difficulties would arise, he would be the one to whom the parties would refer their difficulties and have them adjusted, and adjusted promptly. I am glad to know that not only the producers but the grain buyers themselves are favourable to such an appointment, and in the discussion on the inspection of grain that took place before the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière), only this week, it seemed to be the general opinion of the buyers, the grain standard board and the Millers' Association of Ontario, as well as the exporters from Montreal, that an official of this kind is a necessity, so that this may be said to be the most important point and the main feature of the Bill. I have no desire to detain the House further on the question, but beg to move the second reading.

Mr. J. G. RUTHERFORD (Macdonald). As the seconder of the motion of my hon. friend from East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas), I propose to say a few words on this subject. Not only the magnitude, but the very rapid growth of the interests which are affected by

the proposed legislation demand attention at the hands of this House. The rate at which the lands in Manitoba and the North-west Territories are being settled and the rapidity with which the wheat-growing capacity of that country is being developed and increased warns us that in a very few years the handling of the grain grown in that country will be a question of the greatest importance, not only to its people, but to the people of the whole Dominion.

That there is need for the protection of the grain producers of the west, no one at all familiar with the subject can deny. Any one who has had opportunity of observing the conditions under which the grain trade of the country is carried on, must be aware of the constant friction, the never-ceasing irritation, which characterizes the transactions between the farmers and the grain dealers. There are various reasons for this. There have been causes of friction arising out of the conditions affecting transportations. These are, to some extent, being remedied from year to year, as the people gain strength, and particularly since the advent of this Government has taught the great railway monopoly of the Dominion that it cannot always have its own way at the hands of this House. The transportation facilities are constantly being increased, and the rate of charge for transportation is being decreased; and so the transportation difficulties are being, to some extent, remedied and removed. But in regard to the general handling of the grain, the general conduct of the grain trade, there is still much room for improvement. The elevator monopoly, to which the hon. member for East Assiniboia has alluded, is a source of great hardship to many of the farmers of the west. As matters now stand, or, at least, as they stood until last year—for last year we obtained some amelioration of the conditions affecting the shippers of that country—the conditions, along the lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway at any rate, were such as to inflict great hardship upon the producers. Under the contract alluded to by my hon. friend, by which the railway companies—the Canadian Pacific Railway Company being the greatest sinner in this regard—prohibited the shipping or loading of grain on to cars either from wagons or from the small elevators or flat warehouses mentioned by my hon. friend, and insisted on the grain being put through what are known as standard elevators, the farmers suffered a great deal. Because while, in the case of the honest grain dealer or honest elevator operator, it is, no doubt, largely to the advantage of the producer, as well as of the railway company and the grain dealer, that the elevators in use for shipping should be as commodious and as modern in regard to machinery as possible; at the same time, if there was any dishonesty on the part of the elevator operator or any desire to act in a manner pre-

judicial to the shipper, great opportunity was offered, under the system, for carrying on nefarious practices. When the farmer came to the elevator and put in his wheat, he received a ticket. But that did not guarantee a return either of his own identical grain—which, in the majority of cases, would, of course, be utterly unreasonable and impossible, but it did not guarantee to the farmer the return of grain of a similar quality or grade; and, as a consequence, many men, when they got returns from Fort William, found their grain graded at a much lower standard than it was entitled to. And, under the system then in existence, it was impossible for the farmer to obtain any redress. Besides, suppose he put his grain through an elevator in 1896, and was treated in the way I have described—in 1897, when he came back with another crop of wheat to ship, he had no alternative but to put his wheat through the same elevator, and probably, through the hands of the same operator whom he, of his own knowledge and to his sorrow, knew to have handled his grain in a fraudulent manner the previous year. The action of the Canadian Pacific Railway, hastened by the memorial which was presented to the Government by the western members last year, in according to the farmers the privilege of loading cars from their own wagons, to a large extent obviated this evil, because it offered the farmers a loophole by which they could escape the clutches of the dishonest elevator man. But it was far from being a satisfactory solution of the difficulty. When the traffic became very heavy and there was a great scarcity of cars, it was generally found that, while the elevator men—naturally, being the best customers of the railway—were able to obtain cars—though not at all times, it is only fair to say—the farmer had, as a rule, much more difficulty in procuring cars than had the dealer. So, while in many cases this plan afforded relief, in many other cases it failed to do so. And so, after the year's experience, my hon. friend has deemed it necessary to bring in this legislation, which, if carried out, as I trust it will be, by this honourable House, will place the farmer of Manitoba and the North-west on a very satisfactory footing as regards his grain shipments.

Now, I wish to digress for a few minutes, simply to state that I regret very much that this legislation is necessary. Under the strict letter of the law, I do not think that it is actually necessary, but at the same time it appears, under existing circumstances, to be justifiable, for the hon. member for East Assiniboia and the other members from the west to insist upon this special legislation being passed. I am no lawyer, but if I am able to read correctly and to understand the General Railway Act of the Dominion of Canada, that Act states distinctly, almost in so many words, that the contract now exist-

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ing between the Canadian Pacific Railway and the elevator people, or, in other words, the elevator monopoly, is entirely illegal. Subsection 2 of section 246 of the General Railway Act provides that any person bringing goods—not grain particularly—for shipment by railway is entitled to have that railway company receive and take those goods and deliver them to the destination to which they are shipped. And if the General Railway Act of the Dominion were enforced, if its provisions were carried out in the way which, I think, is demanded by the interests of the people, there would be no necessity for the legislation now proposed. Last year, we had a resolution in favour of a railway commission. Though I am satisfied that the members of the present Railway Committee of the Privy Council do the best they can to compel the carrying out of the provisions of the Railway Act, it is out of the question for a body of men composed as that body is composed, to give the necessary attention to the thousand and one questions constantly arising between the people of the Dominion of Canada and the great railway corporations which, at the present moment, almost control the destinies of that people. I trust that this session will not be allowed to pass without this grievance being redressed, so that the people of Canada shall no longer be owned by the railways, but will control and manage, through an effective railway commission, the public highways which have been ostensibly constructed and carried on in their interests. In the meantime, however, the measure introduced by my hon. friend from East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas) will largely counteract the evil to which I have briefly alluded. I trust that there will be no factious opposition to this measure, and I trust that the members of this House will demonstrate that they are above any other considerations than those which affect the welfare of the greatest number of the people in that country. There is no question but that the welfare of the people of Manitoba and the west, the welfare of the great country lying between the Red River and the Rocky Mountains, the country which is the granary of the Dominion of Canada, will be promoted by this measure. That country only requires a fair chance and fair handling by the rest of the Dominion to furnish an enormous market for the products of the other provinces. I say that the interests of that portion of the Dominion must surely be considered paramount in this House. It would be most unfair to place the interests of a few grain dealers, the interests of a few merchants, against the great interests of the mass of the people of that country, who are rapidly developing the hitherto untouched resources of the prairie.

There is another phase of this Bill introduced by my hon. friend to which I will refer, and that is the provision for the appointment of a general inspector of the grain

trade. Those of us who are familiar with the grain trade in the west know that there are certain circumstances in connection with it which are, to say the least, very mysterious, that there are constant and unaccountable fluctuations in the price paid to the producers at various points throughout the province of Manitoba and the territories, fluctuations in price which cannot be accounted for in any reasonable way to an ordinary outsider. When the ordinary outsider asks for any information from those in the inner circle of the grain trade as to the reason for these fluctuations in price, and as to the peculiar conditions which prevail in the trade, he is met with the reply that, of course, it is difficult to explain all these things. Perhaps the dealer will enter into a long-winded explanation of the difference in grades, and the difference in the export price, and the difference in the milling price, and the transit rate, and all that sort of thing. But as a matter of fact, no reasonable man, no man that is not blinded by self-interest from being in the grain trade itself, can possibly be satisfied with these explanations. I do not wish to charge the grain trade of the province of Manitoba or of the city of Winnipeg with deliberate fraud, not at all. I think that the very best way in which this question can be handled, the best way in which to allay the fears of the farmer, the best way in which to quiet his suspicions in regard to the manner in which the grain trade is conducted, is simply to have a full, free, thorough and continual supervision and investigation of the methods by which that grain trade is carried on. No honest citizen begins to shiver at the sight of a policeman's helmet; he has nothing to fear from the strong arm of the law, he has nothing to fear from the keenest investigation of his affairs. Consequently, I cannot see why members of the grain exchange, why people engaged in the grain trade and in shipping grain from Manitoba and the west to the east, should have any objection to the appointment of an inspector, who, if they are honest, will simply be the means of demonstrating clearly once for all, and for all time—because this inspector is to be a permanent one—that the grain trade is conducted like any other honest business, in a fair, square and upright way; and that all the suspicions which the people of Manitoba have had in the past, have at present, but which we hope by this action will be banished for the future—that all these suspicions, I say, have been simply imaginary, that there has been no ground for them, and that they—the dealers—have been maligned by men, perhaps, less honest than themselves. I think I have said all I have to say upon this subject. We will probably have more discussion upon this Bill before it gets through. There is one thing I would like to impress upon hon. members who, perhaps, are not familiar with all the con-

ditions in the west, and that is that if they are not themselves satisfied as to the necessity for this legislation, if it does not appeal to them as being right and proper legislation, let them consult with us who come from the west; and in this connection I do not refer to hon. gentlemen on this side of the House more than I do to members from the west on the other side of the House, because I am satisfied that the members on that side of the House who represent farming constituencies in western Canada, are as much interested and as fully alive to the importance of this question as are the members on this side of the House. Therefore, I say, let them consult with their colleagues from the west, let them hear what their colleagues have to say, let them discuss the facts before they assume an attitude of opposition to this measure, which is after all, a measure designed purely and simply in the interests of the agriculturists of the great west.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I have great pleasure in supporting the second reading of this Bill. I am glad to congratulate the hon. member for East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas) on bringing in this measure. I have a notice on the paper myself of a Bill dealing with it, and I have held it back waiting until I saw the Bill the hon. gentleman intended to lay before the House, because I recognize that if my hon. friend's Bill was satisfactory, as he has already had the matter in hand, there was no reason why any other member of the House should take it up. But last year, after he had placed his Bill on the Table and got it through the second reading, and through many of the rocks and quicksands that way-lay a little ship of this kind in getting into harbour, we found that an extraordinary change had taken place—and I mention this in reference to the closing remarks of the hon. gentleman who seconded the motion—and it seemed to me that the hon. gentleman who had charge of the Bill last session had made a complete surrender to the Canadian Pacific Railway. However, whether it was the action taken by ourselves, and by the farmers in the west, or for whatever reason, I find that he has placed before the House now a Bill that I believe, with some trifling amendments that may be moved in committee, will meet the needs and express the opinions of the west. I agree with the proposition, and I stated it when first this question was brought before the House, that there can be no doubt that with the Railway Act, as it stands at the present time, the common law right, to put it that way, remains intact, which gives the farmers of the west everything that this Bill proposes specifically to give.

Mr. DOUGLAS. May I be allowed to ask the hon. gentleman a question? He has stated that the Bill which was introduced last year and that was withdrawn, represented the promoter as having surrendered

to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. I challenge that statement and call the attention of the hon. gentleman to this fact, that he himself voted for the change that was made in the Bill, and every member of the Railway Committee voted for it, and there were no changes made afterwards.

Mr. DAVIN. My hon. friend is entirely wrong. I have the Bill in my hand. I did not intend to deal with this at length, but now as the hon. gentleman challenges me, I will have to refer to it. I have the Bill in my hand that the hon. member had intended to move, and I have also the amendment that my hon. friend from Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) had intended to move. When that Bill was called he intended to move an amendment which will be found at page 362 of the Votes and Proceedings of last session, and which, I think, would have put once more backbone and marrow into the Bill. I have here an amendment to that amendment of the hon. member for Lisgar, which I was told, by two gentlemen who came to see me here, was prepared by my late friend, Mr. Dalton McCarthy, and I have his interlineations here. These gentlemen asked me, if when the hon. member for Lisgar moved his amendment, I would move the amendment to his amendment, prepared by Mr. McCarthy, which made some verbal alterations that would have carried the protection to the producer a little further. Now, Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the public opinion that had been created throughout the entire territory respecting this question, within the last season, to my knowledge, very great harm has resulted from combinations of elevator people in the parts of the territories that I have visited. For instance, in one part of the territories, not in my own constituency, but in the constituency of my hon. friend who has charge of the Bill, the elevator men made a combination only to pay so much to the producers of grain, something very like what he describes as having taken place at Moosomin, but it was in the more southerly part of the constituency. However, a man, Mr. McConnell, M.L.A., who has public spirit and who thoroughly understands this question, completely broke the combination by buying grain on his own behalf and paying 5c. and 6c. more than the elevator men proposed to pay. When they found that he was thus bucking against them he had to face all kinds of influences; all the banking influences, all the financial influences, were against him in his business, and in the particular business that he was then engaged in. There cannot be the least doubt whatever that legislation of this kind is needed, and for reasons known throughout the length and breadth of the North-west Territories. Therefore, it is unnecessary for me to say more. I do not think there can be a question raised by any one as to the necessity of this legislation from the point of view of the prices paid or from

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the point of view of the danger of combination or convenience, or the safeguarding of the producers from loss in consequence of very undesirable incidents, in regard to the purchase of their grain. For my part, I have had evidence thrust upon me from every quarter of the country that this legislation is needed. I hope that the Bill will receive the support of both sides of the House and that it will pass into law this session.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar). I want to make a few remarks in reference to this Bill. Hon. gentlemen will recall the amount of trouble and worry that we had over the proposed Bill last year, and the fact that it was withdrawn. However, the Canadian Pacific Railway extended to farmers the privilege of loading their grain directly from their vehicles last season, which has been a very great advantage to the farmers. Before coming here this session, I made it a point to visit a number of towns throughout the province of Manitoba with a view of ascertaining what the real grievances were, and I discovered that very great good had been done by the regulations which the Canadian Pacific Railway had made allowing the loading of grain from farmers' vehicles directly. However, I have come to the conclusion that the entire difficulty is not yet regulated, and, I may say, that I wrote to the hon. member for East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas) a month or two before the opening of the session, asking if it were his intention to re-introduce the Bill he had before the House last session, and he answered that it was. That being the case, I decided to give the hon. gentleman all the support I could, and I made up my mind that I would not introduce legislation myself. I may say that when the Bill was up last session, I took it as a matter of course that members of this House would naturally support a measure of this kind. I felt that we had such a good case; I felt that the proposition that the people who raised grain in the North-west Territories had an absolute right to ship it in their own way, was a fair and honourable proposition, and that no opposition would be met with from any hon. gentleman in this House. However, I discovered that I had considerable to learn. I discovered that when the Bill was referred to the Railway Committee we met with a great deal of opposition, and it was with a great deal of pain that I discovered, in the committee, a large number of members who did not seem to consider the interests of our people at all. They seemed to stand by the railway companies, and we were opposed by these railway companies and opposed very strongly in the committee. I felt that we should not have had any opposition of that kind. In presenting a Bill like this, it seems to me perfectly fair that when there is a united demand from the North-west Territories—I do not think there is a single member

from Manitoba or the North-west Territories who is not heartily in favour of this Bill, and that being the case, I think, as the hon. member for Macdonald (Mr. Rutherford) has said, it is only fair that members of the House should accept our representations in this regard. Surely, Mr. Speaker, it is a fair proposition that the farmer who has wheat to sell should be allowed to sell that wheat in the way he pleases, and that, if he likes to load it in a car and ship it in that way, he should not be prevented from doing so. I discovered in my investigations that the chief complaint last season was that the Canadian Pacific Railway did not furnish sufficient cars to the farmers, and that as my hon. friend from Macdonald has said, favouritism seemed to be shown to the elevator-owners. I may say that, at a place called Cartwright, in my constituency, there is a gentleman of very considerable means who, I think, owns a farm in connection with his business in the town, who made up his mind that he would enter the field and buy wheat. He did so, storing it in his flat warehouse at that point. He bought a large amount of wheat, but when he applied to the Canadian Pacific Railway for cars they absolutely declined to give him a car at all. They said that this privilege was only extended to farmers. I felt that that was a hardship. Here is a man who invested his own capital to go into business to enable his neighbours to get decent prices for their wheat, and I would suggest, if the Bill does not cover a point like that, that an amendment should be proposed to compel the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to furnish cars, not only to farmers, not only to the men who raise the wheat, but to dealers who may not have standard elevators, but who may have their wheat stored in flat warehouses. There is another point I wish to make before I sit down. I received, a few days ago, a communication from a prominent man in Manitoba who also deals in grain, and I will read it to the House in order that they may see what the difficulty that he complains of is.

Winnipeg, March 23rd, 1899.

R. L. Richardson, Esq., M.P., Ottawa.

My dear Sir,—I thought it would be well to write regarding a very important subject, in which our western country is especially interested just now, viz.: "car supply." The lack of cars is really becoming a serious matter to people living along the lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway in Manitoba, and to grain dealers in this city as well. Grain can neither be got forward from Fort William to North Bay in reasonable time, nor from country points to Fort William. Many farmers have been anxious to ship damp wheat to Fort William while the weather was cold, but cars were unobtainable. A grain buyer at Cypress River informed me that he had to wait thirty days, after ordering a car, before he got it. The Treherne farmers' elevator is loaded to the roof, and the manager is anxious to get some wheat out, so that he can have a chance to turn over some doubtful wheat which is stored

there, but no cars can be got, although ordered for a long time by three different dealers who own the wheat in that elevator. Now, this is the condition of affairs during the dullest season of the year, and it is about time the Government looked into this question and put a stop to the nonsensical effort that the Canadian Pacific Railway is making to handle the business of the country with half the equipment necessary. I am credibly informed that the Canadian Pacific Railway are desperately short of locomotive power, as well as empties. It seems to me that we should have some legislation fixing a penalty for the non-furnishing of cars, and providing an easy method for collecting the same from the railway companies. If railway cars are not furnished within five days of the date ordered, then the railways should be responsible for any loss occasioned through the violation of any contract, and in any case should be compelled to pay the shipper \$1 per day for each and every car ordered, after the first five days, until the same was furnished.

It seems to me that is a reasonable proposition. If the railway company supplies cars to dealers at the way stations, and these cars are not loaded within a certain time, then demurrage is charged to the farmers. Now, if the farmer or the dealer has wheat to ship from a certain point and he has made a sale of it, but is unable to get cars until after a considerable delay and consequently suffers a loss, it would seem to be only a fair proposition that a charge should be made against the company in that regard. This letter continues:

I ordered wheat shipped from Fort William on 13th February which was not loaded out until the 28th of that month; the purchaser refused the grain on account of delay in shipment, and my loss is considerable. I contend that railway companies should not undertake to do business which they cannot handle reasonably prompt; and the Canadian Pacific Railway are now, and have for many years failed most miserably to give satisfaction to their patrons regarding grain shipments. The loss last fall to the province, caused by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's failure to furnish transportation for grain at the proper time, is certainly a very large sum. I am satisfied that 3,000,000 bushels more grain would have been shipped, if cars could have been assured, and the loss sustained, I think, would easily be \$100,000, besides the inconvenience occasioned by having so much money locked up in the country, and there is no telling how much of this damp wheat, which is left over, will prove a total loss to the owners of it. I should think that a railway company whose net earnings amount to \$517,000 per month (see Canadian Pacific Railway January statement), could afford to procure a proper equipment of rolling stock, so that business would not be hampered as it is at present in this province. What we want is the right to build flat warehouses, or small elevators, at any railway siding in Canada, with the privilege of loading grain into cars from same, or direct on cars from vehicles, and that forty-eight hours shall be allowed to load a car after same is placed on sidings, and demurrage charge after such time to be not more than \$1 per day. These privileges not to be restricted, but to apply to farmers, and shippers as well.

The hon. member from Macdonald (Mr. Rutherford), suggested that in his opinion the General Railway Act would, if properly

enforced, render it unnecessary to have a Bill like this passed; and he also suggested that if a railway commission were appointed it would probably be able to regulate this matter pretty thoroughly. I am disposed to think, Mr. Speaker, that if we cannot secure the control of these railroads by the Government, the institution of a railway commission would be in the right direction. I took the view last year, together with the late hon. member for Winnipeg, Mr. Jameson, that a railway commission would be of very considerable benefit to the country, and with the hon. member for Macdonald (Mr. Rutherford) I feel, that if we had such a commission and it did its duty in the premises, it could be of very considerable use in regulating such matters as we have before us. But, without that railway commission, and without any definite control over these railways, I believe that such a Bill as my hon. friend from East Assinibola (Mr. Douglas) has submitted would be of a very material benefit to the grain trade of that country, and especially to the farmers who raise that grain. Holding that view, Mr. Speaker, I most heartily support this Bill.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). The arguments in favour of the passage of a Bill to regulate the grain trade in the North-west have been sufficiently stated by the hon. gentlemen who addressed the House, and I need add nothing to what they have said on that subject. The fact that the raising of wheat is the staple industry of the population of Manitoba and the North-west Territories, and that the handling of that staple is necessarily carried on by a system of warehousing under which the value of the farmers' products depend upon the method of this handling, and on the honesty and fair dealing which the farmers receive, is a sufficient reason why, when a complaint of unfairness is made, it should receive reasonable attention from this House. It has been alleged that there has been fraud in the treatment of farmers by the grain dealers; it has been alleged that there has been fraud in the treatment of farmers by the elevator men. I do not say that such is the case, because I do not know that such is the case, and I have no intention whatever of imputing improper conduct to any persons without sufficient evidence being adduced to prove any charge that may be made. But, Sir, the very fact that complaints have been constantly made for years past, is sufficient, I think, to cause this House to assent to the general proposition that there should be some kind of regulation of this trade. The conditions are peculiar in this respect: that the value of the wheat depends upon the charges which are made for its immediate handling, and depends upon the method in which the wheat is handled. And, from the time when the farmer lets go his grain at the door of the elevator, he has no further control over it, but the price which he is paid when he

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leaves his grain at the door of the elevator is regulated by what happens after he parts with it. If we take upon ourselves to regulate the way in which potatoes and other commodities are sold, and if we take upon ourselves to regulate weights and measures, surely it is not improper that we should take upon ourselves to regulate the manner in which a great staple product shall be treated; a staple upon which the prosperity of a large portion of the community rests. I say, Mr. Speaker, that I do not suggest for a moment that there is any irregularity in connection with the method in which this business is done. That is not a matter we are called upon to assume. It is not assumed by the passage of this Bill. This Bill only assumes. I fancy, that there is a great and important industry in regard to which the parties most interested ask for proper regulations by the authorities. I think therefore we can fairly accept the principle of the Bill, and I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Douglas) in charge of the measure has a right to some gratitude from the western members who are particularly interested, and a right to gratitude from their constituents, on account of the deep interest he has taken in this subject, bringing it forward session after session, elucidating it and giving clear information in regard to it, so that the House can more intelligently deal with it. The Government has no objection to the passing of this Bill, but rather favours its passage on some such lines as are indicated by the draft Bill which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Douglas) has presented to us. I would not care to say that all the provisions of the Bill may be assented to, and while raising no objection to the second reading, I intend to ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Douglas) to assent to the appointment of a special committee upon which both sides of the House will be represented, which will give the subject further and careful consideration, and which will have the advantage of the expert assistance of some of the officers of the Inland Revenue Department. I intend to ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Douglas) to assent to a reference of this Bill to such a committee when it comes up at the next stage of the proceedings.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would like to ask whether the course suggested by the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) is the usual course taken in regard to Bills of this kind. I am under the impression that this Bill, which has special reference to railway communication, was referred, last year, to the Committee on Railways and Canals. If so, I would like to know what is the reason for departing from the usual course.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The reason I offer is, that the Bill is one which requires very careful consideration; and my object in suggesting that it should be referred to a special committee is to se-

cure for it more attention than it could possibly receive at the hands of the Railway Committee.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. There is no reason why expert testimony should not be given before the regular committee to which Bills of this kind are sent. The Railway Committee is a very large committee, and a decision of that committee has necessarily very great weight with this House. The fact that expert testimony is required does not at all touch the case, because we are in the habit of having such testimony given in the Railway Committee on a great variety of Bills. It does not appear to me that any sufficient reason has been given for departing from the usual course.

The PRIME MINISTER. The reason, and a very strong one, it seems to me, is that, with the mass of legislation which must necessarily come before the Railway Committee, its time can hardly be taken up with this Bill, on which evidence will have to be taken. I am sure, and the hon. gentleman will, I think, on reflection agree with me, that if this Bill were sent to the Railway Committee, it would be referred by that committee to a sub-committee. So that I think the course suggested by my hon. friend is the proper course.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

#### DRAINAGE ACROSS RAILWAY LANDS.

Mr. GEO. E. CASEY (West Elgin) moved second reading of Bill (No. 24) concerning drainage on and across the property of railway companies.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I would like my hon. friend to allow this Bill to stand, in the absence of the Minister of Railways.

Mr. CASEY. Let me say, en passant, that this Bill was introduced last year, and I want it to get the same stage as was given to it last year. It has to be investigated by a special committee.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Will the hon. gentleman state the purport and object of the Bill?

Mr. CASEY. It is the same Bill that was introduced last year, and it is modelled largely on the Railway Drainage Act of Ontario, an Act which is very carefully drawn, and which was passed under the auspices of Sir Oliver Mowat, when he was Premier of that province. It is designed merely to avoid the necessity for reference to the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, in every case in which a dispute about drainage arises between railway companies and municipalities or private individuals. The Bill provides a system of arbitration, as in the Ontario Act, by which the

necessity of the work may be established, and the proportions of cost to be borne by the different parties may be settled, the private land-owner or the municipality being represented by an engineer, the railway company by another engineer, and the Minister of Railways by a third engineer. These are the principal points of the Bill. But it has been recognized, on both occasions on which I have introduced it into this House, that it required to be matured before a special committee, which would hear both sides, and I propose, after the Bill gets its second reading, to move its reference to a special committee, to be composed of the same gentlemen who composed the committee of last year, and who will go through the Bill, hear both sides of the question, and mature the Bill for presentation to the House before it goes to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. DAVID TISDALE (South Norfolk). I think this Bill has been before several special committees, as well as the general Railway Committee. I have been twelve years in the House, and I think it has come in every session.

Mr. CASEY. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. It has only come, in its present shape, last year and this year.

Mr. TISDALE. When you speak of a Bill, you speak of the principle, not of the details.

Mr. CASEY. The Bill, in its present principle, has only been introduced this year and last year. The Bill introduced previously was of a different kind altogether.

Mr. TISDALE. The important principle of the Bill is this, that it takes from the Railway Committee of the Privy Council the power of dealing with the railways under its jurisdiction, in regard to drainage, the most important part of the cost and construction of railways; and that principle has been before this House for twelve years. The Bill has not always been introduced by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Casey), but others have introduced it. It has been before the Railway Committee, as well as before a special committee, and it has not passed. I suggest that this Bill should go to the Railway Committee, because it simply deals with one principle. The consideration of its details would take very little time. Some years ago, as we all know, a royal commission suggested that the Railway Committee of the Privy Council should deal with questions of this kind; and that tribunal has been, on the whole, satisfactory and cheap. When the Conservative party had the responsibility of dealing with these questions, I contended that it was, on the whole, the best tribunal we could have, and I am glad to see that it is keeping up its reputation under the control of the right hon. gentleman who leads this House at the present

time. Therefore, I object to the time of this House being taken up by the same question, submitted again and again; but, as we must deal with it in some way or other, I think it should be sent to the committee upon which is imposed the responsibility of dealing with all legislation affecting railways.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE. I agree with my hon. friend that the Railway Committee is the proper committee to which to send this Bill, but I disagree with him entirely in his opinion as to the right or wisdom of this House to pass the Bill. If we can pass any Bill that will exempt people from the necessity of coming before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, it is very desirable we should do so. It is said that any man can go before that committee and make a complaint. That is true, but at the outset he is met with the opposition of the great railway companies, represented by the ablest lawyers they can retain, and against whom he has very little chance. I have myself seen an instance in which an application was made, based on most reasonable and strong grounds, and what was the answer given by the lawyer of the Canadian Pacific Railway? What have you to say to this Judge Clark, was the question put by the committee? Simply that it is the most absurd thing I have ever heard of. That was practically his answer. To my mind there were no valid reasons given, yet there the matter ended. Against the representation of a great railway corporation, contesting what is regarded as the right of a municipal corporation, what chance had the reeve of that corporation. He had no lawyer with him, and was practically powerless before the Railway Committee. In my opinion, in such cases, the applicants have no chance at all. What we want is law which will put every one on an equal footing, and not compel complainants to travel perhaps thousands of miles in order to appear before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council and there be confronted by the most able lawyers the corporation can bring against them.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). There is certainly very great force in the statement of my hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule), and I think my hon. friend from South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) will agree with him on reflection. It is the experience of every one in this House, that although the building of a railway is of great benefit to the country at large, it may cause serious injury to private owners of property. Very often it happens that the plans drawn may be sufficient for the protection of the railway but not for the protection of the individual. For instance, a culvert may turn out to be insufficient, and the land adjacent may be flooded in consequence. The owner of the property has the right to come before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, but that is a very expensive right, as has been stated, not only because the claimant

meets there the counsel of the railway company, but he may be a poor farmer living in some remote part of the country to whom it is a very serious matter to have to travel to Ottawa once or twice, and in nine cases out of ten he gives up his right rather than prosecute. This is one side of the question, but on the other side I am fully in accord with the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) that the rights of the railway companies ought also to be protected, and it would not do to have the power indifferently or promiscuously given to anybody to order a railway company to build culverts or water-courses. Some mode must be taken, therefore, of remedying the evil. I agree that the present legislation is not at all sufficient, but I am not prepared to say that I would support the mode of procedure suggested by my hon. friend. It would suffice for the present to allow the Bill to go to its second reading, and then allow the question whether it should be referred to the General Committee of Railways or a special committee to remain open until my hon. friend the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), who is at present absent from the city, is in his seat.

Mr. J. G. HAGGART (South Lanark). On further consideration, I think the right hon. gentleman will find that there is no wrong done to the individual by the present law. If in its construction, a railway does damage to any individual of any kind, that individual has a perfect right of action against the corporation. There can be no doubt whatever on that point. The object of this legislation is to give into the hands of perhaps a local tribunal or arbitrator the decision whether it is necessary to put a culvert under a railway for the purpose of facilitating the drainage of somebody's land. That is a right which ought to be invested in some person or other, and in my opinion the cheapest possible tribunal is the Railway Committee of the Privy Council. Before any other tribunal, the claimant would have to employ a solicitor and pay the costs of the litigation, which would be far in excess of his travelling expenses down here. It is true that here he has to meet experienced lawyers who will contest his claim, but he has also the satisfaction of knowing that he appears before a court composed of perhaps the ablest lawyers of the land, fully cognizant of all these matters, and which always has a leaning, not to the railway corporations but to the facilitating of anything which will be of benefit to the municipality of the country. The legislation proposed is dangerous and would lead to interminable litigation. You will find every railway company opposed to it, not because they are not perfectly willing to contribute to what is right and necessary in the way of building culverts or anything else, but because of the actions that they will be subjected to. Every railway company is willing that a culvert

Mr. TISDALE.

or drain should be built for the purpose of draining a particular section of the country. It is only a question of cost. But if a drain or culvert is asked merely for the benefit of the individual who owns the land, it is he who should pay the costs. He is not even compelled under the Bill introduced by my hon. friend.

Mr. CASEY. Then why object to it ?

Mr. HAGGART. What I object to is leaving the railway companies subject to any number of applications and any amount of litigation. Parties who have control of municipalities are generally influenced by citizens of those municipalities ; and it is in their interest to have as many culverts as possible, if they are made at the expense of the railway company. Why should a railway company be subject to the agitation and annoyance which would certainly result ? What the railway company says is this : If it is a benefit to an individual or a municipality that a culvert should be built, let the expense be apportioned fairly between us and the individual or municipality benefited. If it is no benefit to the railway company, let the individual or municipality bear the whole expense. And let a suitable tribunal decide these matters. The cheapest and most effective tribunal that can be provided is already provided.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). It seems to me that the point has been misapprehended by some of the hon. gentlemen who have spoken. It is perfectly clear to those who know anything about the drainage laws of Ontario that something is necessary in the direction of this Bill. The point is a very simple one, it seems to me ; but just what legislation will best accomplish the desired result is quite another question. The difficulty arises in this way. There are two laws in Ontario in reference to the drainage of farm lands. One is the simple and comparatively inexpensive one of the Ditches and Watercourse Act, the other is the larger system of drainage by which certain persons, owners of a piece of land, can, by petition, compel the municipal council to bring in an engineer and have the work or drainage done at the expense of persons whose lands are benefited. Here are the two systems in force. Now, the difficulty is this : The farmers who would want their land drained, if they use the machinery they have in order to accomplish their purpose, can use it only to the extent of farm land. If, in the attempt to make a drain for the water, they strike a Dominion railway, their course is stopped.

Mr. SPROULE. And the railway will not allow you to go on.

Mr. BRITTON. No. And, if the case is to come before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, I do not see how that is to be done.

Mr. TISDALE. Nobody would object to that.

Mr. BRITTON. It is only to that extent that I am in favour of the Bill.

Mr. TISDALE. So am I.

Mr. BRITTON. But, I say again, I do not see how these matters can come before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council. When an engineer is going over the ground to make an estimate for taking the water off a given area of land, he naturally does not stop to say that somebody must come to the Railway Committee of the Privy Council and get authority to run the water through a tunnel or culvert under the railway tracks. His business is to take it to a proper outlet, and he naturally conducts the water up or down the line of railway until he comes to an outlet already made. Now, the object of this Bill, as I understand it, is to make the lands of Dominion railways subject to the provincial laws in regard to drainage, the same as farm lands. With such provision, and such protection to the rights of railways, as everybody will see to be necessary in the case, it seems to me this legislation should be passed. I do submit, with all confidence, to the hon. member who introduces this Bill that no committee is so well fitted to deal with it as the Railway Committee.

Mr. CASEY. As nobody seems inclined to speak on the subject, I will say, in closing the debate—

Mr. TISDALE. I do not think the hon. gentleman has the right to speak.

Mr. CASEY. I have the right to close the debate. This was the Order of the day.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. When an hon. member moves the Order of the Day, he has no right to reply.

Mr. CASEY. I misunderstood. I shall have a subsequent opportunity.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. When shall the House resolve itself in committee on the said Bill ?

Mr. CASEY. I propose to move that it be referred to the same special committee as considered it last year.

Mr. TISDALE. I understood the Prime Minister to say the matter should stand ?

Mr. CASEY. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Tisdale) please keep his seat and preserve order.

Mr. TISDALE. I can raise a point of order.

Mr. CASEY. That is not a point of order. I shall move this resolution for the purpose of saying what I have to say on the subject, but to withdraw it at the Premier's request. I beg to move that a special committee, to be

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composed of members whom I need not name at the moment, be appointed to consider this Bill.

Mr. HAGGART. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Casey) cannot speak on a motion of that kind.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I do not think the hon. gentleman has a right to speak at all until the question has been put.

Mr. CASEY. I am going to speak to this motion. The question is when shall this Bill be referred to committee. In moving the motion that I now do, I follow the same course as last year.

The PRIME MINISTER. There is a point of order.

Mr. CASEY. I am speaking to the point of order. I propose to move the same motion as I did last year.

The PRIME MINISTER. But the hon. gentleman (Mr. Casey) does not say that the point of order was taken last year. On the other hand, it is taken this year.

Mr. CASEY. I think the precedent settles the point of order. I beg to quote from the Journals of last year the precedent to which I refer, when the motion passed without objection :

The Order of the Day being read, for the second reading of the Bill respecting drainage on and across the property of railway companies, The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Mr. Casey moved, seconded by Mr. Scriver, "That the Bill be referred to a select committee composed of Messieurs Bain, Campbell, Henderson, McGregor, Monk, Tolmie and the mover, with power to send for persons and papers, and to report from time to time."

Mr. Chauvin moved, in amendment, seconded by Mr. Montague,

"That the names of Messieurs Casgrain and Fortin be added to the said proposed committee."

And the question being put on the amendment, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Then the main question, so amended, being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

I submit that the precedent establishes my right to speak on this motion.

Mr. HAGGART. In that case unanimous consent was given.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. That course could be taken with unanimous consent, and I suppose it was given last year ; but, I understand it is not the same now. I am sorry to rule that the hon. gentleman has no right to speak. When shall the House resolve itself in committee on this Bill ? At the next sitting of the House ?

#### ATTACHMENT OF SALARIES OF CIVIL SERVANTS.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 38) respecting the attachment of salaries of public officers and of employees of the Government.

Mr. CASEY.

He said : I beg to move the second reading of this Bill, and in doing so will briefly explain, for the benefit of the House, that since last session I have given considerable attention to the matter and have communicated with a number of gentlemen of the legal profession in order to get the benefit of their advice.

The Bill which I have presented to-day, while the same in principle as the Bill I presented last session contains more details. It provides, of course, that the salaries of civil servants may be attached the same as the salaries of any other citizens in the country. I think that is a fair proposition, and should not require any argument from myself in its defence. I do not think that any hon. gentleman in this House will dispute the view that a servant of the Government should be subject to have his salary garnisheed for debt the same as any other person in the Dominion. In fact, it is my opinion that a civil servant is even in a better position than the average citizen of this country drawing a salary, because his pay is always sure, he receives it at least once every month, and knowing that he has an assured income, it seems to me a most reasonable proposition indeed that his salary should be attachable the same as that of any other citizen. Machinery is provided for the recovery of the money due. If hon. gentlemen will read the Bill they will see that no expense will be incurred by the Government in the operation of the Act under the suit of the creditor for the debt due him. I am persuaded that this Act ought to pass. It is seconded by my hon. friend from Laval (Mr. Fortin), who is one of the ablest lawyers in the House, and who, no doubt, will be able to explain the Bill in detail better than myself.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I think this is a very important measure, and I would like very much to know, if the Government have given it any consideration, what view they are disposed to take in regard to it. It is a very grave departure from the established practice of the country, and I think it is open to a good deal of question.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). This subject has been referred to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Mills) for consideration. I have not yet received his report, he has not given it his full attention. I have to ask, therefore, that the debate be adjourned in order that we may see his report later on. I may point out to my hon. friend that, although I have sympathy with the object of his Bill, I am not prepared to accept it as it now stands. I will point out to him some objections which I would ask him to consider before he proceeds with his Bill. The civil servants, like all other classes of the community, should pay their debts, and there should be some kind of process of law to compel them to discharge their duty in this respect, the

same as all other classes of citizens. But I can see very well that if this Bill were to pass it might work severe injury to the civil servant. If this Bill were to pass as it stands at present, the head of a department might receive one, two, three, four or five garnishments in a month against a civil servant; there might be against the same official at the same time four or five judgments, which would absorb more than his entire salary every month, and would make it impossible for him to live. That is one of the objections I see to this Bill at the present time. If it were adopted it should be with some restriction, so that at all events, it would not render the civil servant penniless. In the province of Quebec there is a measure of this kind now on the statute-book. The salary of a civil servant is now attachable under the law of that province, but only to a limited extent, only a certain percentage of his salary may be deducted monthly for the satisfaction of his creditors. But I would imagine that such a measure of restriction would be absolutely imperative, if this Bill were to carry. But there is another objection, to which I do not think my hon. friend has given attention. In the province of Ontario, I believe, it is the law—my hon. friend from South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) can inform me if that is the case—I believe in that province there is a law which compels the debtor, in default of a judgment to be brought before the judge, and he is compelled to answer such questions as the judge may put to him in order to ascertain his means and his liabilities, and upon a comparison of his means with his liabilities, the judge makes an order obliging him to pay so much per month in liquidation of the debt that he may be owing. I am aware that in this city at this moment there are civil servants who have been compelled by judgments of the court here to pay so much of their salaries each month; the judge, after having inquired into their circumstances, has come to the conclusion that they ought to pay so much per month, while they may retain the balance for their living expenses. Suppose that a civil servant here in Ottawa were compelled by an order of the court to pay 10, 15 or 20 per cent of his salary monthly, leaving him only enough to keep himself and his family; if this law were adopted, such a judgment might come to the head office against a civil servant from the province of Quebec and another similar judgment against him from the province of Ontario, so that the poor man would be absolutely unable to live and support his family. Therefore, my hon. friend will see that his proposition is surrounded with many difficulties at the present time. I think the debate had better be adjourned until the Minister of Justice has looked into the question, and I hope at some future sitting we will be able to have the benefit of

his views upon this measure. I therefore move that the debate be now adjourned.

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

### After Recess.

Mr. THOMAS FORTIN (Laval). Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to take up much time in discussing the Bill introduced by the hon. member for Lisgar, because, as I understand, the adjournment of the debate will offer a new opportunity to discuss the details of the measure. There is one other reason, however, why we should not take up much time, and that is, because last year, on a similar occasion, when a Bill of this nature was introduced by the same hon. member we discussed the matter fully, and as far as I was concerned I expressed my opinion as strongly as I could. I have not changed my mind since that occasion, Mr. Speaker; on the contrary, I am more convinced to-day, perhaps, if possible, than I have ever been of the necessity of a law of this kind. I have been unable to find any one good reason why the employees of the Dominion Government should constitute a special privileged class. I am against all kinds of privileges, and, if there is one privilege which should not exist, it seems to me, it is the very one which exists in favour of the officers of the Dominion Government. One of the arguments advanced last year was that a law of this kind would embarrass the Government. Now, I think that contention, in itself, is an admission that the state of affairs, in regard to the payment of legitimate debts by public officers, is not what it should be. If there is a sufficient number of public officers who do not meet their legitimate debts to embarrass the Government, if a law of this kind were passed it seems to me to be one of the best of reasons why the law should be passed. I think it was said that it would be necessary to organize a new department if this law were passed. That seems to me to be another reason in favour of the adoption of such a law. If, as I said a moment ago, the number of public officers who do not meet their legitimate debts, is so great that a new department will have to be organized to answer the seizures or the garnishments, that is the best of reasons why the law should be passed, because the state of affairs existing to-day is such as to constitute almost a scandal on that particular subject. Other reasons were mentioned before the House rose at six o'clock. The right hon. Prime Minister, although he declared himself to be in sympathy with the hon. member in regard to this Bill, yet mentioned two objections which he believes will be applicable to the Bill. The first, if I caught his words rightly, is this: Suppose several judgments should be served against a public officer—in that case, said

the right hon. Prime Minister, it would probably not leave enough of the salary of that public officer to enable him to live. Now, that is no argument against the Bill, and for this season, that the law which will determine what portion of the salary is to be seized, will only enable a creditor to seize such portion. Suppose, for instance, that a judgment is obtained in the province of Quebec. In the province of Quebec salaries are seizable in the following proportions:—One-fifth of the salary if the salary does not exceed \$1,000 per annum; one-fourth is seizable if the salary does not exceed \$2,000 per annum, and one-third if the salary exceeds \$3,000 per annum. Now whatever number of seizures might be taken, it could only affect that one-fifth, one-fourth or one-third. Suppose a judgment is served against a public officer whose salary is \$1,000 per annum, only one-fifth of that would be seizable. The first attachment will seize that one-fifth and that one-fifth will be paid to the creditor, so long as that judgment is not satisfied, and any other seizure that may be taken will not affect the balance of the salary, because there is only one portion of it which is seizable. So that, in my opinion at least, this is no objection at all. The second objection, which was pointed out by the right hon. Prime Minister, is this: He says that in the province of Ontario, for instance, a public officer may be compelled by the order of the judge to pay a certain portion of the judgment out of his salary at so much per month. The Prime Minister says, suppose such an order is rendered in Ontario, and a judgment is served, coming from the province of Quebec in the hands of the Deputy Minister of a department, against some officer, this will leave the public officer without anything to live upon. I submit that this objection is groundless, at least it is so in my opinion. In the first place it must be remembered that public officers live in one province, and by their profession they are not likely to have dealings or to contract obligations elsewhere than where they reside.

Take a public officer residing in Ottawa, for instance: it is not likely he will incur any liabilities outside the province of Ontario. Such a case is not likely, therefore, to happen, but even if it did happen, it is well known that although such an order may be given in Ontario, to pay a certain amount per month, such order may always be revoked or modified. In the very case which has been mentioned by the Prime Minister there is nothing to prevent a public officer from applying to a court to be relieved from such an order, so that the seized portion, and that portion only, would remain under attachment. As to the Bill itself, I see that the hon. member (Mr. Richardson) has followed to a great extent the law in force in the province of Quebec, and I think he has done well in that.

Mr. FORTIN.

The Bill, as submitted this year, is certainly a great improvement on the Bill of last year. Objection was taken last year that the Bill did not provide for the necessary procedure, but in the present Bill everything seems to have been studied out, and every provision is made to carry out its object. I see also that in the second section of the Bill the legislative authority of the province upon the determination of the quantum to be seized is also recognized. It is clear enough that this Parliament would have no authority to determine what portion of a salary should be seized or should not be seized. All we can do here—and that is the object of the Bill—is to provide for the execution of the judgment, which can be taken in the different provinces, and as regards the quantum to be seized the laws of the different provinces would have to be followed. On the whole, it is my opinion that the Bill is a good one, and it appears to me that its object should be acceptable to almost everybody. There are a great many public officers who pay their just and legitimate debts as the ordinary citizens do, and those have no objection whatever to a law of this kind. The law, as it stands to-day, is sometimes prejudicial to this class, and I have heard some of them say that it is injurious to them. Many say that they do not want any privilege or special law in their favour. Moreover, it prejudicially affects their credit. I remember distinctly the case of a public officer saying that he went to rent a house in the city of Ottawa, and when he gave his name and occupation the landlord would have nothing to do with him unless he gave security for the rent. That such a case should occur is the best evidence that a law of this kind is necessary. I do not know upon what ground or upon what reason can be based a law which constitutes a special privilege in favour of public officers. The public officers of the Dominion are the best paid officials in Canada. They are paid more generously than the officers of the provincial legislatures, and they are better paid also than the ordinary clerks employed in stores or by the large railway companies, banks, &c. The salaries of all these latter officials are attachable to a certain extent, and I do not see why it should not be the same in the case of officers of the Dominion Government.

Mr. L. A. CHAUVIN (Terrebonne). Mr. Speaker, I am in favour of this Bill. The first dignity of a man is to keep his word and to pay his debts. It is becoming to the dignity of the state that its employees should pay their debts. According to our law in the province of Quebec, the workmen and even the civil employee can have a portion of their salaries or wages seized, and I do not see why the same portion of the salaries of the federal employees should not be seizable. It is not derogatory to the dignity of a civil employee in the local gov-

ernments to have his salary seized in order to oblige him to pay his debts, why would it be derogatory to a federal employee to have his salary seized for the same purpose? The member for Laval (Mr. Fortin) said he was against all privileges. I do not admit it is a privilege for a man not to pay his debts. If it is one, I do not envy it. Against those who do envy it, the best treatment is to abolish that privilege. To quote the words of a French writer, I might say that here, like in France, and even more than in France, because we are more democratic: "We like privileges, but we like them extended to everybody." This is the reason why I want the federal servants to be put on the same footing as the civil employees of the province of Quebec. Last year the right hon. Prime Minister promised his support to this Bill if the proposer would wait till this session of Parliament and amend it so as to make it workable. If the Bill is not passed this year it will not be the fault of the member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) nor of the member for Laval (Mr. Fortin). The Prime Minister will have to take the responsibility before this House and the country for opposing this reform.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). I supported a similar Bill last session, and I am prepared to support this Bill to-day. I never could understand why a civil servant should not be under the same obligations with regard to paying his honest debts as any other man in this country. The strongest argument against this Bill is that it would give the Government a little trouble, but if we stopped every reform because it would give trouble a great many people would have advantages they should not enjoy. I think such a measure as this would elevate the manhood of the civil servants, would make them much more self-reliant, and very likely make them much more economical in the affairs of life. For my part, I think this Bill should be adopted by the House.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). There seems to be a general consensus of opinion in favour of the principle of this Bill. As I said last session, I am in favour of the principle of this Bill. But as the matter is not to be disposed of now, it is as well that I should re-state the objection which seems to me to be in the Bill as it is drawn, so that attention may be drawn to it, and there may be a readiness to deal with that, if we can, when the matter comes up again. The Bill as drawn seems to involve a constitutional question. It is not a question of principle, but a question of procedure, which is dealt with in the Bill itself, instead of being left to the provincial legislatures. The hon. member for Laval (Mr. Fortin) spoke of section 2 as if it did not interfere in any way with provincial legislation; but on reading section 2, it will be seen that it perhaps does interfere with it. It may deter-

mine the proportion in which a civil servant's salary may be seized. It does not say that the seizure shall be according to the laws in force in the different provinces; but it assumes to provide for the issue of an attachment in any of the provinces which will run into the other provinces. That might be very useful legislation. I for one would be very glad to see something of the kind, so that a man might recover without new suit, a judgment in any part of the Dominion, after suing in any other part. But instead of leaving the matter to be dealt with by the courts in the different provinces, this provision seems to assume the right of this Parliament to determine the procedure for the recovery of a debt in the different provinces, which I think the hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill will bring us face to face with a very important question.

Now, there has been recent legislation in the province of Ontario on this subject. In the session of 1898 the legislature made provision for the garnishment of the salaries of civil servants, and provided, so far as that province is concerned, a very simple and easy way of dealing with the question; but certainly an entirely different way from the way proposed in the Bill now before us. If I am right in that, there is a conflict, so far as the province of Ontario is concerned, as to the way of dealing with debts due by Dominion officials and the way of dealing with debts due by provincial officials. These ought to be harmonized in some way or another. Then, I want to make a remark on what the hon. member for Laval said in reference to the objection raised by the hon. the Premier this afternoon. The hon. the Premier said that this state of things might exist—that in the province of Ontario a debtor might be brought up on a judgment summons and ordered by a judge to pay a certain sum every month, and if this Act were in force, an attachment might issue in favour of another creditor, which would prevent the debtor complying with the order of the judge. In answer to that the hon. member says, yes, but he might apply to the judge and have that order revoked. So he might, but would that be fair to the creditor who, in his vigilance, had secured such an order? Certainly, that would be the result of a revocation of the order. So that the difficulty is not met by what the hon. member for Laval has said.

However, I do not want to prolong the discussion of the Bill at this stage. I am heartily in accord with its principle, and am only calling attention to the difficulties there may be in working it out without clashing with provincial legislation. I am opposed as strongly as any one in this House can be to class legislation. Everybody, if able, ought to pay his debts, and there ought to be machinery in every province to compel him to do so. Then, another thing has been provided for in the provinces which I think ought to be provided for in this Bill. In the province of Ontario, in order to invoke the

Act in force there, the debt of the civil servant must exceed \$25 ; so that the law would not be applied so as to attach his salary for small debts under that amount. Then, there is to be a provision, I take it, that this Act, if it comes into force, shall not apply to pre-existing debts, but only to debts contracted after the passage of the Act. Having called the attention of the House to these features of the Bill, I again say that I am in no way opposed to it.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). This is not the first time a Bill of this kind has been brought before this House. The question of making the salaries of civil servants seizable for their debts has been under consideration before. I have always been prepared to support a Bill in this direction, and I am anxious to support the Bill now before the House. I do not see why civil servants should ask—and, indeed, I do not see that they do ask—to be placed in a position to escape paying their honest debts. I agree with my hon. friend that the civil servants of this country are as well paid as any other class in the country. In fact, bank clerks, school teachers, ministers of the gospel, and similar classes, are not as well paid as the civil servants, and I would like to know why the salaries of civil servants should be exempt from seizure for the payment of their honest debts any more than other employees. As one hon. gentleman has said, even ordinary labourers, men who are struggling to make a living, do not enjoy any such exemption. I do think it is the duty of this House to take into consideration the compelling of all people to pay their honest debts if they have got the means ; and, if they have not, they had better husband their resources so that they will be able to pay. I have known civil servants to contract debts year after year, and neglect to pay them, simply because there was no law under which they could be forced to pay them.

I do think that we should place our civil servants on the same footing as all other classes by requiring them to pay their honest debts. No doubt there may be some difficulty experienced in drafting the clauses of this Bill so as to create as little friction as possible in the departments ; but even if this is going to impose a little additional work in each department and possibly require the appointment of some additional clerks to carry out the law, it is only just to the people in general that this expenditure be incurred in order to apply the principle that every man shall be compelled to pay his honest debts. A measure of this kind will also be useful as a warning to civil servants not to go into debt. It may be very true that in this city business men know that the salaries of civil servants cannot be seized, but they also know that it is sometimes necessary to give these people credit more or less and sometimes even to keep a standing account open with them. A civil

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servant may for some time have acted honestly in meeting his bills, and then he may take advantage of the credit which he thereby enjoys to run up an account and then refuse to pay the merchant who has treated him generously, courteously and kindly. Such a state of things is exceedingly unfair to business men. It may be said that credit should not be given to civil servants, but we all know that business men are anxious to sell their goods and will give credit where they have reason to believe that their customers are honest, and occasionally their confidence is abused. But the principle we seek to put in force is that no class in the community should be exempt by law from meeting their honest debts. With regard to the remarks of the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton), these relate to details that can be regulated by the committee, and I am sure that the House in its wisdom will be able to satisfactorily meet the difficulties he suggests. I certainly hope that this measure will pass.

Mr. M. K. COWAN (South Essex). I do not propose to discuss the principle of the Bill, but merely wish to point out that this measure is intended to prevent civil servants entering into contracts and then subsequently refusing to pay because the law prevents their salaries being attached. I agree with my hon. friend from Kingston (Mr. Britton) that this Bill should not apply to pre-existing debts or actions of damages, but these matters have already been dealt with by the Ontario Statutes of 1898. There are two other matters to which I think it ought not to apply. I think it ought not to apply to any debt contracted by a civil servant as a surety. No person should give credit to an individual on the suretyship of a civil servant. Nor do I think it should apply to debts contracted prior to his entry in the service. If any man, before his appointment to the service, was in debt, his salary should not be liable to garnishment for such debts. With those amendments, which are matters for the committee to discuss, I am prepared to support the Bill.

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle). (Translation.) If I deemed it my duty to vote against a similar Bill last session, it was not from any want of sympathy with the principle of the Bill, but because the promoter of the Bill had not taken into consideration the various enactments of our provincial legislatures. But I find, this year, that the Bill now under consideration has been made to undergo radical changes. The changes introduced by the promoter of the Bill are of great importance. For instance, I think that the striking off of that feature of the Bill providing that the salaries of civil servants shall be liable to general attachment, while the provincial law enacts that a portion only of the salaries of civil servants shall be liable to seizure, is an improvement on the Bill of last year.

I see that in framing his Bill, the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) has taken into consideration the provincial enactments in this connection, and that the salaries of civil servants are to be seizable, under this Bill, only in such proportion as is provided by the several provinces. The objectionable feature in the Bill of last year having been removed from section 2 of this Bill, such is the reason which induced me to change my views.

I believe in the principle that civil servants should carry out their contracts as well as any other citizen of the Dominion, and I think it is only fair for this House to oblige them to pay their just debts, as ordinary citizens, such as railway employees, clerks, etc., are bound to do. I even believe this measure to be in the best interests of the servants of the Government.

I coincide, to some extent, in the views expressed by the hon. member from South Essex (Mr. Cowan). I think, however, it would be going too far to so amend this Bill as to narrow it down to the cases pointed out by the hon. gentleman. Still I am of opinion that the wording of section 2 should be so amended so as to make it read that this Act shall not apply to pre-existing debts but only to debts contracted after the passage of this Act. For my part, I think this Bill is an improvement on that of last session and I am prepared to support it.

Mr. F. A. MARCOTTE (Champlain). (Translation.) This Bill, which was also introduced last year, is of importance from more than one standpoint. As just remarked by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) important changes have been introduced, this year, by the promoter of the Bill. I am also of opinion that this Bill should not apply to pre-existing debts, but only to debts contracted after its passage.

For my part, I believe that public servants should not be allowed, in the future, to shirk their honourable responsibilities towards their creditors, but should be obliged to carry out their contracts, according to their means, as well as any other citizen of the Dominion.

If I understand this Bill aright, its object is to enact that civil servants shall not escape payment of their honest debts and shall live within their income. Their salaries are large enough to allow them to keep up their position. The result of this Bill will be to make civil servants more cautious, as a good many of them believe that they can get into debt and defy their creditors.

Another consequence of this Bill will be to place civil servants on a footing of equality with the rest of the community. For my part, on these several grounds, I am ready to support this measure. The great mass of civil servants who pay their honest debts cannot complain of it; it is only those who do not want to discharge their legal obligations, as every other class of the community, who will find fault with it. The merchants are entitled to be paid the debts due them.

Merchants and others would no longer find themselves financially embarrassed, were civil servants obliged to pay their debts. Suppose a merchant takes the risk of making advances to a civil servant, what should he do? He ought first to make sure whether that employee has got into debt, and whether he is able to pay his bills, whether also he is in the habit of doing so. That merchant therefore finds himself under the necessity of investigating into the private life of those public servants who ask for his goods on credit. That causes considerable annoyance to the civil servants and considerable inconvenience to the merchants.

I am therefore strongly in favour of the principle of this Bill and I am prepared to support it.

Mr. P. V. SAVARD (Chicoutimi and Saguenay). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to have taken part in this debate, but, after hearing the remarks of the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Marcotte), I think it my duty to say a few words. The right hon. Prime Minister moved the adjournment of the debate this afternoon, and it was apparently understood that there would be no debate this evening. I think the House ought to acquiesce in the reasons urged by the Prime Minister this afternoon, when he moved the adjournment of the debate, and more particularly when he said that he was in favour of the principle of this Bill. There seems to be a perfect consensus of opinion on this point. We all approve of the principle of this Bill, that a man should pay his legitimate debts. I am sure there is not one hon. gentleman in this House who does not concur in that view. I do not see why this debate should be any further prolonged, and, as I said, if I rose in my seat, to address the House, it was only after hearing the remarks of the hon. member for Champlain. The Bill, as it stands, now, is certainly an improvement on that introduced here last session. I voted against the Bill which was introduced last session, and there were many members who did the same; so, the Bill was short-lived. The hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) who voted against the Bill last session, has not changed his views this year; but it is the Bill which has been modified.

I am in favour of the principle of the Bill now before us, but as the subject has been referred to the Minister of Justice for consideration, I think it preferable that the opinion of the Minister should first be known, before going any further. When the report of the Minister is before us, we will then be in a better position to appreciate the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed legislation.

Therefore, I think the House would be well advised in not protracting this debate and in adopting the motion of adjournment proposed by the right hon. Prime Minister.

Mr. A. A. C. LaRIVIERE (Provencher). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, despite the in-

vation which the hon. member for Chicoutimi and Saguenay (Mr. Savard) has just extended to the House, I do not think it out of place to somewhat protract the debate on this question, as the motion of adjournment was moved, I think, perhaps rather prematurely.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Louder.

Mr. LARIVIERE. It would not make any difference to my hon. friend if I spoke louder, when I am speaking in French. (Translation.) There are undoubtedly in our statutes provisions which prevent the salaries of the civil servants being seized. Now, in order to put those employees on a footing of equality with the other classes of the community, I think all that would be required would be to repeal that enactment of the Act which prevents them from having their salary garnisheed the same as any other citizen.

It is enacted in the Bill now under consideration that, henceforth, the salary of civil servants will be liable to attachment at the suit of any judgment creditor; but I fail to see any reference to the Act which exempts them from such attachment. So, I think all that is required would be merely to repeal that exemption, and then the members of the civil service would be placed upon the same footing as the rest of the community, subject to the laws of their respective provinces, so far as the payment of their debts is concerned. Thus matters would be considerably simplified, and it would obviate the necessity of having, on the one hand, a general exemption from seizure, and on the other hand, a special Act, by which, retracing our steps, we would be enabled to seize the salary of those employees.

It is true that in the Bill now under discussion, there is to be found an enactment providing that a certain portion only of the salary of the civil servants shall be liable to attachment; but I think the civil servants do not ask for any favour in this connection. Should they, however, feel aggrieved by the exemption now in force, from the moment that they will be placed upon the same footing as the rest of the community, they will no longer have any ground for complaining of the law. Moreover, I believe that the proportion of the civil servants who do not pay their debts is not considerable. I also understand that, in several departments of our public administration, there are very stringent rules, under which public employees, after due notice, are liable to be dismissed from the service, in case they do not pay their debts, and I know that after such warning, those employees hasten to discharge their honourable responsibilities. I am not referring here to the present administration any more than to the former administrations; but I may say that if there are now public servants who do not pay their just debts, I believe it is owing to the

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protection they have received at the hands of the Government. Such is the rule which is now prevailing, and which has always prevailed. I may say further that I am not aware of any large number of civil servants being complained of in that respect, on the contrary, I am under the impression that there are very few cases of that kind.

Mr. JAMES SOMERVILLE (North Brant). I rise simply to repeat the opinion I expressed last session as to the principle of this Bill. I think the principle is sound. Not being a lawyer, I cannot discuss the details; but I think everybody will agree that such a Bill is a proper one to introduce in this House. There is no reason whatever why a civil servant should be exempt from the ordinary laws of the country that apply to other people, and, for my part, I do not believe that the civil servants wish to be so exempt. There may be some exceptions, but I believe the civil servants, as a class, desire to be placed on the same footing as other members of the community. I do not see why this House, containing so many lawyers as it does, cannot devise some means by which this Bill can be put in workable shape. Last session it was objected to on the ground that it would cost the Government a good deal to have officers to attend to these garnishee orders when issued. I do not think that that would be any reason why the law should not be passed, if it is desirable in itself. Besides, I understand from the mover of the Bill that it is provided in the Bill as now presented, that the expense shall be put upon the civil servant who is indebted and who is put under the garnishee order. I consider that, in justice to the civil servants, in order to uphold the standing of the civil service, as well as in justice to the people who sometimes give them credit, this Bill should pass. The civil servants, in most cases, enjoy better salaries than are paid to bankers, school teachers and clerks in various lines of business; and there is no reason why they should be exempted from the payment of their just debts. I am, therefore, strongly in favour of the Bill.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

#### COMBINATIONS IN RESTRAINT OF TRADE.

Mr. T. SPROULE (East Grey) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 40) to amend the Criminal Code, 1892, with respect to combinations in restraint of trade.

He said: This is a very simple Bill, and one that aims at changing a few words in clause 520 of the Criminal Code. That clause reads as follows:

Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to a penalty not exceeding four thousand dollars and not less than two hundred dollars, or to two years' imprisonment, and if a corpora-

tion, is liable to a penalty not exceeding ten thousand dollars and not less than one thousand dollars, who conspires, combines, agrees or arranges with any other person, or with any railway, steamship, steamboat or transportation company, unlawfully—

(a) To unduly—

I want to take out the word "unduly."

—limit the facilities for transporting, producing, manufacturing, supplying, storing or dealing in any article or commodity which may be a subject of trade or commerce; or

(b) To restrain or injure trade or commerce in relation to any such article or commodity; or

(c) To unduly prevent—

I want to take out the word "unduly."

—limit, or lessen the manufacture or production of any such article or commodity, or to unreasonably enhance the price thereof; or

(d) To unduly—

—drop "unduly" in this clause also.

—prevent or lessen competition in the production, manufacture, purchase, barter, sale, transportation or supply of any such article or commodity, or in the price of insurance upon person or property.

These are the changes I propose in the law, and I am seeking these changes for the simple reason we are told that it would be impossible, under the existing law as it stands, to secure a conviction of any persons guilty of combining in restraint of trade. It would put upon the prosecutor the onus of proving a great many things which it would be very difficult to prove. How could one prove what had "unduly" enhanced the value of an article, or increased the price or restrained trade. The Bill to prevent combines, in its original form, did not contain these limitations, and we think it much better that the original forms should be restored. This law has been on the Statute-book many years, and efforts have been made from time to time, to get the Attorney General of the province to prosecute under the Act, and several times applications have been made to private individuals to do so; and they all raised the same objection—that it would be almost impossible to secure a conviction under the law as it reads. A Bill similar to the one now proposed was passed in this House, but it was changed in the Senate. When it came back to this House the session was so far advanced, that, rather than have the Bill thrown out, the changes were accepted. The Bill to remove these limitations was, at a subsequent session, introduced in the Senate, and, after a lengthy debate and the lapse of a considerable time, the law was amended in the direction I now propose. The Bill was sent down to this House and I introduced it; but, unfortunately, it was so late in the session it could not be reached. So, as the amendment now proposed has been passed in this House without serious objection, and as it has also been passed in the Senate, I do not see that there can be any reasonable objection to making the amendment now. It may be

said by some that there are no combines in this country that this Act would reach. I can only say that I was invited to introduce such a Bill two years ago on account of a combine in the leather trade. I have here a petition which, I think, was sent to the Minister of Finance. I have no doubt he has some remembrances of it. I have a letter in connection with it which I wish to read, because it will explain to the House more concisely than I can the situation with regard to the combines and show the necessity of some such Bill as I now propose to prevent these combinations in restraint of trade. The petition is as follows:—

#### COPY OF PETITION.

To the Honourable W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance of the Dominion of Canada.

The petition of the undersigned tanners in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec humbly sheweth:

That your petitioners, some of whom are engaged in the business of tanning slaughter sole leather in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, in which most of us have invested all our capital, and others of your petitioners are users and consumers of such leather in our factories.

That certain of the larger tanners in the Dominion have entered into an unlawful and injurious combine, which acts very much to our prejudice in our said business, inasmuch as by reason of the said combine we find our opportunities to do business curtailed and hampered, and in some instances practically destroyed.

The said combine is specially directed to what is known as the production of Spanish sole leather, but it affects, injuriously the whole leather production and trade of the Dominion, as will be apparent from the following statements of facts:—

The following are, your petitioners believe, members of the said combine, viz., Beardmore & Co., Breithaupt Leather Co., Marlatt & Armstrong, Bowman & Zinkan, Shaw & Cassils, Warren & Tobey, Logan Tanning Co., C. S. Hyman and Dawker, McIntosh & Co., and these are the largest, or among the largest producers of sole leather in the Dominion.

In another petition others are named, making the list much larger.

They have arranged with the consumers of sole leather in Canada to allow a rebate of 5 per cent on all purchases, which rebate is kept back for a period of six months, when, upon making oath or solemn declaration in the nature of an oath, that the purchaser has not purchased sole leather from any tanner or dealer not a member of the combine, the 5 per cent is refunded.

Some of the said members of the combine also produce light leathers, and by reason of the said combine are enabled to obtain and keep from your petitioners even the trade in such last mentioned kinds of leathers.

By reason of the said combine, and as its prime object, the prices of sole leather are kept up above their real value, and all competition is prevented by reason of the bait of the said 5 per cent rebate, which attracts the customer, and thus retains the trade in the hands of the said members of the said combine.

Spanish sole leather is not of general production, its production is practically in the hands of the said combine. The customer must have it

for his business, and in order to get it he must buy from the combine, and so buying Spanish sole he is compelled to buy his other sole leather, such as your petitioners produce, from them in order to get the 5 per cent rebate.

Your petitioners believe that the true situation is fairly and truthfully set forth in the printed document hereto annexed, which is a true copy of a letter published in the Toronto "Globe" some time ago, shortly after the said combine was formed.

Your petitioners have every reason to believe, and have had many assurances to this effect, that the said combine is very much disliked even by the consumers who receive the said rebate, but who would much rather buy in the ordinary way, in an open and free market.

Your petitioners believe and most respectfully urge upon you, and the Government of which you are a member, that the said combine is an unlawful combination, and that the proper remedy, unless it disbands, is to abrogate the duty on Spanish sole leather entering Canada.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

I may say they made this application after submitting the present law to an eminent legal authority, and being advised that it would be difficult, if not impossible, either to break up the combine or to secure conviction under the law. Then follow the names of the petitioners :

J. Hallam.  
 J. D. King & Co.  
 W. B. Hamilton, Son & Co.  
 F. J. Weston & Sons.  
 J. McPherson Co., Limited.  
 Geo. Winn & Co.  
 G. V. Oberholtzer.  
 C. A. Ahrens & Co.  
 Ph. Jacobi & Co.  
 Stewart & Co.  
 C. Tilley.  
 H. B. Dowker & Co.  
 Joseph King.  
 W. F. & A. Smith.  
 O. S. Doan & Son.  
 A. Smith & Son.  
 S. Arscott & Son.  
 J. Arscott.  
 T. Pellow.  
 B. P. Flannigan.  
 F. W. Graff.  
 J. McDonald.  
 G. Aikens.  
 Bell & Co.  
 W. G. Smith.  
 F. G. Lynde.  
 G. O. Oberholtzer.  
 Rochette Allaire.  
 Jobin & Rochette.  
 W. H. Polley.  
 J. N. O. Pierri.  
 E. Bresse.  
 O. Bresse.  
 J. S. Langlois & Co.  
 A. Migner & Boucher,  
 (per A. Migner).  
 J. B. Drolet.  
 J. Borseneault & Fils.  
 Poirrin & Co.  
 Budden & Perry.  
 F. Gourdeau & Frère.  
 Gasp. Rochette.  
 Demers & Cie.  
 Whitley Bros.  
 Fred. Whitley.  
 Edmund Varens.  
 Alex. Eath.

Mr. SPROULE.

Hackborn & Bisson.  
 Duclose & Payon.  
 F. G. Lynde.  
 Piers, Locke & Co.

They give here a copy of the affidavit which these parties make who joined this combine. I will read it for the information of the House so as to satisfy them that it is an actual combine which is injurious to trade, and does tend to hamper trade and to increase the prices :

COPY OF AFFIDAVIT.

Dominion of Canada,  
 Province of  
 County of

To Wit.

In the matter of the rebate allowed by members of the Tanner's Association to purchasers of sole leather from them.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the county of \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly declare :

1. That I am a member of the firm of \_\_\_\_\_ carrying on business of \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and as such have a full and intimate knowledge of all transactions of my said firm or business and know that the statements herein contained are absolutely true ;

2. That since the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ up to the time of the making of this declaration I have neither purchased nor used in any way whatsoever, nor contracted to buy directly or indirectly, nor contracted for the production or manufacture of any sole leather of any kind or description whatsoever (except oak sole leather), save from the following firms :—Shaw, Cassils & Co. ; Beardmore & Co. ; Breithaupt Leather Co., Limited ; Logan Tanning Company, Limited ; C. S. Hyman & Co. ; Bowman & Zinkan ; Dowker, McIntosh & Co. ; Marlatt & Armstrong ; Muskoka Leather Company, Limited ; Acton Tanning Co., Limited ; Magnetawan Tanning and Electric Company, Limited ; Wingham Tanning Co. ; S. Arscott & Co., Benton, N.B. ; Warren, Tobey & Co.

3. That my firm has not, neither has any partner of mine, nor has any one acting as my agent, nor has any one acting as the agent of my firm, nor has any one acting as the agent of any partner of mine, nor has any one acting as the agent of the business described above, nor has any one employed by me or by any partner of mine or employed in connection with the business described above, nor has any one connected with me or with any partner of mine in any way whatsoever in the business referred to above, nor has any one connected with my firm or with the business described above, either purchased or used in any way whatsoever, or contracted to buy directly or indirectly, or received for sale or sold on commission, or dealt in any way with, or contracted for the production or manufacture of any sole leather of any kind or description whatsoever (except oak sole leather), save from the above mentioned firms ;

4. That I and all who are in any way connected with the business described above, have done no act that would disentitle the said business to the said rebate offered upon certain conditions by the firms mentioned above, in two circulars dated December 31st, 1895, and January 31st, 1896, but on the contrary we have faithfully fulfilled, both in letter and spirit, all conditions contained in said two circulars ;

5. That the statement marked Exhibit "A" to this declaration is a true and complete account of the sole leather purchased or contracted for

by any one connected with the business described above from the above mentioned firms.

And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the said force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of "The Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

Declared before me at  
in the county of  
this day of  
1897.

A Commissioner, &c.

Now, that is the declaration of oath which they must make before they get a rebate on that leather. The information I have from a large number of tanners is to this effect: We are engaged in manufacturing other kinds of leather, but we cannot sell it to those firms because they are in the combine and therefore precluded from dealing with us. These firms are not allowed to buy from us, nor can they buy that kind of leather, nor any other kind, and practically we are shut out of the market in our own country by virtue of this combination, which is very detrimental to trade. They have given me the names of a large number of men who are so circumstanced; I need not read them. But I have here another letter, or another explanation of it, which appeared in the "Globe," and although it is a little lengthy, I think the importance of this Bill justifies me in reading it, because it goes into the subject very fully. It is signed by a tanner outside of the combination, and is dated December 15th:

To the Editor of the "Globe."

Sir,—I read with great interest the report published in your paper of the 20th of November of the interview between the tariff commissioners and the sole leather combine. If you will kindly allow me space I will endeavour to correct the misleading statement made by the Messrs. Beardmore and others composing this combine, when confronted by Sir Richard Cartwright with the printed declaration to be signed by the buyers of sole leather. The reply was that the document was called into existence on account of the action of certain American firms in interfering with their exportations of sole leather, and the securing of the home market by offering a rebate to all those interested, who have not imported any sole leather, except oak sole leather. Now, this sounds all very plausible and fair, but let me tell you, sir, that this is not the only object these gentlemen have in view. Their object is twofold. First, by trying to get the tariff on sole leather increased so as to prevent competition with foreign countries, and, second, to prevent competition at home by combining together and issuing circulars to the buyers of sole leather allowing rebates to such buyers, upon their consenting to certain conditions contained therein. I have before me the affidavit, which has to be signed and sworn to by the buyers of sole leather before they are allowed the rebate. If you will kindly allow me, I will give to the public some extracts from this precious document, which goes on to say:

It is practically a repetition of the oath I have already read; therefore I need not

repeat that part of it. Then it goes on to say:

Now, that is the declaration or oath which different firms (the circulars give thirteen, but four of these are branch businesses owned and operated by the nine firms whose names are given in the circulars), and the buyers of sole leather must buy from them exclusively or forfeit the rebate, how is it going to affect the dozens of other sole leather tanners throughout the country? Oh, but the question is asked: Can't the other tanners allow a rebate on the same terms as the combine, and so be on an even footing with them?

The answer is, that this combine is composed of the only firms in Canada who manufacture Spanish sole leather, and they practically control that branch of the trade. They also manufacture slaughter sole leather as well, and in this line they come in competition with the small manufacturer outside of the combine, and now here comes the point aimed at by the combine. They say to the buyers and dealers in sole leather, who have to have both kinds, viz., slaughter and Spanish sole leather, as both are necessary in their business, You must buy from us exclusively or we will not give you the rebate. Now, I think I have made this point pretty clear, and you can see at once the position the small manufacturer of sole leather is placed in. The question might also be asked, Why do not the small manufacturers of sole leather go into the manufacture of Spanish sole? To this I would say, that the hides necessary for the manufacture of this line have to be imported, and the small tanner lacks the capital necessary to do this. He has to confine himself to the purchase of what hides he can buy in his own locality, and is unable to manufacture Spanish sole leather on that account. I have as many as a dozen letters from different firms stating that they are unable to buy from me on account of this combine; that they would prefer buying in an open market, but from the existing state of things it is against their interests to do so, and I have no doubt but that other tanners outside of the combine are in the same position as myself.

Now, if this is not a combine, and if they do not exert an undue influence to prevent competition, what is it? It must either be a combine or a conspiracy, and such a one as no Government that has the interest of the people at heart should allow to exist for a moment.

This association also asks the Government for an increase of protection, or it will be impossible for them to carry on their business on account of foreign competition. Why, sir, they are sending their surplus to Europe, and competing with them there. What is to hinder them from competing with us at home? The fact of the matter is, they do not want competition of any kind. Give them increased protection to shut out foreign competition, and they have things in such a shape that they can soon crush out competition at home. Now, Mr. Editor, if the Government cannot frame a law strict enough to do away with this combine (or any combine), the only way that I can see is to put Spanish sole leather on the free list.

I may explain that they were asking this because they could not attack them with this law which was regarded as a suitable one for this purpose they understood from the amendment of the Minister of Finance to the Customs Act, that in the event of a combine in any article of commerce which in-

juriously affected trade or increased the price he would by an Order in Council put such article on the free list, hence the question which they asked was that the Government put sole leather on the free list, allow them to come in competition with others and let them take their chances. I have a number of letters, one, from Messrs. W. F. & A. Smith, of Goderich; others from a man in Walkerton, but I have not them at hand just now. I think I have one also from Teeswater, Kincardine, Owen Sound, and a number of other places, all complaining of the same thing, that they are unable to sell sole leather to purchasers who were good customers heretofore, by virtue of this combine, because parties, who have hitherto got certain lines of leather from them, are compelled to make a declaration that they have purchased no other leather from any other firm except the combine, in order to get 5 per cent rebate. These small tanneries are very important to the country and to the different localities in which they exist. This disability means a great deal to the small tanners who are buying up the hides that are offered for sale in the different localities. They are not rich enough to become importers on their own account because they have not sufficient capital to enable them to introduce any large importation of hides, therefore, they are obliged to confine their operations to what they can buy at home. They employ labour and spend their money in the different localities and they can make a fair living if they are left to do that in open competition. They firmly believe that if this amendment were made to the law, which I have read, they can attack this combine successfully, and when they found that the Bill was introduced too late to get through the House last year they renewed the request this year that I should introduce the Bill again. I do so at their request believing that this amendment should have been made to the law, and I introduce this with the object of doing whatever I can to try and put down combines. For this reason I ask the House to give this Bill its second reading, and after that, if the House sees fit, we may go into committee and pass it in the shape that I propose.

Mr. ROBT. HOLMES (West Huron). Mr. Speaker, I would just like to add a word or two to what the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) has said concerning this Bill. I understand that the signatures on this petition, presented by the hon. member for East Grey, includes all the tanners of sole leather outside of the combine, and also all the leading shoe manufacturers in Ontario and Quebec. It affects my own riding very materially, and I am given to understand, that the combine are operating to the detriment of the small tanners to such an extent that these tanners find it almost impossible to carry on their business. Unless the legislation is granted that is asked for

Mr. SPROULE.

in this petition, I suppose a lot of tanners will be compelled to go out of business. I simply wanted to add these few remarks to the statement of the hon. member for East Grey, and I have nothing more to say than that the matter is one that should receive the careful consideration of the House.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I perfectly well remember the circumstances detailed by the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) under which, not this House, but a former House, was asked to pass a Bill in the shape to which he now desires to restore it. Of course the question is one of very considerable moment and it is not very easy to ascertain how far this measure goes in the shape in which he has proposed it, but I have no objection to offer to the Bill being read the second time, on the understanding that it be referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce, which is the committee properly entitled to deal with this question. If the hon. gentleman will agree that it be referred to that committee I will have no objection.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). Before this motion is adopted, I wish to say that I do not see any good or sufficient reason for referring it to the Committee on Banking and Commerce. That committee is one, that in the past, I do not know what it will be now, has proved itself somewhat hostile to that kind of legislation, and it is not necessary, I think, for a public Bill of this character to go before that committee. Private Bills properly go before that committee, but I am not aware, I am speaking subject to correction, that it is usual to refer public Bills to it.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Oh, yes; of this kind.

Mr. WALLACE. This is a public Bill, not a private Bill, and, therefore, I think it is not usual to refer such Bills to the Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Mr. SPROULE. It was not referred to the committee before. The House went into Committee of the Whole, and it was considered here.

Mr. WALLACE. I may say, as the Minister of Trade and Commerce very well knows, that the principle of this Bill has been unanimously affirmed by the House in the past. I believe the opinion of the present House of Commons will be in the same direction. As is stated by the mover of the Bill, the Senate which before added these words to which the House of Commons raised such a strong objection, have reconsidered the matter, and have agreed to the Bill as proposed by the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule). This is a public Bill, and I think it is quite unnecessary to refer it to the Committee on Banking and Commerce.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I have no hostility to this Bill, but on the contrary am disposed to look upon it with favour. The contention that Bills of this character are not referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce, is not, generally speaking, correct. I have one or two Bills of some importance which, though Government measures, I intend to ask to have referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce, because an opportunity is afforded there of threshing them out in a manner that it is not possible to do in this House. I hope to be able to find myself in a position to support the hon. gentleman's Bill.

Mr. D. TISDALE (South Norfolk). I agree with the Minister of Finance that it is proper to send a Bill of this kind to the Banking and Commerce Committee. No matter whether the Bill be a public or private one, the procedure followed always has been, that when it affects such a large body of people as the traders of Canada, it is sent to a committee so that the people interested may be heard. It is also wise to carefully consider the wording of such a measure in committee, so that its principle may not be carried further than is intended. We all know that there was a very wide discussion in the past with regard to the wording of this Bill. I remember the first time it was before us, it was almost passed through the House when it was found that it went so far as to injuriously affect the very people it was intended to benefit.

Mr. WALLACE. I think the recollection of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Tisdale) is a little at fault.

Mr. TISDALE. Not at all. That was the opinion of the late lamented Sir John Thompson. He raised the point, and it was on his opinion largely that action was taken with reference to the word "unduly," upon the meaning of which the whole thing turns. I am willing to do any reasonable thing to grant relief to those who may be suffering under present conditions, but I want to see the Bill so worded that it will not do more harm than good. This is a Bill which requires most careful consideration, and the fact that in the past there has been a difference of opinion in regard to it between the Senate and the House of Commons, is all the more reason why it should be most carefully considered by us. I am surprised that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) does not accept the suggestion to refer the Bill to the Banking and Commerce Committee.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Tisdale) is quite out of order, because I did accept it.

Mr. TISDALE. Then, if you accepted it, what is the use of continuing the discussion.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). Probably the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) is under a little error as to the Banking and Commerce Committee. It used to be, in my time, rather a small committee, but it is now a very large committee, numbering 128 members, more than half the entire House, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) is a member of it himself, so that he can rely on every one being heard.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). One advantage of sending this Bill to the committee is that it will give the people an opportunity of being heard, and not so much in reference to the amendment of the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) as on the question of trade combinations, which is the subject of the section we are asked to amend. In my opinion the hon. member for East Grey is right, and the Senate—if I may be so bold as to say so—were quite wrong in making the amendment they did make to this section. What is the section? The section is aimed at unlawful combinations. It is aimed against persons who conspire together to make an agreement for an unlawful combination against trade. Therefore, as it stands, the first part of the section protects people in any innocent action they may take to limit trade. And why does it protect them? Because first, there must be a conspiracy or an agreement of some kind which must be an unlawful agreement before it is an offence. The moment you have a conspiracy or unlawful agreement the offence is complete, and when the words "unduly" and "unreasonably" are inserted they simply destroy the whole section. If the Bill goes before the committee we will have the whole question discussed, and surely, any one who considers it must agree that the member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) is logically correct in asking to have these objectionable words struck out.

Mr. T. D. CRAIG (East Durham). I rise to say something on this question, because I have a little knowledge about the combine in leather, though not very much.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Hear, hear.

Mr. CRAIG. I have not much knowledge of it I say, but I remember hearing something about it. I wish to say a few words about this combine in leather with which I have nothing to do, although the hon. member for South Grey (Mr. Landerkin) seems to think I have. I repeat that I have nothing to do with it, and I am not here to defend it. A good deal has been read about it to-night, but I may state that I remember hearing that one of the reasons for this combine in leather, as it is called, was this: In the United States a huge combination of all the sole leather tanners was formed with a capital of, I think, \$50,000,000, and this combine of the Canadian sole

leather tanners was formed in order to hold their own trade against that huge combine which threatened to wipe them out of existence. I have never heard that they charged exorbitant prices on account of that combine, but what they do is this: To customers who deal with them steadily for six months they give a rebate of 5 per cent at the end of that time, and that is done to hold their trade principally against this combine in the United States. I mention that to show that there is something to be said on the other side of the question. I am not in favour of combines, but I think it is only right that this Bill should go before the committee where persons interested on both sides can state their case.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

Mr. SPROULE moved that the said Bill be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Motion agreed to.

#### TRADE MARK AND DESIGN ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. GEO. H. BERTRAM (Centre Toronto) moved second reading of Bill (No. 41) in further amendment of the Trade Mark and Design Act.

He said: In moving the second reading of this Bill, perhaps it would be as well for me to explain to the House that it is exactly the same in every particular as the Bill which I introduced last session, and which passed this House without opposition. The Bill is a very simple one. It simply enables an association or union of workmen who have a mark in connection with their union, to register that mark, and to be the proprietors of it, as in the case of a label or trade mark used by any trader, manufacturer or merchant. Exception was taken to the Bill in the Senate, and it was thrown out, principally, I think, on the ground that a Bill of this nature gave workmen the power to mark the goods of any manufacturer or tradesman who employed them. It does not give them that power, and it is not the intention to give them that power. The Minister of Justice stated in the Senate that if the Bill were allowed to go into committee, he was quite willing that these words should be added: "Provided always, that no marks shall be put upon the goods without the consent of the proprietor." Instead of raising objection to a union of workmen using a label or mark, I think it should be encouraged, for the simple reason that the fact of the goods they manufacture bearing such a label or mark is an incentive to them to produce a higher and better class of goods: otherwise the label would be of no value whatever. I am quite satisfied that the evils supposed to result from this practice, as indicated by the speeches of some of the hon. members of the Senate, are entirely im-

Mr. CRAIG.

aginary. I am satisfied that no merchant, manufacturer or trader has any objection whatever to a workmen's union having a label which they can register and be proprietors of, so that it cannot be used by any one else. That is all the Bill asks for, and I am quite satisfied that it will pass this House again this session, as it did last session; and when it goes up to the Senate, I am sure that after another year's experience and fuller knowledge, the honourable the Senate will see that this is not hasty legislation, and will allow the Bill to become law.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 9.45 p.m.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 21st April, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

LINDSAY, HALIBURTON AND MATTAWA RAILWAY.

Mr. D. HENDERSON (Halton) moved:

That the petition of the Lindsay, Haliburton and Mattawa Railway Company, presented this day, praying to be permitted to lay before the House a petition for an Act to extend the time for the commencement and completion of the Lindsay, Haliburton and Mattawa Railway, notwithstanding the expiration of the time for presenting petitions for private Bills, be now read and referred to the Select Standing Committee on Standing Orders.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). I do not want to oppose that motion, but I notice that a somewhat similar motion was made yesterday. I understood that last year it was decided that the rule should be a cast-iron rule for the future; but it seems to me that we are drifting into the same habits that we fell into in former years, of extending the time. It seems to me that it would be desirable to stick to the rule, and shut out a number of those who want to come in after the time.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). There is a good deal of force in what my hon. friend says; but the best of rules require to be used with discretion.

Motion agreed to.

## FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 65) to incorporate the Restigouche Boom Company.—(Mr. McAlister.)

Bill (No. 66) respecting the Lindsay, Bobcaygeon and Pontypool Railway Company.—(Mr. McHugh.)

Bill (No. 67) respecting the Welland Power and Supply Canal Company.—(Mr. Gibson, by Mr. Landerkin.)

Bill (No. 68) respecting the London Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Canada.—(Mr. Fraser, East Lambton.)

Bill (No. 69) to incorporate the Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Railway Company.—(Mr. Calvert, by Mr. Fraser, Lambton.)

Bill (No. 70) respecting the Bronson and Weston Lumber Company, and to change its name to the Bronson Lumber Company.—(Mr. McIsaac.)

Bill (No. 71) to incorporate the Algoma Central Railway Company.—(Mr. Dymont, by Mr. Tolmie.)

## DRUMMOND COUNTY RAILWAY PURCHASE.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I beg to move that the House do, on Tuesday next, resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on the following resolution, which has been submitted to the Governor General, and received his recommendation :

1st. That it is expedient to authorize the Governor in Council to purchase from the Drummond County Railway Company, and to authorize the said company to sell and convey to Her Majesty the whole of the railway and undertaking of the said company, including its main and branch lines of railway, and all buildings, fixtures and appurtenances appertaining thereto, and upon such purchase being effected the said railway and its branch lines shall become and form part of the Intercolonial Railway, and may be operated as such.

2nd. That the purchase is to include all running powers and other rights, privileges and concessions acquired by the said company from any other railway company or companies, and all its franchises and property of whatsoever kind, excepting only the rolling stock and station furniture of the company and the tools of the section men.

3rd. That the said railway and undertaking is to be conveyed to Her Majesty free and clear from all charges, liens or encumbrances affecting the same under or by virtue of in respect of any mortgage, bonds, debentures or preference stocks or other securities, or otherwise howsoever, and the said company shall release Her Majesty of, and from all claims and demands under a certain lease and agreement bearing date the twenty-fifth day of February, 1898, and made between the said company of the first part and Her Majesty of the second part.

4th. That there may be paid for the said railway and undertaking and other property, as aforesaid, out of any unappropriated moneys forming part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, the sum of one million six hundred thousand dollars, less any sum paid the company as authorized by the Act,

chapter 4, Statutes of 1897, to be granted to the said company as a subsidy for forty-one and a half miles from Moose Park to the Chaudière River.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I shall have to be away on Tuesday, as the hon. gentleman knows, and would ask that he fix Thursday instead of Tuesday, for this resolution.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I shall move the resolution formally for Tuesday, but will then make it the first Government order on Thursday.

Motion agreed to.

## CABLE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CANADA AND AUSTRALIA.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). I beg to move that the House do resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, on Tuesday next, to consider the following resolution with which His Excellency has been made acquainted and which he recommends :

That for the purpose of establishing direct submarine telegraphic communication between Canada and Australasia it is expedient to authorize the Governor in Council to enter into an agreement with such of the Governments of the United Kingdom and Her Majesty's Australasian possessions as desire to share in the undertaking for the purpose on their behalf of securing the construction, acquisition, laying, maintenance and operation of a cable between Canada and Australasia on the following conditions :

(a.) That a Board of Commissioners be created by or under the legislative authority of the Parliament of the United Kingdom with all powers requisite for the purpose aforesaid.

(b.) That the proposed cable and all its branches, additions or extensions, and all property, real or personal, at any time acquired for the purpose of the undertaking, shall vest and continue vested in such Board in trust to carry out such undertaking for the benefit of the respective Governments sharing in the undertaking and in proportion to their respective interests therein.

(c.) That for the purpose of obtaining money wherewith to carry out the undertaking, the Board may issue debentures for such sums, payable at such dates not being less than years, nor more than years from the respective dates of issue, and bearing such rate of interest, and payable at such place as the Board may determine, but the total amount of the principal money of such debentures at any time outstanding shall not exceed £ sterling.

(d.) That subject to the cost of operation, maintenance, management, and the setting apart of such proper sinking fund as the Board may deem advisable wherewith to provide for renewals, the said principal moneys and interest shall be a first charge on all the said property, real and personal, and earnings of the undertaking.

(e.) That the cable shall be laid between Canada and Australasia via the Pacific Ocean, and may be in sections, but all points of its landing shall be on British territory.

(f.) That the Commissioners shall have full power to administer the affairs of the Board and the carrying on of the undertaking in trust for the benefit of said Governments.

(g.) That the total number of commissioners and the nature of their tenure of office shall from time to time be determined by said Governments, and each Government, having regard to such total number, shall be entitled to appoint such Board as near as may be, as many members thereof as represent the relative liability of such appointing Government as guarantor, as hereinafter mentioned, and to fill vacancies, as same occur from time to time.

(h.) That the respective Governments joining in such agreement shall be interested in the profits and losses of the undertaking in proportion to the amount of their liability as aforesaid.

(i.) That the Governor in Council is hereby authorized on behalf of the Dominion of Canada, to guarantee payment of five-eighteenth parts of the said total principal money of said debentures, limited as aforesaid and interest as aforesaid on said five-eighteenth parts.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Will my hon. friend fix a later day for that also?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I move it merely formally for Tuesday, and we can then treat it the same as the other resolution.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am very glad indeed to see this resolution, but would like to call the attention of the Government—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. On such a motion it is not permissible to have any discussion.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am simply going to make a remark which I think the hon. gentleman will be glad to hear. It is very desirable we should have before the question comes up, the fullest information. I notice a statement in the paper that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has intimated that Her Majesty's Government have not agreed to this agreement as yet, and I notice that with regret. I would ask my right hon. friend to lay on the Table, before that resolution comes up, the correspondence between myself, when I was Commissioner, and the Government here, with regard to this question of cable communication, because I think it is calculated to strengthen the hands of the Government in regard to this proposal.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I would like my hon. friend to look at the Order of the House which was moved and carried last year.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It does not contain what I am asking for.

The PRIME MINISTER. Then I shall see that everything we have will be brought down.

Mr. CASEY. There was a motion carried two or three days ago which I think covers everything.

The PRIME MINISTER. That will be attended to.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. MULOCK.

## BUDGET SPEECH AND ESTIMATES.

Mr. FOSTER. Can the hon. Finance Minister give any information as to the probable time when the Estimates will be brought down and the speech on the Budget delivered?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I cannot fix a definite date at present, but at the very earliest date an announcement will be made on behalf of the Government.

Mr. FOSTER. And the remainder of that precious volume of the Auditor General?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I shall make inquiry concerning that.

The PRIME MINISTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 3.30 o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, April 24th, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### COMPENSATION BY RAILWAYS.

Mr. DAVIN moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 72) respecting railways. He said: The object is to make further provisions for fire guards in the North-west Territories and also to perfect legislation that at my instance was introduced in 1890, so as to make more secure the obtaining of compensation by the farmers and ranchers of the North-west who may lose cattle in consequence of the negligence of railway employees or otherwise, and also to provide for the safety of railway employees and for compensation to them or their families in the case of injury or death.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION—MR. DAVIN.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assinibola). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to draw attention to a statement in the Manitoba "Free Press" of the 20th instant:

The Opposition counted on detaching from the Government side at least one member of the House who sits on that side, but they did not know their man, who has no political courage, and bids fair to rival Mr. Davin's celebrated record of talking one way and voting the other.

I am very glad, Mr. Speaker, to have the statement coming from a quarter that en-

ables me, within parliamentary rules, to denounce it as an absolute falsehood, without a shadow or tittle of foundation.

That was how Mr. Davin for some years tried to hoodwink the farmers of the west into believing him independent of his party when he was one of the very few dependents in the House.

I have to say, with regard to that also, that the implication is absolutely false. The record of achievements for the North-west that has marked my connection with it, both before and since I have been in Parliament—

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman is going altogether too far. He is making a speech on matters not before the House.

Mr. DAVIN. It will not be necessary for me to move the adjournment of the House, as I think I have said all that is necessary. I do not know whether the "Free Press" refers to the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver) or to the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) in the comparison it makes.

#### EXPENDITURE ON PIERS—P. E. I.

Mr. A. MARTIN (East Queen's, P.E.I.) I beg to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Public Works to a return which I asked for last year for the expenditure on piers—not works of public importance—but on private piers by the Government, and which has not yet come down.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). I will look into the record and see that the return is brought down.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION—MR. BERGERON.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege. I take the first opportunity I have had since being away to bring to the attention of the House something which I find in a newspaper published in Montreal, and which, as I do not like to use the harsh word used by my hon. friend (Mr. Davin), I will content myself with saying is untrue. "La Patrie," of the 18th April, in the report of this House, has an item which I translate as follows:—

The contradictory assertions of Messrs. Borden, of Halifax, and Bergeron are before the electors of Canada, who will judge between the two and say which of the two has lied to the House and to the country. Either Mr. Bergeron has had an interview with Messrs. Semple and Allan, as affirmed by Mr. Borden, in which case Mr. Bergeron has deceived the House in denying it, or Mr. Bergeron has not been truthful, and it is Mr. Borden who has not spoken the truth in saying that Mr. Bergeron has met Messrs. Semple and Allan in company with the member for Victoria.

I can only say that this statement is entirely untrue, and I shall prove it by reading a few lines of the unrevised "Hansard."

Mr. SPEAKER. That is referring to a former debate.

Mr. BERGERON. I am proving that this is untrue, I think I can do it in no better way.

Mr. SPEAKER. It is irregular to refer to a former debate, much more irregular, I think, when it is for the purpose of answering a mere newspaper statement. The hon. gentleman denies the statement in the newspapers, and I am sure that is quite enough. At any rate, it is irregular to refer to a past debate.

Mr. BERGERON. I know that the rule forbids reference to a former debate in discussion; but this is more important, I believe, Mr. Speaker, than you seem to think. This is a newspaper published in the province of Quebec, and it says, purely and simply, that one of two members of this House, either the member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) or the member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) has lied. I wish to prove by quoting a few lines of "Hansard" that neither has lied.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bergeron) can do that in a certain way; but cannot do it on calling the Orders of the Day.

Mr. BERGERON. But to do it otherwise would take a longer time. I know I can do it in another way, but this is only five lines I wish to read.

Mr. SPEAKER. It is better to take the right way, even though it may be longer. We must not get into the habit of loose discussion on the calling of the Orders of the Day. The hon. gentleman was making a speech.

Mr. BERGERON. Then I will finish my remarks with a motion.

Mr. SPEAKER. Very well.

Mr. BERGERON. I have read to the House what I find in this paper, and now that I have larger scope, I may say that this is an illustration of the way the official press in Quebec generally acts. I want to prove how unfair it is.

Mr. SPEAKER. But proceeding in another way does not justify the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bergeron) in referring to a past debate. That is utterly irregular.

Mr. BERGERON. Surely, Mr. Speaker, you will not prevent me reading what I said myself.

Mr. SPEAKER. But what the hon. gentleman has said himself goes without saying. It is not contradicted.

Mr. BERGERON. I merely wish to read what I said in debate. When the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) spoke about gentlemen coming here from the States—I refer to page 1712 of "Hansard"—I remarked

"they have not arrived yet." Then the Minister of Finance said: "My hon. friend knows that they have been closeted with him day in and day out." To this I replied: "My hon. friend, I am sure, is not speaking seriously." Then the Minister of Finance said this: "I withdraw it. I can only say that my hon. friend from Halifax stated that he had a pleasant interview with them, accompanied—" And then I said: "I never had, anyway." That is the whole thing.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not want the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bergeron) to misunderstand my ruling. A motion to adjourn does not authorize a reference to a past debate. I see, however, that he has brought this in in such a way as to be in the form of a personal explanation, and I suppose that a past debate may be referred to, to a very limited extent, for that purpose.

Mr. BERGERON. I wished to avoid making a motion to adjourn the House, and now that His Honour the Speaker understands what I want to come at, I wish instead of making a motion to adjourn the House, to say that the statement made by "La Patrie" is entirely untrue, and that I have proved it.

#### PAPERS RELATING TO THE PLEBISCITE.

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to say that I intended to bring up to-day the matter of laying on the Table of the House papers which were referred to by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher). The First Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) asked me the other day to defer it until the Minister of Agriculture was present. I will bring it up to-morrow, if the Minister of Agriculture is in his place.

#### SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 61) respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.—(Mr. Gibson.)

Bill (No. 62) respecting the Canada Life Assurance Company.—(Mr. Gibson.)

MR. JOHN R. DARGAVEL, ELGIN, ONT.

Mr. TAYLOR (by Mr. Davin) asked :

1. Has Mr. John R. Dargavel been dismissed from the office of postmaster at Elgin, Ont. ?
2. Were any complaints made against him for not having discharged the duties of his office efficiently ?
3. Was Mr. Dargavel notified that any complaints had been made against him ?
4. Was there any investigation held ?
5. Did the post office inspector make any report recommending his dismissal ?
6. Was Mr. W. H. Fredenburgh, the Reform candidate at the last election, consulted, and did he recommend or approve of his dismissal ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. Yes. 2. Complaints were made against him. 3. Yes. 4. No. 5. The mat-

Mr. BERGERON.

ter was not referred to the inspector. 6. The Postmaster General assumes full responsibility for the dismissal. The postmaster admits that at a public meeting held by the Liberal candidate in connection with the general election of 1896 he (the postmaster) took part in addressing the meeting.

MR. W. R. SINGLETON, DELTA, ONT.

Mr. TAYLOR (by Mr. Davin) asked :

1. Has Mr. W. R. Singleton been dismissed from the office of postmaster at Delta, Ont. ?
2. Were there any complaints made against him for not attending to the duties of his office faithfully ?
3. Was Mr. Singleton notified of any complaints having been made against him ?
4. Was there any investigation held ? Did the post office inspector make any report recommending his dismissal ?
5. Did Mr. W. H. Fredenburgh, the Reform candidate at the last election, recommend his dismissal ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). It was charged that Mr. Singleton permitted the use of the post office at Delta as headquarters to the Conservative party, prior to the 23rd June, 1896; that the Reformers attending the office for the mails were insulted, and that the postmaster was a party to such action; and the department would doubtless have notified the postmaster of the charges and have referred the same for investigation, but before the same was done Mr. Singleton wrote to the department intimating that he had learned of the complaints of the local executive of the Reform association against him, and submitted "to being dismissed without rendering necessary the holding of an investigation," and, accordingly, a change of postmaster was made.

#### AMENDMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE ACT.

Mr. McMULLEN (by Mr. Sutherland) asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to recast the Civil Service Act, with the view to economize as well as secure a more equitable payment for services rendered and a more efficient service ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). It is the intention of the Government to introduce an amendment to the Civil Service Act. I am not in a position, at the moment, to state whether it will cover the ground referred to by the hon. gentleman.

#### BALL CARTRIDGE.

Mr. CALVERT (by Mr. Fraser, Lambton) asked :

1. Number of rounds of Snider Enfield ball cartridge issued to the 7th Battalion, London, in the years 1895, 1896, 1897 and 1898.
2. Number of rounds of Snider Enfield ball cartridge expended by the 7th Battalion, London,

according to returns of ball practice in the years 1895, 1896, 1897 and 1898.

3. Amount of Snider ball cartridge (if any) in the stores of the 7th Battalion at time of its disbandment.

4. Number of rounds of Lee Enfield ball cartridge issued to the 7th Battalion, London, in 1897 and 1898.

5. Number of rounds of Lee Enfield ball cartridge expended by the 7th Battalion, London, according to returns of ball practice in the years 1897 and 1898.

6. Amount of Lee Enfield ball cartridge (if any) in the stores of the 7th Battalion at the time of its disbandment.

7. Whether any, and if any, what amount of Snider Enfield or Lee Enfield ball cartridge issued to the 7th Battalion, London, in the years 1895, 1896, 1897 and 1898 returned by the colonel of that battalion to the military storekeeper at London, at any time or times.

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). 1. 1895, 5,040 rounds; 1896, 5,040 rounds; 1897, 15,120 rounds; 1898, nil. 2. There are no returns to show the amount expended. 3. None. 4. 1897, nil; 1898, 17,040 rounds. 5. 3,380. 6. 965. 7. None.

#### JOHN FRAWLEY, CARETAKER.

Mr. **BENNETT** (by Mr. Davin) asked :

1. Who is the caretaker of the public building at Orillia ?
2. When was he appointed ?
3. Upon whose recommendation ?
4. What salary is paid to him ?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). 1. John Frawley. 2. 4th November, 1898. 3. Frawley was the man employed by the former postmaster, who was at the same time caretaker, to do the cleaning of the building. It was found that he performed his work very satisfactorily, and that is the reason why he was appointed caretaker. 4. \$15 per month.

#### POSTMASTER AT MOONSTONE, ONT.

Mr. **BENNETT** (by Mr. Davin) asked :

Who is postmaster at Moonstone, Ont. ? Is he personally in charge of, and does he conduct the duties of the office ? Who recommended him to the position ? Why was the late postmaster, John Craig, dismissed ? Was there an investigation ?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). Mr. Thomas Goodfellow is postmaster at Moonstone, and so far as this department is aware, is in charge of or exercises such supervision as is customarily required of postmasters similarly situate. The Postmaster General takes full responsibility for the appointment of his successor, and does not, therefore, consider it necessary to state on whose recommendation he was acting in making the appointment. The change of postmaster was made because the late postmaster lived a considerable distance from the office, and neither performed the duties nor exercised such supervision as is required

by the department. The matter was inquired into and reported upon by the inspector.

#### MR. EMERY LAFONTAINE.

Mr. **DAVIN** asked :

1. Whether Mr. Emery Lafontaine within the last fifteen months visited the Yukon in an official capacity ?
2. If so, in what capacity ?
3. Is he in the employ of the Public Works Department ?
4. If he is the Lafontaine who visited the Yukon, how long was he there ?
5. What were his instructions ?
6. Had he leave to meddle in staking claims ?
7. If he did so meddle, had he the sanction of his Minister ?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). 1. Yes. 2. As assistant to the chief engineer. 3. Yes. 4. Mr. Lafontaine was in the Yukon district for about a month. 5. His instructions were to assist the chief engineer in his work. 6. No. 7. No.

#### DAWSON CITY POST OFFICE.

Mr. **DAVIN** asked :

Whether there is a person named Bourassa employed in the Yukon post office ? If so, is he related to the hon. member for Labelle ?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). There is no post office known as Yukon. If the office referred to is that of Dawson City in the Yukon district, the answer is that the postmaster at Dawson City was authorized to select and employ a suitable staff of assistants, and he has doubtless done so, under the supervision of Mr. Ogilvie, who has been asked to exercise the general authority of a post office inspector in the district. This department has not been consulted as to the persons selected, and has no information as to the personnel of the staff of the Dawson City post office, other than that of postmaster.

#### TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES TO THE YUKON.

Mr. **CLARKE** (by Mr. Davin) asked :

1. What are the names and address of the transportation companies or individuals employed for or on behalf of the Government, to convey supplies to the Yukon district ?
2. What quantities or weights were carried by, and how much was paid to each such company or individual ?
3. Where were the supplies purchased ; and where delivered by each such company or individual and at what dates ?
4. Were any of the supplies conveyed for the Government by said companies or individuals sold by the Government ; and if so, to whom and at what prices ?
5. Were tenders asked for the purchase and transport of the supplies ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). In reply to the hon. gentleman, I beg to say that the information asked for,

so far as the Police and Interior Departments are concerned, is as follows. The Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden) has already given substantially the same information in regard to the Militia Department.

1. To the Yukon via St. Michael's: The Alaska Commercial Company and the Boston Alaska Company; to the Yukon via the White Pass: The regular lines of steamboats from Victoria and Vancouver to Skagway and thence by packers over the summit. 2. By the Alaska Commercial Company: Approximately 300 tons, paid for at \$250 per ton; by the Boston-Alaska Company: 50 tons at \$250 per ton, but not paid as the receipts for delivery have not been presented; by the White Pass, by various packers: Approximately 300 tons at rates varying from 9 to 50 cents per pound. 3. The supplies were purchased in Montreal, Ottawa, Victoria, Vancouver and other places. The Alaska Commercial Company delivered the goods transported by their boats at Dawson about the 16th of August; the Boston-Alaska Company were to have delivered at Selkirk before the close of navigation, but the delivery receipts have not yet reached Ottawa; the supplies sent via the White Pass were distributed among a number of packers, and delivery was going on throughout the season. 4. No, except small quantities to officials for their personal use. 5. Tenders were asked for the supplying of the larger portion of the goods. For the transportation via St. Michael's and the Yukon River the two old established companies, viz.: The Alaska Commercial Company, and the North American Transportation and Trading Company were asked to tender.

#### GREATER BRITAIN EXHIBITION.

Mr. CLARKE (by Mr. Davin) asked:

1. What (if any) representations have been made or will be made for a mineral exhibit from Canada in the mining section of the Greater Britain Exhibition to be held from May to October, this year, at Earl's Court, London, England?

2. What (if any) representations have been made to the Government, or any member thereof, relative to the effect which clauses 16, 30, 31 and 39 of the regulations governing placer mining in the provisional district of Yukon, North-west Territories, approved by Order in Council of 18th January, 1898, have to discourage investors in Canadian enterprises resident in the United Kingdom and elsewhere and to hinder the purpose of persons who are seeking to promote the development of the resources of Canada?

3. What (if any) reply has been made to such representations respectively?

4. What amendment (if any) will be made by the Government to the above referred to clauses or any of them?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. No arrangements have been made to participate in the exhibition referred to. 2 and 3. The representations and reply are in the form of correspondence which will be brought down when moved for. 4. The exemption has been raised to \$5,000.

Mr. SIFTON.

No further amendment is contemplated at present.

#### LETTER CARRIERS, VICTORIA, B.C.

Mr. PRIOR asked:

1. How many letter carriers were employed in the post office in Victoria, B.C., in the year 1895-96, 1896-97 and 1897-98 respectively, and how many are employed at the present time?

2. What salary was paid to each letter carrier employed in 1895-96, and what salaries are paid in the present year?

3. What provisional allowance was granted to each letter carrier in 1895-96, and what in 1897-98?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). I would ask the hon. gentleman to make a motion. The question involves a good deal of detail, and it would be more convenient to have it in the form of an order.

#### MAIL SERVICE, MURRAY BAY AND QUEBEC.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Bergeron) asked:

1. Are the Government aware that complaints are made as to the manner in which the mail service is performed between Murray Bay and the city of Quebec?

2. Are the Government aware that the mail-carrier has been, on some occasions, twelve hours late in leaving Murray Bay for Quebec?

3. Is it true that, prior to 1896, when the mail-carrier was prevented by bad weather or other causes from leaving Murray Bay for Quebec, at the time appointed, he was bound to secure, and did secure another carrier to set out in his place and at his expense?

4. When for any reason the carrier who has contracted for the mail between Murray Bay and Quebec, or for any part of the route, is unable to leave Murray Bay at the hour appointed, does he provide at his own cost another carrier in his place?

5. If not, why does he not do so?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1 and 2. No complaints had reached the department at the date the question was asked, as to the performance of the service, but on inquiry it was learned that the post office inspector at Quebec had been advised on the 24th March last that the trips were not being made with due regularity about that time. The postmaster at Murray Bay, who was written to by the inspector on the subject, stated that the mail which was due to leave Murray Bay at 3 p.m. on the 21st March did not leave until the afternoon of the 22nd of March, as there was no courier on hand to take charge of it. The inspector adds that on receipt of this information he wrote on the 28th March to the contractor for the mail service between Murray Bay and St. Paul's Bay stating that he must arrange to have some one ready to take charge of the mails at the starting points, when he is unable to be on hand himself. 3. It is true that prior to March, 1896, the courier was required to provide at his own

expense a courier to leave Murray Bay at the time fixed by the contract when for any reason he was unable to take the mails himself. Some trouble having arisen in March, 1896, regarding the payment for one of such special trips, the department deemed it inadvisable to continue the practice of requiring the contractor to make provision in case of his inability to be at Murray Bay at the time fixed, and the inspector was notified to that effect on the 9th March, 1896. No complaints having reached the department as to the manner of performing the service since 1896, the principle laid down on the 9th of March of that year has not been under discussion in the department since.

**FRANK HARPER, POSTMASTER, DAWSON CITY.**

Mr. GILLIES asked :

1. Was Frank Harper postmaster of Dawson City in August last ?
2. Is he still postmaster of Dawson City ?
3. Did the said Frank Harper ask and obtain the permission of the Postmaster General before publishing the following notice :—

“ The North-west Mounted Police,  
Dawson, August 23rd, 1898.

“ To whom it may concern: The Yukon Mail and Express Delivery Company is going to endeavour to establish a service for the delivery of mail in the town of Dawson. They have interviewed me regarding this service, and I have agreed to help them in any way I can in giving them letters for those who may wish to avail themselves of this accommodation for a small charge. This is entirely voluntary on any one's part who may wish to obtain their mail through this source, and is done entirely for the public benefit. As a good deal of expense will be incurred in connection with this delivery, I have given the within mentioned the sole right of delivery for the time being.

“ FRANK HARPER,  
Postmaster, Dawson.”

4. If the said postmaster had not asked and obtained the Postmaster General's consent and directions before issuing the above notice or proclamation, then upon what authority did the postmaster undertake to give the exclusive right of delivery of letters in Dawson City to the Yukon Mail and Express Delivery Company ?

5. What amount, if any, was paid and to whom, by the Yukon Mail and Express Delivery Company for their sole privilege covered by the postmaster's notice ?

6. If the postmaster acted without directions from the department in publishing this notice and in creating this monopoly, what steps have been taken by the department to have him punished therefor ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. Yes, F. Harper was postmaster at Dawson City in August last. 2. He is not now postmaster at Dawson City. 3. He did not ask or obtain permission to publish notices in question. 4. The department has no knowledge as to whether such notice was issued, or, if issued, upon what authority the same may have been issued. 5. The

department is not aware whether such service was established or what, if any sum was paid said company. 6. Before considering what action should be taken it is deemed proper to ask for explanations from Mr. Harper in regard to the matter.

**POSTMASTER AT CHAMBORD.**

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

1. Has Mr. Job Bilodeau, postmaster of Chambord, in the county of Chicoutimi, been dismissed since 1896 ?
2. If so, on what date ?
3. For what reasons and on whose recommendation ?
4. Who recommended his successor ?
5. How many years had Mr. Job Bilodeau been postmaster of Chambord ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. Yes. 2. On the 28th September, 1896. 3. Because of his having been an active political partisan. 4. His successor was recommended by the member for the riding. 5. Twenty-four years.

**POSTMASTER AT LAKE BOUCHETTE.**

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

1. Was Mr. William Larouche, postmaster of Lake Bouchette, in the county of Chicoutimi, dismissed since 1896 ?
2. If so, on what grounds, and who recommended his dismissal ?
3. Who recommended his successor ?
4. Who now holds the contract for carrying the mail between Lake Bouchette and the railway station ?
5. How much is he paid for the service ?
6. Was he awarded the contract after tenders had been called for, and was his tender the lowest ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. Yes. 2. Because of being an active political partisan. 3. The member for Chicoutimi. 4. Joseph Potvin. 5. \$62.60 a year. 6. The contract was awarded to Mr. Potvin after tenders were called for. His tender was the lowest.

**POSTMASTER AT ST. ESPRIT.**

Mr. DUGAS asked :

1. Has C. Dalpe dit Pariseau been dismissed from the position of postmaster of St. Esprit, in the county of Montcalm ?
2. Was he charged with inefficiency in the discharge of his duties ?
3. Was Mr. Pariseau notified as to such charges ?
4. Was an inquiry held ?
5. Did the inspector make a report recommending his dismissal ? Was Mr. Bissonnette, the local member, consulted, and did he recommend or approve of the dismissal ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. Yes. 2. The management of the office was not considered satisfactory and the situation of the office was considered inconvenient. 3. Yes. 4. Yes. 5. The report showed that the postmaster's conduct

was unsatisfactory and that the office was inconveniently situated. The Postmaster General assumes full responsibility.

**POSTMASTER AT MORTON.**

Mr. TAYLOR (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

1. Has Mr. J. R. Leake, postmaster at Morton, been dismissed ?
2. If so, who has been appointed in his place ?
3. Was there any inquiry ?
4. If so, who held the investigation ?
5. Was it a public investigation ?
6. Was Mr. Leake notified that an inquiry was being held ?
7. Was there an affidavit filed, made by one Robert Wood ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. Yes. 2. A. E. Sliter. 3. Yes. 4. Post office inspector of the Ottawa division. 5. Yes. 6. Yes. 7. Yes.

**TELEGRAPH LINE, NORTH SHORE OF ST. LAWRENCE.**

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

1. Has L. P. DeCourval carried on since March, 1898, the putting-up of the telegraph line on the north shore of the St. Lawrence ?
2. How many miles of the line have been erected, and to what point ?
3. How much have the Government paid out on this work, since 9th March, 1898, and to whom, and for what ?
4. Are there any unsettled claims at this date for the said work ? If so, by whom made, for what, and for what amount ?
5. Have the Government sent an engineer or other official to take over the said work ? If so, whom, and what has been the cost of the inspection ?
6. Have the Government authorized the said DeCourval to resume the work during the coming season ? If so, are the prices to be the same ? Is the contract signed ?
7. Is the Government aware that Mr. DeCourval is getting out dry cedar posts, split, 20 feet in length and 5 inches in diameter, for the work of the coming season ?
8. Is such material accepted by the Government as suitable for the work, and has some of it already been used in the construction of the line now finished ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). 1. Yes, he has built a further extension of the line. 2. Eighty-six and one-eighth miles, from a point 6 miles below Aguanus to Big Romaine R. 3. The total amount paid out by the Government on this work since 9th March, 1898, is \$10,887.94. Said amount was paid as follows :—

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| L. P. DeCourval, building line.....     | \$9,040 00 |
| N. A. Comeau, inspection (two trips).   | 491 13     |
| Ahearn & Soper, instruments.....        | 207 05     |
| J. E. Martineau, spikes.....            | 28 80      |
| Lewis Bros. & Co., insulators.....      | 311 80     |
| The Ed. Cavanagh Co., wire.....         | 280 06     |
| Israel Cormier, inspection (two trips). | 219 00     |
| Trips with I. Cormier—                  |            |
| J. Cormier .....                        | 39 00      |
| A. Cormier .....                        | 53 00      |
| Jean Cormier.....                       | 40 30      |
| Dom. Cormier .....                      | 39 60      |

Mr. MULOCK.

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| François Dupuis .....                             | \$ 39 90    |
| Firmin Desjardins.....                            | 32 50       |
| A. Fortin .....                                   | 13 00       |
| Wm. Sir .....                                     | 40 30       |
| Quebec Machine Supply Co., repairers' tools ..... | 13 70       |
|   | <hr/>       |
|   | \$10,887 94 |

4. Not that the department is aware of. 5. The line was in course of progress inspected by Mr. Israel Cormier, of Point aux Esquimaux, and on completion by Nap. Comeau, Government telegraph agent at Godbout. 6. No. 7. No. 8. No.

**SNOW SHOVELLING ON THE I. C. R.**

Mr. POWELL (by Mr. Haggart) asked :

Were any extra men employed by the Intercolonial Railway, shovelling snow in the county of Westmoreland during any portion of the week immediately previously to the local election in the province of New Brunswick, held in February last ? If so, how many, and what amount did their wages come to ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). There was an unprecedented fall of snow just prior to the 18th February, the day of the local elections in the province of New Brunswick. No other means have been devised for removing the snow from the railway yards and platforms, and at the different points in Westmoreland County, than by shovelling, and a number of men not in the regular employ have always been engaged for such purposes. There were employed about 400 men in the shovelling of snow during the period mentioned in the question, and their wages amounted to \$1,400.

**ALPHONSE T. LeBLANC.**

Mr. POWELL (by Mr. Haggart) asked :

Is Alphonse T. LeBlanc in the employ of the Intercolonial Railway as a travelling passenger agent ? If so, how long has he been engaged as such, and what salary does he receive ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Alphonse T. Leblanc is in the employ of the Intercolonial Railway as travelling passenger agent. He has been engaged five months and nineteen days. He receives a salary at the rate of \$500 a year.

**POSTMASTER AT ST. PRIME.**

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

1. Was Pierre Martel, of St. Prime, county of Chicoutimi, appointed postmaster in 1896 ?
2. For what length of time did he perform the duties of the office ?
3. Was he dismissed, and if so, on what grounds ?
4. Who succeeded him, and by what persons was such recommended ?
5. Had complaints been made against the said Martel, and by whom ?
6. Who had recommended the appointment of the said Martel ?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). 1. No. 2. He may have acted as assistant to the late postmaster, but for what length of time this department is not aware. 3. No. 4. The late postmaster, Louis Guy, was succeeded by the present postmaster, Mons. Fredet. The Postmaster General assumes responsibility for his appointment. 5. No. 6. No person.

**WORKS AT LAKE MANITOBA.**

Mr. **FOSTER** asked :

Has anything been done since July, 1898, in reference to draining Lake Manitoba to prevent inundation of surrounding low-lying lands, and if so, what ?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). A contract was entered into on the 22nd December, 1898, after a public call for tenders for the works required to increase and regulate the overflow of the waters of Lake Manitoba through Fairford River.

The works consist of a cut 1,300 feet in length and 200 feet wide at the bottom through a point in the line of a ½ foot depth at normal low-water in Lake Manitoba, to a point on the east side of Fairford River about 1,000 feet below or north-east of its exit from the lake on the east side of Portage Bay.

Public tenders were called in the month of September, 1898, and the work was awarded to the second lowest tenderer, the lowest tenderers having refused to sign their contract and their security having therefore been forfeited.

**DOMINION POLICE IN THE YUKON.**

Mr. **FOSTER** asked :

What is the number of Dominion police officers and men in the Yukon district ? How are they distributed ? What is the total cost per day for maintenance and pay ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). In reply to the hon. gentleman I beg to say that the number of officers and men in the Yukon is as follows :—

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Officers .....                          | 12         |
| N. C. officers and constables.....      | 211        |
| Special constables and dog-drivers..... | 41         |
| <b>Total .....</b>                      | <b>264</b> |

Distributed as follows :—

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Dawson .....           | 65 |
| Fort Constantine ..... | 4  |
| Grand Forks .....      | 4  |
| Indian River .....     | 5  |
| Selwyn .....           | 5  |
| Half-way Post .....    | 4  |
| Stewart River .....    | 5  |
| Hutchiku .....         | 3  |
| Sixty-Mile Post .....  | 4  |
| Selkirk .....          | 5  |
| Dominion Creek .....   | 1  |
| Skagway .....          | 3  |

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Summit of Chilkoot .....   | 5          |
| Summit of White Pass ..... | 7          |
| Bennett .....              | 10         |
| Log Cabin .....            | 1          |
| Cariboo Crossing.....      | 3          |
| Tagish .....               | 51         |
| McClintock River .....     | 3          |
| White Horse .....          | 3          |
| Head Labarge .....         | 3          |
| Foot Labarge.....          | 4          |
| Hootalinqua .....          | 5          |
| Big Salmon .....           | 2          |
| Little Salmon .....        | 4          |
| Tantalus .....             | 3          |
| Five Fingers .....         | 5          |
| Dalton Trail .....         | 12         |
| Stikine and Glenora .....  | 5          |
| <b>Total .....</b>         | <b>264</b> |

It is impossible at present to give the actual cost per day for maintenance and pay in the past, owing to the varied and excessive charges for the transportation of supplies.

It is estimated that in future the average cost for pay and maintenance will be \$3.75 per man per day.

**MAILS FOR DAWSON FROM JULY 1st, 1898.**

Mr. **FOSTER** asked :

What are the dates upon which mails for Dawson were despatched from Vancouver or Victoria since July 1st, 1898, to the present and the dates of the arrival of them at Dawson respectively ? By what routes were they despatched ? Upon what dates were mails despatched from Dawson since July 1st, 1898, and when did these reach Vancouver or Victoria and by what routes ?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). I would ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) to make a motion for that, as it involves rather a mass of detail.

**MONTREAL AND LABELLE MAIL SERVICE.**

Mr. **CHAUVIN** (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Whether it is the intention of the Postmaster General to appoint a mail conductor on the train between Montreal and Labelle ?

2. Have any, and if so, what, petitions or recommendations been sent in in relation to this matter ?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). 1. The question of appointing a mail conductor on the train between Montreal and Labelle is under consideration. 2. Petitions have been received from the villages of St. Jovite, Ste. Adèle, St. Sauveur, St. Faustin, Shawbridge and the town of St. Jerome, all in the county of Terrebonne, Quebec, with a recommendation from Mr. R. Prefontaine, M.P., in relation to this matter.

**POSTMASTER AT BATISCAN.**

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

1. Whether the hon. First Minister did, on 23th January, 1897, indite a letter to Madame J. E. de

la Bis onnière, of the parish of Batiscan, county of Champlain, promising to pay close attention to the case of her husband, the postmaster of Batiscan, in relation to whom a departmental inquiry was then being held? Did he promise that "nothing will be done against the said postmaster, if the charges laid against him are not proved"?

2. Did Hon. W. Mulock write, on 26th July, 1897, to Hon. M. Dechene, Minister of Agriculture, Quebec, inclosing the report of M. Lavergne, the commissioner appointed to inquire into the case of the postmaster of Batiscan and containing, in particular, the following words:—"I send you herewith a copy of the report of M. Lavergne, commissioner, to whom was referred the charge laid against the postmaster (the present postmaster of Batiscan), and you will, I think, admit with me that the report furnishes no grounds to justify the dismissal of the postmaster. It is neither asserted nor proved that he canvassed or worked at public meetings. The postmaster says that he did not even vote at the last election and took no part in the political struggle. Under these circumstances, I see no reason for dismissing the present postmaster"?

3. Did Hon. Mr. Mulock, through his secretary, Mr. W. D. LeSueur, on 15th August, 1898, address to M. de la Bissonnière, postmaster of Batiscan, a letter saying: "In reply to your's of 9th instant, I am instructed to tell you that the Postmaster General, having been informed that you did not observe proper neutrality during the election time, deems it advisable to appoint a successor in your position"?

4. Is there not an absolute contradiction between the two assertions, and is the First Minister prepared to keep the promise he made to Mde. de la Bissonnière, and to reinstate her husband in the position taken from him under the circumstances above set forth?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). In answer to the first question, I find no record in my office that I wrote such a letter, but I have no doubt the letter is genuine.

#### COUNTY OF BAGOT—PLEBISCITE EXPENSES.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Dugas) asked:

Whether the Government have or have not paid to the following employees, during the taking of the plebiscite in the county of Bagot:—

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| To Ovide Ledoux, travelling expenses.....   | \$2 50 |
| R. Morel, S. O. R., do .....                | 0 50   |
| Chas Martin, clerk, do .....                | 0 50   |
| For copies of voters' lists by H. Pilon.... | 8 82   |

Have the said sums been paid, and if not, why not?

Is it the intention of the Government to pay them?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The two small items of 50 cents each, referred to in the question, have been paid. The other items have not been paid in consequence of objections taken by the Auditor General, and the matter is still under consideration.

#### CROW'S NEST PASS RAILWAY INVESTIGATION.

Mr. CLARKE (by Mr. Davin) asked:

1. Has the Government taken any action, and if so, what, on the report of the commissioner Mr. MARCOTTE.

appointed to investigate the cases of hardship in connection with persons employed upon the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway?

2. Has any decision been reached with reference to the death of the two young men from New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, from diphtheria, and whose cases were brought before Parliament last session?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The action taken by the Government was to appoint Mr. Clute as commissioner to investigate the different complaints. As stated in this question, his report is ready, and will be laid on the Table of the House at an early day.

#### POSTMASTER AT BRANTFORD.

Mr. CLANCY (by Mr. Davin) asked:

Has a postmaster been appointed to the vacancy in the city of Brantford? If so, who has been appointed? If not, why not?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). There has not been a formal appointment, although the person to be appointed has been decided upon.

#### HARBOUR OF FRASERVILLE, P.Q.

Mr. GAUVREAU (by Mr. Tolmie) asked:

Whether the hon. Minister of Public Works has received from the Board of Trade of Fraserville the following resolutions:—

"At a regular meeting of the Board of Trade of Fraserville held on 14th March instant, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

"Whereas steps have been taken by the Board of Trade of Fraserville with a view to the improvement of the harbour of Fraserville;

"Whereas a petition has been presented in that behalf to the Governor General in Council;

"Whereas in 1897, a joint deputation from the board of trade and from the town of Fraserville, went to Ottawa in that behalf;

"Whereas the hon. Minister of Public Works then promised to consider the application of the board of trade;

"Whereas at Fraserville, on 29th July, 1897, the hon. Minister of Public Works promised to cause a survey to be made, and bound himself to cause works of improvement to be done in the port of Fraserville, if it was shown by the report of his engineer that navigation could be prolonged for two months beyond what it is at Quebec;

"Whereas Engineer Auclair, who was entrusted with the survey in question, states in his report that the navigation can here be extended to nine months, when it is but seven months at Quebec;

"Whereas there is in this section of the country a large trade in lumber, which article would be exported via Fraserville, if the improvement of the harbour were carried out;

"Whereas the said work would insure the progress and prosperity of the district, and meet the wishes and needs of the exporters of lumber of this part of the country;

"This board of trade, renewing its requests contained in the correspondence had with the hon. Minister of Public Works in the matter, earnestly begs the hon. Minister to carry out his promises and to undertake the accomplishment of a measure affecting vitally the interests of this

section, and become, as he has led them to hope he would, the champion of this national undertaking, by introducing in the House a Bill for the establishing of a harbour at Fraserville.

"Fraserville, 20th March, 1899.

," J. E. FRENETTE, L. H. LEVASSEUR  
" Secretary. " President."

If so, is the hon. Minister prepared to state what he intends to do in relation to the port of Fraserville?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). Yes, the resolutions in question have been received, and the hon. the Minister has replied that although the engineer's report was not altogether satisfactory, still he would give to the matter all due consideration.

#### MAIL SERVICE, MOUNT ALBION, P.E.I.

Mr. MARTIN asked :

Has the Government received any petitions or letters from the inhabitants of Mount Albion, in the province of Prince Edward Island, asking for a daily mail service? If so, has the Government decided to grant the prayer of the petitioners? If a daily service is not to be granted, why not? Is the Government aware that this is a very important section, which is badly in need of such accommodation?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). A petition was received at the department asking for a daily mail to Mount Albion. The department, on the receipt of the petition, set on foot an inquiry into the matter, which is not yet complete.

#### POSTMASTER AT BROOKSIDE, P.E.I.

Mr. MARTIN asked :

1. Is the Government aware that the postmaster of Brookside, in the province of Prince Edward Island, has resigned?
2. If so, has a successor been appointed?
3. If not, why not?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). 1. Yes. 2. No person has been appointed to succeed him. 3. A post office at this point was not considered necessary, and the office has therefore been closed (1st February, 1899).

#### AMERICAN STANDARD RAILWAY RULES.

Mr. CLARKE (by Mr. Davin) asked :

1. Have the American standard rules used by railway employees in operating railway trains in the United States been put in force on any of the railways in Canada?
2. If so, on what railways and at what dates?
3. If the rules above mentioned have not been put in operation on any of the railways in Canada, is it the intention of the Government to permit the rules to be put in operation, and if so, on what railways and at what dates?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). The Department of Railways is not aware that the American standard rules used by railway employees

in operating railway trains in the United States have been put in force on any of the railways in Canada; but, as the House was informed last session, the Grand Trunk Railway Company submitted rules and regulations, which were examined by the proper officers of the department and reported upon favourably. Since then the Canada Atlantic Railway and the Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound Railway have also submitted rules and regulations which have likewise been examined by the proper officers and similarly reported upon. Those of the Grand Trunk Railway were approved, as the House was informed a year ago, by Order in Council, dated 28th February, 1898; those of the Canada Atlantic and Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound on 17th March, 1899.

#### ONTARIO COUNTY COURT JUDGES.

Mr. BENNETT asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to introduce legislation, during the coming session, to provide for the compulsory retirement of county court judges in the province of Ontario who have attained the age of seventy-five years?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). This matter is under the consideration of the Government.

#### BATISCAN POST OFFICE.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. How much does Mlle. Fugère, postmistress of Batiscan, receive per year? How much for day mails, and how much for night mails?
2. How much was received by Mr. Labissonnière, who replaced Mlle. Fugère from 4th May, 1896, to 9th August, 1898? How much per year for day mails, and how much per year for night mails?
3. Did he receive the same amount for night mails as Mlle. Fugère, and if not, why not?
4. If he was not paid for night mails, is it the intention of the Government to pay him?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). 1. Miss Fugère, postmistress of Batiscan, was, at the time of her death, March, 1895, paid salary at the rate of \$208 a year, with allowance of \$50 and \$120 for night and forward duty respectively. 2. Mr. Labissonnière, who succeeds Miss Fugère as postmaster of Batiscan, was paid salary at the rate of \$180 a year from 4th May, 1896, to 30th June, 1897, and at the rate of \$190 a year from the 1st July, 1897, to 9th August, 1898, and forward allowance at the rate of \$120 a year from the 4th May, 1896, to 31st March, 1897, and at the rate of \$80 a year from 1st April, 1897, to 9th August, 1898. Also an allowance of \$12 for night duty, performed during the season of navigation of 1897, and at the same rate for the season of 1898. 3 and 4. He did not receive the same amount for night duty as Miss Fugère. The attention of the department having been called to the fact that

night duty was only performed at Battsan during the season of navigation, and that the amount of work done would not warrant the continuance of the former allowance. the amount was fixed at \$12 for the season of navigation.

#### INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY SUPERINTENDENT—MR. A. R. McDONALD.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

1. Is Mr. A. R. McDonald still the superintendent of the Quebec and St. Flavie district of the Intercolonial Railway, or does he still hold any position in connection with the said railway ?
2. If not, has his connection with the said railway been severed by dismissal, resignation or otherwise ?
3. When was his said connection severed, and what were the reasons or causes therefor ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). No, Mr. A. R. McDonald is not superintendent of the Quebec and St. Flavie district of the Intercolonial Railway. His services were dispensed with on the 31st December, 1897, as his services were no longer required.

#### INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY—PRIVILEGE OF SELLING NEWS-PAPERS, ETC.

Mr. BELL (Picton) asked :

1. Who are the present lessees of the privilege of selling newspapers, &c., on the Intercolonial system of railways ?
2. What yearly rent do they pay the Government for said privilege ?
3. When did they tender for said privilege, and for what term, and when does their lease expire ?
4. Who are the present lessees of the news stands at the Intercolonial Railway stations in Halifax and St. John, N.B. ?
5. What yearly rent do these lessees pay for the news stands in the Halifax station and for the news stand in the St. John station ?
6. Were tenders asked for, by advertisement through the public press, for the leasing of the news stands in the stations of the Intercolonial at Halifax and St. John, N.B., and on what dates and in what newspapers ?
7. For what terms were the news stands in the stations of the Intercolonial Railway at Halifax and St. John, N.B., leased and when do the leases terminate ?
8. Who are entitled to the privilege of selling newspapers on the Intercolonial trains running over the Drummond County Railway ? Did they acquire the right after advertisement for tenders, or after what public or other notice that the right would be disposed of ? When did they acquire the right, and what are the terms of their agreement with the Government, and when will it terminate ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The Canada Railway News Company is the present lessee of the privilege of selling newspapers, &c., on the Intercolonial Railway. 2. They pay \$12,600 in three years, monthly in advance, \$11,100 in cash, \$1,500 in advertising in "International Railway Guide," at \$50 per page per annum, as follows:—1st year, \$2,600 cash, \$500 advertising; 2nd year, \$3,700 cash, \$500 advertising; 3rd year, \$3,800 cash, \$500 advertising. 3. They tendered for the said privilege on 19th March, 1897, for a term of three years, and their lease expires on 1st May, 1900. 4. The present lessee of the news stands at the Intercolonial Railway stations at Halifax and St. John is the Canada Railway News Company. 5. They pay \$200 a year for the news stand in the Halifax station and \$500 a year for the news stand in the St. John station. 6. Tenders were asked by newspaper advertisement on the 9th December, 1897, to be received up to 18th December, 1897. For the news stand in the Halifax station tenders were asked for in the Halifax "Chronicle," "Echo," and "Recorder." For the news stand in the St. John station, tenders were asked for in the St. John "Telegraph," "Globe" and "Gazette." 7. The lease of the news stand in the stations at Halifax and St. John was for one year from the 1st January, 1898. 8. The Canada Railway News Company has the privilege of selling newspapers on the trains of the Intercolonial Railway between Montreal and Lévis. Tenders were asked by advertisement, and privilege of selling newspapers granted to Eugene Michaud, who subsequently transferred the same to the Canada Railway News Company. The privilege was for one year from May 1st, 1898, and the terms a payment of \$599.84 a year. It will terminate on May 1st, 1899.

Mr. MULOCK.

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#### DREDGE "NEW DOMINION"—MR. CHAS. H. PARKER.

Mr. DOMVILLE (by Mr. Russell) asked :

Why was Charles H. Parker dismissed from the dredge "New Dominion" ? Were any complaints made against him ? If so, what were they, and by whom were they made ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). The services of Mr. Parker were dispensed with in the interest of the service.

#### INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY—STATION AT FRASERVILLE.

Mr. GAUVREAU (by Mr. Tolmie) asked :

Whether the Minister of Railways has received from the Board of Trade of Fraserville the following resolutions:—

"To the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals,  
"Ottawa.

"The petition of the Board of Trade of Fraserville respectfully sheweth :

"That the Rivière du Loup station in the town of Fraserville, on the line of the Intercolonial Railway, is one of the most important on the section extending between Lévis and Campbellton, in the province of Quebec, in view of the amount of traffic, the number of passengers it

accommodates and the large revenue collected thereat by the Intercolonial Railway ;

"That the trains of the Témiscouata Railway there connect with the trains of the Intercolonial ;

"That in summer a large number of tourists resort to the watering places at The Point, Cacouna, St. Patrice and Portage, by way of the Intercolonial, using the station at Rivière du Loup ;

"That the present station-house of the Intercolonial is in a condition such as to throw discredit on the town of Fraserville, and does not meet the needs and requirements of the public and of the staff of the railway ;

"That the building is some forty years old, and is extremely cold ;

"That it is too small, insufficient and inconvenient, and does not afford the necessary facilities for the traffic, and to the public the amount of comfort to which they are entitled ;

"That there is no suitable waiting room for ladies ;

"That the place supposed to be the men's waiting room is not comfortable and is generally encumbered with freight goods of a perishable kind for want of a suitable freight room ;

"That the station-master's office is too small, and is also used both for the sale of tickets and as the 'Canadian Express' office ;

"That the district superintendent has his office in the attic of the station, and that the train despatcher's office being located on the level of the first story, these officers are continually disturbed and interrupted in their work by inquiries from the public, and that the other officials in charge of this part of the road have not suitable quarters ;

"That the apartment for passengers' luggage is entirely too small, is badly located and affords no suitable shelter to protect the travelling public, tourists and their baggage against rain, the smoke of the engines and the inclemency of the weather, and that very often passengers' effects and express goods are in consequence subject to injury ;

"That the repairs required at this station would cost a considerable sum of money ;

"That the travelling public and commercial men are great sufferers from the present state of things ; that many complaints have been made, representations laid before the Government, notably in 1897, with a view to securing the rebuilding and enlargement of the station, but without any practical result ;

"That the Board of Trade of Fraserville, in view of the complaints uttered on all hands, which they feel to be but too well grounded, consider that they voice the unanimous sentiments of the town of Fraserville and of the whole district in earnestly urging the Government to take the necessary steps for the immediate rebuilding of Rivière du Loup station, in such a manner as to meet the needs above enumerated and the requirements of the staff of the railway and of the public in general, by constructing a station-house in keeping with the reputation and importance of the town of Fraserville and of the traffic there carried on ;

"And thus promote the best interests of the public.

"L. H. LEVASSEUR,

"President.

"J. E. FRENETTE,  
"Secretary."

If so, what does the hon. Minister propose doing in the premises, and how does he intend to deal with the matter of the building of a new station at Fraserville ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The Minister of Railways has received copies of two resolutions adopted by the council of the town of Fraserville, relating to the desired construction of a new Intercolonial Railway station at that point, together with other papers in that connection. The Minister has the matter under consideration. No decision has yet been reached.

#### RAILWAY EMPLOYEES AT RIVIERE DU LOUP.

Mr. GAUVREAU (by Mr. Tolmie) asked :

Whether the Minister of Railways is aware that several of the employees in the shops at Rivière du Loup have for some time been working day and night ?

That the mechanical foreman, Alexander Ouellet, has asked for an increase in the number of hands, and that the officials at Moncton, if they have not refused to comply, have at all events not answered the application in that behalf ?

If so, is it the intention of the hon. Minister to order that the force of employees at the Rivière du Loup shops be increased in proportion to the work done therein ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The Department of Railways is aware that a certain amount of overtime is being worked in the shops at Rivière du Loup. On the 11th April, 1899, Foreman Ouellet asked for four more machinists and four more labourers, but these have not yet been furnished. The mechanical superintendent states that, in his opinion, there are sufficient men employed at Rivière du Loup to do the work, but that in any railway shops it is impossible to avoid overtime occasionally.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF R. C. MILLER.

Mr. BENNETT (by Mr. Davin) asked :

Is Mr. R. C. Miller, formerly of Pembroke, but now of Dawson City, in the employ of the Federal Government ? If so, what are his duties and what is the salary paid him ? If not now in the employ of said Government, has he been employed at any time by the Federal Government ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Mr. R. C. Miller was appointed Mining Recorder and Crown Timber Inspector at Tagish, Yukon Territory, on the 1st March, 1899, at a salary of \$1,500 per annum.

#### MONTREAL POST OFFICE REPAIRS.

Mr. MONK asked :

1. Who is the contractor in charge of repairs to the roof of the Montreal post office ?
2. Were tenders publicly called for said repairs ?
3. Is the work on said roof being done by contract ?
4. What is the price of said work ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). 1. Mr. Joseph Lamarche,

plumber, &c., Montreal. 2. Yes. 3. Yes.  
4. \$9,400.

#### INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY—THE LATE GENERAL TRAFFIC MANAGER.

Mr. POPE asked :

For what reason, upon what ground, and under what arrangement or agreement were the services of Mr. Harris as general traffic manager of the Intercolonial Railway dispensed with ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Mr. Harris's services were dispensed with because it was found, after some months' experience, that though an active, capable and energetic officer, he showed a lack of judgment in his method of dealing with the public in connection with the business of his office, which led to unnecessary friction and dissatisfaction. Upon his leaving the service he was paid six months' salary as a retiring allowance, having rendered valuable service in connection with the agreements made with the Grand Trunk Railway Company for the use of terminals in Montreal and of their line from Montreal to Ste. Rosalie.

#### GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS AND "SWEATING."

Mr. CLARKE (by Mr. Davin) asked :

What is the number of contracts entered into by the Government since the 30th June, 1897, in which there is a clause prohibiting "sweating" ? What is the total amount involved in such contracts ? In what departments have the contracts been awarded, and to what companies, firms or individuals ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). I would suggest that a motion for this information be made, as the answer to the question involves the preparation of a number of details which must be obtained from the different departments. I have the answer for one department, but that does not cover the whole question.

#### BONUSES FOR IMMIGRANTS.

Mr. CLARKE (by Mr. Davin) asked :

1. What bonus, if any, was paid during the past twelve months by the Government of Canada to agents, owners or representatives of British steamship companies, for adults and children respectively, brought out to Canada as immigrants ?

2. What bonus, if any, was paid during the same period by the Government of Canada to agents, owners or representatives of foreign steamship companies for adults and children respectively, brought out to Canada as immigrants from the continent of Europe ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. During the year ending 31st December, 1898, the Government of Canada paid as bonus to agents of British steamboat companies \$2,200.27 for adults, and

Mr. TARTE.

\$165.11 for children brought out to Canada as immigrants. 2. During the same period the Government of Canada paid as bonus to agents of foreign steamship companies \$23,130.33 for adults, but nothing for children, brought out to Canada as immigrants from the continent of Europe.

#### INDIAN AGENT AT RAMA.

Mr. HUGHES asked :

1. Who is now Indian agent to the Indians at Rama, in Ontario County ?
2. What was the result of the inquiry into the agent's conduct in 1896 or 1897 ?
3. What was the cost of that inquiry ?
4. To whom were the sums paid ?
5. For what services were such sums paid ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. Duncan J. McPhee. 2. Certain of the charges made against the agent of dereliction of duty were held to be proven, but it was not considered that there was sufficient evidence of wrong-doing to justify his removal from office. 3. \$501.95. 4. Hugh O'Leary, Q.C., \$204.90 ; R. H. Noble, \$297.05. 5. To the former for services as commissioner and for disbursements. To the latter as counsel for complainants and for payment of witness fees, rent of hall, and for constable's fees.

#### PAYMENTS TO R. J. McLAUGHLIN.

Mr. HUGHES asked :

1. What sums have been paid to one R. J. McLaughlin, and to the firm McLaughlin & McDairmaid, of Lindsay, since July, 1896 ?
2. What sums are yet due the said person or persons ?
3. For what services were such sums paid ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Will my hon. friend give us some information as to what department these payments would be made by ?

Mr. HUGHES. I presume he has been picking out of all of them. It would be for law expenses.

The PRIME MINISTER. We will find out, then.

Question allowed to stand.

#### CROW'S NEST PASS RAILWAY—DEATH OF MR. THORNBURY.

Mr. HUGHES asked :

1. Has the Government any means of ascertaining the particulars in connection with the death of a young man from Victoria County, Ontario, named Thornbury, during the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway ?
2. Will the Government undertake to ascertain:

(a) The cause of his death ; (b) Where and when he died ; (c) Where his remains were interred, and (d) What became of his effects ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The Government has no power to get the information asked for by my hon.

friend; but if he will give us the particulars, we will communicate with the Mounted Police. That is all we can do.

#### THE TRENT CANAL—PAYMENT OF WORKMEN.

Mr. HUGHES asked :

1. Have the workmen on the Balsam Lake section of the Trent Canal been regularly paid their wages ?

2. How often are they paid ?

3. Does the Government intend to withhold sufficient sums from the contractors to secure the wages to the workmen ?

4. Is the Government aware of the hardship of the workmen, their families and merchants by the non-payment of wages earned by labourers on the Trent Canal, on the Balsam Lake section ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The workmen on the Balsam Lake section of the Trent Canal appear to have been paid their wages regularly monthly, up to October last, since which date, it is learned there has been default in making payment. The Government is considering the proposal to withhold any sum from the contractor which may be available for the special purpose of securing the wages to the workmen, but the department is assured the contractor is arranging to pay them in a week or so. The matter of the failure to pay the wages promptly has been brought before the Government, the Government are, therefore, aware that the workmen and merchants must have suffered some inconvenience.

#### THE TRENT CANAL—WM. JORDAN'S CLAIM.

Mr. HUGHES asked :

1. Has the Government settled any claim or claims for flooded or drowned land in North Victoria preferred by William Jordan, Esq., of Fenelon Falls ?

2. Has the Government received a report from James Dickson, D.L.S., late president of the Liberal Association for North Victoria, recommending payment of proper damages ?

3. What damages were asked for by Mr. Jordan ?

4. What were offered him ?

5. Why was not Mr. Jordan's claim settled ?

6. What price per acre was paid by the Government for the land for the Trent Canal at Nassau, in Peterboro' County, known as the "Irwin property" ? 7. If Mr. Jordan's claim has not been settled, why has it not been attended to ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). 1. The Government has not settled any claim preferred by Mr. William Jordan, of Fenelon Falls. 2. Mr. Dickson made no report at the request of the Department of Railways and Canals; but he addressed a letter to the Minister of Railways and Canals on the 4th July, 1895, with reference to this claim. 3. Mr. Jordan asked damages to the amount of \$500. 4.

The Government valuator reported that, in his opinion, Mr. Jordan was entitled to \$100 which would cover all damages. This sum was offered him. 5. Mr. Jordan's claim was not settled because he would not accept the amount the department considered he was entitled to. 6. The land known as the "Irwin property" was purchased by the Government for the Trent Canal at Nassau at a figure equal to \$925.49 per acre, including all damages which embraced damages to the mill property. No further action necessary on the part of the Government as Mr. Jordan refused to accept the amount tendered him.

#### FENELON FALLS TIMBER SLIDE.

Mr. HUGHES asked :

1. Is the Government aware that the timber slide at Fenelon Falls, Ontario, is broken up ?

2. Does the Government propose calling for tenders for the construction of a new slide immediately ?

3. If not, why not ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). 1. Yes. 2. Instructions have been given to Mr. Rogers, our superintendent of the Trent works, to take immediate steps for the reconstruction of the slide in question.

#### COLD STORAGE FOR FISH.

Mr. MARTIN asked :

Has the Government under consideration, or decided on any scheme for the transport of fresh fish in cold storage from the maritime provinces to the inland consuming centres in Quebec, Ontario and the North-west ? What arrangement is proposed, and is it intended to include the export of fish from Prince Edward Island ? Is it proposed to have the arrangement carried out for next season's fishing ? If not, when ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The subject of the hon. gentleman's question has lately been discussed with the Minister of Marine and Fisheries by a number of members from the maritime provinces, and also by Dr. Kendall, who seems to have given the matter a great deal of consideration. The Minister considers the subject one of importance, and has it under consideration.

#### FRESH BAIT FOR FISHERMEN.

Mr. MARTIN asked :

Has any scheme been proposed by or to the Government by which fishermen could be assured with more certainty of a supply of fresh bait for fishing ? With what end in view has the Government decided to extend a helping hand to fishermen by providing in different stations along the coast, cold storage for the proper preservation of bait ? If not, what does the Government propose to do in order to give better facilities to fishermen ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The an-

swer given to the hon. gentleman's preceding question will apply to this.

### NOVA SCOTIA ELECTORAL LISTS.

Mr. MILLS asked :

Is the Government aware that the electoral lists in each of the counties of the province of Nova Scotia shall be made up and signed by the sheriff and deposited with the clerk of the municipality on or before the tenth day of April in each year, and shall thenceforth be the register of electors for the county ?

Has the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery received a copy of the electoral list from any of the counties in the province of Nova Scotia ?

If so, what counties, and when will said lists be printed ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Yes, this Government is aware that under the provisions of section 35 of 52 Vic., Chap. 1 of the Statutes of Nova Scotia, the list of voters of each electoral district of that province has to be made up, signed by the sheriff, and deposited with the clerk of the municipality on or before the 10th day of April in each year. The Clerk of the Crown in Chancery has received a copy of said voters' lists for the electoral districts of Antigonish, Inverness and King's; and also, for part of those of Digby, Lunenburg and Yarmouth. None of them have been printed so far.

### IMMIGRANTS.

Mr. WILSON asked :

1. How many immigrants have been sent into the Dominion of Canada from the United States by the agents mentioned below from 30th June, 1897, to 30th June, 1898 : Wm. Bram, St. Paul, Minn.; Benjamin Davis, St. Paul, Minn.; C. J. Broughton, Chicago, Ill.; D. L. Caven, Bad Axe, Michigan; J. S. Crawford, Salma, Kansas; M. V. McInnes, Chief United States, Detroit; T. O. Currie, Stevens Point, Wisconsin; James Grieve, Michigan; W. H. Rogers, Watertown, South Dakota; C. O. Swanson, New England States.

2. From which agent's districts have they come? How many have been sent or should be credited to each agent? And where have they been located?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). It is not possible to give an answer to these questions as no attempt has been made to keep a record of the number of immigrants sent by individual agents. We know from careful and constant supervision that all our agents in the United States are working hard and faithfully, and we can only look at the result of their work as a whole, which is extremely satisfactory.

### HOSPITAL AT BENNETT.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

Is the hospital at Bennett an hospital supported by the Dominion Government? Who is the matron? Is she the matron who was in charge during 1898? Who is the medical officer

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

there? Was Dr. Decaux medical officer of that hospital? Has he left? If so, why did he leave? When did he leave? Was he under pay for any time after he left? Is he under pay now?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I beg to reply : 1. The hospital at Bennett was a private institution. It was not supported by the Dominion Government. 2. Several members of the Mounted Police, who were suffering from typhoid fever, were nursed in this hospital; there being no accommodation for them elsewhere. 4. The Government is not in possession of the name of the matron. 4. Dr. De Cow organized and managed the hospital, and was also in charge of the medical branch of the Mounted Police at Bennett and Tagish. 5. He left the Yukon at the end of October, suffering from pneumonia, and is still under medical treatment, believed to be dangerously ill. 6. He was paid up to the end of January. 7. He is not under pay now.

### IMMIGRANTS.

Mr. WILSON asked :

1. How many immigrants have been sent into the Dominion of Canada by the following agents from the districts in which they have been working for the year ending 30th June, 1898, and of what nationalities they are :

- C. R. Devlin, agent, Dublin.
- John Grant, agent, Dumfries.
- Peter Fleming, agent, Dundee.
- H. M. Murry, agent, Glasgow.
- W. G. Stewart, agent, Inverness.
- A. F. Jury, agent, Liverpool.

2. Where have said immigrants been located? How many agents did each agent send to Canada in the year ending 30th June, 1898?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). It is not possible to give an answer to these questions, no record being kept of the number of immigrants sent by individual agents.

### MR. A. H. HARRIS.

Mr. POPE asked :

1. On what date did the appointment of Mr. A. H. Harris as general traffic manager of the Intercolonial Railway take effect?

2. What were his powers, duties and authority as such general traffic manager?

3. On what date were his services as such general traffic manager dispensed with?

4. On what date did he retire from the service of the Intercolonial Railway?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Mr. A. H. Harris's appointment dated from the 24th November, 1897. Mr. Harris's powers were to exercise as much authority and have the same control of rates, fares and arrangements respecting traffic matters, and over the selection, and government of his staff as is usual and customary in large railway corporations. Mr. Harris's duties were to look after traffic matters generally, to quote freight and passenger rates, to make a tariff of rates, to see that the traffic was properly

and economically handled. Mr. Harris acted under the general manager by direction and authority of the Minister of Railways and Canals, either one or both could put a check on him. Mr. Harris was given verbal notice in the latter part of May, 1898, that his services would be dispensed with on a certain specific date. Mr. Harris retired from the service of the Intercolonial Railway on the 1st of August, 1898.

#### SPEECH OF MR. LOMER GOUIN.

Mr. CHAUVIN (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

Whether the hon. the Prime Minister has read this part of the speech delivered at Montreal on the 19th of April instant, by Mr. Lomer Gouin, a member of the Quebec legislature : "Liberals and Conservatives must to-day unite in calling for a remanipulation of the subsidies at Ottawa. The annual subsidy must be calculated each decade by the Government, in order to enable the provincial governments to meet the additional expenditure resulting from the increase of the population and the development of the country. The Dominion Government, which is now made up of men of enlightenment, the greater part of whom took part in the inter-provincial conference in 1887, will hear our representations and accede to our requests."

What are the representations and requests in this matter, now in the hands of the Government on the part of the provincial governments ?

Is it the intention of the hon. Prime Minister to comply with the claims formulated by the inter-provincial conference of 1887, in relation to "better terms," for the province of Quebec ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). In reply I beg to say : The Prime Minister has read the speech delivered in Montreal by Mr. Gouin. The representations and requests in this matter, now in the hands of the Government on the part of the provincial governments, are the resolutions adopted by the provincial conference of 1887, which sat in the city of Quebec. The attention of the Government has not been called to that subject.

#### TORONTO POST OFFICE.

Mr. CLARKE (by Mr. Foster) asked :

What are the names of the persons appointed to positions in the Toronto post office since July 13th, 1896 ? The date of each such appointment ? The salary paid to each such person ? The office to which each such person was appointed, and by whom recommended for appointment ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). I would suggest that the hon. gentleman make a motion.

#### COPYRIGHT BILL.

Mr. ROSS ROBERTSON asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to introduce the Copyright Bill this session ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I cannot give a definite answer to my hon. friend, but the matter is under consideration.

#### POSTAL NOTES.

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York. N.B.) moved for copy of contract for the production of postal notes, and the cost of such per 1,000 of each denomination, exclusive of paper, and for all correspondence between the contractor, the Government and the Queen's Printer. Also, for a statement of the number of reams of paper made for each denomination, by whom ordered to be made, where made, and the name of manufacturer, and who has now possession of the Dandy rolls from which the paper was made. And also, the following statements : Who furnished the electrotypes, and where they were made, the date of first delivery of postal notes, and amount of security given by the contractor, and whether the contractor has supplied the necessary accommodation for Government clerks for superintendence and storage for an ample supply of paper.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). I observe that this motion asks for information as to the cost per thousand, exclusive of paper. My recollection is that the contract was for notes inclusive of paper. Of course, if that is the contract, the return cannot come down exactly in the form moved for.

Mr. FOSTER. All right ; we do not ask you to do impossibilities.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Does the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) move to amend the motion ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. No : with the explanation I have given, let the motion go.

Motion agreed to.

#### DUTY ON COAL OIL.

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

That in the opinion of this House, coal oil should be put on the free list.

He said : Mr. Speaker, in the first place, let me say that in discussing this subject I will make my remarks as brief as possible. They say that this is a growing time, and that, Sir, applies to speeches as well as trade. I have moved this motion because I think it is nearly time that coal oil was placed on the free list. When the tariff of 1897 was brought down by the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), I, and a great many other hon. members, more particularly those from the west, believing that the duty was too high, gave a large amount of attention to the question of coal oil. The Government at that time reduced the duty 1 cent per gallon, and they also arranged the regulations in such a way as to enable the people in my part of the country to get oil in tank cars. That reduction in duty and rearrangement of the regulations reduced the cost of coal oil to a considerable extent in the west.

Another thing, in connection with the contract entered into by the Government with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, a 20 per cent reduction in freight on coal oil was arranged, and in that way the cost of the carriage of coal oil from Petrolea and other points, in eastern Canada, was reduced to the amount of 3 cents per gallon. This gave us a great reduction in the price, and I would not have moved this motion, at the present time, had it not been for what has transpired lately in the formation of a combine which, at present, we all know exists and which has placed the people of this country at its mercy. Mr. Speaker, I know that a certain number of parties, who have coal oil wells in this country, claim that they should have a certain amount of protection on account of not being able to produce the raw material as cheaply as it is produced in the United States. They claim that their wells are not so good, that they do not produce so much, and that they cannot compete with the flowing wells in Ohio and other parts of the United States; on that account they claim they should receive a certain amount of protection. They go further, and they say that the Standard Oil Company, if this amount of protection is done away with, is liable to reduce the price of the raw material supplied by them to the company. I may say that this is a matter these people should have taken into consideration when they made their arrangement with the Standard Oil Company, and when they sold the Canadian refineries to that company. It is a well known fact that some of the parties who own these wells at Petrolea and other parts were interested in the refineries, and we know, that during the discussion of this important question in 1897, these same parties told us that one of the reasons why they wanted such a large amount of protection was that their machinery was such that they could not compete with the Standard Oil Company. Yet they took the first opportunity, after the tariff was arranged and the Government granted them this amount of protection, to sell out their interests to the Standard Oil Company, and, I may go further and say, that I believe they not only sold out their interests, but that they sold to the combine the protection granted by this Government. I may say still further, that I believe, at the present time, that they will try and prevent coal oil being placed on the free list, so as to enable them to fulfil their contract and to deliver the goods. Now, as I said before, Mr. Speaker, at the time the tariff was brought down, these people held up before the people this oil trust as a bogey that was going to kill out the Canadian refineries, but, as soon as the tariff was arranged, they forgot all about what they had said and did not take the consumer into consideration, but handed themselves, body and soul, to this same trust. Some people may say that the owners of these wells are Canadians and that we must take them into

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consideration. True, but the bulk of the population too are Canadians; the consumer has also to be taken into consideration just as well as the producer, and, therefore, I think, taking everything into consideration, that this commodity should be placed on the free list. Now, I have some figures which I want to give to the House. The total output of domestic oil last year was 10,250,000 gallons. I have taken these figures from the Inland Revenue returns. Taking the number of barrels inspected and allowing 40 gallons to each barrel, I get 10,250,000 gallons. The increase in the price to the consumer under the duty is 5 cts. per gallon, and the Standard Oil Company have, on this, an increased profit of \$512,500. If this were going into the pockets of Canadians it would not be so bad, but it is not. We imported 8,010,000 gallons from the United States, upon which the duty collected amounted to \$400,517, or nearly half a million dollars; so that, taking the increased price of 5 cents a gallon on the amount we produce at home and on the amount we import, we find that the people are paying, directly and indirectly, \$913,017, or nearly \$1,000,000. But this is not all; we find also that we have to pay a cent a gallon more for inspection on all oil that comes in.

Now, we take the 5 cents per gallon duty and the 1 cent per gallon we pay for inspection, and that makes 6 cents. Of course when a merchant imports oil, he adds to the original price, the cost of freight, the amount of the duty, and the charge for this inspection, and he figures his profit on what the oil cost him laid down in his place of business. Therefore, if the oil costs 6 cents per gallon in the States, 5 cents per gallon duty, 1 cent per gallon inspection, it would make 12 cents per gallon, to which would be added the freight of 6 cents per gallon more and that would figure up to 18 cents per gallon. The merchant would calculate, say, 40 per cent of a profit on that gross amount, so that you will find, that would entail an extra 2 cents per gallon that the consumer is actually paying. If you take the duty, the cost of inspection, and that 2 cents, you will find that the consumer is actually paying about 8 cents a gallon that he ought not to. Some people may think that the consumers would get no relief by placing coal oil on the free list, but such is not the case, and for this reason: There are a great number of oil refining companies in the United States, and in Oil City, Penn., alone there are four companies independent of the Standard Oil Company. I have here the price for which they sell the best American oil at the wells in Oil City, and I find that the independent companies—and there are four of them—sell the refined oil there for:

| Barrels (figured down to Imp. measure)— | Cts. per gall.  |
|---|-----------------|
| Said oil testing, gravity 7.86.....     | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Best oil, testing gravity 7.80.....     | 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Best oil, in tank cars.....             | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

Now, suppose we make a calculation. The

cost of oil is 5½ cents per gallon ; the duty 5 cents a gallon, the freight to Winnipeg, as I have figured from the freight rates, 6½ cents per gallon, and allowing 2 cents for barreling, that would make 19½ cents. I find by invoices which I have here, that the Standard Oil Company at the present time are selling their oil in the west to the wholesale merchants for 21½ cents per gallon, so that they are actually getting a profit over and above what they should get, even including duty and other charges.

If the duty were taken off coal oil we would be able to lay it down in the North-west Territories at the present time, for about 12½ cents a gallon, so that hon. gentlemen will see that would make a great difference to the people of that country. The Standard Oil Company were, of course, anticipating that this matter would be brought up in the House of Commons, and in that anticipation they have been preparing for it all last winter. They have imported into the North-west Territories a lot of inferior grade oil from Pennsylvania, and they have marked it "Best American." They have handed this oil over to several dealers in the city of Winnipeg, and these parties are selling it to pedlars and others for 25 cents a gallon. That is done for the purpose of making the public believe that the people in the west are not paying more than they should pay for this oil, but I may state that this oil is of very inferior quality and is not any better than the commonest Canadian oil that is produced in Petrolea. I claim that it is not right that the people of this country should be taxed half a million dollars a year for the benefit of an American trust, and I think it is time that the duty should be taken off and coal oil allowed to come in free. There are a certain number of people in Petrolea engaged in the oil industry, and I sympathize with them, but my sympathies do not go so far as to keep up this duty for the benefit of a few, and to the detriment of the great mass of our population. I believe that there are about 10,000 people directly and indirectly living on this industry in Petrolea, but I do not think it is fair that the balance of the five million Canadians should be taxed at the rate of 5 cents per gallon (to which the cost of inspection has to be added) for the benefit of a few thousand people in that city. They may say: We cannot make this industry pay unless we have this duty. Well, Mr. Speaker, these gentlemen should have thought of that before they went into it. Suppose, for instance, a dozen, or two dozen, or for that matter a thousand farmers in my country, took it into their heads that they would like to go into the raising of oranges, and it would cost \$1 per dozen, to raise these oranges. Would it be fair to ask the people of Canada from one end to the other, to pay \$1 per dozen for oranges, simply because a thousand people or so went into a non-productive industry? I submit, Sir, that such a proposition would not

be entertained for a moment. Those who invested in the Canadian oil industry should have thought of all this before they commenced business, and if it does not pay them, let them take their money out of the industry and put it into something else. I shall not detain the House any further, Mr. Speaker, than to move, seconded by Mr. Ellis, the motion which stands in my name on the Order paper.

Mr. JOHN FRASER (East Lambton). Mr. Speaker, before this motion is put to the House I desire to say a few words, and I shall endeavour to be as brief as my hon. friend from Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) who moved the resolution. My hon. friend will surmise. I presume, that I am opposed to the placing of this commodity upon the free list. I can assure him that I have no fault to find with his endeavour on behalf of his constituents in the far west, to secure coal oil or any other commodity for that matter, at as low a price as possible. But, Mr. Speaker, I submit that by adopting such a drastic measure as the hon. gentleman proposes this afternoon, the object which he so ardently desires would not be attained. It is true, as the hon. gentleman has stated, that the manufacturing end of the oil business is at the present time entirely in the hands of one institution. There will be no attempt made on my part, or on the part of any gentleman engaged in the oil industry or representing those who are in the business, to gainsay that fact. Let it be remembered, however, that the great native oil industry, the producing end of the business which represents at least 90 per cent of the capital invested in the industry, is as a whole entirely in the hands of the original Canadian operators--the men who employed labour, and invested their capital in putting down the wells, at great risk and expense to themselves. That industry, representing as I have said, at least 90 per cent of the capital invested, is, I repeat, still in the hands of our Canadian oil producers, and it is on behalf of those persons, numbering at least 700, that I desire to engage the attention of the House for a few moments. The argument of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis) was based upon the assumption, that all the producers were also interested in the manufacturing end of the business. That is very far from being the truth--neither in numbers nor in the quantity of oil produced is it true. I may state, that not more than perhaps ten or fifteen, at the very most, of the individuals interested in the producing industry, sold out, or were interested in the manufacturing end of the business. So, Mr. Speaker, I believe I am well within the mark in saying, that at least 680 persons, who are interested in the oil industry, had no interest whatever in the sale that was made to the Standard Oil Company. As to the quantity of crude petroleum produced, I may say that the quantity produced by the gentlemen who sold their refineries is very small indeed as compared

with the quantity produced by the gentlemen who are still owners of wells. The statement has been made time and again in my presence, since the opening of the session, that the oil well owners have all sold out to the Standard Oil Company. I have no doubt that that statement was made in good faith; but the fact is far from that. That portion of the native oil industry of Canada in which all the risk is taken, which is purely and simply a mining industry, is in the hands of Canadians; and, as I said before, I desire on behalf of those people, to say a few words in answer to the resolution submitted by my hon. friend.

My hon. friend has sought to show that the cost of petroleum to the consumers of the North-west is very high indeed. I admit that it is very high, as the cost of all commodities to the consumers in remote portions of the country must of necessity be very high. The cost of transportation is abnormally high. I have in my possession a receipt from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for \$335, which was paid for transporting a tank of refined oil from the town of Petrolea, in which I reside, to the city of Winnipeg. That, of course, is a very high charge, amounting to about 6½ cents a gallon. My hon. friend adds the cost of inspection. I know not for what reason, for that must be a part of the cost of any oil, whether imported or native. I presume my hon. friend would not for one moment seriously advise the Government to permit petroleum to go into general use without a rigid inspection. It is of the first importance that petroleum, of all commodities we use, should be subjected to a very rigid and careful inspection; and, if so, there must of necessity be an inspection fee charged. So that I think my hon. friend was hardly arguing fairly in adding the cost of inspection to the other charges; for that is a charge which no fair-minded person could take exception to. My hon. friend has a right, of course, to discuss the import duty, but neither he nor any other hon. member can swell that duty beyond 5 cents a gallon. That is the cold, naked fact, and it is of no use attempting to argue, as my hon. friend has done, that it is 8 cents. Now, it is well known to gentlemen engaged in the trade, at least those who handle Canadian oil that not in a single instance can the dealer or the jobber on this side of the line secure for himself, even if he were so desirous of doing so, the full benefit of the import duty. There are conditions which I shall not elaborate upon, which preclude the possibility of the dealer in Canadian petroleum putting into his pocket the 5 cents duty which is charged on imported oil. I do not say that there is not an occasional man in the business who would be disposed to do that if the conditions were favourable; but the fact is that the conditions are not favourable. I can show conclusively that since 1890 the difference between the price of oil in Canada and the price in

Mr. FRASER (Lambton).

the United States has never exceeded 2½ cents a gallon, and the difference at the present time I can show to be less than 2 cents. Though not quite positive, I think I can show that the prices on the other side quoted by my hon. friend are for oils that could not stand our inspection at all, but are for oils of a rather inferior grade. It must never be forgotten, too, that the price in the United States is for wine measure.

Mr. DAVIS. I would like to call the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that I figured the price upon Imperial measure, and that the oil was of a higher test than any oil produced in the Canadian wells.

Mr. FRASER (East Lambton). A higher flash test, I presume.

Mr. DAVIS. Yes.

Mr. FRASER (East Lambton). My hon. friend also understands that there is a specific gravity test to which he has made no reference whatever; and the two tests must enter into the argument. I accept my hon. friend's explanation that he is calculating, not on the wine measure, but on the Imperial measure. But many persons who have taken up this question have not been quite so fair in this regard as my hon. friend has been. Perhaps I should not say that they are unfair, because in the vast majority of cases I find that people are not aware that there is a difference in the measures used on the two sides of the line. The difference is this, that a gallon on the Canadian side is one-fifth greater than a gallon on the American side. I think my hon. friend said something about the quality. This is a phase of the question which is frequently referred to in this House and outside of this House. The oil industry of Canada is something like thirty-five years old, and to the present day dealers and others in the country will be found who assert boldly that oil produced in Canada is of a very inferior quality to oil produced on the American side of the line. You will never hear them admit that there are poor oils produced in the United States at all. Some people seem to take a positive delight, if I may say so, in decrying everything produced in Canada and lauding everything of the same nature produced in the United States. I submit that that is hardly the wisest or best course to pursue by those who desire to develop the native industries of Canada. Especially do I think it is a pernicious doctrine to preach with regard to the mining industries which have come to the front to an extent one can hardly realize within the past two or three years, and which have done more to advertise Canada throughout the globe as a more profitable field for investment than all the other industries combined, with the exception of the agricultural industry, which is the greatest, and, I believe, always will be the greatest, in Canada. At the present time, at least, of our mining indus-

tries, petroleum is the greatest in the province of Ontario. I shall ask you to bear with me while I read the figures, in order to show how the oil industry stands as compared with the other mining industries in that province. During the past year, Ontario petroleum products were as follows:—

|                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Illuminating oil .....          | \$1,131,083 |
| Lubricating oil .....           | 199,755     |
| Benzine and naphtha.....        | 777,340     |
| Gas and fuel oils and tar ..... | 281,035     |
| Paraffin wax and candles.....   | 88,378      |

Total..... \$1,777,591

These are figures published in a recent issue of the 'Toronto "Globe," and I find, on comparing them with the public records, that they are in almost every instance below the mark. Let me give you the production of other mining industries. Natural gas, which is the first on the list, shows a total value of \$308,443. Natural gas, I may add, belongs to the same family of products as petroleum, and I think it would not be stretching the matter too much to take it in with petroleum:

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Natural gas .....            | \$ 308,443 |
| Calcium carbide .....        | 34,440     |
| Salt .....                   | 249,880    |
| Gypsum and products of ..... | 8,500      |
| Pig iron.....                | 288,127    |
| Nickel .....                 | 359,651    |
| Copper .....                 | 200,537    |
| Gold .....                   | 190,244    |

Total..... \$1,639,357

This shows a difference of over \$100,000 in favour of petroleum as against all other mining industries in Ontario. That is a statement which, I think, will be a surprise to you, Sir, and perhaps to most of the hon. gentlemen who do me the honour of listening to me. The oil industry is, therefore, the most important, at present at all events, of our mining industries in the province of Ontario, and I submit that instead of its being subjected to attacks, as it is so very frequently—too frequently. I am sorry to say—it should be encouraged; and I trust that in future the attacks will be less frequent and based on a greater degree of information and fairness. The petroleum industry seems to be constantly singled out from the other mining industries of Ontario as a fit subject for attack. Now, my hon. friend has given us some figures with the view of convincing us that American oil is much cheaper than Canadian oil. Let me say that for the past fifteen years at least, the prices of Canadian oil, the prices of all oils in fact, used in Canada, have been below their intrinsic value. There has been a very keen competition indeed—almost a commercial war—waged between the native industry and the foreign exporters, who have been sending American oil into this country. That, I think my hon. friend knows as well as I do. The result of that war—for it is not too much to say that in many instances it was a war to the death, so far as the Canadian industry

was concerned—has been that the wholesale price—I am speaking now of the price that the oil man receives for his oil—has all along been from 10 per cent to 30 per cent less than its intrinsic value. The consumer, I am sorry to say, has not on all occasions been so happily situated that he could get the benefit of this competition, because the retail dealer, and in some instances the jobber as well—but in almost every instance the retail dealer, and I would be very sorry to make an attack on that class—gets a very much larger profit on petroleum than upon almost any other commodity in his establishment. I could show conclusively to any unprejudiced person that the retail dealer, especially in some of the remote parts of Canada, has in many instances received by way of profit—basing the profit, as my hon. friend has very properly done, upon all the charges until it reaches his store—more than double the original price paid to the manufacturer. I can show that beyond all question. I do not wish to make any attack on the retail merchants, or any other institution. The oil industry has been up to the present, and I suppose will be to the end of the chapter, on the defensive. We have had all along enemies enough and have no desire to make any more. We have had some very unfair enemies and been subjected to some very unfair attacks, but I may say that many of these attacks have been made in ignorance of the facts. Let me say to you that the Canadian oil industry has nothing whatever to hide. If any person will take the trouble, as some have done, to go to the town of Petrolea, or Sarnia, or to the county of Lambton, or Essex, Kent, Elgin or Middlesex, in each of which oil is being produced, I venture to assert that he will not come back here and use such arguments against us as are constantly being used on the floor of this House.

Now, my hon. friend has shown you very large prices indeed for petroleum in the North-west, in remote portions in the country. But I am in a position to say that the hon. gentleman's order will be filled in Petrolea, the town in which I reside, for anything from one to fifty car-loads for 8½ cents, in bulk. The hon. gentleman can figure out the rest of it as he chooses. If the consumer pays 50 cents for petroleum in remote portions of this country, those who charge him that price ought, in common honesty, I submit, to tell him that all that the oil man gets at the present time is 8½ cents. Now, at the outset I may tell you that the manufacturing end of the business is in the hands of one institution. It is called the Imperial Oil Company of Canada. It has been asserted, and I think truthfully, that that institution is controlled by the Standard Oil Company of the United States. Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not here in the capacity of apologist for that organization. At the same time, I think that you and every other fair-minded person will agree with me when I say that it is not in the in-

terest of the Canadian oil industry to quarrel with any person. The Canadian oil industry of to-day has no quarrel with the Standard Oil Company of the United States. Let me say, however, that the field is open to any person to enter into the refining business. There is no reason, so far as I know, why any persons who desire to do so cannot go to the town of Petrolea or to the town of Sarnia, or to any other good shipping point, and enter into the manufacturing business. Many of those who are engaged in the native oil industry have of late been seriously considering the advisability of going into that branch of the business; but so far the project has not assumed anything like definite shape, and, therefore, I am not able to say what the outcome may be. But, as I have said, there is a fair field, an open field, for any person to go into the manufacturing business who desires to do so and who has sufficient capital.

Mr. DAVIN. That is, to compete with the trust.

Mr. FRASER (East Lambton). My hon. friend (Mr. Davin) says: "To compete with the trust." Of course, the matter of competition is one which must be confronted no matter what business you enter into.

I frequently hear reference made to the question of quality, and I would like to say a few words upon that point, as it is a very important point indeed. I hold in my hand copies of a large number of letters received from parties in the maritime provinces, where we sell a very large quantity of Canadian petroleum, and where as well as elsewhere, Canadian petroleum is constantly being used by the consumers under the impression that they are using American oil. Many dealers, Sir, are constantly in the habit of selling the finest Water White Canadian oil as American—just as there are perhaps twenty times as much Mocha coffee sold in the world as is grown in the place whence that coffee is supposed to come. The letters to which I refer are nearly all dated in 1896. They are not, therefore, as modern, perhaps, as they should be for the purposes of the argument; but, at all events, I can assure you that the quality of Canadian oil has not deteriorated in the meantime. And let me say here that there is as good a quality of oil being made in Canada to-day as there is in the world. I can produce in the city of Ottawa, from the large stock in store, as fine a quality of petroleum as can be found in any establishment on the face of the globe. That is a statement that I think I can verify to the satisfaction of any fair-minded person. Of these letters that I have here, many have come to us unsolicited. The first one I shall trouble you to listen to is from the city of St. John, N.B., the city in which my hon. friend (Mr. Ellis), who seconds this resolution, resides, and he will know the gentleman who wrote the letter:

Mr. FRASER (Lambton).

St. John, N.B., 4th April, 1896.

Imperial Oil Company.

Dear Sirs,—In answer to your communication concerning "Arc-light Oil," I have much pleasure in saying I like the oil very much, and think it is equal to any American oil, and my customers seem to be perfectly satisfied with it, both as regards odour and burning quality.

Yours truly,

J. R. CAMERON,

Wholesale and Retail Lamps and Oils.

Now, I read one from Windsor, N.S.:

Windsor, N.S., 4th April, 1898.

Imperial Oil Company.

Gentlemen,—Yours of the 2nd instant to hand, and in reply I can say that the "Arc-light Oil" we got from you has given satisfaction, despite the brand. My opinion is, that the "Arc-light Oil" is, if anything, better than the American oil. I never handled a better oil.

Yours truly,

J. D. SHAW.

The next letter I have to read is from Charlottetown, P.E.I.:

Charlottetown, P.E.I., 11th November, 1895.

Imperial Oil Company.

Dear Sirs,—We are having great trouble on the Island this fall with American oil, and believe it to be a good opportunity for you to push more vigorously than ever your "Arc-light Oil."

All the best brands of American oil appear to be equally inferior. The trouble, in a large degree, seems to be the lack of strength. After the lamp is filled, it will burn fairly well for a time; but gradually the flame gets weaker, the oil not drawing up. As the wick is turned higher to enlarge the flame, a crust soon forms, smoking the chimney.

Yours truly,

J. D. McLEOD & CO.

I have, perhaps, fifty letters, all similar in tenor to the three I have read. I do not think it would serve any good purpose to burden "Hansard" with all the letters I have of this character,—those I have read from dealers of good repute and of unquestioned veracity will substantiate to the satisfaction of any hon. gentleman present the position I take,—that the best Canadian oil is at least as good as the best American. It is argued by some, of course, that the American oil burns more freely. That is largely a question of the particular lamp or burner that is used. The capillary action of American oil—it being of lighter specific gravity than the Canadian—is, of course, somewhat stronger than that of the Canadian. But let me point out this fact especially—and I desire to emphasize it as being a point in favour of Canadian oil. In addition to the gallon being one-fifth larger than the American, the oil, in lasting quality, in light-producing strength, is, by actual test, at least one-fifth better than the American oil which is so much lauded by persons who seem to take delight in attacking our native industry.

Before I sit down I would like to deal with a phase of the petroleum industry in Canada which I have never heard mentioned

in this House. I have already said that the Canadian oil industry has in many respects done a great deal to advertise Canada. The Canadian oil field has for the past twenty years been sending men all over the world; I refer to the Canadian drillers, trained and skilled drillers, men who are inured to all kinds of hardship, men who go out in all sorts of weather and at all hours of the day and night to handle the drill. Those hon. gentlemen who have seen the process of drilling will bear me out in saying that it is one of the most arduous tasks that any man can be called upon to perform. We have sent hundreds of those young men—because the most of them are young men, old men could not stand it—we have sent hundreds of those young men all over the globe. In the town in which I reside there is an organization that has twelve plants for drilling artesian wells operating in Australia to secure water for the great herds of sheep to be found there, and in this way they have rendered inestimable service to the raisers of sheep in that country. The result has been that millions of acres in the arid portions of Australia have been brought into use for the purpose of pasturing sheep. Those men have also gone into various portions of Africa, all over India, and recently a large refinery was erected in Borneo under the supervision of a gentleman from the town of Petrolea. They have discovered a pretty good oil deposit in that island. We have also men operating in Sumatra, Java, Austria, Germany, Italy, South America and California, and recently we have sent men to Newfoundland. I am happy to state for the information of the House, that a deposit of oil of a very superior quality indeed has recently been discovered in Newfoundland, a fact that will be of special interest at a time when that island is asking for admission into our confederation. Let me say that no commodity, in my opinion, that is indigenous to Canada is so generally distributed throughout the country. My hon. friend spoke of raising oranges in the Northwest. Well, Sir, I think it could hardly be seriously contended that oranges are indigenous to Alberta, but I can truthfully say that petroleum is indigenous to Canada, and it is owing to ignorance of this fact that so many attacks have been made upon the petroleum industry. Some thirty years ago it was supposed that all the petroleum in Canada was confined to the one township in the county where I reside, namely, the township of Enniskillen. There are ten townships in that county, and at this time oil is being produced in paying quantities in seven townships out of the ten, and we have good reasons for believing that there is oil in the other three. Oil is also being produced in paying quantities in Essex, in Kent, in Elgin and in Middlesex. We know furthermore, that there is oil in various other parts of Ontario. I have also geological testimony of the very highest order

in my possession to show that there is a vast deposit of oil in Athabasca, in that far-off western country, and I would not be at all surprised if a vast deposit of oil should be discovered where my hon. friend who preceded me resides. I venture to express the opinion that when that country is studded with three-pole derricks, as I trust it will be at an early day, my hon. friend will come down here singing a very different song from the one with which he has regaled us this afternoon. Now, Sir, I think I will not trouble you with any further remarks. I have attempted to show you that the quality of Canadian oil is good. But I had almost forgotten to say that I have a large number of letters that we got some two or three years ago from various lodges of Patrons of Industry throughout Ontario, from men who are purchasing Canadian petroleum direct from the refinery in my town, and in every instance these letters speak in the highest terms of commendation of Canadian petroleum. It would not be proper for me to drop this phase of the question without reading some of the contents of these letters. I will not read the letters in their entirety, but only give you a few extracts. Mr. Geo. H. Ashe, of Cobourg, says :

Your last barrel of oil was good, and gave good satisfaction.

Mr. Bole, secretary of the Patrons of Industry, lodge 485, Thornbury, writes :

Your oil gave the best of satisfaction.

Mr. Martin G. Brown, of Eldon, Ont., says :

It was the best oil we ever had. One fault only—it was short 5 gallons.

Mr. DAVIS. Hear, hear.

Mr. FRASER (East Lambton). My hon. friend says "Hear, hear." At last he thinks he has discovered something that is of some value to him. Let me say that it is not an unusual thing for a barrel of petroleum to arrive at a distant point in a leaky condition; but in every instance where the quantity is short—and no one knows this better than my hon. friend—all the buyer has to do is to telegraph or write to the manufacturer from whom he bought it, and the quantity is immediately made good in every instance.

Another gentleman on behalf of the Patrons of Industry Lodge No. 608, Olinda, Milton G. Brown says: "The last barrel was the best received yet." Another gentleman from Stayner, Mr. Neil Coleman, says: "The oil was first-class." Another gentleman, Mr. A. J. Cowan, of Willetsholme, says: "Good value." A gentleman from Nottawa, Mr. G. W. Glover, writing on behalf of the Patrons of Industry Lodge No. 1901, says: "It is the best oil we have ever used." This is the tenor of all these letters. I can produce overwhelming proof and can, I am sure, convince any unprejudiced per-

son in this Chamber, or anywhere else, that the best Canadian oil is as good as any oil made on the face of the globe; I do not except Pennsylvania or Ohio; I do not except any of the great petroleum fields throughout the world. We have satisfied ourselves, and we can satisfy any other person, that the best water-white Canadian petroleum is, as good an oil as can be procured to-day. I trust that no hon. gentleman will seriously deem it to be his duty to say anything against the Canadian oil industry; I trust that no hon. member will deem it to be his duty to vote for the resolution which my hon. friend (Mr. Davis) has submitted this afternoon. While he says in his resolution: Put coal oil upon the free list, he forgets that the oil industry pays very large duties upon the great many commodities that enter into the production and manufacture of petroleum. He forgets that we import every year thousands and thousands of tons of iron; he forgets that we import large quantities of chemicals for deodorizing purposes, for the purposes of manufacturing petroleum; he forgets that one institution in the county in which I reside burns 100 tons of coal a day, upon which there is a heavy duty. It can be shown that the duty upon oil is reduced by at least 2 cents, by the duties that the oil industry has to pay upon the various articles that I have enumerated. We pay heavy duties, and we find that there has been recently a great advance in the price of iron which adds largely to the cost of the production and manufacture of oil. My hon. friend (Mr. Davis) claims to have accurate information, but he is far below the mark when he says there are only 10,000 persons interested in the petroleum industry in Canada; I think he would have been nearer the mark if he had said that there are 20,000 directly and indirectly interested in this industry. In Quebec, there is a village or a town named Capelton, and that town is almost entirely maintained by the manufacture of sulphuric and other acids that are used in the manufacture of Canadian petroleum, and a blow at the Canadian petroleum industry would be a direct blow at the thriving village or town of Capelton. I can name other towns and villages similarly situated. The question is a complex one, and you cannot deal summarily with any isolated article in this fashion; if you are going to put petroleum on the free list you will have to place a great many other articles on the free list before you can truthfully say that petroleum is on the free list. Petroleum cannot be placed on the free list without placing all the other commodities that enter into the manufacture of that article, also, on the free list. Then, only, can you in fairness say, that petroleum is on the free list. But suppose—and it is difficult for me to suppose that the House will do so—suppose that the House should deem it to be wise to place coal oil on the free list, how would you levy the revenue that you now derive from imported petroleum? Where would you

Mr. FRASER (Lambton).

place it? The burden would have to be shifted to some other commodity. The country derives a revenue of over half a million dollars from imported petroleum. I submit that the hon. gentleman should not advance the arguments that he has advanced in favour of his resolution if he desires to deal fairly by the House, and I am sure that my hon. friend has no desire to be anything but fair. I submit that the loss of revenue would be a serious one. I feel, Sir, that I need not trouble you at any greater length upon this occasion. I desire to thank you, Sir, and the hon. members of this House who have listened so courteously and patiently to me this afternoon, and I trust that any hon. gentleman who may, with the information which he has now, think it proper to place coal oil on the free list, will stay his hand until the question has been more fully considered.

Mr. J. V. ELLIS (St. John). Mr. Speaker, we must all be gratified at the charming manner in which the hon. member (Mr. Fraser) has stated his case, and of the equally charming manner in which he has led us on excursions to the pleasant island of Borneo and other places, that have nothing to do with the question, and which were introduced with the apparent design of taking our attention away from the question. The hon. gentleman has not answered the statement of the hon. member at my right (Mr. Davis), who said that the effect of this duty on coal oil was to increase the cost to the consumer by 8 cents per gallon, nor did he meet the statement, either, that the result of the duty is not in the interest of any large number of persons in Canada, but is in the interest of a corporation outside of Canada. The hon. gentleman seems to have entirely failed to deal with the arguments of the hon. member for Saskatchewan. While he gave us a great deal of interesting information about the oil industry and its products, which are important, he did not give any consolation to the consumers. My hon. friend on my right presented his case very well from the North-west point of view. I would like to present it as well from the point of view of the maritime provinces. All I can do is to state the case in as plain words as I can from our point of view. We imported last year into Canada 8,011,240 gallons of coal oil, according to our returns. The American figures I have not by me at the moment, but, as I remember, they give the Canadian importations at over 9,000,000 gallons; a portion of the excess would, no doubt, be oil which is smuggled across the frontier into the maritime provinces; a portion would be accounted for by the difference of quantity in the gallons, and perhaps some of it went to Newfoundland. The value of that oil was \$602,265, and the duty paid upon it \$400,558.

Coal oil entered for consumption, 1898—

| Galls.    | Value.    | Duty.     |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 8,011,240 | \$602,265 | \$400,558 |

Hon. gentlemen will see that this amounts to a tax of 66 per cent, or, in other words, every man who buys \$1 worth of oil pays in addition 66 cents for the duty. This tax bears very heavily on the maritime provinces. In the province of New Brunswick, from which I come, there was entered for consumption last year oil to the value of \$114,632, upon which we paid a tax of \$70,952, which amounts to about 62 per cent, as nearly as I have worked it out, although I have not calculated it out with absolute accuracy. In 1897, in the province of New Brunswick, we paid a duty amounting to about 70 per cent upon the value of the oil imported. The reduction in the coal oil duty in 1898 consequently reduced the tax about 8 per cent, as compared with the tax in the year 1897.

Now, Sir, this tax is paid, not by persons who can afford to use the electric light or gas, or who are able to indulge in these luxuries of modern civilization; but it is paid largely, by fishermen, by farmers, and by persons who have to toil exceedingly hard to make a livelihood in a part of the Dominion which does not so easily yield an adequate return to the worker as that district whence my hon. friend (Mr. Fraser) comes. There is a great deal of indignation on the part of the people of the maritime provinces against this tax. My hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) is no doubt very much concerned with the question as to how a deficit, if there should be one, can be made up, and I would suggest to him that whisky could stand a good deal more taxation, or tobacco, or some of the many such articles which the hon. gentleman could select. At all events, this tax on coal oil is altogether too onerous upon the particular class of the people upon which it is levied. If it were a tax evenly distributed upon the people of the whole country, falling alike upon rich and poor, it would not be so burdensome as it now is, affecting as it does people who are not able to use the better class of light. I understood my hon. friend (Mr. Fraser) to say, that a great deal of the oil which is used in the maritime provinces is Canadian oil and is sold to the people under the impression that they are buying American oil. That I think was an unfortunate argument for my hon. friend (Mr. Fraser) to use. It seems to me that it gives away his case entirely with regard to the effect of the duty, and I call my hon. friend's attention to the statement so that if he made an error he may set it right in the revised "Hansard."

Mr. FRASER (East Lambton). That is not what I intended to say. I did not intend to say that this practice was confined entirely to the maritime provinces, but that it is a common practice all over the country. As to what proportion of Canadian oil is sold as American oil in the maritime provinces I am unable to say, but I know it is being sold all over the province of Ontario in that way.

Mr. ELLIS. I have nothing further to say, Mr. Speaker, but perhaps I might point out to the hon. members representing the maritime provinces, that Nova Scotia imported oil to the value of \$54,462 last year, that the people of that province paid a tax upon that amounting to \$32,051; that New Brunswick last year imported oil to the value of \$114,632, and paid \$70,952 as a tax, and that Prince Edward Island imported oil to the value of \$11,755 and paid a tax upon it of \$6,999. In all, there was imported from the United States into the maritime provinces \$180,849 worth of oil on which a tax was paid of \$110,002:

| Importation of oil into maritime provinces, 1898— |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|   | Galls.    | Value.    | Duty.     |
| Nova Scotia . . . . .                             | 641,012   | \$ 54,462 | \$ 32,051 |
| New Brunswick . . . . .                           | 1,419,042 | 114,632   | 70,952    |
| P. E. Island . . . . .                            | 133,992   | 11,755    | 6,999     |
| Total . . . . .                                   | 2,194,056 | \$180,849 | \$110,002 |

I leave it to the Ontario and Quebec members to present their own side of the question, but I believe this tax must be equally severe upon the people from those provinces—it must be very severe indeed upon the province of Quebec. I really do think, notwithstanding the argument of my hon. friend (Mr. Fraser), that the Government ought to look at this matter in a different light from what it does. I do not put the free trade argument to my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), who comes from the province of Nova Scotia, but the hon. gentleman must himself know very well that this is too severe a tax upon this particular article of consumption. The hon. gentleman from Lambton (Mr. Fraser) said, "as I understood him, that the oil is sold at the place of its production at less than its intrinsic value. If that be so, then why should the people of the country be taxed as heavily as they are, to secure the protection of an article which is disposed of at the wells, at less than its intrinsic value. I think that the ordinary judgment of men, the ordinary knowledge which they must have of business, must show them that there is a fallacy in this oil tax. If it were levied for the purposes of revenue, one would have nothing more to say about it, but if it is levied as a protection, as it seems to be, then the duty ought to be reduced. Not seeing any better alternative, I shall vote for the motion of my hon. friend (Mr. Davis) which proposes to wipe off this tax altogether.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I have no desire to shut off the debate, and if any hon. gentleman has further observations to offer upon the question, I shall defer the motion which otherwise I would now make. I think we will all agree that while the subject is a very interesting one, and one which when it came before the House in times past always created an interesting discussion, yet it is a subject with which, so far as the Government are concerned, they cannot undertake to deal as a

separate and distinct matter. The oil question must be considered as part of the general tariff policy of the Government, and, therefore, I do not think it would be wise on the part of the Government to anticipate the budget by making any statement at this moment on that, or upon any other item of it. I therefore beg to move that the debate be now adjourned.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). Mr. Speaker, before you put that motion to the House, I should like to say that I have listened with great pleasure to the speech of my hon. friend from East Lambton (Mr. Fraser). I think it was a most instructive address, although I probably would be compelled to agree with my hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Ellis) that while instructive, it was also a most discursive speech. Yet, one listened to it with pleasure and also with profit. I was very glad to hear the clear demonstration, that our Canadian oil is as good as American oil, and I have nothing to say in regard to that, but to express my great pleasure, that a man who can speak with so much authority as my hon. friend (Mr. Fraser), assures us that the Canadian product is as good as that produced below the line. I was also glad to hear the strong testimony from such authoritative quarters as the Patrons of Industry, that the oil they received from my hon. friend (Mr. Fraser) was of the best possible quality. I was also very much interested to hear of the success in sinking artesian wells in Africa, under the Southern Cross, in India and elsewhere; and I hope that at no distant date some of the friends of my hon. friend from Petrolea (Mr. Fraser) will go west. If they do so, even with all our resources, we can get an accession of prosperity if they sink some of their wells in that country. But, Sir, all that, it seems to me, has really nothing to do with the question before us. The question before us is this: Should the House press upon the judgment of the Minister of Finance, and of the Government, the propriety of taking the duty off coal oil, we can look at that question from three points of view. We can look upon it from the point of view of my hon. friend from Lambton (Mr. Fraser) as to its bearing upon the industry of Petrolea; and we can also look upon it from the point of view of my hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Ellis), as to its bearing upon the price of oil: its bearing, in other words, upon the prosperity of the consumers. We can further look upon the question politically, and that is, as to the duty that is in this instance cast upon the Government, by reason of the fact that the Government are pledged to the people of the country to give them free coal oil. Now, Mr. Speaker, as has already been pressed upon the attention of the House, this is a matter that has created the greatest possible interest in the North-west Territories: because the people who make up the great

Mr. FIELDING.

bulk of the population of the North-west Territories, the farmers, use no other light than coal oil, and many of them would be very glad indeed to use some form of petroleum as fuel; and the day is not far distant, I believe, when all over the country we shall be using petroleum in some form as fuel. We have now, however, to look at this matter from the point of view of lighting our dwellings, our town halls, our churches, our schoolhouses, not only all over the North-west Territories, but all over Canada. Now, my hon. friend from East Lambton (Mr. Fraser) argued that the miners of coal oil were all Canadians—that the wells were still in the hands of Canadians; but he said the refined article had entirely passed into the hands of the company which is controlled by that great trust of which we have heard so much. So the hon. gentleman resents a motion to give competition in the refined article to Canadians. If we take off the duty, we can have the competition which exists in the United States; without taking off that duty, we are without that competition. It seems to me that the very way in which my hon. friend stated the case left it without a leg to stand on. We have had it held out to us in the strongest possible terms—for instance, by the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), when he sat on the Opposition side of the House—that coal oil was a necessary of life. It is indeed a necessary of life, especially for those in middle class circumstances and for the poor; and yet my hon. friend, who supports the Government of which the Postmaster General is a distinguished member, tells us that we should not accede to a motion that would give us competition in this necessary of life such as now exists in the United States, and in the same breath he tells us that the refined industry has passed entirely into the hands of what the Liberal press in Winnipeg, in London, all over Canada, describes as that vast octopus, the oil trust. Now, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the hon. gentleman who has moved this motion, not to consent to the appeal of the hon. Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding), because it is only by dividing the House on the motion that the opinion of the House can be ascertained on the subject. If the hon. gentleman for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) does not insist on a division, how is the Government to know what is the feeling of the House?

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

### After Recess.

Mr. DAVIN. When the House took recess, I was referring to the argument of my hon. friend from East Lambton (Mr. Fraser), that the business of mining for oil was in the hands of Canadians, coupled with his statement that the whole business of refined oil is now controlled by an enormous trust known as the Standard Oil Company. He

made these two statements, but drew no inference. He rather seemed to suggest—and I must confess that I cannot see the cogency of it at all—that if we should withdraw this protection of five cents a gallon from this monopoly, we would injure in some way Canadians who control the production of the crude oil. I cannot see the inference at all, because this enormous corporation, which now controls the refining in Canada, will still have to use crude oil and take that crude oil from our wells. If we were to yield to the urging of my hon. friend, we should be in a still worse position, because while it is admitted that the whole refining oil business in Canada is in the hands of this great corporation, it is at the same time admitted that there is competition below the line where, despite the fact that this enormous octopus has its tentacles all over the United States, nevertheless some four wealthy corporations stand out against it. Therefore, if we take away the five cents a gallon protection, we shall have the competition of the four companies I refer to, and we will gain in the money saved to our customers of coal oil. By looking at the returns, it is easy to see that, roughly speaking, some \$500,000 go into the pockets of these refiners that would not go into their pockets if it were not for that five cent protection; and according to the theory of protectionists, as well as free traders, this enormous corporation, this oil trust, has deprived itself of all right and of any colourable ground of justice to ask for protection because it has made itself a monopoly.

I think I also before recess adverted to the argument from the point of view of politics. Nothing was nearer the hearts of these hon. gentlemen who are now on the Treasury benches than the enormity of the oppression entailed by the duty on coal oil, and I do not think there was any item in the tariff, not even excepting binder twine, that appealed stronger to the benevolence of my hon. friend the present Postmaster General than did the duty on coal oil. I have in my hand the campaign sheet for 1896, on which the fight was waged, and which was issued over the signature of Alex. Smith, that well known organizer of the great Liberal party. In his address to the leader he says—I do not know what the meaning of that is—"This pamphlet is not for general distribution." I suppose that made it all the more sacred. There were some esoteric truths in it, no doubt, that were not to be distributed abroad, cast among the vulgar. Coal oil evidently oppressed the political imagination of the writer of this pamphlet, because if you turn to page 20, you will find under the head of "Specific Duty":

The following list shows some of the unjust discriminations effected by specific duties in the new Canadian tariff. It does not contain all the discriminations, and the widest variations have not been presented.

Then a list is given, and in that list, as will be found on page 21, we get coal oil, six

cents per gallon. They calculated that that amounted to an ad valorem duty of about 100 per cent. If it does, why five cents per gallon must run very near 80 per cent or 90 per cent, but suppose you take it as 66 per cent—and I think that would probably be a fair calculation—why, 66 per cent is enough to make any true Liberal aghast with horror, and I am afraid it is enough to make the hon. Postmaster General rise in his wrath and insist that that portion of the House which he controls shall not vote with the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis). In the same pamphlet there is a paragraph on page 18, headed "Manufacturers' Profits," and "Farmers' Profits," and the small profit that is made by the farmer or to put it in the way I want to put it now, the small profit that is made by the consumer of coal oil compared with the manufacturer, is set before the order, and I have no doubt had considerable effect upon the voters when they came to vote on that memorable day in June. I turn, however, to a book that has been much referred to in a recent debate, and I have that book in a different form from that in which any of my hon. friends have it, because I have it interleaved. I think I may say that probably I have never outstripped any hon. gentleman on this side in the diligent study that I have given to the admirable speeches which were made in 1893; and I cannot help contrasting this protection of some 66 per cent with the introductory speech of my right hon. friend the First Minister, in which he laid down principles of the broadest possible free trade:

I submit to you, that the ideal fiscal system is the British system of free trade. Sir, my loyalty, as I have said, does not ooze from the pores of my body, but I do want to go for example to the mother country, and not to the United States, much as I love and respect the people on the other side of the line. Our policy should be a policy of free trade such as they have in England.

Later on, he says:

It is always easy to increase the tariff, because, by so doing, you increase the private fortunes of certain individuals, but whenever you decrease the tariff, it has always to be done after careful consideration; and I am sure that when the Liberals are in power, they will not be indifferent to this primary principle.

He was already, apparently, hedging there. But again he launches out into the strongest statements of how they would sweep away that dire thing that, he said, was then so obnoxious to everybody—protection. And then he went on to move the resolution that declared:

That the existing tariff, founded upon an unsound principle, and used, as it has been, by the Government, as a corrupting agency wherewith to keep themselves in office, has developed monopolies, trusts and combinations; it has decreased the value of farm and other landed property it has oppressed the masses to the enrichment of a few; it has checked immigration; it has caused great loss of population;—

And so on. And that the tariff "should be so adjusted as to make free or to bear as lightly as possible upon the necessaries of life." And we have the authority of the present Postmaster General (Mr. Mullock), that coal oil is a necessary of life. I have heard him say that when he used to sit on this side and used to thunder against the iniquities of protection with that vigour which is native to his energetic temperament. When the Prime Minister was moving this resolution, here is what he said :

It is a thorough arraignment of the policy the Government has followed. It sets forth all the evils which have flowed from the system of protection, and it draws the line clear and distinct between truth on the one side and error on the other between the policy of liberty and freedom and the policy of slavery ; because I leave it to the judgment of every free man, to the farmers, and, above all, I leave it to the workingman in the cities, if protection is anything else but slavery.

Now, Sir, a very eloquent man, speaking on the same subject, seemed to have had a prophetic eye to the time when we should have this vast coal oil trust in Canada and a Government in Canada afraid to deal with it. When we should have a monopoly of the most appalling character and a Government in some way or other linked to that monopoly and not knowing what to do And this is what was said :

There was a gentleman who had a Jersey bull—

An hon. MEMBER. Who said that ?

Mr. DAVIN. That was at the great Liberal convention, and the speech I am reading was made by Mr. H. R. Emmerson, Chief Commissioner of Public Works, New Brunswick :

There was a gentleman who had a Jersey bull, and it was a rather refractory animal. He wanted to tame the bull. He tied a rope around its neck, the other end being attached to his waist, the better to control the animal. He didn't know much about Jersey bulls. Then he led it out in the field. For a moment the bull looked round and sniffed. Then he took it into his head to have a little gambol, and started off through the fields. The man was at the other end of the rope, mind you. Sometimes he was on the ground, and sometimes he was in the air. A friend came along that way, and observing the speed of the man's movements, he asked : "Hello, Jones, where are you going ?" The answer was : "I don't know ; ask the bull !"

Now, the position of the present Government is this—they are linked to this great bull of monopoly, as this propnetic gentleman, Mr. Emmerson, foresaw when you address the right hon. the Premier, and say : "Where are you going ?" he says, "I don't know ; ask the bull." Well, now, Sir, with an apothegen like that from the great Liberal conference, we may go a little further and quote some of the utterances of the great statesmen who now are pillars of the state. In 1893, in this House, Sir Wilfrid Laurier—Mr. Laurier, as he was then—said :

Mr. DAVIN.

I will not indulge in any boasting, but I can see all around me the evidence that the dawn is approaching of the day which shall see the highest development of British civilization on a basis of ever-broadening freedom of trade.

And only next to the Prime Minister himself comes the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries. He was not then, as he is now, enrolled in that noble band of knighthood, Mr. Speaker, which constitutes our transcendental aristocracy ; he was not then Sir Louis Davies ; he is put down here as "Mr. Davies (P.E.I.)," and he is speaking on an item in the Estimates, "Oils, coal and kerosene, distilled, purified or refined—" and so on. And this is what he says, making an argument on the subject :

Anybody can see at once the gross unfairness and injustice of this tax.

What tax ? The tax on coal oil. And then he goes on to speak in a way to account for a portion of the speech of my hon. friend from East Lambton. That hon. gentleman was girding at somebody who used to abuse Canadian coal oil. I am sure that never came from Conservatives ; but I find the statement by the Mr. Davies of that time, now the knighted head of the Marine and Fisheries Department.

An hon. MEMBER. Benighted.

Mr. DAVIN. He was then benighted, and I think he is no less benighted now. He said :

I am instructed that at that time the same quality of American oil which is now imported was selling at 20 cents per gallon, and the duty being 6 cents per wine gallon, is equal to 30 per cent ad valorem duty. Since then refining has so changed the selling price of this oil that to-day that same quality of oil which was then sold at 20 cents per wine gallon is now sold at 3½ cents per wine gallon, while the duty remains the same.

And he goes on to point out that the Canadian oil is very much inferior and urges in the strongest possible manner the Finance Minister of that day to take the duty off coal oil. And then, Sir, on the 25th April, 1894, there were a number of tariff inquiries from this side of the House, the one by the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey). Then we have Mr. Lavergne, who is now a judge and who is very much in the confidence of leading men in the Liberal ranks. And this is what he asks :

Whether the Government are aware that the great majority of the ratepayers of the province of Quebec are in favour of a total repeal of the duties on coal oil, or of a reduction of 50 per cent at least ?

Now, I think I have shown that if the promises held out to the people—the general promises as regards the tariff, the specific promises as regards coal oil—are carried out by the Government, instead of pressing the motion of the Finance Minister to divide the House, they should say they would not

press that, but would allow the House to give its free opinion on this question, and that opinion certainly ought to be against the duty on coal oil. Now, Sir, my hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Ellis) pointed to the large amount that was paid in New Brunswick. Well, Sir, look at the amount paid in Manitoba. In Manitoba and the North-west Territories there were \$27,421 paid in duty during the year ending 30th June, 1897, and to that you have to add the increase of duty that goes into the pockets of the manufacturer, that is to say, this gigantic oil trust, these great American millionaires who have come over here. The truth is that not less than half a million dollars of the people's money goes into the pockets of this oil trust. Now, I have here a statement from the Winnipeg "Tribune" in regard to this very matter, and I see the editor (Mr. Richardson) of the "Tribune" is present. I find the quotation in the Toronto "Mail."

By the Winnipeg "Tribune" complaint is made that the oil monopoly has just raised the price to the retailer by a cent and a half per gallon. That paper wants to know what can be done to check the constant rise in prices now going on. Those who remember the details of the last election campaign, will recall the fact, that one of the great reforms to be effected was in the matter of coal oil. The coal-oil users, farmers particularly, were paying too high for their light and the Liberal Government was to bring the prices down with a rush. To-day there is no reductions; on the contrary, we have frequent complaints of increases.

I remember reading about that time a very long leading article in the paper of my hon. friend dwelling on this very question, and dwelling on it, if I remember rightly, from the same standpoint from which I am speaking now. I hope, therefore, that when we come to a vote, this House will say that we are determined to have coal oil on the free list.

Mr. T. BEATTIE (London). As this question will no doubt come up again in the debate on the Budget, I shall occupy but a few moments of the time of the House on this occasion. It is strange that year after year and session after session, members on both sides of this House have felt it their duty to bring up the question of coal oil. Now, we have but very few natural products in this country, and coal oil is one of them; and if any further reduction is made in the duty on coal oil, the mining of coal oil will cease in Canada. The late Government made a great mistake, in my opinion, in reducing the duty, and the present Government have made a still greater mistake in granting further concession. Before the last reduction in duty was made, crude oil was selling at \$1.70 a barrel; to-day it is only \$1.40, and there it is likely to remain for the future. But the singular thing about it is that while the producer is getting 20 per cent less for his crude oil, refined oil is still increasing in price, for it stands higher to-day than it has

stood for many years. Of course I am speaking entirely in the interest of the miner. As I said before, the producer is getting 20 per cent less for his crude oil to-day, and the consumer is paying 20 per cent more for his refined oil, making a difference of 40 per cent, which is going into the pocket of the refiner. This condition of things has been brought about by the action of both the late Government and the present Government. My advice is that we should let the coal oil miner alone, and if we do, I think he will manage to live yet; but if the present duty is removed, God help the poor miner. I do not think that there is any one in this country who can complain about the price of coal oil. We are told that the farmer suffers. I do not think the average farmer in this country uses more than \$1 worth of coal oil per year. As I said before, this is one of the natural industries of Canada, and I protest against the efforts made to destroy it in this way.

Mr. T. G. JOHNSTON (West Lambton). I consider our present tariff is a good one, it is a tariff that appeals to the best judgment of the country. I believe it has been framed in the interests of all Canada, and that it is calculated to do equal justice to all. Consequently I think that in no respect, unless dire necessity requires it, should this tariff be interfered with to the slightest extent. As has been ably pointed out by my hon. friend from London (Mr. Beattie), coal oil seems to be specially singled out for attack. That is perhaps all right from the local standpoint of those who make the attack; they overlook one set of circumstances while confining their view to another set. Our friends from the west should remember that it was the people living particularly in the central portion of the Dominion who went to the expense of acquiring and developing that western country and putting it in the position that it is in to-day; and our friends from the east should remember that we still maintain a duty on coal for their benefit. Why then should these hon. gentlemen come forward and ask us in the centre of the Dominion to consent to a removal of the duty on one of our articles which is a natural product? I consider the attack on the coal oil industry is most unfair. I think a great many of the remarks that have been made on this subject have been made under a misconception of the operation of producing coal oil. It is only necessary thoroughly to understand the manner of obtaining and treating the crude oil, to remove the objections any hon. gentleman may have to this duty. The industry is one that should more properly come under the head of mining. Being myself personally acquainted with the production of the crude oil and the process by which it is refined, I can say that in my judgment the industry should more properly come under the head of mining. For every dollar that is invested profitably in that industry, thousands of dollars have been

sunk. It is a business in which speculation enters to a great extent. It is like a game of cards, the man who starts into a game never knows what the result is going to be. For one productive well that is found, there are four or five dry holes, as they are called, and each one of these dry holes represents an expenditure of several hundred dollars. This is a view of the question which is not taken sufficiently into account by those hon. gentlemen who attack the duty on coal oil. These hon. gentlemen make the mistake of confounding, to a certain extent, the consumer and the manufacturer. So far as the manufacturer is concerned it does not make an atom of difference whether the duty is removed from coal oil or not, but it does make a great deal of difference to the producer. Now the producers of this particular article are citizens of our own country, in a great majority of instances they are farmers, who, by hard work, have been able to save a few dollars which they have invested in the business of producing oil. As I say, these producers are citizens of Canada, and it is unfair to ask them to forego whatever profit they may make in this industry. If the present degree of protection is taken away from them, the result will be the total cessation of the work of producing oil in Canada. We all know that there is an immense surplus of crude oil held in the United States ready to be poured into this country the moment the duty on crude oil in Canada is removed. That being the case, as I say, Mr. Speaker, I think that it is most unfair to ask that the duty be removed. On the other hand, we must remember that for years and years these same producers have contributed their share of the taxation of the country; they have contributed taxation on their pipe and on everything else that they use in the manufacture of oil, and it is utterly unfair to tax them in one respect, and render the result of their industry free from taxation. The removal of the duty would not, in the slightest, affect the manufacturers. They would go on manufacturing just the same as they are doing at the present time, and the only result would be the injury of our workmen. Apart from all that, from the public standpoint, personally, I heartily endorse the remarks made by the hon. member for East Lambton (Mr. Fraser), who is much better posted in the details of the matter than I am. He is much more conversant with it and knows better, perhaps, than any hon. gentleman here what the effect of the removal of the duty would be. I will not detain the House one moment longer, except to reiterate what I said at the first, that this tariff is a good tariff, that it has given entire and perfect satisfaction to the people of the Dominion, that it is working in the best interests of the people, and that to commence to interfere with it in the slightest manner, would be to do something very greatly to the detriment of the best interests of the country.

Mr. JOHNSTON.

Mr. FRANK OLIVER (Alberta). Mr. Speaker, while giving a general support to the tariff policy of the Government, I am sorry that I cannot share the unbounded enthusiasm of the hon. gentleman who has just sat down in regard to the tariff as being a perfect and finished work. Good as the tariff may be, I think it is still capable of improvement, and that possibly no item is more worthy of criticism than this particular item of coal oil. I would like to say, in the beginning, that I am not a theoretical free trader; I am a theoretical protectionist, but I believe that when the protection of the producer goes so far as to injure the consumer, it is not truly protection, but injury. I believe in the protection of the consumer as well as in the protection of the producer. Inasmuch as the consumers of any product outnumber very largely the producers of that product, it seems to me that the true theory of protection is to protect the consumer rather than the producer. That is, I claim, the first interest of this Parliament.

Looking at this coal oil question from the point of view of the tariff, I understand that the tariff under which we are working now to be a tariff for revenue. A tariff for revenue means a tariff so adjusted as to raise a revenue as equally as possible upon the general wealth of the country. Therefore, articles which only to a small extent enter into general consumption and are used only by the people of wealth, should be taxed more heavily, per cent, than articles that enter into more general consumption, and are used, in a large degree, by the people of less wealth. A certain equal percentage of taxation upon all articles would not be equal taxation. It is necessary and desirable that articles of luxury should be taxed high, and that articles of necessity should be taxed low. That would be an equalized tariff for revenue. Of the articles of taxation used in this country, coal oil is one of the articles that enters very largely into the consumption of the general people of the country; therefore, it is one of the articles which should be taxed below the average of a fair revenue tariff. If we say that a fair basis of our tariff for revenue would be 20 per cent or 25 per cent, instead of coal oil being protected by a duty of 66 per cent, its protection should be something less than 20 or 25 per cent. I understand that the value of coal oil is about 8 cents a gallon; the duty is 5 cents a gallon, and the percentage is 66 per cent.

Mr. TAYLOR. That is a good revenue tariff.

Mr. OLIVER. I claim that a duty of 2 cents per gallon would be the full measure of protection which the coal oil industry is entitled to on a revenue tariff basis. As I said at the outset, I am not a theoretical free trader; I am a protectionist. I believe in giving the industries of the coun-

try that measure of protection which they are entitled to on the basis of a fair revenue tariff. The coal oil industry is entitled to that measure of protection. But it appears to me, and I think it is the opinion of a very great number of people besides myself, that the coal oil duty is higher than is justifiable according to the terms or reasons or considerations of a revenue tariff. We accept the tariff as a whole; we are satisfied with it as a measure of relief from the burdens of the protective tariff, but because we are satisfied with it, as a whole as a measure of relief, it does not follow that we are not at liberty, from time to time, to point out to the Government the points in which it can, in our humble estimation, be improved. I think that one of the points in which it can fairly be improved, in the interest of the consumer and in the interest of the country, is in the reduction of the duty on coal oil.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar). Mr. Speaker, I cannot allow this motion to go without saying a word in regard to it. It was not my intention to discuss the tariff at any length until the Budget is brought down, when I had intended to give expression to the views which I believe the people hold in the country from which I come. My distinct belief, Sir, is that the people of Manitoba and the North-west are not satisfied with the tariff. They accepted it as a measure in the right direction; they accepted the assurance of members of the Government that the tariff is not finally revised and that such reductions will be made, from time to time, as circumstances warrant, and it is, Sir, because of that that the people of the country have not raised their voice to any extent in dissent from the tariff. I may say, Sir, that I cannot share the view expressed by at least one hon. member of this House: that what we require in this country is moderate protection. My belief is, that we ought to have no protection whatever. I am prepared to accept a revenue tariff, and, Sir, I believe that the people living in that part of the Dominion which I represent, expect that the tariff will be scaled down until it reaches a mere revenue basis. In that part of the Dominion whence I come, the question of the price of coal oil is a very important one indeed. With the exception of a few towns which have gas or electric light, the people are obliged to use coal oil entirely, and it is particularly desirable, in their interest, that at least that commodity should be on the free list. I am free to say that the expectations of the people there were, that if the Liberal party was returned to power, coal oil was one of the articles that would be made free of duty.

Mr. BERGERON. Hear, hear.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I am glad to hear hon. gentlemen opposite saying "hear, hear."

I am not prepared to say that members of the present Government guaranteed, or stated in so many words that coal oil would be placed on the free list. What I say is, that the expectations of the people were that coal oil should be placed on the free list. I believe too that the popular expectation was, that agricultural implements would also be placed upon the free list. They have not yet been so placed, but I hope and shall continue to hope, that we will at least have a scaling down of the duties of these articles, and that the time will ultimately come when we shall have them placed on the free list—for my own part it cannot come too soon. As I have said, this is a very important question to our people. There is a great deal of coal oil consumed in that country, and the people are not in a financial position to pay high prices for this oil. The high price of oil, however, is not entirely due to the profits which the manufacturers make upon that article; but it is very largely due to the high freight rates that are charged at the present time, and which have prevailed for a considerable period. If, in addition to the reduction in the duty on coal oil or its abrogation entirely, we could secure a very low freight rate on that commodity, it would give great satisfaction to the people of our country.

It seems to me, Sir, that inasmuch as bounties are paid for the manufacture of iron and steel in this country, then, if the coal oil industry is as important as has been represented, it might not be a bad idea for the Government to consider the advisability of reducing the duty and giving a bounty on the oil. My own view in regard to these matters has been expressed very clearly by the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver), when he said, that those who should be considered in such a matter were not the manufacturers but the people at large. It is of much more importance, in my opinion, that the masses of the people should have this consideration from the Government, and not the small number of manufacturers, however estimable they may be. In such matters as coal oil and farm implements, and one or two other things, it would be my view that the Government might very well consider the advisability of placing them on the free list. That being my opinion, I shall have no hesitation in supporting the motion of the hon. member (Mr. Davis).

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). I rise to add a few words as to the position of this question in the province of Quebec, or at least in that county which returned me to this House in 1896. The position of the coal oil question in the constituency of Jacques Cartier was, to a certain extent, peculiar. It was there stated by my adversary—a man well versed in public questions during a campaign which lasted several months—that one of the greatest iniquities perpetrated by the Government then in power was the maintenance of this 100 per cent duty upon coal oil. In many places in

the county, my opponent made this a great point of attack, and having examined the question fully, and gone into it with a number of men better posted than I myself was. I came to the conclusion that the contention of my adversary as to the duty upon this article was well founded, and I took the position, that in this House, at the very first opportunity, I would support most heartily a great reduction in the duty on coal oil; indeed, its being placed on the free list. To add strength to the position taken by the Liberal candidate on that question, we were treated time and again to the platform set forth in the Liberal pamphlet published during that campaign, and from which my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) has given us copious extracts. Towards the end of the campaign, in spite of my assurances on the question of coal oil duty, my right hon. friend the Prime Minister came down to the constituency three days before the voting, and at a large meeting in the town of Lachine, he not only entirely endorsed the programme of my adversary on this point, but pledged that this was the policy of the Liberal party, and that they would carry it out if they were returned to power. Under these circumstances, I think it is fair for me to say, that there was a distinct pledge given by the Liberal party before their advent to power, that at least upon this question there would be no faltering whatever, and that coal oil would be placed upon the free list. We so understood it in my county, and it seems only fair now that I should ask our friends opposite to redeem that pledge. It is for this reason, and in view of the peculiar position that the contest assumed in my constituency that I most heartily approve of the motion of my hon. friend from Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis), and will vote in its favour.

Mr. VALENTINE RATZ (North Middlesex). Mr. Speaker, while I do not claim myself to be an ardent protectionist, I must confess that I am in favour of the principle that our own people should as far as possible produce whatever may be required in Canada; so long as they do so at a fair living profit. It is a well known fact to any one who is at all acquainted with the oil business, that if oil is placed on the free list, it will cripple the Canadian oil producing industry. As has been stated, crude oil is now reduced to \$1.40 per barrel, and it is well known that in the oil districts there are a large number of wells which produce as low as half a barrel per day, and some even less than that. Now, as crude oil is worth only \$1.40 per barrel, such a well would have to be worked for 70 cents per day, and if it were not for the large number of wells in operation, which are worked at the one pumping establishment, they could not be worked at all. It is a very well known fact that at the present time, there is no money in producing oil. If my hon. friend from Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) could show that he can in any way get at the refiners without crippling the producers,

Mr. MONK.

I would very heartily support him. But the party he is after is not the party he would catch by such a resolution as the one now before the House. Suppose, for instance, the industry was closed off altogether, and that the production of crude oil was stopped in Canada, that would not hurt the refiner in the least. If the refinery at Sarnia were closed to-morrow, we know the Standard Oil Company have got the United States by the throat, and have control of the oil industry there. If, as I say, the Sarnia refinery was closed to-morrow, there is no other refinery in Canada could start up to compete with them. The Standard Oil people would simply send in their oil here from the other side, and place it on the Canadian market at their own price, so that nothing whatever would be gained by the passage of such a resolution as this.

We would simply be burning American instead of Canadian oil, and there is no guarantee that we would get American oil at a reduced price. At the present time we have thousands of workmen employed in the Canadian oil industry; and that industry would be closed if oil were placed on the free list. Even if the price of coal oil is a cent or so a gallon higher in the North-west Territories or in the maritime provinces in consequence of the duty, we cannot frame a tariff that will suit every corner of the Dominion; we must frame it to be in the general interest of the Dominion as a whole. Mining for oil is different altogether from mining for anything else. There are no surface indications for oil. You simply drill your wells, and if you are fortunate enough to make a strike, well and good; but if you are not so fortunate, you will simply have a dry hole which is not worth a five-cent piece. I know a company which spent several thousand dollars in prospecting in my riding for oil. It sank several wells, but not one of them proved to be of any value whatever. There may often be indications of oil where it is not found in paying quantities. Even in the oil region of Lambton and Essex a large amount of money has been spent in sinking wells which have proved to be dry. Tinkering with the tariff on oil would simply cripple the whole oil industry. If it were certain that the tariff would not be interfered with, prospecting for oil would go on to a greater extent than it does at the present time, but the uncertainty of the tariff keeps people back from prospecting for oil. As has been stated by the hon. member for East Lambton (Mr. Fraser), coal oil can be bought wholesale at the present time at 8½ cents per gallon, which I think is a very reasonable price. Of course, if, as the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) says, freight rates are so enormous, the reduction of the duty would not in any way affect them. I do not think we should do anything to cripple the oil industry when we are not sure that it would not result in giving us cheaper oil. I think it would be a great mistake to place coal oil on the free list.

Mr. T. O. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). Mr. Speaker, in all the speeches which we have heard from hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House in defence of the retention of the duty on coal oil, I have not heard any argument to prove that it should be retained. The hon. member for East Lambton (Mr. Fraser) made a long and interesting speech. He talked all around the question, but he did not touch the real question at all. The question is not whether Canadian oil is good or bad, but whether the people of this country are prepared to pay 5 cents a gallon of duty on coal oil for the purpose of protecting an American industry. My hon. friend from Alberta (Mr. Oliver) said he was a theoretical protectionist. I am not; I am a free trader as far as possible, but any incidental protection that accrued to the manufacturer form a revenue tariff, I am quite satisfied with. The hon. member for East Lambton spoke of the quality of American oil, and while it does not affect the question at all, I would like to correct him. He tried to show the House that the American oil to which I referred was oil of an inferior quality. I have not the figures at my hand, but I think I said that the best quality of American oil at Oil City, Penn., was worth 7 or 7½ cents a gallon, and this oil is superior to the best Canadian oil. I figured that upon Imperial gallons; that is the price in barrels, and we must remember that there is a duty on the barrels. If bought in tanks, the oil would be about 2½ cents a gallon less. The hon. member for West Lambton (Mr. Johnston), argued that the oil wells of Lambton should be considered as a sort of mining industry. Well, Sir, I am not aware of any other mining industry in the Dominion that requires a protection of 65 per cent. He also told us that the manufacturers—I suppose he means the refiners, the Standard Oil Company—do not care whether the duty is reduced or not. I suppose what he means is that if this commodity were placed on the free list, the Standard Oil Company would at once reduce the price of crude oil.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Will the hon. member allow me to explain? I did not mean that at all. I did not say the Standard Oil Company; I said the manufacturer—the refiner. He may be the Standard Oil Company or any other refiner. What I said was that if the duty was taken off crude oil, the result would be the total cessation of the production of oil in Canada, because there was such a surplus of oil particularly of heavy Ohio oil, which is exactly the same as ours, ready to be exported whenever the opportunity occurred, that there would be no chance whatever for the Canadian producer. Since this little scare has started in the House, I know as a positive fact that in the western part of the district the prospector has stopped altogether. There has not been a well put down since the question came up in the House.

Mr. DAVIS. I am sorry to hear that prospecting has stopped in the hon. gentleman's riding.

Mr. JOHNSTON. It is not in my riding particularly. It is in the Dominion of Canada, though it happens to be in my riding.

Mr. DAVIS. Perhaps the prospecting may start up again in the near future. However, as I said, there has been no argument adduced by the hon. members who have opposed this motion to warrant the duty on this commodity being kept at 5 cents a gallon. Now, this is the poor man's burden, because the duty is levied on a commodity used almost exclusively by the poorer classes all over the country. It is not the wealthier citizens who use the electric light or acetylene gas who pay this taxation, but the agriculturists, who are the backbone of the country. I am not looking at this question from a sectional point at all. My hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Ellis), who represents a riding in the extreme east of this country, down by the sea, and my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), who represents a riding in the province of Quebec, are with me on this question. Throughout the country the feeling is general that something should be done to get rid of this heavy impost. The hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) has moved the adjournment of this debate on the ground that this question should not be dealt with until the policy of the Government is laid before the House, as it will be in the Budget speech. I shall not oppose this motion to adjourn, as I think we ought to see the policy of the Government before pressing the matter to a vote, and I consider the request of the Finance Minister a reasonable one.

The House divided on motion of the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding), that this debate be now adjourned.

YEAS :

Messieurs

|                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Bain,                | Lang,                  |
| Bazinet,             | Laurier (Sir Wilfrid), |
| Beattie,             | Lewis,                 |
| Beith,               | Livingston,            |
| Belcourt,            | Logan,                 |
| Bell (Prince, East), | Macdonald (Huron),     |
| Bertram,             | Mackie,                |
| Borden (King's),     | McClure,               |
| Bostock,             | McGugan,               |
| Britton,             | McHugh,                |
| Brown,               | McIsaac,               |
| Campbell,            | McLellan,              |
| Casey,               | McLennan (Inverness),  |
| Cowan,               | McMillan,              |
| Craig,               | Malouin,               |
| Davis,               | Marcil,                |
| Domville,            | Maxwell,               |
| Douglas,             | Meigs,                 |
| Ethier,              | Mulock,                |
| Featherston,         | Oliver,                |
| Fielding,            | Parmalee,              |
| Fitzpatrick,         | Paterson,              |
| Flint,               | Pettet,                |

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Fraser (Guysborough), | Ratz,       |
| Fraser (Lambton),     | Richardson, |
| Frost,                | Rutherford, |
| Gauthier,             | Savard,     |
| Gilmour,              | Scriver,    |
| Haley,                | Semple,     |
| Heyd,                 | Somerville, |
| Hurley,               | Stenson,    |
| Johnston,             | Sutherland, |
| Joly de Lotbinière,   | Tolmie, and |
| (Sir Henri),          | Tucker.—68  |
| Landerkin,            |             |

## NAYS :

## Messieurs

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Bell (Pictou), | LaRivière,            |
| Bergeron,      | Legris,               |
| Cargill,       | Macdonald (King's),   |
| Carscallen,    | McAlister,            |
| Chauvin,       | McLennan (Glengarry), |
| Clarke,        | Martin,               |
| Cochrane,      | Mills,                |
| Corby,         | Monet,                |
| Davin,         | Monk,                 |
| Dugas,         | McCrin,               |
| Ganong,        | Pope,                 |
| Gillies,       | Rocche,               |
| Henderson,     | Snetsinger,           |
| Hodgins,       | Taylor, and           |
| Kloepfer,      | Wilson.—30.           |

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. RICHARDSON. The hon. member for St. John has not voted.

Mr. ELLIS. I am paired on all questions with the hon. member for Carleton County (Mr. Hale), but if I had voted, I would have voted against the adjournment.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Rosamond) has not voted.

Mr. ROSAMOND. I am paired with the hon. member for Hamilton.

## SEED GRAIN INDEBTEDNESS—NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia) moved :

That in the opinion of this House, the seed grain indebtedness of the North-west Territories should be dealt with by the Government in the following manner :—

1. That the indebtedness against abandoned quarters or half-sections should be written off.
2. That the bonded indebtedness should be cancelled.

That the debt due directly by farmers for seed grain should be handed over to the local government, who should be directed to give the farmers the option of paying it in cash or in statute labour.

He said : I am very sorry that the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) is not in his place, because this is a very important question which I have several times brought to his attention, both by deputation and by letter. Very early in the history of Manitoba the necessity of supplying the farmers of Manitoba with seed grain made itself felt, and from time to time the ques-

Mr. DAVIS.

tion as to what is the best way of dealing with their indebtedness on this account has arisen. Very early in the North-west Territories, owing to a succession of bad years, chiefly due to the fact that our farmers did not at first understand the best way to farm in the Territories, there came a time when we had to ask the Government to supply seed grain. I think the first time was in 1886, which was a year of great drought, and as you may be aware from the debates at that time, the person who is now moving this motion took a great deal of interest in this question, and had some difficulty at first in getting the Government of the day to do what he was urging and what ultimately was done. At that time, I was not a member of this House, but subsequently, after I became a member, seed grain was again needed, and again we had to exert a great deal of pressure on the Government to furnish us with a supply. However, we got an ample supply, and the result was that many of our farmers, who would otherwise have been without the means of cultivating their land, now enjoy smiling homesteads, broad acres well cultivated, and large balances to their credit in the chartered banks. On the other hand, there is a number who were not so successful, and then there is a very interesting class who deserved our consideration. When the seed grain was lent to the farmers, the last time, the mode adopted to secure repayment was this : The security of a man's own homestead was taken, and he had to get two sureties. In fact, the farmers were bound together, each farmer going security for a couple of other farmers, and two others going security for him. The consequence is we have a large number of men in the Territories who are bound as bondsmen for the debts of other farmers. And it is not merely that. Mr. Speaker, but they are bound as bondsmen for the debts of farms that are abandoned. Now, the proposal I make is one that I have submitted to the farmers of Assiniboia, and they agree with it. I submitted that proposal to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton), who is at the head of the department of the Interior, by letter, and also when I introduced a deputation to him in Regina. I also brought it to his attention last session ; and I was in hopes then, and I am in hope now, that the hon. gentleman shares my view and the view of the great mass of the farmers of the North-west Territories in regard to this very important matter. Surely, Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of great annoyance a matter of great injustice, for a farmer who has paid for his own seed grain to find himself billed by the Government for the seed grain owed for by another farmer who is perfectly well able to pay for it. The Government have said : We have placed you in such a position that you can stand in our shoes as regards that debt. And what does that mean ? It means : You can pay us and sue your brother farmer. I need hardly say that it is a wrong thing to ask any citizen to

collect the debts of the Government. It is bad policy to set one farmer against another, to introduce strife into our community in that way. And there is a very important feature that the farmers are fully alive to and it is this: When this seed grain was lent, it had not been demonstrated that the North-west was what we now know it to be, one of the best places where farmers can settle who desire speedy success as farmers—I will go even further and say, who desire to make a moderate fortune rapidly. Men who understand farming and aim at making a moderate fortune and making it rapidly cannot do better than come into our North-west Territories. Well, Sir, these men who have shown that that is the position of things, when this grain was lent were, in reality, associated with the Government in making an experiment as to whether or not that portion of Canada was what it now has turned out to be, and to say to these people after they had bet, as it were, on the Territories: We are going to hold you responsible for the indebtedness of men who have left the country—that seems to me to be unjust; it seems to me to be impolitic.

Now, I will ask the attention of the House for a very brief period while I go back a little in the history of this question. I find, on consulting "Hansard," that so far back as 1889, the question was asked in this House of the then Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Carling, as to settlement of seed grain indebtedness in Manitoba incurred in 1876. Again, in 1891, when an item for seed grain was before the House, the question was again discussed. And, in 1895, when the item came up to pay for the purchase and distribution of seed grain to needy settlers resident in the North-west Territories, chiefly in the district of Assinibola, (to cover Governor General's warrant of \$50,000), Sir Richard Cartwright asked:

Has the money been paid, and if so, how has the distribution been made?

Then the predecessor of my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior made these remarks:

Although the Government were opposed to the granting of seed, the case was put in such a strong light that they came to the conclusion that although they did not desire to follow the precedents created by giving seed grain to the people, that, under the circumstances, they were fully justified.

And then, again:

So far as I am personally concerned, I may say that I am opposed to the Government being called upon to make grants similar to these, because I think the people in the Territories should deal with these matters the same as they do in Manitoba, and if aid is given to them, that it should be given by the local assembly, or by the municipalities.

I rather think that the Minister of that time was wrong in his remarks, because undoubtedly the Dominion Government had lent seed grain to the farmers in Manitoba at an earlier period. He went on:

We had to deal with the facts as they were presented to us; and, in consequence of the conditions I have mentioned, the Government had to give this aid. The aid was principally given to farmers in the neighbourhood of Pense, Moosejaw, Regina and Balgonie, and a little in the eastern portion of Assinibola. Demands were made upon us at first to the extent of \$125,000; but we thought they were extravagant, and, after inquiries by officers of the department, they were cut down some 40 per cent.

Well, then the declaration is given that these men had to make, and besides making that declaration he had to give a bond and two sureties. In other words, he could not have had the seed grain on his own bond, he could not get the seed grain on the credit of his own homestead, and he had no choice whatever but to get two sureties and to go surety also for others. Well, Sir, we find that on June 13th, 1895, not only Sir Richard Cartwright but Mr. Mulock was desirous of criticising adversely the action of the Government on that behalf, and reference was made as to the course taken that was taken in order to get that grant; and anybody who reads the debate, will see that I had to put pressure on the Government of that day, first to give us the grant, and next to give us the further grant in order that the district that needed to be covered should be properly covered. Last session I asked the Minister:

How much is owed the Government for seed grain by settlers in the North-west Territories? And the Minister is reported here—page 5135 of "Hansard"—as answering:

On the 1st of April, 1898, there was owed, for seed grain by settlers in the North-west Territories, \$145,235.49.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the Government that the indebtedness against abandoned quarter or half sections should be written off. If the Minister speaks with farmers in that part of the country where there are abandoned quarter sections or abandoned half sections with this indebtedness, he will find that they consider a great injustice is done to the incoming settler, that the incoming settler should not be asked to pay the indebtedness of somebody who has abandoned the land. I think it is a fair and legitimate thing to ask the Government to deal with this indebtedness just as a business man deals with a certain item in his profit and loss account—write it off to profit and loss. I do not think that there can be two opinions as to the necessity of cancelling the abandoned indebtedness, because that abandoned indebtedness is calculated to fill with a sense of injustice and a sense of resentment, the minds of the settlers against the Government of the day. Suppose the settler has paid the claim of the Government on him for this abandoned homestead, and suppose he then says: I am going to recoup myself and I will sue my brother farmer. Why, Mr. Speaker, you have only to state the matter to have it brought home to the House and home to the

country what an odious position it is to place a farmer in with regard to his neighbour. Then the third proposal is :

That the debt due directly by farmers for seed grain should be handed over to the local government, who should be directed to give the farmers the option of paying it in cash or in statute labour.

Now it is not necessary for me to point out to the Minister that any one of these suggestions can be adopted without adopting all. If he should differ with me in regard to the last, there is nothing to prevent him adopting the two first, namely, that the indebtedness against abandoned quarter or half sections should be written off, and that the abandoned indebtedness should be cancelled. But if he should differ with me in regard to the first and in regard to the third, there is nothing to prevent him at once taking action in regard to the second suggestion, namely, that the abandoned indebtedness should be cancelled. Why did I put this as a motion? It struck me that I could not as a private member deal with this in a Bill. Therefore, I put it on the paper in this manner. But any Bill, whether in the hands of a private member or in the hands of the Government, that will go the whole distance with me in this suggestion, or will go only part of the way, or will take any step towards solving this question that calls urgently for solution, will have my entire support.

Mr. T. O. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). As the hon. member for West Assinibola (Mr. Davin) has brought this question before the House, allow me to say that I think it would have been better in the interests, not only of the farmers of the North-west, but in the interests of every person concerned, that he should have discussed it with the Minister; in fact I do not think it should be discussed in this House at all. In the first place I do not think it is a very prudent thing for us to discuss this question now, in view of the fact that we are bringing immigrants into that country where the land is situated bearing this indebtedness. However, I think that something should be done in the line of wiping out this indebtedness, it would really be a step in the right direction, and I agree with my hon. friend so far. To keep this claim against an abandoned homestead or quarter section is, I think, useless. Where the people have moved away, and there is nobody on the homestead, the idea of carrying this on from year to year and piling it up against the homestead, is certainly detrimental to the settlers of the country at large. One case that came under my own observation was that of a gentleman who was in Manitoba at the time of the grasshopper plague some 22 years ago. He got a certain amount of flour, and some other provisions, I think, and some seed grain from the Dominion Government, and they took a lien on his farm. That man sold his farm and moved up into the North-west Territories.

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and is now living in my district. When he came to try to get a patent for his land that he has taken up in the North-west Territories and on which he had been settled for a good many years, he found out there was a large seed grain lien which had been carried from the province of Manitoba and placed on his land in the North-west Territories. I submit that that is a hardship, it is a matter that should be dealt with, and I think the proper way to deal with it would be to hand it over to the North-west Government. I am sure the farmers do not want to be relieved of this indebtedness, they wish to pay it. I never heard of a farmer who said that he wanted the Dominion Government to make him a present of this money that he was owing. They would be willing to work it out in the way of statute labour or in some other way, and I think that some arrangement could be made with the North-west Government whereby they would take this thing over as a part of the subsidy. The North-west Government could arrange to get this work done in place of requiring the farmers to pay the money as they are doing now. I hope that something will be done to get rid of this seed grain lien, because at the present time it is a source of annoyance in the Territories.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. (Mr. Sifton). The subject which the hon. member for West Assinibola (Mr. Davin) has brought before the House is one which is not free from difficulties. The same difficulty has almost always arisen when a Government has directly given any aid to the people and taken security for it. When an attempt is made to realize upon the security and collect the amount of money which has been given as aid, difficulties always arise, because the people do not as a rule look upon the Government in the same light as they look upon other creditors. Both the Government of Canada and the Government of Great Britain have had experience in these matters before. The Federal Government, years ago, gave a considerable amount of assistance to farmers in Manitoba and the North-west Territories in the shape of seed grain. But so far as I am aware, no arrangement was ever seriously suggested whereby the Government should be asked to release any portion of the security that it held for that seed grain. These mortgages we held, and those that are left are being collected from time to time; I do not think it has ever been suggested that the Government should waive its security. The province of Manitoba did the same thing; it loaned large sums of money for the purpose of distributing seed grain, and the Government of that province has never been asked to release any portion of its security. I have some doubt that the farmers of the Territories are desirous, in reality, that the Federal Government should forego any portion of the debt which has been incurred. I would like further evidence before I could

be satisfied that those men who have signed obligations to the Government are really desirous that the Government should release them from these obligations without the payment of the debt. I am aware of the fact that there are some hardships in connection with the transaction, but the hon. gentlemen will not find fault with this Government on account of these hardships. It may have been an unbusiness-like and unfair thing for the late Government to have insisted upon the farmer getting his neighbours and friends to go as his bondsmen, but the hon. gentleman is aware of the fact that this Government is not responsible for the idea and policy of that transaction. What we are responsible for is simply this: We are simply responsible for administering the statute as we find it on the statute-book, and for collecting the securities taken by the late Government, our predecessors, for the protection of the public revenue. That we have been endeavouring to do in a reasonable and fair way. I did provide a method whereby instead of the farmers being kept on by their patents and unable to deal with their land as they had been under our predecessors in office, the patent should be issued and seed grain liens held against the farmer, so that the farmer is now in a position to deal with his land. This has been a source of great relief in many cases, but it does not release the debt. There is some dissatisfaction still, I have no doubt, particularly amongst those who have become bondsmen for their neighbours. Now, I admit that there is perhaps a good deal in the idea that it was an unfair thing for the Government to force the bondsmen to pay the debt of their neighbours. It is always a difficult thing to collect money on the part of the Government from bondsmen, and so far the Government have not taken any steps to force the payment of these securities from any of the bondsmen, I may say that no intimation has been given that the Government intended in the immediate future to take any such steps. There is also a practical difficulty which has arisen, and which is mentioned in the first clause of the hon. gentleman's resolution, in which he states that the indebtedness against abandoned quarters or half sections should be written off. In this case, where the original borrowers have abandoned lands which they intended to give as security and did give as security, and did not earn the patent for the land which would otherwise have been the security, their bondsmen, of course, are left liable, and they are left liable without any recourse against any person, because, in these cases, the parties have abandoned the land and many of them have left the country as well. The hon. gentleman suggests, in the first clause, that the indebtedness against abandoned quarters and half-sections should be written off, and, in the second clause, that the bonded indebtedness should be cancelled. To all intents and purposes, these two clauses are designed

to accomplish the same purpose, and, if the bonded indebtedness in the terms of the second clause, were cancelled, the hon. gentleman would have no reason for asking for the provision of the first clause. As to the third clause, I see no particularly good reason why in the case of these lands, where persons who have procured seed grain or their assignees, are upon the land, where they have succeeded in carrying out their settlement duties, where they have had the benefit of the grain, and are still in the country and prosperous settlers—I do not see any good reason why the Government should make any arrangement that would result in a loss to the public revenue, and I do not think that, at the present time, I would be prepared to accept the suggestion which the hon. gentleman makes. It will be seen, from the remarks I have made, that I do not altogether disagree with some of the things that the hon. gentleman has said. I simply point out that the case is one which requires serious consideration and one which can hardly be forced at the hands of hon. gentlemen or at the hands of private members of the House, it being a case in which the Government is responsible to Parliament for the protection of the revenue and is responsible for the advising of some means which would properly and fully meet the case. The hon. gentleman will not be surprised if I say that, while I am and have been considering the case very carefully and am prepared to consider it further with the view of mitigating the hardships and relieving, to some extent, the difficulties of the persons who have got into difficulty in connection with this matter, I am not prepared, at the present moment, to agree to the passage of the resolution. I can say to the hon. gentleman that the subject will, during the present session, receive the careful attention of the Government, and that possibly we may be able to suggest something or bring something forward that will meet the case before the session is over.

Mr. FRANK OLIVER (Alberta). Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that there is a strong feeling amongst settlers who are indebted for seed grain in the part of the country with which I am acquainted, that this bonded indebtedness should be cancelled. They are not asking, as I understand it, that the indebtedness itself should be cancelled. Each man is willing to pay what he owes, but the difficulty is in the Government having required the security of three-quarter sections on account of seed grain for one-quarter section. At the time the arrangement was made it was considered by the people to be an exorbitant security, and then caused a good deal of ill feeling. It was considered by them that if a quarter section was not sufficient security for enough grain to seed the improved land on it, the land was not worth the settler remaining on it. That if the land was not worth the

grain that was required to seed it the settler had no business there, and the sooner he got out the better. That if it required security on three-quarter sections to be given for grain sufficient to seed one-quarter section the country was not worth staying with. The people felt that they were being taken advantage of under their difficult circumstances, and while they submitted, they felt at the time that it was an injustice, and they do not feel differently yet. The problem has worked out in a way quite different from what was expected, and entailed a great hardship that it was not intended should follow its adoption. For instance, A, B and C, are all settlers and they all need seed grain; they all apply and become bondsmen for each other. A and B are perhaps perfectly well able to pay their own indebtedness and are perfectly willing; but C is either unwilling or unable, and consequently there is no object in A and B paying unless C pays, because they would still be held for C's debt although they would have paid their own. The result is, that there is a great deal of money now due the Government which would be paid if each man was responsible only for what he owes. A settler who is able and willing to pay, naturally says: What is the use of paying my share when that does not release me of responsibility for my neighbour's indebtedness; if I am going to be stuck for his indebtedness I might as well save my own money and be stuck for that too. As the system has worked out, it has actually reacted against the payment of indebtedness. The over-security required has failed in actual result. In the issues previous to this, the security was taken on the land for which the grain was given, and if other security was required it was merely personal. It was only in the advances of 1895-96 that this triple security upon the land was demanded. It was held at the time that it was an injustice on the part of the late Government to demand it, and the settlers have asked this Government, for its own credit and for their benefit, to remove that injustice.

Mr. DAVIN. Sir, I have no desire to complain of the spirit in which this question has been met by the hon. the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). It is quite clear from his observations, that he sympathises with the presentation of the case that has been made. I should like to point out to him, that I think he is not quite correct in saying, that the two first divisions of the subject are cross-divisions, because the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) will see that in the case of the abandoned quarter-section, you have not merely to consider the bondsmen who are responsible for the indebtedness of the man who has abandoned that, but you have to consider the settler who comes in and who has to shoulder the indebtedness against that quarter-section. I quite see that if you get rid of the bonded indebtedness, you get rid of the great grievance, and you get rid, I

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think, of the grievance, which has in it the most salient element of injustice. The point made by my hon. friend from Alberta (Mr. Oliver) is one that covers a large amount of ground. You will meet everywhere a man who applies for his patent, and he gets a letter from the department telling him that there is so much seed grain, on his own behalf, against that quarter-section, and he is told probably at the same time—it is worse if he is told afterwards—that he owes for the seed grain on a quarter-section near him, and also on a quarter-section not far off. He is told he cannot get his patent—

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). He could get his patent.

Mr. DAVIN. I may tell the hon. Minister that within three months there has been a correspondence between a constituent of mine and the department. He wrote to know could he get his patent, and he got a letter from Mr. Smart saying that he could get his patent, but there was so much seed grain indebtedness against him. He sent down that much money—I see the hon. Minister nods to me; he probably knows the case.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. No, I do not know the case.

Mr. DAVIN. This man then gets a letter telling him that he owes a debt on the bond for a certain party on account of another quarter-section near. I do not know that he did not send down the money for that, and then he got another letter telling him he still owed more money than would have been covered by the three payments he had made—the payment for the patent, the payment for his own indebtedness, and the payment for the indebtedness of the quarter-section in his district. It seemed a great hardship. I can assure the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) that if he will ask Mr. Smart, he will find that one of the settlers from Balgonie had a correspondence with the department to that effect. I know the arrangement the hon. Minister has made, but that arrangement is merely to enable a man who gets a patent to traffic with it; it does not relieve him in any way from this bonded indebtedness. I am very glad to see that it is quite clear that the Minister of the Interior is fully possessed of the real situation in the Northwest Territories in regard to this matter, and I assume from the way in which he closed his remarks, that we may expect that he will do something in the premises.

Mr. J. M. DOUGLAS (East Assiniboia). I wish to say a word or two in confirmation of what has been said in regard to this question. My constituents in East Assiniboia, are very largely interested in it; so much so that I had the honour of submitting a Bill to do away with the seed grain indebtedness, but since the Bill has been presented to the House I discovered that a technicality stands in the way of my pressing

it. I feel strongly impressed with the idea that it was a great mistake for the late Government to insist upon the joint security for the seed grain. I know that it has imposed a very grievous burden upon many of our people who are willing to pay their own indebtedness, and who have paid their own seed grain liens, but who feel that the unwillingness of others stands in the way of their securing their patent for their own property. The Bill that I had drafted in relation to this subject does not in any way, I believe, lessen the security of the Government. I feel satisfied that did the Government take the question up, they should feel bound to acknowledge that the quarter-section against which the seed grain indebtedness was recorded, is ample security for the money the Government has advanced. So far as I have been able to ascertain, this advance does not probably in any case exceed more than \$50 or \$60 at the outside, and certainly the 160 acres ought to be sufficient security to the Government against any possibility of loss in this respect. I had a case before me since the House met, where a farmer in East Assiniboia brought to my attention the fact, that he was in danger of losing some \$800, simply because his neighbour did not pay his honest indebtedness. He himself, having paid, and was anxious to secure his patent. I earnestly urge on the Government that something ought to be done to relieve the bondsmen, and that at an early date. I support what has already been said on this subject.

The PRIME MINISTER. I would suggest to my hon. friend that he had better withdraw his motion.

Mr. DAVIN. At the suggestion of the Premier, and having regard to the sympathetic manner in which the Minister of the Interior spoke in regard to this matter, I think I shall probably be regarding the best interests of those we represent if I do not press the motion just now.

Motion withdrawn.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I promised the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster), that I would make an announcement at an early stage on one or two points affecting the business of the House. With reference to the time at which the balance of the Auditor General's Report will be presented, the Auditor informs me that he is afraid it cannot be brought down before the 27th of the month. The hon. member for York also asked at what time the Estimates would be brought down and the Budget Speech delivered. In view of the fact that the other business set down for tomorrow has been postponed at the request of the leader of the Opposition, and in order to advance Government business, I propose to submit the Estimates to the House before the

close of the present sitting, and to move tomorrow that the House go into Committee of Supply; and, if our expectations are realized, I intend that on Tuesday of next week the Budget Speech shall be delivered.

#### MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY— THE ESTIMATES.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) presented a Message from His Excellency the Governor General. Mr. Speaker read the Message as follows:

#### MINTO.

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons, Estimates of sums required for the service of the Dominion for the year ending on the 30th of June, 1900, and in accordance with the provisions of "The British North America Act, 1867," the Governor General recommends these Estimates to the House of Commons.

Government House,

Ottawa, 24th April, 1899.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE moved:

That the Message of His Excellency and the Estimates be referred to the Committee of Supply.

Motion agreed to.

#### RETURNS ORDERED.

Copy of lease of the property in Quebec known as the "Plains of Abraham," or of any other title under which the Government of Canada holds said property; also of all memorials, correspondence, &c., addressed to the Government on the subject of renewing said lease or otherwise acquiring the same.—(Mr. Casgrain, by Mr. Bergeron.)

That a copy of the report or reports of Mr. Coste, late engineer of the Public Works Department, on the Yukon, more especially on the Teslin Lake route for a railway into the Yukon, be laid on the Table; also a copy of the report of Mr. Lafontaine, or a copy of their joint report, if they made such a report.—(Mr. Davin.)

All papers, correspondence, &c., in connection with the award of the contract to Mr. Thomas Gauthier, of Montreal, by the Department of Public Works for the dredging at Coteau Landing; the call for tenders, if any; the amount expended out of \$21,000 voted, and to whom paid.

Also correspondence between Mr. Gauthier and Mr. McDonald, who did the work; the amount of work done in cubic feet, and how paid.—(Mr. Bergeron.)

Copies of all correspondence in connection with charges made against the officer commanding the 8th Hussars, by the senior major of the regiment during the terms of command of Major-General Middleton, Major-General Herbert, Major-General Gascoigne, together with all correspondence on the subject between these general officers and any officer of the regiment; also, reports made on the same subject by the D.A.G., D.O.C., or other staff officer in the province of New Brunswick.

The findings of any of these general officers; also a copy of Major-General Gascoigne's report, decision and recommendation in the case of the investigation of the fire at Camp Sussex, N.B., with all the papers, when the regimental store-

house was burnt; copies of all correspondence, official or semi-official, that has passed between the Department of Militia and Defence, the General Officer commanding the Militia, the Adjutant-General, or any other staff officer at Ottawa or New Brunswick, and the officer commanding the 8th Hussars, or the senior major of the same regiment, from 1st July, 1898, and 17th April, 1899, and all replies from these officers of the 8th Hussars, including telegrams that have passed—including copy of A.G.O. 77703; and the regimental books of the 8th Hussars, namely: the regimental letter book, regimental order book, regimental store book.—(Mr. Domville.)

Copies of all letters, telegrams and communications from Frederick Peters, Q.C., of Victoria, B.C., to the Minister of the Interior, or to any Minister of the Crown or to any deputy minister, applying for or relating to the granting of any permit to take or import liquor into the Yukon district, and all replies to such letters, telegrams and communications.—(Mr. Borden, Halifax.)

Copy of all reports to the Minister of the Interior, or to the Department of the Interior, or to any officer of that department from William Ogilvie, or from the Council of the Yukon district, or from any member of such council, relating to the administration of the said Yukon district, or relating to any matter connected with the administration of the said district.—(Mr. Borden, Halifax.)

Copies of all letters, telegrams and communications from Archer Martin, of Victoria, B.C., barrister-at-law, to the Minister of the Interior, or to the deputy Minister, or to any officers of the Department of the Interior, relating to the granting or recognition of any permit or authority to take or import liquor into the Yukon district, or relating to the importation of liquor into the Yukon district, and all replies to such letters, telegrams and communications.—(Mr. Borden, Halifax.)

Copies of all papers connected with the dismissal of Boaz Gross, late harbour master of Hillsboro', N.B., and with the appointment of his successor, including copies of all charges and complaints, the evidence taken by Commissioner McAlpine, the commissioner's report, and all correspondence, recommendations and other papers in any way relating to the said dismissal and the subsequent appointment.—(Mr. McInerney.)

1. A statement showing the quantity of Canadian tobacco grown and manufactured in each year since 1890.

2. The number of factories established since 1890—with the date in each instance—for the manufacture of Canadian tobacco, or of Canadian and foreign tobacco mixed.

3. Copies of all petitions, applications and memorials presented to the Government since 1896 in relation to the duties on tobacco.—(Mr. Gauthier.)

Return showing the total amount of revenue collected by the Government (a) from passenger traffic; (b) from freight traffic at the stations, freight agencies and passenger agencies along the extension of the Intercolonial Railway from Chaudière to Montreal, both included, (1) from the 30th day of June, 1898, exclusive, to the 1st day of March, 1899, exclusive; (2) from the 1st day of March, 1899, inclusive, to the 1st day of April, 1899, exclusive.—(Mr. Powell, by Mr. Foster.)

Return showing the gross working expenses and earnings, respectively, of the Intercolonial Railway for each month from 1st July, 1898, to date.

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Also the gross working expenses and earnings, respectively, of the same road for the similar months of the preceding year.—(Mr. Foster.)

Copies of correspondence between the Government, or the Department of Public Works, and Mr. W. Donaghue, or any other person, in relation to the building of scows at Roberval to accompany the dredge at that place, and to the awarding of the contract for the building of the said dredges to the said W. Donaghue.—(Mr. Casgrain, by Mr. Bergeron.)

Copies of any correspondence in relation to the construction of sheds on the wharfs at St. Méthode and Mistassini, and to the awarding of the contract for the said buildings to L. P. Billodeau, of Roberval.—(Mr. Casgrain, by Mr. Bergeron.)

(a) Copy of tenders for the letting of sections 1 and 2 of the Soulanges Canal; also a copy of advertisements of the same, and a statement of the tenders moneyed out.

(b) Copies of the tenders for the reletting of sections 1 and 2 of the Soulanges Canal; also a copy of advertisement for the same, and a statement of the tenders moneyed out.

(c) A copy of all correspondence, or Orders in Council, directly or indirectly relating to the letting or reletting of the above sections.—(Mr. Bergeron.)

(a) Copy of all correspondence or Orders in Council relating to the entering into an agreement by the Government, or Department of Railways and Canals, for the operating by the same of the Baie des Chaleurs Railway during the fiscal year 1896, and a copy of the contract governing the same.

(b) A statement containing the period during which the road was so operated, also the total expenses directly or indirectly connected with such operation, and the total revenue derived from the same.—(Mr. Bergeron.)

Return showing all the tenders for the furnishing of oils for Government railways during the years 1896 and 1897, as well as all correspondence and Orders in Council directly or indirectly relating to such tenders.—(Mr. Bergeron.)

(a) Copies of tenders for the letting of sections 4, 5, 6 and 7, of the Soulanges Canal; also a copy of advertisement for the same, and a statement of tenders moneyed out.

(b) Copies of tenders for the reletting of sections 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Soulanges Canal; also a copy of advertisement for same, and a statement of tenders moneyed out.

(c) Copy of all correspondence or Orders in Council directly or indirectly relating to the letting or the reletting of the above sections.—(Mr. Bergeron.)

Number of Jubilee stamp plates engraved and their denominations, and cost of such plates. Cost of Jubilee stamps per 1,000 complete. Also, the number of plates engraved for the Greater Empire stamp, and the cost per plate, with the cost per 1,000 stamps complete.—(Mr. Foster.)

1. Return showing the number of (a) passenger, (b) sleeping or parlour, (c) freight, (d) other cars purchased by the Government for the Intercolonial or other Government railways since the 1st day of January, 1898.

2. The number of locomotive engines purchased by the Government for the said railways during the same period.

3. The names, residence and place of business of the company, firm or person from whom such engine and car was purchased.

4. The price paid for each such engine and car respectively.—(Mr. Pope.)

Return showing the expenditure for each year from 1867 to 1889, inclusive, of the Militia Department; also, the amount of each of the above years expended for the staff of the militia; also, the amount in each of the above years expended for the Royal Military College, Kingston.—(Mr. Domville.)

The **PRIME MINISTER** moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 10.20 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, 25th April, 1899.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 73) respecting the James Bay Railway Company.—(Mr. McCormick.)

Bill (No. 74) respecting the Huron, Ontario Loan and Savings Company.—(Mr. Beat- tie, by Mr. Moore.)

Bill (No. 75) to incorporate the Canada Permanent and Western Canada Mortgage Corporation.—(Mr. Osler, by Mr. Clarke.)

Bill (No. 76) respecting the Dominion of Canada Guarantee and Accident Insurance Company.—(Mr. Clarke.)

Bill (No. 77) respecting the Canadian Power Company, and to change its name to the Dominion Power Company of Niagara Falls.—(Mr. Bertram.)

Bill (No. 78) respecting the Hamilton Powder Company.—(Mr. Madore.)

### PENSIONS TO NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

Mr. **NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN** (West Assiniboia) moved that Bill (No. 79) respecting pensions to members of the North-west Mounted Police, be read a first time. He said: I would ask the attention of the right hon. gentleman to an explanation of the Bill. The hon. gentleman will remember that last session a Bill was passed at the instance of an hon. member on his side of the House, and subsequently I introduced a Bill and moved its second reading that would have made that Bill already passed operative. As a matter of fact, the law as amended is a stultification. On the face of the amendment of last session, a concession is made to the North-west Mounted Police, but as the operative clause of the Pension Act has not been repealed or amended, the consequence is, that while the Act now on

the statute-book appears to give an advantage to the members of the North-west Mounted Police, none whatever is given. When I brought the matter before the House last session, the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) raised the point of order that it dealt with money, and therefore a private member could not bring it forward. However, I appealed to the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), as I was under the impression he had given some help to the hon. gentleman who had charge of the other Bill—I appealed to him to make the Bill really useful, and the Prime Minister on that occasion said:

Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend has brought forward this Bill upon considerations which have not been at all anticipated, and, therefore, I must say to him candidly that I am not prepared at this moment to deal with it. The point of order which has been taken may or may not be well taken. At first blush it seems to me to be well taken; and I must say, to my regret, that my conclusion is that if the point is well taken with regard to this Bill, it would have been just as well taken with regard to the Bill of my hon. friend from Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis); but the point had escaped my attention at the moment. But as the Speaker has suggested that the matter be deferred for investigation, I will move the adjournment of the debate, with a view of having the point of order investigated, and with the view, moreover, of having the views advanced by my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) referred to the officers of my department for a report, for I am not prepared to deal with them at this moment.

Now, I will briefly call the attention of the House to what has been done in the Act of last session. That Act amended sections 3, 7 and 8, by substituting where the word twenty-five occurred, the word twenty, so that section 3 reads in this manner:

Subject to the provisions of this Act, every constable who became a member of the force on or after the 23rd of May \* \* \* if he has completed not less than twenty years' service, shall be entitled to retire and receive a pension for life.

Again, in section 7:

When any constable who became a member of the force on or after the 23rd day \* \* \* has completed a service of twenty-five years, the commissioner may—

Then, before a pension was granted to a constable, after having served for less than twenty years, he could be required to retire, and so on.

Now, the object clearly was to give constables in the police the privilege of retiring after twenty years' service with a pension for life, but a pension of some worth. For instance, clause 4, which provides for the scale of pensions, says:

The pension to a constable on retirement shall be according to the following scale, that is to say:—

(a) If he has completed fifteen but less than twenty-one years' service, an annual sum equal to one-fiftieth of his annual pay for every completed year of service;

(b) If he has completed twenty-one but less than twenty-five years' service, an annual sum equal to twenty-fiftieths of his annual pay with an addition of two-fiftieths of his annual pay for every completed year of service above twenty years.

(c) If he has completed twenty-five years of service, an annual sum equal to thirty-fiftieths of his annual pay with an addition of one-fiftieth of his annual pay.

Now, it is perfectly clear that the object of the legislation—otherwise the Bill was perfectly useless—was to give to a man, after having served twenty years, the advantage that is now accorded to a man having served twenty-five years. For instance, a man who has served twenty-five years is entitled to thirty-fiftieths of his annual pay plus one-fiftieth of his annual pay for every completed year of service above twenty-five years; that is, a man who has served twenty-five years and over. A man who has completed twenty-one years or less than twenty-five years has an annual sum equal to twenty-fiftieths of his annual pay, with an addition of two-fiftieths; and if he has completed fifteen, but less than twenty-one years of service, he has an annual sum equal to one-fiftieth of his annual pay for every completed year of service. Now, the right hon. gentleman will see that under the clause as amended last session, a man who has completed his twenty years can only get one-fiftieth of his annual pay for every completed year of service. It is palpable, therefore, that nothing has been done to ameliorate the condition of the constables and non-commissioned officers. One of two things ought to be done; the Act of last session, which is at present a stultification, should be repealed, or else the Act should be made operative by an amendment. Now, I will propose an amendment, and so that I may put myself in order when I move the second reading, I will tell the law clerk to leave blanks to be filled in by the Government where the amount of pension will be entered, that is to say, if they should adopt my amendment.

What I propose is this: That section 4 of the Act shall be repealed and the following section substituted for it:—

Section four of the said Act is hereby repealed and the following substituted therefor:—

"4. The pension to a constable on retirement shall be according to the following scale, that is to say:—

(a) If he has completed ten but less than sixteen years' service, an annual sum—

What I suggest is an annual sum—

—equal to one-fiftieth of his annual pay for every completed year of service;

(b) If he has completed sixteen but less than twenty years' service, an annual sum equal to twenty-fiftieths of his annual pay, with an addition of two-fiftieths of his annual pay for every completed year of service above sixteen years;

(c) If he has completed twenty years' service, an annual sum equal to thirty-fiftieths of his annual pay, with an addition of one-fiftieth of his annual pay for every completed year of ser-

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vice above twenty years, so, however, that the pension shall not exceed two-thirds of his annual pay at his retirement.

It will be seen that all that would be done would be to make a real thing of the concession made last year, in regard to the change from twenty-five to twenty years, to graduate the amount of pay accordingly, but the right hon. Prime Minister will see that in regard to the higher sum that it will work out pretty much as it works at the present time, and that it is not asking very much to be done. All that this will do will be to make operative the Act of last year, which at present, as I say, is a mere stultification.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

#### BILL TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL CODE.

Mr. J. A. C. ETHIER (Two Mountains) (Translation) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 80) to amend the Criminal Code. He said: The object of this Bill is to amend section 941, title 8, of the Criminal Code, governing proceedings after conviction in cases where death sentence is to be carried out.

Section 941 provides as to "who may be present at such executions. It reads as follows:

941. Any justice of the peace for the district, county or place to which the prison belongs, and such relatives of the prisoner or other persons as it seems to the sheriff proper to admit within the prison for the purpose, and any minister of religion who desires to attend, may also be present at the execution.

The object of the proposed amendment is to remove the discretionary power given the sheriff to allow any other persons within the jail walls to witness executions under the wording of the clause "or other persons as it seems to the sheriff proper to admit within the prison for the purpose?"

By this Bill I ask the House to strike off the two lines I have just read, as embodied in clause 941, and to substitute the words "and the journalists." The law, as embodied in the Criminal Code of 1892, intended this, and was framed for the express purpose of compelling the strictest privacy at public executions, as was customary prior to the promulgation of this code. Now the discretionary power given the sheriff under clause 941 resulted practically in nullifying the intention of the framers of that provision of the code. In order to show that such was the intention of Parliament, when this code was passed into law, let me draw the attention of the House to the wording of clause 940, wherein the framers of the law specifically mention the persons who shall be present at such executions:

940. The sheriff charged with the execution, and the jailer and medical officer or surgeon of the prison, and such other officers of the prison and

such persons as the sheriff requires, shall be present at the execution.

This is an enacting clause and not a permissive one. The inference is that public executions are to be carried into effect in private, so as to prevent the occurrence of such disgraceful events as would bring into discredit the execution of criminals, and to create a certain commotion. Unhappily, we have had the experience of those scenes in the province of Quebec within the two or three past years. Events that took place at the execution of Nulty, and quite recently, at the execution of Sam Parslow and Cordelia Viau, have shown that the intention of the law was not strictly complied with under those painful circumstances. Still, I do not pretend to say that if the intention of the law was not respected upon those memorable occasions, it was purposely violated by the sheriff; as this official, by reason of the very wording of the law, found himself in a very embarrassing and delicate position.

That is a crying abuse which has justly aroused public opinion and which even elicited from a portion of the press unwarranted denunciations.

Let me remark here, in this connection, that I do not think any blame should be attached to the provincial authorities, on account of the sheriff having admitted so many people within the precincts of the jail yard. I would not go to the length of saying that journalists or representatives of the press in general ought to be excluded from those executions; I only ask that the words "or other persons, etc." be struck out, so that this provision be not made to apply to the general public. Journalists and reporters, therefore, do not come under this amendment. At the public execution which took place on the 10th of March last in the district of Terrebonne, over 375 people were admitted within the jail walls to witness the execution, owing to the discretionary power given the sheriff under the provision embodied in the two lines of clause 941, I have just quoted.

Those words "or other persons as it seems to the sheriff proper to admit" give the sheriff discretionary powers which are not square with other provisions of the Criminal Code. I may remark here, in passing, that I do not think the press was warranted in the charges brought against the sheriff, for having issued permits in favour of too large a number of persons, because one thousand persons could easily have found admittance within the precincts of the jail-yard, while tickets were issued only in favour of 375 people.

Under the law, as it is, the sheriff stands in a very delicate position, and one which is likely to create friction among the public, and that is just what occurred in the judicial district of Terrebonne, and more especially in the county of Two Mountains, which I have the honour of representing here. As

a matter of fact, mere strangers, and at people much less gratified than those living in the district, physicians, lawyers, so-called journalists or friends of the sheriff availed themselves of the opportunity to witness that gruesome spectacle, while those living in the judicial district, and who were much more qualified to form an opinion as to how things would be managed, were refused admission.

Therefore, in order to prevent the recurrence of such friction in public opinion, and also to prevent certain party heelers availing themselves of the position in which we stood under the law, and canvassing from door to door throughout the constituency, as was done after the execution of Sam Parslow and Cordelia Viau, using their influence with the electors, not only to throw discredit upon the sheriff, the jailer and the judge, but even upon the member of the county, claiming that the Government was responsible for the fact that so many persons had been admitted within the jail walls to witness the execution, thus ignoring the provisions of clause 941, on all these grounds, I say it is desirable that the House should pass the Bill I have just introduced. Those facts are a matter of notoriety in the county of Two Mountains, and even politicians who have played a somewhat prominent part in our public affairs were seen lawking about those false charges, which are contrary to the letter of the law. They even went to the length of charging the Government with having directed that the execution should take place over the walls of the prison.

I said, a little while ago, that, this amendment was in harmony with the general purport of the Criminal Code. Clause 939 enacts:

939. Judgment of death to be executed on any prisoner shall be carried into effect within the walls of the prison in which the offender is confined at the time of execution.

The inference is clearly that the intention of the legislator was that such executions were to be carried into effect in private; and therefore, my Bill will only make this provision the more formal and the more positive.

To sum up, I think that in order to obviate all the inconveniences I have just pointed out, it is desirable that Parliament should embody into the law the principle that the executions of the death sentence shall be in future carried into effect in private, and not in presence of the public, as was the case upon several occasions, contrary to the intention of the law which enacts that the judgment of death to be executed on any prisoner shall be carried into effect in private. This will give satisfaction to everybody, and will prevent the recurrence of the past scandals which have brought this question up. Supposing that the intention of the framers of the law was

to have the executions of the death sentence carried into effect in private, why, I ask, give the sheriff such discretionary powers, which only bring him trouble and expose him to more or less serious charges being brought against him.

Such is the object of the Bill I have just introduced.

There seems to be a consensus of opinion among the religious authorities, those of the Roman Catholic Church as well as those of the Protestant churches, throughout the Dominion of Canada, in declaring that such an unhealthy and gruesome spectacle should be removed nowadays from the public gaze. The trouble is newspapers publish too many revolting ghastly details, which can serve no useful purpose, upon such occasions, and the least that could be done, when a death sentence is to be carried out would be to let those wretches die in peace, and we would thus be spared a recurrence of the past scandals.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

#### MACDONALD VOTING MACHINES.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 81) to amend the Dominion Elections Act by providing for the use of Macdonald voting machines. He said: Mr. Speaker, the object of this Bill is to amend the Dominion Elections Act so as to provide for a machine that will not only receive the ballot, or ball instead of paper ballot, but it will at the same time register the vote. The machine is simplicity itself. It stands in the compartment with the deputy returning officer. In the voting compartment there are places where the names of the candidates appear, and in the aperture below the name of each candidate is deposited a pellet which has been handed to the voter by the deputy returning officer. He deposits the pellet into the place under the candidate's name, and it goes through a registering machine, something like a turnstile I suppose; at all events, as it goes through, it registers the vote and it comes out again to the deputy returning officer, so that he knows that the voter has voted by the fact that this pellet or ball comes back to him. That being so, the voter has done all that can be done. At night the machine is unlocked. There are discs corresponding with the names of the candidates and these discs register the number of votes that each candidate has received. The simplicity of this obviates, in the first place, any possibility of spoiling the ballot, and in the second place, it does away with the necessity of counting the ballots at night, and prevents, it seems to me, frauds of any kind that are said to be perpetrated at elections. No matter how many candidates there may be, there is an aperture for each. The pellet goes through a tube under the candidate's name, passes through the regis-

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ter, and the vote is then recorded on a dial, which is under lock and key and not to be seen until the poll closes at night. It then takes its course until it passes through the tube leading it down to the hand of the deputy returning officer, so that he will take it out. This, in short, is the machine which has been patented, and which this Bill seeks to introduce.

Mr. SPROULE. What would the cost be?

Mr. BRITTON. The cost would be in the neighbourhood of \$25 or \$30. Of course, it would involve a little additional expense as compared with the cost of using the ballot-boxes, but not very much. So far as I can understand the matter, there is only one possibility of the voting going wrong, and that is in case the machine became clogged or in any way would not register the vote. There is provision made in the Bill for the deputy returning officer unlocking the machine and seeing that it is all right in the presence of the agents of the candidates. With that one exception, it seems to me to be perfect in its operation, and would prevent any of the mistakes of the kind that ordinarily occur during elections.

Mr. FOSTER. Will the hon. gentleman have a machine with him when we come to read the Bill a second time?

Mr. BRITTON. Yes, I have a model which will show how it works.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

#### LENGTH OF WORKING DAY.

Mr. THOMAS BEATTIE (London) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 82) to determine the length of the working day for workmen and labourers.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Explain.

Mr. BEATTIE. This is a very short Bill, having for its object the determination of the length of the working day for workmen and labourers. The first clause of the Bill provides that the length of the working day shall be eight hours. The second clause provides for a penalty.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. D. C. FRASER (Guysborough). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to ask the attention of the House to a personal matter. I find in the Montreal "Gazette" of to-day, that I am put down in place of my namesake from Lambton (Mr. Fraser) as having made a speech yesterday. The "Gazette" says that Mr. D. C. Fraser, of Guysborough, made a speech, and proceeds to give a short report of it. I thought I was known to the correspondent of the "Gazette." I wish to say, that I do

not want to take away from the honour of my clansman and namesake by any means. Mr. John Fraser was the gentleman who should be referred to. At the same time I am bound to say that the "Gazette" made a little amends in a short article, in which they say, mentioning my name :

Conservatives can take their election licking with considerable philosophy. Their opponents are maintaining their principles, and in some matters principles are more important than place.

I thank the "Gazette" for that.

#### PAPERS RESPECTING THE PLEBISCITE.

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to bring up a matter with reference to what occurred a few days ago in connection with the voters' lists for the province of Quebec. The leader of the Government asked it to be laid over for a day until the Minister of Agriculture was here, and then it has been laid over still another day.

Mr. SPEAKER. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) conclude with a motion ?

Mr. FOSTER. I shall. I suppose it does not make any difference whether I go on with the matter now. The facts of the case are very short and I shall not weary the House by reading any more than is actually necessary. A discussion arose in the House with reference to the plebiscite vote in the province of Quebec. It appears that the Dominion Alliance and the Good Government Association of the province of Quebec had come to the conclusion that there was prima facie evidence that frauds, of a greater or less nature, had taken place in the conducting of the plebiscite vote in some of the polls in that province. They had employed an agent to make a thorough examination in three or four counties. This gentleman made an examination and swore to the information which he collated and gave to this society in his report. The evidence as it appeared was certainly very damaging, at least in the opinion of the Dominion Alliance and of the Good Government Association it had that cast. Being troubled about it they appealed to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher)—I do not quite know why—and the Minister of Agriculture undertook to look into the matter, and, as he said in the House "investigate it." He did investigate it, and in the course of his speech in the House he referred to that matter very fully, and after referring to it, he proceeded to say in effect : That the evidence collated by Mr. Parent was entirely misleading and in almost every case not true to fact. The Minister (Mr. Fisher) was able to say that, because he had had access, as he states in "Hansard," to the election returns for the province of Quebec, held by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) was enabled

to enter into a lengthy argument to entirely dispute the evidence which had been furnished by this man Parent, and to demolish his opponents generally on this side of the House, by coming to a conclusion, backed by that evidence which he received from the official returns ; that they were barking up the wrong tree and that there was no such thing as fraud or wrong committed in the conduct of that voting. The Minister states here, that :

The names and the figures collected by Mr. Parent were submitted to me, and I was asked to conduct an investigation into the matter.

He goes on :

I examined the lists which were in the custody of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, in which the actual and true names of all the returning officers of the province of Quebec were recorded.

And it was from this examination where the Minister had the documents before him—documents which are not in the possession of the House or in possession of any member of this House—from the complete investigation of which, by the Minister, he came to the conclusion, that there had been no frauds, that the information was incorrect and that, therefore, the contentions of some hon. gentlemen on this side of the House were altogether wrong. I do not think there is any doubt of the constitutional rule which states, that documents not in the possession of the House, but which by any means come into the possession of a Minister of the Crown and are used in buttressing an argument in the House, are to be laid on the Table. The Minister afterwards stated, that he did not quote from the documents but that he had this information, and as he stated, he got this information from an actual examination of all the lists in the possession of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. Now, I do not imagine that my right hon. friend will attempt to deny to the House and the members of this House, the privileges to which they are entitled under that rule, by such reasoning as this : That the Minister of Agriculture did not quote from the document, but simply memorized, or tabulated, or extracted from these documents, what suited his purpose and he gave the substance of that to the House. If such could be allowed as an excuse, there would be no force in that constitutional rule by any manner of means ; for all that a man need do in consulting documents, is to get the information from them upon which to base his argument, and he need not quote the document. The essential thing is, that by having access to the document, he furnished himself with information which puts him in a certain vantage ground before the House, and then denies to the House and its members, the same position which he himself occupies. I do not imagine, therefore, that my right hon. friend will insist that there is any difference between literally quoting from the documents, and the investigation into the documents, the memorizing or extracting of information

from the documents, and then using that before the House. The quotations from the constitutional authorities are all very plain on that point, and I shall not quote them. The practice has been plain, and I have never heard a question in regard to it in this House before. So plain was it to the mind of the Speaker, that when I asked the hon. gentleman, at the time he was addressing the House and using the information, to lay the documents on the Table of the House, the Speaker said I was perfectly right in that—that the documents should be laid on the Table at as early a period thereafter as possible; in fact, they ought to be laid on the Table at the very moment when the information was used. Otherwise, there is a disadvantage to which the other members of the House are put. A man may be thoroughly honest in giving his interpretation of a document, but we, in this House, believe that it is proper for us to examine into the foundation of his conclusions. With a perfectly honest desire to come to a correct conclusion, he may draw an incorrect conclusion. His opponents in the House, and his friends in the House, have a perfect right to look at the document and to follow up the argument from the information and the deductions which he may gather from it. I am not going to pursue the question further. I wish to bring it up because it is important, and I move the adjournment of the House in order to put myself in order.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The question which has been brought up by my hon. friend is simply one of parliamentary procedure, as to which I am quite willing, along with my hon. friend, to take your ruling, Mr. Speaker, and abide by it. Before we come to this, however, it may be well to review the circumstances which have caused this question to arise. In the course of his remarks the other day, my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) did not quote from the documents referred to, but simply stated that he had examined and summarized those documents, and that the result convinced him that the information supplied to the Dominion Alliance by Mr. Parent was altogether erroneous, in this way, that Mr. Parent had reported to the Dominion Alliance that at certain places, in different counties—I know he reported upon the county of Arthabaska—there had been wrong-doing on the part of the returning officers, whereas, on an examination of the books, it was found that the returning officers at the particular places mentioned by Mr. Parent were not the gentlemen named by him, but other persons. At that moment my hon. friend stated that the Minister of Agriculture should lay the documents from which he was quoting, on the Table of the House. The Minister of Agriculture stated that he had no documents before him—that he had simply summarized them, and was not bound to lay anything on the Table. Whether he was right or

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wrong in this, Mr. Speaker will decide. I agree with my hon. friend entirely that, when a member of Parliament, especially a member of the Government, quotes from a public document of which the Government has the custody, he should give every member the privilege of verifying his statement by laying the document on the Table of the House. But I would call the attention of my hon. friend to the fact that the documents from which the Minister of Agriculture was quoting are documents, not in the custody of the Government, but in the custody of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, who is an officer, not of the Government, but of the House of Commons.

Mr. FOSTER. An officer of both.

The PRIME MINISTER. I take the ground that he is primarily an officer of the House of Commons—so much so that it is just as open to my hon. friend as it is to the Minister of Agriculture to go and examine those documents. I claim that it is the privilege of every member of this House to have access to the documents in the custody of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery; and this point also the Speaker will decide. This preliminary point is altogether in the judgment of Mr. Speaker, as to the proper understanding of a rule for the guidance of the members of this House; and the rule, as laid down by the Speaker, will henceforth be followed. I may say, however, that, since this matter has arisen, it has lost a good deal of its opportuneness, because yesterday I laid on the Table of the House the report of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and it is open to my hon. friend to see whether or not he will find in that report the information he wants.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). It seems to me that the essence of the matter is this, that if the Minister of Agriculture can quote from certain official documents, not in the possession of the House, he is possessed of information of which the House is not. It seems reasonable that every member ought to be accorded the same privilege as has been accorded to him, and, when he refers to these documents and gives certain information from them, even though he summarizes that information, the documents ought to be laid on the Table, so as to be available to every member to look into them and verify them.

Mr. J. G. HAGGART (South Lanark). I think the rule laid down by the Premier is a very objectionable one. I think that neither a member of the Government nor a member of the House has any right to go to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery and examine any of these documents in his possession. He should only have a right to do that by an order from this House. Suppose that, under that law, the returning officer makes a return to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery of the voting in the different constituencies of Canada. If any member of

this House has the right to go to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery and examine that return, he can do away with the secrecy of the ballot altogether, because he can find out from the numbers how every man in every constituency voted.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). How?

Mr. **HAGGART**. In Ontario he could, and our voting is the same.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. Not at all.

Mr. **HAGGART**. Perhaps not. But suppose we had the Ontario system of voting, would a member have a right to go to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery and find out how every man voted? I say, that it is objectionable for any member of the Government to go to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery and examine the rolls there, and it is just as objectionable for any member of the House to do so. No one should have the right to examine them, unless upon the order of this House or the order of some court.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I think the hon. gentleman is doing an injustice to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery and to the Minister of Agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture merely examined the public return of the returning officer, showing the totals, which is open, without objection, to every member of the House. If he had attempted to examine the ballot papers, I think the hon. gentleman's rule should properly apply: they should not be open to anybody except upon an order of the House. But the Minister of Agriculture was not examining the ballot papers.

Mr. **HAGGART**. I was not discussing what was done on the occasion. I was discussing the rule laid down by the Premier, that a member of the Government and any member of the House had a right to examine these papers.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Examining what?

Mr. **HAGGART**. The documents in possession of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery in reference to an election.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. The hon. gentleman will not dispute that he has a right to examine the documents to see who was the returning officer and what was the total.

Mr. **HAGGART**. If he is limited to that—

Mr. **SPEAKER**. The point that has been raised, so far as I can give a decision upon it, is, I think, clear enough, according to the authorities. Lord Palmerston used these words:

When a Minister of the Crown quotes a public document in the House, and founds upon it an argument or an assertion, that document, if called for, ought to be produced.

I think that is the well-understood rule which has been acted on always in this House, at any rate since I have been in the Chair. As to the question, whether the document is under the control of the Minister so that he can produce it or not, I am not going to decide. I suppose, however, that if papers in the hands of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, which are accessible, I think, to any member of this House, as well as to any Minister, are referred to and cannot be produced here by departmental order, there would be some way found—by an order of the House, for instance—of obtaining their production, if necessary. However, that is not a matter for me to decide, only I think it is quite clear that as early a production as possible should be made of public documents.

Mr. **FOSTER**. As early as possible. How far would that carry? If you will allow me, Mr. Speaker, the main point is this, that, when you are discussing a thing which is bright and warm and a matter of moment, and the attention of the House and, perhaps, the country is fixed on it, and when a Minister, from his point of vantage, has access to documents or returns, such as this, bearing on that question, which other members have not, you will see at once that at that moment he has a complete advantage over the other members. It may be very well to say that, in three days, or six days, or so many weeks, you may get possession of those documents, but you lose in the debate all the advantage, and what you require is, to be on an equal plane with your adversary at the time. I think the greatest care ought to be used by Ministers, when they quote from public documents or returns, to have them at hand, so that they can be laid on the Table when asked for by any member of the House. But "as early as possible" is very elastic.

Mr. **SPEAKER**. The debate may take place at night, when the offices of the public departments are closed, and it is impossible to produce the required documents at once; but I do not think there ought to be any dispute among the leaders of the House as regards their production as early as possible, or the interpretation to be given to that phrase. When speaking of this rule, I may make a qualification. It is always in the power of a Minister, in quoting from a public document, to say that he cannot lay it on the Table because it would be against the public interest to do so; but that is an exception to the rule which does not apply to this case.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I do not understand that, if it is found, on examination, that the returns in the office of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery are equally open to every member of this House, there is any onus on any Minister to produce them. The rule is perfectly plain, and, I think, clearly understood. If

the Minister quotes from a public document, of which he has the exclusive control and possession, he must produce it and lay it on the Table; but if he quotes from a public record which is equally accessible to any other members, there is no onus on him to have a copy made and brought down, or to produce the original. He cannot produce the original. In such case the Minister does not occupy any greater vantage ground than any other hon. member. Any hon. member opposite has the same right to go and see what is the name of the returning officer at a certain poll and the sum total of his return; and, if he does so, he is not bound to bring the return down, but any of his colleagues has the same right to go and examine the paper and see if he has quoted correctly. The rule requiring a Minister to lay on the Table any document from which he quotes, must, 'ex necessitate,' have reference to those documents which are in the exclusive control of himself and his colleagues, or to which the other members of the House have not access.

Mr. DAVIN. Would such a thing be permitted in a court of justice? The cases are precisely analogous. If a barrister, pleading a case in court, were to quote from documents and then refuse to place those documents before the court, I think the judge presiding would sit on him most effectively. I do not think there can be the least doubt that the contention of the right hon. gentleman and the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries cannot be maintained with any regard to efficient debate in this House.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). It would be most fortunate, if the rules applicable to the admissibility of evidence in courts of justice were to some extent recognized by hon. gentlemen opposite. I am not aware that they have paid much attention to those rules as yet. Any kind of secondary evidence serves here.

Mr. BERGERON. That does not throw any light on the subject.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The rules of court do not apply here.

Mr. DAVIN. It throws light on the ursine grace of the hon. Postmaster General.

Mr. J. CLANCY (Bothwell). It seems to me that the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries has taken very strange ground, when he argues that no responsibility attaches to an hon. member who quotes from a document. It seems to me that the essence of the rule is, that the moment an hon. member quotes from a document, the responsibility rests upon him of producing the document, if called upon to do so. It is no answer to say that other members may have access to it by regular or irregular means, because there is great doubt how far any member

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

would have a right to examine any document in the office of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. If any hon. member quotes a document, it is not for him to say that it is inconvenient to produce it or that it is accessible to other hon. members, because he might thus avoid the rule at all times.

Mr. GEO. E. CASEY (West Elgin). I think the understanding has always been in this House, to put it on the plainest basis of common sense, that no member, whether a Minister or not, is responsible for, and bound to produce documents over which he has not absolute control. In this instance, I think you will admit that the Minister of Agriculture has no more right than anybody else to order the production of documents in the possession of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. Either that official is an officer of the Cabinet, as a whole, that is, the Governor General in Council, or of this House. In either case, I conceive, it requires an Order in Council, or an order of this House, or of a court, to insure the production of those documents. We all know, he is subject to the orders of a court in the case of election proceedings. He is certainly subject to the order of this House, if we require any documents to be produced. I think your ruling, Sir, was perfectly clear and could not be misunderstood by anybody, that, unless the documents are in the exclusive control of any member, he is not responsible for their production. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries, I think, clearly carried out the deduction from that ruling, that in this case the Minister is not only not bound to produce those documents, but is not able. On the other hand, he has the privilege, as every other member has, to go and look at those documents for himself and see if his statements based on them are correct. These documents are a public record and not departmental papers under any Minister's control, and if anybody wants to see the contents, no doubt an order could be obtained for their production.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. They are laid on the Table now.

Mr. FOSTER. No, they are not.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). I understand that the hon. Minister of Agriculture did not quote from a document which was in the custody of his department but from a document already in the possession of the House or in the possession of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, who is an officer of this House. You might just as well ask the Minister of Agriculture, if he happens to quote from the proceedings of this House, to lay the document on the Table. These documents are already in possession of the House, and it is absurd, in my opinion, to insist that they should be laid on the Table. These documents are as much in the possession of any member of this House as they are of the

Minister of Agriculture, and what more can the hon. gentleman want? If the Minister quoted from a document in his own department or under his own control, it would be quite reasonable to ask him to produce it; but when the document is in possession of a servant of the House, it seems to me that it would be absurd to ask that it be produced.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not think it is right to call upon the Speaker to decide a legal question as to who controls or does not control the production of documents in such a case as this. The law covers that point, and the House can arrange it to suit themselves. I would not like to go further than to say that, in my opinion, if a document quoted by a Minister is under the departmental control of the Minister or of his colleagues, then it should be laid upon the Table of the House. But as to whether this is a matter of that nature or not, I do not think I am called upon to decide; in fact, I will not decide, as I think it is beyond my jurisdiction. All those who are in favour of the motion—

Mr. FOSTER. Before the motion is put, may I ask where we are at by this ruling? Your ruling, Mr. Speaker, decides one point, but it does not decide the question that has actually been in discussion as to whether these papers should be brought down or not.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I would like to be permitted to say that the whole point is that the Minister of Agriculture stated that he had examined the documents in the custody of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery and he found that the information given by Mr. Parent with regard to the names of returning officers, and also of the number of votes polled was altogether erroneous. I have here the report of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. The figures, so far as the polling is concerned are given there in detail, and my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) can satisfy himself. The names of the returning officers are not here, so far as I can see.

Mr. FOSTER. That is just a portion, but not all.

The PRIME MINISTER. The names of the returning officers have been made public in the "Canada Gazette."

Mr. GEORGE TAYLOR (South Leeds). If I understood you correctly, Mr Speaker, the ruling you laid down a moment ago was that if a Minister refers to or quotes from a document it is his duty to lay it on the Table of the House, provided he has control of it. Now, that ruling being correct, I would call on the Prime Minister to lay on the Table some documents he referred to some days ago. I asked this question:

To whom and at what price was the binder twine manufactured at the Kingston Penitentiary between the 1st day of July, 1896, and the 30th June, 1897, sold? Were tenders called for?

And the Prime Minister, in reply, said:

To Hobbs Hardware Company, of London, at the following prices:—Sisal, \$4.40 per cwt.; Beaver, \$4.75 per cwt.; Maple Leaf, \$5.25 per cwt.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not see how the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) can, on a motion to adjourn, raise a question other than that brought up by the hon. gentleman who has moved the motion. On such a motion every hon. gentleman cannot get up and air his separate and his special grievance. The discussion is confined to the subject originally brought up.

Mr. BERGERON. This is on your ruling.

Mr. SPEAKER. But the hon. gentleman is raising another question.

Mr. BERGERON. He is coming to it.

Mr. TAYLOR. I was referring to your ruling, Mr. Speaker, and, in accordance to that ruling, I was calling for the production of certain documents.

Mr. SPEAKER. But the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) has raised another question. It is a very interesting question, no doubt; but it does not come up on this motion.

Mr. BERGERON. He is coming to it.

The PRIME MINISTER. Not at all; that is not in order.

Motion (Mr. Foster) to adjourn the House, negatived.

Mr. TAYLOR. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to make a statement, and, if necessary, I shall close with a motion.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) cannot move the adjournment of the House, as that motion has just been negatived.

Mr. TAYLOR. I will take another opportunity.

#### FISHERMEN'S TRAP LICENSES FEES.

Mr. C. E. KAULBACH (Lunenburg). Before the Orders of the Day are called, seeing that the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) is in his place, I would like to draw the attention of that hon. gentleman to a matter concerning the fishermen of the maritime provinces, and more particularly the fishermen residing in the county I have the honour to represent and frequenting the Canadian Labrador in vessels to prosecute the fisheries. I am instructed by them to ask him, in view of the fact that last year there was a very scanty return—although they had paid the trap license fee and endeavoured to get as large a catch as possible, still, in conse-

quence of the fish not being on the shore, the fishermen were compelled to return without voyages, in fact many did not wet their twine.

Mr. SPEAKER. I hope the hon. gentleman will not—

Mr. KAULBACH. I am not going to make a speech.

Mr. SPEAKER. On the Orders of the Day the hon. gentleman may ask a question—

Mr. KAULBACH. I would, therefore, ask the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) if his sympathies are with the fishermen; and, if so, whether he can show it in a tangible manner by allowing them, this year, to apply for trap licenses for fishing and allow licenses to be issued to them without the payment of the usual fee? Whilst I am on my feet—

Mr. SPEAKER. But the hon. gentleman cannot—

Mr. KAULBACH. It is in connection with this same matter—

Mr. SPEAKER. I would ask the hon. gentleman to confine himself to one question that he thinks of importance, and not to bring up others at this stage.

Mr. KAULBACH. Surely, Mr. Speaker, you will allow me this privilege. The fishermen are about proceeding on their voyages, and it is most important—

Mr. SPEAKER. I really must ask the hon. gentleman to keep order.

Mr. KAULBACH. May I ask an answer to my question?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I desire to treat the hon. gentleman (Mr. Kaulbach) with the utmost courtesy, as he does the same with me; but I was unable to grasp his question. If he will put it in the usual form I shall be very happy to give him an answer.

#### SUPPLY.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved that the House do resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Motion agreed to, and House resolved itself into committee.

(In the Committee.)

The Governor General's Secretary's office ..... \$10,950

Mr. FOSTER. Have there been any changes in the clerks in this office?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. There are no new clerks. Two statutory increases have been given. The retirement of a mes-

Mr. KAULBACH.

senger caused a decrease, but the new messenger or orderly becomes a charge on the contingencies, in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Act.

Mr. FOSTER. How many were eligible in this department to the statutory increase?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I think only two, and they have been granted.

The office of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, including \$650 to J. E. Lemaire, \$700 to B. Chilton, and \$390 to H. Potter, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act ..... \$29,840

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.). We must have some explanation of this. I think it would be well, at the beginning of the discussion on the Estimates, for the Minister of Finance to state what is the policy of the Government with reference to statutory increases in the civil service. We have had a great deal of discussion in this House with reference to the principle of statutory increases, and the law under which they may be granted. It has been strongly contended that the clerks have a legal, certainly a moral, right to the statutory increase, as being a condition of law under which they began their service, under which, in fact, they made their contract, so to speak, with the Government. The party sitting behind the Government has had a great deal to say in the past five or six years with reference to the iniquitous civil service, and very particularly with reference to these statutory increases; and the Government took to itself great credit with reference to them in the first year of their administration. When the first Estimates were brought down, through my hon. friend, I think, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) as a mouthpiece, they declared that the unfair and iniquitous system of statutory increases had been swept away entirely by the Government, that they had abolished the principle, and that henceforth there could be no abuse of the civil service so far as this matter was concerned. Before that session was through some of the members of the Government, recalcitrant and kicking against the authority of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, determined that they would give some statutory increases, and they did it. One hon. gentleman, I think it was the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) came down with statutory increases for a large branch in his department, and it was only at the point of the bayonet, held, I think, by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) to his very throat, that he was obliged to give way and fall in with, the practice of their doctrine. Well, the second session of Parliament there were two or three more of these Ministers who got their backs up, and

determined to give some statutory increases. I think the Minister of Justice was one of these, and the perfunctory representative of that department in this House—who I see answers no questions on behalf of the Department of Justice—determined that some statutory increases should be given, I think seven, in his department. Now, we are coming to this session, and the very first thing we meet is a department in which all that are eligible to statutory increases, get them. Now, where is the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen)? It was a thing unheard of, when the Estimates were gone into and the Minister of Finance got his book ready, that the member for North Wellington was not in his place with the whole of the volumes of the Auditor General piled up alongside of him, ready to take doughty exception to all those alleged infractions of the law. He was against statutory increases. You had a Civil Service Act, and you were making exceptions in the different items of the Estimates and breaking that law. If a man was entitled to his salary by the Act, let him have it, but to come down and make a special enactment in almost every item of the Estimates, was a thing which was monstrous and outrageous, and the Liberal-Conservative Government ought to be put out of power a dozen times for doing that sort of thing. Now, look at this section 3. Here are J. E. Lemaire, B. Chilton and H. Potter, no less than three men, and by special Act of Parliament, without being under the civil service rules entitled to the salary that is placed to their name, but the Minister, by these items, is enabled to drive a coach and four through the Civil Service Act. And more are coming. You can hardly look at one of these items on that page without seeing "notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act to the contrary." Now, if the Government have any policy, we would like to have a statement by the Minister of Finance. If I am not mistaken, the Minister of Trade and Commerce will never dare to open his mouth with reference to the policy of that Government again in regard to statutory increases. It would more fitly fall to the right hon. gentleman who leads the Government to explain their policy, for he has been known to make thousands of promises, and he is equally well known throughout the country for persistently breaking them.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Before my hon. friend the Minister of Finance proceeds to answer on the question of principle, I may be allowed to answer the hon. gentleman so far as my own department is concerned. I may say, first of all, that so far as my memory goes, I do not think I ever uttered a word upon the question of statutory increases.

Mr. FOSTER. May I ask, then, if this is the position the right hon. gentleman takes: That he allows the Minister of Trade

and Commerce to get up and formulate the policy of the Government, and then he gets up in the next session, or in the same session, and repudiates his obligations to that announcement? Have we any solidarity in the Government at all?

The PRIME MINISTER. I was merely answering the statement of the hon. gentleman that I had made at least one thousand promises which I had not fulfilled. Well, perhaps I may be a little more humble than my hon. friend. I am a miserable sinner in many ways, but I never sinned in that way, because, so far as my memory goes, I do not think I ever uttered a word on the question of statutory increases; therefore, the hon. gentleman was astray when he selected that point upon which to have a dig at me. With regard to my own department, I may say that I must ask the hon. gentleman to look over the items on page 11 and page 13. On page 11 there are, I am sorry to say, two or three misprints. He says there are three persons for whom we are asking statutory increases notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act. I may say at once to the hon. gentleman that so far as Benjamin Chilton is concerned, there is no necessity for putting him outside of the civil service, because he is an old messenger. Mr. Lemaire is also within the rule of the civil service. Mr. Potter is not, but I must ask that Potter, who is a messenger, should be allowed to have his increase notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act to the contrary. Potter has been in the service for six or seven years; he was there when we took office, and I did not remove him. He had been placed there by my predecessor, though he never passed a civil service examination. But he is a faithful servant, and I thought he was entitled to some small increase of salary. Chilton is an old man who has taken the place as door-keeper of Michael McNaughton, whom my hon. friend perhaps will remember, and who is dead now. Mr. Lemaire is a young man employed in my department, a very faithful young man, doing well some extra work that he has had to do in the office of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and I have given him this advance. Now, I may say that I have recommended two statutory increases in my department. If my hon. friend will look at the second-class clerks he will find that there are increases of \$100 each for two clerks who, I think, are deserving of the increase.

Mr. FOSTER. Who are they?

The PRIME MINISTER. Mr. Loux and Mr. Denis Burke, if I remember rightly. There are three statutory increases, those of Mr. Burke, Mr. Loux and Mr. Lemaire, who are entitled to them under the rule of the Civil Service Act. They are within the rule of the Civil Service Act, having passed their examinations. There is an increase

given also to H. Potter, who is not under the rule of the Civil Service Act, and could not get it, therefore, it is necessary to place it in the Estimates.

Mr. FOSTER. What salary did Mr. Le-maire get last year?

The PRIME MINISTER. He had an increase of \$100.

Mr. FOSTER. He got \$550 last year?

The PRIME MINISTER. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, then, the qualification "notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act" should apply to him as well as to Mr. Potter, as the statutory increase is only \$50. What salary was Mr. Chilton getting before?

The PRIME MINISTER. Mr. Chilton has been promoted to the place of doorkeeper, and his salary is \$700. His salary was formerly \$600.

Mr. FOSTER. So that is getting more than the statutory increase?

The PRIME MINISTER. No; he is promoted to the place of a doorkeeper, and the salary of a doorkeeper is \$700, and has been for ten years past.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, then, if he is promoted, why should not "notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act" be here?

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend is wrong, because the salary is \$700 for a doorkeeper, and he is entitled to the sum voted for that position.

Mr. FOSTER. If the annual salary for a doorkeeper is \$700 my right hon. friend has no need to put the salary of \$700 opposite his name. If he is going to be promoted he could be promoted without any special sanction of Parliament; it is a mere matter of an Order in Council.

The PRIME MINISTER. But my hon. friend will find that it is necessary to put the \$700 in the Estimates.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). My hon. friend (Mr. Foster) asked that the policy of the Government in relation to this matter of statutory increases should be stated, and I think it is a very proper request. I am afraid that I can go no further than to state the policy as it was announced last year. The differences of opinion between hon. gentlemen opposite and ourselves as to the meaning of the Act respecting statutory increases remains. Hon. gentlemen opposite claim that members of the civil service were entitled to statutory increases as a matter of law; we held otherwise, on the advice of the Minister of Justice of the day. Hon. gentlemen have maintained the opinion that, if not as a matter of law, civil servants were entitled to the increases as a matter of right. We say that the mat-

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

ter is entirely within the discretion and judgment of the Ministers in charge of the several departments, when their recommendation is confirmed by an Order in Council. We think it is a matter within the discretion of the Minister in charge of a department who may be prepared to state to his colleagues or the House the particular merit of the individual to whom the increase is to be given. This is substantially the view we held last year, and we have not seen any reason to depart from that view.

Mr. FOSTER. But will the hon. gentleman give us another piece of information? There is no such officer known as a doorkeeper.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I think a doorkeeper is a messenger.

Mr. FOSTER. Yes, and the maximum is \$600 a year, and, consequently, you have to make a special provision to give him \$700 a year.

The PRIME MINISTER. The hon. gentleman knows well that we have been voting that salary for doorkeepers for the last twenty years.

Mr. CLANCY. I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Finance to a statement made by the right hon. Prime Minister. In discussing the question of these increases the right hon. gentleman said that these officers were entitled to the increases under the Civil Service Act. If that be true, I would like the hon. gentleman to reconcile his statement with the statement of the right hon. First Minister.

The PRIME MINISTER. The hon. gentleman is mistaken. They come within the rule of the increases. There are men who cannot be appointed or their salaries increased under the Civil Service Act, and, therefore, if there are such appointments, the fact must be stated and an appropriation taken. There are members of the civil service who are entitled to increases, not as a right, but within the discretion of the Minister.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). I would like the hon. Minister of Finance to state on what principle the Government act in dispensing with the provisions of the Civil Service Act. It is something I have never been able to understand. The Act has been in force in this country for thirteen or fourteen years. Ever since I have been in this House, item after item has been appearing in the Estimates with the addition of the words "notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act." I, for one, do not see why that should be so. If the Civil Service Act is the law of the land, it should be observed. If it is not to be the law of the land, it should be amended. I suppose the Government deal with this matter on some principle; I would like to understand on what principle it is that item after item comes down to

this House "notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act." It seems to me that there is another objection to it. Under the constitution an Act has been passed by both branches of the legislature, but we, in effect, repeal that Act, from time to time, by a Bill which goes up to the Senate, and which the Senate constitutionally has probably no right to amend. That seems to me to be a very grave objection to dispensing with the provisions of the Civil Service Act. That Act has had the sanction of both branches of the legislature; you repeal it from time to time by an Act which the Senate under ordinary circumstances has no constitutional right to amend. If it is to be dispensed with, I think the Government ought, in all fairness, to state to the House the principle upon which they act in so dispensing with it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I think, Mr. Chairman, that there is not the grave constitutional difficulty in this matter which the hon. gentleman seems to be afraid of. He will find, by reference to the Estimates of past years, that these items have appeared. I suspect that, notwithstanding the opinions which have been referred to by hon. gentlemen opposite, special circumstances may arise which will require and make proper the use of these words. The principle may be stated as this: There may be some increases which, in the judgment and discretion of the Government, should be given, but under the terms of the Civil Service Act we can give only small increases. If there are officers in the employ of the Government who, on account of special merit, or in consequence of special cases arising, should receive more than the small increase provided for by the Civil Service Act, the Minister must come to Parliament and obtain an appropriation by placing the amount in the Estimates. Such cases will arise from time to time, and this seems to be the most convenient, and it is the customary way, of making such appropriations.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I do not regard it as an answer to say that this has been done in the past. It may be entirely satisfactory to hon. gentlemen opposite, but it is not satisfactory to me. That it has been done in the past is no reason why the principle of the law of the land should be violated, as, I think, it is being violated. It is of course open to the Government to propose a Bill to the House and obtain the sanction of Parliament to it, but I think the fair way would be for the Government to deal with these matters upon some general principle which is capable of being stated, or to amend the Civil Service Act so that the Government would have some discretion in these matters and not continually ask the House to annul in particular instances the provisions of a statute which has been in force in this country for so long.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I differ entirely from the hon. gentleman, because

cases of this kind are such as cannot be dealt with on any general principle. They are special and exceptional cases that have to be dealt with individually by the Minister of the department. I do not think any general system could be laid down which could prevent the Government from coming to the House from time to time, and saying, that for special service, in special cases, it is proposed to give an additional increase of salary. Such cases have arisen, and I have no doubt they will arise in the future, but I hope not so often as in the past. I do not think my hon. friend can lay down any principle which would make the matter more convenient than in the present form.

Mr. FOSTER. How many clerks in the Privy Council office are eligible for statutory increases under the law? My hon. friend will recollect I asked that last year.

The PRIME MINISTER. I am informed that fourteen are eligible and that three got it.

Mr. FOSTER. Is it right that two of these gentlemen should not only get the statutory increase of \$50, but \$100?

The PRIME MINISTER. Mr. Lemaire got the \$100 increase, but the other gentleman only got \$50.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chilton got \$100.

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend is right in saying that no messenger is entitled to more than \$500, but my hon. friend knows that Michael McNaughton got \$700 fifteen years ago, and that is simply continued to-day.

Mr. FOSTER. But Mr. Chilton gets \$100 more than before.

The PRIME MINISTER. Two hundred dollars more.

Mr. FOSTER. That makes it worse.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Because he got a new position to which a salary of \$700 has been attached.

Mr. FOSTER. But there is no such office.

The PRIME MINISTER. I do not know that there is such an office by statute, but the office is there for a number of years and we continued it. I am afraid we are still too Conservative.

Mr. FOSTER. You have violated the law in this respect, and the House will agree with the Minister of Finance, that there is no principle laid down.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I said we cannot lay down any general principle to deal with the matter more conveniently than does the present custom. I did not say, no principle was laid down.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend (Mr. Fielding) was very mild in putting in as one of his reasons, that he thought it ought to be in the

will of the Minister, and the Government should have the discretion, that a clerk for great merit or very extraordinary work, should have the increase, and then he (Mr. Fielding) added, "or any other reason that might commend itself to the Minister." A man is given \$100 increase when the law only entitles him to \$50, because of merit or of a great deal more work above the ordinary work, but I think that would exhaust all the proper reasons which you can possibly give for the increase. But the other reason of the Minister covers a multitude of lesser reasons—party considerations; the insistence of one of the heelers from behind constantly worrying the Minister, telling him it is necessary this should be done because a vote in his own constituency depends on it, and all the like of that.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Are those reasons ever given?

Mr. FOSTER. These sinister reasons come in under the heading "or any other reason" announced by the Minister of Finance. Here are fourteen men in the Privy Council office, who presumably do their work well, keeping their families—some of them finding it hard to do so probably because their salaries are not very large; having earned it by good work and merit they have a right to the \$50 increase, but the Government selects three out of the fourteen and arbitrarily says: We will give you the increase, and not satisfied with that in some cases they say: We will double the increase although the law does not allow it. Indeed, not satisfied with that, in one case they make it four times the increase allowed by statute, but for the rest of the fourteen, the other eleven, who have done their work well or they would not be kept there, men who have to pay their rent, keep their families on the labour and sweat of their brow, they do not fulfil these peculiar reasons which is necessary in order to have their claims successful. They can go back to their work next year, toil meritoriously, but they shall get no increase. That is unfair.

Mr. A. McNEILL (North Bruce). It is a very great pity, Sir, to see the position into which the civil service of Canada has been driven by hon. gentlemen opposite. I do not intend to reopen the subject which was threshed out last year ad nauseam, but I do think it is most unfortunate that, what the members of the civil service believe to be the law has been violated. And, Sir, that view of the civil servants as to the law, is supported by some of the best lawyers of this House to-day, and was supported by the ablest lawyers on the Liberal side of the House when the Bill was introduced. Not only is that law violated by the Government, but we find here, as the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) pointed out, that time after time we are distinctly told that the Government has taken power to itself to violate the law. I do think

Mr. FOSTER.

there is a great deal of force in what my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) says, and that if we are to have these admitted departures from the law so frequently, it would be very much better to have some legal system introduced, and not to let it go forth to the country that the Government are giving the example of constantly and continually settling the laws at defiance. I do not think one could have a worse moral lesson read to the people of the country, than the lesson which we find before us in the pages of the Estimates. I do not see why it should not be quite possible to introduce some legal provision which would enable the Government, with the consent of the House, to make the desired change.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Within certain limits.

Mr. McNEILL. Of course within certain limits; with the consent of the House. I must say that the remarks made by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) seem to me to be absolutely unanswerable. I do think it is a most pitiable condition of things that we find existing in Canada to-day, by which men who entered the service in good faith, believing they were entitled to this statutory increase, should be deprived of it at the whim of any Minister who chooses to deprive them of it; and, on the other hand, that favourites are to be selected, who not only get the statutory increase, but a great deal more. This is no less than a crying scandal.

Mr. J. CLANCY (Bothwell). The House is anxious to know precisely what the principle is that the Minister of Finance has laid down. As I understand it, that principle is, that the Government of the day have undertaken to ignore a salutary law which entirely deprived any Government from making war on any civil servant. If you ignore the rule of the statutory increase, it means that the Government have, for purposes of their own, made war upon certain persons engaged in the service, while others, who are the favourites of the Government, will have special prizes held out to them. If the policy of the Government is, that whenever it suits their purpose, wherever the pressure is greatest, the law is to be set aside, then it seems to me we are coming to a sad state of things. There are no two sides to the question. Either the men who have not received their increases are underpaid, or those who have received increases far beyond the statutory amount are overpaid, and I would like the hon. gentleman to tell us by what rule he says that one man is entitled to an increase of \$200 while another is not entitled to the statutory increase of \$50 when both are performing their work with equal faithfulness, and no complaint is made against one any more than against the other? It is important that the House should have a clear declaration on that point. I hope the hon. gentleman will do me the honour of explaining it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I do not intend any discourtesy to my hon. friend, but I am afraid that I cannot give him any further information upon the matter. He has asked for impossible information. I have stated the practice governing this matter, and if I repeated my statement, I am afraid that I should not be any more successful in convincing my hon. friend than I have been. The Minister claims that this is largely a matter of discretion. It is certainly much easier for a Minister to form a judgment as to who is entitled and who is not entitled to an increase than it is for my hon. friend, who has not very much information on the subject; and it ought to be possible for a Minister to single out in his department—call it a favour, or use any expression you like—those officials who are more worthy of an increase than others. I feel certain that no error would be committed by the Minister, and that the preference would be exercised, not from a political point of view, as suggested by hon. gentlemen opposite, but from a different point of view altogether. If it were exercised from a political point of view, the gentlemen appointed by the political party opposed to us would have no increases at all; but it will be found that nine-tenths of the increases have been given to gentlemen appointed by our opponents, showing that we can have no object in the world other than to give them according to merit.

Mr. CLANCY. It seems to me that the hon. gentleman has laid down the rule that only persons brought in by themselves are to have the increases.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I have just stated the very reverse—that nine-tenths of those who have received the increases have been appointed by our opponents, showing that we can have no other interest than to see that good service and merit are recognized.

Mr. CLANCY. What is the meaning of the rule the hon. gentleman lays down? If the Minister thinks it proper to favour—this is the word he used—a man, he gives him the increase. I deny the hon. gentleman's right as a Minister to favour any civil servant. If he favours one, it means that he has extended something to him which he has denied to another. That is the most extraordinary rule which this House has ever heard enunciated. But it is well that we have it from the mouth of the Minister himself that he has a right to favour any person whom he chooses to advance his salary. I confess that I am now pretty clear on this point.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I am willing to accept the expression attributed to me by the hon. gentleman; at the same time I would remind him that the word "favour" was used by me as a quotation from hon. gentlemen opposite. But I am willing to accept the expression that it is the right of

a Minister to favour a public servant by giving him an increase of salary for efficient public service in the interest of the Dominion.

Mr. CLANCY. It is no favour at all. If a man receives the increase, it is because he is entitled to it, and not as a favour.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I do not think the Minister is quite correct in stating that it is difficult to lay down any principle. The only thing he has laid down so far is an entire lack of principle. I understand that the point made by hon. gentlemen opposite last session was that the civil servants were not entitled as a matter of law to these statutory increases, but that they should be given only to those who the Minister thought had earned them. But I do not understand on what principle the Government venture to double the statutory increase to one man while depriving others of it. If the hon. gentleman has any explanation of that, I think he ought to give it to the House. The law of this land has said that the statutory increase shall be limited to a certain amount. The hon. gentleman comes down with his Estimates, and says here is a civil servant who shall be entitled to double that amount, although the law says directly the contrary, and he does not vouchsafe to the House any reason for it; but, with a somewhat lofty air of indifference, he tells us that there cannot be any statement of principle in these matters. When the hon. gentleman ventures, in defiance of the law to double the amount of increase allowed to a civil servant, he ought to be prepared to give some explanation of his action.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I could accept such a statement with better grace from a gentleman who does not belong to the legal profession; but when the hon. gentleman says that the Government is doing certain things in defiance of the law, I may say as a simple layman that he has not stated what is correct. He might as well say that when we bring in a Bill to amend an Act we are defying the law. When we are taking votes for these amounts, we are not defying the law, but making the law; we are simply amending the Act. I am, therefore, astonished that the hon. gentleman should make such a statement. As I have stated, it has been the practice in the past—though I admit that it is not a sufficient reason for it—where it was found that an officer was worthy of more than the statutory increase, to provide, in putting the vote in the Estimates, that he should receive the sum specified notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act, which is not a defiance of the law, but a strict compliance with both law and custom, and also a strict compliance with common sense, which is better than all.

Mr. HAGGART. The hon. gentleman is making a statement which I do not think

he will find correct. He states that it has been the habit of different Ministers to bring down to this House votes for increases in excess of the statutory allowance. That was not the plan on which it was done at all. The first principle to lay down is, what is the amount required for the efficient performance of the service. That is passed in Council, and if it is found necessary that an increased amount should be given, it is permissible for the Minister to come down and ask that the person named should be appointed to that particular service. But it has never been the practice of the Government of the country to introduce a measure to give to civil servants an amount in excess of what they were entitled to under the Civil Service Act. When the names were mentioned, it was because the parties were unable to pass the civil service examination, and it was thought that on account of their services there should be some laxity of the rule in their cases. But it has never been the practice of any Government to ask the House to vote an amount in excess of what was provided by the Civil Service Act.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I have not the books in hand, but I have no doubt numerous cases can be cited in confirmation of my statement. No doubt, every volume of the Estimates brought down for years will contain cases to justify the statement I make.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The hon. Finance Minister seems to have overlooked the fact which I brought to his attention five or ten minutes ago, namely, that when the Bill based on these Estimates is passed by this House and goes to the Senate, the Senate constitutionally have no right to amend it. Does not the hon. gentleman understand that? Then, does he not see that he is in effect violating the law, when he asks this House to dispense with the provisions of the Civil Service Act by an Act to which the Senate can offer no amendment whatever? He is asking this House to repeal, in fact, an Act passed thirteen or fourteen years ago by both branches of this legislature, and is asking to have that done by a measure which the Senate in the ordinary course can in no wise touch or amend. That is not the proper course to take. Either this system should be abolished, or, as has been suggested by my hon. friend beside me, some limit should be embodied in the Act within which these increases of salaries should be made regularly and systematically, on some definite principle. The hon. gentleman, however, has denied to some members of the civil service their statutory increase, while he is asking this House to vote to others sums at least double what they would be entitled to under the law which has been in force so many years. I venture again to say, that the hon. gentleman has given no reason which in any way justifies that course.

Mr. HAGGART.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I venture to say, that this is the first time such a proposition was ever submitted to any hon. member, that because a Bill has been passed fixing the rates of salaries payable to certain classes of civil servants, that ties the hands of all future Parliaments, and prevents our increasing these amounts in the future, if we see fit.

Mr. FOSTER. Nobody says anything of the kind.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. This House may accept or refuse the recommendation of the Governor General. The effect of that, my hon. friend says, is to limit the power of the Senate; but the power of the Senate is already limited with regard to the Estimates. They have to accept or reject the Supply Bill, as a whole, and cannot amend any particular item. This proposition of my hon. colleague is not at all novel, and my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden) never suggested last year the objection he raises to-day.

Mr. BORDEN. Yes, I did.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not remember that he did, but the same thing has been going on ever since I came here.

Mr. BERGERON. Hear, hear. What did you say then?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Every year, when hon. gentlemen opposite were in power, and the ex-Minister of Finance wanted to increase the salaries of any efficient civil servant more than \$50, he introduced precisely the same vote.

Mr. BERGERON. What did you say?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I said that, in cases where it was justifiable, I would support it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. And I do not think my hon. friend will find that I ever divided the House on any one proposition at any time, and, therefore, I supported it. On more than one occasion, no doubt, I called attention to the fact that the increases were larger than they ought to be.

Mr. FOSTER. Does the hon. gentleman support any measure he does not divide the House on?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Not necessarily, but I took occasion more than once to express some doubts whether increases were any larger than they ought to be, and I venture to say, no hon. gentlemen on this side will shrink from any discussion of any proposed increase. But the inherent power of this House to give an increase larger than that provided by statute is indisputable.

Mr. J. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). I would not reproach the hon. Minister of Finance very much on this point, because he was not here when the late Government held office; but my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has been here since 1882, and we have heard him for years clamouring just against this very thing he is now supporting. I simply wish to call attention to the inconsistency of my hon. friends opposite, because the Government are doing in this matter, as in everything else, what they reproached the Conservative Government with doing.

Mr. FOSTER. How much does Mr. Potter get in advance of last year.

The PRIME MINISTER. I think, \$30.

Mr. McNEILL. In view of the announcement made by the Minister of Finance, that the Government consider it quite proper to show favours to those members of the civil service whom they select themselves, and that they do not intend to give the statutory increases, I think it is much more important than under the late Government, that the suggestion of my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden) should be carried out. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries has said that this course was followed in the past; but, if my memory is not at fault—and I do not think it is—my hon. friend often dissented very strongly against the very course adopted now, and which now is ten times more dangerous, because of the principle laid down by the hon. Minister of Finance. It is not merely an incident. But he laid down a principle. He says: We do this upon principle; we select our own men from the civil service, and give them statutory increases, or more than the statutory increases, just as we please. Under those circumstances, it is very much more important than ever before that some curb should be put upon this sort of legislation. I do not see any reason why there should not be some provision introduced in the Act by which power may be given, under certain circumstances, to the Government to do something of this kind in exceptional cases; but I do think it is most unfortunate that, on every occasion when the Government are inclined to do this sort of thing, they should put it on the face of the record that they are breaking the law, because that is really what it amounts to. My hon. friend says it has been done before, but that does not make it any the more proper. He has not replied to the argument of my hon. friend from Halifax at all, whose argument was, that we were practically repealing the statute which had been passed by both branches of the legislature, and were doing that in such a way that the other branch of the legislature could not interfere. But my hon. friend replies to that argument by saying that the other branch of the legislature cannot interfere with the Money Bill. That

is just what my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden) argued.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). My hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden) will agree with me that "summa lex" is sometimes "summa injuria." If you carry the law to its fullest extent, you may work an injury. There are cases in point in this very matter, where, if you were to follow the doctrine of the hon. member for Halifax, you would be led to a conclusion from which I am sure he would at once recoil. He contends that in every instance we should make increases strictly within the letter of the statute. Now, I call the attention of my hon. friend to the case of this man Porter, whose salary is increased. His salary is increased, I admit, against the letter of the Civil Service Act. But then he was appointed contrary to the Civil Service Act. This man never passed the civil service examination and consequently, under the letter of the Act, was not entitled to be appointed to the civil service. He was appointed a messenger, but with the proviso "notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act." I found him there when I took office. I did not feel called upon to turn him out—I am sure my hon. friend from Halifax would not desire that. Therefore, every year, I have asked the same that I now ask, that his salary be paid "notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act." Here is a case where, if you carried the law out to the letter, you would work a great injury, and I am sure my hon. friend from Halifax would not require us to do that. This shows that there are cases in which you must depart from the letter of the law. I do not wish to be understood as blaming the Minister who appointed him, for he is a good messenger, and I would not part with him. It may be that when my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) introduces the Bill which he is to introduce to amend the Civil Service Act, it may be advantageous to make such a provision and keep, as far as we can, within the letter of the law. But at the present time, I am afraid we are only following the precedent set us. We are not following the law too closely I must say—we have not yet been such reformers as we ought to have been. But we are doing the best we can, and I hope that we will depart more frequently from the precedent set us by our predecessors.

Mr. FOSTER. Why did you double up Lemaire?

The PRIME MINISTER. Mr. Lemaire is a man of about 30 years of age, married, and with a young family. My hon. friend referred to that. He is an especially able man. I often have him to give assistance as my secretary. He is a shorthand writer and typewriter, and writes both French and English. Altogether I think him one of the best officers of the department.

Mr. BERGERON. And he is a messenger.

The PRIME MINISTER. But he was not appointed by me.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I was not speaking with regard to this particular instance alone, but with regard to the principle which applies to so many instances. The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) as a lawyer, will understand my point, which I do not seem to have made clear to the Minister of Finance. It is that you are repealing a general statute in individual cases by a provision which one branch of the legislature has no power to deal with. I think that is a valid objection. I think it would be far better if the Act could be so amended that, within certain limits the Government could deal with this matter—possibly with the consent of the House as my hon. friend (Mr. McNeill), who sits beside me, suggests.

Civil Government—

Department of Justice ..... \$25,310

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to have a statement of the number who are eligible for the statutory increase, and the number to whom it has been granted, with the reasons.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). Six were entitled to the increase, and it was granted to four.

Mr. FOSTER. What amounts were granted?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Fifty dollars—the regular increase.

Mr. FOSTER. Will the Solicitor General please give the reasons why he singled out these four and left the other two grinding at the mill without increase?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The reason why the two were left grinding at the mill is—in one case, that of Mr. Mullen, he is my private secretary, and he received, in addition to his salary a fairly large amount which, I thought, justified us in keeping back the usual statutory increase.

Mr. FOSTER. He is a member of the civil service?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. A second-class clerk?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Receiving what amount?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. He has his regular salary of \$1,150, and as private secretary is in receipt of an additional \$400. The other officer to whom the statutory increase has not been given is Mr. Burpee, former private secretary to Sir Oliver Mowat. He receives \$1,100, and as he has only come into the service this year, we thought it fair to let him go a full year without an increase.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Burpee was the secretary to the former Minister of Justice. Was

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

he not for a certain time private secretary to the present Minister of Justice?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think he was, for a short time—a very short time. But he had been appointed permanently quite recently—I mean within a few months.

Mr. FOSTER. Will the hon. gentleman tell us what pressure was brought to bear upon the present Minister, who, I believe, was well minded to keep Mr. Burpee as his private secretary, to make a change?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not know of any pressure brought to bear upon the Minister. I know that the late Minister of Justice was pleased to have Mr. Burpee as his private secretary. I am not aware of any pressure brought to bear on the Minister, but I think it is an improvement in Mr. Burpee's condition, for now he is a permanent employee with a salary greater, I think, than he had as private secretary.

Mr. FOSTER. Was he not a member of the civil service before?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No.

Mr. FOSTER. I think the hon. gentleman had better look into that before saying definitely.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think I am right.

Mr. SPROULE. I understand the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) to say that his secretary gets an allowance, as secretary, of \$400?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. What is the regular allowance of the private secretary of the Solicitor General?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Six hundred dollars. I divided this and gave a portion of it to a young French Canadian who is in the department.

Mr. SPROULE. Then there are two private secretaries?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There are two employees who, in addition to the services they render as officials of the department, perform the work of a private secretary. I may explain that I require, very often, the services of some one who can speak and write French. That is absolutely necessary.

Mr. SPROULE. That might be done without having two individuals.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I have had a little experience in the province of Quebec, and that experience leads me to believe that you can count on the fingers of one hand the men who can perform the services of private secretary in both English and French.

Mr. FOSTER. Is the French secretary a member of the service?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). I am surprised to learn that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) has so much work that he needs two secretaries. I see that the hon. gentleman was pleading a case in court the other day, defending the man accused of murder, like an ordinary lawyer. I believe, also, that he pleads very often before the Supreme Court as a private lawyer. When hon. gentlemen opposite were on this side of the House, they used to say that it was most important to have a Solicitor General so as to make it unnecessary for the Government to spend money outside the department. But I see that according to the report of the Auditor General, we spent \$100,281.09 outside the Department of Justice for law costs. According to what these hon. gentlemen used to tell us the Solicitor General, with the ability that I know he has, and with his two secretaries, ought to be able to do this work. Of the amount I have stated \$19,193.93 is charged against the Department of Justice alone. I suppose it would be useless to call the attention of the Government to this, but I want to show their inconsistency; I want to show how differently they act now to what they preached when they were on the left of the Speaker. There is one hon. gentleman opposite who, I am sure, will agree with me, and that is the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen). I call upon that hon. gentleman now to use his influence with his friends who are in power, and try and induce them to depart from that bad habit of the former Government, which they promised never to adopt. As the case stands to-day, we have spent over \$100,000, the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) has two secretaries, and he pleads cases outside as a private lawyer.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick), I apprehend my hon. friend takes the ground that the Solicitor General should not be a lawyer, otherwise I see no point in his remarks. Probably it is highly improper that a man should be Solicitor General in this country and have any practice at all at the bar. If that is the view of my hon. friend, he is entitled to hold it, and I have no objection to his doing so. In answer to the hon. gentleman's criticisms that the Solicitor General ought to attend to the business of the department, I admit that probably I have not done all that I ought to do in that respect, but I have acted to the best of my ability with the means I had at my disposal. The result has been that instead of spending each year \$18,000 on an average for fees to lawyers here in Ottawa, we have spent on an average \$6,000 a year since the change took place, making a yearly saving of \$12,000. Now, I want to say that I do not pretend for a moment to claim for myself all the credit of the saving that has been effected in this respect. There is a very efficient Deputy Minister in the department who has done

a great deal to bring about this desirable change. I may say with reference to the other point to which my hon. friend directed attention, as to our spending \$100,000 or thereabouts last year, that in that amount is included the sum of \$35,000 spent in connection with the Behring Sea matter, a sum over which the Department of Justice had absolutely no control. The amount for which we are responsible in the Department of Justice is \$65,000. That is a decrease from \$89,000, which is the smallest amount spent during any one of the last ten years that hon. gentlemen opposite were in office.

Mr. FOSTER. Does my hon. friend mean to say that if this Government had been in when the Behring Sea matter was being adjudicated, he would not have employed eminent counsel and paid them to the extent of \$35,000?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I was only showing the source of \$35,000 of this amount. Undoubtedly this Government, had they been in power, would have employed eminent counsel. But then, instead of spending \$100,000 or thereabouts, the previous Government spent annually \$89,000 or \$90,000, with that \$35,000 in addition, in one year. I may say that for litigated matters over which the Department of Justice have control, we have spent less in proportion than those who have gone before us.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). It is not amiss to draw the attention of hon. gentlemen opposite to some of their own statements. I have a distinct recollection of a statement made by the present Prime Minister, notwithstanding that the party then in power had a Minister of Justice drawing \$7,000 and a Solicitor General drawing a large salary, and a Deputy Minister drawing \$4,000, with a number of clerks—that, in addition to all that, they spent large sums for outside legal expenses in the management of their department, and he promised that if the Reform party came into power they would reduce that very materially. The Solicitor General says that \$35,000 of this \$100,000 was spent in connection with the Behring Sea matter, and that it only applies for one year. But if my memory is not at fault the year before last there was over \$100,000 spent in that department. As to the statement made by the Premier in justification of these statutory increases, I think it was somewhat disingenuous, in view of his promise that if the Reform party came into power they would pursue a different policy.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I may mention that several of the lawyers who had been employed by the previous Government were obliged to hand in their accounts in the year before last, and as a result a very much larger sum was paid out during that year than under ordinary circumstances. Take, for instance, the investigation into the Curran bridge contract, and the St.

Louis prosecution. A large amount was paid out in those cases that we were not responsible for.

Mr. BERGERON. I do not blame my hon. friend the Solicitor General personally, because he never bothered us a great deal before 1896 about the expenses of the Solicitor General's office and the outside expenses, but I am only referring to his case in order to show that his colleagues are now doing the very reverse of what they promised to do if they ever got into office. The hon. gentleman wants to show us that he is a good lawyer, and to do so he defends a criminal at Quebec, and then he pleads at the Supreme Court. He says that a Solicitor General must be a good lawyer. We know that, otherwise he would not have been taken into the Government. But the Minister of Justice, I think, has never done much pleading before the Supreme Court or before the other courts of the country. I may say, however, that I have always been of the opinion that we spend too much money in employing outside lawyers. The hon. member for North Wellington has made the same criticism on a previous Government, and now his own friends are in power they are doing precisely what he blamed our friends for doing.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). As the hon. gentleman has chosen to mention my name in connection with the criticisms that have been made in past years on the item of legal expenses, I may be permitted to say that I endorse the remark he has just made that too much money has been spent in the Department of Justice in hiring outside lawyers. At the same time, I think that once litigation is commenced, it is usually a very expensive thing to change lawyers during the course of a suit. Many of those suits have been trailing along for years, and I have no doubt that the present Government decided that it would be better to allow those matters to come to a conclusion in the hands in which they were started, than to put them into new hands, and perhaps to commence new suits. I believe that the Government in that case have acted wisely, but I hope that the amount of expenses on account of litigation will grow less and beautifully less every year, until it disappears altogether from the public accounts, and that the Department of Justice will handle all these matters. I have found fault in past years; I did it honestly, and I do it now, but I believe that the Government are in this position: There were a great many suits that had been commenced before they came into power, which they were compelled to carry to a conclusion, but as soon as these suits are closed up, I feel confident, that the Department of Justice will see that the House will not be asked to pass \$100,000 for litigation. We have had to get out of the unfortunate condition of affairs that existed when the Government

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

came into power, but once we reach the conclusion of these suits that have been in litigation for so many years, we will not have so much before the House in the form of special legal services. The Government are responsible for any other suits that they have started, and they can properly be called to account for them, but until these old suits are closed up, I do not think that the Government should be attacked for any increases.

Mr. BERGERON. That is a very clever way of getting out of it; but we have here a few names, and I have not gone through the list yet, which will show how much there is in the contention of the hon. gentleman, that the Government were obliged to pay lawyers, because they were in cases already started. Mr. F. L. Belque, Montreal, \$8,093; S. A. Brodeur, Vaudreuil, \$250—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Do I understand that you object to Mr. Belque's account?

Mr. BERGERON—Mr. Choquette, \$23.60; Mr. F. O. Dugas, Joliette, \$160.70; Mr. R. E. Fontaine, St. Hyacinthe, \$81.32; Greenshields, Laflamme & Co., Montreal, \$54.95. That was not enough; so they gave Greenshields & Greenshields \$500. Fred. Peters, Charlottetown—my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries knows the name—\$9.448; A. Camille Pouliot, Fraserville, \$113.55; Pouliot & Pouliot, Quebec, \$246. I had not time to go through the whole list, but there will be another occasion for me to do so. But this is enough to show that hon. gentlemen have been doing the very thing that the hon. member for North Wellington condemns.

Mr. McMULLEN. The hon. gentleman knows that the principal payments which he has mentioned refer to the Behring Sea arbitration. In the case of Mr. Peters and of Mr. Belque, these payments were made on that account. He had to find some item to back up the statement he has made, and he got an item of \$23. So that the hon. gentleman has not made very much of the attempt with which he started out.

Mr. BENNETT. As I understand the hon. Solicitor General's client was convicted the other day of manslaughter, and I would like to ask, if, in the event of his appealing for a remission of his sentence, will the Solicitor General be posing as the Minister of Justice or solicitor for the accused?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). The question as to whether I shall practice in the criminal courts or not, is an open question. However, I am willing to take the opinions of my friends in this House upon it. I may explain that, in the Department of Justice, when a claim for executive clemency is received, the evidence is read in the first instance by Mr. Power, who has been connected with the department almost from time immemorial, and

from whom the case is passed to the Minister of Justice, who accepts, or amends, or rejects the recommendation made by Mr. Power. From the Minister of Justice the case goes to Council, and then it is dealt with in Council. So that, from the time the petition is received in the department until it reaches Council, the papers never reach me, and I never have anything to do with them.

Mr. BENNETT. It certainly will give the Solicitor General an immense amount of leverage over his brethren at the bar in the province of Quebec, when it is stated, and becomes well known, that the Solicitor General may be retained and will act in any criminal case, more especially in cases of a grievous character, such as murder. In a celebrated case that took place a year or two ago—the Valleyfield murder case—had the Solicitor General been retained on behalf of the accused person, it is possible he would have had a great deal of power behind the throne with the Minister of Justice, and it is to be imagined further, that the services of the Solicitor General will be sought—I am speaking apart from his well-known standing at the bar—by reason of the vantage ground he will hold through his position. It will be unfair to other members of the bar, and there will always be a strong suspicion that the administration of criminal justice in the country is not dealt with on the merits exclusively, but by reason of the political vantage that may be obtained and held by the Solicitor General.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think, if the hon. gentleman will consult some of the gentlemen at the bar, in the province of Quebec, they will tell him that, before I became Solicitor General, I had some practice, and, if he will consult the records since I became Solicitor General, he will see that this is the only criminal case I took up. But, as I said before, I am willing to take the opinion of my colleagues in the House, and, if they are of opinion that I should not continue my practice, it will be a matter for me to consider what I shall do.

Mr. SPROULE. If the Solicitor General says that he has nothing to do with these appeals for executive clemency, I should like to know what he does with his two private secretaries, if he is not connected with the administration of justice.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. My hon. friend will find that I have something to do with the Department of Justice. I have appeared, both in the Supreme Court and in the Privy Council. In the Canada sugar case, the result of our action in the Department of Justice was, that \$40,000 came into the treasury. In the case of Ogilvie, which we lost previously, \$60,000 came into the treasury. I do not claim for myself personally the merit at all. Although I am appearing in the criminal court, I may safely say

it is the practice in England, notwithstanding that in England the prosecution of criminal cases is in the hands of the Attorney General or the Solicitor General, while in our country the prosecution of criminal cases is in the hands of the local attorneys general. Notwithstanding the fact that in England the prosecution is conducted, as a rule, by the Solicitor General or the Attorney General, there is a libel case in which the Solicitor General appeared for the accused. While an application for executive clemency is dealt with by the Home Secretary, he acts largely upon the advice of the Solicitor General or Attorney General, whereas in Canada the Minister of Justice is entirely independent of the Solicitor General. He can pardon or not, without reference to the Solicitor General.

Department of Militia and Defence..... \$43,790

Some hon. MEMBERS. Explain.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The explanation with regard to the increase to Mr. Jarvis is, that he is a particularly good officer, a man who works extra hours, and in my judgment one of the most useful men in the civil service. I think that even with this increase he is not overpaid, or not paid enough for the valuable service which he renders.

Mr. FOSTER. How much is his increase?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. One hundred dollars.

Mr. SPROULE. But there is an increase of \$430 in the total vote.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes, there are several other increases, all statutory.

Mr. SPROULE. How many were eligible for increases?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Eighteen were eligible, and nine have received the increase.

Mr. FOSTER. Did none of the other ten gentlemen work well, and have merit on their side, or did they work overtime?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I think they are all very good clerks, but so far as I know none of them worked overtime, and I made what I thought was a fair selection of the men who were specially entitled to the increase.

Mr. FOSTER. Who were the men who got the increase?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The secretary of the department, Capt. Benoit, the chief engineer of the department, Mr. Weatherbee, Mr. Jarvis, Lt.-Col. Guy, F. Beard, Charles Panet, L. G. Roy, G. W. Young, and the messenger, A. E. Watterson, whose salary was increased from \$360 to \$390.

Mr. CLANCY. The Minister has only given a special reason for one increase ; what induced him to select the others ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I have stated that I selected the men whom I thought were entitled to increases.

Mr. CLANCY. What induced you to do so ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. On the ground that they deserved it.

Mr. CLANCY. But I asked what the grounds were ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. If the hon. gentleman cannot understand the meaning of my words I cannot make him understand. I have told the hon. gentleman that I considered that these men were worthy of their statutory increases, and that means that they had done their work faithfully and well, and that perhaps their salaries were inadequate to their requirements—but specially on the ground that they had done their work faithfully and well.

Mr. CLANCY. I confess that I do have some difficulty in understanding the Minister. The hon. gentleman says that these officials who have received their increase, performed their duties faithfully, but he has only given a special reason as to why one got his increase, and he has given no reason with reference to the other seven. It should be made clear to the House that those who got the statutory increases were underpaid in the past, or that the others who did not get increases were substantially paid before. That would be a fairly good reason, but that reason was not given by the Minister, I confess that I cannot see that the Minister has given any reason.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I have gone into the matter with my deputy, and have done what I considered to be fair in the premises.

Mr. SPROULE. The statement of the Minister is equivalent to the admission that those who did not get an increase did not do their duty well.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I did not say that.

Mr. SPROULE. If these servants were told they had not done their duty well, I am sure they would like to know the reason why. If they did their duty well, then by the same parity of reasoning we must assume that they were entitled to the increase. The statement given by the Minister, that one clerk had worked diligently and over-hours was a good reason, but he did not make that statement with regard to the other seven who got the increase.

Mr. T. D. CRAIG (East Durham). I do not know that I would be altogether disposed to find fault with the Government for not

Mr. BORDEN (King's).

giving the statutory increase in every case, for there may be cases in which it would not be advisable to give it, and in which it should be left to the discretion of the Minister. I believe, however, that when the Minister gives increases in certain cases and not in others, then in any single case in which an increase is given he should show what the reason for such action was. I think the cases should not be taken in a lump, but that with reference to each man who gets an increase it should be shown to the House that he deserved it. It might be understood of course that the others did not deserve the increase. The House has the right to know why the Minister undertakes to give an increase in one case and not in another, and to know also, that the increase was given for some special reason which did not exist in the case of those who did not get it.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). I think it would be a most absurd thing to expect a Minister to come and detail before the House the peculiarities of any civil servant whom he thought entitled to an increase. When would we ever get through with the Estimates if every Minister adopted that course ? I am very glad the Minister has adopted the course he has. For my own part, I would like to see the Civil Service Act amended so that civil servants who have performed their work in a manner to deserve increases would get them. What we used to object to was that hon. gentlemen opposite granted increases whether they were deserved or not. The hon. Minister of Militia has stated that certain civil servants in his department, for whom he has recommended the increases, are men who have faithfully and efficiently performed their duties and are now paid low salaries, while the reason he has not granted an increase to others is that in his opinion their present salaries are sufficient. I think that is a good reason, and that is all the reason he should be asked to give. If he had to give in minute detail all the grounds for his decision in particular cases, telling what hours each had worked and what specific duties he had performed, we would never get through.

Mr. CRAIG. I am rather surprised to hear the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) say that it is absurd to ask for these particulars. It would not take five minutes to give them. We know how much time was spent by the hon. member for North Wellington in going into particulars not half as important as these, in regard to the number of napkins used at Government House, the amount of laundry bills, and so on, which I hold is absurd. But in order to remove from the minds of the members of this House and the country the idea that these increases are given on personal or political grounds—I do not say that they are—when the Ministers exercise their discretion in giving them to

certain members of the civil service and denying them to others, we say that in each case it would be well for him to state the amount of salary received and the amount recommended, and also to give some specific reason for the increase. I do not think that is an unreasonable request, but on the contrary, a very fair one.

Mr. HAGGART. The Civil Service Act requires that there should be a certificate of the Deputy Minister on which each statutory increase is given. I would ask whether these increases are confined to those for whom the certificate has been given.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The Deputy Minister has recommended those to whom the increase has been given. I am not prepared to say whether any of the others were recommended, but I think not. I think it would be undesirable to put before the House confidential communications between the deputy and the Minister.

Mr. HAGGART. It is not a confidential communication at all. It is the one required by the law to be given. The Deputy Minister is required to recommend those entitled to the increase, and the House is entitled to know whether he has performed his duty, and to what extent. If the Deputy Minister has recommended only the increases specified, the Minister is perfectly justified in asking the House to vote them. If the Deputy Minister has recommended others, we have a right to have an explanation from the Minister.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The hon. gentleman would hardly ask that the Minister is bound to give the increase to every man whom the Deputy Minister recommends.

Mr. HAGGART. I do not say anything of the kind.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Then the statement which the hon. gentleman makes has no point whatever. I say that every one of the increases given were recommended by the Deputy Minister of my department.

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

### After Recess.

The House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. SPROULE. When the committee rose at six o'clock, I was speaking on item 6, the Department of Militia and Defence, and I was about to say that I could not agree with the contention of the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) that no clerk should receive an increase of salary except those recommended by the Minister. As I understand the civil service law, it pro-

vided that every civil servant who had not attained the maximum of his class might fairly look for an increase of \$50 per year, provided he had been attentive to his duty and done his work fairly well. That is the custom that was followed during many years. But since the incumbency of the present Government, they have seen fit to change that system. We had a good deal of controversy over the question last year and the year before, as to what principle we should adopt in giving an increase in salary, and I believe it was generally contended by the Ministers themselves that the only correct principle was that the Minister, through his deputy head, should be allowed to select as worthy of an increase those who were specially attentive to their duties. But I understand they have gone back to the old principle again, and now give the civil servant to understand that as long as he does his duty fairly well he may look for an advance of \$50 a year as a statutory increase. The Minister has seen fit to select a few from his staff and give them an increase, and he gives as a reason for making the selection that he found them efficient and attentive to duty. Now, I hold that it is in a measure a reflection upon the conduct of the others who do not get that increase, because if it was said in justification of the increase that they were faithful and attentive to their duties, it implies that those who did not get the increase were not efficient and attentive to their duties. Then I think it was brought out afterwards that the deputy head had recommended several, but the Minister refused to say how many in his department had not been recommended. In the absence of that information we are unable to determine whether those parties who did not get it were fairly entitled to it, and the Minister is left in the position of being able to make a selection according to his own judgment, and upon grounds that are not disclosed to this House. Now, I think the old principle was the better one, that every civil servant who had attained the maximum of his class, so long as his conduct was good and he was efficient in the discharge of his duties, might fairly be given the statutory increase. That would be a stimulus to him, and would promote efficiency. I do not think that the rule laid down by the Minister is a good one. I want to ask the Minister a question here. I see in the Militia Department of the Estimates an item of \$1,500 to E. W. Jarvis, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act to the contrary. But I see in the Auditor General's Report, page L 2, that it is E. F. Jarvis. Is that the same man?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). There is only one man by the name of Jarvis; E. F. Jarvis is the name.

Mr. CLANCY. I would ask the Minister of Militia and Defence how many were recommended. He said there were fifteen eligible

for statutory increases, and eight of these received the increase. I would like to know if those who received an increase this year received an increase last year.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No, they did not.

Mr. CLANCY. I see in the Auditor General's Report that Mr. Beard, clerk, was receiving a salary of \$1,100 up to the 1st of August, 1897. But his salary is higher now. Was he promoted last year?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. He was transferred from the Department of Railways to the Militia Department. I do not think he received any increase last year.

Mr. CLANCY. Was Jarvis transferred as well?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No.

Mr. CLANCY. Jarvis seems last year to have received for the month of July at the rate of \$1,250, and for the balance of the year at the rate of \$1,400.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. He was promoted from a second-class clerk to a first-class clerk.

Mr. CLANCY. Will the hon. gentleman state how many were recommended by the Deputy Minister out of the fifteen eligible?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I am unable to tell the hon. gentleman, but I may say that I went over the matter very carefully with my deputy, and he agreed with me on the recommendations. I am not prepared to say whether he made any more recommendations or not, but my impression is that he recommended only the ones I have mentioned.

Mr. CLANCY. Did any receive increases other than those who were eligible?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No.

Mr. SPROULE. Will it not be necessary to change the initials in that name of Jarvis from E. W. to E. F.?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes, I am much obliged to the hon. gentleman for calling my attention to that.

Mr. SPROULE. Did not Mr. Jarvis do considerable extra work in connection with the military commission to inquire into various matters concerning the department?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Mr. Jarvis, I may add, although no one seems to object to his increase, was the private secretary of the former Minister of Militia, and became thoroughly conversant with all the business of the department. He is one of the most useful men in the department, and I venture to say one of the most useful and faithful public servants in the public service.

Mr. CLANCY.

Mr. CLANCY. While no objection has so far been taken to this increase, objection has been taken that some are advanced while others are not, and no sufficient reasons seem to have been given for the distinction. In the case of Mr. Waterson, who seems to have received pay under another heading, having received \$360 last year as extra messenger, will the hon. gentleman say how much he has received out of this amount of \$16,418 given in "L. 5, salaries at Ottawa"?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I think that when the Estimates were being made up a year ago it was thought that we could do without this messenger in the military branch of my department, and bring in from one of the schools one of the soldiers, but it was afterwards found that that would not work, and as no vote had been taken, this man had to be paid out of the contingent fund. We had kept him at the same salary, and now we are putting in the vote in the regular way, and giving him an increase of \$30.

The Department of the Secretary of State, including \$2,400 to P. Pelletier, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act..... \$36,450

Mr. SPROULE. What is the explanation of his increase to Mr. Pelletier?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Mr. Pelletier is chief clerk of the department, and his salary was \$2,250, which is now increased to \$2,400. He is a barrister of good standing and has served eleven years in the department, and during the absence of the under secretary for several months during the past and present year he acceptably discharged the duties of this office.

Mr. SPROULE. That would hardly be regarded as sufficient reason for giving such a large advance in one year. He is practically getting three years' increases pressed into one, and the only excuse is that he did his work well, as no doubt hundreds of others have done. A good many in this department are deprived of their statutory increases, but a few seem to be particularly favoured, and this increase of \$150 a year to one who has only been ten years in the service seems a large increase, in view of the fact that he was getting what would be considered a very liberal salary outside the service and that others are deprived of their increases.

Mr. FOSTER. How many are eligible for increases in that department?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Fifteen are eligible and six have been granted an increase.

Mr. SPROULE. That is a little over one-third, and it is hardly fair to give one man three times his statutory increase when so many others are deprived of it, and is besides quite out of keeping with the doc-

trine of economy preached by the hon. gentlemen when on this side. When the hon. gentlemen were on this side and any deserving civil servant got a dollar over the statutory increase, they denounced it as unwise and extravagant. The course they are now following will tend materially to demoralize the service.

Mr. FOSTER. It cannot be urged in favour of this increase that it has been made to a man who is getting but a small salary. Of the nine who are eligible and did not get the increase, there is not one whose salary is not lower than that paid to Mr. Pelletier. It does seem going a little too strong to give a man who is getting \$2,250 salary an increase of \$150 in one jump.

The Department of Public Printing and Stationery, including \$2,350 to W. Glendon and \$2,050 to W. McMahon, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act..... \$26,280

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. There are six statutory increases in that department at \$50 each, and one at \$30, and there is a decrease arising from the difference between the salary of the late superintendent of stationery and that of his successor.

Mr. FOSTER. How much did the late superintendent get ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The difference in expense is as between \$1,450 and \$1,600, which were the two salaries.

Mr. FOSTER. How many were eligible for the statutory increase ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. All who were eligible in that department received it.

Department of the Interior, including \$1,100 to James Dunnet, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act ..... \$103,074

Mr. FOSTER. This proviso does not appear in our Estimates. Is this an addition made afterwards ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) will look at page 14, where the details are given, he will find that there is an error in the number of second-class clerks. As he will see by following out the lines, the number of second-class clerks should be 21, and the amount \$27,300. In the third-class the number should be 37, and the total \$33,144. It was a mistake in entering the amounts from the Finance Department.

Mr. FOSTER. The question is, are you changing the Estimates from what has been laid before us ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. There was a slight change in the form, but I understand the Minister of the Interior is not pressing that.

Mr. SPROULE. If you want these words inserted, it must be because there is an in-

crease, and that should appear in the Estimates before us. Are there two new men appointed as second-class clerks, or have two men been promoted ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. One has been promoted, and one is a new appointment.

Mr. SPROULE. It is an unusual thing to begin a man so high at once, when there are so many men in lower grades who have been working for years to increase their efficiency.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. When a second-class clerk is wanted, the Minister must select one whom he believes to be fitted for the work. This man was selected on that basis.

Mr. SPROULE. But is it not usual to promote one from a lower class ? In a department the size of this, there must be many efficient men, any one of whom might fairly be promoted. Does not the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) think it would be a better principle to follow rather than to bring in new men ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I would go this far—I do not think it would be a good plan to appoint exclusively new men. But I do not think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) would ask a Minister to bind himself not to bring in new men.

Mr. SPROULE. It would not matter so much if this were an exceptional case. But it seems to be occurring very frequently. It may become a question whether this is the rule or the exception.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I do not think that the hon. gentleman can show that it is the rule.

Mr. SPROULE. I can cite other cases. I find that there are 36 third-class clerks instead of 41 last year. How does the change occur ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. There were 37—36 is printed in error. There was one promotion, Mr. Robertson ; one, Mr. Grant, retired ; and two were estimated for last year whom we do not require this year.

Mr. FOSTER. How many were eligible for the statutory increase ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Twenty-eight got the increase altogether, 2 among the chief clerks, 1 among the first-class clerks, 3 among the second-class clerks, and 22 among the third-class clerks.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. There were about 43 eligible.

Mr. FOSTER. All the third-class clerks got the statutory increase ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. How many second-class clerks did not get their increases ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Three.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to know a little more in reference to the third-class clerks. We find that the Minister has come down to this, that he is giving all these third-class clerks statutory increases. That principle seems to differ, if there is any principle in this, from the principle followed by the Department of the Secretary of State, which gives three times the statutory increase to an officer who has \$2,250 of a salary, and leaves the low class clerks to struggle along as best they can without the statutory increases. I would like to know who is the new clerk among the second-class clerks, and what the duties are that he purposes to make it necessary that we should pay a new man \$1,100.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. If the hon. gentleman wishes me to state the reason it is because this gentleman has special qualifications.

Mr. FOSTER. I see you have 36 or 37 third-class clerks. When there is an opening above why do you not give it to a deserving man who has entered the service at low pay, and has worked his way up? That general, and, I think, good rule, has been set aside in this case. The Minister says that we must have a new man put in at a salary of \$1,100. He ought to give us a reason as to why he should not make a promotion from the third-class clerks, and give merit some chance to be recognized, rather than to put in a new man at \$1,100. Were the duties of such a kind that no man among these 36 or 37 third-class clerks, who have been in the Interior Department, can do it or what is the reason?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I can only say, in reply to the hon. gentleman, that I appointed this man because I thought he was specially qualified for the class of work which I wanted him to do. In that particular branch in which his work lay, I was particularly anxious to place a man who would be competent, at a later day, in my judgment, to exercise the superintendence of the branch, the Ordnance Lands Branch, in which there was only one clerk who had manifested a special capacity for the work, Mr. Keyes, who has been in charge of the branch for a long time, and I did not think it desirable that the department should be dependent upon one individual. The man that I appointed was specially qualified and better qualified than any of the third-class clerks.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like some further information from the hon. gentleman. Who is the person that he has selected?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. FOSTER. And what peculiar training has Mr. Ferguson had to enable him to take up this work in the Interior Department and

Mr. FOSTER.

perform it in a way superior to any of the 36 or 37 clerks who have been in the department any way from fifteen to five or six years?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Mr. Ferguson has had no special training which has specially suited him for the work, because he will get his special training in connection with the work in the branch. I decided to put him there on account of his literary training and capacity which I conceive to be specially good.

Mr. FOSTER. Then the hon. gentleman, coming down to the facts of the case, states that the gentleman, whom he is to put there, has no training in the work at all, but he has put him in there so that he may pass his apprentice days and may turn out by and by to be capable. Does the hon. gentleman hold, in the face of these 36 or 37 third-class clerks, that there is not one of these men who had earned promotion, who could conduct the business of that branch, and in the course of a year or two become qualified for the work. What is the peculiar work, and what are the peculiar qualifications of Mr. Ferguson?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I have just explained to the hon. gentleman the reasons why I appointed him. I could not explain it more fully if I talked all evening. I think the hon. gentleman will admit that it is not always a desirable thing for the service that the service should proceed by promotion from the bottom to the top, and that there are occasions once in a while when it is desirable that the Minister should appoint a man from the outside whom he thinks to be specially qualified, on account of his intellectual qualifications and general equipment. I think that I followed a sound principle; but I think it is a principle which should only be applied in exceptional cases, cases that arise once in a while.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman has utterly failed to make the application of a general rule to this particular case. I will admit that sometimes it may be better to take a man from the outside, but that it does not apply to this case in point. The hon. gentleman has failed utterly to enlighten the House. I notice that the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) listened carefully to find out what were the special reasons for this appointment. I am sure he is not satisfied, as I am not satisfied. I will have to ask the hon. Minister to give the special reasons why men who are trained in the department are passed over in favour of Mr. Ferguson, and to state what the great qualifications of Mr. Ferguson are.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I cannot explain to the hon. gentleman any more fully than I have.

Mr. FOSTER. I submit that the hon. gentleman has given no explanation at all; sim-

ply none. He is simply playing with the House.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I do not think so.

Mr. FOSTER. Although my hon. friend has a good capacity for explaining things, when it suits him, he does not seem to be willing to explain that. I have a right to ask who Mr. Ferguson is, what are his capabilities, what is the special work that he has to do that you should put him over all these others.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I think the hon. gentleman is altogether astray when he says that I am playing with the House, because I am not. The hon. gentleman is perfectly aware that a Minister having charge of a department can simply come to a conclusion as to what is best to do for the efficiency of the service. I discussed this question with my deputy and with one or other officers in the department as to the necessity of securing a good man to undertake this work, and I appointed Mr. Ferguson because I believed him to be the best man. I thought that he was much more capable for the work than any of the third-class clerks. I simply came to the conclusion in the exercise of my judgment that the efficiency of the service would be promoted by placing this man in that position. This is the only explanation I can give to the House.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who carefully watched every word that his colleague uttered, as to whether the statement of the hon. Minister of the Interior is any explanation for placing that man in that position. It is not sufficient for the House. We are not going to take the judgment of the Minister of the Interior on trust when he is asking us for a vote of money. When he comes and asks Parliament for a grant he ought to give a full explanation as to why this extraordinary course is undertaken. Here is a case in which an extraordinary course has been taken, and I submit that the Minister has not given us any explanation at all as to why this was necessary. In what branch is this gentleman to go?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Ordnance Lands.

Mr. FOSTER. How many clerks are in the Ordnance Lands Branch?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I think two.

Mr. FOSTER. Does not the Minister know?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I have not got a list showing the special work at which the clerks in each small branch are engaged.

Mr. FOSTER. If the Minister is not ready to put through his Estimates, we had better pass on to something else.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Oh, no.

Mr. FOSTER. Oh, yes. I do not want to know what the hon. gentleman thinks, but I want to know what actually is the case. He is not talking about general Yukon charges now; he comes to this House wanting money, and he must give the House the explanation before he gets his money.

Mr. SPROULE. This man is not a draughtsman, and we should know in what business he is, whether he is a bookkeeper, a writer or what?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The work of the Ordnance Lands Branch consists generally in looking after all the lands in charge of that branch of the department. These lands are leased and sometimes sold by auction, and they are cared for by this branch of the Department of the Interior. At the head of the branch is Mr. Keyes, who has been there for several years. Mr. Ferguson was put in as an assistant so that he may become thoroughly acquainted with the work, and so that the department may not be dependent on one man for a knowledge of the affairs of the branch.

Mr. SPROULE. This man appears to be doing no technical work, and it seems to me it would be the easiest matter in the world to fill this place by the promotion of one of the clerks already in the department. The hon. gentleman tells us he does this for the efficiency of the service. He gave us a similar explanation last year and the year before with regard to a number of changes, and he said that the men were so thick in the department that they were tumbling over one another, and if the department were properly organized it would not require half the number of men to do the work. He dismissed and superannuated some for, he told us, the efficiency of the service, and he brought in his own deputy head and a few others. There are 84 officials in the department according to these figures, and there were 86 before, being a reduction of only two. Is the service as efficient now as it was before, and has the hon. gentleman succeeded in making any great saving by the dismissal or superannuation of certain clerks and the importation of others. It appears on the Estimates here that the department costs the country about the same now as it did before, notwithstanding the promise of the hon. Minister. Did this young man enter the service at the minimum of his class, and did he pass a civil service examination?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Certainly. He entered at the minimum and he passed his examination, or otherwise he could not be appointed.

Mr. CLANCY. Who did the work previously, that this young man is now doing?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I cannot remember at this moment, but it was some clerk who is moved to some other part of the department.

Mr. CLANCY. Then the gentleman previously there was not inefficient?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. As I have explained, my reason for putting Mr. Ferguson there was that I wanted a man who I thought would be competent to take charge of the branch in case Mr. Keyes should be removed elsewhere, or promoted, or leave the service of the department. I may say that Mr. Keyes has intimated to me that there was a possibility he would leave the service of the department, and I desired to have a man there who would be competent to take charge in case his services were no longer available. I do not say that the gentleman who was there before is incompetent, but I say that at the time I made the change I did not think he was a man who would fulfil my expectations in regard to the future.

Mr. FOSTER. Is Mr. Ferguson at work in the department now?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. What status has he in the department at the present time. How is he paid?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I cannot give the hon. gentleman the information, but it may be out of the vote for contingencies.

Mr. FOSTER. Then the Minister had better let the matter stand.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Very well.

The office of the Controller of the North-west Mounted Police..... \$10,050

Mr. FOSTER. It appears that all who are eligible here for statutory increases got them.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes. The messenger is dropped and that accounts for the \$300 decrease.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like the Minister of Finance to inquire as to how they propose to get along without a messenger.

The Department of Indian Affairs..... \$46,500

Mr. SPROULE. There is an increase here of \$1,430. Will the Minister explain that?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. There are statutory increases of one first-class clerk, one second-class clerk, fourteen third-class clerks and a messenger.

Mr. FOSTER. How many are eligible for increases in this branch?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Twenty-nine.

Mr. CLANCY.

Mr. FOSTER. How many have received them?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Sixteen.

Mr. SPROULE. You appear to have a new man in this branch also. There were 41 last year, and there are 42 now. Where is the new man placed?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Mr. Bray, a second-class clerk, is to be appointed a first-class clerk at the same salary. Then, there is a new second-class clerk to be appointed—Mr. Antliffe, a surveyor and civil engineer, who was in the department and was paid out of the votes for contingencies, when I took charge. He was allowed to leave the service for a short time; but it was found that his services were required, and, in as much as it was quite clear that they were going to be permanently required, I thought it better to take a vote for him as a second-class clerk. He was paid \$1,200 a year out of contingencies under the arrangement by my predecessor. His pay, as second-class clerk, will be \$1,100.

Mr. FOSTER. What is his particular work?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. He is with Mr. Bray, who is the chief man in charge of surveys. He is particularly skilful as a draughtsman, and takes charge of that kind of work in the department, particularly in connection with the returns for surveys in the Indian reserves. A second-class clerk is promoted to be a first-class clerk without an increase of salary, and a second-class clerkship is filled by a third-class clerk being promoted. There is a saving of \$300 there. Another second-class clerkship was created by the promotion of Mr. Bray. By the promotion of Mr. Shore to fill the vacancy made by Mr. Bray's promotion, another saving of \$300 was effected. Mr. Shore's clerkship was dropped, and a saving of \$1,000 was effected there. The increases, therefore, in the total, amount to \$3,330, and the decreases to \$1,900, making a net increase of \$1,430.

Mr. SPROULE. Did this new man commence at the minimum of his class.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Yes, of course.

Mr. FOSTER. How many of the third-class clerks who were eligible got their statutory increases?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. All who were eligible got them.

Mr. SPROULE. This branch appears to partake of the general practice apparent through these Estimates, that is, instead of the economy which we had reason to expect, and a reduction of the cost to the country, we have an increase in the cost and an increase in the number of civil servants.

The country will watch with a good deal of interest the conduct of hon. gentlemen opposite, who promised so much economy before they got into office, and then superannuated or dismissed 137 men in one year, and gave the country to understand that they did that without in any way impairing the efficiency of the service, while intending in most cases not to put others in the places of those whose services were dispensed with. Now it appears that they are filling the offices as full as they were before, and going beyond that. The Civil Service Act contemplates that men going into the service shall enter at the minimum of the lowest class; but the hon. gentleman seems to reverse that rule, and appoints a man at once to the second class.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. This is a growing time.

Mr. SPROULE. It appears to be growing very fast, too.

Mr. FOSTER. I want to make a suggestion to the Minister of the Interior, with reference to his estimates, particularly in the Indian Department. I want to suggest to him that he could employ an hour of his time very profitably, if he would read over a very notable address made in this House, four or five years ago, by the then Hon. David Mills, who is now the Minister of Justice and one of my hon. friend's colleagues. That address had for its subject the Indian Department, which the hon. gentleman riddled from top to bottom, coming to the conclusion that it was over-manned in every respect, both in the departmental offices and outside, and that by good organization and a fair attempt at economy, the work of the department could be very much diminished and a great saving effected. I remember the discussion very well; it was a very warm one, and Mr. Mills was very thorough and very decided. Whether we agreed with him or not, he seemed to have thoroughly studied the question, and to have come to the conclusion that the Indian Department needed a thorough reorganization in the line of cutting down offices and expenses. My hon. friend is a colleague of that same gentleman, who, I dare say, still holds the same views, whether he puts them into practical operation or not; and I think something might be gained, if my hon. friend would consult with his colleague on that subject. Forty-one clerks seemed heretofore to have been sufficient for all purposes, but now we have 42. The number is being added to, rather than diminished.

Mr. SPROULE. How many first-class clerks in this branch have got their statutory increases this year?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Just one, Mr. Dalton.

Mr. SPROULE. Did any of the others get their increase last year?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I do not remember.

Mr. SPROULE. Did this gentleman get any increase last year?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I do not think so.

Mr. SPROULE. What were the special reasons which induced the hon. gentleman to select one from the whole staff for the statutory increase?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I can only say with regard to Mr. Dalton that I acted under the very strong representations of my deputy.

Mr. SPROULE. Did the deputy recommend any of the others for the increase?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Not any other first-class clerk.

The office of the Auditor General..... \$27,500

Mr. SPROULE. How is the increase of the \$750 here accounted for?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. By fifteen statutory increases of \$50 each. All the clerks eligible, except the three chiefs, received their statutory increases.

Mr. SPROULE. I do not wish to be understood as objecting to the increases to these clerks in that branch, because I believe they are all very efficient and hard-working. But it seems poor encouragement to the large numbers of young men in the other branches who are not getting any increase, that in the one branch every one eligible should get it. It is poor encouragement for them to go on doing their best when there seems no prospect of advancement in the future.

Mr. FOSTER. It is particularly noticeable that in every one of the departments or sub-departments in which there is a semi-independence—for instance, the printing and stationery and the Auditor General and the Mounted Police, where the heads are left very largely to their own discretion—the principle of giving the statutory increases is carried out in its entirety. They have no fish to fry, they have no favours to whom they wish to give to particular persons, they have no particular political favours to give out, they are not political heads, and in every one of these sub-departments every deserving clerk gets his statutory increase. It is only when we come to the departments directly managed by the Ministers that we find this variation, and where the third reason which the Minister of Finance so gently puts to-night, comes in. Nothing can show more clearly the salutary nature of the general rule than the action taken by these three sub-departments I have spoken of.

Mr. McMULLEN. I think if the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) will cast his

eye over the manner in which the clerks in the other departments were treated by himself and compare these departments with the Auditor General's, he will find that the duties of the audit department were performed with a smaller increase of expenditure during the whole term of his office than any other department in the service. The audit department was not treated by him as generously as the others. While the expenses of all the others have increased more rapidly, I must admit—

**The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No.**

**Mr. McMULLEN.** The expenses of the audit department have not increased proportionately with the others. If there is any department that deserves some little consideration, it is that one. It has done good service to the country; and in many cases when the ex-Minister of Finance was in power, he declined to give increases when they should have been granted.

**Mr. FOSTER.** There is no quarrel between the hon. gentleman and myself on that point. I was not objecting to these gentlemen getting their increases, but rather pointing it out as an argument why deserving clerks in every department, especially those with smaller salaries, should get their increases. The hon. gentleman is not right in saying that the other departments increased largely. That is not true. Take the Finance Department. I do not think there is a department in the Government that has increased less and done better work with its staff, and that is due to the very good organization and the efficient sub-officers it has had. I want to call the attention of my hon. friend from North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) to the list, commencing A 77 and running down to A 95, inclusive, of gentlemen who are receiving pay from more than one source. I would feel that this session had been wasted unless I heard the voice of my hon. friend with his old time vigour—not quite at such great length as formerly, but yet with much of the old-time vigour—denouncing these eighteen or nineteen pages of men who are feeding at the public crib from two or three troughs. He must really, to keep himself right, say a word or two about that.

**Mr. McMULLEN.** I am very glad indeed my hon. friend has drawn the attention of the House to that fact. I wish to inform him that I have a Bill before the House, which has had its first reading, for the purpose of correcting that evil, and I earnestly hope I will have the desired assistance of the hon. gentleman to enable me to carry it through. I say that system should be abolished. No civil servant should be paid a double salary for the duties he performs in any department in which he is employed. That system was inaugurated when hon. gentlemen opposite occupied the Treasury

**Mr. McMULLEN.**

benches, and it grew from year to year until every one of the service was straining every nerve to find some hook on which he could hang a claim for extra allowance. I intend, with the assistance of the House, to wipe out that system, and I hope I will have the assistance of the ex-Minister of Finance.

**Mr. FOSTER.** I hope the hon. gentleman will have more backbone with this measure than he had with the Bill introduced by him last session, when, at the beck and nod of the Postmaster General, to whom he seemed to cotton then very assiduously, he withdrew the Bill. It was a very meritorious Bill, but my hon. friend had not the backbone to press it.

**Mr. McMULLEN.** I may explain to my hon. friend that I did not withdraw the Bill that I introduced before. The Bill of the same kind that I introduced last year never reached its second reading, simply because there were too many Bills ahead of it. I earnestly hope that this will not be the case with the present Bill; and I want to say to my hon. friends on that side, as well as to the hon. gentlemen on this side, that I will not withdraw the Bill at the beck or bidding or wish of any person.

**Mr. SPROULE.** The hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) still lives largely on hope and trust. Let us hope that his Bill will get further than its first reading this session. But it is about as far as the hon. gentleman's Bills generally get. They die of inanition; there seems to be a process of starvation at that stage, and we do not hear much of them afterwards. I would like to ask the hon. Minister how it comes that we have not the whole of the Auditor General's Report before us yet, notwithstanding that the statute provides that it shall be laid before the House not later than seven days after the opening of the session. We have been in session 46 days, and still we have not the whole report of the Auditor General.

**The MINISTER OF FINANCE.** There are some questions between the Auditor General and the Queen's Printer as to the proper portion of responsibility. In the meantime, the Auditor General informs me, he is not able to bring the report down until the 27th instant. He asserts that he has done everything he could, and the Queen's Printer asserts that he has pushed the work through as fast as possible. I am afraid that this is not a very satisfactory explanation; but, if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) were in my place he could not give any other.

**Mr. SPROULE.** That is, practically, no information at all. Here is a state of things existing in direct violation of statutory law. And the Minister tells us: Though this state of things exists in my department, I cannot explain it and have made no provision to remedy it. I think this House is entitled to more information than has been given be-

fore being asked to vote the large amount of money that we are called upon to vote for this branch. We ought to provide so that the law shall be carried out. If there are not enough hands in the branch to get the work out as quickly as it ought to be got out, that is a reason why there should be more men appointed or something else done. But this matter is under the Minister's charge, and as head of the department, he must be held responsible, no matter where the delinquency may be. He will not be as successful as the Minister of the Interior, who threw his responsibility on his subordinates in the Yukon because they were so far away he could not get at them.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman must remember that the Auditor General is not directly an officer of my department. He is, as has been described, a semi-independent officer. Though he reports through my department, I fancy he would rather resent the idea that he is responsible to the Minister of Finance and bound to regard him as his chief. I know the Auditor General is doing the best he can; and I hope the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) is not going to suggest extravagance in the way of increasing the staff.

Mr. HUGHES. This question was discussed in the Printing Committee, and the blame was thrown on the departments. The Ministers, not having their reports in the hands of the Auditor General in time, that officer, not having the figures, could not furnish copy for the Queen's Printer. Of course, the Ministers were down on a junketting trip to Washington, and came back with nothing done. No doubt the fact that they were absent for the greater part of the year is the excuse for the delay.

Mr. SPROULE. There is no person who has been given the whole responsibility for the department except the Minister. The Auditor General, while he cannot be removed except by the consent of this House, is still sufficiently connected with the Department of Finance to make the head of that department responsible for the legal carrying out of the business of the branch. There is an open violation of a statutory law. It becomes the duty of the Minister to see that the law is observed.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. What would my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) do about it now? I am willing to take a suggestion.

Mr. SPROULE. If the hon. gentleman asks my advice, I would advise him to resign and allow some one to take his place who will do the work.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). Would my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) take the place?

Mr. SPROULE. I was not selecting a successor for the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding). But if the members of the Government would allow me to do that for them all round

I think I could do it in a way that would greatly benefit the country.

Department of Finance and Treasury Board, including \$2,000 to J. Fraser, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act..\$49,907 50

Mr. FOSTER. Let us hear all about this.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Owing to a rearrangement in the affairs of the office, we are able to pay several statutory increases, and also a special increase to one officer, and still show a reduction in expenses. There are five clerks and one messenger eligible for the increase. We propose to give the increase to three clerks and the messenger, leaving two gentlemen who do not receive the increase. With regard to the special vote to Mr. Fraser, I may say that he is an officer holding a very responsible position. He has been promoted recently, on account of the retirement of another officer, to the rank of chief clerk in the savings bank branch. Mr. Fraser is an officer of exceptional ability who travels all over the Dominion, rendering special service in connection with the savings banks. I may say also that he is an officer of 24 years standing. Having regard to the important duties he discharges he is well entitled to this increase, an increase of \$200, making his salary \$2,000, instead of \$1,800. His predecessor retired with the maximum of \$2,400. Mr. Fraser performs the same duties at \$2,000.

Mr. FOSTER. Who was his predecessor?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Mr. Anderson.

Mr. FOSTER. Who are those who get the increase.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Messrs. Treadwell, Boville and Saunders, and the messenger, Mr. Ostrom, jr.

Mr. FOSTER. What are the reasons?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Mr. Treadwell is a chief clerk; Mr. Boville is now a first-class clerk, recently promoted; Mr. Saunders is a second-class clerk. The messenger gets an increase of \$30.

Mr. FOSTER. Who do not get the increase?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Mr. Garland and Mr. Jenkins. Last year, while there was some difference in other departments in that respect, all the officials of my department received the increase. This year, only a portion receive the increase, and the two gentlemen I have named have not been recommended for it. But it is only fair to my deputy to say that he would, no doubt, have recommended all, but that it was understood that all could not receive it. All these gentlemen are excellent officers. I would not have it understood that failure to get that increase is at all a reflection upon them, as hon. gentlemen opposite have assumed. Nor would I have it thought that these gentlemen were

discriminated against. They are all good officers.

Mr. SPROULE. But they are discriminated against.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I cannot help it.

Mr. FOSTER. While the hon. gentleman has made the immense saving of \$100, he has done an injustice to two of his clerks, and two as good clerks as those who have received the increase.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I do not wish to do any injustice to any of the clerks. My hon. friend is wrong about the saving; the saving is much more than that.

Mr. CLANCY. Were the statutory increases withheld in these cases for the purpose of showing a decrease in the expenditure of the department this year?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No, for if they had received the increase there would still be a decrease in the expenditure of the department. So that was not the main consideration.

Mr. FOSTER. Do I understand the Minister of Finance to say that the deputy did not recommend these other gentlemen for the increase?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I have no doubt the deputy, if the matter had been in his hands, would have recommended them all. But it was understood that two would not get an increase this year, and these two were left out. But I am quite satisfied he would have been pleased to have them all receive it.

Mr. FOSTER. Could not \$100 have been spared, with the revenues as they are? I am sure there must have been another reason.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No, I can assure my hon. friend there was not. I want him to accept my statement.

Mr. FOSTER. How long has Garland been an officer of that department?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. He entered the service in 1870. He is now receiving \$1,700.

The Department of Customs, including \$1,300 for R. W. Breadner, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act..... \$36,700

Mr. SPROULE. How many promotions did the hon. gentleman make here?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). There are 11 statutory increases.

Mr. FOSTER. How many are eligible?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Twenty-five.

Mr. FOSTER. How many received it?

Mr. FIELDING.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Ten received the \$50 that they are at liberty to get under the statute. Another receives \$100.

Mr. CLANCY. How many were recommended for the increase?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. All the 11 were recommended.

Mr. SPROULE. Were any more than 11 recommended?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The 11 were recommended, that answers the question.

Mr. SPROULE. No, I respectfully submit it does not answer the question; it answers a part of the question. My question is: Were there others recommended outside these 11? That is what we would like to know. If they were eligible, so far as efficiency went—

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. If the hon. gentleman is speaking of eligibility, there were 25 who would be eligible. These 11 were recommended.

Mr. SPROULE. But the Minister either understands me and does not want to answer the question, or else he does not want to understand what I mean. There were 25 eligible to receive this statutory increase. I was asking how many of those who did not get the statutory increase were recommended for it by the deputy?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The 11 that got it were recommended by the deputy head.

Mr. SPROULE. That is only trifling; it is no answer at all, and no man knows it better than the hon. gentleman. Three times he has been asked how many were recommended outside those who got it. He says these 11 were recommended. He has told us that two or three times over. We want to know how many of those who did not get it were recommended.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Those that were recommended got it, those that did not get it were not recommended.

Mr. SPROULE. None of them?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Does the hon. gentleman understand it?

Mr. SPROULE. If I correctly understand the hon. gentleman, there were none of those recommended who did not get it. Is that correct?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That is what I said.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman has said there were 25 eligible, and 11 received a statutory increase. I want to ask the hon. gentleman how many out of the 25 who were eligible were recommended for statutory increases?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS**. I have stated that when these were prepared for the Estimates and decided upon, 11 were recommended, and 11 got it.

Mr. **CLANCY**. And no more?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS**. No more when these Estimates were decided upon.

Mr. **FOSTER**. My hon. friend knows that he is not answering the question. There ought to be no secrecy in the matter. My hon. friend must not think that he has a department there which belongs exclusively to him. It is a department that the country puts there, and the country pays for it. Now my hon. friend was asked a simple question, and he has a right to answer it. The question was whether the deputy of this department recommended any others for the statutory increase except the 11 who got it. The hon. gentleman quibbled for 15 minutes, and then pretending to give a very honest answer, what did he say? He said when these were decided upon only the 11 were recommended. They were decided upon in Council, where the deputy head was not. But still that does not answer the question as to whether the deputy recommended to the Minister that more than 11 should receive the statutory increase.

Mr. **SPROULE**. How many of those who got the statutory increase were in the first batch?

Mr. **CRAIG**. I cannot understand why the Minister of Customs does not answer a simple question. I think we have a right to an answer, besides I do not suppose the Estimates will pass until the question is answered. I do not think we have got an answer yet. Of course an answer was given in a sort of way, but it is not satisfactory to this side of the House. The question is, how many were recommended by the deputy for the increase in addition to those 11 who are getting it. Were any others recommended by the deputy head at any time, not when these Estimates were finally decided upon, but before they were decided upon?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS**. I do not know what more I can say to the hon. gentleman than I have said. What do hon. gentlemen wish to know? I have said that those 11 that are here recommended were recommended by the deputy under the statute. As I have said, there were 25 that might get it under the law. I suppose if the deputy was to send in a recommendation that under the law there were so many, 25, that might get it, you would not call that a recommendation that could be acted upon.

Mr. **CRAIG**. Tell us what was done, and we will form our own judgment.

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS**. I asked the deputy to make a selection of those that he thought most deserving among the officials, and the selection was made, and the

increase was given to the 11 I have mentioned.

Mr. **HUGHES**. I would like to ask the Minister of Customs, if the Deputy Minister recommended only these eleven.

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS**. I do not think we should call it a recommendation. I said to the Deputy Minister: You can send over the names of those that you think are eligible for the increase under the Act. And I subsequently said: There will have to be a selection made. And he made this selection.

Mr. **HUGHES**. When the Deputy Minister made the selection, did he select only these eleven.

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS**. Yes; he selected the eleven, as I said before.

Mr. **FOSTER**. The question is not as to the selection, but as to the recommendation that came from the Deputy Minister. I submit, that the Minister of Customs is not doing himself justice, and is not doing the Government justice. When he quibbles upon a little question like this, what will he do with the public business? Is that the way he acts with the importers, with Schaitlin, Fitzgibbon & Co., and others against whom charges of infraction of the law are made. The hon. gentleman is putting himself in a most invidious position before the House and the country. He was asked a simple English question; why does he not give a simple English answer?

Mr. **HUGHES**. Was the instruction given to the Deputy Minister to select eleven, or did the Deputy Minister fix it at eleven? Was the number of eleven fixed by the Minister or by the Deputy Minister?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS**. The eleven were selected by the Deputy Minister, with the approval of the Minister as well.

Mr. **HUGHES**. Who fixed the number? Do not quibble—

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS**. The number was fixed by the selection. Add them up, and they total eleven.

Mr. **HUGHES**. Did the Minister select the eleven or the Deputy Minister?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS**. I think, at the time when it was decided, it was by the Deputy. Of course, as I said, I was present myself as well.

Mr. **CLANCY**. The hon. gentleman, no doubt, listened to the statement made by the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) a moment ago, and that was, that all could not receive statutory increases, and, therefore, some must be left out. Did the hon. gentleman give such an intimation to his deputy before making the selection of eleven, or did he leave it open to the deputy

to recommend all who might be eligible to be recommended for the statutory increase? If the hon. gentleman put some check upon the number, I can quite understand that, probably, the deputy would not follow out the line that he would on other grounds, namely, recommend every person who might be entitled to it, but that he would select the most deserving, as he thought, from among the number that had the right to receive the statutory increase.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman's question is a little involved, but I think I can answer it. I said to the deputy, that all that are eligible for the increase cannot be granted an increase this year, but there may be some who are specially deserving for good reason, and that a selection of that number should be made. I asked him that he would make such a selection, which he did, and the selection is now before the House for approval. I do not think that I can answer more clearly or fairly than that.

Mr. CLANCY. Did the hon. gentleman make his limit eleven?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I did not make the limit eleven.

Mr. SPROULE. Will the Minister of Customs tell us at what page in the Auditor General's Report we will find the names? I have made a hurried inspection, but I cannot find any Customs Department in it.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I have not the Auditor General's Report here. What names does the hon. gentleman want to find?

Mr. SPROULE. The names of those who are in that department.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman will find them in the Civil Service List, which I have here.

Mr. SPROULE. They should be somewhere in the Auditor General's Report. I cannot find them here at all, and I do not think they are in it.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I am not responsible for the Auditor General's Report.

Mr. SPROULE. If we have not that portion of the Auditor General's Report before us which gives this information, it seems to me that we should not go on passing estimates.

Mr. FOSTER. It is not brought down.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Is this the only department that is not down?

Mr. FOSTER. This is the only department, so far as I know of.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The information can be got from the Civil Service List.

Mr. CLANCY.

Mr. SPROULE. That does not give the information in the form that we should have it.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. It gives the number of first-class clerks and third-class clerks right here.

Mr. SPROULE. We do not want to have any more quoting of documents that are not before the House.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. If the hon. gentleman has not the documents, it is not my fault.

Mr. SPROULE. I submit, that, until the Auditor General's Report is here, we should not continue passing these estimates. When we are considering a department and dealing with the service, we should have the information before us. That is the Civil Service List, and not the Auditor General's Report at all.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Here is the information, with all the details, names of the officers, their salaries, how long they have been in office, when appointed, and so on, every bit of information that you would expect to get in the Auditor General's Report; and, if the hon. gentleman sends up to Mr. Botterell, he will get the Civil Service List.

Mr. SPROULE. That is on a par with the information we have been able to drag out of the hon. gentleman; but it seems to me to be trifling with the House to ask the House to vote estimates, when we have not the information we should have. I would advise the hon. gentleman to ask the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), if he would allow a single item to pass in this House before he had the Auditor General's Report in his hands, days and weeks before, so that he could go over it on Sunday, Monday, and every other day, that he might be prepared and have it right here to turn up every item. We are asked to vote these items without the information that the House should be in possession of.

Mr. FOSTER. I think we ought to have the Auditor General's Report before passing these items.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I know the ex-Minister of Finance does not think anything of the kind for a moment. He knows very well that the Civil Service List is what should be gone by in the discussion of these matters. We have here information in detail about every employee: his age is given, his first entry into the service, the date of his present appointment, such information as you will not get in the Auditor General's Report. My hon. friend may look as grave as he likes, but he knows that it is a fact that these public documents can be got from Mr. Botterell, just the same as the Auditor General's Report. Speaking of the hon. member for North Wellington, I would

venture to say, that when discussing such matters as these, he always had the Civil Service List before him. When a question was asked of the Minister, Why do you give such a one one hundred dollars, he would turn to the Civil Service List to see how long that officer had been in the service, in order to see if he was entitled to it. If the hon. gentleman wants the item to stand, I have not the slightest objection, but I cannot see where their objection lies, and I think he will admit that, if there is to be intelligent criticism, it can be made much better with the Civil Service List. You can get it from Mr. Botterell, or I can send it over to the hon. gentleman.

Mr. HUGHES. Are the names of the temporary clerks in that book?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No, not of the temporary clerks.

Mr. HUGHES. Have not the temporary clerks received an increase of salary?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. If my hon. friend will understand---

Mr. HUGHES. I understand.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Well, perhaps he does not understand. These temporary clerks are provided for in contingencies which are not under discussion now, and which may not be reached for two or three days yet.

Mr. FOSTER. I notice that a great change has taken place this session as compared with last session in my hon. friend (Mr. Paterson), and I have an idea as to what brought it about. My hon. friend (Mr. Paterson) has so often seen himself advertised in public as one of the Bytown coons that he cannot forbear to play that role in the House. I think he is placed at the end of the half circle, and he is striving to keep up that reputation; but I submit that this is not the place for that spectacular drama known as the Bytown coons; we are here for serious business. My hon. friend is now in a very jocund state, but he may have a longer face than mine before he gets all his Estimates through. Did the Deputy Minister of Customs recommend any other than these eleven for a statutory increase?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I told the deputy to send a list of all who were eligible in the department. That list was made, and I subsequently told him that all could not receive the statutory increases, and that a selection would have to be made. The selection was made, and I have repeated that half a dozen times. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) makes this allusion to Bytown coons, and he can be personal if he pleases; of course, I could be personal too, but I do not believe any good could come of it. I answered as clearly as I could the questions put me, but my hon. friend

from Victoria (Mr. Hughes) does not seem to understand. I repeat that I told the Deputy Minister to send me a list of all that were eligible, and I subsequently told him that all could not be granted, and a selection would have to be made.

Mr. TAYLOR. Of how many?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I did not tell him how many, and I have repeated that time and again. The selection was made, and these eleven were the ones selected. I stated that from the first I have said nothing different, and that is all I can tell in reference to the matter.

Mr. HUGHES. Did any of these eleven get an increase last year?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I speak subject to correction, but I think Mr. Breadner got an increase last year, and Mr. Farrow also. I think Mr. Bennett did not, but I think some of the others did get an increase last year.

Mr. TAYLOR. Perhaps the Minister will give us the names of the eleven.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Mr. Bennett is getting an increase. He has been in the service since 1871, and he is being promoted from first-class clerk to chief clerk of statistics, and I am giving him the \$50. I think he is about the oldest officer in the department. I am giving the increase to Mr. Farrow, who is the accountant of the department. He had an increase last year of, I think \$150. Mr. Morin, who is what might be called the chief clerk of the seizure branch, is getting \$50 increase this year, and I think he got it last year also. Mr. Farrow, the accountant, is getting \$1,700 now. As hon. gentlemen will understand, the accountant's work in my department is very heavy, and heavier perhaps than it has been in years past. A great many hundreds of refunds of claims necessarily come in through our preferential tariff. Invoices coming from England and not having certificates upon them as required by the department, have to pay the general rate of duty, and when the parties get their goods they send back to England and get a properly certified invoice, and then a refund is given to them. This entails a vast amount of work. Mr. Farrow estimates that \$100,000 in refunds have been regulated in that way, and those who are conversant with the department will understand that that entails a very great deal of extra labour. There are six third-class clerks who get the increase. Selection of these was made by the deputy and approved of by me, and his recommendation was that not only were they good and faithful officers, but that their being on low salaries I would be justified in asking the House to grant them an increase of \$50 each. So, all the third-class clerks are getting that increase. The highest that is paid to any

one of them is \$800; two get \$700, one \$600, and another \$500. Two second-class clerks who get the increase are Mr. Breadner, the chief clerk, who gets \$100. Mr. Breadner has to do a very great deal of work, has very long hours, and without in the slightest degree undervaluing the work of any of the officers in the department, I think his increase is justified on the ground that his work is more arduous and his hours are longer. I repeat that in the case of the third-class clerks, the judgment formed by the deputy, and in which I agreed, that their salary being so low I might fairly ask that they get the \$50 extra.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman states that the other clerks have done their work well, and I would like to know why they did not get the increase on the same principle.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. All the third-class clerks got the increase. They have very low salaries, ranging from \$500 to \$800, which is not a large salary in Ottawa, especially if a man has a family depending upon him. In the case of Mr. Breadner one can understand that a man having the responsibility of the department on him, will work longer hours and harder than the other clerks in it, although they have done their work well also. It is the same way in the case of Mr. Morin. Mr. Bain, who is my private secretary, and has a great deal of work to do, also gets the increase. The other is Mr. Bennett, a first-class clerk, who is advanced to the position of chief clerk of statistics, and gets \$50 more than any one else in his branch.

Mr. SPROULE. It is refreshing to see that the hon. gentleman has come out of cold storage and is thawing out considerably, so that we are getting a good deal more information now than we did before. He says the civil service list, which he has but which none of us have, gives all the information, but it does not contain a list of the temporary clerks. The Auditor General's Report does, and I submit that is a reason why this item should stand until we get the balance of the Auditor's report which is promised for the day after to-morrow.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Under this item we are discussing only those who are in the permanent civil service. The extra clerks do not come under review now. They are included in item 37.

Mr. SPROULE. In going over these items we want to ascertain the total number in any branch, so as to get at the cost of the branch.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. If the hon. gentleman wishes them, I can give now the names of the extra clerks, though they come properly under item 37. Those for 1899-1900 will be as follows, if the House votes the amount:—Fred. Norris, \$750; W.

Mr. PATERSON.

G. Bishop, \$750; M. Jolivet, \$600; Miss Daws, \$540; Miss Young, \$490; Miss Gaultier, \$430; George Rathbone, \$400; and a messenger, \$300. These amounts will give them the statutory increase of \$30 each, and the two first named, Fred. Norris and W. G. Bishop, are provided for notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act to the contrary. The way that came about was this. Last year when the Estimates were under discussion, one of the first-class clerks who was off on leave of absence, taking a trip out west, died west of Winnipeg, and on concurrence on the Main Estimates I asked that the \$1,750 which he was in receipt of be struck out, and it was struck out. In the Supplementary Estimates I took a vote for this \$1,750, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act to the contrary, and of that amount I used \$1,400 to engage two men who are now in the employ, and to these two men it is proposed to give this year \$50 each over what they had last year.

Mr. HUGHES. Are Norris and Bishop newly appointed officers?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Norris, I think, was an extra clerk before he received this much, being paid before out of contingencies the sum of \$400. I think Mr. Bishop was attached to the Montreal office and was brought from the Montreal office up to the office here.

The Department of Inland Revenue, including \$2,200 to F. R. E. Campeau and \$1,550 to J. F. Shaw, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act..... \$37,660

Mr. SPROULE. Will the hon. gentleman explain the increase here?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). Mr. Campeau is marked in this item as receiving a salary of \$2,400, but that is a mistake, and by referring to page 16 of the Estimates the hon. gentleman will see that he is only put down for \$2,200. Formerly he had \$2,000, and I recommended an addition of \$200 more. He entered the service in 1871, and a few years ago he was given the work of another officer along with his own, and has been doing the work of the two ever since. I wanted to raise his salary for the past two years, and I wished to ask for \$2,400, but ultimately I felt compelled, in order not to increase too much our estimates, to reduce the amount to \$2,200. Mr. Shaw is put down as getting \$1,550, but by referring to page 16 it will be seen that he is there put down to \$1,500, which is a mistake. He ought to have been put down at \$1,550. I suppose I may as well anticipate the questions of my hon. friends, and at once inform them that there were ten officers in the department entitled to the statutory increase. Of those I have recommended seven, and the other three I did not recommend because they were appointed only a short time ago, in 1897 or 1898, and I

did not see that they had the same right to the statutory increase as those who have been so much longer in the service. For instance, of the first-class clerks, one whom I recommended was appointed in 1872 and the other in 1880. Then of the second-class clerks, one was appointed in 1883, one in 1874, and one in 1888. Those men were so long in the service and worked so satisfactorily that I thought they deserved the increase, which, by the way, was in no case given last year. None of the inside officers got the statutory increase last year, and of the three that I did not recommend two were appointed in 1897 and one in 1898. In the third-class clerks, I recommended one who had only \$630, an increase of \$100. He had been appointed in 1887, and did his work in a satisfactory manner. The other one had been appointed only in 1885, and his salary was but \$550 a year, so I recommended an increase of \$50, which puts it at \$600. Then there are two messengers, one receiving \$460, to whom I have recommended an increase of \$30, and the other received \$360, to whom I have also recommended an increase of \$30.

Mr. ROSAMOND. There was not much of a growing time there.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Well, I do not think I have acted hardly with these officers, but have done my best, and my hon. friends will notice that the only three I did not recommend were those appointed since we came into power. The others were all appointed by my hon. friends opposite. That is not exactly the reason I recommended them, but because I think they deserve the increase.

Mr. SPROULE. I notice in this case there is the same objection that I raised in the other, that we have not the Auditor General's Report before us, but the hon. Minister has been good enough to give us so much information in detail that it is not so necessary. How many temporary clerks are there in this branch?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I cannot say, because I did not think that question would be asked at this stage, but only when we came to contingencies, out of which the temporary clerks are paid.

Mr. SPROULE. That is one reason why it is desirable the whole of the Auditor General's Report should be before us so that we could turn up the information for ourselves.

Mr. CRAIG. I notice that one of the third-class clerks is given an increase of \$100, and I do not think that can be done without violation of the Civil Service Act.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act.

Mr. CRAIG. That is not so stated.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I explained a moment ago that this increase of \$100 was on account of length of service.

Mr. CRAIG. I thought that could not be paid unless with the proviso "notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act."

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I think we have it there.

Mr. CRAIG. No.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I am much obliged to the hon. gentleman for the suggestion. I move that after the word "Shaw" be added "and \$730 to A. McCullough."

Motion agreed to.

Department of Marine and Fisheries, including \$2,000 to A. W. Owen, and \$1,500 to F. H. Cunningham, as first-class clerk, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act. \$55,085

Mr. SPROULE. Perhaps the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) will explain.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The accountant of the department has been in receipt of \$1,800 a year. The deputy submitted a statement of his work, and recommended him for an increase of salary. I made an examination with the deputy and satisfied myself that, having regard to the salary paid to the accountants in other departments, this gentleman was receiving a much smaller sum.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is the accountant?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Mr. Owen. He was appointed before I took charge of the department. I propose an increase of \$200 for him. As to the other increases, Mr. Venning gets \$50—

Mr. FOSTER. Was he chief clerk?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is the other chief clerk?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Mr. Magee. His salary is \$2,000. Mr. Venning will get \$1,900 if this increase is agreed to. The assistant hydrographer is Mr. Anderson, and the chief, Mr. Stewart, recommended that he be given an increase of \$100. He is a technical officer, and, after looking into it, I recommended it to the Council and it is before the House.

Mr. FOSTER. What about the increase to Mr. Cunningham?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No; he was appointed inspector of fisheries, and for that he gets \$100 extra. The hon. gentleman will remember that after the decision of the Privy Council in the fisheries case, I dismissed the fisheries officers in Ontario, and I thought that, rather than appoint an officer at \$1,400 or \$1,500 to inspect eastern Ontario, Mr. Cunningham could do the work for an extra sum of \$100, and that is what he got the increase for. The only other increases were

those of the third-class clerks, Mr. Guion, Mr. C. W. White, Mr. Skelly and Mr. Beau-lieu get \$50 each.

Mr. FOSTER. How many were eligible for the increase?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Twenty-three besides six technical officers. Those who received the increase are those I have mentioned, and Mr. Kelly, the messenger, who gets \$30.

Mr. SPROULE. I must raise the same objection in this case as I did before. It seems to me that an advance of \$200 at one step is too much for a man who is already getting a respectable salary. I have always thought it fair that a salary should advance by \$50 a year, because that is a gradual advance. Such an advance was evidently contemplated by the Civil Service Act, but I do not think there is any justification for making large advances in salaries. There is no economy in it and it is not just to the other members of the civil service. I think there should be most exceptional reasons for such a step.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think that the reasoning of the hon. gentleman, on the general principle, is unexceptionable. If I had not made a personal examination and seen the extraordinary amount of work this gentleman did, and the enormous increase that has taken place in it within the last four or five years, I should not have thought for a moment of recommending such an increase. But, among other things, he has to sign twenty thousand or thirty thousand cheques for bounty work and must stay up late at night for weeks and weeks. I consulted with the deputy and satisfied myself that this increase should be granted, being justified on very exceptional grounds.

Mr. CRAIG. I notice that there is no mention here of Mr. Anderson's increase being notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act. It is in the detailed estimate, but not here.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I was looking at the detailed estimate, and am much obliged to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Craig) for his suggestion. I will move that the resolution be amended by putting in after the word "clerk" the words "and \$900 to F. Anderson."

Motion agreed to.

Mr. HUGHES. Will the Minister say if he had any inspectors for eastern Ontario?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, I had assigned to Cunningham the duties of inspecting eastern Ontario, with \$100 increase of salary. He was employed in the department, and I thought he could very well do that work.

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

Mr. HUGHES. What inspection does he perform?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. He goes all over eastern Ontario, and reports to the department how the regulations are being carried out by the local fishery officers.

Mr. HUGHES. May I ask who inspects the western district?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The same gentleman who was there before.

The Department of the Geological Survey. \$53,150

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). The increases are \$200 each to Messrs. Faribault, McInnes, Ami and Barlow. There is an increase of \$100 to Mr. Chalmers, and statutory increases to 12 officers, that is, all the technical officers except those who have special increases that I have just mentioned. Then Messrs. Dowling and Senecal are transferred from the second-class to the technical class. Their salaries amount to \$2,600. So that the whole increases amount to \$4,100. The retirement of Mr. Tyrrell takes off a salary of \$1,850. The salary of his successor will be \$1,050, making a saving of \$800, leaving the increase at \$3,300. Then Mr. White, the officer who has done the geographical work for the Geological Survey, is being transferred to the Interior Department, which will effect a saving of \$1,600. One of the other officers is taking up his work, a second-class clerk whose salary will be \$1,200. So that the net increase is \$500.

Mr. FOSTER. How many are eligible for increases altogether?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. All the technical officers get the statutory increase, except those who get the special increase, and whom I have mentioned.

Mr. FOSTER. How many of your officers in that department are eligible for statutory increase?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I think 19. Twelve get the regular \$50, four get \$200 each.

Mr. SPROULE. What is the ground for giving these four men the \$200 each?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The special ground was a special report from the director of the survey in favour of the gentlemen named and in favour of the amounts which I have mentioned.

Mr. SPROULE. If I understand the hon. gentleman correctly he accepted the recommendation of his subordinate, and has acted upon it.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Certainly, I accepted it, after discussing it with him and agreeing with the views that he expressed. I may say that my view in

regard to persons connected with the Geological Survey, is, that they are not overpaid. I think, perhaps, they have more cause of complaint on the ground of inadequacy of salary than any other person in the service. In view of the special and strong recommendations of the director, I felt that it was a reasonable and proper thing to accept his recommendation.

Mr. HUGHES. May I ask the hon. Minister how many officers have left the Geological Survey this year?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Just one, Mr. Tyrrell.

Mr. FOSTER. Has any person been appointed in his place yet?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The position has been offered tentatively. Two gentlemen have been corresponded with by Mr. Dawson, but the gentlemen corresponded with were not at liberty to accept and we have not yet found a man properly qualified who is willing to accept.

Mr. FOSTER. You seem to have two more technical officers there than last year?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Yes, because we have selected two of the men who were second-class clerks for promotion, under this vote, Dowling and Senecal, who have been in the service for some years. We are promoting them from second-class clerkships to technical positions.

Mr. SPROULE. I think the hon. Minister of the Interior has not given us the special reasons which induced him to make such large increases in the salaries of these four men, because the other Ministers, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries particularly, very frankly admitted that a Minister has no right to give such large increases without giving strong special reasons for it. The Minister of the Interior has given no reason at all for saying that the men in this department are not very well paid. That may be his opinion, but, perhaps, the people in the country will think that they are very well paid. I cannot say whether they are well paid or underpaid, but I think that the Minister should give an explanation of the reasons before asking the House to vote that large amount.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Mr. Chairman, I presume the hon. gentleman refers to the special increases of \$200.

Mr. SPROULE. Yes.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. They are granted upon the report of the director of the survey, which reads as follows:—

Mr. E. B. Faribault is science graduate of Laval University. During the summers of 1881, of 1882, he assisted Mr. Fletcher in Nova Scotia. In July, 1883, he was appointed to the permanent staff of the survey at \$700 per annum, and continued as Mr. Fletcher's assistant until

1890, when he began independent surveys and explorations in Nova Scotia, on which he is still engaged. Mr. Faribault's later work has been chiefly in connection with the gold-fields of Nova Scotia, and has resulted in the production of numerous maps and detailed plans which have already proved to be of great value to the miners. He has become thoroughly conversant with the mode of occurrence of gold in the province, and his investigations are contributing largely to the expansion of the mining industry under new and improved conditions. It is recommended that his present salary be increased from \$1,450 to \$1,650.

I do not suppose that the hon. gentleman wants me to read all the reports in regard to the gentleman mentioned. They are on the same lines, and make the recommendations which I have accepted. I may say, further, in regard to the officers of the Geological Survey, who have been long in the service and are well qualified, that we are in danger constantly of losing the services of these men. The development of mining in Canada has rendered the services of these men very valuable, so that men who, in former years, perhaps, could not easily have secured lucrative employment, now have a demand for their services. Mr. Tyrrell has left. Mr. McConnell remained with us for a salary that is about half of what he has been offered. Mr. Ferrier, an officer of the survey, and an experienced man, left us before. I very much fear that, unless we are prepared to deal with reasonable liberality, these valuable men will be lost to the service.

Mr. SPROULE. I admit that there is, perhaps, a good deal of force in that, and it may be that these men are not overpaid, being men of professional and technical ability; but still, there is another feature of it that I think should not be lost sight of. When these officers are here, they are permanently employed, and, although it may be at a lower salary than they could temporarily get, there are reasons which should be a strong inducement to them to remain in the service permanently for, at the expiration of their term they will have a very respectable superannuation allowance given to them.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I quite recognize what the hon. gentleman has said, and it is because of what he says that we are able to keep these men. If it were not for the advantages of the Government service, these expert men would leave us, because nearly all of them could get larger remuneration elsewhere.

Mr. BERGERON. Would the hon. gentleman give us the names of those whose salaries are to be increased by \$200?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Mr. Fairbault, Mr. McInnes, Dr. Ami and Mr. Barlow.

Mr. HUGHES. I would like to ask the Minister of the Interior, what steps have

been taken to have a new building erected for the Geological Survey.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. All I can say upon that subject is this : The matter has received a very considerable amount of attention from the Government, and the Minister of Public Works is having plans of the building prepared for submission to the Government.

Department of Trade and Commerce.... \$9,240

Mr. SPROULE. We want some explanation from the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is to be made the chief clerk ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Mr. Nutting.

Mr. FOSTER. What did he get before ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. If my hon. friend desires that that item should stand until the Minister of Trade and Commerce returns, I have no objection. Although the changes are slight, I am not prepared to give an explanation of them.

Mr. FOSTER. What did Mr. Nutting get before ?

Mr. TAYLOR. This department is no needed. Why is the Minister not here to explain it.

Mr. BERGERON. The Minister should be here, there is no doubt about that.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Where is your leader ?

Mr. BERGERON. My leader has no work here to-night.

Mr. FOSTER. Better let the item stand.

Mr. BERGERON. We must have the Auditor General's Report before we pass this.

Resolutions reported.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 10.50 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 26th April, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 83) respecting the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway Company.—(Mr. Rutherford.)

Mr. HUGHES.

Bill (No. 84) respecting the Quebec, Montmorency and Charlevoix Railway Company, and to change its name to the Quebec Railway, Light and Power Company.—(Mr. Somerville.)

### RAILWAY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 85) further to amend the Railway Act.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the explanation of that ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The amendments are minor and merely formal ; not very important.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

### AMENDMENT TO THE INSURANCE ACT.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 86) to further amend the Insurance Act. He said : The chief provision of this Bill relates to the rate of interest which it is assumed will be earned by insurance companies on their reserve funds. Under the present law the assumption is that insurance companies can invest their moneys to realize 4½ per cent, and the computation for safety of policy-holders is based upon that rate of interest. It is hardly necessary for me to remind the House that the tendency for a number of years has been towards a lower rate of interest. Insurance companies find now that they cannot obtain investments which will realize that rate. If they fail to realize that rate of interest they fail to come up to the standard, and no longer can guarantee the security that the Insurance Act contemplates. Practically we know that companies cannot realize that rate of interest. It is proposed to change the rate of interest from 4½ per cent to 3½ per cent, that is to say, that the calculation shall be so made that if they realize 3½ per cent interest, the accumulation will be sufficient for the protection of the policy-holder. It is intended that this rate of 3½ per cent shall apply to all new business after the first day of January next. As respects existing business, a reasonable period is allowed to elapse before the Act shall become operative. It will not affect existing business until after seven years have elapsed. With these brief remarks, I beg to move the first reading of the Bill. At the second reading, I will ask that it be referred to the Banking and Commerce Committee, where all parties interested may be heard. There is one other important feature, and it is in relation to the power of investment of the various companies. That matter has been dealt with by separate Bills, and the powers of investment varies with different companies. Some com-

panies have the right to invest in certain classes of securities, while others have not the same right. The intention of this Bill is to take the latest judgment of Parliament on the question and make that a standard under which all companies shall have the same right of investment. It is not proposed, however, to take away any right of investment from any company which it may have obtained in years past.

Mr. SPROULE. That would widen the range of investment.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It will widen the range for some companies and will not take away any power which a company has under its own charter.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

#### INCORPORATION OF BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 87) respecting the incorporation of benevolent societies. He said: The House is aware that, from time to time, benevolent societies, conducting insurance business, incorporated under the laws of the several provinces, have been in the habit of applying to the Parliament of Canada for Dominion incorporation, and the question of the powers that may be properly conferred upon these companies, by the Dominion, has been a very vexed one for a number of years. Last year, it will be remembered, we had several Bills of that character. One Bill was accepted by the insurance department and the Government and passed by both branches of Parliament whereby a standard was established which it was thought was a safe one. Another Bill of a less favourable standard passed this House but did not become law. The purpose of the Bill which I now introduce is to take the legislation of last session—relating to an association known as the Ancient Order of Foresters—as a proper standard of safety, and to make provision that other companies, incorporated by the provincial authorities, which may desire to obtain Dominion recognition, may obtain it by something like letters patent, by filing their papers and making the proper application. In this way they may obtain what is practically a Dominion incorporation under a general Act without special legislation in each case. In this matter, also, I may say I do not intend to treat the measure in the ordinary way of Government Bills, but I shall, on the second reading, ask that it be referred to the Banking and Commerce Committee, so that the various companies may have an opportunity of appearing before the committee and stating their objections, if there be any objections, to the policy here outlined.

#### TOBACCO ILLUSTRATION STATION.

Mr. DUGAS asked:

Has the Government decided to establish an experimental or model farm in the parish of St. Jacques, Montcalm County?

Is the sum required for that purpose to appear in the Estimates for this session?

What is to be the amount recommended?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). An illustration station for the growing and curing of different varieties of tobacco is to be established at St. Jacques, Montcalm County. The sum in the Estimates for illustration stations includes the one at St. Jacques. The sum recommended is \$475 to assist in the erection of buildings, purchase of fertilizers and extra labour, in addition to the salary of the tobacco expert. His salary is to be at the rate of \$66.66 per month when at St. Jacques, and \$5 per day when holding meetings or away from St. Jacques on other business for the department.

Mr. MARTIN asked:

What action, if any, does the Government propose to take in regard to experiments in poultry feeding as outlined and advocated by Professor Robertson of the Experimental Farm? If the Government propose to act on Professor Robertson's suggestion, how many experiments are proposed to be made, where they are to be made, and when?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). It is proposed to establish several illustration stations for the fattening of poultry during the season of 1899.

Mr. MARTIN asked:

Has the Government decided to act on the suggestion of Professor Robertson in regard to "Illustration Stations" as object lessons for the farmers of Canada? What is the extent and nature of the work to be undertaken at those stations, and is it intended to conduct experiments with different kinds of fruit trees as well as roots and cereals? Are any to be established this summer? If so, how many, and where?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). Yes, a sum has been placed in the Estimates for illustration stations. These are intended to be in the nature of object lessons (a) from growing different varieties of cereals, roots, fodder plants and tobacco; and (b) from different methods of cultivation. The crops are to be grown in the season of 1900. Some crops of tobacco are to be grown this season of 1899. It is not intended to conduct experiments with fruit trees at these stations.

#### SPRAYING OF FRUIT TREES—PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Mr. MARTIN asked:

Does the Government propose to initiate, as advocated by Professor Robertson, any scheme for experimental spraying of fruit trees?

If so, to what extent is it proposed to extend it this coming summer ?

What sections are to be chosen for these experiments ?

Is it proposed to extend them to all the provinces ?

Is it intended that these experiments are to be made without any charge to orchardists ?

If not, what charge is to be made ?

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. Fisher). Professor Robertson has not advocated any scheme for spraying fruit trees ; but it is proposed to co-operate with the provincial government of Prince Edward Island and the Prince Edward Island Fruit Growers' Association in preparing for some trial shipments of fruit by the spraying of fruit trees, and in the packing and shipping of apples in the season of 1899.

#### POINTE CLAIRE WHARF.

Mr. **MONK** asked :

1. How much money has been expended to date upon the wharf at Pointe Claire for which the sum of \$4,009 was voted by Parliament ?

2. How far are the works on said wharf advanced ?

3. What was the original estimate of the cost of said wharf ?

4. How much will it cost to finish said wharf ?

5. Has the work been done by contract or by day work ?

6. Were tenders publicly called for said work ? Is it the intention of the Government to finish said wharf at once ?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). Would the hon. gentleman be kind enough to move for a return and the address will be brought down immediately. There are some details that cannot be conveniently given in an answer to a question.

#### ARMOURY AT BADDECK, C.B.

Mr. **BETHUNE** asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to build an armoury and drill shed at Baddeck, Cape Breton ? If so, how soon ?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). It is hoped that this year the Government will be able to build an armoury, and the matter is now under consideration.

#### NINETY-FOURTH BATTALION.

Mr. **BETHUNE** asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to increase the strength of the 94th Battalion ? If so, when and by how many companies ?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). This matter has been referred to the General Officer Commanding, and it will be decided after his next trip there.

Mr. **MARTIN**.

#### DREDGING OF PINETTE HARBOUR, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Mr. **MARTIN** asked :

Has the Government or any member thereof received a petition from the inhabitants of Flat River and surrounding sections in the province of Prince Edward Island, praying for the dredging of Pinette harbour in that province ? If so, has the Government decided to grant the prayer of the petitioners ? Will the work be proceeded with this summer ? If not, when ?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). There was no petition received.

#### QUEBEC BRIDGE TENDERS.

Mr. **HAGGART** (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

Has the Government asked for tenders for the construction of a bridge across the St. Lawrence at or near Quebec ? From whom have the tenders been asked ? How many offers have been received ? Has any tender been accepted, and what is the amount ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). The Government has not asked or obtained from Parliament any authority to build the bridge referred to in the question, and therefore has not asked for tenders for the construction of such a bridge.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Is that a condition necessary in all cases.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I say we have not done it.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Was it in the Baie des Chaleurs case ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I do not think we asked for tenders.

#### MONTREAL POST OFFICE REPAIRS.

Mr. **MONK** asked :

1. In what newspapers in the city of Montreal were tenders asked for the execution of works now proceeding in the post office building ?

2. Are said repairs to be paid for out of last year's appropriation for repairs on public buildings in Montreal ?

3. If not, then has the Department of Public Works complied with the law in regard to expenditure for which no Parliamentary appropriation exists ?

4. If tenders were not asked through the newspapers, then from whom were tenders asked ?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). 1. List of newspapers in which tenders were called for new roof covering for Montreal post office : Montreal—"Herald," "La Patrie," "Trade Review," "Insurance and Finance Chronicle," "Shareholder"; Quebec—"Le Soleil," "Daily Telegraph," "La Semaine Commerciale"; Ottawa—"Free Press," "Le Temps," "Danebrog";

Toronto—"Globe," "Hardware"; Hamilton—"Herald," "Times"; Kingston—"Freeman," "Whig"; St. John's—"Le Canada Français"; Valleyfield—"Le Progrès de Valleyfield"; Belleville—"Ontario"; Ste. Hyacinthe—"L'Union de St. Hyacinthe." 2. Yes. 3 and 4. The answers to the two first question make it unnecessary to reply to the last two.

**P. E. I. PRIVATE BONDED WAREHOUSE—MR. J. G. SCRIMGEOUR.**

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.) asked :

At what date was the privilege of a private bonded warehouse granted to John G. Scrimgeour at Cardigan Bridge, Prince Edward Island? For what length of time is it granted? Is it the intention of the Government to continue it, or, if for a term, to renew it at the expiration of the term?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). On 6th December, 1898, authority was given to grant the application of John G. Scrimgeour for a customs bonded warehouse of class 2 at Cardigan Bridge, on the usual conditions as to the payment of fees and the warehouse being secured under customs locks to the satisfaction of the sub-collector of customs; and the interests of the revenue being protected. The length of time for which the bond is granted is not specified. It is not customary to do so. Representations having been made respecting the granting of this bond, they are being inquired into.

**MAGDALEN ISLANDS—CONTRACT FOR MAIL STEAMER.**

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.) asked :

1. Whether a new contract has been entered into by the Government for the carriage of passengers, mails and freight to the Magdalen Islands?

2. With whom is the contract made?

3. On what terms?

4. What are the ports of call?

5. What class of steamer?

6. What is her power, speed, freight and passenger capacity?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). 1. A new contract has been entered into for service between the Magdalen Islands and the mainland. 2. Robert J. Leslie, of Halifax. 3. A weekly service from Pictou, N.S., commencing with the opening of navigation until the close of navigation at Pictou, thereafter until the close of navigation at the Magdalen Islands, from some port in Cape Breton to such port or ports in the Magdalen Islands as the Minister may approve. Subsidy, \$9,000 per annum, payable 1st July, 1st October, and at the close of the service. 4. Georgetown and Souris, in the province of Prince Edward Island; Amherst Island, Point Rosse, Etang du Nord, Grand Entry and Grindstone Island, in the Mag-

dalén Islands, and once in each month, during the months of June, July, August and September, a trip to be extended to Bryan Island—calls at Grand Entry need not be made after the close of the month of September. 5. The "St. Olaf," or such other steamer of equal class, speed, equipment, capacity and accommodation as may be approved by the Minister. 6. The "St. Olaf" is of a class and capacity of not less than seventy-two tons net, triple expansion engines, carrying 160 pounds of steam, capable of a speed of not less than twelve miles an hour, the service to be run at an average speed of not less than ten miles an hour; saloon accommodation for at least fifty first-class passengers, and for at least 100 second-class passengers; suitable accommodation for mails, &c.

**INDIAN AGENT AT RAMA.**

Mr. HUGHES asked :

1. Have the witnesses in the inquiry re the conduct of the Indian agent at Rama been paid?

2. Was James Doyle, a witness in the said inquiry, paid his fees as a witness?

3. If not, why not?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. Yes. 2. Yes. 3. Answered by No. 2.

**FENIAN RAID MEDALS**

Mr. HUGHES asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to issue medals for the Fenian raids and Red River rebellion services to the families of those now dead but who served on those occasions?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). No. The Imperial despatch granting the medal directs the issue of medals only to the surviving officers, non-commissioned officers and men as promulgated in the General Orders for the militia.

**EDMONTON-YUKON ROUTE—MESSRS. DIBBLEE AND DUPONT.**

Mr. HUGHES asked :

1. Were Messrs. Dibblee and Dupont in the employ of the Government during 1898, in laying out a route from Edmonton towards northern British Columbia or the Yukon?

2. What direction was each to take?

3. What men were taken by each?

4. Is the Government aware that one or both of the gentlemen named was lost for some weeks?

5. Has any claim been entered against the Government by one of the men employed, for damages for injuries from an accident while on the trip?

6. Is the Government in possession of any particulars of the said accident?

7. Has the Government in its possession the field notes of both or either of the leaders named?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. Yes. 2. Messrs. Dibblee and Du-

pont were in the employ of the Government in 1898, making an exploratory survey of a route from Edmonton towards Teslin Lake. 2. Mr. Dibblee was to commence operations near the mouths of the Parsnip and Omicron rivers, and working westward towards Fort Connelly via the Oscilina River. Mr. Dupont started operations at the same point and worked eastward along the valley of the Peace River towards Edmonton. 3. Mr. Dupont's party consisted of: V. H. Dupont, engineer in charge; A. T. Kerr, assistant engineer and nine men. Mr. Dibblee's party consisted of: C. F. K. Dibblee, engineer in charge; H. S. Semple, assistant engineer, and nine men. 4. The Government is not aware that either of these gentlemen was lost for some weeks. 5. One of the men wrote the department that he thought he ought to be paid a consideration in connection with an accident he met with while on the trip. 6. The department is in possession of a report from the engineer in charge as regards the accident. 7. The Government has in its possession in the department the field notes of Mr. Dupont, but not Mr. Dibblee's.

#### EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES —NEWSPAPER STATEMENTS.

Mr. McALISTER asked:

Has the attention of the Government been directed to the following despatches appearing in the St. John "Daily Sun" of the 20th April instant:—

Upper Dorchester, April 16.—Twenty-two men, women and children from this district left this depot on Thursday last by the Canadian Pacific Railway for the United States, where they expect to get employment.

Moncton, April 18.—A special car was attached to the Canadian Pacific Railway at the Moncton depot yesterday afternoon to accommodate the exodus getting on here. Two or three families were among the crowd that took passage for Boston.

Sackville, April 18.—Captain J. H. Grant, of Port Elgin, has a sale of household furniture, &c., on the 26th instant. He intends going to Missouri.

Tidnish, April 18.—Miss Ada Taylor, daughter of Postmaster Taylor, has returned from Uncle Sam's domains, accompanied by her sister-in-law, Mrs. Robert Taylor, who is visiting her home, Matthew Allen's, at Cape Tormentine. They intend returning to their American homes next month. Miss Mabel Taylor and Miss Kate McKay are going with them.

Fredericton, April 18.—Charles McGrath leaves on Thursday for Butte, Mont., where he has accepted a situation.

Brooklyn, N.S., April 18.—In spite of the so-called prosperity of the country, the exodus from our fair village continues to "Uncle Sam's domain."

Truro, N.S., April 18.—Six bright, intelligent young men called at the "News" office this morning to make arrangements for the "People's Home Newspaper" to follow them to their new homes in the United States, to which they were en route when they came to say good-bye to the "News."

The group consisted of George B. Hamilton and E. H. Hamilton, Springside; J. F. Roberts, Mr. SIFTON.

Cross Roads; Chas. Gammell, Newton Mills; Robert H. Kent, Upper Musquodoboit, and Samuel Reid, Middle Musquodoboit. Miss Sadie Hamilton, sister of the Hamilton brothers above, was to join the party at the railway station, and all were en route for Boston and other places in Massachusetts.

George B. Hamilton and Robert H. Kent are going to work with the F. S. Whipple Ice Company, of Amherst, Mass., where the former has been employed for some three years.

We regret very much indeed to have to record the loss to our country of such a number of citizens, and only wish that we had as great inducements to offer them at home as those that have carried them off to work under a foreign flag.

2. Are these statements in accordance with fact?

3. If not, what grounds have the Government for not accepting them as correct?

4. If in accordance with fact, do the Government intend to take any steps to abate such exodus?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). In reply I beg to say that the attention of the Government has not been directed to the despatches referred to in the hon. gentleman's question. As to question 2, the Government has no official means of knowing whether the statements made are correct or not, but the information the Government has been able to gather would indicate that the statements are not correct—that is to say, not correct in the inference which is drawn from them, and that as a matter of fact the question refers to parties going to the United States for a temporary period with the intention of returning in a short time to their ordinary homes. In answer to question 3, the fact that the despatches all appear in an Opposition paper upon one day and under the same date, and that within a very few days afterwards they appear on the Order paper, would indicate that the despatches were prepared for the political market, rather than the news market. The Government, as I say, have no information of an official character, that these 35 or 40 people did or did not—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Question, question.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR—Did or did not leave the places referred to; but the Government have official information that several thousand people came, last year, from the United States to Canada, and that several thousand more will come this year. While I say that the Government's attention has not been called to these despatches, the Government's attention has been called to the following statement in the "Mail and Empire," which, I presume, my hon. friend will accept as correct:—

It is satisfactory to point out that Canadians are not now going in any number to the United States.—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (reading) :

—but that large numbers of residents of the United States are coming to Manitoba, the Territories and British Columbia.

**Mr. SPEAKER.** Order. It seems to me, in regard to question No. 3, that a Minister is not out of order in stating what grounds the Government have for not accepting these statements as correct. Besides, as everybody knows, in answering a question, a Minister is allowed a very considerable amount of latitude, though, of course, it would not be desirable to exceed the answer to the question, and make a speech. Still, it seems to me that in answering question No. 3 the hon. Minister was quite in order.

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.** Lest my hon. friends may have missed any portion of this quotation, I will read it again:

It is satisfactory to point out that Canadians are not now going in any number to the United States, but large numbers of residents of the United States are coming into Manitoba, the Territories and British Columbia. The value of settlers' effects brought into Canada for the fiscal year 1898 was \$2,322,000, and the total from all countries, \$2,826,000. The exodus is a matter of history.

**Mr. FOSTER.** May I ask the hon. gentleman to give the date of that second statement?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.** I will give the hon. gentleman the date.

**Mr. FOSTER.** My impression is, that it is about two months old. That was before people started to go out.

#### SOULANGES CANAL.

**Mr. BERGERON** asked :

What was the amount of money paid by the Government for the construction of the Soulanges Canal up to the 31st March last (1899)?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). The amount of money paid by the Government for the construction of the Soulanges Canal up to the 31st March, 1899, is \$4,762,996.75.

#### THE DUTIES ON TOBACCO.

**Mr. M. K. COWAN** (South Essex). **Mr. Speaker,** before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Finance to a short paragraph in this morning's Ottawa "Citizen," in which it is stated :

The Dominion Government has notified the Essex Tobacco Association that no change will be made this year in the excise and custom duties on tobacco. The growers wanted a uniform excise duty of ten cents a single license, and an import tax of 60 or 70 cents on United States tobacco.

I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, whether or not any such intimation has been given?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). I hope, **Mr. Speaker,** it is hardly necessary for me to say that no statement has been made, on behalf of the Government, respecting any item of any kind in the tariff, nor can any statement be made until the Budget is brought down.

**Mr. SPEAKER.** I would call the attention of hon. members to something that is forgotten in practice, namely, that calling notices of motion is not calling the Orders of the Day, and that the Orders of the Day will not be called until after six o'clock to-day. It is not regular to interpose a question to the Government, when motions are called; it would be better for hon. members to wait until the Orders of the Day are called.

#### THE DUTY ON COAL OIL.

**Mr. A. H. MOORE** (Stanstead) moved :

That in the opinion of this House, it would be in the interest of the farming and labouring classes and the country generally, to reduce the duty upon coal oil for illuminating and manufacturing purposes. That it would also be in the interest of the consumers of coal oil for lighting or manufacturing purposes to permit its storage in tanks, and its distribution therefrom, and also from tank cars, in tank wagons or other suitable vehicles, to dealers and consumers, thus saving to the latter the cost of barrels and cooperage, and to take such means as may be deemed necessary to protect the Canadian people from the evil effects of trusts, combines and monopolies upon this important industry.

He said: **Mr. Speaker,** it is with no little embarrassment and diffidence that I rise to propose this motion, which I have had on the Order paper for some time past. I am aware that it is an old acquaintance of the hon. members of this House. I have had the honour of presenting it on three former occasions, and on each of those occasions it has been unsuccessful. I trust that, on the present occasion, better fortune will attend it. My object in presenting this motion again is not to embarrass the Government or any of the supporters of the Government, or any of the hon. gentlemen on this side of the House. I occupy the unfortunate position of being in favour of a motion which has its enemies on the right of the Speaker, and its enemies on the left of the Speaker. My sole object in presenting the motion is to secure, if possible, the closing to some extent of the great gap which exists between the price which the consumers of coal oil pay in Canada and the price which consumers of coal oil pay in the United States. The coal oil industry is a very important industry, and my object is not to injure that industry by taking away any protection to which it is entitled. I have been a protectionist all my life, and I believe the prosperity of Canada depends upon protection to her industrial life, and that every industry that is worthy of being protected in this country should have the consideration,

not only of the Government, but of every patriotic citizen of this country. While I believe that, yet there is such a thing as going a little too far in the direction of protection. When protection goes so far as to become a burden to the consumer, then I believe it should stop; and I think, if I may be allowed to say it, that both the Conservative Government and the Liberal Government of this country have gone further in the protection of this industry than was consistent with the interest of the consumers. Now, the coal oil imported from the United States, for the year ending June 30, 1898, was 8,001,240 gallons, on which the duty paid amounted to \$400,559. According to the returns from the refiners, the latest returns available, there was produced in Canada in 1897 oil to the extent of 10,493,449 gallons. In 1898 we exported 9,530 gallons. The illuminating oil produced in Canada in 1898 amounted to 10,493,449 gallons, and imported from the United States 8,011,240 gallons, aggregate 18,504,698 gallons, which the people of this country consumed in 1898, to say nothing about the quantity smuggled from the United States across our frontier. I do not know that I have very much fault to find with the statement made by an hon. gentleman on the other side, a few years ago, when he said we consumed in this country about 20,000,000 gallons. We are not consuming quite as much as this, but our consumption amounted to nearly 19,000,000 gallons for the last year, and he made the statement, which I think comes near the mark, that the consumer in Canada has to pay the duty on what is produced in Canada added to the cost of Canadian oil. That will be equivalent to paying the duty on 18,000,000 gallons, which would mean \$900,000. The authority of this hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) is so good that perhaps I may be permitted to read what he said:

That the duty strikes the poorer classes and the farming community particularly, who use a large amount of oil in their houses.

He claimed that as the families were 1,000,000 in Canada, and used about 20 gallons each, that the consumption would be 20,000,000 gallons, on which a duty of 7½c. would amount to \$1,400,000—the duty actually collected was \$430,000—leaving a balance of \$989,494 that went into the pockets of, and was divided among the refiners of coal oil, or very near \$1,000,000 paid by the people last year (1893) to the refiners in Petrolea, taking it for granted that the members avail themselves of the full protection granted them.

On the same principle then some \$500,000 in 1898 went into the pockets of the refiners and the oil dealers of the country and came out of the pockets of the coal oil consumers. I have said that my desire was to try and close to some extent the great gap between the price paid by the consumers in Canada and that paid by the American consumers. The consumers in the United States are buying a fine article of oil at retail at from

Mr. MOORE.

8 to 10 cents per gallon, whereas in Canada we are paying about 25 cents for the same quality, showing a gap of from 10 to 15 cents per gallon. What is the cause of this difference in price? The best oil produced on this continent is produced in the state of Pennsylvania. The Water White oil of Pennsylvania delivered on board the cars at Warren costs 4·20 cents per Imperial gallon, the freight from Warren to the city of Montreal costs 3·34 cents, the duty is 5 cents, and the barrelling about 2·50 cents. Without taking into consideration the cost of the oil, the freight, duty and barrelling costs 10·84 cents. In the United States, the oil costs, all barrelled, 6·70 cents, while in Canada it costs laid down in Montreal 17 cents a gallon. That is, oil of the quality I am quoting here to-day. Therefore, the cause of this increase, in addition to the duty and cost of barrelling, is in the distribution, for a different system of distribution is practised in the United States than in Canada. Our Government does not permit the distribution from tank cars in tank wagons as is done in the United States. The barrelling cost 2½ cents per gallon, the inspection 10 cents per barrel, and it costs \$6 to inspect a car-load. A tank holds three car-loads, and one inspection would be sufficient, so that the privilege of distributing this oil in tank wagons to the dealers and consumers would mean a reduction of 2½ or 3 cents a gallon. If the Government, thinking it would be an injury to a great industry of Canada, are not disposed to reduce the duty, they have a means of closing partly this gap by permitting the distribution in tank wagons, thus avoiding cost of barrelling and lessening the cost from 2½ to 3 cents. They can go further. They can, if they choose, discriminate to some extent, too, in favour of Canadian oil producers by allowing the oil refined in Canada to be distributed in tank wagons without the cost of barrelling and exacting that the American oil be distributed, as at present, in barrels and inspected as it now is. This would give a preference to the Canadian oil of 2½ to 3 cents a gallon, and the Government would lose no revenue. I can see no objection to this, and trust the Government will consider it and give greater facilities for the distribution of oil in this country, which will certainly reduce its price from 2 to 3 cents to the consumer.

Then there is another reason why coal oil is higher than it ought to be, and that is the existence of this great Standard Oil Trust which controls this industry and all connected with it, which controls railway rates and prevents the competition which is so necessary in order that the consumer may get the article at a reasonable price. I have here a definition of a trust given by Judge Barrett of the Supreme Court of New York:

A monopoly is any combination, the tendency of which is to prevent competition in its broad and general sense, and to control and thus at

will enhance the price to the detriment of the public.

I think it is quite evident that the coal oil industry of Canada is controlled to-day by this Standard Oil Company. They control all the refining industries of Canada and practically all the oil wells in Canada.

An hon. MEMBER. No.

Mr. MOORE. I do not say that they own all the oil wells, because they own but a very few of them, but when they own all the refining industries how is it possible that they do not control the price of the oil produced?

Therefore, practically they control the whole industry in Canada, and they do it, not in the interest of the people of this country, but in a way to enhance the price of their products to the injury of the public. I have evidence in my possession to convince—if that were necessary—the Government or any person that it is a fact that this great industry is controlled to-day by the Standard Oil Trust. And not only does the trust control this industry, but it controls the freights upon the railroads, so that an independent company cannot send a barrel of oil over these roads without paying nearly double the cost for freight that is paid by the Standard Oil Company on oil shipped by them. I have here an article from the Montreal "Star" of 16th February last, on "The Standard Oil Trust":

The discrimination of the Canadian railways against the competitors of the Standard Oil Trust in Canada still continues without regard to the prohibition of the Railway Act, and it is practiced from all the leading distribution centres of the Dominion. It was by secretly controlling the public highways that the trust has been able to keep out competition in many parts of the United States, and the parallel in this new Canadian parallel is so striking that the same influence is naturally suspected. While Canadian oil was handled by independent refiners there was no thought of railway discrimination, but as soon as the refiners were absorbed by the Standard Trust and the Canadian product controlled by it the freight rates on American oil were suddenly advanced, in some cases as much as 100 per cent. By some of the secret bargains between the trust and the American railways, rates were doubled to competitors without any advance to the Standard people, while the overcharge was not retained by the railways, but handed over to the trust. Our railways can scarcely be put under the necessity of handing over the excessive collections to the Standard Oil Company, for the advances charged will, no doubt, be the subject of litigation by independent companies who have borne the overcharges. The discriminating rates per cwt. from Toronto on less than car lots is as follows:—

|                     | On Canadian. cents. | On American. cents. |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| To Brockville.....  | 25                  | 47                  |
| To Wharton .....    | 24                  | 40½                 |
| To Lorneville ..... | 18                  | 28½                 |
| To Beeton.....      | 15                  | 27                  |
| To Palmerston ..... | 19                  | 31½                 |
| To Shelburne .....  | 18                  | 28½                 |
| To Pontypool .....  | 20                  | 27                  |
| To Dundalk .....    | 21                  | 30                  |

Hamilton is reached by the Michigan Central and the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo, two railways not in the discrimination scheme. From that city the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific railways levy the following charges:—

|                      | On Canadian. cents. | On American. cents. |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| To Ingersoll .....   | 18                  | 27                  |
| To Woodstock.....    | 17                  | 25½                 |
| To Berlin .....      | 18                  | 27                  |
| To Harrisburg .....  | 11                  | 21                  |
| To Capetown .....    | 9                   | 19½                 |
| To Dunnville .....   | 15                  | 24                  |
| To Beeton .....      | 20                  | 28½                 |
| To Cookstown .....   | 21                  | 30                  |
| To Hagersville ..... | 15                  | 25½                 |

From Montreal the following charges are now imposed:—

|                       | On Canadian. cents. | On American. cents. |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| To Lachute .....      | 17                  | 24                  |
| To Ste. Thérèse.....  | 10                  | 19½                 |
| To St. Jérôme .....   | 15                  | 22½                 |
| To St. Johns, P.Q.... | 12                  | 24                  |
| To Farnham .....      | 20                  | 25½                 |

These things are done in spite of the provision in the Railway Act that fares and tolls "shall always under the same circumstances be charged equally to all persons, and at the same rate, whether per ton, per mile, or otherwise, in respect of all passengers and goods and railway carriages of the same description, and conveyed or propelled by a like railway carriage or engine passing over the same portion of the line of railway; and also that no reduction or advance in the tolls shall be made, either directly (or indirectly, in favour of or against any particular company or person travelling upon or using the railway." In this the railways not only violate the law, but usurp the power of Parliament, in levying an impost on a foreign product for the encouragement of the Standard Trust. If this be permitted, it will be an easy matter to crush out all rivalry, for no concern can stand against railway discrimination. Should the design be successful, the well-owners and oil-users will find that the refining monopoly between them can crowd and crush in both directions.

And here is an article from the Montreal "Herald":

It is a matter of public notoriety that the above-named company—

**The Standard Oil Company—**

—has obtained a footing in Canada, and it is important that your clientele should learn how it is known to manipulate things in the United States. The monopoly, headed by the Rockefellers, buy out opposition in the manner here described, same being extracted from the "National Advertiser," of New York, dated 22nd February last. The heading is, "Tackling a Trust," and the Supreme Court of Ohio State has the case in hand:

"The Attorney General has filed a suit to oust from its charter the Argand Refining Co., of Marietta, Ohio. It is alleged that the company has agreed, in consideration of the payment by the Standard Oil Co., of \$1,000 a month for ten years, from December 1, 1898, not to engage in the business of refining petroleum, and that therefore its charter has been invalidated by non-use."

Not satisfied with this method of disposing of opposition, the following extraordinary fact is published in the United States:—A certain railway company contracted with the Standard Oil Company to carry given quantities for them at ten cents, but all competitors were to be charged 35 cents! That is not the whole story, and here comes the astounding exposé of Rockefeller's further methods, namely, the railway company is to hand the excess of 25 cents carriage to the Standard Oil Company! Will the people of our Dominion permit such rascality to be practised here?

Yours, &c.,  
D. C. BARKER.

Montreal, 14th April, 1899.

I have also extracts from the Toronto "Globe" and the Montreal "Witness." It might be a little tiresome to hon. gentlemen on the other side to listen to the reading of these. But if the hon. gentlemen are not sufficiently convinced that a combine exists and that it includes the railroads, I can lay the evidence before the House.

Perhaps I might be excused for supplementing my statement with something of a more direct nature. I have here an affidavit from an oil dealer in the city of Montreal, and it gives strength to the case I have made that this discrimination exists, and that this monopoly exists to the injury of the interest of the people of this country:

I, Andrew Downie Gall, of the city of Montreal, in the province of Quebec, oil merchant, do solemnly declare that I am extensively engaged in the wholesale trade of coal oil, burning oil and other oils in the Dominion of Canada.

That all the petroleum oil refineries in Canada at the present time are under the control of the Standard Oil Company or Standard Oil Trust through the said company having acquired some outright and a controlling interest in others.

That since acquiring the said refineries in Canada the said Standard Oil Company which is operating in Canada under the style of the Imperial Oil Company (Limited), has closed up some refineries, demolished others and is operating only such as it sees fit.

That no petroleum oil from Canadian refineries can be obtained to-day unless it is procured from or through the Standard Oil Company or the Imperial Oil Company (Limited), directly or indirectly.

That it is quite apparent, and investigation will establish beyond doubt that the said Standard Oil Company or the Imperial Oil Company (Limited) has so acquired and controls said refineries for the purpose of forming, and they have thereby formed a trust or a combination to unduly enhance the price of such oil and to unduly promote the advantage of the said company at the expense of the consumer.

That the firm of which I am a member and other firms engaged in the oil business are compelled to buy in the United States and import therefrom our supplies of oil to supply our customers and the trade.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of "The Canada Evidence Act, 1893."

A. D. GALL.

Declared before me at the said city of Montreal this 21st day of March, A.D. 1899.

P. W. DUNTON,

Notary Public.

Mr. MOORE.

I think I have given enough evidence to prove that a great trust exists in Canada that controls the freight rates, that oil has advanced in consequence, that consumers are paying about 3 cents a gallon more than they would but for the existence of this trust in Canada and in the United States. In 1897 the Government wisely, I think, took power to deal with monopolies and trusts. It is not for me to ask the Government to put into effect clause 18 in the Customs Act, which provides when it is evident to the Governor in Council that a trust exists by which the price of an article is enhanced, this article gives the Government power to reduce, or entirely abolish, the duty on that article. I think that power was taken for a wise purpose. I do not desire to have the Government abolish the duty entirely, as I think our oil producers are entitled to a fair protection. But we need to understand that, whatever protection to-day is given to the coal oil industry in this country, is given to Americans, instead of Canadians, that that money goes into the hands of an American company, and that Canadians do not receive any special benefit therefrom. I trust the Government will take into consideration this matter of the distribution of oil, and take some steps by which the consumers in this country can buy oil at less than 25 cents per gallon, while the American consumers are paying for the same quality but 10 cents. If the Government do this, I think they will earn the gratitude of the farmers, the labouring classes and the people of this country generally, to whom the money they pay for their coal oil is of considerable consequence.

Mr. T. BEATTIE (London). I do not intend to take up very much time in discussing this question, as we spent nearly half a day discussing it on a previous occasion. The hon. gentleman who has just sat down (Mr. Moore) has made a statement which is not at all correct. He says that the oil wells of Canada are controlled by the Standard Oil Company. I deny that statement entirely. There is not a single well in the Petrolia district that is controlled by the Standard Oil Company. It is true, they have some property there, and are putting down some wells of their own; but the oil producers of Canada are all Canadians. The hon. gentleman says that the Standard Oil Company is composed of Americans. Well, Sir, in the first place, we have no Standard Oil Company in Canada. There is a company called the Imperial Oil Company, and I will give the names of a number of Canadians composing that company, and who have lived in Canada all their lives. Mr. Fitzgerald, the president of the company, is an old resident of London. Then, there is Mr. Smallman, of London. I know he has lived in this country for forty years. Then, there is Mr. Englehart, who has also lived in this country forty

years. There is Mr. Hodgins, the local member in the Legislature of Ontario for the county of East Middlesex, who is also a member of that company. There is Mr. Mills, another gentleman who lives in London. There is Mr. Minhinnick, Mr. Geary, Mr. I. Waterman, Mr. Duffield and Mr. Spencer. All these gentlemen have lived in London, to my knowledge, for the last forty years. And yet the hon. member for Stanstead (Mr. Moore) tells us that the oil company of Canada is to-day controlled by the Standard Oil Company of the United States. We have already wasted so much time in this House in discussing this matter that it is not necessary for me to dwell any longer upon it, and I, therefore, move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I stated the other day, my argument on this matter, and it is not necessary to take up the time of the House further than to say that this motion goes into details that the motion we then discussed did not. As regards the reduction of the duty on coal oil, it does not seem to go so far as the motion of yesterday, and in that respect I regard it as falling short. I think the duty on coal oil ought to be abolished. But I am informed that the details asked for by the hon. gentleman would be of advantage to that portion of the community for which we all speak, namely the mass of the people. The more I consider this matter, the more convinced I am that no argument that has been brought forward here touches the contention of those who consider that the duty should be abolished. I suppose I cannot refer, although it is on a cognate subject, to the argument of my hon. friend from East Lambton (Mr. Fraser); but my hon. friend who moves the adjournment of the debate, and with whom I should like to vote, tells us that certain Canadians are members of the Imperial Oil Company, which, however, he admits is controlled by the Standard Oil Company. Now, Sir, you remember that on previous occasions, when we were dealing with Canadian corporations that had placed themselves under the hold of a trust, the Liberal party in this House would not listen to the proposition that these Canadians deserved any consideration whatever. For my part, I certainly think that three or four opulent men are not worthy of consideration, compared with the great mass of the people for whom those of us contend who want relief in regard to this oil business.

Mr. D. D. ROGERS (Frontenac). In regard to this oil question it is not necessary for me to reiterate what has been said so often in this House by other members, but I will say that I endorse the sentiment so strongly expressed by those hon. gentlemen who ask for free coal oil, or freer coal oil. Not only should we have oil freer, but of a better quality, because we have not had as good oil

from the Canadian manufacturers as the American oil. The poor people of this country have been obliged to burn a much poorer quality of oil, and have paid dearer for it. The amount of money that has been paid in duty on coal oil in this country would, it is stated, pay 6 per cent interest on all the money invested in the coal oil industry, and it would pay all the men employed in that industry \$1.50 a day, so that they could sit on the fence twirling their thumbs, at the same time leaving hundreds of thousands of dollars in the pockets of the consumers. I cannot see upon what ground we should grant such protection to this industry. I voted last year to reduce the duty to 3 cents per gallon, so as to give the producers a chance to prepare themselves for the change. I feel that I am in the same position to-day, but I will say that, if a motion came up for free coal oil, I would vote for it this year, but I believe that the motion of the hon. member for Stanstead (Mr. Moore) is reasonable, and that it should have every consideration possible. I heartily endorse it and will vote for it if it is put to the House.

Mr. FRANK OLIVER (Alberta). Mr. Speaker, I shall not now repeat the arguments advanced on Monday night on a motion similar to this, but I would like to say that this motion is a different motion from that of Monday. It was perfectly legitimate that the debate on Monday's motion should be adjourned, inasmuch as, if that motion had been carried, it would have been a specific instruction to the Ministry on a certain question, and therefore the Ministry was perfectly justified in asking that the debate be adjourned. The circumstances are different in this case. This not being a specific instruction, but merely a general instruction and the means whereby the House can inform the Ministry of its views on the question, I am not in favour of adjourning the debate now, and will therefore vote against an adjournment.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar). Mr. Speaker, I voted the other night for the adjournment of the debate, but I did not feel that in doing so I lessened the position which I took in favour of free coal oil. Had I thought that by doing so, I lessened the position which I took on that question, I should not have voted for the adjournment of the debate. I thought it only fair to give the Government an opportunity of considering this question. I hoped and still do hope that the Government will make some announcement in regard to the reduction of the duty on coal oil. I propose to vote against the adjournment of the debate in order to emphasize the position I take in favour, either of the reduction of the duty, or of free coal oil.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Mr. Speaker, whether or not the duty on coal oil is higher than it should be is a reasonable and very legitimate matter

for discussion, and there may be many reasons why it should be discussed by the House, even in advance of the Budget, so that hon. gentlemen who have strong views on the subject may have an opportunity to express themselves. We hold that it would not be proper, either as respects coal oil or any other item, to press for a division of the House in advance of the Budget. The Government's view of the question is, that all these things should be considered in connection with the Budget, when every particular item of the tariff and the whole tariff come to be reviewed. I do not think, therefore, that we are called upon to express an opinion upon the question at the present time. I think that members of the House, irrespective of party, will assent to the opinion, that the proper time to come to a conclusion and to vote upon any item of the tariff is when the Budget is under consideration. In the meantime, hon. gentlemen having expressed their views, I hope will agree to adjourn the debate until the matter shall come up at a later stage in proper form. I will support, very cordially, the motion of the hon. member for London (Mr. Beattie) that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. MOORE. I have listened carefully to the remarks made by the hon. Minister of Finance. In regard to the duties that is a matter within the discretion of the Government, but if the hon. gentleman will give me a promise that the distribution of oil will be facilitated in the way I propose, I will be very glad to allow the motion to stand.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Mr. Speaker, I regret that my hon. friend the Minister of Inland Revenue was out during a portion of the hon. gentleman's speech. If the question to which he referred had been separated from that of the regulations possibly the latter part might have been better considered. I am not prepared to give any promise in the matter, but, if attention can be drawn to any part of the regulations which is insufficient for the convenience of the public, I am sure the Minister of Inland Revenue will be glad to give that every consideration. I would not like to give a definite promise that any particular action will be taken in regard to the matter.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). Mr. Speaker, in case the House should adopt the motion for the adjournment of the debate, I shall be ready to bring down the regulations affecting the different items mentioned by are not provided for, I shall be able to show that most of these items are already provided for by existing regulations. As to those that are not provided for, I shall be able to show the reasons why it has not been thought to be in the public interest to do what is now suggested. For instance, I will quote only one case. The hon. member declares in the motion that it will be in the interest of the

Mr. FIELDING.

consumers of coal oil for lighting or manufacturing purposes to permit its storage in tanks. This is now permissible; the Government allow the storage of oil in tanks. "And," the motion proceeds, "its distribution therefrom." Any one who understands the danger there is in allowing coal oil to be used, without being duly inspected, will understand the necessity of an inspection. While we consent to the storage of coal oil in tanks without inspecting it at the time it is stored, it is impossible to consent to its being taken out of these tanks without inspecting it and finding out what the flash test is, and without marking either upon the vessels or barrels in which that oil is placed, what the test and capacity are. This is one of the numerous items to which reference is made in this resolution. I would be glad of the opportunity, whenever this question comes before the House, to go over the regulations as they now exist. Any matter that is not already provided for may then become a subject for discussion, and it will be found that the Department of Inland Revenue is justified in upholding the regulations now existing.

Mr. JAMES CLANCY (Bothwell). There is one part of the resolution which, I think, we might all readily agree to, namely, that the regulations shall be so changed, if possible, as to lessen the cost to the consumer of coal oil. I am referring only to the regulations. That part which proposes to reduce the duty on coal oil, I dissent from entirely. I dissent from the statement that has been made here this afternoon, and which has been spread indeed all over the country, that Canadian coal oil is inferior to the American article.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. CLANCY. I am glad of those "hear, hears," from a set of hon. gentlemen opposite who put that report in circulation in Canada. During the last campaign, and long before it, the Liberal party, one and all—I think without a single exception either in this House or in the country—declared that the duty should be reduced on Canadian oil because the American oil could be obtained much cheaper and it was a vastly superior article. They told us that the duty was being kept on to rob the people and to put money into the hands of the refiners. I am glad that the hon. gentlemen now say "hear, hear," when I state that the Canadian oil is just as good as the American oil. I also dissent from the statement of my hon. friend (Mr. Moore) that the duty on coal oil is paid entirely by the consumer. How can the hon. gentleman, or any one else, come to that conclusion, when after two years experience of a one cent per gallon reduction of duty on coal oil, the price to-day is as high, if not higher, than it was under the old duty. If the statement of the hon. gentleman is good, surely we should have coal oil somewhat cheaper than it was when the

duty was one cent a gallon more. I desire to call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the fact, that he conceded certain regulations to the Standard Oil Company by which they could control the price of refined oil, but the price of crude oil for the future, and under which he gave them a hold in Canada that they never had before. I say that when the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) did that he struck one of the most severe blows that ever was struck at the Canadian oil industry.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). What regulation do you refer to?

Mr. CLANCY. The regulation permitting Americans to bring their oil into Canada in tank cars. That appears a very innocent regulation on the surface, but my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding) knows the late member for West Lambton (Mr. Lister) saw with great clearness the damage that regulation would do, and he warned the Government what the result would be. My hon. friend from London (Mr. Beattie) says there is no Standard Oil trust in Canada. There is no Standard Oil trust so far as the production of Canadian crude oil is concerned, but there is a trust in Canada of which these gentlemen may or may not be a part, under another name. The Standard Oil Company, whether it exists under that name or not, exists in Canada, and it is a trust that controls the price of crude oil and they could to-morrow close up every oil well in Canada if they thought proper. We are not concerned about the oil refiners in this country; they can take care of themselves, but we are concerned about the production of oil in Canada, which may be snuffed out at any moment if it be the will of this gigantic monopoly to lay their hands upon it. I again repudiate the idea that we produce an inferior oil in Canada, and I repudiate the statement that the duty upon oil is to-day paid by the consumer, for it is clear that the reduction of one cent per gallon in the duty has not decreased the price. The Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) told us a short time ago that \$80,000 had been saved to the people of Canada by this reduction of duty on coal oil. Let me point out to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) that that is an absolute loss to the people. We have lost \$80,000 in revenue, but that must be made up from some other quarter, and yet the oil consumers pay precisely the same price as they did before. I think, Mr. Speaker, that we have evidence beyond dispute, that the reduction in the duty on coal oil to-day, after the Standard Oil Company has got a foothold in Canada, is utterly useless and will give the people no relief. While I would be prepared to support the motion of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Moore) so far as the regulations may be changed to make the price lower to the consumer, I must say that I shall at all times in this House vote against a reduction of the duty on coal oil.

Mr. T. O. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). I cannot agree with the argument of the hon. gentleman from Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), that the reduction of the duty on coal oil would not reduce the price if the duty were taken off coal oil, it certainly would reduce the price to the consumer, provided you have competition, and that competition can be furnished from the other side of the line, because, as I have already pointed out, there are several independent oil companies in the United States who are quite willing to do business in Canada, and are doing business in Winnipeg at the present time. If the duty were lessened by two or three cents a gallon it certainly would reduce the price of oil to the consumer by that amount. There is no question at all about that. I regret that my hon. friend from Stanstead (Mr. Moore) did not make his proviso as to the oil regulations into a separate motion. I do not believe that these oil regulations are necessary, and I have always looked upon them as an indirect way of getting more protection for the oil producers of this country. I do not see why coal oil could not be sold the same as any other commodity. After it is inspected there is no reason why it should not be sold in wagons or in tank cars or in any other way. The Minister of Inland Revenue tells us it must be inspected to protect the public. Well, we know of other commodities of a more dangerous character than coal oil, such as carbide for acetylene gas, and carbide is sold the same as sugar, without any restrictions. I cannot agree with my hon. friend (Mr. Oliver), that this motion is different from the one I moved the other day. When my motion was before the House, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) asked that it should stand over until such time as his policy was laid before the House, and until we heard what his intentions were with regard to the matter. I thought that was a reasonable proposition at the time, but if it was reasonable in the case of my motion, it certainly is reasonable in the case of the motion of my hon. friend from Stanstead (Mr. Moore). If my motion should stand over until after the Budget is brought down, this motion should stand over too. If there is not some relief given to the consumer when the Budget is before the House, I, for one, shall take the earliest opportunity in committee of moving that the duty on coal oil be reduced.

Mr. A. H. MOORE (Stanstead). I wish to offer a brief explanation, so that I may place myself right before the House. I was interested in the explanation given by the Minister of Inland Revenue with regard to the inspection of oil. We have to pay 10 cents a barrel for inspection and marking the barrel, and in this way a car-load of oil will cost \$6. A tank car can be inspected as easily as one barrel, and just as effectively. The hon. gentleman from London (Mr. Beattie) made the statement that I was misrepresenting the facts of the case, and I think he even put it stronger than that. I

regret that the hon. gentleman should have made such a statement. He tells us that the oil refineries are not in the hands of the Standard Oil trust, and that I misrepresented the facts in stating that they were at one time. I am very well aware of the existence of the Bushnell Company and the Imperial Oil Company, and I am also well aware that the Standard Oil trust has acquired control of all these companies, and thus practically control the oil industry of Canada, since which time oil has materially advanced. When I made the statement which I did, I substantiated it by the oath of a man who is in the oil business and who understands all about it. In his affidavit he says :

That all the petroleum oil refineries in Canada at the present time are under the control of the Standard Oil Company or Standard Oil Trust through the said company having acquired some outright and a controlling interest in others.

This is one of the reasons why I made that statement, and I think I have a right to say that I am correct, and that the hon. gentleman went a little too far in saying that I misrepresented the fact when I said that the oil industry of Canada was under the control of this trust.

Mr. THOS. FORTIN (Laval). I wish to qualify the vote which I intend to give, as I understand the vote will be taken on the motion to adjourn the debate. To that I can see no objection whatever; and while I intend to vote for it, I wish to say that I am entirely in favour of a reduction of the duty on coal oil. In the election of 1896, I, for one, denounced the duty on coal oil as outrageous, as far in excess of what it should have been; and one of the reasons which, in my humble opinion, were in favour of that view was that coal oil was consumed mainly by the rural population. In the cities and towns either electricity or gas is now generally used for the purpose of lighting, and I understand that the greatest consumption of coal oil is for that purpose. Therefore, the duty, whatever it is, is paid by the consumers in the rural districts, and for that reason it seems to me that it is one of those duties which should be reduced as much as possible, if not entirely removed. I wish it to be distinctly understood that I am in favour of the principle contained in the motion, of reducing the duty on coal oil; at the same time, I do not see any objection to adjourn the debate in order to wait until the Budget speech is delivered, when I hope we may learn that a further reduction has been accepted by the Government.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). Mr. Speaker, I am quite unable to accept, for myself, the advice given to us by the Minister of Finance. He asked us to wait until the Budget speech comes down; and if you have no views on the question, as hon. gentlemen opposite appear to have very  
Mr. MOORE.

vague views upon it, then you are to fall in with the course the Government have taken, and it will be all right. The Finance Minister assumes that the Government is greater than the Parliament. That may be the case in practice, but the theory is quite the opposite. The theory is that this House, composed of 213 members, is quite capable of expressing its opinion, and telling the Government what it desires to have done. But the Minister of Finance gets up and coolly tells us: "Oh, you are 213 members, to be sure; but you have not a right to hold an opinion on this matter. The Government are the only power who have a right to express their views on the question." I think it is eminently proper, Sir, that this resolution should come up, and be disposed of, and be disposed of now—not by the subterfuge which is proposed by the Government whenever difficult matters come up—

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. member for London (Mr. Beattie), you mean. He is the mover of the motion.

Mr. WALLACE. His object is to kill the resolution. I do not care whether that is his object or not. I have my views on this subject, which I am going to express; but if the resolution is to be killed, I believe in killing it in a fair, straight way. Vote it down, if it be not a good one, or adopt it if it be a good one. The motion of the member for London to adjourn the debate exactly meets the views of the Minister of Finance; he says that suits him to a "t"; it is just what he would have done—have the matter postponed. Now, I think we should not postpone this matter, but the views of the members of Parliament should be given upon it now; for we know from past experience that they will not be given after the Government have brought down their proposals. We know from the experience of last year and the year before, and even from the experience of the present session—if it were not alluding to another debate—that those gentlemen who profess to have such strong views on this question, can set aside those views. The hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) tells us that he is quite favourable to let this motion stand over—what for? So that no decision shall be reached upon it; so that the free and independent expression of opinion by the members of the House of Commons shall be choked off. What else does the motion to adjourn mean? We have heard a good many motions to adjourn the debate in the past few days, and in every one of these cases the Government have been afraid to meet the question or have it met by Parliament. So it is in this case, though the motion is not proposed by a member of the Government. The Government would apparently have proposed it if the hon. member for London (Mr. Beattie) had not done so. This Government, through the course they have already taken, have become responsible

for those disasters which are happening around us with regard to this question, and there are other and greater difficulties threatening the people of this country.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. WALLACE. I hear the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Fliat) say "hear, hear." Members who are looking for a judgeship, who have their hands tied, who are not free and independent members of Parliament, may sneer at every honest expression of opinion in this House; but, Mr. Speaker, there are other members of this House who are not tied down.

Mr. FLINT. Will my hon. friend allow me to say that I never spoke. I did not give utterance to any word at all.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Take it back.

Mr. WALLACE. I was interrupted from that side of the House, and I noticed that these interruptions came from gentlemen who, it is well known, are looking for judgeships and other positions, and who are ready at any moment to hound down any independent member of Parliament who dares to express his opinion in this House. I can only say that they cannot prevent me from expressing my view at any time on any public question.

Mr. FLINT. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman if he still adheres to the statement that I made any remark?

Mr. WALLACE. I certainly do not. I accept the hon. gentleman's statement, that the hon. gentleman made no remark, but the sound came from very close to where he is sitting. However, I see the sinner sitting behind him. I was proceeding to say that this Standard Oil Company, which has made its way into Canada and is threatening our freedom and our liberty by the influences that it controls, has come in, not before the legislation that these hon. gentlemen opposite introduced, but as a consequence of their legislation. And I remember, Sir, that this Standard Oil Company is that monopoly which controls legislation in the United States, which has its hand on the throat of the whole railway system of that country, which buys up the railways of that country, and buys them with the money of the people, because its plan is this. It goes to the railways there, just as it is doing in Canada to-day, and says: We want you to give us a reduced rate to a certain point. We want you to carry our oil for 5 cents, and charge the other fellows your regular rate of 10 cents; and we want you to give us back the 5 cents extra that these others pay you. So that, practically, these people get their goods carried for nothing on the railways, and the opposing companies have to pay the bill, and the people in the long run, of course, have to pay the whole shot. They are doing business in that way in Canada to-day. They have obtained pos-

session of the Queen City Oil Company, a large enterprise, so that that company is simply now the Standard Oil Company of the United States.

More than that. Some gentleman on the other side has said that the company does not control the oil works in Canada. Sir, there are 6,000 oil wells pumping oil to-day in Canada, perhaps a little more. These oil wells are worth, say, \$200 each, which would make \$1,200,000 investment. I do not believe that the Standard Oil Company has practically a dollar of that \$1,200,000 invested.

Mr. FRASER (Lambton). Will the hon. gentleman permit me to correct him, as I am sure he does not wish to misrepresent the facts? There are nearer 10,000 wells in Canada to-day than 6,000, and the cost is near \$500 per well than \$200.

Mr. WALLACE. The hon. gentleman has said that I do not want to misrepresent him. Well, I was taking a modest figure, but he makes it still larger, which makes my case still stronger. I say that the Standard Oil Company is not the owner of one of those wells, and does not want to own them, but wants simply to control them without having a dollar invested in them at all. It is not going to invest its money in those wells, but is controlling every one of them. And how? Why, by controlling the refineries, and the crude oil is worth nothing unless the refiners buy it. Why, a few months ago, before this company got control, a barrel of crude oil was worth \$1.40. What is it worth to-day? It was down to \$1.12 or \$1.15 a short time ago. The company controls the price. It is practically the only purchaser, and it says to the owners of the 10,000 wells: Here is the price of the oil to-day, and you have to take that price or keep your oil. Those men do not own the wells, and do not intend to own them, but intend to control the product of every one of them, and are doing that to-day under the legislation which hon. gentlemen opposite introduced and carried through this House.

What more? We are told that we are going to get cheaper oil. On the contrary, we are getting dearer oil. The Canadian producer gets less for his crude oil, but the consumer has to pay a higher price for his coal oil. That is the result of the operations of the Standard Oil Company, yet the present Government have put a law in the Statute-book, saying that any combination or anything of this kind will be punishable. They have not, however, attempted to put the law in operation. Is the law so crude and unworkable that it would not reach these men? Why? Because the Standard Oil Company are not particular whether the Canadian oil wells are closed or not. They have a double barrel to their arrangement. Supposing that the duty on coal oil were reduced, or supposing it were abolished, the Standard Oil

Company would not care a snap. All they would have to pay would be the leases of those refining works which they now have leased in Canada, and even those, perhaps, they would not have to pay, because we are told there is some kind of a joint stock partnership between the company and the Canadian well owners that might let them out. The result, therefore, would be, that the industry of the Canadian producer of crude oil would be destroyed, and his millions of dollars invested would not be worth a copper, while the company would simply pour in its tank cars to consumers, and by its excellent arrangements send the American products into Canada. These people would pour their oil into Canada; there would be no competition from the Canadian producers, as they would shut down all Canadian wells by refusing to buy from them, and they could charge whatever figure they pleased for their oil. I need only refer to what they have done elsewhere. We know what they have done out on the Pacific coast, where they control the railway rates and have a monopoly. We know what they have done in every place where they have a monopoly. We know that in such places they have not scrupled a moment to use their power to charge the highest figures possible. This resolution, therefore, which I do not approve, may run us into greater difficulties than we have laboured under before, and the Government is bound to come down with some legislation which will do away with this monopoly of the Standard Oil Company and prevent its controlling the price of refined oil in Canada as well as the price of crude oil, besides bulldozing the railways and oppressing the Canadian people generally. I say, that the Government is responsible, and will be held responsible for the exactions and robbery of the Standard Oil Company of the United States, because that company has come into Canada under the ægis and auspices of this Administration.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). It appears to me that the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) has indulged in considerable exaggeration, though possibly without intending it, in these statements he has made. He started out with the contention, that the legislation introduced and carried through by this Government, encouraged and facilitated the establishment of the oil company in Canada. But the hon. gentleman did not quote the section of the Act to which he referred, when making that statement. He knows well that for a considerable time there was a strong agitation in this country to facilitate the importation of American oil. Owing to the fact that it had to be imported in barrels and be subjected to inspection in barrels, which very considerably increased the cost, it was argued that you might very considerably reduce the cost, without seriously reducing the revenue, by permitting it to come into

Mr. WALLACE.

Canada in tank cars or boats, and I presume the legislation to that effect is what he refers to. Well, I cannot understand how that legislation at all encouraged the establishment of the Standard Oil Company in Canada. It would rather tend to have the opposite effect. It allowed them to send in coal oil on more liberal terms than hon. gentlemen opposite permitted before they left office. And the reason why that was done was, not to encourage the Standard Oil Company to come into Canada, but to reduce the cost of oil to the consumer in Canada. The hon. gentleman makes a very fierce attack upon the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) because the hon. Minister is desirous of adjourning this discussion, in the meantime, until the Budget is brought down. The hon. Minister of Finance did not, for a moment, suggest that any hon. member should hesitate to express his views on this very important subject. All he suggested was, that in the meantime, and until the Budget speech is made, no definite action should be taken by the House. The hon. gentleman also made other charges, charges that, I think, he should have hesitated to make, when he alleged that members on this side were influenced by the fact that they were seeking for offices, such as judgeships, and so on. I think the hon. gentleman should have refrained from making any of these insinuations. I can say this—that the older members of this House who have sat here for a number of years unquestionably have had a considerable education by example in a course of that kind. We can remember when we sat on that side of the House, and looking over here, could count by the row men who were seeking positions and who afterwards got them. Hon. gentlemen opposite then set us very bad examples. If any on this side can be charged with anything of that kind, hon. gentlemen opposite are the men who set the example. But more than that, I can say that I do not think the charge at all well made; for I think the hon. gentleman is quite mistaken in the views he has expressed as to gentlemen on this side seeking positions in that way. For my part, I know of none.

Now, I may be allowed to express my views frankly with regard to the question of coal oil. I think that this is an item that the Government would do well to consider very carefully and very seriously in the adjustment of the tariff. I believe that the people of this country would hail with great satisfaction—more particularly in the rural districts—a reduction of the duty on coal oil. This is a question that has been widely agitated throughout the rural districts for a considerable time, and I think this is one of the items in the tariff that would bear a reduction. I do not say that it would be fair to place coal oil on the free list. I can easily understand how some hon. gentlemen from the North-west would like to see such a change; but I do not think it would be

fair to admit coal oil free and charge a duty on other things. Coal oil should be subject to fair taxation for revenue purposes as much as anything else that is imported. In my opinion—and I hope the Government will come to that opinion—the rate at present charged is somewhat in excess of the ordinary rate for revenue purposes, and I would like to see a reduction. I hope the Government will give the matter their careful consideration, and that when the Budget comes down, we may all be pleased to find some little reduction made in the duty on coal oil.

Mr. T. B. FLINT (Yarmouth). I would not have made any observations on this resolution, but for the remarks made by the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) with regard to myself. I think that, upon reflection, hon. gentlemen will agree with me that his observation is uncalled for: and in view of the fact that I made no remark whatever during his speech, particularly uncalled for. Now, I do not suppose that a member who, either in jocularly or in earnest, is accused of being a seeker after office, need feel called upon to rise in his place and solemnly deny that which may be turned aside as a matter rather of jest than of earnest. But as the hon. member (Mr. Wallace) seemed to have a very strong impression of that kind with regard to myself personally, I desire to say for his benefit, and for that of other hon. gentlemen, that there is no foundation whatever for the insinuation that has been made with regard to myself; and I trust that hon. members will have the courtesy not to indulge in charges of that kind which can only be repudiated at the expense of a certain loss of the dignity which belongs to a member of the House.

Now, Sir, the subject matter of this discussion is one of very great interest. I quite agree with the principles of the resolutions; they are quite in line with motions which I have made myself in this House that greater facilities should be afforded for the importation of coal oil in large quantities in order that the price to the consumer may be reduced. Also, to the extent that it declares for the principle that, so far as it is consistent with the general views of the Administration, that the duty upon these articles should be reduced, the resolution is strictly in line with my own views. And, whenever the matter is brought before the House, as I presume it will be by some step taken by the Administration in that regard, I shall have a great deal of satisfaction in supporting any such step. At the present time, however, I have no hesitation whatever in saying the resolution appears to me to be inopportune; and it would be very advisable that the debate should be adjourned until the proposition which the Ministry may lay before the House is made, in order that the matter may be discussed in its relations to all other matters pertaining to the amendment or the improvement of the tariff and

looking to a reduction of such duties as the Administration and the House may deem it wise to reduce in the interest of the country.

I trust that the Administration will consider the views which have been expressed favourable to this resolution, and that it may lead them to give such further relief as may seem proper under the circumstances. There is no doubt a great deal of truth in the statement made by my hon. friend (Mr. Fraser) that between the producer of this commodity in the raw state and the consumer at retail there are transportation charges or profits made by middlemen representing altogether too large a margin. The subject is one demanding very careful inquiry; and I have every reason to believe that if that inquiry is made and the point of difference clearly ascertained, some steps may be taken by which the price of this useful and important commodity may be greatly reduced to the consumer. I think that the debate should be adjourned.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). I do not think I would have said anything on this question but for the remarks made by the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen). I think that if there is one member more than another who ought to be ashamed of himself to appear as an apologist for the Standard Oil Company, it is that hon. gentleman. Year after year in this House we have heard that melodious voice condemning the late Government because they would not allow coal oil to be brought in free or at a greatly reduced rate of duty. Year after year he was ready at any time to support a motion to reduce the duty on coal oil, and that before the Minister of Finance had made his Budget speech. It made no difference to him when he brought up that question, so long as it answered his purpose in this House. But to-day he gets up and says that it is unfair to force on a motion of this kind before the Minister of Finance makes his Budget speech. I think the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) is the last man in this House to make any such complaint as that, in view of his past record, for certainly there never was a greater sinner in this House in violating this principle than that hon. member, who now comes to the rescue of his own friends when they are in power. Then he says it is unfair that allusion should be made to those hon. members in this House who are looking for positions under the Government. He was referring to some remarks made by the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) about some interruptions coming from the other side of the House, and the hon. member for West York remarked that those interruptions usually came from those on the other side of the House who are looking after offices under the Government, or who have promises of offices of emolument in their pockets. The hon. member for North Wellington now comes to their defence, and says that no such remark should be made by an

hon. member, because the members on his side are not, as a class, looking for office. Well, I can only ask the hon. gentleman if he forgets that during the last two years and a half, fourteen of their members have been taken out of this House and appointed to lucrative offices under the Crown. Does he forget that when hon. members opposite were charged with defending the Government while they held promises of office in their pockets, the newspapers supporting that party came to their defence and said that they did not get the offices that were promised them? Why, Sir, how can members of Parliament be independent of the Government when they expect places of emolument from the Government, even if they do not hold the promises of such offices in their pockets? How can we expect them to vote against the Government on any question, no matter how diametrically opposed to the interests of the people such question may be? It is impossible, it is not in the nature of things that those hon. gentlemen can be independent members of Parliament. We have had illustration after illustration of that, to the extent that fourteen members of Parliament during the last two and a half years have received offices of emolument under the Crown, and during the short time they sat in the House they were all found to defend and advocate every measure introduced by the Government. I say the very fact that they have done so raises, at least, a suspicion in the public mind that those members could not be independent members of Parliament. We are told that there are at least twelve members on that side of the House to-day who are expecting offices. I am reminded just now that the number is twenty-four instead of twelve; that only shows how modest I was in my statement. Then, when we hear offensive remarks from time to time from those hon. gentlemen, we have good reason to believe from what we know that they expect to go out of the House after the present session and step into good offices provided for them by the Government they are now supporting. Is it then any wonder that we should be inclined to criticise hon. members when they make those offensive remarks across the floor of the House to hon. gentlemen on this side, who dare to speak a word in behalf of the people of this country.

Now, Sir, I have before me the "Hansard," and I find that whenever a proposition was made in this House to reduce the duty on coal oil, the hon. member for North Wellington always supported it, in the interests, as he was pleased to say, of the large class of consumers in this country. Then he was found practically supporting the Standard Oil Company in their efforts to get into Canada. Yet, he says, what is their object in coming into Canada? Why, it is to reduce the cost of oil. Does the hon. gentleman know so little about it, he, a commercial man in Canada, as to get up and tell this House that the Standard Oil Company desires to get in here for the purpose

of reducing the price of coal oil to the Canadian consumer? What was their conduct when they asked for that concession to be allowed to bring in coal oil in tank ships? Was their object to reduce the price of coal oil to the Canadian consumer? Not by any means. The fact is that after they got in here they began to put the railway companies in such a position that they could compel them to lower their freight rates to the Standard Oil Company, and to give them a rebate upon all the coal oil shipped over their roads, while at the same time the Canadian producer was charged a higher freight rate than they were getting. I am justified in that conclusion, because it is a matter of notoriety, and it was brought to the attention of the Government only a few months ago, that after they got in here they were doing the very thing that they intended to do, they took advantage of the concession to bring in these tank ships, and they compelled the railway companies to give them better freight rates than to the producers of oil in Canada. Therefore, they had a larger profit on their business, which enabled them to go further and get control of the oil refineries in Canada, and as soon as they got control of those refineries then they worked to their own profit and to the detriment of the great mass of the consumers in Canada. Hon. gentlemen opposite have said that the oil wells are not under the control of the Standard Oil Company. That is a fact, they are not. They do not require to own the wells at all, it is much better for their purpose to control the refineries. But it is said they do not control all the refineries in Canada to-day. Well, I think it is well known that any man who can control 65 per cent of a trade can control the whole trade, and he can dictate the market prices on that commodity, whatever it is. So monopolists have found it the world over. American trusts have found that whenever they could control 60 per cent of the output of sugar, they controlled the price of sugar in the market; when they controlled 40 per cent of the output of sugar, they controlled the market for sugar. So it is with Canadian oils to-day. If this trust can control 40, 50 or 60 per cent—and they control more than that, because I am told they control at least 75 per cent of the output to-day—therefore, they are able to control the whole price, and they are doing it to the detriment of the consumers and of the oil producers in Petrolia. I have every respect for those men who are fighting for their rights, but they are to-day under that gigantic monopoly, they are ground down to their own detriment. The poor man who owns his one, two or three wells there, is obliged to take for his crude oil whatever the Standard Oil Company is pleased to give them, and he can get no more for it. The oil producers have no redress, because to-day, by virtue of the regulations made by the present Government and of the relaxation made in those regulations, they have given over the oil market of Canada as completely to

that Standard Oil Company as if they had sold out to them the whole oil interests of Canada. So I say that the Standard Oil Company of the United States controls that industry in Canada to-day, to the detriment of the consumer and to the detriment of the producer as well. And they can return thanks to the present Government for enabling them to accomplish that. And to-day hon. gentlemen are found in this House as apologists of that company, as the member for North Wellington was only a few moments ago.

Amendment agreed to, and debate adjourned.

#### LEASE OF CHAMP DE MARS.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier) moved for :

Copy of lease or agreement and of all correspondence relating to the occupation of the Champ de Mars in the city of Montreal by the Montreal authorities, and the condition of said occupation.

He said : Mr. Speaker, the object of this motion is to obtain a copy of the deed under which the Champ de Mars, in the city of Montreal, is occupied by the municipal authorities, and all the correspondence relating to that occupation. The question has some importance at the present time. As this House is perhaps aware, or at least, as many of the members from the province of Quebec are aware, the farmers in the neighbourhood of Montreal, and indeed, I may say, the citizens of Montreal themselves, are suffering from a very considerable inconvenience which has existed for some time and which may safely be said to be almost intolerable, and that is the inadequate accommodation furnished for the purposes of a general market. To what extent, the farmers of my own county, of the county of Laval, of the counties to the south of Montreal, and, in fact, of all the counties from which farmers are in the habit of coming to use the market of Montreal, have suffered from this inconvenience, it is unnecessary for me to detain the House in describing, but suffice it to say that there is not at present accommodation at the Bonsecours market for one-third of those who go there. Under these circumstances, the question of providing more ample market accommodation has agitated the people of Montreal, as well as those other parties interested outside of the city, for a considerable time. Three plans have been prominently put before the public in connection with this very necessary improvement. One of these plans consisted in the expropriation of a considerable number of buildings in the immediate neighbourhood of the present market in order to make that market place larger and furnish sufficient accommodation for the farmers and the citizens of Montreal having business upon the market. This plan offered some objections. One of these objections was that the ex-

propriation in question was a very expensive one, and would entail a very considerable drain upon the finances of the city. In view of these circumstances other projects were presented to the public, and one of these projects, which was put forward by the mayor of St. Laurent, Mr. Edouard Gohier, a very competent man in matters of this kind, consisted in enlarging the present Bonsecours market proper by extending large sheds and a large platform over the present existing Commissioners Street. That plan, which did not involve the expropriation to which I referred a moment ago, met with considerable favour, and deservedly so. For my own part, I am not prepared to say that Mr. Gohier's plan is not, to a certain extent at least, in respect to the expenditure, one preferable to that which consisted in expropriating to the east of Jacques Cartier square, the present market-place. But another plan was suggested, and it is in reference to that plan that I have made the motion which is at present under the consideration of the House. That plan consisted in taking possession of the Champ de Mars, and transforming that ancient parade ground into a market-place. I presume that if the city of Montreal contemplates executing that project, it will be necessary for the city to obtain the consent of the Dominion Government, because, although I have no knowledge of the terms and conditions of its occupancy of the Champ de Mars, it is the property of the Dominion Government, and I do not presume that it was ever anticipated that the place should be turned into a market-place. That transformation, Sir, is, of the three plans for the improvement of our market, the one which commends itself the least to my appreciation. It seems to me that it presents many objections, and it is for the purpose of bringing these objections to the notice of the Government that I have made this motion. In the first place there is this objection, not without weight, that the Champ de Mars is now one of the public open spaces in that very crowded part of the city. It is a very ancient and historical ground, and without grave reasons I do not think the Government should consent to its destination being changed. The proposal would efface a very old and valuable landmark, and it would destroy for the people who live in that part of the city, one of their breathing places. In the next place, Sir, the Champ de Mars, as people familiar with the city of Montreal are aware, is situated immediately behind two of our most important public buildings. The court-house lies immediately to the south and I imagine that if the Champ de Mars were turned into a market place, the change would not be viewed with favour by judges, lawyers, litigants, nor indeed by persons generally who have business in the court-house. It would destroy to a very great extent, I think, the value of that building as a place for the sittings of the courts. The Champ de Mars

is also bounded on one side by the city hall, and apart from the fact of its lending an improved appearance to that building, its transformation into a market would, I think, interfere to a certain extent—although to a lesser extent than in the case of the court-house—with the convenience of those having municipal business to transact. The transformation of the Champ de Mars would also be a great loss to the Montreal militia, for it is situated directly in front of the drill hall and is used by the volunteers very frequently. They would lose this parade ground completely, or if they were to retain its use to any extent, then it could only be availed of in a mere temporary way for market purposes, and that arrangement would, I venture to say, be very inconvenient for the farmers themselves and even for citizens having business there. The plan of using the Champ de Mars for a market place, although it might present at first sight some advantage of economy, does not commend itself to those who have at heart a proper provision for extended market accommodation in the city of Montreal. I do not pronounce between the two other plans, for they have not been sufficiently investigated, but I think either of them would, perhaps, be a little costly, although acceptable to those who have at heart the improvement of our market place. And although that cost appears to be rather considerable, yet we must bear in mind that all farmers coming into the city of Montreal have to contribute to the revenue of the city, and that the fees derived from the farmers form in the aggregate a very considerable sum. I think if the improved market, upon either of the two plans which have been suggested, were administered in a proper way and without additional charges, the city of Montreal would derive a very considerable revenue upon the expenditure entailed by that improvement, and the position of farmers surrounding the city of Montreal would be made much more satisfactory by the change. It seems to me, therefore, that it is important that the attention of the Government should be called to this matter, and that the House should have before it the documents indicating under what terms the Champ de Mars is occupied by the city of Montreal, and that the Government should be on its guard, in case it is attempted to vary these terms in such a way as to permit of the modification to which I have alluded. The Government should see that the interests of the large class who require the improvement of the market of Montreal should be amply protected.

Mr. THOS. FORTIN (Laval). I heartily concur, to a large extent, in the remarks made by the hon. gentleman from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk). The necessity of improving the market facilities of the city of Montreal have been recognized for many, many years, and the present condition of things is, as the hon. member (Mr. Monk)

Mr. MONK.

said, intolerable. The farmers, in order to secure a place for the Tuesday market, have in almost every case to drive to the city the day before, and they are compelled to remain up all night to watch the products in their carts, and to be there for hours and hours before the opening of the market. Many suggestions have been made as to the manner of improving our market facilities. The three plans mentioned by the hon. member (Mr. Monk) have been studied for some time, and I entirely concur in his conclusion, that the plan by which the Champ de Mars should be annexed to the Bonsecours market, so to speak, is not practical and should not be adopted. There are some very serious objections to it. In the first place, as the hon. member (Mr. Monk) said, the Champ de Mars is just behind the two most important public buildings of the city, namely, the city hall and the court-house. Now, a market place is not desirable within very close proximity to such important buildings, and again, the distance between the Champ de Mars and the space now occupied as the Bonsecours market is considerable. There is also a great difference of level between the Champ de Mars and the present market. Most of the Bonsecours market is situated on St. Paul Street near the market building itself. There is a portion which has been used as a market known as Jacques Cartier Square, but that does not extend further north than Notre Dame Street, and from Notre Dame Street to the Champ de Mars must be at least three acres, so that such an intervening space would prove very inconvenient. We have not in this House authority to compel the city of Montreal to make improvements in its market, for under our constitution that authority rests with the provincial legislature, but I am happy that such an occasion as this has given me—because I represent one of the rural constituencies most interested in this matter—an opportunity to express my views as to the urgent necessity of improving the market accommodation in the city of Montreal. If that be the main point of the motion, I entirely concur in what has been said by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) that the Dominion Government should not allow the Champ de Mars to be converted in the way proposed in the scheme mentioned by that hon. gentleman.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). There is no objection to the production of the papers, and they will be brought down as soon as possible. I do not know what is the nature of the tenure which we have given to the city of Montreal. I understand, however, the object which has been very lucidly explained by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier, and I may say to the hon. member for Laval (Mr. Fortin) that I share the views he has expressed. I am not sufficiently familiar with the matter to know what different schemes have been proposed in Montreal to give more accom-

modation to the public around the Bonsecours market; but I altogether share in the view expressed by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier that it would be a great pity if that old historic ground, the Champ de Mars, were to be defaced for utilitarian purposes, no matter what those purposes might be. We have not too many of these historical places; and, wherever they are, they ought to be safeguarded. The Champ de Mars is not only historical ground, but one of the few breathing spaces which we have in that part of the city, where the population is very much congested. The city of Montreal is spreading in all directions, and I believe that in some other place the necessary accommodation could be obtained for the trading public.

Motion agreed to.

#### JUDICIAL BUSINESS IN MONTREAL.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier) moved for:

Statement of sums paid as travelling expenses to the judges of the Superior Court for the province of Quebec coming from outside districts to sit in the city of Montreal.

1st. From the 1st of January, 1898, up to the coming into force of the statute 61 Victoria (Canada), chap. 52, and

2nd. Since the coming into force of said statute down to the 1st of March, 1899.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the House will remember that last year, when the Act introduced by the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) was before the House, the hope was expressed that some of the travelling expenses of our judges in the province of Quebec, to which exception had been taken, would be reduced; and it is therefore interesting for us, particularly just now, when we are considering the supplies, to compare the working of the system in force in the year preceding the coming into operation of that Act with the working of the system during the few months that Act has been in force. But the motion assumes additional importance from the fact that since we sat last year a statute has been passed by the legislature of the province of Quebec creating three new judgeships for the city of Montreal; and I think it behooves us, before we are called upon to vote the necessary salaries for these three judges, to examine whether some other plan could not be adopted than that of creating new judgeships expressly for the city of Montreal, in order to meet the undoubted requirements of that locality. There can be no question—and any member of the bar of Montreal who is here will, I am sure, readily corroborate me—as to the great necessity of our having additional judges in the district of Montreal. But among the motives suggested for the creation of these three new judgeships was the fact, stated, I believe, in the local legislature, that the great necessity for judges in the city of

Montreal, and the consequent obligation of calling in judges from neighbouring districts, had entailed an expense upon the Dominion Government far greater than the sum necessary to pay the salaries of three additional judges. That statement was made, no doubt, in good faith; and we so often require judges in the city of Montreal that one might naturally think at first sight that we did spend very large sums in bringing judges from the neighbouring districts; but the return I called for will, I think, show that we by no means spend so much as \$15,000, which would be the sum required to pay the salaries of three additional judges. In fact, I think this return will show that the expense of bringing judges into the city during the past year did not amount to anything like that sum, or to anything like half or even a third of that sum. In reality, if we continue to bring judges from the neighbouring districts—and we could scarcely bring them frequently enough to meet the requirements of the case—there will still be a considerable margin. But I think we should look at the question from a higher standpoint, and the idea suggests itself to my mind whether we ought not in this necessity of having an increase in the number of judges sitting in Montreal—whether we ought not to seek in some way to improve the present system of judicature, instead of intensifying the defects which undoubtedly attach to the present system. The present system of decentralization, although it has worked satisfactorily, and although I think the mass of the people would be loath to part with it, and although I, for my part, feel we ought to maintain that system, presents many defects which time has revealed, and which, I think, a careful examination by the Government of this Dominion, together with the Government of the province of Quebec, might to a very great extent remedy. One of the objections that I find to the present system is that we have too many districts. It has been said very often that whereas the judges in the city of Montreal, and probably in those centres where there is a large population, are overworked, there are districts where the judges have very little to do, because there is very little business. Looking to the immediate vicinity of Montreal, I see there districts which, in my judgment, might very properly be united. I speak, of course, subject to correction, and merely for the purpose of suggestion, but look, for instance, at the districts of Beauharnois and Iberville. Here are two districts which, if we consider the volume of business done there, I think we will be able to say might very properly be put into one. I think the same remarks would apply to the districts of Terrebonne and Joliette. There is more business, I think, done in the district of Terrebonne, but I do not think that the public good would suffer in any way by their being joined together. The same remark applies also, within a short dis-

tance from Montreal, to the districts of St. Hyacinthe and Richelieu. I believe that very properly those districts might also be united. I am speaking of the territory within the immediate vicinity of Montreal. I am not in a position to speak with knowledge of the territory which lies around Quebec, but if the condition of things to which I refer exists in the neighbourhood of Montreal, I am sure that it will also be found to exist in certain districts around the city of Quebec. There is there, it seems to me, room for improvement, by which we might have judges in the city of Montreal without doing any injury to the neighbouring country.

But there is another rule, and I am sorry that I do not see the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) in his place, which has obtained in the past in regard to our judges sitting in rural districts, which rule seems now to be obsolete, and even to a certain extent noxious, and that is the rule of residence. I do not wish to do away with the decentralization which was introduced in the past with much advantage, but why make it necessary for a rural judge to live in his district? Of course, in the inception of this system, many years ago, the modes of communication were difficult, and for that reason and perhaps for others, it was necessary to decree that a rural judge should reside in his district; but now that communications have become so very easy, should not a rural judge be able to reside in some of the large centres within easy reach of his district? I can see no reason against that. The judge who is forced to reside in a rural district lives almost alone. Socially he is obliged to live apart from the people around him to a very great extent, and above all things he is deprived of communication with his brother judges, and we all know what a disadvantage that is. He has not the advantage of conferring with other members of the bench. He has not the advantages, properly speaking, except in exceptional circumstances, of sitting in these large centres and of obtaining the experience and the knowledge which follow necessarily from residence in a place where litigation is more important and more considerable, and where he is every day obliged to consult with his confrères on the bench. It seems to me, therefore, that if, on the one hand, we could arrive with the provincial authorities at some arrangement by which these districts where there is less to do, could be united with other districts so as to give a fair amount of judicial work, and, on the other hand, have our rural judges whom we are very glad to see in the city of Montreal, sit either in Quebec or Montreal, and still be able to attend to the districts assigned to them, a great deal of the present congestion would be done away with, and in that manner we would at the same time preserve the system of decentralization, and do away with the evils which that system has shown to exist. Of course, Sir, I make these suggestions in order to bring them before the notice of the Department of

Mr. MONK.

Justice, because I think modifications in the direction I have indicated can be very properly made at present on account of the pleasant relations no doubt existing between this Government and our provincial government. This is, above all things, the suitable moment for a conference upon this subject, which interests us all. But, also, I think that, if it is found impossible to arrive at some arrangement by which these suggestions may be adopted, we would still have to consider whether the considerable expenditure required for the appointment of new judges in the city of Montreal could not be avoided in view of the fact that with probably two-thirds of that sum we could obtain relief in judges from the remaining districts.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I have listened with a good deal of attention to the remarks just made by my hon. friend upon a subject which is not new, of which we have heard often in this House, and as to which, up to this time, we have not been able to come to any satisfactory conclusion. There is no doubt whatever that the judicial business in Montreal is congested. Evidence of this we have had and have again in the last action of the local legislature of Quebec. The question is now whether or not it is possible to obtain relief in the manner suggested by the local legislature, that is to say, by appointing three new judges, the salaries of whom would be largely defrayed by the fact that the expenses now incurred in travelling would be decreased, if not altogether reduced. The statement which has been made on the floor of the local legislature, that the salaries of these three judges would be compensated by the decreased expenditure in travelling expenses, I do not believe to be warranted by the facts. In fact the appropriations for the travelling expenses of judges for the province of Quebec is only \$16,000, and, therefore, though I have not looked at the figures, the amount expended on the travelling expenses of judges having to attend the Superior Court of the city of Montreal cannot be anything like that amount.

I do not know how much that is, but certainly it is not anything like that figure. But the question at present is not so much a question of expenditure. If this is a need of the country, the country is rich enough to pay for the administration of its judicial business. But, whenever this question has come up, we have always been met with the fact, or rather with the statement, that our judicial system is not adequate, that too many judges have too much to do, and some others have not enough to do. But I would like to ask, for my part, what satisfactory answer could be given to that? It is more a question of geography than anything else. Take, for instance, the district of Gaspé, which is, as one may say, at the other end of the continent, not easy of access and with a sparse population. The judge there has not much to do. But how is

this to be avoided? This district is so far away from the rest of the province, so shut up by itself that I do not see how you could do justice to that district without having a resident judge. There has been a resident judge in that district from the earliest years of the century. The judge has never had much to do; but all Governments since confederation, as well as before confederation, have felt that the geographical situation of the district of Gaspé was such that it was entitled to have a resident judge. So, for my part, my opinion is, that, even though the judge in Gaspé may have very little to do, it is impossible to do without a resident judge in a district like that. It is well known that, when the judicial decentralization was carried out in 1856, it was carried out on lines altogether too broad. When we had five districts at that time, it was a great mistake to create twenty-five—ten or twelve would have been enough. But these districts have been created, and my hon. friend (Mr. Monk) knows as well as I do, that nothing would be so difficult as to wipe out any of them. The hon. gentleman has suggested that Terrebonne and Joliette could be united. I doubt it very much. I am not prepared to agree with my hon. friend on that proposition. If the judicial decentralization were to be carried out to-day, I would be quite ready to create only one district of Terrebonne and Joliette. But the district of Terrebonne has been created and the district of Joliette has been created, a court-house has been built in each; and I do not think that any Government in the province of Quebec could get the assent of the legislature to wipe out one of these districts for the benefit of the other. You would meet a difficulty there which no Government could overcome. I think my hon. friend will agree with me in that. If that be the fact, we must accept the fact as it is. My hon. friend says, also, that judges for the rural districts could be required to reside either in Montreal or Quebec, and suggests—or, rather, though he does not suggest, it has been said—that we might adopt the system in use in Ontario. But the hon. gentleman knows that the system in Ontario and our system in Quebec are different. If the ideas of my hon. friend were to prevail, all the judges would be resident in Montreal or Quebec. But that is not the system in Ontario, for in that province there is a resident judge in every group of counties to carry on the local business and the business of urgency which may arise. Surely, no one in this House would contend that you should leave a whole province, such as Quebec, without a resident judge except in the chief cities of the province.

Mr. MONK. I intended that each judge should go to his district.

The PRIME MINISTER. Yes, but that he should reside in Montreal or Quebec. The hon. gentleman knows as well as I do, that

in the province of Ontario, though the judges of the Superior Court reside in the city of Toronto, the judges of the local courts are all resident in small cities of the province, one in each group of counties, while, under our judicial system in Quebec, the judges of the Superior Court perform the business performed in Ontario by the judges of the Superior Court and also by the county court judges. Thus, our judicial system makes it incumbent upon us to have resident judges throughout the province; and I am sure there is not a Government that could overcome that, unless we change our system altogether, and have county court judges as well as Superior Court judges. If we could have county court judges, well and good; but, so long as our judges do the business both of the Superior Court and the county court, you must have resident judges throughout the provinces. And so we come back to this—that, under our system, the nature of the business is such that some judges must be overworked, and others have very little to do. But, as I say, I do not see how this can be remedied. I do not see how you could bring in any fixed rule which would provide for a proportionate distribution of business among the judges. So long as the city of Montreal continues to advance by leaps and bounds, as it is advancing to-day, the number of judges must be increased from time to time. I am sorry that the limit of time has come, but the subject must be resumed and more fully discussed.

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

### After Recess.

#### OTTAWA ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

The House resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 18) respecting the Ottawa Electric Railway Company.—(Mr. Belcourt.)

(In the Committee.)

On section 2a,

Nothing in any Act relating to the Ottawa Electric Company, the Ottawa Electric Street Railway Company (Limited), or the Ottawa City Passenger Railway Company, or any other Act, shall restrict the power or render it beyond the power of the Ottawa Electric Railway Company to run its cars or collect fares between midnight of Saturday and midnight of Sunday.

Mr. BELL (East Prince, P.E.I.) Perhaps the promoter of the Bill would give us some explanation of that clause.

Mr. N. A. BELCOURT (Ottawa). The clause as it stands now is as it was prepared in committee. Clause 6, of which this has taken the place, read:

The company may run its cars and collect fares or tolls on Sunday on its lines of railway now or hereafter constructed.

There was an objection in the committee to that clause, because some members of the committee thought it would be conferring a new power. Members of the committee thought that it would be more advisable that a clause should be substituted having for its object simply the removal of that disability, and it was thought that section 3a. as now prepared, would remove the disability and not raise the question of conferring any new power which was raised by section 6, as it stood previously.

Mr. BELL. How did the disability arise?

Mr. BELCOURT. The disability arose from the charter. This company is now formed by the amalgamation of three different companies, one of which was granted a charter under the Union, before confederation, which stipulated among other things that the company should not run cars on Sunday. That was followed by legislation in Toronto. These various amalgamation deeds came up before this Parliament, in 1892, I think, and the Acts of the provincial legislature were adopted, and the powers conferred by these Acts ratified by this Parliament. So that, to-day, this company is a Dominion company, and comes under the Dominion Railway Act. In order to allow the company to run cars on Sunday it was felt necessary that the disability which existed under the Dominion legislation should be removed. Hence the necessity of this clause.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). How does the clause read?

Mr. BELCOURT. It reads as follows:

Nothing in any Act relating to the Ottawa Electric Railway Company, the Ottawa Electric Street Railway Company (Limited), or the Ottawa City Passenger Railway Company, or in any other Act, shall restrict the power, or render it beyond the power, of the Ottawa Electric Railway Company to run its cars or collect fares between midnight of Saturday and midnight of Sunday.

The difference between section 6 and section 3a is apparent at once. Section 6 says that the company may run its cars on Sunday, whereas this section, 3a, simply says that nothing in the Act shall prevent the company from running its cars on Sunday, thereby meeting the objection made in the committee that no new power should be conferred on the company.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Another question was involved as well. It was urged that no power should be conferred that would interfere with the right of the province to say what might or what might not be done on Sunday. The clause as it stood would interfere with provincial rights. It was believed that by putting it in the way in which it is now proposed, it would still

Mr. BELCOURT.

leave the question open to the province to exercise its right as to what might or might not be done on Sunday.

Mr. J. H. BELL (East Prince). There is another difficulty with this section. The restriction as to the cars not being allowed to run on Sunday was placed there by an Ontario statute. Now, we propose to directly repeal the Ontario statute by a Dominion law. It cannot be done under our constitution. The Ontario Legislature alone can expressly repeal what it has enacted.

Mr. BELCOURT. The hon. gentleman misunderstood what I said, or I did not make myself clear. The provincial Act, in which the disability was contained was afterwards ratified by this Parliament and became an Act of this Parliament, so that the disability has become a Dominion disability, if I may use that expression.

Mr. HENDERSON. Although I am not a lawyer, it seems to me very strange that this Parliament, having passed a Bill making that railway a Dominion railway, in that way takes away the power of the Ontario legislature. It seems to me to be an infringement of provincial rights.

Bill reported.

#### IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 23) an Act respecting the Alberta Irrigation Company, and to change its name to "The Canadian North-west Irrigation Company."—(Mr. Douglas.)

Bill (No. 34) an Act respecting the Pontiac Pacific Junction Railway Company.—(Mr. Poupore.)

Bill (No. 43) an Act respecting the Canada Southern Railway Company.—(Mr. Ingram.)

Bill (No. 8) an Act respecting the Atlantic and North-west Railway Company.—(Mr. Prior.)

#### SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 68) respecting the London Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Canada.—(Mr. Calvert.)

Bill (No. 69) to incorporate the Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Railway Company.—(Mr. Calvert.)

Bill (No. 70) respecting the Bronson and Weston Lumber Company, and to change the name to the Bronson Company.—(Mr. Belcourt.)

Bill (No. 71) to incorporate the Algoma Central Railway Company.—(Mr. Dymont.)

#### RESTIGOUCHE BOOM COMPANY.

On the Order being called for second reading of Bill (No. 65) to incorporate the Restigouche Boom Company (Mr. McAlister),

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I shall

have to ask this Bill to stand, as I have received several petitions against it, and I have not had time to look into them.

### THIRD READING.

Bill (No. 19) to amend the Act respecting certain works constructed in or over navigable waters.—(Mr. Britton.)

### DRAINAGE ACROSS RAILWAY LANDS.

On the Order being called for,

The House to resolve itself into committee on Bill (No. 24) concerning drainage on and across the property of railway companies (Mr. Casey),

Mr. GEORGE E. CASEY (West Elgin). I beg leave to move, Mr. Speaker,

That the Order for the Committee of the Whole on this Bill be discharged, and that it be referred to a special committee composed of Messrs. Bain, Campbell, Cowan, Chauvin, Fortin, McGregor, Monk, Tolmie and the mover; with power to send for persons and papers, and report from time to time by Bill or otherwise, and to employ a shorthand reporter, if the committee think it necessary.

By this motion I am merely asking the House to renew the course followed last year in regard to this Bill. No expense was then incurred, for I was unable to proceed on account of being too much occupied with another Bill. The suggestion has been made on previous occasions in this House that this Bill ought to go to the Railway Committee. I protested formerly against sending public Bills to the Railway Committee, because it is a practice unknown to our parliamentary usage until the last few years of the late Administration, when various public railway Bills were improperly sent to a Private Bills Committee, with the result that they were uniformly strangled in that committee—I do not say that that was the intention, but that was the result. The fact is, that a Private Bills Committee is not so constituted as to be able to deal properly with a public Bill; it is not their function to do so. This is a Bill which is necessarily somewhat tentative in its present form. It is drawn on the model of the Ontario legislation on the same subject, but the machinery has to be somewhat changed, as we have not control of the municipal machinery, which is taken advantage of in the Ontario Act. Therefore, the whole Bill will have to be considered in a quiet way across the table by half a dozen members in order to test it clause by clause, and to see what details will be most fitting to carry out the intention of the Bill. In fact, it will have to be thoroughly digested by some committee in a way which cannot be done in the Railway Committee. If it went there it would have to be sent to a sub-committee, and go through the delay of being reported

to the Railway Committee and back to the House. I am sure that under these circumstances, the Minister of Railways will consent, as he did last year, to allow the Bill to go before this special committee, which is composed of the same gentlemen as the committee of last year, with the exception of Mr. Cowan, the hon. member for South Essex, a gentleman who is specially interested and whose name has been added.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). I do not say that the hon. member (Mr. Casey) has not given some good ground for objecting to this Bill going to the Railway Committee, but I think every argument he has used in that respect points most strongly to the desirability of the Government themselves taking the responsibility of dealing with a measure of this kind. The measure is one which has been brought forward again and again, and which, after careful consideration and discussion in this House and in committees of this House, has been rejected.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. At all events, the hon. gentleman has never been able to get it enacted. It is a matter of the most grave and serious public importance; and, instead of being referred to a small select committee, it should be referred to the Railway Committee, which is a very large and representative committee, of which the Minister of Railways and Canals is chairman, and which does constantly receive expert testimony on matters of this kind. After it shall have received the consideration of that committee, the House will be in a position to deal with the question, as they would not be, in my judgment, on the report of a small committee such as is proposed, and on which, instead of the measure being advanced, it would probably receive the same fate that it has received on former occasions. The question is one of great importance to the great lines of railway communication throughout this country. I do not speak of any one, but of all parties concerned in railway undertakings. I think the Government of the country should call upon the Minister of Railways to carefully consider a measure of such gravity; and, if it is brought before this House, it should come here with the imprimatur and sanction of the Minister of Railways, who is responsible in a great degree for measures of this kind. It is a responsibility which I do not think ought to be shirked by the Government; and in order to avoid hasty and ill-considered legislation which might result from the report of a small private committee, the measure should go before the Railway Committee, so that the expert testimony would be practically understood by the House, because the Railway Committee embraces a large number of gentlemen on both sides of the House who give attention to matters of that kind;

whereas such expert testimony, if given before a small committee, would be entirely lost.

Mr. CASEY. It will report all this to the House.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If the hon. gentleman is afraid of the large Railway Committee having all the facts before them, he is taking a very good way to prevent the House having that thorough knowledge on a most important question that the great body of the House should have. I would suggest, in the first place, that the Minister of Railways give the question his consideration; and, if he thinks such a Bill is required, let it come here with the sanction of the Government. If the Government is not ready to take that responsibility at the present moment, let the Bill go to the Railway Committee, which is a large representation of the members of this House, who will hear, not at second hand, but at first hand, the evidence that will be submitted to them on both sides, and let this be submitted to the consideration of the Government and the House. That, in my judgment, is a much more satisfactory mode of dealing with this question than by sending it to a private committee.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I entirely agree with the hon. leader of the Opposition as to the importance of this Bill, and as to the desirability of the Government giving the very closest attention to its provisions and carefully studying its details. But while I agree with him to that extent, I am not quite prepared to acknowledge that under all circumstances the Railway Committee is a much better instrument to deal with a Bill of this kind than would a committee specially chosen for the purpose. The hon. member has attended the meetings of the Railway Committee with sufficient frequency to know that it is almost impossible to get a close and critical attention from that Committee for Bills which involve very nice questions. It is a thoroughly competent organization, no doubt, to deal with Bills involving one principle, or dealing with a large question, such questions become very thoroughly threshed out before it. But even if it were thought desirable by this House to send the Bill to the Railway Committee, I take it that that committee would find it necessary to select a lesser number of its members to constitute a small committee to give close and critical attention to the Bill's provisions. If we had not hitherto adopted a different course with respect to this Bill, I would have suggested to-night that it go to the Railway Committee, and the Railway Committee would be invited to refer it to a sub-committee of its own members, carefully selected for the purpose. But seeing that we last session allowed this Bill to be referred to a special committee, I think there would be no objection to our

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

continuing to pursue that course in the present instance. Therefore, I do not feel it to be my duty to take any particular exception to the hon. gentleman's motion in that respect. I would, however, suggest to him whether it would not be better to leave the names of the gentlemen who are to compose the committee to be selected later—I do not say after much delay, but after a little consideration. I was scarcely able to catch the names of the gentlemen included in the hon. gentleman's resolution. They may, perhaps, be the very members of the House whom, on mature consideration, we would have chosen for that purpose, or perhaps not. I would desire to see as many experienced members of the House on both sides as possible chosen for this purpose; and if my hon. friend will allow his motion to lapse for this evening, or if a course is taken which will enable us to advise and confer with the hon. gentlemen opposite with reference to the composition of the committee, the object which the hon. gentleman desires to serve will be as fairly served as it would be in any other way. I know that the hon. gentleman desires that this legislation should have the thorough and careful consideration of this House before it passes into law, and I think the suggestion I make will tend to that result.

Mr. DAVID TISDALE (South Norfolk). I must detain the House in order to express my views on this important matter. I must say I am disappointed at the conclusion which the hon. Minister of Railways, with his large experience, has come to. The reason I consider it important that this matter should go to the whole Railway Committee is this: As I said the other evening, there is only one large and important general principle involved in it. It is a principle that will change so radically what hitherto has been the law that I would oppose its reference to a sub-committee. Let me say that my experience of the Railway Committee is that when an important principle is involved, there never was a tribunal in any country better fitted to decide it; and when a general principle is at stake, I have always understood that it was invariably left for decision to the general committee. Once the general principle is adopted by that committee, then, and then only, send the measure to a sub-committee to work out the details. The principle of this Bill is one that strikes at the root of the whole jurisprudence governing Dominion railways. We appointed, some years ago, a royal commission to decide what was the best tribunal to which such appeals should be made, and which should decide and control matters pertaining to railways. That committee, the ability and competence of whose members I have never heard challenged, decided that these matters, instead of going to a railway commission, should go to the Railway Committee of the Privy Council. That de-

cision had my unqualified approval when the present Opposition were in power, and I remember that I went further at the time, and said I was quite prepared to uphold the same tribunal should hon. gentlemen opposite come into power, as they have done. So far, I have heard no dissatisfaction, to any extent, with regard to the decisions and deliberations of that committee, and if we are to have a change, let us understand it. If the hon. gentleman proposes to delegate those powers to a railway commission, let us have a railway commission, and let that body decide those matters. There is further to be considered the question of litigation that underlies this proposed measure. It has been proved again and again in the province of Ontario, and in every place where systems of drainage are involved, that the railway companies will appeal from court to court, so that instead of the tribunal proposed in this Bill being a cheap tribunal, it becomes a most expensive one.

In justice to the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, and in proof of what I am urging as to the cheapness of appeals to it—

Mr. CASEY. The point was raised the other night. Mr. Speaker, that it is not in order to discuss the merits of a Bill on a proposition to refer it to a special committee, and you declared it was not.

Mr. TISDALE. I am discussing the principle upon which I propose to justify this Bill being sent to the general committee.

Mr. SPEAKER. It seems to me that the question whether a special committee should be appointed or not, involves a good many broad questions as regards policy. I do not say that the details of the Bill can be considered, but the whole question of the best policy of dealing with railway matters of this kind is open to discussion.

Mr. TISDALE. I do not propose to take any latitude, although in a matter of such importance a little latitude might be allowed. I say that the question of expense is most important. A great many hon. gentlemen, and I am quite sure many people in the country, have misunderstood the question of expense. Why? Before the ordinary courts all the witnesses have to be produced, but before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, which is the best tribunal we could have—and I do not think I can be charged with partisanship in so saying—what happens? If the case submitted to it is of any importance at all, the Government send at their own expense competent engineers to examine into the difficulty, and their reports not only convince this important tribunal of ours, but carry the greatest weight with the communities in which the dispute exists. The only expense to which the suitor is put is the employment of counsel, and he would have to employ counsel equally well in any other

court, and would besides be put to the expense of fighting his case through several appeals. I have watched the proceedings and the decisions of this Railway Committee of the Privy Council, and must do it the justice of saying that when a claimant before it does not employ counsel, there are able lawyers sitting on that committee who, like honourable men, feeling the responsibility of their high positions and duties, are very careful that the rights and interests of litigants are protected against the able lawyers whom the railway companies employ. It must be remembered also that the railway companies will be equally well represented by their own able lawyers in the courts, but with this difference, that in the courts the railway companies will not stop at one, two or even three appeals, but will fight the case to the highest court. On the question of expense, therefore, there is no ground on which this measure can be justified.

Just one word in reply to the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) with regard to this House having committed itself to the principle of sending a similar measure to a special committee, that may have been done once or twice, but nine or ten times it has been referred to the general committee, and we always refused to allow our federal legislation to be subject to not only the laws of any province that now exist, but that may exist in the future as well. I believe that this Federal Parliament is seized even of higher powers than the local parliaments, and that in the case of any legislation within our jurisdiction, we should not pass any Act that would subject it to a tribunal of less importance.

It would be a great mistake, in my judgment, to send this Bill to a special committee before sending it to the general Railway Committee. Let the Railway Committee pronounce upon the general principle, and I must say that admitting all the want of consideration that sometimes may be urged against it, and admitting that sometimes it is a little noisy and a little unreasonable, its decisions are, as a rule, in accord with substantial constitutional law, and in that respect that tribunal is not excelled by any other in the world. Let the Railway Committee decide on the general principle, and then, if they choose to adopt that principle, let the Bill be sent to a special committee. Another reason for sending the Bill to the Railway Committee is, if the select committee adopt it, it comes back to this House, and the people who are interested have no chance to be heard in answer to the select committee, whereas, if we choose the select committee from the Railway Committee, they come back to the general committee with their report; and, if that report is not satisfactory, the people who are interested have a chance to be heard, as they ought to be heard, in my opinion, before we make such a radical departure in the law as

changing the general principle of control of our railway and their many thousands of miles of tracks. That control is in this legislature, and I do not want to see that power and authority, that protection both to the railways and to the public, made less complete. Therefore, I object to, and protest against, any change of this sort.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I think the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Tisdale) arguments are appreciated, generally speaking, by hon. members on this side. His views were, to some extent, voiced by my hon. friend the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair). The object of both sides is to have a critical examination of the Bill by those most competent to give it that examination; and I think my hon. friend (Mr. Casey) who moved the committee perhaps did so somewhat hastily. I have no criticism to pass on the names of his committee, because, like the hon. Minister of Railways, I did not hear them, as they were read hurriedly. I think the matter deserves some little consideration, and, at any rate, if the special committee is chosen, it should be chosen by conference of the leaders of both sides. I think that, perhaps, the better course would be to move the adjournment of the debate, and then the leaders will meet and select a committee that will fit the circumstances of the case. That is the method that we followed last year. If we had not adopted that method last year, I frankly confess I should be disposed to accede to the argument of my hon. friend (Mr. Tisdale) who spoke last, and leave it to the Railway Committee to select the committee. But, as the other course was followed last year, perhaps we had better do the same this year. The leaders can confer and select the names for a committee, irrespective of politics, so that we may have a committee in the result of whose deliberations the House will have confidence, and who will have power to summon witnesses and engage a shorthand writer to take down the evidence. I move that, for that purpose, the debate be adjourned.

Mr. GEORGE E. CASEY (West Elgin). I have no objection at all, as the mover of this Bill, to this motion for adjournment—as I understand that the Bill will come up to-morrow—for the purpose of allowing the Minister to look into the personnel of the committee and come to a decision. The committee, as proposed, is the same as that agreed upon last year, my motion then being amended by the leader of the House adding some names; and so, I have no doubt, it will be an acceptable committee for this year. Of course, the committee appointed on a public Bill must be a committee not hostile to the principle of the Bill. That being understood, I do not see that it matters who are on the committee, so long as they are experienced men, who are willing really to go into the subject

Mr. TISDALE.

and provide a Bill for the purpose proposed. But I should certainly object—and object constitutionally—to the presence on the committee of a gentleman like the hon. member from South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale), who is utterly opposed to the principle of the Bill. I would have nothing further to do with it, if the Bill were subjected to judgment by gentlemen who have already judged it, and judged it, as I think, quite wrongly.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

#### CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 36) to amend the Criminal Code. He said: I shall say only a few words in reference to this Bill, as I take it for granted that the Bill is of sufficient importance to go to the Committee of the Whole House for consideration, instead of being disposed of so summarily as a somewhat similar Bill was last session. I shall pass over altogether some of the clauses and some of the amendments which seem to me of the utmost importance in the administration of justice, because I think I shall convince the House, not only that the Bill should be read a second time, but that it ought to go to the Committee of the Whole and ought to receive the serious consideration that a subject of such importance demands on the part of this House. Now, I have read the code with a great deal of care. I know its author; and I am second to no man in this House, or out of it, in my appreciation of the great ability and great industry of the late Sir John Thompson, who was the author and father of this Criminal Code. And yet I believe there is no person who, I happen to know, would sooner than Sir John Thompson himself, if he were living and here, admit the necessity for the amendment of the code in several very important particulars. I happen to know that Sir John Thompson said that he regarded the code as not at all perfect, but as a beginning, which would require to have the attention of Parliament for some sessions, in order that it might be made more perfect and workable than it was at the time it passed in 1892. And nothing could show that more clearly than what happened in reference to the code. In 1892 it was passed. In 1893, 23 sections of the code were amended, the amendments being much more numerous, for some sections were amended in two or three ways. In 1894, 16 sections of the code were amended, the number of amendments being also greater than the number of sections amended. In 1896, 23 sections were amended, more than one amendment being made in each of a number of sections.

The first section of this Bill relating to the Court of Appeal, amends the section by constituting another court in the province of Ontario as a Court of Appeal in criminal

matters. I may say that this amendment only applies to the province of Ontario. As the law of 1892 stands at present, an appeal is to any division of the High Court of Justice. Now, in the province of Ontario we have three courts that are called Divisional Courts: the Chancery Division, the Queen's Bench Division and the Common Pleas Division. In the interpretation clause of the Act of 1892, any division of the High Court of Justice was made a Court of Appeal for the purposes of this Act. That was amended in 1895 by a clerical amendment to make it strictly in accordance with the constitution of the courts of Ontario, and it was amended by making it read any Divisional Court of the High Court of Justice. There are three distinct Courts of Appeal for criminal matters in the province of Ontario. Now what happened in consequence of there being these three courts? As each Court of Appeal is a place for ultimate decision of questions that would come before it, each of these courts was bound to give an independent decision in matters that came before it; they were not required to follow one another in the decision, and so it happened, and it may happen again, that there were conflicting decisions. In the case of the Queen against Williams, the Queen's Bench Division decided that the admissions made on the preliminary examination of a case were admissible unless there was a distinct reservation on the part of the accused in making his statement so as to render it inadmissible. That was followed by the case of the Queen against Hammond which hon. gentlemen will remember. Hammond afterwards suffered the extreme penalty of the law. It was decided by the Chancery Division that the admission were inadmissible under any circumstances whatever, and a new trial was granted in the case, but there had been a conflicting decision, as I said before, in the case of the Queen against Williams which had been decided by the Queen's Bench Division. As the law now stands in the province of Ontario, we have four judges who decide. I am not speaking now of any amendment that has been made in the Law of Evidence which may affect this question. I am only speaking now as to the question of principle. As the law has now been decided on that point, we have judges of the Queen's Bench Division together with the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas Division, deciding one way; and we have the judges of the Chancery Division, Judge Meredith, and two other judges of Divisional Courts, deciding the other way. Now what has happened once may happen again. We have in the province of Ontario a Court of Appeal for the province and there seems to be no reason why that court, as it stands at present, should not be a Court of Appeal for criminal matters coming up under the Code. And so I ask by this amendment that instead of the appeal being, as it is now, to any Divisional Court

of the High Court of Justice, it should be to the Court of Appeal for Ontario.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). Where does it lie now?

Mr. **BRITTON**. To any Divisional Court of the High Court of Justice.

Mr. **BERGERON**. Does my hon. friend remember the discussion that took place upon that special point when the Bill was before the House? There was a long discussion as to whether the appeal should be to the division of the High Court of Justice or to the Court of Appeal. If my hon. friend would refer to that, he might find some other reasons.

Mr. **BRITTON**. I might find other reasons by referring to it; but knowing the constitution of the court, I cannot understand or suggest any reason why it should not be referred to the Court of Appeal. The judges of that court are experienced men, and the latest addition to the court, as the hon. gentleman knows, is one who has had large experience in criminal matters.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. What is the objection to the existing Appeal Court?

Mr. **BRITTON**. As I have explained, there are three Divisional Courts in Ontario. Each court is bound to give an independent decision, not to follow one another's decision, and they are in conflict. There are three Courts of Appeal, and no decision of any one court is appealable to any other, or anywhere else.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Is there no appeal from that Divisional Court to the Court of Appeal?

Mr. **BRITTON**. Yes, in certain cases, but not in criminal cases under the Code. That is the final court under the Code. My hon. friend beside me (Mr. McCarthy) calls attention to the fact that since the new rules of the court have been made, they have coordinate jurisdiction, and each one is bound by the decision of the other. That may be so, and would be an argument to some extent why a party should have the option of going to any one of the three courts composed of three judges each, instead of going to one court where there are five judges, which, it seems to me, is the competent Court of Appeal for questions of this kind. There are five judges there instead of three in each of the others, and these five judges, I think, would be more likely to decide a matter in a way that would give universal satisfaction, not only to the accused but to the public, than would be secured by an appeal first to one Divisional Court and then to another court, accordingly as a man might think he could gauge the opinion of the judges. Now we are perfectly aware that the judges are human, very hu-

man, too; and in some cases if there was an appeal, and if a man had the option of having a case referred to the Divisional Court, he might desire it reserved to one Divisional Court instead of another. That would be obviated if there was only one court to deal with this matter. Now in speaking thus I am not giving my own individual opinion. This is a matter of common discussion among the lawyers and the judges themselves, and it is thought to be an anomaly. I have a letter from one judge in reference to the matter who agrees with me in the opinion I have expressed. On that point, therefore, I think the Bill should go to a committee and be discussed. Section 2 of the Act defines a word. It may be that there could be no dispute about that word "chaste" as to what it should mean, but there has been a dispute in regard to it. I seek to put in this Bill the meaning that any gentleman would give to it if he were asked, the meaning that is evidently intended by the statute. In the amendment which I propose in section 2, I seek to give that word the meaning that any man would give to it in common conversation. I may say that that word only appears in section 181 and section 182. I shall refer to those two sections when I come to deal with them. You will see from section 181 and 182 that there is merely a transposition of words, which, when you once understand what the word "chaste" means, seems to be grammatical, logical, definite and clear, instead of the wording of the Act as it is in the Code itself. In section 182 these words are the same, but there is also an important distinction that is rendered necessary by the decisions of some judges, which I will explain to the committee when the Bill reaches that stage. It is said that a promise of marriage must be a promise of marriage then and there made, whereas I say that the engaged relation is all that is necessary to exist between the parties. As judges have given different meanings to that section I think that, at all events, we ought to have this matter more fully discussed, and a better understanding arrived at as to the use of the word. I propose to repeal section 181 and section 182 and put them in the words that I have placed in the Bill.

Mr. BERGERON. There is very little difference.

Mr. BRITTON. There is the addition of the words "and while they are engaged to be married."

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. In section 181, I do not see the distinction at all, but section 182 makes a very broad distinction. The engagement must be continuing.

Mr. BERGERON. I think it is already very well covered by the clause.

Mr. BRITTON. I may explain that in section 181 in the proposed amendment goes a little further. In the Act the words "pre-

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viously chaste character" are used. That is to say, that it is to be established affirmatively so that it may not be a question of reputation, but the words in the Bill could say that. In section 182 there is, as the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries says, a broad distinction.

Mr. BERGERON. That clause 181 is drawn pretty closely.

Mr. BRITTON. Clause 182 is drawn still closer.

Mr. BERGERON. I think it is covered very well by the words of the statute. There is not very much difference between the words "under promise of marriage" and "while waiting for the marriage."

Mr. BRITTON. The question is as to what is meant in that section by the words "under promise of marriage."

Mr. BERGERON. That is for the judge to decide.

Mr. BRITTON. We had better not leave it to the judge.

Mr. SPEAKER. I am afraid that hon. gentlemen are under the impression that they are in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. BRITTON. Section 5 of the Bill asks to repeal section 593 of the Code. We are outside now of any of those clauses that will give any trouble, and we will come to what may be considered general principles. I submit to the House that section 593 should be repealed, because it is entirely unnecessary, because it is only available or applicable in a case where the magistrate has no jurisdiction to try the case. Section 593 is one of a series of sections beginning with section 586. Section 586 is the beginning of this part of the Criminal Code:

A justice holding the preliminary inquiry may, in his discretion, &c.—

Then it goes on to tell what is to be done in these cases. Then it comes down to section 592, which is the winding up of the case so far as the preliminary inquiry is concerned. Then section 593 says:

After the proceedings required by section 591 are completed the accused shall be asked if he wishes to call any witnesses.

Every witness called by the accused who testifies to any fact relative to the case shall be heard, and his deposition shall be taken in the same manner as the depositions of the witnesses for the prosecution.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Why not?

Mr. BRITTON. Because they cannot be used in the disposition of the case.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). Yes, they can.

Mr. BRITTON. If they are used in the disposition of the case that is a different thing, because the magistrate has no jurisdiction to try the case.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Of course he has.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have seen it done and a man discharged.

Mr. BRITTON. The magistrate has not full jurisdiction to try to finally determine every case except to commit for trial. There are many such cases.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Do you not take away the right of defence?

Mr. BRITTON. You do not take away the right of defence. If there is a prima facie case made out on the evidence which comes before him, the magistrate is bound to commit the man for trial, and if he thinks there is a prima facie case he is bound to call witnesses for the defence. He is virtually trying the man, although the statute gives him no jurisdiction to try him.

Mr. POWELL. Is it not rather in the interest of a prisoner as respects his reputation?

Mr. BRITTON. It may be. I may tell the House why that section happens to come there at all. That section in reference to depositions in the case was put in there so that the depositions of witnesses out of the country or subsequently dead, or too ill to attend court, might be read. And it was for the purpose of putting in depositions and allowing them to be used in court in the case of illness or death or the absence of a witness, that that section was put in there. It has never been said by any criminal lawyer in Ontario or by any judge in the administration of justice that what my hon. friend says is correct. It has never been said that a magistrate should try a person for any serious offence.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. How do you understand the following section.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. How can the magistrate discharge an accused person?

Mr. BRITTON. Section 594 says:

When all the witnesses on the part of the prosecution and the accused have been heard,—

If he has heard the accused at all, he has to hear him at the time. It does not say that if the evidence is sufficient to send him for trial. If he is to try the case, then I have not gone nearly far enough in this, because the Criminal Code ought to have gone a great deal further. I think an amendment is serious which takes away from the magistrate jurisdiction except in certain well-known cases. Of course, if that jurisdiction is too small, the sections ought to be amended, but there are justices of the peace and justices of the peace. Some are perfectly competent, I dare say, to try any cases that come before them, and others are not, and, there is often a miscarriage of jus-

tice. This section has now worked in this way, and I speak with knowledge, when I say it: In border towns persons have been brought forward by the accused to prove an alibi; it has been known as well as you can know anything that has not been proved in court, that these witnesses were not speaking the truth, and no regard whatever was paid to their evidence. They lived across the border. The man was committed for trial, and, when the case came up in the proper court, these United States witnesses were not forthcoming, and the result was, that, without cross-examination, except the cross-examination they had at the preliminary inquiry, their depositions were read, and, of course, being read under such circumstances, much greater effect would be given to them than would be given, if they were subjected to cross-examination by the Crown attorney.

Mr. BERGERON. That would be a special case.

Mr. BRITTON. That is a special case in border towns.

Mr. BERGERON. I suppose my hon. friend (Mr. Britton) knows that most of that code was taken from the English code, which, although not in force, was prepared by the best lawyers in England.

Mr. BRITTON. Yes.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). And this special section is taken from that code verbatim to meet the very case I spoke of.

Mr. BRITTON. I submit, it is a bad thing to be in the code, and ought to be expunged. It has worked very disadvantageously in Chatham, and Windsor, and some other places I could name, without coming nearer home.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The discretion on the part of the magistrate to hear a witness for the defence, in the case where an alibi is set up, never was taken away. I remember a case where the Lord Chief Justice of England charged the grand jury; at Taunton, they were bound to hear witnesses for the defence, where an alibi was set up. That discretion was made an obligation under the code.

Mr. BRITTON. My hon. friend knows that that case, as he puts it, could hardly have happened. He knows that, in the case of the grand jury, the Crown prosecutor does not put on the back of the indictment the names of any of the witnesses for the defence. The next amendment bears on section 593, and, of course, if 593 stands, the words that are asked to be struck out of 598 must also stand. The object of section 684 is to remove the necessity for corroborative evidence in cases under sections 181,

189 and 190. The wording of section 181 is very peculiar :

No person accused of any offence under any of the hereinafter sections shall be convicted upon the evidence of one witness, unless such witness is corroborated in some material part by evidence implicating the accused.

I am not asking to have the amendment applicable to section 182, and hon. gentlemen will see the reason why. But I am asking to have it amended as to section 181, and, if the Bill goes to the committee, I shall give instances where there has been an unquestionable failure of justice because of that section. I say, this ought not be applicable to sections 189 or 190, because the making of it applicable to these sections is a mere oversight, and, if you read those two sections, you will see that it is so. The one refers to idiots and imbeciles, when, if there is a witness at all, it must be an outside witness, a witness who is perfectly credible, and yet that witness must be corroborated before conviction. Section 190 is applicable to Indians and to certain offences in reference to them, where the evidence, if evidence is given, must be the evidence, not of the person against whom the offence is committed, but of some one else ; and yet, according to the wording of the section, that witness, whoever he may be, must be corroborated by some other witness. Making this applicable to 189 and 190 is a mere inadvertence, and I, therefore, ask that it should not be made applicable to sections 181, or 189, or 190. Section 687 has reference to the using of depositions. The section has this peculiar omission, that, if there is a person tried for an offence, as Hammond was tried, and a new trial ordered, in case where the witness has died or removed out of the country, his evidence given at the former trial and under cross-examination in presence of the accused, cannot be used on the second trial, although the evidence of a witness at a preliminary trial and where his deposition is taken down, can be used. Attention has been called to this by judges in dealing with the cases, and the attention of lawyers was specially directed to it by the "Law Journal" of this year, page 91. The "Law Journal" called attention to the very evils I seek to remove by this amendment, and suggested a form of section. The "Law Journal" asked the opinion of eminent criminal lawyers on this subject, and in the following number the opinions of two lawyers were published. One of these lawyers is Mr. Johnston, who has a great deal of experience in Toronto, a very able lawyer, and the other was Mr. Clark, the county Crown attorney of Essex. Mr. Johnston thinks it very inadvisable that the depositions should ever be used as evidence at all. He thinks that anything that is taken down against the prisoner should not be used, except where the person at the trial is subject to cross-examination, with all the safeguards that can be thrown around

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that person. On the other hand, Mr. Clark thinks that the section suggested by the "Law Journal" is a very proper amendment to make.

Mr. BERGERON. I do not see much difference in the amendment of my hon. friend and the old section.

Mr. BRITTON. The changes are two-fold. As it stands now, we have to prove, beyond any doubt, that the person is out of the country, and in the amendment the judge can draw the inference from the facts before him that the witness is out of the country, and the judge can order the evidence used. The other case, which is perhaps more important still, is this. In the case of a new trial, under the section as it stands, the evidence given at the former trial cannot be used. That is an important difference. As to a person being dead, that would be beyond controversy ; but if a person cannot be found, and facts are given which in the mind of the judge lead to the irresistible inference that the man is out of the country—

Mr. POWELL. The conclusion is the same as may be drawn from the old section. If a thing is proved to the satisfaction of a judge, what does that mean ? It means that such facts are presented to the mind of the judge that in law he may draw a certain inference. The hon. gentleman has changed the phraseology without changing the law at all.

Mr. BRITTON. I am changing the law. It is a fact beyond controversy that the judges will not draw inferences from facts that are put before them. Unless it is shown affirmatively that a person is absent from the country, they will not draw an inference that such is the case. The words of the Bill are much more liberal in that respect than the words of the old section. That is only one point. The other point is not provided for by section 687 at all.

Mr. POWELL. That is well taken.

Mr. BRITTON. Where a new trial is granted, the evidence given at a former trial is not provided for at all. In the case of the Queen vs. Hammond, where a new trial was granted, such evidence as was given at the first trial by a witness who had died in the meantime, or who had absented himself from the country, could not be used. On that point, I may mention that a learned judge, in discussing this section as suggested by me, said that according to his experience of shorthand reporters it would not perhaps be perfectly safe at all times simply to use the stenographer's certified copy, and it perhaps ought to be vouched for by the judge before whom the trial took place as well. That is a matter of detail which, if the committee thinks it should be amended, so be it. Section 9 has reference to the reserving of a question for appeal. As the

law at present stands, in order that an accused person may go before the Court of Appeal, if the judge refuses to reserve the case, he has to get the consent of the Attorney General, and also the consent of the Court of Appeal. I simply require him to get the consent of the Court of Appeal. Surely that will commend itself to hon. members. An accused should not have to run the gauntlet of both the Attorney General and the Court of Appeal before getting before the Court of Appeal in a case in which he is mightily interested. That, of course, does not apply to a case which the judge reserves. In such a case, this section has no application. Section 10 is to repeal section 748 of the Code. That is the section which allows the Minister of Justice to grant a new trial. A great deal can be said on that subject, but I do not intend to weary the House by an argument upon it at present. I do say, however, that the Minister of Justice should not have the power to grant a new trial in criminal cases. It is enough to have the courts intervene in matters of that kind. The Minister of Justice, as the representative of the people, standing between the people and His Excellency, can always exercise executive clemency; but it should not be for him to say when a new trial should be granted. So far as I know, that power has only been exercised once in this country; that was in the case of Mrs. Sternaman. I have no objection to its exercise in that case; but the possession of such a power by the Minister of Justice, the head of a great department, places him in the position of deciding judicially whether or not an application for a new trial should be granted; and we know the political influence likely to be brought to bear upon the Minister in cases of that kind.

Mr. POWELL. Was not some such provision as that in the English draft code?

Mr. BRITTON. It was suggested, but it was never adopted.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It was recommended by Mr. Justice Stephen.

Mr. BRITTON. But the Parliament of Great Britain did not think the recommendation should be acted upon.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. This Parliament did.

Mr. BRITTON. This Parliament should repeal it. I do not say that the Minister of Justice does not exercise very wisely the power that is vested in him; but I submit that, placed as he is, he ought not to have that power. Section 11 of the Bill is to amend section 773 of the Code. That is a very technical amendment, but it is a very important one, as those who have had to do with the administration of criminal justice will see. If a person is committed for trial upon a charge that is perhaps a minor charge, while the depositions disclose a

charge of a more serious character, at present there is no power to lay a charge for the more serious offence, and I propose that the Crown officer may, in his discretion, remand the man for trial instead of proceeding on the offence he was sent up for.

Mr. POWELL. Cannot the grand jury indict him for the offence, if they see fit?

Mr. BRITTON. No, they cannot.

Mr. POWELL. Why not?

Mr. BRITTON. I am speaking of a case in which the prisoner does not want to go before a jury.

Mr. POWELL. It is a special procedure?

Mr. BRITTON. Yes.

Mr. BERGERON. The hon. gentleman will have to change the wording, because we have not a county crown attorney in our province.

Mr. BRITTON. That might not be applicable to your procedure.

Mr. BELCOURT. It only applies to Ontario.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I would draw attention to the rule that on the second reading the principle of a Bill only can be discussed.

Mr. BRITTON. The next section applies to cases where the offence may be the attempt to commit theft. By the Criminal Code, the jurisdiction of the magistrate is limited to the particular cases in which the value of the property does not exceed ten dollars, but his jurisdiction in the case of an attempt to commit theft is not limited in value at all, and I think it ought to be limited to cases where the property is not worth any more than in the case of theft.

Section 14 deals with another case which is most important. Section 955 of the Criminal Code illustrates probably as well as anything I have said in the beginning that try as you will to make legislation perfect, the best minds, with the best care, will fail in some particulars. Take the offence of attempting to escape. Section 955 of the Code provides for the case where an assault is committed in connection with an attempt to escape, and also for certain other cases of escape, but does not provide for the case of an attempt to escape from a penitentiary, unaccompanied by assault, and in such case the only punishment that can be inflicted is less than two years confinement in the common jail. The result is that although a prisoner is in the penitentiary, and attempts to escape, so long as he does not do anything that brings him under the other sections of the Code, he cannot be legally punished in the penitentiary, but his sentence must be for some term less than two years in the common jail. So that after he has served out his term in the penitentiary he has to be committed to the common jail.

Mr. BERGERON. It is easy to see that my hon. friend lives in the vicinity of the penitentiary.

Mr. BRITTON. The Act with reference to attempts to escape being wholly repealed by the Criminal Code, we are entirely dependent for the punishment, in the case of an ordinary escape, on this section 955 which does not provide for the case I have mentioned.

Mr. WALLACE. Could you not have the sentences run concurrently? The prisoner would be willing.

Mr. BRITTON. No doubt. I have therefore added this clause:

And provided further that where any person is sentenced for any offence who is at the time of such sentence serving a term of imprisonment in a penitentiary for another offence, he may be sentenced for a term shorter than two years, to imprisonment in the same penitentiary, such sentence to take effect at and from the termination of his existing sentence or sentences.

That this amendment is necessary, all who have anything to do with the administration of justice where penitentiaries are will readily understand.

Mr. JOHN H. BELL (East Prince, P.E.I.). The promoter of this Bill wishes in section 2 to define the word "chaste," and in sec. 3 and 4 to substitute the words "previously chaste" for the words now in the code "of previously chaste character." What does all this mean? Let me illustrate. A young woman to-day steps aside from the path of virtue. She is no longer "chaste" within the terms of the proposed definition. Tomorrow she repents and thereafter leads a proper life. She redeems her reputation and character. Five years hence she is seduced under promise of marriage. The facts are undisputed. Criminal proceedings are instituted against her betrayer. If the amendment proposed became law the prosecution would fail. Why? Because 5 years before she had not been "chaste." Her subsequent purity of life would not count.

An hon. MEMBER. She would be no worse off than now.

Mr. BELL. Yes, she would. Under the present law she would be protected like her other sisters. And so she should be. The punishment that society meets out to the erring woman to-day is too heavy—it is unjust. Shall we add to that injustice by taking away from her the encouragement and protection we ought always to extend to those who seek to lead a more virtuous life? There is another point I would emphasize. A woman may be of unchaste character without being guilty or without being proved to be guilty of "unlawful sexual intercourse." She may be too familiar with men. She may indulge in the grossest obscenity. She may be guilty of the highest indecency that you can imagine, and yet she may be "chaste," according to the de-

Mr. BRITTON.

finition proposed by the promoter of the Bill. Should such a woman be permitted to institute a criminal action against her alleged seducer? I think not. Under the present law she could not. She would not be a person of "previously chaste character." But under the amendment proposed she would be empowered to institute criminal proceedings. Why? Because it could not be actually proved against her that she was not "chaste" within the meaning of the definition.

If the hon. gentleman who introduces this Bill will look at the English Criminal statutes—if he will examine the criminal laws of the various states of the Union—he will find that in almost every instance they use precisely the same words that are employed in our Criminal Code. And he will find no precedent to justify his amendment. In view of these considerations I think we are justified in saying that the proposed changes in the law would make matters worse instead of better.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). I merely rise for the purpose of making a suggestion to my hon. friend the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick). There are now about half a dozen Bills before the House to amend the Criminal Code, some of them undertaking to amend the Code in very important respects. This one that has been introduced by the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) is more exhaustive than others. I do not know, however, that my hon. friend from Kingston holds that he has covered everything in the Criminal Code which might be dealt with in this House after seven years of experience. Without having looked into the matter very recently, I can recall several other sections of the Criminal Code which require revision and amendment. I think that this matter should be dealt with by the Government through the Solicitor General, or else that all these Bills should be referred to a Special Committee, so that if the Code is to be amended, it may be amended in some systematic and efficient manner. In saying that, I do not desire my hon. friend from Kingston to understand that I am suggesting that this proposed Bill is not a very good Bill. I agree with much that he has said with regard to it and many of the suggestions that he has made; and, I think, he is entitled to great credit for having taken so much pains and for having gone into the matter so thoroughly. Still, we cannot expect him to do all the work in a matter of this kind. If it is to be done at all I think it should be done thoroughly and efficiently.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). Last session the department prepared a Bill to make certain amendments in the Criminal Code. That Bill was not introduced because we thought it wise to take some time before coming to a conclusion as to the amendments which should be made. I come from a pro-

vince where we have codes and where there is an opinion that we should not tinker with these codes merely to make them fit certain cases. We think that a code should be an enactment of principles, and that an enactment once made should remain until time has shown that it is not practicable. If you tinker with a code so as to make it apply to particular cases as they may happen to turn up, I think it will destroy the efficiency and usefulness of the Code. I think that the suggestion of my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden) would commend itself most favourably to the Government and probably to the House, and that the whole matter of the amendment of the Code should be carefully considered and a Bill drafted by the department—not, I suppose, at once or even this session—and submitted to the House.

While I am on my feet, I may say a word or two as to the Bill. I agree with what my hon. friend from East Prince, P.E.I. (Mr. Bell) said as to the first section. I come now to deal with section 5, by which the hon. gentleman undertakes to repeal section 593 of the Code. I venture to say that that would deprive the accused of an opportunity of offering a defence before the magistrate. The hon. gentleman said that it was unknown in the history of the province of Ontario, as had been suggested, that the magistrate should have the right to deal with certain cases—for instance, a man charged with murder who might offer to give evidence of an alibi. I would like to say that this section of the Act is taken from the report of the English commissioners. It is referred to by Greaves, the best authority on criminal law now in existence. My legal friends will remember that the best edition of "Russell on Crimes" is that of Greaves:

Mr. Greaves, in his report to the Lord Chancellor of England upon criminal procedure, criticised the law as it stood at that time (1855), with regard to the discretion of the justices to examine the witnesses for the prisoner, and strongly expressed himself in favour of magistrates being compelled to take the examinations of witnesses tendered for the defendant.

That is a sound principle of law in cases of this sort. In the course of his remarks upon the subject he says:

"It is difficult to imagine a greater injustice than that a man should be committed or bound over in a case where he has evidence so clear and conclusive that no person can for a moment doubt his innocence. And it not unfrequently happens that, whilst an innocent man is unjustly imprisoned, the guilty is afforded an opportunity of escaping.

"The following is an instance of both these inconveniences:—

"A person by the name of Yarmouth was shot and robbed, but lingered some months before he died. Bowen was taken before the magistrates as the perpetrator of the crime, and in his defence offered to call sundry witnesses to prove an alibi. The magistrates, however, declined to examine them and committed him to jail. There he lay till after Yarmouth's death, which did not occur till after one or two assizes. He was then tried for the murder, and his witnesses gave so

clear an account of where he was at the time of the murder that, after some only of them had been examined, the judge stopped the case, and directed an acquittal. The same witnesses also gave evidence as to the person who really committed the murder, which, if it had been taken by the magistrates,—

That is the rule now.

—might have led to his apprehension. The delay, however, which took place had enabled him to leave the country, and the result was that the guilty escaped and the innocent lay in jail for months."

Now dealing with the other question as to appeal, that is an open question. The right to give a new trial is vested in the Minister of Justice. It may be proper or it may be improper that he should be vested with that right. But I will say this to the House, that that section of the law is also borrowed from the report of the English commissioners. In that report it is pointed out that in the event of evidence being discovered after the trial is over which would go to show that the person found guilty was really innocent, in that case there is no remedy under our law. The moment after the verdict is rendered, if you could prove beyond doubt by the subsequent discovery of other evidence that the man is not guilty, there is no remedy without this provision. But this section which it is sought to repeal, gives a remedy by going to the Minister of Justice who, on examination of the new evidence, if he thinks it is sufficient to warrant a new trial, grants a new trial. The recommendation of the English commission was to the effect that this right should be vested in the Home Secretary. We have simply adopted the recommendation of the English commissioners in so far as that disposition of the law is concerned. It may be that this right, vested as it is in the political head of a great department, may not be exercised with proper discretion in all cases; that is an open question for the House to decide. This clause has not been interpolated in our Code without reason. But I think we ought to give the matter some fuller consideration. There are other sections of this law which commend themselves to me, but there is one with reference to a reserve case for a Court of Appeal that does not commend itself to me. In a criminal trial, if you have a question of law or a question of evidence arising at the trial and the judge decides against you, all you have to do is to say to him: I want your honour to reserve that case, and if the judge refuses to reserve it, he is still obliged by law to note your objection, and when the matter is disposed of, you go to the Attorney General and get his consent, and then you go to a Court of Appeal. The simple oral request to the judge for a reserved case is sufficient to give you the right of obtaining an appeal. These are all the observations I have to make on the subject, and I make them because I think this matter might be left for more mature consideration at a future time

when we may be considering other changes which might be usefully made. I move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). I do not propose to discuss the merits of this Bill, but only to remark that every important subject that is brought up seems to be choked off by an adjournment of the debate. The hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) has given a great deal of attention to this subject, and it does appear to me a very summary way of disposing of the question to adjourn the debate. His Bill contains a good deal which appears to be, in the judgment of some lay men, at least, in the right direction.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The hon. gentleman will see that the hon. member for Kingston has introduced a most important Bill. I take it that the hon. gentleman's object was not so much to carry his Bill as to bring to the notice of the Department of Justice the importance of certain suggested changes. So far as I am concerned, I have listened with the greatest interest to the suggested changes which the hon. gentleman has proposed; but no one who understands the serious consequences of amendments to the criminal law would imagine that because a *prima facie* case appeared to be made out by the introducer of a Bill, therefore the Bill should be incontinently carried. My hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule) is an old, experienced member of Parliament, and he knows well that Bills of this kind contemplating serious changes in the criminal law, require to have very careful consideration at the hands of the Department of Justice. I am quite sure that the Department of Justice in this case, as the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) says, will value very much the suggestions made by my hon. friend, and will consider them very seriously. But the House will hold the Government responsible for any changes in the character of the criminal law, and these changes cannot be made without great consideration. Speaking personally, there are one or two changes that appear to me to be in the right direction, there are one or two I could not personally approve of at all. I would like to talk them over with the Solicitor General and the Minister of Justice. For instance, under our Criminal Code passed in 1892, power was given to the Minister of Justice in certain cases to grant a new trial. In a case where a person was convicted of murder, and the Minister of Justice did not see fit to invoke the clemency of the Crown and release the prisoner altogether, he had power given to him, copied from the recommendation made by the Criminal Code commissioners in England some years ago, to order the case to be tried again. There has been only one case under that section so far, and that was the case of Mrs. Sternaman,

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

who was tried and convicted in the first instance, and a new trial was ordered, when she was acquitted. I am sure so far as experience goes there is not a member of the House who would wish to repeal that clause on the case which has occurred under it. The principle of the clause may be good or bad. The experience we have gained fully tends to confirm me in the opinion that it is a wise and judicious provision. But in matters of this kind involving life and death, involving character, involving punishment for many years in the penitentiary, we can very well adopt the maxim *festina lente*.

Mr. FOSTER. What is that?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. When the hon. gentleman was in college it used to be translated "make haste slowly." I was not aware that he had forgotten, as I have myself, a good deal of what I learned in my younger days. I thought he would have some of these common quotations at his tongue's end. I think, therefore, that we will be well advised in matters of this kind, after my hon. friend from Kingston (Mr. Britton) has given the House the benefit of his experience, to take that experience into consideration and not hurriedly either enact or reject the Bill. Let the matter be considered by the responsible department, and afterwards when it comes up the Government will be in a better position either to reject the Bill or to take the responsibility of considering it another session.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

#### NATURALIZATION OF ALIENS.

Mr. W. W. B. McINNES (Vancouver) moved that Bill (No. 37) to amend the Naturalization Act, be read the second time. He said: The object of this Bill is to secure the attendance of an alien, seeking naturalization, before the court, and the court is given power, if it thinks wise, to examine him upon his qualification for citizenship. Up to the present time, if an alien seeks naturalization he has simply to appear before a notary, or some one else who is authorized under the Naturalization Act, and take the oath prescribed by the Act. But the notary public, or lawyer, or other person, has practically no interest in the matter beyond that of making out the papers and receiving the fee.

When these papers, consisting of the oath of allegiance and a declaration that he has been in the country for three years are made out, they are deposited with the registrar of the court, and at the first sitting of the assize or county court they are read. At the end of the sitting of the court a certificate of naturalization is issued to the alien. The result is that there is no person holding a position of any responsibility to the public connected with the whole

transaction to check the proceedings, and as a consequence large numbers of persons are railroaded through and receive their naturalization papers without any regard, either, to the responsibilities which naturalization imposes upon them or on the country. This is particularly so in a province where there is a special reason, with some classes of our population, for becoming British citizens. For instance, under the fishery regulations, recently issued by the Federal Government, only a British citizen can take out a license to engage as a fisherman. The result is that a large number of Japanese and Americans, whether qualified or not for the duties of citizenship, being anxious to engage in the fishery industry, go through the mere form of taking out the papers, having them presented, and in due course receive their naturalization certificates, by which they become entitled to these rights. The same thing holds good in connection with the Allen Placer Mining Act that has been passed in British Columbia. Where there is this temptation to aliens to become citizens, in many cases, they regard very lightly the oath they take, and in many cases we know that the whole proceedings are characterized by fraud and perjury. Since I gave notice of this amendment I received a letter from a Dominion official in British Columbia, a gentleman who has probably seen more abuses in connection with this Act than any other man in Canada, and I shall quote a paragraph from his letter. He says:

I am glad to see that you have moved in the matter of amending the Naturalization Act in a very necessary direction. It is a matter of notoriety that many Japanese and other aliens, also have secured certificates of naturalization without their having resided in the province for the length of time contemplated by the Act. The aliens, many of whom are ignorant, and unacquainted with our laws and language, are not to blame. They are taken in hand and "put through" by interested parties. The practice is a vicious one, and should have been put a stop to long ago.

I simply read that in corroboration of what I have said in regard to the administration of this Act. I do not anticipate that there is any objection at all to the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). Mr. Speaker, this Bill, if it becomes law, will cause considerable inconvenience in our courts in the province of Quebec, and particularly in the city of Montreal. It may be that there is a necessity for such a law in the province of British Columbia, but we have experienced no such necessity, so far, in the province of Quebec, particularly in the city of Montreal. I have not the Naturalization Act here, but it seems to me that it surrounds the formalities of naturalization with sufficient safeguards. In the province of Quebec the party is required to appear before a notary, who is a public officer; he is obliged to take an oath, in

detail, as to his residence in the country. He may also take the oath before a justice of the peace. Then, he must make oath of allegiance before either of these officers. These men in the province of Quebec are qualified men, men of character, men who would not allow parties to take that oath unless they had some knowledge of the parties themselves. In addition to that, these two documents must be accompanied by a further document to the effect that the party seeking naturalization is a fit and proper person to become a British subject. A very large number of people are naturalized in the city of Montreal, and there would be great inconvenience if the proposal in the Bill became law. We have two divisions generally of the Circuit Court sitting, and these two divisions have an immense amount of work to perform. It seems to me that if ten, twenty or thirty persons, and sometimes there are more, were presenting papers for naturalization, if they all had to be examined before the judge, the procedure would take up most of the day. Furthermore, most people who are naturalized are not in a position to leave their places of business or their occupations. Many of them are workmen, and could not spend the greater part of a day in court in order to submit to this examination. After all, what is the judge to ask them? If they give an oath with the details, which are specified in that oath, what more can be asked? There are no lawyers present. What fact could the judge elicit if he proceeded to the examination of these parties? The Bill proceeds upon the principle that frauds have been committed in certain cases. Our experience in Quebec is not to that effect at all. I think it would greatly interfere with the work of the Circuit Court in Montreal if this lengthy procedure had to be gone through. The Bill presents a serious inconvenience, and I think the Government ought to consider it seriously before it adopts that procedure.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Mr. Speaker, before the question is put, I would like to say a word or two. I may say that I have a great deal of sympathy with some of the remarks that have fallen from the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk). The Bill is one that requires our serious consideration. We are now inviting the best class of immigrants, of different nationalities, to come to Canada, and we are anxious that they will come here, not as transient visitors, but as permanent residents, and that after they have been here a certain time, they will assume the responsibilities of citizens of the state and become naturalized. Every Canadian has an earnest desire that the better class of these people should come here and become citizens. If you have three or four hundred men coming here and living in the Northwest Territories for three or four years.

they could not, if this Bill passed, become naturalized unless they left in a bunch and travelled four or five hundred miles so as to be present at the first day of the sitting of the court, simply to make a declaration if they want to become naturalized at all. The Bill imposes an obligation that they cannot fulfil. You are practically asked to declare that they shall not live in the country and become permanent residents here, and bring up their children here; in fact, that they shall not become naturalized. The hon. member for Vancouver (Mr. McInnes) spoke of the Japanese who come to British Columbia and engage as fishermen. There have been some few complaints in respect to the Japanese, but I do not think that these complaints are so general or so well founded as to justify such legislation as is proposed. Under the present regulations in force, any person seeking to become a fisherman in the salmon fisheries in the Fraser River, has to register before he can take out a license, and must be naturalized in the first instance. Therefore, the evils that formerly occurred, have been to some extent minimized by the new regulations. I think my hon. friend (Mr. McInnes) would be well advised not to press a Bill of this drastic nature, and I would suggest to him, whether it would not be well to postpone it for consideration.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). The law, if amended as my hon. friend (Mr. McInnes) desires, could not possibly work in the North-west Territories. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) spoke of settlers having to go four or five hundred miles, and in the Territories they might have to go very long distances. It is not altogether a question of distances. Many of these settlers would be men eminently fit to discharge all the duties of citizenship, intelligent, even eager to be naturalized, and yet, if you place the obstacles in their way that would be placed by this section, they would shrink from taking on them the burden of citizenship, the white man's burden in fact, in the North-west Territories. I do not think my hon. friend (Mr. McInnes) would do well to press this legislation. I do not know the conditions that obtain in British Columbia, but I know that such a law could not possibly work in the North-west Territories.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). In the face of the expression of opinion that has fallen from both sides of the House, I think my hon. friend (Mr. McInnes) would be well advised not to press the Bill this evening. It may be, that there may be some reason to justify this legislation in British Columbia, where the immigration is of a peculiar character, but certainly, as has been pointed out by my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), and by my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), in the North-west Territories and in the

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

older provinces of the Dominion, the Bill would work very great injury, and such great injury that, if we have to choose between one and other classes of immigrants, we would be obliged to oppose the Bill. Under the circumstances, my hon. friend (Mr. McInnes) would be well advised, if he allows the debate to be adjourned. I beg to move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

#### REPORT PRESENTED.

Report of the Auditor General for the year ended 30th June, 1898.—(Mr. Fielding).

#### RETURNS ORDERED.

Statement in detail of all sums expended on account of the Joint High Commission between Great Britain and the United States since its inception to date, with the names of all persons connected therewith as commissioners, secretaries, clerks and attendants and the rate and total amounts of compensation of each as salary, allowances and expenses itemized.—(Mr. Foster).

Statement of all persons or commissions of inquiry appointed to inquire into the conduct of employees of the Government since August 1st, 1896, giving the names of commissioners, their rate of pay and allowances, the aggregate total amount paid to each as pay and allowance, and the total expenses of each commission outside of pay and allowance; also the names and post office addresses of all persons dismissed on the reports of the commissioners.—(Mr. Foster.)

Papers and correspondence in connection with the claim of the British American Bank Note Company for the balance alleged to be due to the company for contract work done for the Post Office Department.—(Mr. Foster.)

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

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 10.35 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 27th April, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

OFFICIAL DEBATES OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar) presented the third report of the Select Standing Committee appointed to supervise the Official Report of the Debates of the House, as follows:—

The attention of the committee having been directed to the fact that the rule allowing members to revise their speeches without making any material alterations in the meaning has, in many instances, been departed from, which practice, if permitted to continue, will, in their opinion, tend greatly to depreciate the value of the revised edition of the Official Report of the Debates. The committee therefore recommend that hereafter the rule in question be rigidly complied with.

The committee, with a view of ensuring the prompt delivery in future of both the revised and French editions of the Debates have deemed it necessary to alter in one or two respects the rules governing the printing of the Official Report of the Debates, and beg to submit for the approval of the House the amended draft rules appended hereto.

#### RULES FOR THE PRINTING OF THE DEBATES OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AS AMENDED.

##### Re Daily and Revised Editions (English).

1. The chief reporter shall see that the printer's copy of the daily issue is furnished concurrently with the Debates as the debate proceeds and said copy shall be accepted as correct by the printer. All the copy for each day's publication shall be delivered to the printer within two hours after the adjournment of the House.

2. The type used in printing to be brevier, with quotations in nonpareil.

3. The printing shall be performed daily on such size of sheet as may be directed and shall contain the speeches which have been delivered at the previous sitting of the House, and these shall be published as reported, in the language in which they are delivered. The said sheets to be delivered at the Distribution office by 3 o'clock, p.m., after each sitting.

4. In the event of the House sitting after 12 o'clock, the daily sheets are to be delivered as expeditiously as possible after 3 p.m. the following day.

5. The type of the daily edition shall be kept standing, and the sheets of the daily issue shall be revised by an officer appointed by the House. Members may send corrections to the said officer to be embodied in his revise.

6. That the time allowed for the aforesaid revision and correction by members shall not exceed twenty-four hours after the delivery of the daily issue to the House; and that all corrections shall be sent to the Debates office within that time. That promptly on the expiration of the twenty-four hours the proof sheets shall be sent to the Printing Bureau, where the corrections shall be made and the final proofs shall be read for the book form; and the work shall be then forthwith printed and constitute the revised edition.

##### French Edition.

7. The Debates shall be translated into French from the revised English edition.

8. The French copy shall be sent to the Printing Bureau to be set up in type in portions as fast as it is done, without waiting for a complete forme to be translated.

9. The proofs shall be sent in to the translator in galleys only. He shall return them signed within twenty-four hours after their receipt, and they shall be printed off, after correction, without further delay, as soon as a ferme of 32 columns is ready.

##### Index.

10. Indexes of the English and French editions shall be prepared by the proper officers concur-

rently with the issue of the revised sheets. They shall be sent to the Printing Bureau within one month after the prorogation of Parliament.

Mr. RICHARDSON moved :

That the third report of the Select Standing Committee to supervise the Official Report of the Debates of the House during the present session, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

#### PRIVATE BILLS—EXTENSION OF TIME.

Mr. GEO. LANDERKIN (South Grey) moved :

That the time for presenting private Bills be extended to Friday, the 12th day of May next, in accordance with the recommendation of the Select Standing Committee on Standing Orders, as contained in their eighth report.

Motion agreed to.

#### HUDSON BAY AND YUKON RAILWAY AND NAVIGATION COMPANY.

Mr. T. B. FLINT (Yarmouth) moved :

That that portion of the 49th Rule which limits the time for receiving petitions for private Bills be suspended with reference to the petition of the Hudson Bay and Navigation Company, presented this day, praying for an Act to amend their Act of incorporation in accordance with the recommendation of the Select Standing Committee on Standing Orders, as contained in their eighth report, and that the said petition be read and received forthwith.

Motion agreed to.

#### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 89) relating to the Canada Life Assurance Company.—(Mr. Wood, Hamilton.)

Bill (No. 90) respecting the Great North-west Central Railway Company.—(Mr. Macpherson.)

Bill (No. 91) to amend and consolidate the Acts relating to the Harbour Commissioners of Quebec.—(Mr. Fitzpatrick.)

#### POSTMASTER OF ST. JEROME.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Monk) asked :

1. Was Mr. Louis Desbiens, postmaster of St. Jérôme, Lake St. John, county of Chicoutimi, dismissed since June, 1896?

2. If so, on what grounds, and who recommended the dismissal?

3. Who was appointed in his place, and on whose recommendation, and why?

4. If his successor is one J. Gauthier, are the Government aware that the said Gauthier had previously been dismissed as postmaster, after an inquiry?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. The answer to the first question is: If the reference is to the former postmaster of Metabetchouan (there is no post office named St. Jérôme in the county of Chicoutimi), the postmaster was dismissed

on the 28th September, 1896. 2. The answer to the second question is : For having taken an active political partisanship part in the last Dominion general elections ; on the recommendation of the member for the county. 3. The answer to the third question is : Mr. J. Gauthier, on the recommendation of the member for the county. 4. The answer to the fourth question is : That when so appointed the Government was not aware of his having previously occupied the position of postmaster.

**SERVICE AND AGE LIMITS FOR LIEUTENANT-COLONELS.**

Mr. FOSTER asked :

1. What, according to present regulations, are the service and age limits for lieutenant-colonels in the militia ?
2. When did these come into force ?
3. What lieutenant-colonels have been retired thereunder, and what was in each case his age and term of service ?
3. What lieutenant-colonels, who have exceeded the regulation terms, have been retained, what is in each case his age and term of service, and the reasons for retention ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. Five years tenure of command. Sixty years of age. 2. Age limit, 1st July, 1897. Time limit, 1st October, 1897.

| Name.                                 | Age. | Service. |
|---------------------------------------|------|----------|
|                                       |      | Years    |
| Lt.-Col. Beattie, 21st Battalion..... | 61   | 6        |
| " Doherty, 82nd " .....               | 64   | 11       |
| " Davis, 37th " .....                 | 66   | 31       |
| " De Foy, 80th " .....                | 66   | 21       |
| " Moore, 13th " .....                 | 54   | 2        |
| " Wright, 43rd " .....                | 52   | 5        |
| " McKenzie, 8th Field Battery.        | 61   | 13       |
| " Smith, 14th Battalion.....          | 54   | 12       |
| " McKnight, 28th " .....              | 56   | 13       |
| " Roy, 9th " .....                    | 59   | 5        |
| " Kerns, 20th " .....                 | 54   | 9        |
| " Munro, 22nd " .....                 | 52   | 12       |
| " Hudon, 89th " .....                 | 54   | 15       |
| " Burland, 6th " .....                | 37   | 5        |
| " Davidson, 48th " .....              | 46   | 5        |
| " Butler, 53rd " .....                | 53   | 9        |
| " O'Brien, 35th " .....               | 64   | 17       |
| " Wilson, 33rd " .....                | 52   | 7        |
| " Rogers, 40th " .....                | 56   | 12       |
| " Humphrey, 66th " .....              | 46   | 5        |
| " Wayling, 12th " .....               | 56   | 11       |
| " Sutherland, 78th " .....            | 57   | 5        |
| " Curran, 1st Regiment.....           | *    | 10       |
| " Maclaren, 50th Battalion....        | 61   | 11       |
| " Matheson, 42nd " .....              | 50   | 12       |
| " Dixon, 86th " .....                 | 46   | 5        |
| " Cushing, 11th " .....               | 59   | 14       |
| " Eagan, 63rd " .....                 | 56   | 6        |
| " Cowan, 29th " .....                 | 52   | 6        |
| " Baird, 67th " .....                 | 50   | 11       |
| " McCully, 73rd " .....               | 51   | 13       |
| " Coombs, 39th " .....                | 57   | 11       |
| " Taylor, 5th " .....                 | 56   | 14       |
| " Mason, 10th " .....                 | 56   | 5        |

Mr. MULOCK.

| Name.                                  | Age. | Service. |
|--|------|----------|
|  |      | Years    |
| Lt.-Col. Tyrwhitt, 36th Battalion..... | 55   | 12       |
| " Lucas, 51st " .....                  | 62   | 11       |
| " Denison, G. G. B. G.....             | *    | 9        |
| " Cole, 41st Battalion.....            | 66   | 28       |
| " Harrison, 93rd " .....               | 62   | 13       |
| " Chipman, 68th " .....                | 66   | 28       |
| " Starratt, 69th " .....               | 66   | 28       |
| " Spurr, 72nd " .....                  | 59   | 11       |
| " Lindsay, 7th " .....                 | 51   | 5        |
| " Buchner, 2nd Bragoons.....           | 55   | 5        |
| " N. F. Patterson, 34th Batt...        | 55   | 8        |
| " Cushing, 11th Battalion.....         | 58   | 14       |
| " R. Tyrwhitt, 36th " .....            | 55   | 12       |
| " L. G. Desjardins, 17th Batt...       | 50   | 14       |
| " C. S. Kaulbach, 75th " ..            | 63   | 18       |
| " C. V. McCully, 73rd " ..             | 51   | 13       |
| " J. Beaudreau, 76th " ..              | 56   | 12       |
| " J. Irvin, 26th Battalion.....        | 51   | 9        |
| " C. McArthur, 6th Hussars...          | 60   | 6        |

\* No record.

**RETAINED.**

| Name.                              | Age. | Service. |
|------------------------------------|------|----------|
| Lt.-Col. Hon. P. Landry, 61st Batt | 53   | 14       |
| " W. W. White, 30th Batt.          | 55   | 5        |
| " T. Dussault, 81st Batt...        | 57   | 6        |
| " J. L. Bethune, 94th Batt.        | 43   | 5        |
| " G. H. Hunter, 47th Batt.         | 55   | 8        |
| " F. M. Cole, 2nd Rgt. Can. A      | 40   | 6        |
| " G. C. Carlisle, 19th Batt..      | 52   | 12       |
| " F. King, 7th Batt.....           | 53   | 15       |
| " B. Laurin, 87th Batt....         | 52   | 17       |
| " W. McLean, 14th F. Btry.         | 54   | 15       |
| " T. Amyrauld, 15th Batt..         | 57   | 15       |
| " Van Wagner, 4th Batt...          | *    | 15       |
| " W. H. Gartshore, 1st Huss        | 56   | 6        |
| " J. Duff, 4th Hussars.....        | *    | 24       |
| " A. D. Aubry, 85th Batt...        | 50   | 6        |
| " A. Dennis, 84th Batt....         | 53   | 11       |
| " A. Fraser, 88th Batt.....        | 48   | 16       |
| " W. T. Ward, 55th Batt..          | 58   | 14       |
| " Gwynn, 77th Batt.....            | 53   | 11       |
| " C. S. Ellis, 27th Batt....       | 45   | 7        |
| " W. B. McAulay, 58th Batt         | 52   | 10       |
| " J. H. Scott, 32nd Batt...        | 41   | 7        |
| " Donville, 8th Hussars...         | 56   | 17       |
| " Dibblee, 10th F. Battery.        | 48   | 15       |

Reason for Retention.—In the interest of the particular regiments and of the Canadian military service generally.

\* No record.

**PAYMENTS TO MR. NOBLE.**

Mr. HUGHES asked :

1. What sums of money have been paid to one Noble, a barrister, of Cannington, Ont., by the Government, or any department thereof, since August, 1896 ?
2. Are there any sums yet due the said Noble by the Government ?
3. What services were performed by the said Noble ?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I cannot give an answer to my hon. friend to-day. The hon. gentleman asked me to look through all the departments.

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). The other day I gave the information asked for in this question, with the exception of the second part. As to that, there are no sums due to Mr. Noble at the present time.

#### THE MAIL BAG CONTRACT.

Mr. **DAVIN** asked :

What are the names of those who constitute the Ottawa Supply Company ?

What Government contracts has this company received since June, 1896 ?

Has it been awarded the mail bag contract ?

Is Mr. Ronan a member of the company ?

Is this the Mr. Ronan who, during session, is employed in the House of Commons ?

Was not a Mr. Ronan, from 1893, up to last April, secretary of the Ottawa Reform Association ?

If so, is he in each case the same person ?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). A contract for the manufacture of mail bags was awarded to the "Ottawa Supply Company," they being the lowest tenderers therefor. The department is informed that Mr. S. S. Stratton and Mr. R. Ronan are the members of that company. The department is not aware whether Mr. Ronan was ever employed in the House of Commons, or as secretary of the Ottawa Reform Association. The hon. gentleman may, perhaps, confound the position of an employee of the House of Commons with the position of secretary of the Liberal whip. If so, this Mr. Ronan was at one time the secretary of the Liberal whip. I am told that he never was the secretary of the Liberal Association of Ottawa, though he did discharge some of the actual duties for the secretary, Mr. H. Bate, of Ottawa.

#### McKENZIE POST OFFICE.

Mr. **ROCHE** (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

1. Was a petition received from settlers to establish a post office to be named McKenzie post office, and to be located on N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S. 20, T. 2, R. 9 W., with Mr. Francis Windsor, sr., as postmaster ?

2. If so, did the Government accede to request ? If not, where was the office located, who was appointed postmaster, and on whose recommendation ?

3. Has Mr. C. H. Vrooman the contract to deliver the mails at McKenzie post office ? If so, were tenders called for before contract was let ?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). The answer to the first question is, yes. The answer to the rest of the question is as follows : The inspector reported that it would cost \$160 a year for a semi-weekly service for the proposed office, and the department was unwilling to establish it at

such a cost, as the estimated revenue therefrom was \$15, and, in fact, has not amounted to that sum, being only \$8 last year. On the 28th of December, 1897, Mr. Vrooman wrote offering that if the office were established to perform a weekly service for \$50 a year, and on the 29th December, 1897, Mr. Windsor wrote approving of Mr. Vrooman's offer, adding that he would, if appointed postmaster, perform a semi-weekly service for \$95. Under the circumstances it was deemed advisable to appoint Mr. Vrooman and have him perform a weekly service at \$50, and this was accordingly done.

#### COST OF BEHRING SEA ARBITRATION.

Mr. **McISAAC** asked :

1. What was the total cost to the Government of Canada of what is known as the Behring Sea arbitration ?

2. What part of this was expended by members of the Cabinet as travelling expenses ?

3. What amount was paid for living and travelling expenses and disbursements by secretaries, private secretaries, assistants, attendants, messengers or others in the service of the Government who attended or were employed in connection with said arbitration ?

4. What amount was paid to civil servants as allowances in addition to their salaries for extra services rendered in connection with the arbitration ?

5. What amount was paid for legal services ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). 1. \$140,781.98, paid between 1891 and 1896. 2. \$13,993.93. 3. \$51,177.33, including Canada's proportion of the divisible expenses paid the British Government. 4. \$3,873.32. 5. \$71,827.40.

#### QUEBEC CARTRIDGE FACTORY.

Mr. **INGRAM** (by Mr. Bennett) asked :

1. What were the Government's reasons for dismissing the members of the labour association, Mechanics' Assembly No. 10,061, out of the Quebec cartridge factory ?

2. How many were dismissed ?

3. Was it to recompense the aforesaid labour union for the very active part taken by its members in the last general election in support of the Liberal party, and particularly in the elections of the hon. member from Quebec West and the ex-member for Quebec Centre ?

4. How many boys and girls have been injured and maimed in the said cartridge factory during the last two years, and to what extent were they injured ?

5. What remuneration did they receive while suffering from said injuries, including the time laid up from such injuries ?

6. What was the nature of the correspondence which took place between the Labour party in the city of Quebec regarding the refusal of the cartridge factory authorities to admit for the purpose of inspection the provincial factory inspector, Madame Provencher ?

7. What was the result of the inquiries made by the Government regarding the said refusal ?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). I do not think this is

a question which should have been put on the paper. Whether intentionally or not, in two or three parts it is decidedly offensive. But, apart from that, it is a question which should be put in the form of an address, so far as it is parliamentary at all, as it asks for correspondence which took place between certain parties and the Government of the province of Quebec. Therefore, I would ask that the hon. gentleman put his question, so far as it is parliamentary, in the form of a motion.

#### MONTREAL HARBOUR IMPROVEMENTS.

Mr. MONK asked :

1. Have the plans of harbour improvements for the city of Montreal been finally agreed upon between the Montreal Harbour Commissioners and the Minister of Public Works ?

2. If so, what set of plans have been finally adopted ?

3. When are the works of improvement going to be proceeded with ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). Plans 12A2 have been approved. The work has been pushed as speedily as possible since last year, and is now going on.

#### SCOTT ACT—BROME COUNTY.

Mr. POPE asked :

Has any application been made to the Secretary of State for permission to have an election in the county of Brome to set aside the Scott Act ? If so, when was said application made, and was an order granted thereon ? If no order has been granted, why not ? When will such order be issued ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Yes, application was made on the 3rd March, 1899, and the petition has been reported favourably by the Department of Justice on the recommendation of the Secretary of State. The order will be issued in due course.

#### ISSUE OF STAMPED ENVELOPES.

Mr. HUGHES asked :

2. When will the present 2-cent purple stamped envelope cease to be issued and the red issued in its place ?

2. How many 2-cent purple envelopes were issued, and how many distributed ? At what offices were they distributed, how many at each office, are there any more to be distributed, and if so, where will they be distributed ?

3. Is it the intention of the Government to issue an entire new set of stamped envelopes to replace those at present in use ? If so, when ?

4. Is it the intention of the Government to issue a 4-cent and 7-cent stamp ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). The issue of 2-cent purple-stamp envelopes ceased when the supply thereof in the department became exhausted, the last issue having been made on the 7th January, 1899. The subsequent issue of 2-

Mr. BORDEN (King's).

cent stamped envelopes was in red, in accordance with the recommendation of the Postal Convention. The Government has come to no conclusion as to whether a 4-cent or a 7-cent stamp will be issued. The schedule hereto annexed shows the names of the post offices supplied with such purple-stamp envelopes and the respective quantities so supplied them.

List of post offices to which 2c. purple envelopes were issued and the quantity in each case.

| Post Office.             | Quantity. |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Belleville, Ont.....     | 500       |
| St. Catharines, Ont..... | 500       |
| Toronto, Ont.....        | 2,000     |
| Corinth, Ont.....        | 100       |
| Haliburton, Ont.....     | 100       |
| Mount Albert, Ont.....   | 100       |
| Tamworth, Ont.....       | 500       |
| Hagersville, Ont.....    | 100       |
| Hamilton, Ont.....       | 500       |
| Loring, Ont.....         | 100       |
| Newton, Ont.....         | 100       |
| Ottawa, Ont.....         | 700       |
| St. Casimir, Que.....    | 100       |
| Sherbrooke, Que.....     | 500       |
| Montreal, Que.....       | 1,000     |
| Rigaud, Que.....         | 100       |
| Maitland, N.S.....       | 100       |
| Truro, N.S.....          | 100       |
| Yarmouth, N.S.....       | 100       |
| Andover, N.B.....        | 200       |
| Centreville, N.B.....    | 100       |
| Shoal Lake, Man....      | 100       |
| Winnipeg, Man.....       | 2,000     |
| New Westminster, B.C..   | 100       |
| Greenwood, B.C.....      | 200       |

#### MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS—TOUR OF INSPECTION.

Mr. BERGERON asked :

What was the name of the steamer used by the Minister of Public Works last season on his tour of inspection of wharfs, harbours, piers, &c., from Montreal eastward, including his trip around the Island of Anticosti ? Is or was said steamer owned by the Government ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). The "Uranus" was the name of the steamer, and it is owned by the Government.

#### USE OF FRENCH LANGUAGE IN NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Mr. MONK asked :

1. Has the Right Honourable the Prime Minister obtained the opinion of the Department of Justice in regard to the use of the French language in the North-west Territories of Canada, and the jurisdiction of Canada in regard to the same, as intimated by him last year ? (Page 2531 of "Hansard.")

2. What is the opinion of the Department of Justice on said matter ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The Government has obtained the opinion of the Department of Justice, and will communicate it to the House on Monday.

## GREEN STAMPED ENVELOPES.

Mr. HUGHES asked :

1. Who was the purchaser of several thousand 2c. green stamped envelopes in Toronto just previous to the issue of the 2c. purple envelope ?
2. How many 2c. purple stamped envelopes were issued in Toronto ?
3. When were they issued ?
4. Who purchased them ?
5. When were they sent to Toronto ?
6. Is the Government aware that secret information anent the issue of 2c. purple stamped envelopes and the quantity of 2c. green stamped envelopes in stock in Toronto was obtained ?
7. Is the Government aware that the person who cornered the 2c. purple stamp stock sold them as high as 50c. each, and they are now going as high as \$1 in places ?
8. Was the issue of the 2c. purple stamped envelopes done by mistake ?
9. Are there any 2c. purple stamped envelopes now in stock ?
10. Is it the intention of the Government to issue any more 2c. purple stamped envelopes ?
11. Will that issue, if any such be made, take place before the person who cornered the Toronto lot, disposes of his lot ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). I would state that I think this question is open to objection, inasmuch as it is suggestive of a supposed state of facts, which may or may not exist. However, I have endeavoured to answer the question as substantially as possible. 1. The department has no information whatever of the matter referred to in the first question. 2. Two thousand. 3. On the 4th January, 1899. 4. The department has no knowledge whatever as to who purchased them or in what quantities, or how many purchasers there were. The envelopes were, no doubt, sold in the Toronto post office in the usual way. 5. On the 4th January, 1899. 6. The Government is not aware that any such information was given, and the head of the Stamp Branch, which has entire charge of the distribution of stamps and stamped envelopes, states that he is fully assured that no such information was given. But if the hon. gentleman has any reason to think otherwise, and will communicate the same to the department, the fullest inquiry will be made into the matter. 7. The Government has no knowledge whatever as to whether or not any persons "cornered" such envelopes, or on what terms any purchaser may have disposed of them. 8. There was no mistake whatever made in the issue of said envelopes, but on the contrary, the issue took place in the ordinary course of business, and was made on requisitions in the usual way, coming from postmasters. 9. No. 10. No. 11. This question is covered by the previous answers.

HON. MR. JUSTICE GAGNE.

Mr. SAVARD asked :

1. Is the Government aware that Hon. Mr. Justice Gagné, of Chicoutimi and Saguenay, is

a director of the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway Company ?

2. That the said line of railway runs through the whole county of Chicoutimi ?

3. That it is a serious inconvenience and a considerable cause of outlay to the inhabitants of the district who have claims against the said company, or vice versa, inasmuch as the said Judge Gagné is obliged to decline to act, and parties are compelled to proceed to Quebec, a distance of 225 miles ?

4. If so, is it the intention of the Government to call upon Hon. Judge Gagné to resign his position of director of the said Quebec and Lake St. John Railway Company, or that of judge of the Superior Court of the province of Quebec, in the interest of the ratepayers of the district of Chicoutimi ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The Government is not aware that Mr. Justice Gagné is a director of the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway Company. We have very strong doubts whether we can call upon the judge to resign, if he is a director of the railway ; but, if complaint is made to us, we shall certainly call the attention of the judge to the complaint.

## DOMINION MINT.

Mr. CARSCALLEN asked :

1. Are the Government aware that thousands of dollars annually are paid by Canadian miners and mining companies for United States consular certificates on gold bullion or gold dust, sent to the United States mint ?

2. Are the Government aware that a very large sum each year has also to be contributed to the United States war tax by Canadian miners and mining companies on gold bullion or gold dust shipped to the United States mint ?

3. In order to remove the above burdens and save this money to Canadian gold producers, is it the intention of the Government to erect in the Dominion a mint for refining and coining the gold produced in Canada ? If so, where is such mint to be erected, and when ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The Government have no information concerning the matters referred to in the first and second questions. As to the third question, the Government have not formed any conclusion with regard to the erection of a mint.

## INFRACTION OF CUSTOMS LAWS.

Mr. FOSTER asked :

What further action does the Government propose to take in the case of Schafheitlin & Fitzgibbon, against whom informations for the infraction of the Customs laws were filed by the Department of Justice in October last, and from whom the amount of \$188,274.70 was claimed in duties and penalties ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). This case is being proceeded with in the court in the usual way.

Mr. FOSTER. What court ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The Exchequer Court.

**DREDGING OF PIGEON RIVER.**

Mr. HUGHES asked :

Is it the intention of the Government, this season, to remove the unsightly piles of stone which have been dumped in the water along the once beautiful shores at Rosedale, near where the river leaves Balsam Lake

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). The question is under the careful consideration of the Government.

**CLEARING SCUGOG RIVER.**

Mr. HUGHES asked :

Why have not the Government placed a sum in the Estimates for the clearing and otherwise rendering properly navigable the Scugog River from Lindsay to Sturgeon Lake ?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). The hon. member had better wait for the Supplementary Estimates before putting that question.

**MR. J. N. COLPRON, N.P.**

Mr. BERGERON asked :

1. Has the Department of the Interior received an account from Joseph Napoleon Colpron, N.P., for performing notarial papers in the Caughnawaga reserve ? If so, what was the amount of the said demand ?

2. Has the Department ordered the payment of such amount ?

3. When ?

4. If not, why not ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). In reply I beg to say : 1. The Department of Indian Affairs received an account from Mr. Colpron for notarial services. The amount claimed was \$547. 2. The department ordered payment of \$150, which was considered to be the full amount due Mr. Colpron for the services rendered. 3. January 14th, 1897. 4. Covered by previous answers.

**BONUS TO IMMIGRATION AGENTS.**

Mr. CLARKE asked :

1. What bonus per head was paid during the past twelve months by the Government of Canada to agents, owners, or representatives of British steamship companies, for adults and children from Great Britain respectively, brought out to Canada as immigrants ?

2. What bonus per head was paid during the same period by the Government of Canada to agents, owners, or representatives of foreign steamship companies for adults and children respectively, brought out to Canada as immigrants from the continent of Europe ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). 1. A bonus of 7 shillings sterling per head for persons of twelve years of age or over, of either sex, and one-half that amount for children under twelve and over one year of age, was paid by the Government of Canada during the past twelve

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

months to agents of British steamship companies for persons brought out to Canada as immigrants. 2. A bonus of \$5 per head for persons of eighteen years of age, of either sex, but nothing for children or persons under eighteen, was paid during the same period by the Government of Canada to agents of foreign steamship companies for persons brought out to Canada as immigrants from the continent of Europe. 3. The above rates are the same as were paid under the late Government.

**LOWERING THE WATERS OF LAKE SIMCOE.**

Mr. BENNETT asked :

1. Has a request been made by any person or persons upon any department of Government for a lowering of the waters of Lake Simcoe ? If so, by whom, to what department, and has any plan for such purpose been proposed ?

2. Does the Government intend to act on such a request, if such a request has been made ?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). 1. Yes. By municipal council of Orillia, Frank Madill, M.P., municipal council of township of Morrison, Thos. R. Morris and T. M. Banting. To Department of Marine and Fisheries and Public Works. 2. The hon. gentleman must be aware that at the request of the gentlemen named above works were executed in 1896-97 for the improvement of the outlet of Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching, and for the regulating of the waters thereof.

**IMMIGRANTS SENT BY IMMIGRATION AGENTS.**

Mr. WILSON asked :

How many immigrants have been sent into the Dominion of Canada by the immigration agents in Great Britain and Ireland, and how many from the United States, for the year ending 30th June, 1898, and where are they located ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). It is impossible to give this information, as no means have been devised of identifying and keeping an account of immigrants sent by the agents of the Government in the countries named, apart from the general immigration from those countries.

**IMMIGRANTS IN QUARANTINE.**

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to call the attention of the Ministry to an item that appears in the Ottawa "Citizen" of this morning :

Toronto, April 26.—The consignment of fifty boys from England for Fagan's Home, among whom a case of scarlet fever had developed at Quebec, was side-tracked last night at Leaside Junction, just outside the city of Toronto, and put in quarantine. It is said that Dr. Montizambert, the quarantine officer of the Dominion

Government, gave the boys a clean bill of health, and allowed them to proceed to Toronto, after the scarlet fever patient had been removed, without enforcing any quarantine. But he seems to have taken the precaution to notify Dr. Bryce, secretary of the Provincial Board of Health, and the doctor warned the local authorities here that the suspects were being brought from Quebec to Toronto by special train. Professor Shuttleworth, in the absence of Dr. Sheard, city health officer, protested to Dr. Bryce, that the circumstances demanded that the whole party be stopped en route and quarantined. This was done, and the usual process of fumigation and disinfection will be carried out before the boys are allowed to enter Toronto.

The local authorities did not think that Toronto should be saddled with the expense of quarantine, holding that the provincial department should deal with it, and, if possible, recover in part from Quebec.

I desire to ask whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to this subject, and whether they have made inquiries from Dr. Montizambert as to the truth of the allegations, and if they are true, whether it is the intention to saddle the cost of quarantine on the local authorities of Toronto?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am sorry that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) is not in his seat, and that, therefore, I cannot answer, at this moment, the question of my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule).

Mr. SPROULE. It is unfortunate that the Minister of Agriculture is so often absent.

#### CUSTOMS DIFFICULTY ON ALASKA BOUNDARY.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria). I wish to call the attention of the Government to a matter of great moment to the merchants of the Pacific coast and the Yukon district. It seems that there has been some dispute between the collector of customs at Skagway and the officers of the Mounted Police with regard to getting goods through and I am informed that merchants who have got liquors and other goods in Victoria and Vancouver have found that these liquors and provisions have been kept back owing to this dispute. I would like to know whether the Government has any information in regard to this quarrel, and whether the matter is in the course of settlement, and the goods are going forward; and, if not, whether the Government would take notice of it and try to have some arrangement made so that the goods can go forward. The reason the merchants are so anxious to get the matter settled is that now that the warm weather is coming on, if there is even a short delay, it will be impossible to get goods through the passes until all the snow is gone.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). The difficulty to which the hon.

gentleman refers arose, apparently, through a misunderstanding by the officers of the Mounted Police of their instructions. The officer in charge in the district communicated with this department here, and his instructions were amended; and I am now informed by the Controller of the Mounted Police that he was advised some time ago that the matter had been amicably arranged and everything was going forward. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) has information to the contrary, and will give me the particulars, I will try and see that the matter is arranged.

Mr. WALLACE. In what way were the regulations amended?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. There is no question of regulation; the question was as to the arrangements that were made to carry out the provisions of the customs law at the boundary line. There is a provisional boundary line at the Summit, and the customs officers are six miles inside of that boundary line, while the police officers are at the Summit. The police officers understood that they were not to allow any American customs officer, conveying goods, to come past the boundary. The American customs officer said he would not allow the goods to go until he handed them over to a Canadian customs officer. But the police officer had misunderstood his instructions; and as soon as word got here of the facts, he was told to allow the American customs officer to go through until he reached the Canadian customs post.

#### LIVE BAIT—NEWFOUNDLAND LAWS.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). I desire to ask whether the Government have any information as to a regulation made by the government of Newfoundland with respect to the purchase of or catching of bait within the territorial waters of that colony. I have information from the president of the board of trade of Halifax that a regulation or statute has been passed by Newfoundland prohibiting the selling or catching of herring bait between the 15th of March and the 25th of April. Several vessels were sent from the port of Halifax, expecting that fresh bait could be had, and the owners have been heavy losers in consequence of the regulation, of which they knew nothing when they left. I desire to bring this matter to the attention of the Government, if it has not already been reported to them, and to ask if it would not be well to ascertain—if that has not already been done—whether this regulation or law has been passed, and to take steps to have it removed so far as it may apply to the fishermen of Canada.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Representations have been made to me within the last two days to the same effect as the hon. gentleman states. But the department

has no information that such a law has been passed or regulation enforced. I can not think it possible; I think there must be some mistake. The Premier of Newfoundland informed me, when I parted from him in Washington a short time ago, that there was no such regulation. We have taken steps to ascertain how it came about that such an impression as the hon. gentleman speaks of could have gained ground. The necessary inquiries are being made.

#### REGULATION OF GRAIN TRADE.

On the Order for the second reading of Bill (No. 15) to regulate the trade in grain in Manitoba and the North-west Territories.

Mr. J. M. DOUGLAS (East Assinibola) moved:

That this order be now discharged, and that the Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of Messrs. Fisher, Sifton, Joly de Lotbinière (Sir Henri), Rutherford, Haggart, Davis, Tisdale, Oliver, Roche, Richardson, Campbell, Bourassa, Bain, Douglas, Rosamond, Bertram and Casgrain.

Motion agreed to.

#### RAILWAY PASSES.

Mr. H. BOSTOCK (Yale and Cariboo, moved that Bill (No. 39) to provide for the issuing of railway passes to members of the Senate and House of Commons, be read the second time. He said: My object in bringing this Bill before the House is to deal definitely with the question of issuing railway passes to members of this House, a question which has become in the minds of a good many people somewhat of a burning question. As hon. gentlemen are aware, it is a common practice at present for the railway companies of Canada, at the beginning of every year, to send to the members of this House a pass entitling them to free transportation over their lines, and there is a feeling throughout the country that these passes are given to the members for the purpose of influencing them in favour of the companies in any legislation that may be passed. My object in this Bill is to dispel, as far as possible, any feeling of that kind. Considerable discussion has taken place on this matter in the press, and I may state that I myself have discussed this matter with some of the railways, and I have been told that there was no intention on their part of influencing in any way the position of a member of the House, but that they issue these passes merely because it has become the custom of the country for railways to issue passes to members of the House of Commons and of the Senate. Now if such is the custom, and if it is going to be regularly followed by the railways of this country, I think it would be much better to put the matter in such a position that, as soon as a man is elected a member of this House he shall have the right to apply

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

to the Clerk of the House for a certificate or to the executive officers of any railway company throughout the Dominion for a railway pass. If the question was put upon that basis there could be no idea of any member being under any obligation to a railway company from the fact of his holding a pass. I think myself it would be of great benefit to this country that the members of this House, representing as they do widely different interests in this country, should have every facility of travelling all over this great country, and seeing for themselves its great natural resources. I think also it would be to the advantage of the railway companies themselves if they understood that every member of this House, as soon as he is returned to represent a constituency of Canada, should have the privilege and the right of travelling over the railways of this country. I think a member of Parliament should be put in a better position than other people to make himself acquainted with the resources of all parts of this Dominion. Now it is with that object, Mr. Speaker, that I have introduced this Bill to the House, and I beg to move the second reading.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker. I can hardly think that the hon. member is serious in presenting such a Bill as this to the House. Does he want to make this House of Commons a laughing-stock; does he want to make it an object of contempt all over the country and all over other countries? Has the hon. gentleman ever seen a measure of this kind passed by any deliberative assembly in the world? If there were any excuse for such a measure it would be different, but everybody knows that the great railway companies in Canada are in the habit of extending this courtesy without any compulsion to every member of this House. I am sure there is no member, on either side of this House, who considers, for a single moment, that the acceptance of a pass from any railway company places a member of this House under the slightest obligation whatever. It is given as a courtesy, which the railways may very well extend, and it is in their own interests, in carrying out a railway enterprise, to give public men every facility for seeing the country and for estimating the value of the service they are performing. This being so, why should we place ourselves in so utterly ridiculous a position as to pass an Act of Parliament to compel railway corporations, or anybody else, to give to members of the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada what may be regarded as a favour at their hands? Why, Sir, it is an invasion of private rights. Why does not the hon. gentleman complete the farce by providing that they issue every member of this House tickets to the dining cars and tickets to the sleeping cars as well? There is no reason why he should not, if we are in a position to demand these things

as a right. We cannot ask these things as a right; this Parliament has no right to lay its hands upon any portion of the private property belonging to any individual or corporation in the country. They have the power, but they have not the right. I deny the right of this Parliament to lay claim to use the private property and convert it to their own use of any corporation or any individual in this country. The proposal is without excuse, because it is well known that this practice has become universal, that members of Parliament are voluntarily placed in the position of having these facilities put at their disposal, and to say that we will refuse to accept them as a compliment at the hands of these railway corporations, a compliment that is perfectly understood, is to propose something to which there is no justification. No hon. gentleman can go into the Railway Committee at any of the sittings without finding the most abundant evidence that there is no member of the House of Commons who considers himself under the slightest obligation to these railway corporations for the courtesy which is extended to them. The companies, which have given free passes voluntarily to members of Parliament, when their interests are at stake, members on both sides of the House, who have received this compliment, at their hands, giving the most determined and unqualified opposition to the measures which they consider to be in their own interests, showing that there is no person who considers his independence, in the slightest degree, compromised, or that he is placed under the least obligation whatever. I will not waste the time of the House in discussing, at length, a proposition of this kind. I cannot but think that the hon. gentleman is attempting to place this Parliament in a most extraordinary position, and that he is taking a most unnecessary step for which he has indicated no reason whatever. He is asking us to place ourselves in a position, such as has not been taken by any deliberative assembly in the world. I am sure if there is any assembly in which such a measure has been propounded, it is an object lesson to be avoided rather than followed. I am not aware of any such. I shall look with astonishment to any member of this House giving countenance and support to a measure of this kind under the circumstances under which it is brought before us.

Mr. D. D. ROGERS (Frontenac). Mr. Speaker, in the session of 1896, I introduced a Bill along these same lines, and I am glad to see that the matter is brought up again. It is evident that attempting to pooh-pooh this practice as having no effect upon members of Parliament does not convince the country, whatever influence it may have upon members of the House. I do not think this matter can be disposed of by pooh-poohing it, and making light of it. It is well known that when this system of free passes was introduced it was not at all general. Some

railways adopted the practice while others did not, with the result that those that did not do so considered that they were not receiving reasonable treatment, and they also granted passes. It has been said in this House many times that hon. members were holding their seats with promises of positions in their pockets, and that their independence was affected thereby. We all know that the railway companies of this country do not give any courtesy to anybody unless they get a return for it. These corporations are composed of the sharpest business men in the country, and they do not give these courtesies without the expectation of a return, either direct or indirect. Therefore, I repeat, that to pooh-pooh the matter as the hon. leader of the Opposition has done, does not answer the case. I might give an illustration of how the system works by mentioning the case of an hon. gentleman who had a seat in this House and who had been using a pass from a railway company. He had some legal business from the railway company, and when he put in a pretty large bill against the corporation, they replied to him by saying: "You ride free all over our road, and we think that your charges are a little too high." "Well," he said, "if you look at it in that way, you may keep your pass." He did not reduce his charges on that account. I believe that members of this House are not affected by the reception of railway passes, but the people of this country feel that the practice has a bad effect upon the members of this House. The opinion of this country is, Mr. Speaker, that it is an imposition for members of Parliament to have free passes in their pockets, and at the same time to charge mileage coming to and going from Ottawa. This country has contributed over hundred of millions of dollars and large grants of land to build the railways in Canada, and in my view, it is quite within the power of this legislature which created the railways, to fix whatever rules we in our wisdom decide should govern them. There is not a railway in this country which does not receive a heavy annual subsidy for carrying the mails, and every one knows they are well paid for that. The pass privilege in my opinion has been abused, and I do not believe that it would interfere with the rights of any company if we passed this law and gave effect to its provisions. There must be some change in the regulations in this regard to satisfy the opinion of the country. If the members of this House feel that they are not sufficiently well paid for their attendance, let them stand up like men and vote an additional indemnity, but do not let them increase their indemnity in this roundabout way by accepting railway passes and saving their mileage. The independent agricultural classes of the community have a strong objection to this railway pass business, and I hope this House will adopt some legislation to put an end to the present unsatisfactory state of things in this regard.

Mr. W. B. IVES (Sherbrooke). The hon. gentleman from Frontenac (Mr. Rogers) has referred to an agitation in the country with regard to this question. The agitation was one of the peculiar platforms of the movement that my hon. friend (Mr. Rogers) is the sole representative of, I believe, in this House. But his memory has failed, if he thinks the agitation would be allayed by a law compelling all railway companies to issue passes to members of Parliament. The objection of the Patrons of Industry was, that the railway companies should not issue passes to members at all, and they held that members of Parliament should pay their fares like anybody else. I do not think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Rogers) is going to settle the agitation, if any still exists, by the passage of this measure. In my judgment, however, that agitation is ended. The aim of the Patrons of Industry was accomplished when they helped to return the Liberal party to power, and that being accomplished we have heard very little from the Patrons of Industry about their platform for the last couple of years.

Mr. HUGHES. They all travel on their passes now.

Mr. BERGERON. They even take their trunks.

Mr. IVES. The serious objection to this Bill is, that it is communistic. If we have a right to compel railway companies to give us of their property, we have an equal right to compel the street railway companies in Ottawa and Montreal to allow us to travel free over their lines, and further, we have just as good a right to ask the railway companies to carry the freight of members of Parliament for nothing—a consideration which would be a great boon to some of us. It would be very nice indeed, but it is very communistic. We have not started to legislate in that line yet, and in my opinion we should not make a start in this trifling matter, which is of so small importance that it does not deserve the attention of the House.

Mr. JAS. McMULLEN (North Wellington). I give to the hon. the mover of the Bill credit for attempting to put a stop to a system which I am satisfied that the people of the country, and particularly those in the rural districts, find fault with. I know that an impression has been abroad for many years, that members of Parliament accepting passes were to a certain extent influenced in favour of legislation that might possibly be beneficial to the railway companies. However, I quite agree with the remarks made by the leader of the Opposition, that he has never noticed in the Railway Committee, that any member of Parliament ever was influenced by the fact that he had a free pass. For my own part I have been a member of that committee for fifteen or sixteen years, and I can honestly say, that I have never seen the slightest indication that members of Parliament were influenced in

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any vote they gave in regard to a railway Bill. There has also been a feeling throughout the country against members of Parliament drawing mileage to and from Ottawa, while they are in possession of railway passes. Now, Sir, I do not think there is a country in the world where railway companies get cheaper railway legislation than they do in Canada. You know perfectly well that in England, at least so I have been informed, a railway company seeking a charter goes before the Railway Committee, and each member of that committee has to be paid a guinea for his attendance each day he gives his services in the way of helping through a Bill. I have been informed that the members of the Railway Committee in London are paid in that way. There is no such exaction from railway companies in this country, although the members of our Railway Committee devote a great deal of extra time and attention to the consideration of the Bills that come before them. As I have said, I believe that in Canada railway companies receive their legislation as cheaply, if not cheaper, than in any other country.

Mr. WALLACE. Would the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) permit me to ask him a question. Do I understand him to say that the railway companies in England pay the members of Parliament for their attendance at the committee?

Mr. McMULLEN. I understand so from the information I have received.

Mr. WALLACE. It could not be possible.

Mr. McMULLEN. I understand that those promoting charters in England pay the members of the committee for their services in discussing a railway Bill. I have been so informed on good authority. Now, Sir, some injustices unquestionably do exist under our present system. For instance, there is the Intercolonial Railway which belongs to the country, and it is not a paying institution, and has not been a paying institution in the past. Senators and members of Parliament get passes over the Intercolonial Railway as they do over the Grand Trunk Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway. And these members and Senators of Parliament from the maritime provinces get a free ride over this Intercolonial Railway which belongs to the country, and is not a paying institution, and in addition to that they also draw money from the country for mileage. Thus the country loses the fares of Senators and members of Parliament, and loses at the same time the sums paid them for mileage. So far as the Intercolonial Railway is concerned, this is a double cost to the country, whereas in reality the free passes cost nothing to the country in the case of the other roads. However, I suppose this is a matter that can hardly be avoided seeing that the privileges are granted by other railways to members who live in the west, and I presume it is thought

wise that the same favour should be extended to those who travel over the Intercolonial Railway. Nevertheless it is double pay to these men so far as the country is concerned. I would like, Sir, to see some settlement made with regard to this whole question. My hon. friend from Sherbrooke (Mr. Ives) said that the Patrons of Industry had agitated this question for a great many years, but that since the Reform party got into power the Patrons were dead. Well, my impression is that the Patrons are not as dead as my hon. friend (Mr. Ives) thinks. They are keeping an eye no doubt upon the proceedings of this House, and every act that bears evidence of extravagance or injustice to the people will be noticed by the Patrons, and I rather fancy that in a great many cases the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ives) will find that they will be very lively corpses when the next general election comes around.

Mr. ROGERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. McMULLEN. I do not at all think that the Patrons of Industry conducted their agitation for the purpose of bringing into power the Reform party. I will tell you what I believe they did want. They wanted to get men in power who would administer the affairs of this country honestly. They have secured that at last, and I believe that they are satisfied that the affairs of this country are now being honestly administered. But I would say to my friends on this side of the House that if they should stray away from the path of national rectitude to the extent that our hon. friends opposite did when they were in power, I should not be at all surprised if the Patrons of Industry would rise again and help to put them out, if honest men could be got. But men would have to change greatly before we could get men who would more honestly discharge their duties than the members of the present Government. At the same time, I would like to see something done to put a stop to the agitation in the country with regard to these railway passes. I would like the country to understand that if passes are issued, the men who receive them are not at all influenced in their action by the fact. I am glad to be able to bear my testimony to the truth of the statement made by the hon. leader of the Opposition in that respect, for I have never seen any indication of it. But the country does not think so, and I would like to see something done to put an end to the impression which exists in the country, either by compelling railway companies to give passes or by cutting off the mileage altogether. I would be glad to do that. Not that I think members of Parliament are unduly paid for the services they render, or that the indemnity is at all adequate to the expense to which they are put in serving the country. After an experience of many years, I am satisfied that if members of Parliament grow rich, it is not because of the indemnity they

receive. But I would like to see this matter adjusted in some way so that the agitation could be put a stop to, and members of Parliament could not be charged with drawing money for mileage and at the same time travelling on railway passes.

Mr. J. ROSS ROBERTSON (East Toronto). Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the fact that the hon. leader of the Opposition expresses astonishment that any member of this House should be found to support the Bill of the hon. member for Yale and Cariboo (Mr. Bostock), the hon. gentleman must know, or he ought to know, that there are members of this House who pay their fares on the railways, and decline to receive favours from the railway companies. I cannot see that the Bill which has been introduced by the hon. member for Yale and Cariboo, puts any burden on the shoulders of the railway companies. The Bill simply provides that these railway companies shall be compelled to do what they have hitherto been only too glad to do out of the fulness of their affection for members of this Parliament. There is a strong sentiment in this country against the use of railway passes by members of Parliament. Members who do not accept passes will agree with me that this sentiment is very unfair; for I would not suggest for a moment that members who travel on passes are not just as free from railroad influences as I am. But, unfair or not, the sentiment exists, and the present Bill will remove every semblance of reason for such a sentiment. I realize that the ideal way to approach this question would be to prohibit the issue of passes to members of Parliament; but the practical way to grapple with this evil is to compel the issue of these passes. On the pass question, prohibition is ideal and unworkable; compulsion is practical and automatic. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) referred to the question of mileage; but I see no reason why that question should come up in this discussion at all. The pass question can be settled first; and any grievance which the country can have on account of the payment of mileage can be dealt with afterwards. I cannot see that the country has any reason to feel that members of Parliament are overpaid, even when the mileage is added to their indemnity.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to have to say to my esteemed and hon. friend from Yale and Cariboo (Mr. Bostock) that the Government cannot accede to the principle of his Bill. At the same time, I differ to a large extent from my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition in the remarks he made a moment ago. This legislation is far from being unprecedented and farcical. I do not know of my own knowledge, but I am informed that similar legislation exists in several states of the Union; and if these precedents for it exist, I think that is a

reason why we should, at all events, treat it with more respect than has been shown to it by the leader of the Opposition. At the same time, I submit to the House that the proposition which is contained in the Bill is one of such a far-reaching character that the House must pause about agreeing to it; because, after all, a railway company is entitled to its own property. If a railway company chooses, of its own free-will or out of the abundance of its affection, as was remarked by my hon. friend from East Toronto (Mr. J. Ross Robertson), to issue passes to any person, whether he be a member of Parliament or not, it is acting in the exercise of its rights. It acts according to its own interests, or from some other consideration. But to force the railway company to do what it does willingly, is altogether another proposition. It has been the characteristic of all British Parliaments, especially the mother of all Parliaments, to pay the most minute respect at all times to the rights of civil property; and for this reason, I think we cannot, at this moment, compel the railway companies to issue, without remuneration, a free pass to every member of Parliament or to anybody else. But while I say that, I do not know that, after all, by simply rejecting this Bill, we grapple with a question which has often been brought to the attention of the House. It has been felt—and I believe there is some reason for it—that the system of issuing passes is not altogether free from objection. I agree with the statement made by the hon. leader of the Opposition, and repeated a moment ago by my hon. friend from North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), and I believe not questioned from any quarter of this House, that the issue of passes is not a consideration to influence any kind of legislation either in the Railway Committee or on the floor of this Parliament. It is, I am sure, altogether too paltry a consideration to be taken into account by any man who has a duty to discharge as a member of this Parliament. Though it has never had that effect, and will never have it, I hope, we cannot ignore the fact that the public conscience has been more or less touched by the circumstance that passes are issued to members of Parliament who at the same time receive a mileage allowance to pay their fare. If a proposition were made that railway companies which have been subsidized out of the treasury of Canada should be compelled to issue passes to members of Parliament, that might perhaps be considered. The Parliament of Canada has not treated the railway companies gingerly. On the contrary, it has been very free with aid to railway companies; and if it were a part of the obligation of railway companies which receive aid from the Parliament of Canada that they should carry free members of the House of Commons and members of the Senate, perhaps there might be something in such a proposition which would entitle it to consideration. I

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am not prepared at the present time to offer any judgment on that. But if we were to compel subsidized companies to issue free passes to members of Parliament, certainly, as a consequence, the proportion of mileage which is given to members of Parliament would have to be reconsidered. If the two things were considered together, I think Parliament would be prepared to give them favourable consideration; and if my hon. friend were to review the question at another time upon these principles, he might perhaps receive a favourable hearing from this House. But, as the Bill which he has presented does not meet these views, I think he would consult the best interests of the object he has at heart in not pressing it, but in withdrawing the motion he has made.

Motion negatived.

#### CIVIL SERVICE ACT.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier) moved second reading of Bill (No. 50) to amend the Civil Service Act. He said: As may be seen, on reference to the first section of this short Bill, it provides that, in the case of the dismissal or removal of any civil servant, he can, upon application in writing to the head of the department within thirty days, obtain from the department what the Bill calls a certificate, setting forth:

- 1st. The duration of his employment in the civil service of Canada;
- 2nd. The nature of such employment;
- 3rd. The reason of his removal;
- 4th. The number and nature of the complaints made against him;
- 5th. The name or names of all persons who made complaints against him;
- 6th. The decision arrived at by the department upon all complaints so made;
- 7th. A copy of all proceedings had at any inquiry held by or under the direction of the department.

As the House will see, this measure provides special protection to the civil servants against whom the pleasure of the Government has been exercised. It does not in any way change the nature and tenure of the service, but enables a civil servant, when dismissed, to obtain a certificate which fully acquaints him with the causes that led up to his dismissal, the offence with which he is charged, the proceedings upon that charge, and the decision of the Government.

The immediate effects of this legislation are to be considered in the first place, but there are remote effects besides, and, to my mind, they are not the least good effects which may be derived from this legislation. If the House will accept it. The House will notice that one of the immediate effects of the Bill is, that it enables an employee to know fully the circumstances which led to his dismissal. I do not wish to enter into the details of any cases, but, no doubt, members on the other side of the House will admit, that since the change of Government in 1896, a great many public employees, both

important and unimportant, have been dismissed from the service. Among those dismissed who occupy inferior positions, there is a large number who, to this very day, are not aware of the exact reasons which brought about their removal from office. And I do not believe that those reasons could be easily ascertained. They know the fact, but do not know what particular circumstances led to their dismissal. It seems to me that the position of a civil servant is, to a very large extent, if not entirely, the position of a man employed in the ordinary relation of life, and any man occupying a position of trust, in the ordinary relations of life, is entitled, if that position be taken from him, to know the causes and circumstances which lead up to what must be for him a calamity. This measure will permit a civil servant to know the causes and circumstances which lead to his dismissal, and to learn those circumstances and the cause of his dismissal directly from his employer. If this Bill becomes law he will not be obliged to turn to members of Parliament, or in any other way seek information upon a matter which, to him, is one of great moment; but directly from the department and within a certain time, when all the circumstances attending his dismissal are familiar to the department, he can obtain that information and he can obtain it without publicity. The majority of civil servants dismissed in the past have been obliged to seek information through the members of this House, and that information has been obtained either by questions put to the Government or by motions for returns. This method, apart from being lengthy, involves publicity, and, in some cases, unquestionably, that publicity is calculated to harm the civil servant. It is publicity, I submit, which is always calculated to do an injury to a man who, after leaving the civil service, must, as a general rule, turn to some other means of livelihood for himself and his family. The Bill has another advantage. If it becomes law, it will, I submit, greatly abridge the time that has been devoted in Parliament, at least since I became a member of this House, to discussing dismissals, matters of a purely private—if I may use that expression—or, at any rate, of an individual nature. I have no doubt that all the members of this House will admit that since this Parliament began its sittings, a very large proportion of our time has been devoted to the examination of these cases of dismissals of civil servants, particularly in cases in which it was possible to get information only by bringing the matter up in this House. Very possibly, if the procedure which it is sought to introduce by this Bill had been in use, the civil servant might not have moved these influences which were brought to bear in his favour, and thus a very considerable saving of time in this House would have been gained. I do not wish to take up unnecessarily the time of the House upon a measure which does not seem to me to involve great difficulties or to be

likely to meet with serious objection; but I desire to point out another advantage possessed by this Bill. It is that it enables the public servant, immediately after his removal, to have in his possession a document which will put him in a position to seek employment elsewhere. It has come to my personal knowledge that a number of civil servants who were dismissed—I will not, for the moment, discuss the question whether they were dismissed justly or unjustly, dismissed for what is known here vaguely as offensive partisanship—a number of these civil servants on whose behalf I was interested, as well as others whose cases have come to my notice, were absolutely precluded from finding employment for the reason that when we sought to find occupation for these men, parties from whom we sought that occupation, without giving us an absolute reason, seemed to waver in their anxiety to oblige, because they had not proof positive that the real reason for the dismissal of the civil servant was his offensive partisanship and not some graver offence committed by him in the exercise of his official duties. One case was that of a collector on a canal, a man of extraordinary honesty, who, during a period of, I think, seventeen years, was never, in one single instance, found at fault in the exercise of his duties as collector. He was dismissed from the civil service for offensive partisanship. But it took a considerable time to obtain from the Government a declaration to that effect—through the man's own fault, possibly, or through the fault of those who were interested in his behalf, or through the fact that Parliament was not sitting at the time. This man, in two or three instances, I believe, would have obtained an employment of trust, for which he was pre-eminently fitted, if he had had this document of, so to speak, an authentic character, certifying the exact reason of his dismissal from office, from which anybody could have concluded that during this long period of his service to the state in regard to these duties to which he was specifically called, the collection of the revenue of the Crown, he had never in any instance been found at fault. There is, as hon. members will notice, a provision in the Bill which calls for a declaration from the department to the civil servant dismissed of the names of those who have made complaint against him. Now, Sir, here again I invoke my own experience and the experience, I am sure, of a number of members of this House. In a great many instances, particularly in the case of the removal from office of men occupying inferior positions in the civil service—workmen, men whose calling was to manual labour—complaints were brought to the department or to the member of the party who controlled the patronage of the office it was sought to vacate, and it never was possible to find out through whom these complaints were made. Now, Sir, it seems to me that the position of the Government, here again, in circumstances such as these, is very much the same as that of an

ordinary employer. Surely no man who had been served faithfully by any employee would think of proceeding to the very rigorous extreme of dismissing that employee without informing him of the names of the parties who had a grievance against him, without telling that employee that complaints had been made and revealing to him the names of those complaining, giving him a chance of clearing himself of such a disastrous imputation as would call for his dismissal from office. I therefore think that where there is a complaint made against a civil servant, that complaint should be articulated clearly by the complainant, and if the complaint is proceeded upon to the extremity of dismissal, he should be made aware of the name of the party who has made the complaint against him and has brought upon him so great a calamity. I believe that another of the immediate results of a measure such as this will be to afford considerable relief to the heads of the departments themselves. I believe that in many cases of dismissals—I do not refer merely to such dismissals as have taken place since I have been sitting in this House, but to many that may have occurred before I entered political life—I believe that in many of those instances the Government of the day, the heads of the departments, have resisted as long as they could the influences brought to bear to bring about the dismissal of a civil servant. Many of these people who offend in this way are thoughtlessly carried away by political passions which are very often merely local in their character, carried away by what we term in this country parish politics, and I believe that if the head of the department was able to say: You must remember that under the terms of the law I am obliged to tell this man, when he is dismissed, all the circumstances that are set forth in section 1 of this Bill, I believe that in many instances matters would not be pushed any further. Such a provision would be a relief, not only to the party whose dismissal is sought, very unjustly sometimes, but to the Government itself. Sir, if this measure becomes law there are, outside of those immediate advantages which I have pointed out, others which, if more remote, are to my mind more important still. In the first place, if this procedure is followed out in the case of all civil servants dismissed, we will have a regular jurisprudence of a valuable character as to what offences may be considered causes for dismissal from the civil service. At the present time we do not know exactly what constitutes offensive partisanship. We have different opinions upon that subject, but I believe there is such an offence, and I believe it is a very serious one. But when you come to apply the vague theories which we have in our minds as to what constitutes offensive partisanship, we find it a very difficult matter. Now I know one case of a man who was dismissed from the civil service after an investigation. In

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that investigation it was established that during the revision of the lists in the province of Quebec, in his own parish, he had attended to that revision, he had suggested the names of parties who were qualified to vote, he had also mentioned the names of parties who had no right to vote. A witness was asked at the inquiry if, on any occasion, this man had betrayed any desire to deprive any one unjustly of his vote. No, he said, never; he was there attending to the revision of the lists, and he was acting justly; he was himself on the list, and he seemed anxious that everybody who had a right to vote should have a vote, and that those parties should not have a vote who clearly had no right to be on the list. Well, Sir, this man was dismissed for offensive partisanship. Is it right or is it wrong for a civil servant to use the right which the law gives him of petitioning, at the time of the revision of the lists, in order that these voting lists should be correct? If, as in the instance I have just given, it is established that he was not a violent man, that he sought to commit no injustice, but that he was anxious to be fair and impartial to everybody, and that he simply used the right which our own statute confers upon him, because at that time they were proceeding under the old election law—if he uses that right properly, is he guilty of offensive partisanship? Surely we can derive only benefit from the jurisprudence which, it seems to me, would result from carrying out the provisions of this law. There are other cases which, to my mind, are less doubtful than these, but which to many might appear doubtful cases. A civil servant goes to a committee meeting; is that man guilty of offensive partisanship? If he is, if, by attending a committee meeting, he is guilty of partisanship, and if that is once for all established and recorded, then civil servants will be on their guard. The jurisprudence to which I have referred will be useful to the public servants themselves in the first place, and it will be useful also to the Crown. It will enable the head of a department to say: This question has been decided long ago, it has been decided, for instance, that a man who goes to a public meeting and shakes his fist at one of the candidates, is showing offensive partisanship, and you were seen doing this, and you should have known that this was wrong, and you are dismissed for this reason. This jurisprudence may also be useful to the community at large, to the whole electorate, as well as to the heads of departments and to the civil servants themselves. In other words, if the provisions of this Bill are put into force, I imagine that after a certain time we will have a mass of decisions recorded upon which may be based, possibly, rules to guide the civil servant in so far as interference with politics is concerned; and if he violates those rules, or if he proceeds against these decisions of the departments, then he will know that his conduct, however proper it may appear to himself, exposes

him to the loss of his position. The adoption of this measure will also put a check upon a principle which, to a very considerable extent for some years past, has been gaining force in this country, and that is the principle that to the victors belong the spoils.

In this regard, let me very briefly remind the House what the experience of the United States has been. The members of this House are well aware that the tenure of office in the neighbouring republic is similar to the tenure of office in our own country and in England. A civil servant, in the United States, enjoys his position at the pleasure of the President, exactly as the civil servant here holds office during the pleasure of the Crown. During the first years of the American republic nobody doubted in the United States but that this tenure of office was one for life, or one for life provided the civil servant behaved properly. From the time of President Washington's accession to office down to 1820, although in the neighbouring republic they had a very large number already of civil servants, there were only sixteen dismissals from office, and these dismissals were for cause. They had nothing to do with politics or with offensive partisanship; they were dismissals for gross neglect of duty. In 1820, in the United States, a Bill was introduced and passed through both Houses of Congress almost unnoticed, and that Bill provided that no man should remain in office more than four or five years, I think. I am not sure as to the length of time, but still, in spite of the want of interest which the people took at the time of the adoption of this important measure, it did not pass without strong protests from Jefferson and Madison. Almost immediately after this law had come into force, it was not acted upon. It was considered that, although there was this disposition of the law stating that four or five years was the duration of the tenure of office, public servants should be allowed to remain in office, as a matter of course, during good behaviour. In 1829, at the time of the accession of President Jackson, after a very stormy electoral contest, President Jackson, who was a violent man, began this system of dismissals from office without any cause assigned, but merely upon the principle that civil servants hold office during the absolute pleasure of the appointing power. This system, inaugurated by President Jackson, grew rapidly, and it was in 1832 that, in the Senate of the United States, Senator Marcy proclaimed the principle, that in all political contests the spoils belong to the victors. From that moment the system spread throughout the whole republic. It became the custom to dismiss civil servants upon the accession of a new political party to power. The President and Ministers surrounding him were not in a position to control the demands made upon them; they were not in a position to inquire as to the

validity of the claims made; they had to take the word of the member of Congress coming from the locality where the changes were sought to be made, and it became an accepted idea, that rotation in office came as a necessary consequence of a change of political parties at the helm of state. It became, as I stated a moment ago, a principle, that a person holds office at the absolute pleasure of the appointing power, and also, that office is only granted as a reward for party services rendered by a party man, and that that reward is to be given to a party man who has rendered such service, or to his friend. It became a principle, that any man who occupies a public office must consider that it is necessary for him to leave that office as soon as the political party to which he has not given allegiance, comes to have the power of dismissing him. In other words, the House will see that the idea that public office was a public duty, or a public trust, and that the position which a party appointed would hold during the time of his good behaviour, or during life, if he behaved properly, disappeared entirely and was replaced by the principle to which I have just adverted. Of course, I know that that idea grew more rapidly in the United States than it would grow, probably, in our own country, because at that time it was deemed in the United States that rotation in office was, to a certain extent, the consequence of the democratic idea prevalent in that great republic, that every man should in turn occupy some public position, and that they should strenuously avoid that bureaucratic principle which obtains in many of the countries of Europe. That principle was at first understood to apply merely to federal offices, but in a short space of time it was extended to state positions. It went from federal politics into the administration of the state; and from the administration of the state it was extended in a short time to municipal affairs, so that the system which I have briefly endeavoured to describe, with which members of this House are probably more familiar than I am myself, extended over the whole length and breadth of the American administrative system. What did it produce? We know what that system produced. It produced the professional politician and the boss, the man who really controls political affairs in the state. It produced such evil, that in 1863, or thereabouts, the American people began to protest against that system and to work strenuously to get rid of it. It had become at that time, and it has become since, most distasteful to them. They have realized its incalculable evils. President Garfield it was who said, that more than one-third of the time of a public man in the United States was taken up in attending to these matters, in attending to claims for patronage, and dismissals from office in favour of the party's friends. Well, Sir, the evil grew to such an extent

that the reaction began in 1883 with the Act known as the Pendleton Act, which inaugurated the present civil service reform in the United States. Mr. Pendleton was a member of the United States Senate, and he introduced an Act creating a commission much like our own civil service commission, and provided in the wording of the Act that upon this commission both political parties in the United States should be represented. Of course, that Act did not bring about an immediate change, but it had the effect that out of the 120,000 civil servants in the United States, it took 14,000 of them out of the class who changed office whenever there was a change of the executive in power. Since then the provisions of the Pendleton Act have been extended so as to increase by three times the number of civil servants included in the original Act, and we all know that at the present time in the United States the hope of every serious man is that ultimately the provisions of the Act will be so widened as to remove the entire civil service from the fatal influence of the spoils system. We therefore find that the Americans are endeavouring in the most serious and systematic manner, to get rid of the principle enunciated by Marcy: that to the victors belong the spoils. The people of the United States are anxious to make their civil service what it is in England viz., a permanent civil service. I admit that in Canada we are far from the state of affairs which brought about the passing of the Pendleton Act; but I hold that no serious man will refuse to admit that there is a strong tendency in the direction of that evil; a tendency which we should endeavour to prevent by every possible means. I believe that this Bill, if it should become law, will check the efforts which are made, whenever there is a change of government, to obtain dismissals when there is no justification for these dismissals. I believe this law, if enacted, will help to prevent the spread of that spoils system in Canada, and therefore, Sir, in my humble judgment, it ought to commend itself to the attention of this House. As I stated, it does not in any way touch the tenure of office, which remains in the pleasure of the Crown; but it provides that the position of the civil servant, whether he has been dismissed justly or unjustly, shall be surrounded with salutary guarantees.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Mr. Speaker, I have always regarded dismissals from the civil service, for political partisanship, or for political purposes, in an entirely different light from dismissals for other causes. I can understand the justice of dismissing a civil servant at any time that he is negligent, or unfaithful, or untrustworthy. But in the vast majority of cases, the Canadian civil servant is dismissed because he has had the courage of his convictions to speak out his mind, it may be

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in a manly and fearless way, on the public questions which interest every citizen of the state. In that view, a Bill with such an object as the Bill moved by the hon. member (Mr. Monk) is one that should become law. In many cases, a young man is dismissed from the civil service for no other reason than alleged partisanship, and often it has never been proved that he was guilty of political partisanship, offensive partisanship, or active partisanship. He is dismissed on the mere allegation, and in such a case he goes into the world handicapped when he seeks employment in some other walk in life. It is known that he was dismissed from the service; it is true the rumour was that he was dismissed because he was a partisan, but those who require the services of such a man look upon him with a certain amount of suspicion, and it is sometimes assumed that other reasons caused or contributed to his dismissal. This prevents him from getting employment where he otherwise might obtain it. This civil servant has fitted himself for a special line of service; he has faithfully and efficiently carried out his duties in the interests of the country, and it is a great hardship and injustice to him to be suddenly deprived of his means of livelihood. Some one who is sensitive over what young men do, has a grudge against that civil servant, or has been misinformed with regard to his conduct in a political campaign, and if this some one is a supporter of the party in power, he applies for the dismissal of this young man, and on his mere allegation, the civil servant is dismissed. The allegation may be true or false, in many cases, it is false, but nevertheless the young man suffers, and he is thrown out of employment which heretofore afforded a living to both himself and his family. There is a stain on his character which seriously interferes with his chance of getting employment, but if this Bill passes, and he receives such a certificate as is provided for, after a fair inquiry, or a trial if you like, the facts of his dismissal are set forth, and it puts him on a better standing in the eyes of those from whom he seeks employment. I claim that every civil servant who is dismissed is justly entitled to a certificate, stating the grounds upon which his services were dispensed with. If the civil servant be dismissed upon unfair or unreasonable grounds, or mere allegations not consonant with the facts, then it is a simple act of justice that he should get a certificate stating why he was so dismissed. If the dismissed servant was not given a fair trial, was not confronted by his accusers so that he might have an opportunity to refute their allegations, then a great injustice is perpetrated upon him. It is my opinion that in almost all cases the civil servant should have that opportunity. That is only fair in other lines of life, and it is much more important that it should be the case with regard to

our Canadian civil servants, because if we can believe what we hear, in very many cases our civil servants are dismissed because they have spoken out their minds a little too freely to suit those opposed to them politically. In many cases of the dismissal of civil servants which have been brought to the notice of this House, it has been alleged that they were not political partisans, that they took no part in elections, that they did not even vote, and that they were not offensive; but these men were not allowed an opportunity to prove their innocence, even when it was demanded of the Government that they should have that simple justice done them. They asked who were their accusers, but they were given no information as to who they were. What were the accusations against them? They were not given them, but the bald statement was made to this House, as a justification for their dismissal and the taking away of the means of support for themselves and their families, that they were offensive partisans, and they were obliged to go out into the world branded with that character and with a suspicion against them which might prevent them getting other employment. If such conduct, as has prevailed during the last two or three years, is to prevail in the future with regard to the dismissal of public servants, it is high time that we had such an Act as is proposed. Therefore, for my part I am inclined to support the Bill, and the sooner it becomes law the better for the civil service and the general interest of Canada.

Mr. F. A. MARCOTTE (Champlain). Translation.) Mr. Speaker, I entirely approve of the Bill introduced by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk). I do not wish to enter into any lengthy details, as I think the hon. gentleman has fully explained his Bill, and I hesitate not to say that it should commend itself to the approval of every hon. gentleman in this House.

The position of a civil servant, who is dismissed from office, for political or other purposes, is the position of a man employed in the ordinary relations of life, and he is entitled to know the causes which led up to his dismissal. For some time past, it has become the practice of dismissing civil servants upon such flimsy pretenses that it is necessary to specify the reasons of their dismissal from office, and thus put an end to a method which is calculated to harm the civil servant. I am referring here to those employees who have been dismissed on the ground of political partisanship, and for services rendered either to the Liberal party or to the Conservative party. The object of this Bill is to enable the public servant, immediately after his dismissal, to obtain from the head of the department a certificate of an authentic character stating the exact reasons of his dismissal from office. The public servant is thus enabled to have in his possession a document certifying

the exact reasons of his dismissal and which will enable him to seek employment elsewhere.

The dismissal of civil servants from office is a matter attended with more or less serious consequences to them. People are apt to think that more serious offences than political partisanship have led up to the dismissal; while, as a matter of fact, several cases have been brought to the notice of the House of civil servants having been removed from office on very trifling pretenses. Well, this Bill enables a civil servant, when dismissed, to obtain a certificate setting forth the grounds upon which his services were dispensed with, so that he will not go handicapped into the world when he seeks employment in some other walk of life. He may obtain, upon application in writing to the head of the Department a certificate setting forth the nature and the duration of his employment, while in the service of the Government. This certificate of character may prove of great importance to a dismissed official, in so far as it will put him on a better standing in the eyes of the business men from whom he seeks employment, by setting forth the number of years he has been in the employ of the Government, and what are his qualifications for the work he has performed. I might call it a certificate of competency, which will give the civil servant dismissed a better chance of seeking employment in some other walk of life.

I desire to point out another advantage possessed by this Bill: There is a provision in the Bill calling for a declaration from the department to the civil servant dismissed, of the names of those who have made complaint against him, of the proceedings upon that charge and of the decision of the Government, after the charge has been investigated. The Bill provides that the number and nature of the complaints made against him are to be clearly articulated in the certificate; and the reason why this provision was made is that complaints are frequently brought against civil servants on more or less serious grounds, by more or less competent individuals who are less qualified than the employees themselves, against whom they bring charges. The consequence of these various provisions of the Bill will be to render more cautious those who have made complaints against the dismissed civil servant, because their names will be revealed to him, and they would not like to see their names affixed to such trifling charges. The result would be that grievances of no importance whatever would no longer be brought to the notice of the House.

The clause which provides that the certificate shall set forth the nature and number of the complaints made against the civil servant dismissed, and the decision arrived at by the department upon all complaints so made, that clause, I say, is of very great moment. Why so? Because it would af-

ford relief to the heads of the departments themselves, who would then be in a position to tell the complainants: You must bear in mind that I am bound to make known to the party whose dismissal you seek, when he is dismissed, the names of the complainants. The result of this clause would be to put the complainants on their guard. On the other hand, it would also impress upon those who control the civil service the necessity of never dismissing any civil servant except on fair and reasonable grounds.

We all know what took place in the past, in the case of civil servants dismissed from office, having asked for certificates of character, or for a copy of the charges brought against them. In order to get information about the causes of their dismissal from office, they have been obliged to turn to members of Parliament, and that information has been obtained by numerous questions put to the Government or by motions for returns. Were this measure to carry, a considerable saving of time in this House would have been gained, and that is another ground upon which I am inclined to support this Bill, and the sooner it is passed into law the better for the civil service itself.

On these several grounds, I deem it my duty, as a matter of fair play and justice towards the civil service, to support the Bill introduced by my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk).

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). If the Bill introduced by my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) were to become law, he will admit that it would create quite a revolution in our system of parliamentary government. I listened carefully to my hon. friend, and I think I do him no injustice when I say that he has discussed the Bill and the question involved in it more from the American than from the British point of view. He has forgotten for the moment that we are not under the American system, but under the British system. Apart from that, my hon. friend has discussed the question very much as if the Government existed for the civil service, and not the civil service for the Government. The fact is, if this Bill were to become law, the whole system of responsible government, such as we have always understood it, would become absolutely nil. But it is not necessary for me to go into any lengthy argument; for my hon. friend, I believe, answered himself effectually when he stated that a civil servant is entitled to the rights of an ordinary employee, and should be so treated. I have no fault to find with that proposition; I agree with him. But a civil servant has no other right than that of any other employee. I ask my hon. friend if such a law as he proposes would be tolerated if sought to be applied anywhere else than in the civil service? Of course, if a man is dismissed from office, whether he occupies a public or a private position, he is quite within his right if he asks from his

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employer a certificate of character. If a merchant, for reasons which are satisfactory to himself, dismisses a man in his employ, the latter will certainly go to him and ask him for a certificate of character; but it will be at the option of the employer to decide whether or not he will give him a certificate. If the merchant, for reasons of his own, chooses not to give the certificate, who has a right to complain? Or if, from simple caprice, he refuses to give the certificate, what recourse has the servant against him? My hon. friend, being actively engaged in the profession of the law, knows better than I do that under such circumstances the servant has no recourse whatever. Then, can my hon. friend state any reason why the Government should be subjected to conditions which no other member of society is subjected to? If a Minister comes to the conclusion that a civil servant should not be kept in the service, for whatever reason, the civil servant would have no more right against the Government than he would have if employed by a private member of the community. I do not think the principle is subject to controversy, and yet the hon. gentleman wants by this Bill to subject the Government to conditions which he would not dare to impose upon any private member of the community. My hon. friend will therefore see at once the weakness of his position. It seems to me that this is enough, and more than enough, to show him that the position he takes is not acceptable. I share everything my hon. friend says as to the dangers and evils of the spoils system, a system which I hope will never be introduced into this country; but I do not share what he says about civil servants meddling in politics. Especially I do not share in the views expressed by the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) on this subject. I do not believe, nor is the opinion shared, I am sure, by any number of the members of this House, that civil servants should be allowed to take any part in political matters.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. gentleman misunderstood me. I did not mean to say that a civil servant should have the right to take part in politics. I said a man was dismissed for no other reason than that he had spoken out freely.

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend could not have been very happy in his expressions. When he says that a man was dismissed because he had the courage of his opinion, that is encouraging civil servants to express their opinions. I also want to call attention to certain strictures passed by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier, and to say that, so far as my memory goes, and I believe it is absolutely correct, there has been no dismissal for offensive partisanship in the inside service of the country. The civil servants here understand quite well that they are not to meddle in politics. They

are free to exercise their suffrage by registering their vote; and, while the great majority of them, I believe, have taken advantage of this right, which the law gives them. I am not aware that any one of them has been guilty of offensive partisanship. All the dismissals have taken place in the outside service, and chiefly from among that class of officers who receive some remuneration for work which does not take up all of their time, but only a portion of it, and for which they receive a remuneration which would not be sufficient to keep them. But I repeat what I said a moment ago, that we do not want the spoils system introduced into this country. It has not been, and I hope it never will be. I do not think it can be introduced so long as we enjoy our present system of government. My hon. friend has forgotten that there is all the difference in the world in this respect between the British and the American system. The British system is one of responsible government, a government which is responsible to the House of Commons for every dismissal, which therefore exercises that power under a sense of responsibility, and which can be censured, and even dismissed, if it exercises that power in a way in which it should not, according to the judgment of the House. That is not the case in the American system. There the Administration hold office for four years. Whether they use their power rightly or abuse it, they cannot be removed during their term of office, and therefore can dismiss at will thousands of civil servants who are not of their own political views. They can act tyrannically and arbitrarily, and the civil servant has no remedy, and if we had the same system in this country, there might be some reason for the measure proposed by my hon. friend. But under our system the civil servant is amply protected, as well as the public at large. I do not agree at all in the statement of my hon. friend that men have been debarred from any other employment because they could not get certificates. I am not aware that any man dismissed from office ever applied to the head of his department for a certificate of character. If he had, he would undoubtedly have obtained one according to the views of the Minister. If the friend of my hon. friend, of whose dismissal he complains, had applied to the Minister in charge, and the Minister was of the opinion that the man had been a faithful servant, he would have given him a certificate to that effect. That certificate would have shown that the man had satisfactorily discharged his duties, and that the reason he was dismissed was because he had abused his position to meddle in politics. With this certificate, my hon. friend's friend might have obtained employment anywhere. I do not see, therefore, that any reason has been given why we should depart in any way from the time-honoured practice—not only the time-honoured

practice, but the principle of responsible government, which I would look upon as seriously invaded if this Bill should become law. Therefore, I move that it be not now read, but be read this day six months.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). I have listened with a great deal of pleasure to the member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) in submitting this Bill to the House, and I did not notice a single point taken by my hon. friend that was not admirably sustained by argument. It was a clear, lucid exposition of a very plain and practical question, and the hon. gentleman gave to this House most conclusive reasons why his Bill should be adopted. I must say that I listened to the criticisms of the measure made by the right hon. leader of the Government with very great surprise. He did not undertake to challenge a single point raised by my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier, so far as I am able to judge. The right hon. gentleman said that the position taken by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) is based upon the American rather than the British system. Why, it is the very reverse. My hon. friend believes in the British system. He believes in that system, which was not only the British but the Canadian system down to the time this Government assumed office, but which since then has been gradually broken down to the spoils system introduced in conformity with principles that apply to United States rather than to British institutions. The right hon. leader of the Government says that this is a simple question—one between master and servant. He says he can find no difference between the position that a civil servant occupies in Canada to-day and the position which a coachman occupies as regards his master. I join issue with the right hon. gentleman, and I say that the position he gives the civil servant is one that is calculated to degrade the civil service of the country and bring it down to a status such as it has never occupied and I trust never will occupy in the consideration of this House. A civil servant is not the servant of these gentlemen, but the servant of the country; and it is in their position of trustees of the country that hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches have the power they possess, and which they have abused by attempting to lower and degrade the character of the civil service as it has never been lowered and degraded before. We now learn from the right hon. gentleman what lies at the foot of the degradation of the civil service of Canada. It is the belief that they are the servants of the Ministers instead of the servants of Canada.

We have had a variety of statements made. First, these hon. gentlemen took their ground upon offensive partisanship, and when they found it was not a case of offensive partisanship but of the simple exercise of the right which every civil ser-

vant in Canada has always enjoyed—the independent exercise of his franchise—they converted that into a ground for dismissal. That is not all. Does the right hon. gentleman pretend to tell me that he can shelter himself or his Government under even the plea of offensive partisanship? Why, he knows there is a case standing on the records of the House—the papers in which have been laid on the Table—in which a member of the Government is convicted of having swept out of office scores of men whom the Government themselves had declared were entitled to hold office and had so advised the Governor General. And for what reason were these men dismissed? Because they had done anything improper? No, but simply on the ground that they were in the position of private servants of a private gentleman, and therefore could be swept aside and trampled on at pleasure. They could be dismissed on a fortnight or month's notice, just as the First Minister's hired monthly or daily servant may be dismissed. What was the reason assigned for their dismissal, and assigned in a state paper laid on the Table by the right hon. gentleman. "It was not considered in the interests of the country"; and yet the very appointments had been sanctioned by these gentlemen, and the Governor General had been advised by them to approve the appointments. Yet though they had determined, under their own scrutiny and schedules laid upon the Table, that these were proper appointments for the Governor General to make, and though these employees had the assurance from the lips of the right hon. gentleman himself that they would be kept in office, they were simply swept aside and their places given to others, without any ground alleged, without the allegation even that they had ever exercised their franchise or said a word about politics.

There is not a line in the Bill of my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier that does not commend itself to the judgment of this House, and that will not commend itself to the independent judgment of the electorate of this country, as a broad and legitimate safeguard which every servant, not of these gentlemen, but of the country, employed in the civil service should be entitled to exercise. He does not touch the right of the Government to appoint during the pleasure of the Crown, he does not touch the right of the Government to remove without cause. He simply says that the man who has taken service under the Crown and faithfully performs his duties, should, when dismissed from office by whoever happens to occupy the position of trustee for the people of the country, be entitled to a statement of the ground on which he was dismissed, and be furnished with that which every free man in every free country is entitled to at the hands of the Government. The hon. gentleman forgets that he does not occupy the relation to the civil service of this country that he seems to think, when

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he tells this House and this country boldly, that, while he holds the position of Prime Minister of Canada, he looks upon the civil servants of this country, from the very highest to the lowest, as he looks upon the personal servants in his own household. That is the declaration to which the Prime Minister of this country has committed himself, and for which he will be held to stern account by the people of this country. There has been no country in the world, except the mother country, of whose administration of the civil service we are all so proud, in which the civil servants stood higher and occupied a more distinguished position than in Canada, until hon. gentlemen opposite came into office. They have done all they could to degrade and lower the civil service. They have driven the best men in the service out of the service, and have taxed the people of Canada to pay large amounts of money year after year that their creatures might take the places thus made vacant, with their emoluments. And to-day we have the explanation of it all. To-day the hon. gentleman confesses, in the face of this House and of the country, that the relations of the civil servants of the Crown in Canada to the Government are precisely the same as the relations of any employee to his employer. These hon. gentlemen obtained power, and the opportunity of abusing that power, and have virtually said to the civil servant: Though you are an honest, faithful servant of the Crown, though you have discharged your duties in the most efficient and admirable manner in the interest of the country, yet, because you have ventured to poll a vote or have expressed an opinion against the tyrants who at this moment monopolize power—in that you have not shown the subserviency that strikes at the very foundation of manhood—I will serve you as I would serve one of the servants in my own household. And, Sir, the hon. gentleman does not hold himself bound even to observe the justice he is compelled to observe in the case of his personal servants, because he is obliged to give those servants notice or some sufficient cause for dismissing them from service. Hundreds of the best and most faithful civil servants of the Crown in Canada have been ruthlessly driven out of office by this tyrannical Administration, stripped of their character, divested of the means of obtaining employment, not because they did not faithfully perform their duties as servants of the Crown, but because they would not become the humble servants of these gentlemen, and would not exist only for the purpose of carrying out their objects. All that my hon. friend (Mr. Monk) asks is, that a law should be placed on the Statute-book, leaving to these hon. gentlemen all the power they should have under our system of government, but giving to the faithful public servant the right to put upon the Government who drive him out of office without cause,

the onus and responsibility of saying why and wherefore they have dispensed with his services. It is simply a declaration, that these civil servants of the Crown in Canada are entitled to the protections of British institutions and to British fair-play. Hon. gentlemen opposite have the power, but they have not the right, to stand between this act of justice and the servants of the Crown. But, Sir, they will be held to sharp account for it; and I do not envy them the position they occupy, when they vote down this Bill and declare that the faithful civil servants of the Crown in Canada shall be denied the rights that any honest man in any service in the world is entitled to demand at the hands of his employer.

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

### After Recess.

Mr. GEORGE TAYLOR (South Leeds). Mr. Speaker, when you left the Chair at six o'clock, we were discussing the provisions of a Bill to amend the Civil Service Act. I am quite in favour of that Bill, but it hardly goes as far as I would like to see it go. I think it should contain a provision such as the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) mentioned just before six o'clock, a provision embodying the policy which, he says, is the policy of this Government and of all Canadian Governments, following the British system. He made the statement that the spoils system, thank goodness, was not in force in Canada. We, on this side of the House, and I believe the country at large, are fully satisfied that the spoils system has been introduced by the present Government, notwithstanding the pledge given by the Prime Minister and by the hon. gentleman who sits at his right, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies). Both those hon. gentlemen, one after the other, during the second session of this Parliament, when the question of the dismissal of civil servants was under debate, pledged themselves to the civil service of this country, and to the people, that no dismissal would be made of any public servant without full inquiry and full investigation. Yet that pledge, like every other pledge that has been made to the people of this country, has been violated nearly every day. In the Bill that my hon. friend (Mr. Monk) has introduced, the second clause makes provision that every civil servant shall, if he makes application within 30 days after being dismissed, receive from the Government:

The number and nature of the complaints made against him, the name or names of all persons who made complaints against him, the decision arrived at by the department upon all complaints so made, and a copy of all proceedings had at any inquiry held by or under the direction of the department.

The Bill makes provision that this should apply to every civil servant who has been dis-

missed since the hon. gentlemen accepted office. I know in my own constituency several cases of dismissals that have taken place lately, where the public servant simply received notice that he was dismissed—no inquiry, no investigation. He wrote to the department after he had received that notice to know why he was dismissed, notwithstanding the pledge made by the Prime Minister of this country and his first lieutenant, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, that no such thing would take place in this country. Yet such are the facts, and I will read the declaration of the gentleman referred to before I sit down. And not only that, but we had a worse state of affairs. An election took place a few days ago at Brockville, and a friend of mine who is in the civil service there, was notified two or three days before the election took place that if he voted he would be dismissed; he was notified by a prominent Liberal that if he went to the polls and voted he would be dismissed, and he advised him not to go and vote. What do we find following that up? The most glaring frauds that have ever been perpetrated in this country have been perpetrated there by the Liberal party, and to-day one of the men who was caught red-handed in the act, was tried before the police magistrate and is committed to stand his trial. Notwithstanding that, we find the paper managed by the member for Brockville for the local legislature of Ontario, coming out and threatening to dismiss every Conservative official if these glaring frauds are investigated; if the Conservative party do not yield and smother this thing up, every Conservative in the employ of the Dominion Government at Brockville must have his head cut off. That is what the Liberal paper of Brockville, the Brockville "Recorder," said a few days ago, in an article published editorially in the Brockville "Recorder" of the 24th, the last lines read as follows:

The "Recorder" has shown no desire to drive these men from office, in fact it has incurred the ill-will of some of its friends for not doing so, and men have left the Liberal party on this account.

They are pretty greedy, for they have left the party because the "Recorder" does not say that these officials must have their heads cut off.

The same thing is true to-day concerning the information to hand about several Brockville men's conduct in the fight just closed. We have advised that the fight be dropped now that it is over, and that nothing further be done to create discord among neighbours, even though advice is being sent from the outside to carry it on by parties who have no interest in Brockville.

The very same men who came here and urged a protest in the provincial election, and then let someone else pay the shot, are now playing the same game in the present instance.

However, patience sometimes ceases to be a virtue.

Because the Conservative party want to find out who committed these depredations,

patience ceases to be a virtue, says the "Recorder."

If it is war the Tupperites are after they will have to be accommodated, but they must remember that the Liberals have not begun this thing—it has been forced on them, and they will be free from all responsibility for the consequences that are sure to follow.

The consequences are the dismissal, as the paper says in the beginning of its article, of every Conservative official if this thing is proceeded with, if these criminals are prosecuted. One of these men went into a polling booth with a marked ballot in his hand, marked outside for the Reform candidate; he took that in and got from the returning officer a ballot and took it into the booth, folded it up and put it into his pocket, brought the other one out which was marked and dropped it into the box. He was caught red-handed in the act, and yet this crime must be smothered up because some Reformers might be punished. This Bill ought to go far enough to say that this Government could not dismiss any official without first having the assent of the Governor General. Is any public servant in the employ of the Government who has given satisfaction to the people of this country to be turned out simply because the Reform committee in a constituency decides that he should be replaced by a Reformer? As I will prove, this has been done in one or two instances. The Reform committee met; they decided that a worthy official of the Government must be displaced in order to make room for a Reformer, and the charge of offensive partisanship is brought forward as the ground of his removal. Then the Bill asks that a certificate of character be granted. Now, here is a certificate of character that I got for one of the most efficient servants of this country, a gentleman of high standing, who has no superior in this House or outside of it, either in respect to ability or integrity, a gentleman who has been a merchant for the last twenty-five or thirty years, a gentleman who stands high in the estimation of every person with whom he has had dealings, a gentleman holding the high position of District Deputy Grand Master of the Masonic body, a gentleman who is a warden in the Church of England, a gentleman of unstained character. This gentleman was notified that he was dismissed. I put a question on the paper the other day in order to get a certificate of character from the hon. Postmaster General, and what sort of a certificate did I get in respect to him? I asked first:

Has Mr. John R. Dargavel been dismissed from the office of postmaster at Elgin, Ont.?

The Postmaster General answers: Yes.

I asked:

Were any complaints made against him for not having discharged the duties of his office efficiently?

The answer to that is:

Mr TAYLOR.

Complaints were made against him.

You, Mr. Speaker, ruled yesterday, that if a Minister refers to a public document, it is his duty to lay this document on the Table. I challenge the Postmaster General to lay on the Table any complaint, because I have the affidavit, and will read it in a few moments, of Mr. Dargavel himself, stating that no complaint was or can be made against him, yet the Postmaster General says:

Complaints were made against him.

Now, I put my question plainly:

Were any complaints made against him for not having discharged the duties of his office efficiently?

And he said:

Complaints were made against him.

To the third question:

Was Mr. Dargavel notified that any complaints had been made against him?

The Postmaster General replied:

Yes.

Now, I have here the Postmaster General's letters, not one of which refers to the fact that any complaint was made against Mr. Dargavel for inefficiency or misconduct in his office. To the fourth question:

Was there any investigation held?

The Postmaster General said:

No.

The fifth question was:

Did the post office inspector make any report, recommending his dismissal?

The answer is:

The matter was not referred to the inspector.

Question 6:

Was Mr. W. H. Fredenburgh, the Reform candidate at the last election, consulted, and did he recommend or approve of his dismissal?

The Postmaster General answered:

The Postmaster General assumes full responsibility for the dismissal. The postmaster admits that at a public meeting held by the Liberal candidate in connection with the general election of 1896, he (the postmaster) took part in addressing the meeting.

I will prove by the declaration of Mr. Dargavel that he went to the meeting held by Mr. Fredenburgh, the Reform candidate, that Mr. Fredenburgh requested him to come to the platform, that he then requested him to address a few words to the people, and that he spoke, neither in favour of Mr. Fredenburgh or against his opponent, or vice versa. He is not open to the charge that he was an offensive partisan, but he came to the platform simply at the request of Mr. Fredenburgh, the Reform candidate. I will read the documents that passed between Mr. Dargavel and the Postmaster General.

An hon. MEMBER. Dispense.

Mr. TAYLOR. No. I will not dispense; they are not good medicine for my hon. friend. The right hon. Prime Minister today said, that he thanked God that in Canada we had not the spoils system, yet I will prove by these documents that we have the spoils system. I presume that on an average five officials a day, ever since hon. gentlemen assumed power, have been dismissed from positions of trust under the Government of Canada. The general elections were held in June, 1896, and a year or more after the elections were held, the Postmaster General addressed this letter to Mr. Dargavel:

Ottawa, 27th August, 1897.

Sir,—I am directed to inclose you herewith a copy of a declaration charging you with active political partisanship during the Dominion elections of last year.

The Postmaster General would be glad to receive at your earliest convenience any reply you may desire to make to the charges set forth in the documents in question.

I am also to request that your reply take the form of a statutory declaration.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) W. D. LeSUEUR,  
Secretary.

Mr. John R. Dargavel,  
Postmaster,  
Elgin, County Leeds, Ont.

This is the document inclosed in the Postmaster General's letter, and it is in the form of a complaint:

(Copy.)

CANADA.

Province of Ontario,  
County of Leeds.

To wit:

I, William H. Fredenburgh, of Westport, in the county of Leeds, gentleman, do solemnly declare:

1. That I was a candidate nominated by the Liberal convention to contest the electoral division of the South Riding of Leeds at the last general election.

That I did, on or about the 18th day of June, A.D. 1896, hold a meeting in Elgin, in the county of Leeds, in the interest of the Liberal party.

That at the said meeting John R. Dargavel, then being postmaster at Elgin, did come to a platform and speak in the interest of George Taylor, and in the interest of the Conservative party, and against the policy of the Liberal party, and against this deponent, the Liberal candidate, and did conduct himself as an active political partisan at said meeting.

2. That the said John R. Dargavel, then being postmaster at Elgin, did attend the nomination of candidates at Delta, and did take part at said nomination in the interest of George Taylor, and in the interest of the Conservative party, and did several times interrupt W. A. Lewis, barrister, of Athens, while speaking at said nomination, and did at said nomination meeting conduct himself as an active political partisan.

That I am credibly informed and believe, and have just cause to believe, that the said John R. Dargavel was actively engaged canvassing for and supporting Mr. George Taylor and the Conservative party at various other times and places

during the election campaign during the month of June, A.D. 1896.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the Act respecting Voluntary and Extra-Judicial Oaths.

(Sgd.) W. H. FREDENBURGH.

Declared before me at Westport, in the county of Leeds, this 19th day of August, A.D. 1897.

(Sgd.) J. C. JUDD,

A Commissioner in H. C. J.

To that complaint Mr. Dargavel replied on the 6th September, 1897, as follows:—

Elgin, Ont., Sept. 6th, 1897.

To the Hon. Wm. Mulock,  
Postmaster General, Ottawa.

Sir,—As requested in your secretary's letter of August 27th, I have now the honour to inclose you my declaration re charge made against me for political partisanship at the last general elections.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) JOHN R. DARGAVEL,  
Postmaster.

The declaration is as follows:—

Ontario.  
County of Leeds.

To wit:

In the matter of a charge made against John R. Dargavel, postmaster at Elgin, in the county of Leeds, for alleged political partisanship at the last Dominion election.

I, John R. Dargavel, of the village of Elgin, in the county of Leeds, merchant and postmaster at said village of Elgin, do solemnly declare:

1. That I was present at a political meeting held by W. H. Fredenburgh, Esq., at the village of Elgin on or about the 18th day of June, 1896.

2. That at the invitation of Mr. Fredenburgh himself I did address the meeting for the space of fifteen minutes.

3. That my remarks were mostly about provincial affairs, and certainly used no offensive language against Mr. Fredenburgh or any other person or persons, or against the Liberal party, the Patron party or any other political party.

4. That I took no part or spoke at no other political meeting during the campaign.

5. That while I was present at the nomination meeting at Delta, I took no part whatever in the political discussion, and that I did not conduct myself as an active partisan at said nomination meeting, nor did I interrupt Mr. W. A. Lewis further than to correct a statement he was making on the authority of some informant of an alleged incident which he had been wrongfully informed had occurred at a former political meeting held at Elgin, said incident having nothing to do with any political question.

6. That I believe the business post office, since I have assumed control of the said office, has been conducted to the complete satisfaction of the entire community having business to do with said post office, and that the charge made by Mr. Fredenburgh (now fourteen months after the alleged occurrence) is made at the earnest solicitation of parties who have no business transactions with the Elgin post office, but have a private spite against myself.

7. That if granted a public investigation (which I desire), where I can meet my accusers face to

face. I can establish the complete absence of offensive political partisanship, either before or since the last Dominion elections.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,  
(Sgd.) J. R. DARGAVEL.

Made before  
JOHN CAWLEY, J.P.

There is Mr. Dargavel's explanation upon oath, in reply to the flimsy charge made some fifteen months after the alleged offence happened. There is Mr. Dargavel's reply, sent within three days to the Postmaster General, and demanding an inquiry into his conduct, and an inquiry which the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) stated in this House would be granted in the case of every official in this country. On the 3rd day of November, 1898, he received this letter :

Sir,—I am directed by the Postmaster General to notify you of your dismissal from the office of postmaster at Elgin, and to take steps for the prompt transfer of the office to your successor, Mr. W. W. Brown. I shall, therefore, accordingly arrange to have a personal transfer of the office made at the very earliest date possible.

Yours truly,  
H. MERRICK,  
P. O. Inspector.

J. R. Dargavel, Esq.,  
Postmaster, Elgin.

In reply to that Mr. Dargavel wrote to the post office inspector, and also addressed a letter to the Postmaster General, as follows:

Elgin, Nov. 5th, 1898.

To the Hon. Wm. Mulock,  
Postmaster General, Ottawa.

Sir,—I am in receipt of a communication from the post office inspector at Kingston, notifying me of my dismissal from the office of postmaster at this place. No reason is assigned in Mr. Merrick's letter for my dismissal. I am entirely unaware of any reason for my removal, and would be obliged if you would inform me why I am dismissed in such a summary manner.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,  
J. R. DARGAVEL.

He received this reply from the post office inspector :

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of yours of the 5th instant, in which you state that you are unaware of any dereliction of duty, and know of no cause for such a curt dismissal, and would be glad to be informed of the reason. In reply, I have to say that I am not informed of the reasons of your dismissal, and therefore can furnish no information on the subject. Mr. W. W. Brown informed me that you were willing to continue the office until the 15th instant, and I made arrangements for the transfer on that date. I had a conversation over the 'phone with Mr. Brown on the date of your letter. This may account for what seems to be a misunderstanding. Please let me hear from you promptly, and oblige,

Yours truly,  
(Sgd.) H. MERRICK,  
P. O. Inspector.

J. R. Dargavel, Esq.,  
Postmaster, Elgin.

Mr. TAYLOR.

Then the following reply came from the Postmaster General :—

Ottawa, 10th November, 1898.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, inquiring why you have been removed from the postmastership of Elgin, County Leeds, S.R., and, in reply, am to inform you that you were removed from the office in question on representations which the Postmaster General considered entirely satisfactory that you had been an active political partisan.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,  
A. A. H. TROOP,  
(for Secretary.)

Mr. John R. Dargavel,  
Elgin, County Leeds, Ont.

There is what the Postmaster General writes and sends out from his department, and the other day, when I asked him (Mr. Mulock) had any complaints been made against Mr. Dargavel for not attending to the duties of his office, he answered, that such complaints had been made. I challenge the Postmaster General, or any other member of the Government to lay on the Table of this House, or to publish in any newspaper, any statement pointing to the fact that Mr. Dargavel ever neglected his duties as postmaster. I can tell these gentlemen that Mr. Dargavel fitted up one of the best offices in the county, and had it in a convenient place. But now it has been removed to an inconvenient place, and is in charge of a man who cannot, or will not, conduct the office one-half as satisfactorily as Mr. Dargavel did. But, Sir, the new appointee was an offensive partisan; he had to be rewarded, and so the Liberal partisans there held a meeting and decided that he should be the man, and that Mr. Dargavel should be dismissed. And so the Government dismissed Mr. Dargavel. I asked the Postmaster General the other day, to answer my question, so that Mr. Dargavel might get a certificate of character, as this Bill calls for. But what did the Postmaster General reply? I dare not say, he did not state the truth; but I will say, his reply was not in accordance with the facts. I challenge him to substantiate his answer, that any charge came to the department at Ottawa, saying that Mr. Dargavel did not attend faithfully to the duties of his office. Yet, Sir, notwithstanding the promises of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Marine, that no official would be discharged without full inquiry and investigation, in the face of Mr. Dargavel's declaration, that he never did anything deserving a dismissal, and in the face of his further demand that he should have an investigation, so that he might meet his accusers, all the satisfaction he gets is a notice that he will be removed, and that is all there is about it. I ask you Mr. Speaker, is not that the spoils system? Is not that a contradiction of the statement of the Prime Minister, who thanks goodness that we have not the spoils system in Canada?

But, Mr. Speaker, I have a case a little worse than Mr. Dargavel's, and it is a case in which the Postmaster General appears in a still less desirable light. It is a case in the same county. A merchant of high standing there, a gentleman of high character, had been postmaster for years at Delta, and on the 27th January, 1899, three years after the elections, he received this notice :

Post Office Inspector's Office.

Sir,—I am to acquaint you that at an early date the post office at Delta will be transferred from your charge to that of Mr. L. N. Phelps.

Please govern yourself accordingly.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

H. MERRICK,

P. O. Inspector.

Mr. W. R. Singleton,  
Postmaster, Delta.

There is the only intimation or knowledge that this gentleman got that he is to be thrown out on the street. On the 10th February, 1899, this gentleman, Mr. Singleton, wrote me the following letter :—

Delta, Feb. 10th.

Dear Sir,—The post office inspector was here on the 8th, and changed the office over to Phelps. You will find inclosed my notice the change would be made. That is all the notice I received or got. Nothing from the Postmaster General. You will also find the document, or at least a copy of it, which I signed. In the first place, Omer Brown came to me, and told me the Reform party had agreed that Delta office should be changed politically, stating that as postmaster they had nothing against me, and if I would resign Mr. Phelps would take my stock and office fixtures off my hands. I gave him no satisfaction one way or the other. In a few days longer Mr. Phelps called on me about the matter. I told him I would never give up my office until compelled to. In a week or two he came again, and said he was sorry we could not come to some arrangement. By this time I found out they had sent in a complaint, and that my chances would be slim for holding. I told him I would not resign, but I would not oppose his appointment if he could get it, providing he would take my stock too. Phelps came to see me again in about a week, and had the inclosed document for me to sign, which I did, as you find it. So how they arranged matters after I do not know. So you have the matter just as it stands, and all I have to say, I do hope the time is not far distant when such men will be put out doors. I will be compelled to leave Delta, as there is nothing in Delta for me now. I am going to Carleton Place.

Yours respectfully,

W. R. SINGLETON.

He goes on to say that he has rented his property in Delta. Mr. W. R. Singleton was a most respectable merchant at Delta, and held the position of postmaster for years, as I have said. The Reform party held a convention and decided that he was a good postmaster, that he had attended to his duties faithfully and well; but the office must be changed politically, and the Liberal convention resolved that, if he would resign, they would buy his stock and fixtures, and if not, they would dismiss him anyway.

There was a document presented to him, to sign, and Mr. Singleton refused. Mind you, Mr. Speaker, the document which I now read was prepared by the Reform Association in the district, to which this Government delegated the power to enforce the spoils system. Here it is :

To the Hon. the Postmaster General.

In the matter of the application of the local executive of the Reform Association of the township of Bastard, in the county of Leeds and province of Ontario.

That I, William Richard Singleton, postmaster of Delta, in the county of Leeds aforesaid, be dismissed from said office, and that Linnaeus N. Phelps be appointed in my stead. I wish to say that I will not oppose the appointment of the said Linnaeus N. Phelps, but will give way to him, and submit to being dismissed without rendering necessary the holding of an investigation into the complaint made against me.

Dated at Delta this 7th day of December, 1898.

They presented that document to Mr. Singleton to sign, but he refused and said he would not sign any such document as that. Then they bantered him a while, and prepared another document of which this is a copy :

Delta, December 8th, 1898.

To the Hon. the Postmaster General.

In the matter of the application of the executive of the Reform Association of the township of Bastard, in the count of Leeds, and province of Ontario, who have asked that I, W. R. Singleton, postmaster of the Delta post office, in the same township, be dismissed from said office, and that Mr. L. N. Phelps, of Delta, be appointed in my stead, I wish to say that I will not oppose the appointment of Mr. L. N. Phelps, and will without appeal submit to being relieved from the position of postmaster at said office.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. R. SINGLETON.

The Reform executive of the Postmaster General put up the job, and he would not oppose the appointment. I asked the following questions of the Postmaster General in reference to Mr. Singleton :

1. Has Mr. W. R. Singleton been dismissed from the office of postmaster at Delta, Ont. ?
2. Were there any complaints made against him for not attending to the duties of his office faithfully ?
3. Was Mr. Singleton notified of any complaints having been made against him ?
4. Was there any investigation held ? Did the post office inspector make any report recommending his dismissal ?
5. Did Mr. W. H. Fredenburgh, the Reform candidate at the last election, recommend his dismissal ?

The Postmaster General did not answer these questions categorically as they were put, so that I might get a certificate of character for the dismissed official; but he said this :

It was charged that Mr. Singleton permitted the use of the post office at Delta as headquarters to the Conservative party, prior to the 23rd June, 1896; that the Reformers attending the office for the mails were insulted.

The Postmaster General made that statement here, but I say that a bigger falsehood never was told in this country than to say that Mr. Singleton ever insulted any gentleman attending his office. He is above such conduct. And yet this is the certificate of character which I got from the Postmaster General for Mr. Singleton when I asked for one.

—that the Reformers attending the office for the mails were insulted, and that the postmaster was a party to such action; and the department would doubtless have notified the Postmaster General of the charges and have referred the same for investigation, but before the same was done—

It was nearly three years before anything was done at all; it was only on the 10th of January, 1899, when the Postmaster General sent the letter which I quoted, stating that he had appointed a successor.

—Mr. Singleton wrote to the department intimating that he had learned of the complaints of the local executive of the Reform association against him, and submitted "to being dismissed without rendering necessary the holding of an investigation," and, accordingly, a change of postmaster was made.

No greater false statement could be made. He never wrote to the department further than to sign that document, got up by the Liberal Association of Delta, saying that he would not oppose Mr. Phelps's appointment. He never wrote to the Postmaster General at all. He wrote me the party who threatened that if he did not sell out his goods to that party, he would have them left on his hands. That is the way the spoils system is introduced, and hon. gentlemen opposite are parties to it. If Mr. Singleton had been guilty of the conduct the Postmaster General says he has in June, 1898, why did he not bring the matter to an issue within two or three months after the election, instead of waiting three years, and then blackening this gentleman's character, after he has left the country and is trying to make an honest living elsewhere? Talk about the spoils system. The Prime Minister thanks God that we have not the spoils system in this country, when in his heart of hearts he knows that they write to the local Reform Association to get them to trump up a charge against an official whose office is wanted for a heeler of their own, and when the local association sends in a letter, they act upon it. And yet he thanks God that we have not the spoils system in this country. I wonder if he expects the people of this country to believe any such statement. I say that this Bill should receive, and I hope it will receive, the support of every honest man in this House, no matter on which side he has the honour to sit.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). The hon. member who has just sat down tells us that we have the spoils system now.

Mr. TAYLOR. So you have.

Mr. TAYLOR.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Well, I do not think the hon. gentleman knows what the spoils system is, and I am going to tell him before I sit down what it is, and how it was practised by the party which he supports. It was practised by that party on such a grand scale that I hope it will never be repeated. But before coming to that, I would like to follow the very interesting dissertation of my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk). I listened to him with great pleasure and great attention, especially when he alluded to the efforts that have been made by our neighbours of the United States in order to get rid of that very same spoils system. The hon. gentleman alluded to the commission that was appointed by them in order to organize the civil service. That commission was composed of three members, only two of whom were to be the adherents of the same party. In other words, an attempt was made to give as fair play as possible to both sides. In reading the rules that were promulgated in conformity with the report of that commission, I find that the third rule, which appears to me to be the best description of the anti-spoils principle that could be made, is as follows:

No person in the executive civil service shall dismiss, or cause to be dismissed, or make any attempt to procure the dismissal of, or in any manner change the official rank or compensation of, any person therein because of his political or religious opinions or affiliations.

This is the principle by which we have been guided, and by which every Government and every Parliament that wants to avoid the dreadful calamity of the spoils system ought to be guided. Here is another clause of those regulations:

No person in the executive civil service shall use his official authority or official influence for the purpose of interfering with an election or controlling the result thereof.

This is exactly the rule which has been admitted both here and in England, and which ought to be observed by public officers both as a matter of honour and as a matter of duty. They represent, not simply one party, but they represent the public. They do not represent only one party but both parties; they are not paid by Conservatives or Liberals, but by the country at large; and I think we can pin our faith upon this doctrine and are prepared to follow exactly the views I have just quoted.

My hon. friend from Jacques Cartier urged that if his Bill were to pass, the effect would be to accumulate precedents in the course of time, and thus establish a jurisprudence which would show when the interference of government is justifiable, and which would guide future Governments in their dealings with public officers who are charged with having forgotten the political neutrality which they owe to the country. Well, Mr. Speaker, it is very easy to speak of establishing a jurisprudence but

very difficult to do so. I have consulted one of the books to which we always look with veneration, "Todd's Parliamentary Government," and let me cite the opinion of Mr. Todd regarding any attempt to establish such a jurisprudence by an accumulation of precedents:

It has been suggested that the relations between the subordinate class of public functionaries and the executive Government should be regulated by statute, so as to prevent a possible abuse of power on the part of the responsible advisers of the Crown towards their subordinates in office. But it has been well remarked by Lord Grey, that "it would be impossible to limit the power of dismissal to cases in which misconduct could be proved before a court of law, without incurring the risk of having the executive Government paralyzed by the passive resistance of persons holding these situations, and by the obstructions they would be able to throw in the way of Ministers they wish to oppose. Law would be too clumsy an instrument for regulating the conduct of the Ministers of the Crown, and the permanent civil servants of the state in their relations to each other. This is now far more effectually and far more safely accomplished by the power of public opinion. So great is the authority of public opinion, that no Minister now ever thinks of dismissing a public servant from those offices which are regarded as permanent unless for gross misconduct; but, at the same time, he has the power—and public opinion would support him in using it—of dismissing such a servant for misconduct, which it might be impossible for any law to define beforehand, and of which there might be no legal evidence, though there was a moral certainty.

This is pretty sound argument to prove how impossible it would be to establish any jurisprudence which will govern in such a matter. While I acknowledge the zeal and good-will of my hon. friend, I must say that I do not share his hope that it may be possible to adopt any jurisprudence which might guide us in every case that might arise. Now, what are the reasons which would justify the dismissing a public officer? On page 630 of the same work I find the rule thus laid down:

But while every Government must necessarily possess the abstract right of dismissing any of its servants who may hold their offices "during pleasure," whenever they consider that such a step is required by the exigencies of the public service, it has nevertheless been recognized as a rule that persons holding non-political offices under the Crown should only be dismissed for incompetence or misconduct. Dismissals on other grounds are highly objectionable and inexpedient, more especially if they spring from political considerations. Doubtless, an active interference in politics on the part of a non-political officeholder would be a case of "misconduct" sufficient to justify his dismissal.

This term: "Active interference in politics" covers the whole ground, and it is impossible to describe exactly in what shape that activity should manifest itself so as to warrant dismissal. It would be childish on my part to try and go over the whole ground in order to find out in what way, or in how many ways, active political interference could manifest itself.

It is a well-understood rule of constitutional government that all such functionaries should abstain from taking an active part in political contests, observing a strict neutrality therein.

I have asked all the officers in my department to conform themselves to that rule. While I do not contest their right to express their opinions and record their votes, I have notified them not to take an active part in elections.

If a contrary practice prevailed, it would inevitably follow that the opposite party, on succeeding to power, would retaliate on those who had assisted to uphold the rival Ministry; and thus a repetition of vindictive and extensive changes amongst Government employees would occur, that would prevent the growth of experience in office and destroy the efficiency of the public service.

Has there been any vindictiveness manifested in the actions of this Government since we came into power? Has there been manifested any desire for revenge? There has been no vindictiveness, and I am prepared to prove this by my own experience, as the head of one of the departments, having had to deal seriously and earnestly with that difficult and delicate question of dismissals. I was astonished—though, perhaps, I ought not to have been—when I heard the hon. leader of the Opposition misconstrue so completely the expressions of opinion given by the right hon. leader of the Government. Had I been called upon to rise at the time, I could not have found words strong enough to characterize the effect produced upon me, when I heard the hon. leader of the Opposition so twisting an opinion expressed by the hon. Premier as to make it appear to the House, and calling on the country to notice the fact, that the Prime Minister had actually compared the civil servants to domestics, and had treated them as such. That is the position the hon. leader of the Opposition tried to place my hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) in. Now, the right hon. Premier never, for one moment, expressed such an opinion as that. What he said was in answer to the argument of my hon. friend the member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk). You will remember, Mr. Speaker, and every member of the House will remember, that the hon. the Premier made an appeal to the legal knowledge of the hon. member for Jacques Cartier, and said: You know very well that no employer, no manager of a company, even no master of a servant, can be compelled by law to grant a certificate of character to one whom he has discharged from his service. That was not said by the Premier with any intention of lowering the dignity of gentlemen of the civil service by comparing them with domestics. It was simply a legal point urged by the right hon. gentleman to show that what the mover of this Bill wanted to do was a thing that could not be done, that was never done in any civil case—to compel an employer to

give, even against his will, a certificate to a person he had discharged. To twist that argument into an insult to the whole civil service, by comparing them with domestics, I think it is one of the greatest injustices of the many from which the Premier has suffered.

Now, I was speaking, a moment ago, of the accusations of the hon. member for Leeds of the wholesale dismissals and the introduction of the spoils system. If you will consider the position in which the Liberal party was placed when we came into power, after having gone through eighteen years of Opposition, you will not wonder if many of those Liberals who for so many years had seen the patronage of the country used exclusively for the advantage of their opponents, desired to have their turn. Nothing could be more legitimate than that wish on the part of these men, who had worked so long, who had worked so hard, and sacrificed so much. They were perfectly justified in thinking that at last the moment had come when they would have a chance of showing that their friends and leaders could appreciate the services they had rendered for eighteen years against overwhelming odds, against every discouragement of defeat after defeat. It was only natural that these men, who had suffered and who had sacrificed themselves, felt that their turn had come, and that, at all events, when there were any vacancies in the public service, they would have the right to them.

Mr. TAYLOR. No person would object to that—when vacancies did arise.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I wish to say that, not only has there been no vindictiveness on our part, but there has been no greediness on our part. My hon. friend (Mr. Taylor), who speaks so fluently and so often refers to the spoils system, perhaps would like a sample of the spoils system, as practised on a grand scale by his own friends. If he will compare our conduct with the conduct of our predecessors, I think he will find that he must go to previous Governments to find the spoils system upon a grand scale, such a scale as would do credit even to the palmy days of the system in the United States. In 1878, when the Government of Mr. Mackenzie was defeated and the Conservatives came into power, there existed an important branch of the public service called the Department of Weights and Measures. Now, what did hon. gentlemen opposite do? They wiped away at once the whole of that department, dismissing all the officers, giving a few dollars to each. These men, who had been appointed and had taken up in earnest the duties of their positions, looking upon their appointment as guaranteed for life, found their offices swept away at one stroke of the pen. And, a few months afterwards, that department was reorganized, and, out of these 67 officers who were ap-

pointed to that department thus reorganized, only seven old office-holders were appointed, while 60 were new men. Now, there is the spoils system in all its purity, in all its simplicity—sweeping away a whole department, and in a few months reorganizing it and filling it with new men, except seven out of 67—these seven old officers being employed, I suppose, to teach the others their work. There are many of the men who are thus dismissed, who are still alive. Many of these men come to me, and say: We were in this department in 1879, when we were swept out of office; are you not going to put us back in the places we occupied? My answer has always been: I do not want to see the spoils system introduced. Those who were placed there in 1879 by the Conservative Government I am ready to consider innocent of the wrong by which they benefited. I do not want to act in a vindictive manner or to do injustice. These men and their successors have been there for twenty years, and I would not consider it just, I would not consider it fair, to turn them out after they have learned their work and have tried to do their duty. Now, when we are accused of having introduced the spoils system, I say we have not done so, but it was the Conservative party who introduced it in 1879, and introduced it on such a scale that I hope we shall never again see anything like it in this country.

Mr. WM. H. BENNETT (East Simcoe). I am sure that had all the heads of departments acted as the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière), there would have been little or no cause of complaint throughout the country in regard to the dismissal of officials. I may tell the Minister of Inland Revenue that among the Liberal party in my own riding, and particularly in the town of Orillia, they find more fault with him than with any other member of the Administration, and for this reason, that that hon. gentleman, for reasons of economy, as he stated in the House a year ago, caused to be superannuated an inspector of weights and measures, and to the great disgust of all the Liberals of Orillia, he has failed to appoint a successor. As a result, I can assure that hon. gentleman that should he ever pay a visit to the town of Orillia, he will meet with a very cool reception from the Liberals there, and a correspondingly warm reception will be given to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), because the Minister of Public Works has done a little there to make it easy for a suffering Liberal. Now the Minister of Inland Revenue alluded to the fact that the Liberal party had been suffering in the past 18 years through not having received the positions that they eagerly wished for and sought after. As he said that, I noticed some sympathetic looks passing over the faces of some hon. gentlemen opposite who have not received their promised rewards, and who are consequently suffering

Sir HENRI JOLY DE LOTBINIERE.

like some of the Liberals throughout the country. And their sufferings are accentuated when they remember the fact that about fifteen hon. gentlemen who were elected in the general elections, have had their sufferings alleviated, and these hon. gentlemen who are still suffering are anxious that their wants should be attended to.

Now there is one department in which there has been a ruthless sweeping away of officials, and that is the department presided over by the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock). It matters not through what section of the Dominion you may go, you hear the old story in reference to that hon. gentleman's department—an utter disregard of common honesty, an utter disregard of common decency, and an utter disregard of carrying out any of the pledges that have been made by the Premier and by other hon. gentlemen in the Cabinet. I was not at all astonished the other day at hearing the case cited from the province of Quebec, when the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Marcotte) asked a question of the Postmaster General in reference to the postmaster at Batiscan. In 1897, on the 12th of July, the Postmaster General wrote to Mr. Dechêne, Minister of Agriculture for the province of Quebec, to this effect :

I send you herewith a copy of the report of Mr. Lavergne, commissioner, to whom was referred the charge laid against the postmaster at Batiscan, and you will, I think, admit with me that the report furnishes no grounds to justify the dismissal of the postmaster.

On the 28th of January, 1897, when this postmaster applied to the Premier, the right hon. gentleman wrote :

Nothing will be done against the said postmaster if the charges laid against him are not proved.

Now it will be quite clear from that that the Postmaster General himself wrote and stated that the commissioner's report failed to prove any of the charges that were made against the postmaster, and further on he says :

It is neither asserted nor proved that he canvassed or worked at public meetings. The postmaster says that he did not even vote at the last election, and took no part in the political struggle. Under these circumstances, I see no reason for dismissing the present postmaster.

Now, the House will bear in mind that that was a statement of the Postmaster General based on the report which had been furnished to him by the commissioner, Mr. Lavergne, and yet it is startling to believe that on the 15th of August, 1898, a couple of years after the general elections, this postmaster at Batiscan received this letter :

In reply to yours of the 9th instant, I am instructed to tell you that the Postmaster General having been informed that you did not observe proper neutrality during the election time, deems it advisable to appoint a successor to your position.

Now that is a pretty position for the Postmaster General to be in. The year before he writes to this postmaster, he writes to Mr. Dechêne and assures him that it was an utter impossibility to dispense with the service of that postmaster, owing to the fact that the commissioner had reported that there was nothing against him, that the man had not even voted at the election. Yet the year afterwards the Postmaster General, with his report staring him in the face, notwithstanding his own letter, and the pledge of the Premier that nothing could be done owing to the facts as stated in the report orders the dismissal of this very same postmaster. But it is not only in the province of Quebec we see these things, but experience all over the province of Ontario shows that the Postmaster General cares not and heeds not whether investigations are held or not. Whether the Postmaster General sees fit or not to inquire into the facts, the dismissal of postmasters is a matter to me of some little interest, having in view a case in my riding a little time ago. It is true the post office there was a small office, and the man who had the appointment did not actually conduct the office, as it was conducted by a country storekeeper, but without a word of warning or investigation the Postmaster General decapitated this postmaster. I asked the question the other day in the House why the postmaster had been removed, and the answer of the Postmaster General was :

Because the late postmaster lived a considerable distance from the office, and neither performed the duties nor exercised such supervision as is required by the department. The matter was inquired into and reported upon by the inspector.

Then he goes on to say that Mr. Thomas Goodfellow is now postmaster. Why, Goodfellow lives a couple of miles further away from the post office than the late postmaster. He does not conduct the store at all, and it was simply a question of endeavouring to move the post office from one country store to another ; and so the Postmaster General, by reason of the fact, as he alleges, that the dismissed postmaster did not discharge the duties himself, dismissed him and transferred it over to a farmer living a considerable distance from the post office, and who has nothing whatever to do with discharging the duties of the office. Now it is not a matter of surprise that this is done by the Postmaster General in that riding. I am sure the people of that riding have not had the pleasure of the Postmaster General's presence there in the election campaign, accompanied by the gang that he had at his heels in West Huron, and that were down with him in Brockville the other day.

Mr. TAYLOR. Was Cap Sullivan there ?

Mr. BONNETT. I have not the slightest doubt that he was there, because the Postmaster General would not be in a happy

frame of mind without him. Now the Postmaster General has not a monopoly of dismissing officials. It seems really too bad that the Postmaster General should run any danger of having his fame eclipsed in this respect in that part of the province, because the Minister of Public Works has also had his innings in respect to one position which he had in his department. There was in the town of Orillia a public building with an official caretaker. The Minister of Public Works dismissed the man in charge of the building on the ground of economy, and stated that he would allow the postmaster to look after the building, but only at a reduced rate. Yet last week, in answer to a question, I find that the Minister of Public Works had placed in that very same position another official, a salaried officer. Now what does that tend to? It tends to show the people of that neighbourhood that there is nothing, so far as principle is concerned, in this Liberal party. It shows them further that dismissals are made to satisfy the greed of grasping Liberals, eager for everything that is in sight, every office that possibly can be opened; but I gladly make an exception in the case of the Minister of Inland Revenue who steadfastly refused to appoint a successor. I can tell the Minister of Inland Revenue, that I would prefer he should appoint a successor to the decapitated official, and my preference is due to the fact that I know to my own knowledge, that there are over two hundred suffering Grits—I use the word “suffering” in deference to the Minister of Inland Revenue—there are over two hundred suffering Grits who are anxious for the office, and 199 of them will be bitterly disappointed when the office is filled.

Passing over the Department of Public Works and the Post Office Department, I come to the Customs Department; and a case was brought to my notice the other day which occurred in a town adjoining my riding, and which shows what the Customs Department can do in this dismissing business. A Mr. Galna was landing waiter in the town of Parry Sound. Now, it is true that Mr. Galna was a Conservative, but I have always maintained that where a man was supporting the Government that appointed him, there was a marked distinction in his assisting that Government and in his afterwards opposing the Government that he was not in accord with politically. This Mr. Galna, in the discharge of his duties to the State, saw fit to record his vote for the Conservative candidate, Mr. McCormick, and I have no doubt that Mr. Galna was anxious to see the election of that hon. gentleman. So, an investigation was held into Mr. Galna's case, and a charge was preferred against him, and as it was impossible to convict Mr. Galna by any evidence that could be furnished in the neighbourhood, they had to go to Toronto for a witness to work Mr. Galna out of his position. According to the evidence, a copy of which I hold in my hand, they had very

Mr. BENNETT.

little difficulty in securing a gentleman to furnish the necessary evidence, and the gentleman who furnished the necessary evidence, I need hardly say, has since been rewarded with a position—not the position of landing waiter but another one. Here is the evidence given against Mr. Galna, and it will show how strongly incriminative it was:

I saw him on election day going towards the dock, carrying a pair of oars on his back. I was standing at the Mansion House, and came across to Mr. Galna and said to him: “John, you are doing some pretty good work for McCormick.” He said: “You bet your life I am.” I said: “Don't you think your labours will be in vain?” He said: “I don't care, I have lived before, and I can live after.” I said that that was a happy state of mind to be in.

What this gentleman meant was that it was a very happy frame of mind for a man to be in, to think that he was able to exist without a Government job, and as the Minister of Inland Revenue said, “not to be suffering.” Now, the gentleman who supplied this evidence is not suffering, but is an immigration agent. Mr. Pedley, the gentleman in question, knew as much about immigration as the Minister of Inland Revenue does about satisfying hungry Grits, and he knows nothing about it—but, anyway, this Mr. Pedley is now over in the department of the Minister of the Interior. This inoffensive partisan who went 150 miles away to give evidence against a most respectable man is now rewarded with a Government job. At all events, Mr. Galna had an investigation, and after he was dismissed, he, as was his right, wanted to know why he had been dismissed and he asked for a copy of the report. A gentleman named Woodyatt, a police magistrate in the city of Brantford, conducted the inquiry and made a report, and in answer to a letter, he referred Mr. Galna to the department, intimating that probably they would tell why they had taken off his head. But, when the Controller of Customs is written to, his secretary informed Mr. Galna:

The Minister desires me to say to you in reply that he cannot see his way clear to furnish you with a copy of the said report.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. BENNETT. There is another department in which the same wholesale dismissals of officials is being exercised, and being exercised with the same high hand, and in which no report is furnished to the dismissed man, and no reason accorded him to show why he had been dismissed. The Department of the Interior has some interest in the riding I represent, and the other day to the astonishment of everybody, a gentleman who held the position of Indian agent there was dismissed. The Minister of the Interior held no investigation, but two or three officials who are connected with the provincial reformatory at Penetanguishene, and all of whom are under the control and pay of the Ontario Government, have sat in

judgment on this Dominion official, and as a result he was dispossessed by the Minister of the Interior. I am afraid that my hon. friend the Minister of Inland Revenue is being relegated in this Cabinet to the same position that the Hon. Sir Oliver Mowat held in the Ontario Cabinet—he is being put forward as the head and front of the respectability of the institution. Now, I may say that if my hon. friend the Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) has as much respect given to him on this side of the House as he has on the other side of the House.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BENNETT. I repeat that if every department of Government had been conducted as has been the Department of Inland Revenue, there would not have been the complaints that there have been about wholesale dismissals all through the Dominion.

Mr. SPROULE. Who are the wicked partners?

Mr. BENNETT. Well, the rivalry is so great amongst them, that I hesitate to take the burden of picking out the chief of the wicked ones in the aggregation. For present purposes we will leave that between the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Public Works, who seem to have the ascendancy in that regard. Take the case of this Indian agent. Here was a gentleman who held a most respectable position. He had been warden of the county of Simcoe—he had held the position for some four or five years. In the discharge of his duties as Indian agent he had the selling of large quantities of timber on the Indian reserves, and it was his duty to account for the moneys he received. Throughout that part of the riding a feeling of disgust, shared not only by Conservatives but by Liberals, has prevailed, that this gentleman should have been dismissed in a summary way without being given a fair trial, and were it not that the gentleman's reputation is so deservedly high as a man of honour in that county of Simcoe, I believe a good many people would run away with the idea that there had been a shortage in his accounts or something wrong in the administration of his office. I am happy to say, for the good reputation of that gentleman that his honour and his credit are so high, that no person believes there has been any wrong-doing in his office, and that it is simply a question of vindictiveness and petty spite and spleen against this gentleman on the part of a great many suffering Liberals in that riding who wished for the position.

But, Sir, it would seem to be reasonable that the Minister of Inland Revenue should exercise his influence among his colleagues, and when the matter of appointments comes up before the Council board, he should ask why each appointment is being made. If it is being made by reason of the death or

resignation of an official then nothing can be said, but if, on the other hand, the appointment is being made simply by reason of the fact that a Tory official has been decapitated, and his head thrown into the waste basket, then I say that the Minister of Inland Revenue, if he is to sustain the high reputation he has, must put forth his influence and demand that an inquiry should be made into the case. If the hon. gentleman (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) does not do so, then the country will hold him equally responsible with the other Ministers for the dismissal of that official. It is idle for any man to say that there have been no unjust dismissals of officials in the country. All through the province of Ontario every man who holds an office under the Dominion Government knows that he is simply hanging to his position by a thread the whole time; and this is the more plain and palpable because it is so utterly different from what prevailed in former times, when the principle was laid down by the Conservative Administration that there would be no interference with any man in office because he exercised his franchise or even went further than that.

Mr. McCARTHY. Did I understand the hon. gentleman to say that the Indian agent he referred to has been discharged and is discharged at the present time?

Mr. BENNETT. Yes, I understand that he has been dismissed.

Mr. McCARTHY. That is the gentleman in regard to whom the hon. member had a question on the paper the other day, and did not press it, is it not?

Mr. BENNETT. I am informed that the Indian agent there is dismissed, and I have no doubt that he is, because I know that the local committee of Liberals at Penetanguishene, composed of three officials of the Reformatory there, met the other day and appointed his successor. I may tell the House furthermore that the successor who has been recommended was recently dismissed by the local government because he did not properly discharge the duties of the office he held under that government. I am rather glad he has been appointed, because it was such a moral shock to the people there to see a man who had held the responsible position of warden of the county dismissed at a moment's notice, and a man appointed in his place who had recently been dismissed from the service of the local government because he did not properly perform his duties. Now, to show what had been the action of the Conservative Government in my own riding, I will mention the cases of three postmasters. At the village of Wyebidge there was a postmaster named McRae, who was invariably found on the platform at election times and assisted in the revision of the Liberal voters' list; the postmaster at Victoria Harbour, Mr. Vasey,

was always found on the public platform, and I was always pleased to see him there, because his presence always afforded amusement, and showed how fair and elastic was the principle which guided the Conservative party; and a gentleman named Parker was the postmaster at the village of Hillsdale. These gentlemen always appeared at Liberal conventions and on public platforms, and always took part in the revision of the voters' lists; and yet they were never disturbed by the Conservative Government. But to-day, in marked contrast with that state of things, we have men turned out without investigation or inquiry and without a word being said in excuse or extenuation. Personally, these officials who have been dismissed have my sympathy. Politically, I wish the Government would dismiss every official in the riding, for this reason, that in doing so they are bringing about such a state of disgust among the respectable Liberal element in the riding. I wish to say a word in regard to two dismissals made by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies); and I will say to his credit that he has not dismissed an official without an investigation. The men in question were first heard in their own defence, and then they were dismissed. I think that both cases came under his review; and I think it would not have been straining mercy to a very little extent had he permitted both officials to go with a warning. Well, he has dismissed them, and in doing so he has made political capital for me by disappointing about a hundred Grits, who are suffering keenly at not having received the appointment. I can assure the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue that all through the province of Ontario—and I have been in many portions of it—there is a feeling that the Government have utterly disregarded their pre-election principles and pledges, and that the whole game of politics to-day is to satisfy the inordinate thirst and greed of these long-suffering, eighteen-year Liberals who have been pining and pining to have their thirst and hunger satisfied. And once again, I can only say that when outsiders are being satisfied in such large numbers, and when so many of the members of this House supporting the Government have been satisfied—because the number is upwards of fifteen at present—I hope that with the close of this session—and we have the promise of hon. gentlemen, at least in the corridors, that there will be another session—the many hon. gentlemen opposite who are longing and pining for office will be satisfied by being placed in those positions for which they have toiled and struggled so hard during the past eighteen years.

The House divided on the amendment of the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) that this Bill be not now read, but be read this day six months.

Mr. BENNETT.

### YEAS :

#### Messieurs

Bain,  
Bazinet,  
Beausoleil,  
Beith,  
Belcourt,  
Bethune,  
Blair,  
Bostock,  
Bourbonnais,  
Bruneau,  
Campbell,  
Carroll,  
Casey,  
Champagne,  
Davies (Sir Louis),  
Davis,  
Dechene,  
Desmarais,  
Demers,  
Douglas,  
Dupré,  
Edwards,  
Erb,  
Featherston,  
Fisher,  
Gauthier,  
Gauvreau,  
Godbout,  
Guité,  
Hale,  
Holmes,  
Hurley,  
Johnston,

Joly de Lotbinière,  
(Sir Henri),  
Lang,  
Lavergne,  
Lemieux,  
Lewis,  
Livingston,  
Mackie,  
MacPherson,  
McGregor,  
McHugh,  
McIsaac,  
McLellan,  
McLennan (Inverness),  
McMillan,  
McMullen,  
Madore,  
Malouin,  
Marcil,  
Meigs,  
Mignault,  
Morrison,  
Parmalee,  
Proulx,  
Rinfret,  
Ross,  
Scriver,  
Semple,  
Snetsinger,  
Somerville,  
Sutherland, and  
Turcotte.—64.

### NAYS :

#### Messieurs

Bell (Addington),  
Bennett,  
Broder,  
Cargill,  
Carscallen,  
Casgrain,  
Clancy,  
Clarke,  
Cochrane,  
Craig,  
Earle,  
Ferguson,  
Foster,  
Ganong,  
Gillies,  
Guillet,  
Henderson,  
Hodgins,  
Ives,  
Kendry,

LaRivière,  
McCarthy,  
McInerney,  
McNeill,  
Marcotte,  
Mills,  
Monk,  
Moore,  
Morin,  
Pope,  
Prior,  
Rogers,  
Rosamond,  
Sproule,  
Stubbs,  
Taylor,  
Tupper (Sir Charles  
Hibbert),  
Wallace, and  
Wilson.—39.

### PAIRS :

#### Ministerial.

Charlton,  
Davies (Sir Louis),  
Hutchison,  
Cartwright (Sir Rich'd),  
Featherston,  
Cowan,  
Britton,  
Gibson,  
Sutherland,  
Savard,  
Dyment,  
Ratz,

#### Opposition.

Roddick,  
Tupper (Sir Charles  
Hibbert),  
Klock,  
Tupper (Sir Charles),  
Carscallen,  
Montague,  
Cargill,  
Corby,  
Taylor,  
Dugas,  
McCormick,  
Ingram,

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Logan,                | MacLaren,             |
| McLennan (Glengarry), | Gillies,              |
| Tolmie,               | Martin,               |
| Penny,                | McDougall,            |
| Ellis,                | Hale,                 |
| Charlton,             | Tisdale,              |
| Bertram,              | Kloepfer,             |
| Bell (Prince, East),  | Bell (Pictou),        |
| Maxwell,              | Davin,                |
| Macdonald (Huron),    | Ruche,                |
| Oliver,               | Bergeron,             |
| Burnett,              | McLennan (Inverness), |
| Stenson,              | Robertson,            |
| Richardson,           | Hughes,               |
| Fraser (Lambton),     | Macdonald (Kings),    |
| Ellis,                | McAllister,           |

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. member for West Hastings (Mr. Corby), Terrebonne (Mr. Chauvin), Muskoka (Mr. McCormick), Victoria (Mr. Hughes), Middlesex (Mr. Gilmour), South Wellington (Mr. Kloepfer), Montreal Centre (Mr. Quinn), London (Mr. Beattie), have not voted.

Mr. CORBY. I am paired with the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Gibson).

Mr. HUGHES. I am paired with the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), otherwise I would have voted against the amendment.

Mr. CHAUVIN. I am paired with the hon. member for Laval (Mr. Fortin), or I would have voted against the amendment.

Mr. BEATTIE. I am paired with the hon. member for South Middlesex (Mr. McGugan) or I would have voted against the amendment.

Mr. QUINN. I am paired with the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Talbot), or I would have voted against the amendment.

Mr. KLOEPFER. I am paired with the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram).

Mr. McCORMICK. I am paired with the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Dymont).

#### RETURN ORDERED.

Statement of sums paid as travelling expenses to the judges of the Superior Court for the province of Quebec coming from outside districts to sit in the city of Montreal.

1st. From the 1st of January, 1898, up to the coming into force of the statute 61 Victoria (Canada), chap. 52, and

2nd. Since the coming into force of the said statute down to the 1st of March, 1899.—(Mr. Monk.)

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright) moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. SPROULE. Has the hon. Minister of Agriculture any information with regard to the question I put before the Orders of the Day were called, about the car-load of immigrants, who had been sidetracked at Leaside, on account of scarlet fever.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). I have not received the information asked for, and have had no communication from Dr. Montizambert.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 9.55 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 28th April, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### ELECTION PROSECUTIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). I wish to move, Mr. Speaker, and I think it was understood last session that some such motion should be made:

That the evidence and proceedings before the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts during the last session of this House respecting certain prosecutions in the province of Manitoba, be referred to the said committee appointed for the present session, for further consideration.

It was understood, I think, by hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches who are members of that committee, that this evidence should be reported in its then condition, on an informal undertaking on my own part, which is recorded in the proceedings, that it would be continued and concluded during the present session. I think, to be regular, that some such motion as this is necessary, in order that we may not be obliged to go over any part of the evidence that has already been taken and reduced to print. Therefore, I move this resolution.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I would ask my hon. friend to allow the motion to stand until Monday.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Certainly.

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 92) respecting the Saskatchewan Railway and Mining Company.—(Mr. Landarkin.)

Bill (No. 93) to incorporate the Edmonton District Railway Company.—(Mr. Oliver.)

Bill (No. 94) respecting the Yukon Mining Trading and Transportation Company.—(Mr. Morrison.)

Bill (No. 95) respecting the Lindsay, Hali-burton and Mattawa Railway Company.—(Mr. Taylor.)

Bill (No. 96) respecting the Buffalo and Fort Erie Bridge Company.—(Mr. McCleary, by Mr. Taylor.)

Bill (No. 97) further to amend the Railway Act.—(Mr. Cowan.)

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the First Minister to consider whether or not on Monday he can tell the House something as to the course of legislation. Although the Speech from the Throne did not contain a promise of much, I think there was one important measure promised; and we have now been sitting long enough for the House to be informed when we may expect that measure, and generally as to the course of legislation. The leader of the Opposition will not be in the House this afternoon, but he will be here on Monday, when my hon. friend may be prepared to give the House such information.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The demand of my hon. friend is quite reasonable, and I shall be prepared on Monday to give him the information he seeks.

#### RAILWAY ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN ST. JOHN AND HALIFAX.

Mr. FOSTER. Before the Orders are called, I wish to ask the hon. Minister of Railways, whether his department has yet succeeded in making an arrangement with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for running privileges between St. John and Halifax. I notice by the papers that negotiations have been going on for some time, and there are various reports in regard to them. If the hon. gentleman has any information which he can give the House as to the progress being made, I think we would be glad to have it.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I have no objection at all to inform the hon. gentleman that no agreement has yet been arrived at on the subject between the Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The matter, I may say, is still in process of negotiation. We have not reached a conclusion, though the negotiations are not in such a state that I am justified in saying there is no possibility of our agreeing. That is the position in which the matter stands.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to refer to the remarks I made in the House the other day with reference to the price of coal oil. I have a telegram from Mr. F. A. Fitzgerald, vice-president of the Imperial Oil Company, who makes a general denial of my statement.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou).

The statement I made was that the price of crude oil had been reduced and the price of refined oil increased. Mr. Fitzgerald contents himself with a general denial of my statement. He says that the prices were about the same for crude and refined oils, as they have been for some time. His statement, however, is rather indefinite as he does not give the quotations of the prices then and the prices now. But as I do not wish to do the refiners any injustice, I give the House, at the earliest opportunity, the benefit of Mr. Fitzgerald's statement.

#### LOWERING THE WATERS OF LAKE SIMCOE.

Mr. BENNETT. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to call the attention of the right hon. First Minister to a matter connected with the Department of Public Works, and I regret that the hon. Minister of Public Works is not in his place. On Thursday I asked a question relative to the lowering of the waters of Lake Simcoe, and in reply the Minister of Public Works said that representations had been made with a view to the lowering of these waters, but while he did not say that these representations had been made some years ago, by reason of the names connected with the application, one of which is that of the late Mr. Madill, formerly member for North Ontario, it is quite clear that the hon. Minister referred to requests made during that hon. gentleman's time. I accepted the statement of the hon. Minister, but to my surprise I found afterwards that the day before a deputation had been here from the riding of North Ontario and had made an application of a similar nature. The reason I now call attention to the matter is this. There is at the head of Lake Simcoe an artificial impediment to prevent the lowering of the waters, and if this were taken away there would be an almost instantaneous lowering of the waters. I would ask the right hon. First Minister to request the Minister of Public Works not to direct any change to be made in the waters of Lake Simcoe until he has received representations on that subject from the municipal council of the town of Orillia. The waters of Lake Couchiching would be seriously affected and the town would practically be high and dry, and I have been asked by the mayor of the town of Orillia to call the attention of the Government to the matter. I would, therefore, ask the First Minister to request his colleague not to take any steps for the lowering of these waters before hearing the residents of the town of Orillia and other towns interested on Lake Simcoe and Lake Couchiching on the matter.

#### YUKON MINING REGULATIONS.

Mr. FOSTER. I have called for a return from the Department of the Interior comprising copies of the Orders in Council and regulations successively introduced and pub-

lished on the mining, placer and otherwise, in the Yukon. Those returns sometimes take a good deal of time to come down; and for the purpose of facilitating business, I would ask the hon. Minister to lay these orders and regulations that have been gazetted on the Table of the House.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Will my hon. friend put in writing what he wants?

Mr. **FOSTER**. Yes.

#### THE BUDGET SPEECH.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Will the hon. Minister of Finance persist in his determination to make his Budget speech on Tuesday next?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). That is my present intention, but I shall give my hon. friend timely notice of any change.

Mr. **FOSTER**. I hope my hon. friend will give notice before Sunday.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. I hope my hon. friend does not want to work on Sunday on his reply to the Budget speech.

Mr. **FOSTER**. No, but I wish to be prepared for the future.

#### LOBSTER FISHERIES.

Mr. **RUSSELL**. Has the commission appointed to consider the lobster fisheries question made any report?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). The commissioners have reported and submitted the evidence. The report itself is within reasonable limits, but the evidence is very voluminous. If the hon. gentleman desires that the report and evidence be printed, as no doubt the members from the maritime provinces do, if he will make a motion to that effect, I will have the return printed and distributed at the earliest possible moment. But as the evidence is very voluminous, and it would take months to print it, and as the report comprises all that hon. gentlemen can desire, I would suggest that a motion be made to have the printing of the evidence proceeded with at first and brought down separate from the evidence.

#### THE DRUMMOND COUNTY RAILWAY RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. **HAGGART**. I asked the hon. Minister of Railways to bring down, before the Drummond resolutions are considered, any report he has from the engineer in charge of the work as to the condition of the work, and all other information in the hands of the department. That will be very necessary for a proper consideration of the question.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). If the hon. gentleman

will give notice of a motion, I will have the return brought down as early as possible. Let him state specifically what he desires to have brought down. I understand that by some arrangement between the leaders, the Drummond County matter will not come up to-day, so that there will be ample time for him to have the return asked for.

Mr. **HAGGART**. It is simply impossible that I should give notice of a motion and reach it in time, and it is not necessary, as the hon. gentleman can bring down the information without a motion.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I shall bring down any information I can.

#### SUPPLY.

The House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

The Department of Railways and Canals, including \$2,200 for L. J. Jones, \$1,800 to be paid to the law clerk, and \$700 each for J. H. J. Gleason and S. Loftus, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act..... \$41,200

Mr. **FOSTER**. Will the hon. gentleman give the usual explanations. The particular information I want is the number eligible to statutory increases in the department and the number who got the increase.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). There are no changes in the personality of the staff. There are fifteen eligible to the increase and it has been given to eight. There is an increase to Mr. Gleason, clerk in the accountant's office, of \$150, and to Mr. Loftus, of \$150. There is also an increase to Mr. Dion, by virtue of his being promoted from a third to a second-class clerk, and \$100 added.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Does he get his promotion?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. He gets promotion and \$100 increase in salary in connection with that.

Mr. **FOSTER**. That is an increase of \$250 altogether? His promotion would carry \$100?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. No, he gets only \$100 more.

Mr. **FOSTER**. That is, \$50 of a special increase?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. Yes.

Mr. **HAGGART**. I see by the Estimates that the Minister retains the secretary of the department, notwithstanding his statement in the House that he found no need for such an office, and that if it were not for the statutory obligation that some things must be done by the secretary, he would

not need such an officer at all. He has not only retained the secretaryship, but he is increasing the salary \$200.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Haggart) forgets what was said at the time the change was made.

Mr. **HAGGART**. No, I have a very good memory.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. Then, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Haggart) has not profited by it. It was made abundantly clear at that time that we could not abolish the office of secretary, but we could do without the particular individual who was holding the office of secretary, and who was in receipt, at that time, of something like \$2,300. On making that change the chief clerk, Mr. Jones, was assigned the duties which had been performed by the secretary of the department, and a small increase of salary was allowed him. Thus we saved the salary of the secretary, which, I think, was about—

Mr. **HAGGART**. It was \$2,000.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. It was more than that, it was between \$2,200 and \$2,400, \$2,350 in fact, if my memory serves me well. We saved that, less the sum given to Mr. Jones, which was \$200. That is the explanation that was made at the time.

Mr. **HAGGART**. Why do you have in this item, "notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act to the contrary"?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. That provision would be necessary in any case where the amount is increased beyond the statutory amount. These gentlemen are receiving more than the statutory increase.

Mr. **N. CLARKE WALLACE** (West York). I would like to call the attention of the Minister to the fact that he has combined two offices which, it seems to me, for certain reasons, it is not desirable to combine. He calls this officer "secretary of the department and chief clerk in the office of the Deputy Minister and chief engineer." As I understand it, the secretaryship is a statutory office, the duties of which include that of checking the action of the Deputy Minister to see that all contracts are in proper form, and to revise, to that extent, the work of the Deputy Minister. Now, if the secretary of the department is also chief clerk in the office of the Deputy Minister and under the deputy's immediate control and direction, he cannot perform the duties of secretary as the law provides that they should be performed. Therefore, it seems to me that the Minister is abolishing a very proper and necessary safeguard of that department. It seems to me that the present office is an anomaly, and that it is not just to the department in the country to

Mr. **HAGGART**.

have these two offices combined in the way the Minister has combined them.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I am very sorry the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) does not approve of the change which was made; but I may point out that my experience in the department, now approaching three years, does not lead me to the same conclusion at which he has arrived; and I think his judgment would correspond with mine if he had had experience in that department. There is no reason in the world why the gentleman who is discharging the duties of first clerk in the branch under the Deputy Minister should not also perform the duties of secretary of the department. There is no anomaly and no difficulty in the way of his discharging these duties faithfully and well. I say that after having had some little means of forming an opinion. The hon. gentleman seems to be much concerned about the legal formalities of the contracts. I do not think any difficulty has arisen in that respect. I do not think that either the former secretary of the department or the gentleman who is now discharging the duties had any special acquaintance with law or with legal forms of contracts, or would know whether such forms were complied with or not. We have a law clerk in the department whose business it is to see to that; and, if any question of gravity arises, it is referred to the Department of Justice.

Mr. **WALLACE**. Do I understand the Minister to say that there is a law clerk in the department?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. Yes. If my hon. friend (Mr. Wallace) made the statement he did in ignorance of the fact, I can understand that he might have thought the secretary of the department necessarily had legal knowledge, and therefore would have these duties assigned to him; but he has not. I assure my hon. friend that he is quite unnecessarily alarmed with regard to the successful working of the department under the present arrangement.

Mr. **WALLACE**. But the Minister has not met the objection I made, but has steered around something else. I said that the secretary was a statutory officer appointed under Act of Parliament and independent of the Deputy Minister. If the secretary is also a clerk in the office of the Deputy Minister, as stated in the item, that fact interferes with the freedom and liberty he should have as secretary of the department.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I am aware that the statute requires that there should be such an officer, but I am not aware of any provision in the statute that makes it improper that the first clerk in the office of the Deputy Minister should be called secretary and should be

assigned the duties of that office. And I can assure my hon. friend, from close observation and after an experience of nearly three years, that I have not yet discovered any difficulty whatever in the working of the department under this method. The moment any serious difficulty arises, I would feel it my duty to consider whether we should not recur to the original arrangement. In the meantime, we are saving the salary of one first-class clerk.

**Mr. SPROULE.** I must again protest against the system, which appears to prevail throughout these Estimates, of selecting certain clerks and giving them such advances of salary as are mentioned here. For instance, the first one mentioned here gets an advance of \$200 this year. If he had not been receiving a fairly good salary, I could understand why he should have such a large increase. It is not justice either to the service or to the country that selection should be made of a few men for such large advances at one time, while many others equally deserving get no advance in their salaries.

The statute contemplated that \$50 a year was a fair advance, and in this case you make it four times \$50 a year, while in many other cases there are deserving men in the department who have not even the \$50 advance, and perhaps they are quite as deserving as this one. I think the people of the country, who pay this salary, will think it unfair that large increases should be given like that to one individual.

**The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS.** I do not think it is likely to occur year after year.

**Mr. FOSTER.** Mr. Dion was made a second-class clerk ?

**The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS.** Yes.

**Mr. FOSTER.** Where does the Minister find in these Estimates provision for Mr. Dion ?

**The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS.** I am not at all sure that provision has been made in the Estimates ; if not it must have been overlooked. That is the explanation that was furnished to me by the Deputy Minister.

**Mr. FOSTER.** He has given Mr. Dion his promotion, and with it \$100 increase.

**The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS.** He gets \$1,150.

**Mr. FOSTER.** No ; my hon. friend cannot show any authority for paying him \$1,150.

**The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS.** I am stating what it was intended to give him.

**Mr. FOSTER.** My hon. friend has just now pointed out some very extraordinary

increases, and he owes it to the House to give the reasons why he has not only given the statutory increase, but he has doubled and quadrupled the statutory increases.

**The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS.** These increases have been given on the special recommendation of the Deputy Minister of the department. These officers have been especially diligent, especially industrious. They have been available at all hours ; their services have been at all times available. They are exceptionally competent men.

**Mr. FOSTER.** That is a general rule, is it not ?

**The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS.** I cannot say it is. There are some persons—I presume, there are some in every department—who are looking at the clock five minutes before the hour closes, watching in anxious expectation for it to strike so that they may start, and they have their hats on, and are out of the building almost before the hour has struck. There are others who are very painstaking, who are anxious to know if there is not something else that they can do, or if there is anything that they will be required to do before leaving, who are agreeable, and pleasant, and ready, if they are asked, to remain an hour or two after hours, or even to come back in the evening and work cheerfully. As officer at the head of that department, I cannot entirely shut my eyes to conditions of that kind, and when I am supported by the recommendation of the Deputy Minister, I feel warranted in asking my colleagues to support and the House to grant, the substantial increase which has been made here. Those are the reasons.

**Mr. FOSTER.** That would be good ground for making a statutory increase, and the chap who is always looking for the clock to strike might be shorn of his statutory increase on account of his great anxiety to get away. When a man does his work well and is at the call of the Minister at all hours, as every civil servant ought to be, and is, then he earns his \$50 increase. But there ought to be some special reasons for giving three or four times that advance. Why is Mr. Loftus given this increase ?

**The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS.** He has been strongly recommended to me by the Deputy Minister, as being very deserving. I may add here, that the salaries both of Gleason and Loftus have been small ; they have been getting \$550 each, as third-class clerks. The salary seems to be inadequate, and I think those who are serving in the third class and who are in receipt of small salaries, may well be generously and liberally treated, when they are found to be deserving and capable officers.

**Mr. FOSTER.** How many in the third class did not receive the statutory increases ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I think there are none in the third class who have not received the statutory increase or the special increase which I mentioned. I felt that the third-class clerks had a particularly strong claim upon my consideration, and, therefore, I have given them all their statutory increase, or the special increase.

Mr. **FOSTER**. When was Mr. Loftus appointed?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. Many years ago. He was in office when I came in. These gentlemen were all in the department before I came in. I have appointed no one in the department since I took charge of it. Therefore, I am not open to the charge of having shown special favour to any of these gentlemen on political grounds.

Mr. **HAGGART**. Has the hon. gentleman any objection to state who he has recommended for first-class clerk?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. There is no question of a first-class clerk.

Mr. **HAGGART**. You are asking for another: you are asking for seven, instead of six.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I am going to put the law clerk on the footing of a first-class clerk, if that is what the hon. gentleman means.

Mr. **HAGGART**. For 1898 the Minister had six first-class clerks; he is asking for seven this year. Who is the extra clerk?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I have not made any recommendation yet. In fact, I have not considered the question.

Mr. **HAGGART**. The hon. gentleman says that he intends to promote the law clerk. Is it the law clerk in his department?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. My present expectation is, that there may be a change in the law clerk; the law clerk may not continue to remain in the department. He is now a second-class clerk at a low salary. If the change takes place which I anticipate, and it becomes necessary to appoint a law clerk, I will have to give him the rank which I have provided for here.

Mr. **FOSTER**. What is the status of the law clerk now? Is he a first-class clerk?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. No, second-class.

Mr. **SPROULE**. Is the law clerk leaving the department?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I think it likely he will.

Mr. **WALLACE**. If the Minister is providing for one extra officer—

Mr. **FOSTER**.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. No, I am not; not that I am aware of.

Mr. **WALLACE**. He is providing for seven first-class clerks, and the same number of second-class clerks. If he promotes the present law clerk, who is getting \$1,150, to a first-class clerkship, he will be increasing his salary to at least \$1,400, which is the minimum of a first-class clerk.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I cannot get a first-class clerk for any such money as that. The probability is, that the arrangements will work out in this way: A third-class clerk will take the place of a second-class clerk, and the second-class clerk who is now discharging the duties of law clerk, will take a first-class clerkship, so that the number of second-class clerks will continue as it is at present, and the number of first-class clerks will be increased.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Who is the messenger that is dropped?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I think his name is Ide.

Mr. **HAGGART**. Did I understand the hon. Minister to say it in that way? You say the gentleman now performing the duty of law clerk, and, who is a second-class clerk, takes a first-class clerkship.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I said, I think, very clearly; perhaps the hon. gentleman did not understand me, that I anticipated, at present, that the gentleman now holding the position would retire, probably, by the end of the year. In that case it would become necessary to appoint a law clerk for the department. I have made provision here for the purpose of that appointment when it is made. He will hold a first-class clerkship and get the salary usually paid in the other departments to a law clerk.

Mr. **HAGGART**. I understood the Minister quite plainly when he said that before. It is his subsequent remarks in which he said that a second-class clerk would probably be made a first-class clerk that seemed to differ from his former statement when I asked him. I understood the Minister to say that he will take from the outside a gentleman who is qualified to be a law clerk and make him a first-class clerk, and that is the first-class clerkship that he has made provision for.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. That is my present expectation.

The Department of Agriculture, including \$1,100 to M. W. Casey and \$500 to J. Beaudoin, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act..... \$52,962 50

Mr. **FOSTER**. What is the number of clerks eligible for the statutory increase in this department?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). There are 30 clerks on the permanent staff eligible for statutory increases.

Mr. FOSTER. How many receive it?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Fifteen.

Mr. FOSTER. How many get more than the regular statutory increase?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. None.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, then, what is meant by "notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act?"

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is a promotion from a temporary clerk to a second-class clerk. That gentleman was too old to pass a civil service examination but he has been a great many years in the service, and I think deserves promotion. I wish to put him in the second-class notwithstanding the fact of his not having passed the civil service examination.

Mr. FOSTER. Was he at the head of his class?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, at the head of the temporary clerks.

Mr. WALLACE. What is his name?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. M. W. Casey. He was a temporary clerk, but he had been a great many years in the service.

Mr. FOSTER. He is an addition to these Estimates.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. An addition to the permanent class, but he is only getting \$100 more than he would as a temporary clerk.

Mr. FOSTER. Will the same provision be made in the contingencies for temporaries?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Of course he will not receive that.

Mr. FOSTER. No, he will not; but will some one else?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am not reducing the amount of my contingencies.

Mr. FOSTER. What about Beaudoin?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Beaudoin is the Minister's personal messenger. I am giving him an increase greater than the statutory increase.

Mr. FOSTER. How much are you giving him?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. He is getting an increase from \$390 to \$500. He is a messenger who is quite competent and does a great deal of clerical work, copies letters, is a good typewriter and attends to a great deal of work in connection, not only

with my own particular correspondence, but with the work of the department. I considered that he was entitled to full consideration.

Mr. FOSTER. You are adding three clerks. What is your explanation of that?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. In the list of second-class clerks I wish to obtain provision for three to which places I wish to appoint assistant patent examiners. I may say in explanation of that that the examination of patents in the patent bureau has been very much behind, and is still very much behind. For a number of years there have been three patent examiners, Mr. McCabe, Mr. Bailey and Mr. Caron, who are first-class clerks. Of these, Mr. McCabe is an old servant who is still at the head of the branch, but Mr. Caron has had to cease examining patents because he has taken up the work of the classification of patents, a matter which I explained here last session, and for which I got a special vote. This has had to be given into the hands of an expert, and Mr. Caron seemed to be specially fitted for the work, and he is now devoting the whole of his time to it. I have had for some time back three gentlemen, and just the other day I appointed a fourth, who are assisting Mr. McCabe in the examination of patents. Mr. Bailey, who is one of the patent examiners, has lately become seriously ill, and was recommended by his physicians to leave off business for six months in consequence of the failure of his eyesight. As yet I have to leave the examination of patents in the hands of Mr. McCabe, and this vote is for the patent officers who have come in. Of these, Messrs. Thompson and Richard have been at work, for more than a year they were paid out of the contingent fund as temporary clerks. I wish to put them on the permanent staff after having passed the probationary period, and shown their capacity for this technical work. I think in the near future there will be a third required to be put on the permanent staff. I have asked that I shall have these extra three clerks placed at my disposal for the ensuing year.

Mr. FOSTER. How long has Mr. Beaudoin been in the department?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. He was appointed in 1894 to a position in the department.

Mr. SPROULE. This is another evidence of the stringent economy that hon. gentlemen have been talking so much about and which the country expected—an increase from 39 to 42 clerks in this branch.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. What?

Mr. SPROULE. There is an increase in the number of officers in the branch from 39 to 42, an increase of \$4,500 in the cost. If we believe what the hon. gentleman and

his friends said a few years ago, the work could have been done at a very much less cost and with fewer civil servants. I do not remember exactly whether there were any dismissals after the Government got in, but we were told that the work could be done with a fewer number of men and that money could be saved to the country. But now it has turned out that this was done for the purpose of making vacancies for a few more of their friends. If the hon. Minister is a farmer, and I presume he is, he ought to know something about economy, but if he undertakes to run his own farm on the same principle that he does this department, he would soon find it was not a paying undertaking.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I believe that my explanation is sufficient to show that these are not really additional men.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend (Mr. Fisher) started out with the idea of being very economical in his department, and he dismissed clerks in favour of whose character and efficiency he gave his own testimony in the House; dismissed them on the ground that they were not necessary to the work of the department. Now, after two years, the Minister is filling up the department with more clerks. The hon. gentleman, I suppose, served his turn in getting some clerks out, and he is now serving his second turn in getting some more in. His conduct is inconsistent. He should at first have made himself acquainted with the needs of his department before he dismissed those efficient permanent officers.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. These new officers are technical experts in the patent branch, and the work there could not be done by those other clerks. I have made it a condition that those gentlemen should be graduates in the applied science course of one of the universities, and all those I have appointed are such. The men dismissed were doing merely clerical work, and nobody has been appointed in their places.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the distinction between a "personal messenger" and a messenger attached to the department?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I mean the Minister's messenger, who does his particular work.

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose he is a messenger of the department?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Certainly.

Mr. FOSTER. He cannot do any more work than the others; he cannot do two things at the same time.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) has himself been a Minister, and he knows that the

Mr. SPROULE.

messenger who does the Minister's work has to be there at all hours.

Mr. FOSTER. All the messengers in my department had to be there.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. At nights, and everything like that?

Mr. FOSTER. Whatever messenger came handy was the Minister's messenger, and I never got so far ahead as to have a man of my own. This is just carrying out the principle that some of the members of the Government think they own the whole country, and that these messengers are their personal appurtenances, and consequently the Minister must give them four increases in one year. I know messengers in the departments here, with large families, who every day have to struggle to make ends meet, and are as faithful as men can be, and who have had to scrub along at a \$30 a year increase. Here is a messenger who becomes the personal appurtenance of the Minister of Agriculture, and he has four increases given him in one year, because, forsooth, he has advanced to the high dignity of being the personal messenger of the Minister.

Mr. SPROULE. This messenger may be very useful to do chores around the house, but the country will not appreciate the value of his services to the Minister, especially when it comes to pay the cost. Did I understand the Minister to say that there were no more men in the department now than there were before? I find here, however, that, taking the aggregate of all the clerks last year, there were thirty-nine, and now there are forty-two. How can the Minister reconcile that with the statement that there is no increase in the number of clerks.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have explained that the difference is that these additional men are patent examiners, who have been working as temporary clerks, paid out of civil government contingencies, and it is now proposed to put them on the permanent staff. The remarks of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) about the personal messenger of the Minister are unworthy of him. It is generally understood that a personal messenger is one whose special duty it is to attend to the Minister's own work in the department. My messenger never does any personal work for me outside of the department. He never waits on me or anything of that kind, and the word which I used in reference to him has been turned to an unworthy use by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) if he thinks it meant that.

Mr. SPROULE. What salary were paid these men as temporary clerks, and what salaries are paid them now?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. They were first employed at this work of examining patents, and I have engaged them

at the rate of \$50 a month or \$600 a year, on probation, to see if they were suitable for this technical work, on the understanding that as soon as they proved themselves worthy they would get a very much larger salary. It cannot be expected that men of the scientific training necessary to do this work can be got for \$600 a year. They will now be permanent officers and get the salary of second-class clerks when they are appointed.

Mr. SPROULE. I ask the Minister what they were paid before and what they are paid now?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. \$600 a year before and now too.

Mr. SPROULE. Does the Minister propose to reduce his contingency account to that extent?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have not reduced the contingent account, because I do not yet know what contingencies will be required.

Mr. SPROULE. Then there is no doubt whatever that there are three new men going into that department, and that their salaries will be an additional charge. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) has taken a roundabout way of trying to mislead the House—well, perhaps, not mislead the House, but to mislead the country—into the supposition that he has no more men in his department now than he had before, whereas he has taken in three new men, and their salaries will be an additional charge to the country.

Mr. TAYLOR. The Minister stated that the reason he asks for an increase of salary for his personal messenger is because he has to be at the department day and night. I presume the Minister wants to convey the idea that he himself is in the department day and night doing the country's work.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR. Well, the Minister has not been in his department longer than a few hours, day or night, since the session, and if the messenger had to wait on the Minister, and the Minister is not there to be waited upon, his salary should be decreased rather than increased. There are messengers who have to be in the departments attending to other duties outside of the Minister's special work, and it seems to me that these messengers are better entitled to an increase.

Mr. WALLACE. The member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) and the member for York (Mr. Foster), as well as the member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor), are very hard to please. Of course, the Minister of Agriculture ought to have a personal messenger. The hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) says he was not very often in Ottawa. Well,

perhaps he was down at his own farm, and he required a valet there. This personal messenger is a new officer, evidently; at least, I have not heard of personal messengers until now. I think the Minister of Agriculture will find them very useful and necessary, and I do not think he should be subjected to such a severe criticism for having one for himself.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. member makes a suggestion which is so little founded in fact that my messenger has never left Ottawa to my knowledge since I have been in office.

Mr. WALLACE. Then, with the Minister being away most of the time, and this being a personal messenger, why should the hon. gentleman increase his salary \$110?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The Minister is not away most of the time.

Department of Trade and Commerce.... \$9,240

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). Hon. members will see, in the first place, that there is a promotion of a first-class clerk to the office of the chief clerk. That is Mr. Nutting. He is an officer of about a quarter of a century standing, and in my absence and the absence of my deputy, he has had to run the department; and we found it a great convenience to have somebody who could attend to papers and documents in the deputy's absence.

Mr. FOSTER. What is his salary before the promotion?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. \$1,550. He is now made a chief clerk at \$1,800.

Mr. FOSTER. Any other increases?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. There are three increases in the third-class clerks.

Mr. FOSTER. Then all the hon. gentleman's clerks have received increases?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. No, one has not. The secretary remains at \$1,500, as before.

Mr. FOSTER. The number eligible for increases has been—?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. The number eligible is five, and four receive increases.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend's department seems to be overmanned in one respect: is it for the reason that the Minister of Agriculture assigned? It would seem that with a staff of eight, two messengers is rather overdoing the thing.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I think I must refer my hon. friend to his hon. colleague beside him, for the staff is the same as I found it.

Mr. FOSTER. The Minister of Trade and Commerce, when in Opposition, associated with the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), asseverated that this department was absolutely unnecessary and ought to be abolished; but my hon. friend comes in and sits right down in that department and keeps it going with what he then affirmed was an extraordinary and useless expenditure. After all, leaving aside what it was before, does not my hon. friend think that two messengers to six clerks is overmanning that department?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I find that they are wanted.

Mr. FOSTER. Gracious! What do they do?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. There is communication between my department and the others at various times. We cannot very well retire these people. I require the younger messenger, and the older one has been in the service for a long time, and if retired, he would have to be superannuated.

Mr. FOSTER. Superannuation is not a matter of such dread to my hon. friends that the hon. gentleman should hesitate to use it, especially as it would in this case effect a saving. They have superannuated many men without effecting any saving. I appreciate my hon. friend's regard for the aged messenger, but two messengers for six clerks are a good many.

Mr. IVES. There is this to be said for the two messengers. At the time I was in the department the Minister of Trade and Commerce had a great deal to do with both the Customs and the Inland Revenue Departments, and there was a constant interchange of commerce between them. There must have been a good deal more work for the messengers then than there is now. However, I will not criticise the hon. gentleman for retaining the two messengers. I do not think his department is overmanned in that particular. I would like to know what consideration the hon. gentleman has shown to my late private secretary?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. He is one of those who received the increase.

Mr. IVES. I cannot think that case could have been called to the attention of the hon. gentleman before, or Mr. Buck would have received consideration earlier. I think my secretary was about the only one of the officials of the late Government who was not considered in some way or other. Unfortunately, he fell between the upper and the nether millstone at the time of the change of Government, and up to the present he has remained in the same position that he held three or four years ago. I would like to know from the hon. gentleman what he proposes to do, and whether he cannot do a little more under the peculiar circumstances of the case.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I will take that matter into consideration. I do not know that I can do any more at present. I have found Mr. Buck a good officer, and I think myself that the remuneration he receives at present is by no manner of means excessive. I cannot promise for this year, but I think that next year I shall be able to a reasonable extent to meet his views.

Mr. IVES. I am glad to hear the hon. gentleman say so, because, although Mr. Buck's salary was, perhaps, sufficient for a young man when he had \$600 as private secretary, yet when he lost that and had to fall back upon his salary as a third-class clerk, it was pretty small.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I agree with the hon. gentleman that there is a good deal of hardship, but that is the fortune of war, of course, and private secretaries occasionally share the fate of their chiefs. But, Mr. Buck did duty during the illness of my own secretary, and I had occasion to be very well satisfied with him; and I think I can venture to say, without pledging myself, that he shall receive full consideration.

Mr. SPROULE. It is rather amusing to see an increase of \$400 in this branch, especially as it is under the control of the hon. member for South Oxford, who always regarded it as one of the useless departments of the Government, speaking of it as a rather supernumerary and ornamental branch. As the incumbent and head of that department, he seems to be keeping up all the expenses of it and even adding to them. In fact, the same rule appears to be observed in it as in all the other departments. I would like the country to take note of this, that the hon. gentleman who so vehemently denounced the extravagance of the late Government is not able to exercise economy any more than are his colleagues in the other departments.

Mr. FOSTER. I cannot forbear congratulating my hon. friend on his humanity, as compared with his colleague who sits to his right (Mr. Fielding). I think it was the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) who took occasion, two months ago, to write a letter to his paper, "La Patrie," over his own signature, which was devoted entirely to my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and in that letter the Minister of Public Works declared that, although a great many people did not seem to realize it, there was an abundant flow of the milk of human kindness in the sometimes pugnacious Minister of Trade and Commerce, and he was ready to vouch for that against all and sundry. Well, we have had some proof of this this afternoon. My hon. friend has been good enough to give an ex-private secretary the statutory increase, and in this respect his conduct contrasts favourably with that of his hon. colleague, the Minister of Finance, who signalled out a former pri-

vate secretary of the Finance Department with another gentleman for a refusal of the statutory increase.

Contingencies—

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| The Governor General's Secretary's Office— |                 |
| Clerical and other assistance.....         | \$ 1,600        |
| Printing and stationery.....               | 1,200           |
| Sundries .....                             | 11,200          |
|  | <u>\$14,000</u> |

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). With regard to the item for clerical and other assistance, the amount expended last year was a little over the amount voted, and we required to vote a little more to enable the work to be done.

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| The Queen's Privy Council for Canada—   |                |
| Clerical and other assistance, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act..... | \$ 1,300       |
| Printing and stationery .....   | 4,000          |
| Sundries .....  | 3,500          |
|   | <u>\$8,800</u> |

Mr. FOSTER. What is the reason of the decrease, as compared with last year, in the clerical and other assistance, which last year was \$2,860.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. This is merely a more convenient distribution. The other two items have been increased in proportion.

Mr. FOSTER. That materially changes the kind of service. It seems that heretofore certain clerical work was going on which was supposed to be necessary, and for which the Government took a vote of \$2,860. Now they propose to add to the former vote for printing and stationery, which does not, of course, add to the work, but simply relates to mechanical expense, so to speak. Are you doing away with a part of the work for the classification of the old records.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I do not think so.

Mr. SPROULE. Why are those words, "notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act," inserted?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. The reason for this is, that one or two ladies have been employed who have not passed the necessary examination.

Mr. FOSTER. That is the case that came before the Auditor General, in which he was overruled.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I think that is the case.

Mr. FOSTER. I think they are old workers in the department.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Yes, they were employed by our predecessors, and continued by the present Prime Minister.

The Department of Justice—

|                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Clerical and other assistance..... | \$ 3,500        |
| Printing and stationery.....       | 4,000           |
| Sundries .....                     | 3,200           |
|                                    | <u>\$10,700</u> |

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. There is an increase of \$1,500 asked for under clerical and other assistance.

Mr. FOSTER. We had better let that stand, as the Solicitor General is not here, and ought to be here.

Item allowed to stand.

Department of Militia and Defence—

|                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Clerical and other assistance..... | \$ 2,500       |
| Printing and stationery .....      | 3,000          |
| Sundries .....                     | 3,500          |
|                                    | <u>\$9,000</u> |

Mr. FOSTER. Here are large increases in each of the items.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). This is \$300 less than the amount which was actually spent last year.

Mr. FOSTER. The very first thing that my hon. friend urges in explanation is, that he asked for \$1,500 in his own estimates, and then went to work and spent \$1,500 more than he asked for and got authority to spend.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. If the hon. gentleman will wait until I get through, he will the better understand my explanation.

Mr. FOSTER. Certainly, when the hon. Minister rose, and the first sentence he uttered was that he made his estimate out and came to the House and told us that he wanted so much and got it, and his justification for another year's Estimates is that he spent twice as much, and, therefore, wants twice as much this year.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I was on my feet endeavouring to make my explanation in my own way. But the hon. gentleman saw fit to interrupt me. I think he might at least possess his soul in patience. I was explaining that the Estimates hitherto have been too small. We have adhered practically to the estimate as it was before I came into office. Each year we had to ask for a supplementary vote. The accountant this year consulted with me, and said—and I agree with him—that it would be better to put the whole amount of contingencies in this estimate and have done with it, and not have to come to Parliament and ask for a supplementary vote. I am told, after careful investigation, that this is the smallest amount we can get on with. Instead of asking for supplementary votes, as has been done, not only in this but in other departments, I think we should make one vote of it and ask the House for the money. That is the way we are doing.

Mr. FOSTER. I cannot quite understand that either. The hon. Minister says: We have been in the habit every year of asking for two votes, first the general vote, and later, a supplementary vote. Well, this item under the heading 1898-99 should show the whole amount voted for last year, and does so, I imagine—main vote and supplementary vote. So the explanation of the Minister does not seem to hold, for either there must have been a supplementary vote last year, and, therefore, we over-expended, or if there was a supplementary vote, this amount covers the whole vote, main and supplementary. Was there a supplementary vote brought down last year?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I think there was.

Mr. WALLACE. The Minister of Militia and Defence was very anxious to have an opportunity to go on with the explanation, and now that he has concluded it, we are no wiser than we were before. He has increased the general expenditure of the department this year, the salary list, and now he proposes to increase the contingencies by \$1,900, or more than twenty-five per cent. And he is not giving us any reason for that increase. He says he found they were only asking for as much as their predecessors. But we were told that their predecessors were very extravagant. I think we were told by the hon. Minister himself.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I do not think so.

Mr. WALLACE. I think the hon. gentleman's memory must be very treacherous; I am quite sure there was no one on his side of the House more vehement in his denunciations of the extravagance of the Conservative party than the present Minister of Militia. Now he proposes to increase this item by 25 per cent, without giving to the House any sufficient reason. He said he had a consultation with his accountant, and they both decided it would be a good thing, and so they are doing it. That is a pretty flimsy reason, and the Minister will have to tell us something more than that—that he and his accountant put their heads together and decided to ask for \$1,900 more this session.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I have here a memorandum which says that the vote for the current year, \$7,100, will require to be supplemented—that would be in the Supplementary Estimates of the current year—to get through with the present year. As I explained a few moments ago, this is the way in which the business has been carried on for many years. And the further statement is made to me that it is desirable that a sum sufficient to meet the requirements of the department be voted for 1899-1900, and that is why we are under the necessity of asking Parliament for the additional vote. The amount asked for.

Mr. BORDEN (King's).

\$9,000, is thought sufficient to last the entire year. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) will look at the Auditor General's Report, I think he will find that in the year 1896-97 the amount expended on this account was \$9,300.

Mr. FOSTER. That was 1897-98—it was \$9,315.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. It is now proposed to ask for a vote of \$9,000. As to the different services involved, I went carefully into them, and I am told it is impossible to reduce the amounts if the business of the department is to be carried on efficiently.

Mr. SPROULE. That may be satisfactory to the hon. Minister, but I do not think it can be satisfactory either to the country or to the House. If he had enough last year from all sources, he has increased his vote \$1,900 for contingencies and \$450 for salaries, making a total increase of \$2,350 over what he got last year from all sources. Now, surely if there was enough last year, including both the main and supplementary Estimates, there is no justifiable reason for increasing by \$2,350 as proposed in this vote—and that without any real explanation. He has not told us that there is any more work to be done or any more clerks required; he simply says there was not enough money in the main Estimates last year, and they were obliged to ask for a supplementary vote. But allowing for all this, he is \$2,350 above the votes of last year.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend the Minister of Militia has not shown why, having received a total vote, in the main and supplementary Estimates together of \$7,100, he expended \$9,315, which is the amount shown by the Auditor General's Report for 1897-98.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The memorandum I have from the accountant states that the vote last year was as follows:—Clerical and other assistants, \$2,500; printing and stationery, \$4,000; sundries, \$3,500, making a total of \$10,000. So there must be an error. I will send for a copy of the statute and see if there is an error in the Estimates.

Mr. FOSTER. I see my hon. friend has been living up to the traditions of loyalty, so new and apparently so gratifying to the hon. gentlemen, since they have taken office. He pays out the people's money for "The Queen," \$7.20, and "Queen Victoria, Her Life and Reign," \$4.75. I commend to my hon. friend the diligent study of both those works. One gives the proceedings of the court, to which my hon. friend may some day or other be called, and the other will give him a knowledge of the services, life and characteristics of the Queen.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. Have you a copy?

Mr. FOSTER. No, we poor fellows cannot get them, because we have not our hands in the public chest.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I find, on looking up the statutes, two sets of items: First, clerical and other assistance, \$1,000; printing and stationery, \$1,400; salaries, \$500, making \$2,900. Then, clerical and other assistance, \$1,500; printing and stationery, \$2,600; sundries, \$3,000, making \$7,100 and \$2,900.

Mr. FOSTER. Was not one of these supplementaries for the preceding year?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. "Schedule A, sums granted to Her Majesty by this Act for the financial year ending 30th June, 1898," that is one. The other: "Sums granted to Her Majesty by this Act for the financial year ending 30th June, 1899."

Mr. FOSTER. They do not refer to the same year, then?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No.

Mr. FOSTER. You have not got anything out of them. You might as well own up that you are extravagant.

Mr. WALLACE. Printing and stationery last year cost \$1,943; you are asking \$3,000 this year.

Contingencies—Department of the Secretary of State..... \$5,750

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. There is a small decrease.

Mr. FOSTER. It is said the Secretary of State has not anything to do.

Mr. SPROULE. We might have some explanation of how he managed to save that \$300.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Do you object to it?

Contingencies—Office of the Auditor General..... \$5,200

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. He has applied for a little extra clerical assistance on account of the extra amount of work that he has to do.

Mr. FOSTER. He needs it. I notice by the last Auditor General's Report that he has a very hard time fighting the Ministers.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. He does it impartially, you will admit.

Mr. FOSTER. I think he tries to keep you pretty well up, but you ride over him.

Mr. SPROULE. It will be in order for the Minister to give us an explanation why the Treasury Board overrules him so often.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). In order to carry on the Government.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. There is such a thing as being so particular that you lean over backwards sometimes.

Mr. SPROULE. I am not afraid of anything like that happening on that side of the House.

Department of Inland Revenue—Contingencies ..... \$6,250

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). I promised that I would give the names of the temporary clerks in the Inland Revenue Department when I was asked for them the other day by my hon. friend. I have them now. They are Miss Lawless, who gets \$450; Miss Haggarty, who gets \$450; and Mr. J. A. Robillard, who gets \$400. These are the three temporary clerks we have now.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to ask the hon. Minister if any part of these contingencies is to be devoted to looking after distinguished persons who come from other countries?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. When any distinguished persons come, if we can spare anything, we will do our best. I was rather discouraged after looking after one distinguished person two years ago, and when I look after distinguished persons again I will try to find that they deserve it.

Mr. FOSTER. I am rather surprised to hear my hon. friend speaking that way. That is not quite chivalric. Because a man has now fallen from his high estate, he rather passes censure upon him. The hon. gentleman ought to stand by a man who has met reverses in his own country.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I stood by him as long as I believed that he deserved it, even against the opinion of my own friends. I stood by him when there was not even one of my friends on this side of the House to stand by him, but what I have heard about him lately rather makes me feel that I might have made a mistake.

The Department of Agriculture—  
 Clerical and other assistance, including \$600 to E. A. Rodman and \$430 to J. Leafloor, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act..... \$10,000  
 Printing and stationery..... 3,250  
 Sundries ..... 3,250  
 \$16,500

Mr. FOSTER. What does this "notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act" mean?

Mr. SPROULE. Here is the case we were dealing with only a few moments ago. The hon. gentleman denied that he had increased the number of his clerks, but I find he is asking for the same amount for temporary clerks this year that he had last. Will he be good enough to explain how it is that he has taken two or three men and put them on the permanent staff, and that yet he can make no reduction in the amount for temporary clerks.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It is true that some of the temporary clerks are to be put on the permanent staff—three of them—but, unfortunately, Mr. Bailey, one of the examiners, has had to have leave of absence in consequence of sickness for six months, and I have to put temporary clerks in to do his work; so that, instead of a decrease of three in the number of temporary clerks, there will only be two in that particular branch. I find that among these temporary clerks, with the exception of three, they are all paid very small amounts, about \$500, and I thought it was only just, as they were doing their work well, that they should be allowed the statutory increase of temporary clerks, which is \$30 a year, which I have given to all in this work who are receiving under \$500. This about makes up for the salary of one clerk. I confess that at the present time my estimates do not show that I am going to use the whole of this \$10,000. I am asking that for clerical and other assistance, but I cannot tell what may arise in the year.

Mr. FOSTER. What are these extraordinary cases here?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The case of Miss Rodman is for the typewriter who came into the service two years ago to assist my private secretary. She has very long hours and has a great deal of work to do. The case of J. Leafloor is one which the Auditor General says will have to appear in the Estimates every year. Leafloor was a messenger, and was appointed and paid out of the census vote some years ago and was not on the permanent staff. Before I came to office he had been appointed chief messenger by my predecessor, the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague). I have retained him, but the Auditor General has decided that his salary must be voted, or specified, each year at that rate, as he is a temporary messenger, really. I put him in at the usual salary of a temporary messenger, which must be voted every year.

Mr. FOSTER. There is one point here which does seem serious. The hon. gentleman comes and asks for \$10,000 for clerical assistance, outside of his staff. He has increased his staff by three clerks, and during this present year he has 42 clerks in the Agriculture Department, in Ottawa. Yet he asks for \$10,000 for clerical assistance for more than a quarter of the whole of his permanent staff. It seems to me that with the present civil service establishment, and with the class of writers that we can obtain for clerical work for \$300 or \$400 or \$500 a year, to vote \$10,000 for clerical assistance is to vote a large amount. The hon. gentleman says, "I do not know whether I will use all that or not, but I desire that you should give it to me in case I should require it." I submit that this is not the way that estimates should be presented to the House. A Minister comes to this House and asks what he thinks he will actually need. If he finds

Mr. SPROULE.

out after a short time that he actually needs more, there is recourse to him in the first supplementary estimates before the session is through. That gives him two months or so to think over as to whether he has need for more or not. Although the Minister may think that he had obtained sufficient, it may happen that, before the year is up, he will find that he does need more. In that case there is the supplementary estimates in the succeeding year to which he can have recourse, but it is neither in accordance with constitutional government, or practice, in Great Britain, or in this country, to ask for a larger sum than you think you actually need for the transaction of the business of your department. The hon. Minister of Agriculture has done that on one or two occasions before. I remember last year, or the session before last, a vote was asked for and the hon. gentleman could not give the least idea as to what he was going to do with the amount that he asked for. He said that it might be sufficient but that it would not be used unless it was needed. You might just as well come down and ask for a lump sum of \$40,000,000 or \$50,000,000 and say, "If we do not want it we will not use it." That is not the rule or basis upon which estimates ought to be brought down. I want to ask the hon. Minister to give the details of the clerical assistance that he proposes now to employ in the department, the names and the salaries, so as to show us how much it would total up. He has made a statement that he does not see how he can use this \$10,000. I hope he will give the House all the details.

Mr. WALLACE. Is that "C. A. Rodman" a lady?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Mr. WALLACE. How long has she been in the department?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. About two years.

Mr. WALLACE. And she gets \$600?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I propose to give her that.

Mr. WALLACE. That is more than some qualified shorthand writers who are in the service for many years, get.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. In reply to the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster), I may say, that the number of temporary clerks of this character who are paid out of the civil government contingencies of the Department of Agriculture, is very considerably less than when I took office. I have not at hand the list, but, if I remember, speaking from memory, there are more than ten less than there were when I became Minister, and there is also a considerable reduction in the number of permanent clerks. I reduced the number of permanent clerks the first year I came into office.

Mr. FOSTER. And you are increasing them this year.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, but for the special purpose which I explained to the hon. gentleman. Of those clerks who are not permanent, there are some three or four last year, including Mr. Casey, who, although temporary clerks, are receiving quite high salaries. At the present, Miss Fitzgerald, who has been some eight or ten years in the service, is receiving \$912.50. I do not propose to add to that. Mr. Casey is transferred to the permanent staff. Mrs. Bowden is receiving \$636.75; T. H. Graham is receiving \$600; Messrs. Thompson and Farmer were the two examiners of the present current year. Mr. Farmer has left the service, in consequence of not getting sufficient for his work, and being able to do better elsewhere, and I have had to replace him by Mr. McGill at \$600, the same salary. Mr. Farmer was a graduate of McGill University in the science course, and had special qualifications for the work.

Mr. WALLACE. You pay this young lady shorthand writer the same as the specialist.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have explained that the specialist came in on approbation, and was getting this while on approbation; but I propose to put him into a second-class clerkship at \$1,100, in consequence of his technical qualifications, and the lady remains at \$600, and cannot get any more as a temporary clerk. Mr. McGill is a graduate of Toronto University, and I have appointed him lately. Mr. Campbell is a graduate of McGill University, a resident of the city here, and he is coming in as a temporary clerk at \$600 to do the work that Mr. Bailey has been doing. I have taken these young men at \$600 to commence with, as assistant patent examiners. Then, there is Mrs. Kingsmill, who has \$577.50; Mr. Bourret, who has \$600; Miss Dorion, who has \$577.50; Miss Hamilton, who has \$490; Miss Rodman, who will have \$600 now; Miss Martineau, who has \$460; Miss Armstrong, who has \$430; Miss Casgrain, who has \$430; Mr. Brown, \$430; Mr. Lefleur, messenger, \$430; Mr. Gorman, messenger, \$360. These latter two are getting a statutory increase, as do also all the clerks here under \$600. That comes altogether to \$7,965; but that amount does not include the extra clerk that I have to have to replace Mr. Bailey, nor the two expert examiners whom I have still on probation, each of them getting \$600; so that, altogether, that will amount to \$9,165.25.

Mr. FOSTER. That is a tremendously large list.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The fact remains, that the list was much larger until quite recently.

Mr. FOSTER. What do all these people do?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Miss Fitzgerald is a shorthand writer for the Deputy Minister, and helps the secretary of the department. Mrs. Bowden works in the patent branch; Morgan in the patent branch; the patent examiners, of course, are in the patent branch; Mrs. Kingsmill is in the correspondence branch; Bourret, in the patent branch; Miss Dorion, in the patent branch; Miss Casey is working with Dr. Brymner; Miss Hamilton, in the patent branch; Miss Rodman, typewriter to my own secretary; Miss Martineau is either in the patent or statistical branch; Miss Armstrong is in the patent branch; Miss Casgrain is in the patent branch; Brown is in the patent branch, and Lefleur and the others are messengers. The fact is, that in the patent branch there are a large number of temporary clerks. I do not consider I would be justified in giving promotion to second-class clerkships to those, and, as there are no third-class clerkships under the new law, this necessitates a pretty large list of temporary clerks who have to be paid out of contingencies. As I have said, this list is not as large as it was a couple of years ago.

Mr. SPROULE. The Minister has provided for everything he could possibly think of, including a young lady assistant to his own private secretary and an extra personal messenger, and yet he has, according to his own showing, \$835.25 which there is no need for. Why not strike it out?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. We might as well put in the round figure, as heretofore.

Mr. SPROULE. This is a very loose way of making up estimates. The Minister has no necessity whatever for this \$825.

Mr. FOSTER. That will do for some exigency.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There are always some exigencies.

Mr. N. C. WALLACE (West York). To say that there are some exigencies, is an easy way to dispose of it, but it is not satisfactory. There is no way in which the Minister can expend this \$10,000, even with personal messengers and every extravagance he can think of. That \$10,000 is largely for one branch of his department, and he has increased the regular expenditure of the department by \$4,540. The hon. gentleman is proposing, not to decrease the expenditure, but to increase his permanent list. The usual and proper rule is, to decrease the contingent list, but he is increasing the permanent list without decreasing the contingent list at all. It simply means that there is \$4,500 of increase in the cost of the clerical work of the department for the incoming year. The Minister cannot point to any necessity for that increase that I know of. The work of the patent

branch, I presume, remains pretty much the same from year to year.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. Oh, no; it has been increasing steadily from year to year.

Mr. **WALLACE**. I know it has been increasing in the past, but I think it has reached the point where it is about stationary. The Minister is increasing the expenditure of his department enormously. Notwithstanding that he is paying very liberal salaries, in some cases at any rate, he cannot find a place to expend this \$10,000. He says, if we do not require it, we will not expend it; but I think he should come down here with an economical and careful estimate of what will actually be required, and not ask Parliament for a lump sum to be voted without any regard to the interests of the case. There will be a strong temptation to spend the money. Some needy friend will come along and will get a job.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. No, we will not do that.

Mr. **FOSTER**. I wish to call attention to a practice which I paid a good deal of attention to while in the Government, and which is very likely to increase, namely, the practice of departments furnishing themselves with magazines, books, and so on, at the public expense. I do not think that is right. I always fought against it, and I think it is an abuse that should be brought to an end. If the Minister or any one in a department wants one of the monthly magazines, let him subscribe to it; he has his salary. Occasionally a literary magazine is required because there is an article in it which may be useful to the department, but I think there can be no justification for a yearly subscription to magazines.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. I quite agree with what the hon. gentleman says. I could not remember at the moment what these magazines are, but I rather think they are for the purpose of the statistician. I will look into the matter.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Among them I find "The Contemporary," "The Fortnightly Review," "The Forum," "The Nineteenth Century."

Mr. **SPROULE**. There is another thing which indicates a looseness in the management of the department, which is scarcely consistent with rigid economy. After making provision for everything, I find that there is \$835 more in the Estimates than the Minister will require; and that includes the salary of an extra man who is taking the place of one who is always on leave of absence on account of ill-health. It seems to me the Minister could well afford to drop that amount. It will only be a temptation to him to use it if it is left there, and I do not think he is such proof against temptation that he will not use it.

Mr. **WALLACE**.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. It is the same as last year. We will not spend it if it is not absolutely necessary.

Contingencies—Department of Marine and Fisheries ..... \$12,200

Mr. **FOSTER**. What about these two extra clerks?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). They are two gentlemen whom I found there, appointed by my predecessor. According to the Civil Service Act they could not get more than \$400 each; but, because of their competency, the House voted them \$600 each. They are very good men.

Mr. **FOSTER**. My hon. friend, if he looks over his contingencies, will find that he has been dissipating in the same way as other Ministers in the way of buying books.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No, except two law books.

Mr. **FOSTER**. What about "Canada and its Capital"? Here you have also "Les Etats-Unis," \$6. There must be a little serial running through all the Ministers' contingencies about "Le Saguenay and le bassin du Lac St. Jean." There must be a great deal of interest taken in the scenery of the Saguenay district, and the Ministers seem to have been tolled \$1.25 each for the book.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. Encouraging native industry.

Mr. **FOSTER**. If they are going to do that out of their own pockets, it is very laudable.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I am putting in the plea that it is a very little one.

The Department of Railways and Canals—  
 Printing and stationery ..... \$5,500  
 Sundries ..... 2,500  
 \$8,000

Mr. **FOSTER**. There is one serial that runs through most of the Ministers' departments, and that is the "Encyclopedia of Practical Quotations," \$8. That is no doubt very useful, and no doubt it must apply to all the technical work of each department, as I see each one of them has it. The Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) evidently felt that he especially needed those practical quotations. He is evidently anxious to know what the Canadian press says about him, because he subscribes to the Canadian Press Printing Bureau.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. How much does that come to?

Mr. **FOSTER**. About \$25 of the people's money, which would do a great deal to add to the comfort of some poor labourer.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE**. Do you think that newspaper

clippings always add to the personal comfort of the Ministry very much?

Mr. SPROULE. Not the way they have been writing about him lately.

Mr. FOSTER. Probably he will discontinue it.

The Department of Trade and Commerce—  
Sundries, including clerical and other assistance, with additional to Miss A. C. Kennedy (\$80), notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act .....

|                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Act .....                     | \$5,500 |
| Printing and stationery ..... | 1,500   |
|                               | \$7,000 |

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. There is an increase of \$590, that is chiefly caused by the extra work thrown on us by the preferential tariff.

Mr. FOSTER. Has my hon. friend come to the conclusion to change the heading of that in the next work?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. What would you suggest?

Mr. FOSTER. It would be very difficult to suggest a fit name.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Let us hear your suggestion, and we will take it into consideration.

Mr. FOSTER. Suppose you call it "the discriminating tariff."

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. A rose by any name will smell as sweet, I suppose.

Mr. SPROULE. Why are those words, "notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act," inserted?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. On account of an increase to one of the temporary clerks, which brings the salary to \$600.

Mr. FOSTER. Is the clerk a lady?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Yes.

Care and cleaning of departmental buildings, including amount of \$100 required to pay for firing noon gun, which amount may be paid to a member of the civil service, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act .....

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| Act ..... | \$27,000 |
|-----------|----------|

Mr. FOSTER. I thought that gun was fired by electricity?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. A man has to attend to the loading.

Mr. FOSTER. Does not electricity do the whole thing?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It has not reached that stage yet.

Mr. FOSTER. Is this carried on on the same plan as before?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, by the same man.

House of Commons—

Salary of Deputy Speaker ..... \$2,000

Mr. FOSTER. Has the hon. gentleman come to the conclusion to adjure the heretical doctrine of past years and retain the Deputy Speaker?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Oh, he is doing his work, you know.

House of Commons—

Expenses of committees, sessional and extra clerks, &c..... \$16,700

Mr. FOSTER. I do not know whether other members have any objection to the kind of stationery that is distributed, but it seems to me to be perfectly useless stationery for members of the House. I had occasion to go to the little box that was sent me—a very small and harmless looking box—but I found there little but ladies' stationery—absolutely useless to me. It was very nice stationery for ladies. But I supposed this stationery was to be provided for the use of members. If that is the design, the design is not well carried out, in my opinion. I do not know who makes up the assortment, but I would suggest—the other members might have a different idea—that something commonplace and useful should be given. We do not need these double-padded and coloured envelopes. Of course, they are very nice here in Ottawa, where the members of the Opposition have to send so many acceptances to dinners to the Ministers.

Mr. IVES. A more serious objection is as to the stationery we have to use in the House. It is a matter of chance whether you get an envelope to stick or not. As a rule, you have to get mucilage and use it on the envelope to make sure. We have not had such poor stationery, so far as I can recollect, in the 20 years that I have been in the House. The envelopes are so bad that they ought to be withdrawn at once and better envelopes substituted.

Mr. SPROULE. I have several times complained about the stationery, and I find the same complaint would be justified this year. In our boxes we have a lot of small note-paper that is of no use for letter-writing. That is my experience. It may be that I cannot express myself as concisely as some, and therefore require larger paper for my letters. The envelopes also are too small. Envelopes of the ordinary size are always useful, but the number is out of all proportion to the needs. The same thing seems to occur every year, and I suppose it is due to the person who makes the selection. I have always felt, as the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) says, that there is a great deal too much fancy envelopes and paper, which are of no use to a business man, and too little of the ordinary size such as we can use day by day. It

would be better if we had more stationery for use and fewer of the little trinkets that are absolutely of no use to any person. One or two new ones seem to be added every year. This year we have a tube of paste, which, I see by the label, is manufactured in New York. This Government seems disposed to get everything from the United States. I do not know whether these Yankee notions please the people of the country, but they appear to me to be of little value.

Mr. IVES. I think it is unreasonable to find fault with the Government for making use of new Yankee notions. They have had to give up so many of the old Yankee notions, that they naturally look for new ones.

Mr. SPEAKER. I may explain that Mr. Clarke has had the selection of the stationery for many years. There was an old gentleman at the head of this office, but he practically left the whole matter to Mr. Clarke. So it is the same man who makes the selection as has made it for many years. As to the complaints that have been made, I may say that a good many members have complained to me that they do not get nearly as nice things in their boxes as the Senators do. I think possibly, that is true; for the stationery which is supplied to this House goes to 213 members as well as to 30 or 40 members of the press gallery and a large staff of officials. And for all this there is only \$8,000 voted—whereas the Senate have some 80 members and a much smaller staff, and \$6,000 is voted. So the Senate really are much better able to supply themselves with superior stationery than this House is. We had \$4,000 taken off the vote two years ago. That was, as I understand it, because the members were not any longer to receive the small trunks of stationery. What the members required to take home was then, until two sessions ago, wrapped up in a paper parcel. An improvement was made last year by putting the stationery in paper boxes which probably would burst before the members left Ottawa. However, there was no money to buy anything better. This year I think they have appropriated a small sum from the miscellaneous Estimates to cover a box that will probably hold together the stationery, such as it is, until the members get home. I am glad that hon. gentlemen have given their opinions, they will be taken down in the "Hansard," and I shall at once call Mr. Clarke's attention to them. He has always general instructions from me to get nothing but the very best articles, and to send an article back if it is not of the very best. I really think myself the mucilage cannot possibly be the very best. However, the discussion that has occurred will be useful, and if the members wish a very superior stationery, something more like that of the Senate, I am afraid they will have to consent to a little increase in the Estimates for stationery.

Mr. FOSTER. I think the trouble is the other way. We must pay more for them, if

Mr. SPROULE.

they are not the right kind, than you would for serviceable stationery. I know Mr. Clarke, I think he is a very efficient officer, and if left to himself, probably he would get a different class of stationery. But he tries to please all, and I have no doubt he receives a great many conflicting recommendations or suggestions, and in attempting to please all, he probably does not get as good as we might have. I do not think we ought to go in for expensive stationery, but we ought to have what is useful.

Mr. SPROULE. I think the quantity of letter pads and note pads might be increased and the envelopes made to suit them. You have not enough of the larger envelopes to go with the pads that you have there. You might reduce the amount of small note-paper of comparatively little value, and give something that would be of some use, with envelopes to match.

Mr. SPEAKER. No doubt tastes differ in that regard. If any members receive stationery in their box which they do not quite like, they can go to Mr. Clarke, and say: Please give me an equivalent in value, of a different kind of stationery. I think he will always do that; I understand that he does so. If that is not the case, I will see that it is done.

Publishing Debates ..... \$40,000

Mr. FOSTER. Does that cover the cost?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. It depends a little on the length of the session.

Estimate of Serjeant-at-Arms, as approved ..... \$33,937 50

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to ask the Speaker and the Clerk of the House, by way of suggestion, whether these sessional clerks are all doing the work for which they are supposed to be appointed to this House? The Clerk says they are this session. I hope so; I think most of them do.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think some of the services of the sessional clerks have heretofore been appropriated by individual members of the House to a small extent, but I think that is entirely stopped now. The Clerk has done everything he can to stop it.

Mr. WALLACE. In regard to these Estimates, I am told that soap and other things used around the House of Commons are brought in from Chicago. I think we ought to use such of those articles as are manufactured in our own country.

Mr. SPEAKER. I cannot answer as to how that is, but I think we ought to get soap in Canada, at any rate. I do not say that it is not the case, because I have not had an opportunity of knowing.

Contingent expenses in connection with the voters' lists..... \$2,500

Mr. TAYLOR. What voters' list is this?

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE** (Sir Richard Cartwright). For the by-elections.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. Does this cover the list for Brockville.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). In the city of Winnipeg at the present moment, we are preparing special voters' lists under the statute.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. Does this cover the Brockville list?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. If there was one prepared.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. Do the Government prepare the ballots also?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Oh, no.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. Where are they prepared?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. They are prepared by the deputy returning officer.

Mr. **HAGGART**. Under the Franchise Act of last year the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery was to get a copy of the voters' lists printed for each constituency, and every member was to get 20 copies. I have not seen them yet. Has the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery got instructions not to print them?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Certainly not; he has no instructions to my knowledge not to do anything which the law requires him to do.

Mr. **BENNETT**. A few days ago I made application to the Clerk for the lists. He told me the list had been returned by the Clerk of the Peace for the county, but so far no lists had been printed.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I have no doubt he will cause them to be printed at once.

Mr. **MOORE**. When we were repealing the Franchise Act I understood that the great objection to the old one was its expense; the new one was to be prepared by the municipal officers and to cost this Government nothing. I am therefore surprised to find such a vote as this. I understood that under the new Act the provincial authorities were to do this work.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. It is for a special case like Winnipeg.

Mr. **BENNETT**. Was \$2,500 required for the Winnipeg voters' list?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Not for the Winnipeg lists alone, but the law provides that where the lists are more than a year old a new voters' list must be prepared, and some vote must be taken to defray the expenses of that.

That is being done in Winnipeg at the present time, and there may be many other similar cases.

Mr. **BENNETT**. Is it expected that the cost of printing the voters' list for Winnipeg alone will be \$2,500?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I do not know what the cost will be. It is impossible to tell what it will cost until the lists are printed, it is only guess work. How could we tell how many names are being returned until the revising officers make up the lists?

Mr. **SPROULE**. Then no one can tell what the item is put here for. How do you know that you need it at all?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Because at this moment the work is going on of preparing the list in Winnipeg. It will necessarily cost something.

Mr. **SPROULE**. The Minister ought to know something about it. If they want this sum of money, they want it for some specific purposes, and the Minister has to tell the House what the purpose is.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. In case we had a list that was needed, as, for instance, in Winnipeg, the money would be required.

Mr. **CASGRAIN**. The law says the lists shall be sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery by the municipal officers who prepare them. In the province of Quebec the lists are being prepared now, and they will be in force in a few days. I take it that the lists will be sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and that they will have to be printed. We have an item in the Estimates to cover the printing of the lists. Surely this is not enough to print all the lists for the province of Quebec or for the Dominion. I know that in the course of this present year they will have to be printed. This item will not be for printing the lists in the whole Dominion.

Mr. **WALLACE**. I think the Minister of Marine and Fisheries had better get his compass. The Minister has not the slightest idea what this item is for. We had better let the item stand until he discovers what it is for.

Mr. **G. V. McINERNEY** (Kent, N.B.). When the Franchise Act was passed last session, there was a clause inserted that ten days after the lists were finally revised the custodians, in the different constituencies should send them to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to be printed. Every list that is sent up is the original list, and that list has to be printed by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery here. I beg to tell the hon. Minister that, in December, the list was sent up from my county, and I am informed that it has not yet been printed, and that there is no intention of printing it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is correct. I do not understand that the intention ever was to print the lists unless there is an election. It would be an unnecessary expense.

Mr. McINERNEY. I think that is the provision of the Act.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Certainly it is.

Mr. HAGGART. The law is imperative.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I know that the intention of the Government was not to print the lists in all cases, but only in those cases when it was necessary. There is no sense in printing the lists and using our money for nothing. If an election is coming on in any riding the list can be printed in a few hours, but to have the lists printed in all the different ridings in this Dominion, where they are not required, will incur great expense.

Mr. CASGRAIN. That is the law.

Mr. McINERNEY. Is it the intention of the Government to have all the lists printed this year?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, not unless it is necessary; certainly not.

Mr. SPROULE. Were the lists printed for Huron and Brockville?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. HAGGART. No, not for Huron, not for the whole of Huron.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, they were printed for Brockville.

Mr. HAGGART. Yes, for Brockville, but only for a part of Huron.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I say for Brockville, and so they would be in any other part of the country where an election is called on.

Mr. TAYLOR. Why were they not printed for Huron?

Mr. HOLMES. They were printed for Huron also.

Mr. HAGGART. Some of the townships were printed for Huron, but not for the whole county.

Mr. FOSTER. This is not for the printing of the voters' lists at all.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Contingent expenses in connection with the printing of the lists.

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

Mr. McINERNEY.

## After Recess.

### OTTAWA ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

On the Order being called for,

Third reading of Bill (No. 18) respecting the Ottawa Electric Railway.

Mr. N. A. BELCOURT (Ottawa). Since this Bill was considered in the committee of the House the other day, some of the parties interested have complained that the amendment to clause 6 does not properly set out the wishes of the Railway Committee, and in order that the parties may be heard, and that the Bill may be again considered so that if any injustice has been done it may be righted, as the member in charge of the Bill I shall now move, that the Bill be referred back to the Railway Committee to be further considered. I intended to make some reference to the circumstances connected with this matter, but as the Bill will come up again before the committee, I shall defer what I have to say until then. I move, Sir:

That the order for the third reading of Bill (No. 18) be discharged and that the said Bill be referred back to the Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). I want to say a word on this Bill before it is referred back to the committee, because I think there is something in connection with it that should be taken notice of by this House. From the information at hand, it seems pretty clear that the Bill was tampered with after it left the Railway Committee and before it was reported to this House. The information we have is to the effect, that the counsel for the railway company was one of the parties who assisted in making the amendments to that Bill—amendments that were never contemplated by the Railway Committee. I say that such a thing as that, justly entitles that gentleman to be brought before the bar of the House to answer for his conduct. No lawyer or no other individual has a right to come before any important committee of this House—and it is by the pleasure of the committee that he is allowed to appear there as an advocate for one side or the other—and then, after the deliberation of the committee, and after they have reported the Bill, take upon himself to rearrange any amendments to the Bill so as to change it from what the committee reported. That is the position with regard to this Bill as I understand it to-day. I have several times believed previously, that such a thing was done with Bills, because I have noticed after the Bills were printed that the amendments were not as I understood them to be passed in the committee—and I usually give very close attention to Bills in the Railway Committee, of which I have been a member for the last 21 years. It is frequently said, that there is a typographical error or a word changed or

something done, but we notice that it materially modifies the sense and the legal effect of the measure itself. That practice should be put a stop to, and any one who attempts it, I do not care who he is, should be dealt with severely. If a person is allowed to come before that committee he has no right to touch a Bill after it is signed by the chairman and reported to this House.

I wish now to refer to the amendment of that Bill to which I drew attention before. The amendment which was carried was moved by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell). At the time, I thought that amendment would not meet the views of some members of the committee, and I have still stronger reasons to think so now. I refer to the last clause of the Bill which proposed to give power to the railway company to run its cars on Sunday and collect fares. I moved that the clause be struck out, but an amendment was moved by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell), which amendment afterwards carried, and I believe that that amendment went further than it was intended to go. It certainly went a great deal further than I intended it should go, and when I drew attention to this fact in the committee I was assured by the hon. member for Halifax that it did not interfere with what I was contending for; that it did not give the railway company the right to run its cars on Sunday outside of the city of Ottawa. I shall read that amendment and afterwards draw attention to what I regard as the power it does confer on the Electric Railway Company. It says:

Nothing in any Act relating to the Ottawa Electric Company, the Ottawa Electric Street Railway Company (Limited), or the Ottawa City Passenger Railway Company, or any other Act, shall restrict the power or render it beyond the power of the Ottawa Electric Railway Company to run its cars or collect fares between midnight of Saturday and midnight of Sunday.

The other amendment is a change from the original amendment and is to the effect that the same should have been authorized in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of the Act entitled "An Act respecting the city of Ottawa," passed by the legislature of Ontario in the year 1899. But what I want to draw attention to is that there is nothing in that Act which shall render it ultra vires of the electric railway company to run cars and collect fares on Sunday outside of the city of Ottawa. The contention that we made before the committee was that while the people of Ottawa voted upon the question of the right to run cars on Sunday, and that was submitted to the Ontario legislature and authority was given, so far as they could give authority, granting that right; that authority did not give the electric railway company the right to run cars outside the city limits. But, as this Bill proposed that the electric railway company should extend its line to Bell's Corners or Britannia, seven miles outside the city limits, my contention was that the people of Carleton County never voted

upon that question, never asked the right for this company to run their cars on Sunday, and nevertheless if this amendment passed the company would have the right to so run their cars. The amendment does not say inside or outside the city limits, but merely speaks of the Ottawa Electric Railway Company. Now, the Ottawa Electric Railway Company would be the same if it ran five miles or fifty miles outside the city, and they would have the power to run their cars on Sunday "inside" or "outside" the city limits as asked by the vote of the people of Ottawa, yet it was a different thing to allow them the right to run cars on Sunday outside the city limits, when the people of Carleton or any other portion of the country through which the railway would run, did not ask for it. If the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) looks at the amendment carefully, he will see that it would give the electric railway company the right to go beyond what the Railway Committee contemplated. It will be well to consider that when the Bill is before the Railway Committee again. I have drawn attention to this matter for the purpose of having the House take notice of the fact, that at different times we have had reason to believe that Bills have been tampered with after they have been signed by the chairman of the Railway Committee, and that amendments have crept in which have led to grave suspicion that it was done by somebody after the Bill had been reported. In this instance it appears to be clear, and if the explanation in the "Citizen" is correct, it was done by the lawyer who appeared for the railway company, Mr. Ferguson, and the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) agreeing upon certain amendments. I do not think that was right; I do not think that should be; I think we should take note of it, and see that when a Bill leaves any committee of this House it shall not be changed in any particular until it is reported to this House, when this House can deal with it as it sees fit.

Mr. B. RUSSELL (Halifax). I think my hon. friend who has just taken his seat, is correct in his criticism of the amendment of which I gave notice for this evening, and which it will not be necessary for me to move, inasmuch as I understand that the motion now before the House is to refer the Bill back to the committee without instructions, so that the committee may do with it whatever it thinks necessary. I shall read an amendment, however, which I believe will meet entirely the criticism the hon. gentleman makes, and which will embody what I understand were the views entertained by the committee. Suppose we read the Act with this clause in it:

Nothing contained in section 2 of the Act of the legislature of Ontario, being 31 Victoria, chap. 45, shall be held to render it ultra vires of the said Ottawa Electric Railway Company to run passenger cars of the said company and collect tolls for the carriage of passengers thereon between

midnight of Saturday and midnight of Sunday within the limits defined in the Act hereinafter mentioned, after the same shall have been authorized in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of the Act intituled "An Act respecting the city of Ottawa," passed by the legislature of Ontario in the year 1899.

That is to say, it shall be *intra vires* of the company to run their cars within the limits mentioned in the Ontario statute passed last winter, after they have complied with the provisions of that statute.

Mr. CLARKE. What are those limits ?

Mr. RUSSELL. The limits of the city of Ottawa and a mile and a half outside thereof, as authorized by the legislature. I think it is quite right that this restriction should be included in the amendment, which is intended to remove the prohibition, as well as in the legislation which empowers the company to run.

Now, I wish to say a word in exculpation of Mr. Ferguson, the solicitor of the company. I am quite sure that he is not to blame in a single particular. Naturally enough, as solicitor of the company, he was anxious to get everything he possibly could, and he had a right to do that.

Mr. SPROULE. He had no right to go beyond the committee's report.

Mr. RUSSELL. My hon. friend will remember that the amendment was drawn on a piece of paper with a pencil, using the top of a soft hat for a desk, and it was very difficult indeed, sitting where I was, and without any exact knowledge of what those various statutes were, to draw any amendment, because the committee had very scant knowledge of what legislation there was that bore on the question. It was agreed by everybody, for this reason, that the amendment was not in form, and would require to be put in form by somebody after the adjournment of the committee. The committee adjourned without putting the amendment in proper form ; and, just after I left the committee and was on my way to lunch, I was asked to come back and assist the clerk in putting the matter in shape. I sat down with Mr. Ferguson ; and I may assure the House, that I am more responsible than Mr. Ferguson, if there is anything wrong in the Bill. In fact, I am willing to take upon myself the whole responsibility. I am more willing to be thought a fool than to have Mr. Ferguson thought to be a rogue. As a matter of fact, I pencilled the words which are said to have been put surreptitiously into the Bill, and I did it in good faith. It would have been impossible for me to have done it otherwise than in good faith. I was seeking to protect the city of Ottawa against the legislation aimed at it by the street railway company. The House would be surprised to know how many of these Acts there are that had to be taken into account. There are Acts of the old

Mr. RUSSELL.

province of Canada, Acts of the province of Ontario, and two Dominion Acts, amending, consolidating, combining, and doing all sorts of things with these companies ; and it was impossible to be sure that we had named all the Acts that should be mentioned in the Bill. I did suggest, therefore, 'ex abundantia cautela,' that these words should be put in. It was my suggestion, I am bound to say, and not Mr. Ferguson's at all. If any mistake was made, it was my mistake. I really do not think any mistake was made ; because, under the principle under which these clauses should be read—and this was the opinion of Mr. Belcourt—they would be read to be restricted to the legislation which constituted the limitations upon the corporate capacity of the company, and would not be read in such a way as to nullify the conditions in the affirmative empowering Act passed by the Ontario legislature.

Mr. SPROULE. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman one question—if he does not remember that the only thing to go in was the names of the Acts ?

Mr. RUSSELL. I understand that the substance of the direction was, to make the Bill accord with the intention of the committee ; and, if there were any Acts that we did not know, and could not name, it was intended to include these Acts. I do not vindicate the amendment ; I do not think it is perfect as it is, and I do not think it right to pass legislation about which there can be any doubts. Therefore, I gave notice of a motion to refer the Bill back to the committee, so that, if any doubt existed, as the solicitor of the city seemed to think, the committee would have an opportunity to remove the doubt ; and, if the committee will adopt the motion I have read, I am sure that absolute justice will be done in this matter to both the railway company and the city of Ottawa. The power conferred by the legislature of Ontario will be validly conferred, and anything in Dominion legislation which would interfere with the proper exercise of that power, will be swept away. Everybody will be satisfied ; peace will be restored to this unhappy city, I hope ; but it will, I fear, be found that the newspapers will give us less of what Horace Greeley used to call "mighty interesting reading."

Mr. FOSTER. And will the correspondence cease ?

Mr. RUSSELL. I fancy it will, though I think that is a little too much to ask. The hon. gentleman, if he stops the correspondence in the newspapers, will "eclipse the gaiety of nations." I fancy, that even the compositors must have caught the contagion of the excitement that has been passing over the city for the past day or two. I did not know, on reading the paper this evening, whether the type was upside down, or whether my hon. friend from Guysboro', who has been taking an interest in this question,

had made a speech in Gaelic, which the journalist was trying to report.

I think that all that I need to say is, that I am absolutely certain—and it is due to him to say it—that Mr. Ferguson is not blameworthy in any respect in connection with this matter, because he made no suggestion at all. As for the learned member for Ottawa (Mr. Belcourt), he was not anywhere near the Bill until the next day, so far as I know; I think he can successfully prove an alibi. I do not think the clerk is to blame, either. The clerk assumed, very naturally, when Mr. Ferguson and I were satisfied with the way the clause was drafted, that he had no responsibility for it. I am the culprit, and I am willing to take any punishment which this House may choose to inflict upon me—to come before the Bar of the House, if a member can be brought before the Bar, or, if His Honour the Speaker has a tower under his control, to go there as long as may be necessary.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I suggest that the hon. member be sent to the place where the hon. member for Ottawa sent the Mayor of Ottawa.

Mr. RUSSELL. I am willing to take my chances with the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) on that.

Mr. J. McMULLEN (North Wellington). One point was raised by the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), which I think should not be passed over without notice. The hon. gentleman said that on several occasions Bills had been tampered with after they had been passed upon by the Railway Committee, and changes made. Now, I was exceedingly glad to hear the remarks which dropped from the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) with regard to the clerk of the committee. I have sat in the Railway Committee for 16 or 17 years, and I think a more painstaking and careful officer there is not in this House. I am very glad to hear my hon. friend exonerate him as well as the others supposed to be connected with this matter. I hope that the hon. member for Grey (Mr. Sproule) did not intend to pass any reflection upon the clerk. I do not know what he meant when he said the Bills had been tampered with, but I believe everything that passes through the clerk's hands, in the discharge of his duty, is perfectly safe, and that he would scorn to lend himself to anything of the kind charged.

Mr. W. J. POUPORE (Pontiac). I would like to add a few words to what has been said, and my first must be to compliment my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Russell) for having assumed responsibility for the error. I myself was at the committee, and I must say that I understood the amendment of the hon. member for Halifax to read just as it appeared in print, and, therefore, feel very much pleased to know that he assumes the responsibility, for there is

no hon. gentleman in this House who would accuse him of having any sinister motive in altering the amendment. I am also glad to know that he removes any suspicion that might be cast on my friend Mr. Ferguson, because he is a gentleman whom no one acquainted with would ever charge with tampering with any Bill or doing anything dishonourable to the profession of which he is an ornament. I, therefore, take much pleasure in complimenting my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Russell) on doing what I considered a manly thing in assuming the responsibility for the words inserted in that amendment. I do not think he did it with any other motive than to protect the interest of the parties concerned.

Mr. BELL (East Prince, P.E.I.) This portion of the Bill is cleared up, but it seems to me there are other clauses which require to be discussed.

Mr. BERGERON. The whole thing will go back to the committee.

Mr. SPEAKER. I allowed the discussion to go further than I otherwise would on account of the personal nature of the circumstances which made it desirable to clear them up, but I do not think it would be proper now to discuss the merits of the Bill.

Motion agreed to.

#### IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READING.

Bill (No. 47) respecting the Brandon and South-western Railway Company—(Mr. Morrison.)

#### SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 66) respecting the Lindsay, Bobcaygeon and Pontypool Railway Company.—(Mr. McHugh.)

Bill (No. 67) respecting the Welland Power and Supply Canal Company (Limited).—(Mr. Gibson.)

Bill (No. 73) respecting the James Bay Railway Company.—(Mr. Hughes.)

Bill (No. 74) respecting the Huron and Erie Loan and Savings Company.—(Mr. Beattie.)

Bill (No. 76) respecting the Dominion of Canada Guarantee and Accident Insurance Company.—(Mr. Osler.)

Bill (No. 77) respecting the Canadian Power Company, and to change its name to the Dominion Power Company of Niagara Falls.—(Mr. Bertram.)

Bill (No. 78) respecting the Hamilton Powder Company.—(Mr. Penny.)

#### SUPPLY.

The House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. T. C. CASGRAIN (Montmorency). Mr. Chairman, when the committee rose at six

o'clock, we were discussing the item of \$2,500 for electoral lists. I see that this sum was voted last year. And this is the only amount I find except a small sum of \$5,000 for elections. Now, reading the law, I see :

It shall be the duty of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, immediately upon receipt by him of any such certified copy of a list of voters, to cause it to be printed by the Queen's Printer, and he shall thereafter retain such certified copy of record in his office.

This is the duty imposed on the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery by the statute, and it seems to me that something should be put in the Estimates to meet the expenditure. For I take it that every member of this House has a right to have these lists. I have the right, under that law, to get these printed lists. I may have a great interest in knowing who are the electors in my county. So, this list is my property, and there is an obligation upon the Government to vote enough money to have these lists printed.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). You are right.

Mr. BERGERON. Then will you explain ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. CASGRAIN. The law goes on to say :

If, under the provincial law any changes in or additions to a list of voters have been made since the final revision, it shall be the duty of the official having a record of such changes and additions, upon the request of any person presenting for the purpose any such printed copy of the list and paying or tendering the sum of fifty cents, to make corresponding changes in and additions to such printed copy, and to certify under his hand as to the correctness of such changes and additions ; and such printed copy, with such changes and additions, and so certified, shall be deemed to be, for all purposes, an authentic copy of the list of voters as it exists and is in force at the time of such certification.

8. The Queen's Printer shall keep standing, in type, every list of voters so printed by him until he is furnished by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery with duly certified copy of a later list for the same polling division, or a later list or later lists showing some change in the polling division, whereupon he shall correct such lists so that it shall correspond with such later lists, or shall make such other changes as are necessary, and he shall then keep such list so corrected, or any new resulting list or lists, standing in type until he has been furnished with a certified copy of a later list or lists affecting the same, &c., so that there shall always, so far as practicable, be kept standing in type a correct copy of every finally revised provincial list of voters.

And so on. There is a penalty imposed on the municipal officer of \$1,000, if he does not send the lists immediately to the Queen's Printer. It seems to me that the same penalty should be imposed on the Government that does not print the lists. Section 14 says :

Forthwith after the receipt of the writ for Dominion election, the returning officer shall ob-

Mr. CASGRAIN.

tain from the officers who are the legal custodians thereof, or of duly certified duplicates, or copies thereof, such provincial voters' lists or such certified copies thereof, or extracts therefrom, and such certified copies of by-laws, orders, proclamations or other documents or proceedings defining the several provincial polling divisions situate either wholly or partially within the territory comprised in the electoral district for which such election is to be held.

So, for instance, if an election takes place during a session of the House, immediately on the writ issuing, there should be in the hands of the Queen's Printer or the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, a printed list up to date, of the electors of the country in which the election is to be held. I think it is the general policy of the law—I do not think there can be any doubt of it—that as soon as the lists have been sent by the proper municipal officer, they shall be printed and the type left standing so that any correction which might be made by the municipal council shall be made in the record kept in the office of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery or the office of the Queen's Printer. As soon as an election is to be held, the candidate or anybody who is interested may get a copy of the list. Not only that, but I say that it is an obligation upon the Government to ask the House to vote a sufficient sum of money to have all lists printed, so that we may have them in our hands as soon as practicable, that is, as soon as they have been revised by the municipal officers. I would ask for a statement on the part of the Government as to whether it is the intention of the Government to have these lists printed, and for that purpose, to put a sum in the Supplementary Estimates ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Casgrain) appears to have properly interpreted the law ; and I admit that unless it was the intention of the Government to call the attention of the House to the unnecessary character of the expense that would be caused by fulfilling literally a provision of the statute, he would be right in finding fault, because it is obvious that \$2,500 would not print all the lists. Now, the Government assumed that the law would be carried out just as it was passed by the House. But, last December, the Auditor General called the attention of the Government—as I explained before the House rose at six o'clock—to the fact that the publication of these lists would entail an enormous, and, in his opinion, an altogether unjustifiable expense. He pointed out that there was no good reason for publishing and keeping in type year after year the lists for all the counties. But there was the statute in our faces. Still there was also the fact that, if the Auditor General was right, there would be some \$60,000 or \$70,000 virtually thrown away. If an election was caused in my riding, the proper list was there from which to publish the list of the electors and that could be done in a very few

hours, just as it was done in the case of Brockville the other day. The only difficulty is that members will not have, as the law evidently contemplated that they should have, printed copies of the list as furnished by the clerks of the municipalities from the different ridings. I assume that the House must be satisfied either that the Government will bring down a sufficient sum to publish the lists or bring down an amendment to the Act. I called the attention of members of the Government to the representations made by the Auditor General as far back as December last, and they thought it was so important that we might bring it to the attention of the House and consider whether it was well to incur this expense of \$60,000 or \$70,000 for no real purpose, or whether it would be better to amend the Act and save the expense. That is the reason why only this sum is provided in these estimates, which is enough, in the opinion of the officers of the department to print the lists for the counties that may become vacant during the year by death or resignation.

Mr. A. A. C. LaRIVIERE (Provencher). I desire to call attention to the great inconvenience that we in Manitoba suffer to-day in regard to these lists. A general revision has just been ordered by the local government in our province and members who have to depend on these lists for their future elections are without a list with which they can check the lists that are being prepared and thus see that they are properly made out. We have no foundation to go upon, for this is a new list altogether. The old lists that used to be in use for elections to this House are discarded, and the franchise is altogether different from that we have had hitherto. And, so, while this revision is taking place, the members from that province are without a single list that has existed in the past for local purposes, and, consequently, do not know whether the lists are being properly prepared or not.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). There is that difficulty. The hon. gentleman (Mr. LaRivière) is perfectly right in saying that; and when the Government, as they must, I take it, under the circumstances, propose a measure to meet the difficulty, the question will be discussed. If the House determines that it is better to incur the expense of printing the lists, as is evidently intended by the statute, we shall have to bring down a sum to provide for the expenditure; but at the present time the Government do not bring down that, because they thought they would submit to the House the opinion of the Auditor General, which seems to me—I say it with deference—a common sense opinion. It would be utterly foolish to incur an expenditure of \$60,000 or \$70,000 unless an election was coming on. I do not say the law has not been correctly interpreted by my hon. friend, and if the Government were not coming to Parliament

to meet the difficulty, his argument would be irresistible. But, if the House so decides, the Supplementary Estimates must contain a sum to enable the list to be printed as the present law provides.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. At the same time when the Government brings down their proposition, the list of Manitoba will be completed. This work is going on: the enumerators are preparing those lists, and we have nothing to supply our friends with up there. If this list had been printed during the past year, as the law provided, at least for the province of Manitoba, we should not find ourselves in this awkward position. If this had been prepared according to law, we would have them to-day. It is now already too late, and I regret to say so.

Mr. N. C. WALLACE (West York). I think the explanation of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is an afterthought.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman tells me it is an afterthought. I do not think he is dealing fairly with me. I have the Auditor General's letter before me.

Mr. WALLACE. I say, I think it is an afterthought, for this reason, that last year, when the Act was passed and it was arranged that every voters' list in the country should be published, this \$2,500 was voted. What was it voted for last year? For the purpose that the Minister now tells us? Not at all. In the Act that he himself took so much pains to have made into law, it was provided that all the lists were to be published immediately, as was pointed out by my hon. friend for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain). The amount is put in this year for contingencies; it is not for printing the lists. The Minister now says it is for printing those lists where a by-election may be held. That was not the purpose of it last year, because it was contemplated then that every list would be printed. Did not the Act provide for that? Did not the Government mean what they said in that Act of Parliament? Then, it goes to December, and he says the Auditor General told him then that the printing of the lists would involve an enormous expenditure. Surely, they did not need to go to the Auditor General to ascertain that fact. They knew that the printing of the electoral lists for 213 districts would cost money, and they provided for it specifically in the Act of Parliament which they passed. They knew they were undertaking that expenditure. But they found towards the close of Parliament, when they were anxious to rush their business through, that they had not provided in their Estimates for the printing of those lists. It was their duty to carry out the law. An Act of Parliament is passed that the Auditor General's Report shall be laid on the Table six or seven days after meeting of Parliament. The Act of Parliament

is disregarded. An Act was passed, last session, which says that these lists shall be printed immediately. Then they say they have considered the matter, and decided not to print them. That was decided last December. Not one word is said this session, though we are now in the seventh week—not one word was said until it was dragged out of them to-night in explanation. Now, I think the Government is bound to give us information as to how much of that \$2,500 was expended, and what it was expended for. It is clear, that it was not contemplated, last year, that a dollar of that \$2,500 should be appropriated for the purpose of preparing voters' lists in the by-elections. Let us hear whether it was expended for the purpose to which it was voted, and how much of it was expended. Before six o'clock there was not a member on this side of the House could get the slightest information with regard to it. Now they tell us it was for preparing lists for by-elections. But we do not know that; we do not know if it was legally applicable to the preparation of voters' lists for the by-elections. Now, Sir, we would like to hear from those gentlemen, what amount was expended of this vote last year. The year is nearly up. Expenditures have been made under that item, and we would like to have the details of those expenditures.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I cannot give the hon. gentleman the details, because the year is not up for which the sum is voted. The year is not up till July. We have gone through part of the year; we have prepared the Brockville election list. The hon. gentleman will understand, that this expenditure is in the Department of the Secretary of State, and I have not got the expenditure for the few months that have elapsed. The hon. gentleman knows that the Brockville election and the Huron election must have required a part of this expenditure, but I cannot tell him how much. The hon. gentleman seems to think that I was bringing up an argument here as an afterthought. I told him that I had in my hands the letter of the Auditor General, dated December 13th, 1898, calling the attention of the Government to the fact, that, if they carried out these sections of the Franchise Act, it would entail upon the country an unnecessary expenditure of \$60,000 or \$70,000. Well, the Government thought it was better not to incur that expense until they saw a necessity for it. They thought it was better to come down to Parliament, and take Parliament into their confidence, and ask Parliament whether it was necessary to throw away \$60,000 or \$70,000. If Parliament thinks it is necessary that the money should be spent, why then, it can vote the money.

Mr. BERGERON. I want to ask the hon. gentleman a question. At the beginning of

Mr. WALLACE.

the session, a question was asked about some correspondence which has taken place between this Government and the local governments concerning the franchise lists, and we were told that it was confidential. We saw correspondence that in New Brunswick they are going to pass a law by which the revising barrister, a provincial officer, may make a list upon which the Dominion elections will be held. It would be interesting if my hon. friend would tell us what he knows about it.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I saw something in the papers about it, but I have not heard anything directly or personally from any members of the provincial legislature.

Mr. FOSTER. You do not know how far they have gone with their measure yet.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I do not know that they have done anything. In one of the provincial newspapers which I have recently seen, it is stated that it is proposed by the provincial Government to appoint for the purpose, one of the revising officers who have the revision of the lists in each parish. There are three of these officers appointed by the county council. The county council names two members of the county council from the different parishes, and therefore they practically would be the revisers. Then a third one is appointed, outside the council, by the two county councillors, and these would be the revisers. The plan of the Government is to appoint the third reviser.

Mr. BERGERON. My hon. friend knows all about it.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I do know all about it so far as I have read it in the newspapers. I know something about the provincial laws, and I gathered from the newspaper reports that this is the proposition. If I find that I am in error I will correct myself at the first opportunity. The proposition is not an alarming one, even to hon. gentlemen opposite, because it is only proposed that there should be one reviser named by the provincial government out of three. He will not be in the majority by any means; he will be in the minority, but he will see what is going on and will keep an eye, from the standpoint of the provincial government, upon the lists as revised. It is nothing more than a wise precaution, particularly as there seems to be a great deal more interest now taken in the revision of the lists than there has been in the past.

Mr. A. McNEILL (East Bruce). Can my hon. friend give us any information at all as to whether anything has been done in the way of carrying out the arrangement that judges should be appointed in those provin-

ces where judges have not been appointed to revise the lists finally ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I never heard anything of that subject.

Mr. **BERGERON**. I do not know whether my hon. friend (Mr. McNeill) refers to what has been explained by the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals. If I understood him well, in New Brunswick the position of the reviser selected by the councilmen has generally been that of a judge.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. Never.

Mr. **BERGERON**. I understood that under the new method instead of asking the councillors to appoint a man he would be appointed by the government themselves.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. No judge has ever been a reviser in the province of New Brunswick, as far as I know. It is entirely a municipal matter. There was provision for some sort of an appeal to the county court judge, but that was only an appeal ; he had nothing to do with the original revision. The original revision has been made, in times past, and up to the present moment, by the parish revisers. As I have said, they are councillors of the parish, for the time being, and, in addition, there is one outside person named by them. They are usually people resident in the parish and are not persons holding any official position, certainly no judge has ever discharged any such duties.

Mr. **A. McNEILL**. I may remind the hon. gentleman that this was a question discussed very much during the last session of Parliament. We have, in the province of Ontario, and in the province of Quebec, the right to go before a judge finally. If any man thinks his name has been improperly left off the list, or if it is found that any man's name has been improperly put on the list, there is the right to go before a competent and impartial tribunal of last resort to have the list finally settled, but, in some provinces, this right does not exist. In the province to which my hon. friend has been referring, New Brunswick, I think that right does not exist, and in the provinces of Nova Scotia and Manitoba the right does not exist. In regard to the provinces of Manitoba and Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia especially, there were cases brought before the notice of this House last session of the most enormous kinds of injustice to voters, just because there was no possibility of appealing to an impartial tribunal.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. This whole matter will be up when the Bill is brought down.

Mr. **McNEILL**. I do not desire to make a speech. I was just explaining what I was referring to a moment ago. I wanted to know whether anything has been done, as

it was promised would be done, in regard to the matter. We understood that there was an undertaking that something would be done to induce the provinces to agree to the appointment of judges. I want to know if any steps have been taken with the view of bringing about that result.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Whatever it is necessary to state will be stated when the amendment is introduced to the Bill. It is quite evident, as the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) has stated, that an amendment will have to be introduced to the Bill, and, when the amendment is introduced this session, the whole matter will come before the House. The right hon. Prime Minister is not here this evening. I am aware that he has addressed some correspondence to some of the provinces, but I do not know what it is.

Mr. **WALLACE**. The Minister of Justice has stated, in another House, that there is no correspondence to his knowledge.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). I am afraid that I will have to take exception to the statement of the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill) that any case was brought before this House of gross and monstrous injustice under the laws of Nova Scotia.

Mr. **McNEILL**. I said it so appeared to us.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. I do not know as to how it appeared to the hon. gentleman, but I can assure my hon. friend that in the province of Nova Scotia no such impression as he has stated has ever existed. If any case has occurred of injustice under the Nova Scotia law, I am satisfied that it is a rare one, and that there is no such general feeling within the province as was expressed by one or two hon. gentlemen here.

Mr. **WALLACE**. I think the hon. member for Annapolis (Mr. Mills) stated some cases of gross wrongs and iniquities last session.

Mr. **McNEILL**. And brought affidavits here to support his statements.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). I observe that this statute was passed on the 13th of June, 1898, and I suppose the Government must have been aware at that time that it would cost something to print these lists. I do not quite understand under what authority the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery failed to print these lists. Perhaps the Minister of Marine would be good enough to inform the House whether it was by virtue of an Order in Council or by reason of some member of the Government telling him he need not comply with the terms of the statute ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I quite accepted the reason of the hon. gentleman from Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain); the law seems to be plain, as he interprets it.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). That is not the point. Here is a statute which says, under section 10, subsection 3, that it shall be the duty of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, immediately upon the receipt by him of a certified copy of the list of voters, to cause it to be printed by the Queen's Printer.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. If you read that clause fifty times it will not make it any stronger.

Mr. **BERGERON**. It does not make the case of the Government any better.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). The House would like to know whether or not any Order in Council has been passed discharging the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery from the duty imposed upon him by the statute. I do not understand that the Government has any such power by Order in Council.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. We did not attempt to exercise it.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). I do not understand that any member of the Government has any right to interfere with the operation of this law. The Clerk of the Crown in Chancery in venturing to disobey that statute, whether by virtue of an Order in Council or by virtue of a suggestion from a member of the Government, is taking upon himself a very serious responsibility. The statute says it shall be his duty. Unless some question of executive power were raised—I do not say it might not be raised—legal proceedings might be taken to compel the printing of these lists, or for some remedy against that officer. I must confess that anything which has been said by the Minister of Marine, so far, does not seem to me to be very much of an excuse. The Government must have known on the 13th day of June, 1898, when this Act was passed, that the printing of these lists would involve expense. They knew that when they passed this statute. Their Solicitor General prepared it; it was gone over carefully, I suppose, by the Government before it was introduced, and every gentleman who heard this Bill discussed in the House assumed that its provisions would be carried out. It appears that this is the letter which caused the Government, or some member of the Government, to take upon himself the responsibility of ordering the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to deliberately disobey the provisions of this statute. What is this letter:

The printing of the voters' lists by the Queen's Printer will probably entail an expenditure of \$60,000 per annum, if we have the right to assume that the cost will be about what it has been in the past for voters' lists. So far as I can see, the lists, when printed, will only be

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax).

similar to those that are already printed for the provincial elections. It does seem that this is an entirely unnecessary expense, and, therefore, I feel justified in bringing it to the attention of the Government for the purpose of again considering the matter. If there is not already a sufficient number of lists printed by the local authorities, it would appear possible to make an arrangement with them for the striking off a sufficient number for Dominion purposes. I think the view of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery is that this large expense can be saved.

Well, it would be an interesting thing for the Government to let us know what information they had as to the provinces in which these lists are printed, before they took the responsibility which they apparently have taken. I am informed by my friends from Quebec that the lists are not printed in that province.

Mr. **CASGRAIN**. Never.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). Speaking from my own recollection, and under the correction of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), I do not think the lists are printed in Nova Scotia; they are simply written and posted up.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). That is so.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). The gentlemen from Ontario seem to inform me that they are not regularly printed there.

Mr. **McGREGOR**. They are; here are lots of copies of them.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. They are only printed by each municipality.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). Hon. gentlemen from Ontario can discuss that, but my recollection, which is corroborated by the Minister of Finance, is that they are not printed in Nova Scotia, so that apparently the Government have seen fit to dispense with this printing without obtaining information, which was within the knowledge of members of the Government, that there are no printed copies of these lists at all. What was urged by my hon. friend from Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) is to the point, and it is this, that it is impossible to deal with these lists as we feel they should be dealt with unless you have printed copies for the purposes of revision. You have not these printed copies under the local law. This statute provided you should have them under a Dominion law, and the Government, without the slightest justification, as far as I can see, have impressed upon the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery the idea that he has the right to deliberately disobey the provisions of this statute. I must confess that the Government are not in a very enviable position, so far as that is concerned. Parliament passed this law with the idea that it should be obeyed, not that the Government should set itself above it, and the Government, without taking the trouble to obtain the information, or possi-

bly without caring whether they obtained it or not, have seen fit to leave matters in this condition, that members of Parliament, who under the law of this land are entitled to receive copies from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, cannot get them at all. Some further explanation, or some more definite statement of policy should be given by the Government before this item is allowed to pass.

**Mr. CASGRAIN.** I would like to call the attention of the Government to this fact also. Suppose an election takes place now, and these lists are not printed beforehand, but, when the warrant issues, the Queen's Printer prints them and sends them to a constituency, and it is found out at the very last moment that they are not correct, and that there are a great many omissions, the Government must see in what position one of the parties in the election would be placed.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS.** One party would be in the same position as the other.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** That could not very well occur.

**Mr. CASGRAIN.** Why?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** Because the certified list is in the hands of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and the list could be taken from that.

**Mr. CASGRAIN.** Yes, but that should not be left in the hands of an officer who may make a mistake or do something worse.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** The hon. gentleman will see that is a fair matter for discussion, and I do not question his right to discuss it, when the Government bring down, as in deference to the views expressed to-night by my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden), they will bring down a Bill to amend the existing law, and do away with the necessity of the publication of these lists. The hon. gentleman can then argue, if he thinks proper, that it is better not to amend the law. You say that the poor Clerk of the Crown in Chancery is liable for not publishing the lists, but he had no money to publish them, Parliament did not vote the money. The Government may be remiss in not suggesting to Parliament a vote.

**Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).** What about a Governor General's warrant?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** If we did that my hon. friend would be the first to denounce us.

**Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).** But the statute says that the lists should be printed.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** What is the poor Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to do? My hon.

friends opposite did not call attention to it in the House, the Government did not call attention to it and the money was not voted. The Clerk of the Crown in Chancery might be immured in that prison to which my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) spoke of, but what was he to do? Any person who suffered personal injury, perhaps could sue him for breach of statutory duty, but joking apart, I have explained to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) that there was no money to publish the lists, and the Auditor General suggested it would be unnecessary expense, and the Government thought it would be better to come to Parliament and explain the situation frankly, and amend the Bill in that regard so as to save the \$60,000 a year. It may be that Parliament will not think that this is a saving which should be made, and will not accept the Bill, so in that case a supplementary vote will be brought down and the lists published.

**Mr. A. B. INGRAM (East Elgin).** Last year this thing was fully discussed, and we were rather overjoyed to think that the Solicitor General was going to give us twenty printed copies of the lists, although believers in the old Franchise Act rather thought that the Government was rather overstepping the mark in making that promise. I am inclined to think that when the Government undertook to provide twenty copies each they rather underestimated the cost. I therefore would like to move that this item stand over until the Solicitor General is in his place.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** We have no desire to press it at all.

**Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.).** Before the item stands or we get away from it, let me say that it is a strange thing which has happened in Parliament, and one of the strange points about it is the extreme levity with which the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries treats the whole question. He treats it as of no consequence at all. I cannot see it in that light. I think the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) stated the matter very clearly. The whole question is this: Can the Government override the law? Can the Government raise themselves superior to a law which was passed by Parliament and which they have no discretion at all to do otherwise than obey.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** We had no appropriation.

**Mr. FOSTER.** My hon. friend knows, and he laughs himself the moment he says it, the absurdity of his contention. He cannot keep a straight face and make it. I wonder whether they had any appropriation when they spent \$20,000 and more in running the Bale des Chaleurs Railway. Had they any appropriation from Parliament in that case? No, they had no authority, nothing ever oc-

curred like it before, and I do hope that nothing will occur like it again. There was no question then as to whether they had an appropriation or not, they simply put their hands into the chest and spent the money without a vote of Parliament, and entirely in opposition to one of the first constitutional rules of Government. I wonder if my hon. friends, at another stage in the history of this country, felt the same compunction when they went in for Governor General warrants to the extent of nearly \$2,000,000 to provide for services. Why? Because, they said, these services were necessary, because the law makes it compulsory, for instance, that justice shall be administered in the country. What right had anybody, they said, to ask whether there was an appropriation or not? Justice must be administered, the law says so, and, therefore, we will have a Governor General's warrant and see that justice is administered, and when Parliament meets we will ask Parliament to indemnify us. But what is the case in point? After a long discussion in 1885, the House passed a Dominion Franchise Bill, and that Franchise Bill remained in force until last year. Then after another long and thorough discussion, the Government's view as to the franchise law prevailed. It was discussed thoroughly in this House, every member in this House had his views, and if he wished to express them did so, and every clause of that law was a clause in the shape of a contract made here by the members of this Parliament, and after it was signed and sealed by the highest authority, became the law of the land. How does my hon. friend know that members on the Opposition side would have assented to the Bill, even if they had to stay here for six months or a year, unless it gave them the right to see the voters' lists—

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). You did not use to have a list for four or five years.

Mr. FOSTER. I will tell my hon. friend what we never did. We never put a revision aside without first coming down and asking Parliament for authority to put it aside. Sir, these gentlemen were bound by the law to have the voters' lists printed and distributed to the members. They did not do it. There may be some differences in detail, but the case I am about to put is exactly on a par. Supposing the late Conservative Government, when they came to the point of revising the lists for a certain year, said: There is not going to be an election, we will not have them revised, there is no use spending \$100,000, we will save the money, and the Auditor General will be very much pleased. We will not make the revision. These hon. gentlemen have done exactly the same thing, although it differs a little in detail. The law was authoritative, they were to do what the law told them. Why was it not done? If my hon. friend had admitted it was a matter

Mr. FOSTER.

which they had not thought of before, which had escaped their attention, then the Government might have been excused, but the matter was drawn to their attention, and they must have interfered. There must have been interference. I am here to state my belief that there was interference. I know the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, I believe that an officer in that position knows his duty, and cannot afford to do anything else. If he were to attempt to do anything else than what the law says, we could bring him to the bar of this House and find out very quickly why he did not carry out the law. I do not believe that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery refused to do his duty in the least degree. I believe he acted according to the law. I believe those lists, when they came in, were put where they should be in order to be printed, and that the Government itself or some member of the Government took the responsibility of stepping in and declaring they should not be printed. I think that that is a grave matter. It is not a thing to be laughed at. If the Government is not to assume legislative function, what right have they to say that this Parliament should not have the law carried out as Parliament has declared it should be carried out. What right have they to judge and decide that they will not carry it out; and then, if there is a row raised about it come down and propose an amendment to the law. So far as I am concerned, I do not want any amendment to that portion of the law. I want, in some way or other, to get an authoritative list of my electors. I do not want to have to go round to the cross-roads in New Brunswick and read the voters' lists in writing on the doors of stores and post offices. I do not want to wait until an election comes on, and then, just in the heat of an election, have the voters' lists sent me, while other parties have had these lists for any length of time. The thing is absurd and would be laughable if it were not so grave. But it is a grave matter, and so far as I am concerned, cannot be allowed to rest just as it is here. My hon. friend, by treating it in a light way, did not do himself justice and did not show the respect he must in his heart feel for what is the law. He surely cannot think that in these days of liberal government, the Executive is going to step in and say that the law shall not be carried out. I want to know who it was that prevented the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery carrying out the law. Some one did. The responsible Minister, I suppose, would be the Secretary of State (Mr. Scott). Did the Secretary of State step in and say that the law shall not be carried out? If he did, he did a thing which I do not believe any Minister in this country ever did before, and which I am sure no British Minister would do. Was there any excuse that they had not the money to print it? None. The money was at their beck and call. They had not money to make an investigation into a possible fraud in Mani-

toba because none at all had been voted. But they expended that money in the teeth of the law of the country. It was criminal justice and Manitoba should have footed the bills, but the First Minister, who was here when this discussion began, but did not consider it of sufficient importance to keep him in his seat or give the least attention to it—talking all around the back benches while we were discussing it—that First Minister did not think it was a matter of money when there was something possible in a party line to be traced in the province of Manitoba, and expended money for ferreting out a possible infraction of the law in Manitoba, but put his hand into the chest of the people which he had no right at all to do. Money could be got then, but could not be got when the will of the people, as expressed in its highest form, the law of the country, was to be carried out. We have a right to know if there is an Order in Council that prevented the officer carrying out the law or if any individual Minister stepped in between that officer and his duty. My impression is that the officer did his full duty. If he did not, we will now know how to deal with that officer; and the matter is in a position now where we must know whether that officer did, of his own free will, interpose and not carry out the law, or whether force majeure had something to do with the matter. My belief is that it is not the officer's fault, but that the Minister or the Government in one capacity or other absolutely set the law at defiance. Now, Sir, is there any party advantage to be got by this? Every party advantage is to be got by it; and hon. gentlemen on that side are getting it now in the province of Manitoba. They are getting it wherever revisions are or ought to be going on. And members of this House, each of whom has a constituency, to which he is responsible and by which he must be elected, have not the least knowledge of what that constituency is, and cannot get that knowledge. But that knowledge can be got in the same way as the Minister of Agriculture got knowledge—when he went into the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery's office and took the returns that were there to use them to buttress his argument in this House. I believe that if an election came off in Huron, the Minister could run into the office of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery and get the lists, or somebody could get them and send them up to the Grit committee in Huron. I think the thing is perfectly monstrous and outrageous. I have not the least compunction in expressing that opinion. I say this can be used as a party engine by a Government which can oust their opponents, whenever the Government wish to descend to that kind of work, and, for my part, I have not such a good opinion of the Government as to be certain that if advantage of that kind can be gained they would not receive the benefit of it. The only safety we have is to have the lists. I ought to have the list for my county now, and so ought every other mem-

ber. And why have not we them? Because the Secretary of State, I suppose, stepped in and said that the law should not be carried out. Who is the Secretary of State that he should step in between my rights and the man who is endeavouring to carry out the law so as to give me those rights? I think the thing is perfectly preposterous.

Mr. MONK. I desire to ask a question. Under section 10 of the Act, the depository of the list is bound to send a copy to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery as soon as the list is completed, under certain penalties provided under subsection 9. Have these formalities been fulfilled?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I believe a question was put recently in the House to the same effect, and it was stated in reply that this had been done in some cases, and in a number of other cases, the lists had not been sent in. I speak from recollection of what had occurred in the House.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). That simply means that the law has not been carried out. We might ask, if the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery has done nothing to have the lists sent to him, whether he has been instructed to do so or not to do so. Hon. gentlemen will see now that it is evident the law has not been carried out at all. Now, I would like to remind my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries that there was an object in view in providing that twenty copies of the list should go to every member of Parliament. I am sorry the Solicitor General is not here, because I am sure that he would second what I am going to say. There is in the law as it is to-day, an omission which is most serious. There is nothing to force the registrar in Quebec—I know more about Quebec than I do of the other provinces—to give the lists to the returning officers. Let us say that an election is to take place in Quebec. The Speaker issues his warrant, the Government appoints a returning officer, and that returning officer goes to the registrar and says: I want a copy of the voters' list. If the registrar refuses to give it, there is no law to force him.

An hon. MEMBER. I think there is.

Mr. BERGERON. No, the Government here cannot do it; it can only be done by the local government of which the registrar is an officer.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Is he not made liable to a penalty?

Mr. BERGERON. No.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think he is.

Mr. BERGERON. No. If the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) will consult with the Solicitor General he will find that he is mistaken. The Solicitor General admitted this

to me. And if I remember well, the object of having twenty copies was to govern that.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. If the registrar did not send in the list to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery could not supply a copy.

Mr. **BERGERON**. But he should send them in.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. But the hon. member (Mr. Bergeron) is speaking of cases where that has not been done.

Mr. **BERGERON**. No, I am speaking of cases where there is an election and where the returning officer could not get the lists for the election.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). But if they were sent here—

Mr. **BERGERON**. But my hon. friend (Mr. Blair) has just heard it said, that, in most cases, they have not been sent here. I believe it is no use to detain the committee any longer. I think we have shown reasons why this law should be amended as soon as possible.

Mr. **CASGRAIN**. Oh, no; not amended.

Mr. **BERGERON**. Well, then, it should be put in force, if nothing else. I wish to ask, before I take my seat, what this \$2,500 is for?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I explained a little while ago that, in case an election takes place, as in the city of Winnipeg, where the lists are more than a year old and a revision has to take place, this money will be used to defray that expense.

Mr. **BERGERON**. My hon. friend does not seem sure of it.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Yes, I am sure of it as I can be of anything.

Mr. **FOSTER**. I can tell the hon. Minister that it is not to be used for that kind of thing at all.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Well, if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) knows better than I do—

Mr. **FOSTER**. This vote has had in the past and has now nothing more to do with the election in Winnipeg or the providing of voters' lists under this Act than any other vote—

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I did not speak of printing the voters' lists, but I said proceedings incidental—

Mr. **FOSTER**. Or with proceedings incidental. This is what the vote is for. There is a clerk in the printing and stationery department who gets \$1,100 a year, who is in

Mr. **BERGERON**.

charge of the franchise arrangements. He is paid out of this, and the rest is for contingencies which arise. Now, if a by-election comes up, under the old law, for instance, and some copies of the electoral lists were needed, then this money would be taken to pay for 100 copies of the electoral list to be sent down to the voting county. Here is a statement of expenses. There was the salary of this gentleman, \$1,100; 100 electoral atlases; the voters' list of Drummond and Arthabaska, 50 copies sent down; West Prince, 25 copies; Smith Premier typewriters, \$102, and so on—stationery and office supplies. Against that account go any sale of voters' lists, &c., and so \$1,000 odd was expended. That is what that general vote has been for. But when the new franchise Bill was passed provision was made for printing the voters' lists in the Act itself, and the Government should have seen that a proper appropriation was made; if it was not made and was not foreseen, it was a fair matter for a Governor General's warrant.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Nobody can contend that the expenditure which took place last year was not legitimate. The hon. gentleman, I understood, asked me, whether it would be applied to other purposes than paying the salary of this officer and the few dollars which were added to it. I am of the opinion that it would come legitimately within the purview of this vote to expend it for preparing the voters' lists in the city of Winnipeg, as contingent expenses in connection with the voters' list. If the hon. gentleman wants the matter to stand over, we can let it stand over.

Mr. **BRITTON**. The hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) was mistaken in thinking that there is no penalty.

Mr. **BERGERON**. Penalty for what?

Mr. **BRITTON**. The question was asked, whether the custodians of the list for the purpose of provincial elections were made officers of this Dominion, and whether they had done their duty and transmitted these lists to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. I do not know that the question was answered, but in discussion later on the member for Beauharnois said that there was no penalty.

Mr. **BERGERON**. No.

Mr. **QUINN**. It was for not handing the lists to the returning officer appointed by this Parliament.

Mr. **BRITTON**. No, for not forwarding the lists.

Mr. **CASGRAIN**. The question was this: Supposing the registrar, as in our province, has not sent it to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. An election comes on, and the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery cannot give the list, as provided by law, so nobody can

have it. Supposing the returning officer goes to the registrar, and says: I want the list, and he says: I won't give it to you. There is no penalty for his refusal in that case.

**Mr. WALLACE.** The Minister of Marine and Fisheries told us repeatedly, that this was a sum set apart.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** I did not say it was set apart for any purpose; I said it was capable of being used for purposes such as the Winnipeg election.

**Mr. N. C. WALLACE (West York).** We find that this money has been paid for an entirely different purpose than it was moved for; nearly one-half of it goes to pay the salary of one official, \$1,100; part of it goes for the payment of a typewriter, for clerical assistance in a certain department, but not at all for the purpose of printing the lists. When we asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to tell us what he had done with that money during the ten months of the year that had already elapsed, he could not tell us in what way a single dollar was expended, or he would not tell us, until the information came from this side of the House. They say this is to provide the voters' lists. Take the case of Brockville. A vacancy occurred on the 15th of March; the nomination was hurried along very rapidly and took place on the 13th of April, and the election on the 20th of April. The Conservative candidate and his friends could not get a copy of that voters' list until after nomination day. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries smiles—he thinks that is a great joke.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** I think the return from Brockville was rather a joke.

**Mr. WALLACE.** If a few more shining lights of the Liberal party were where they ought to be, in the Brockville jail, it would not then be so much of a joke for them. After that nomination was over, our friends found it impossible to get a single copy of the voters' list. I say, it is an outrage. They applied for them here, and could not get them; but the friends of the Government had any quantity of them. The evil that was foreseen, actually took place. I think this item had better stand until the Government ascertains definitely what has been done with the appropriation for the past year.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding).** The Minister of Marine and Fisheries has offered to let it stand, half an hour ago, but the hon. gentleman continues to argue and asks us to let it stand.

**Mr. M. J. F. QUINN (St. Anne's, Montreal).** There are one or two things we would like to know, when the matter comes up for discussion the next time. I

would ask the Minister to lay before the committee a list of the different lists which have been printed within the last twelve months. I attended a good deal to the revision of the lists in the city of Montreal and neighbourhood, and I noticed a remarkable familiarity with the lists by the gentlemen who were opposed to us, whereas we could not possibly have any knowledge of what names were to go on the list. We have not been provided with our lists, but our opponents all had them; they knew all about it. I would like to know what part of this sum of \$2,500 has been used for the purpose of printing these lists in my province. This Act was passed in June, 1898. It was intended that the list should be published certainly in time for the revision which took place between the 1st of January and the 1st of April in the province of Quebec. Yet every member on this side of the House from Quebec, who was entitled to twenty lists for his own county, was at the mercy of his opponents in the revision of this list. I have no doubt that, so far as the city of Montreal is concerned, the lists are properly stuffed by our opponents, taking advantage of the position in which they are placed by the Government. I would ask them to have a complete list made out of the county lists which have been supplied by the Government since this Act came into force, with the name of each county, and the name of the individual to whom the list has been sent.

**Mr. BORDEN (Halifax.)** We would also like a list of the districts and counties in respect to which copies of the lists have not been received by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery.

**Mr. SPROULE.** I was rather amused at the explanation given by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries that there was no obligation imposed on the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to print the lists or upon members of the Government to print them.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** I made no such statements at all. I acceded to the proposition advanced by the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain). I said that I had no exception to take to his interpretation of the law whatever.

**Mr. SPROULE.** Then I misunderstood the hon. gentleman.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** I said that in the early part of the evening, and I appeal to my hon. friend the hon. member for Montmorency if I did not say so.

**Mr. CASGRAIN.** Yes; that is so.

**Mr. SPROULE.** Then I would like to know why the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery did not do his duty. I think the very natural inference might be drawn from what the hon. Minister said that it was not

contemplated that the Franchise Act required that the lists would be finally revised every year or printed every year. The law says that :

It shall be the duty of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, immediately upon receipt by him of any such certified copy of the list of voters, to cause it to be printed by the Queen's Printer, and he shall thereafter retain such certified copy of record in his office.

Immediately after printing such lists the Queen's Printer shall send, by registered mail, twenty copies thereof to the sitting member for the electoral district to which the list belongs.

This I give, as evidence that it was contemplated that the list was always to be printed. I read this for the purpose of showing what, in my judgment, was the intention of the Act, that every last revised list should be printed. The Act says :

The Queen's Printer shall keep standing, in type, every list of voters so printed by him until he is furnished by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery with a duly certified copy of a later list for the same polling division, or of a later list or later lists showing some change in the polling division, whereupon he shall correct such list so that it shall correspond with such later list, or shall make such other changes as are necessary, and he shall then keep such list so corrected, or any new resulting list or lists standing in type until he has been furnished with a certified copy of a later list or lists affecting the same,—

And so on :

—so that there shall always, so far as practicable, be kept standing in type a correct copy of every finally revised provincial list of voters.

If I correctly interpret that law, it contemplates that every finally revised provincial voters' list shall be printed by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery and kept standing in type so as to be available at any time, if needed, before the next list is revised, and when it is printed, he must supply twenty copies to the sitting member. I do not think there is anything left to the option of any member of Parliament, or, any Minister of the Crown, or the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, at all. I do not think that they have any right or jurisdiction to say that there is no necessity for printing that list or sending twenty copies to every member after it is printed. I want to say one word in regard to something that was said by my hon. friend down here, that there is no punishment for it. As I understand the law there is a punishment for such neglect. The law says :

Every officer or person who, under the provincial law, is the custodian of any list of voters, or has the official record of any change in or additions to any such list since last final revision thereof, and who refuses or omits to perform any duty imposed upon him by this section, is guilty of an indictable offence, and for each such refusal or omission shall incur a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars and not less than one hundred dollars.

I think that it will be held by those who have given attention to the subject that we

Mr. SPROULE.

can impose a duty on any subject in the country, it does not matter whether he is a provincial officer or not. He is a subject under the control of this House, and if he does not do the duty imposed upon him, he is punishable by the authority of the law passed by this House.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). A statement was made a while ago, by the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) which, if I understood it, involved a very grave reflection upon either the Department of the Secretary of State or the Government in regard to the distribution of the printed list for the Brockville election. If the hon. gentleman meant by that statement to imply or to charge that the Government had treated one party in that election any differently from the other, I have the authority from the Secretary of State to give to such a statement an unqualified contradiction. He authorized me to say, and he says his statement will be confirmed by the Queen's Printer, that on the same day and by the same mail, an equal number of printed lists were sent to both parties.

Mr. WALLACE. What date was that ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. That was on the first day on which they were able to get out the lists.

Mr. WALLACE. What was the date ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I do not know. It is not germane to the question.

Mr. FOSTER. Yes, it is.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. It is not germane to the imputation which the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) cast upon the Government.

Mr. FOSTER. The Secretary of State might be asked the date.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I think the date can be ascertained. I asked him : "Were they both sent at the same time ?" and he said they were sent to both parties by the same mail, that the same number of printed lists were sent, and that there was no distinction made between one party and another. I hope that no Government, Liberal or Conservative, will ever be guilty of, or will countenance, treating one party differently from another in respect to the voters' lists.

Mr. WALLACE. The hon. Minister of Railways and Canals says that he hopes no Government will ever do such a thing. We will leave the facts to speak for themselves. I would like to know from the Minister when these voters' lists were sent. My information is that the Conservative party could not get theirs until after the nomination, and I say that, if this is the case, the Government, in forcing on the election be-

fore they had the voters' lists ready are still more culpable.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. The hon. gentleman is shifting his ground.

Mr. **WALLACE**. I am not shifting my ground. I am saying that this discloses a still worse state of affairs than what I have pointed out. My information is, they could not get a copy of the voters' lists until after nomination day.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I do not know.

Mr. **WALLACE**. The hon. gentleman says he does not know. The hon. Minister got up to give his explanation, a very important explanation. The essence of the whole thing is as to when these voters' lists were distributed. He says they were sent by the same mail. I would like to ask him were there any copies sent to any parties working in the Liberal interest before nomination day. I have no hesitation in saying that there were, and that the Conservative party could not get theirs until afterwards. It may be, and probably was the case, that a batch was sent down by the same mail to each party on the same day, but the Liberals got their copies before that day.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. No, Sir, they got no copies before the Conservatives got their copies. If they did not get them at the same time there was some fault of either party in not getting them in the mail.

Mr. **WALLACE**. I am quite satisfied that other copies were obtained before that. If that be so, what can we think of a Government precipitating an election in a constituency and issuing the writ when the voters' lists were not ready? The vacancy was created on the 15th of March, and the nomination took place on the 13th of April, four weeks and one day after the vacancy was created. The Government had this four weeks and one day. They say that they could prepare a list in two hours. Well, then, if they could prepare a list in two hours, it was their solemn duty to have prepared the list for this constituency and in not doing so they were guilty of neglecting their duty. On the shortest possible notice they issued the writs and pushed their election on before they themselves were ready. Did they purposely, for these four weeks, prevent the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery or the Queen's Printer from doing that two hours' work which was necessary to let the people know who were entitled to vote in Brockville. Suppose that in a general election we did not receive our lists until after the day of nomination, what a state of affairs that would be. Would the Minister of Railways justify such a course as that? He cannot now justify the fact that these lists did not reach Brockville until after the nomination.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I did not acknowledge anything of the kind, because I do not know.

Mr. **WALLACE**. The House is bound to have the information as to when these lists were sent, and the admission as to the condition of affairs, which has been dragged out of the Government to-night, is a disgrace. We are not able to tell you who gave the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery authority to disobey the law, or whether he or the Queen's Printer, or the Secretary of State, or the whole Government are responsible. We must know it and the way to know it is to bring the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery before this House. The Minister of Marine as usual gives that vacant laugh as an answer, but that will not be accepted by the people. This is the most extraordinary state of affairs that has ever been disclosed, because it interferes with the freedom of the electors in the discharge of their franchise, and is one of the most dangerous things that a Government can do. All the explanation we get is a laugh or a sneer from the Minister of Marine. Well, that won't do.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. I understood the Minister of Marine to say in reply to the hon. member for York (Mr. Wallace), that the voters' lists for Brockville went by mail at the same time to both candidates.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. Yes.

Mr. **CLARKE**. And he announced that on the authority of the Secretary of State.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I had it from him.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. Then, Sir, both the Secretary of State and the Minister of Railways made a statement that is not in accordance with the facts. I made application to the Queen's Printer for the voters' lists for Brockville, and he told me that the representative of the late Mr. Wood was not entitled to receive any. I wanted to purchase them, and a few days afterwards he called me up on the telephone and he told me that the Hon. Peter White was then a candidate in the field and he was entitled to twenty copies. He asked what he would do with them, and I said, send them up to me, and I will send a messenger to Brockville with them. They came to me, and I gave them to Mr. Broder, M.P., and sent him by train to Brockville with the lists. Now the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) makes the statement here, that they were sent out by mail to both candidates at the same time. That is the sort of stuff we get from Ministers in this House, published as gospel to the people of this country, when we know it is not a fact and when they ought know it is not a fact. Later on, just a day or two before fact. Later on, just a day or two before and I got for the Hon. Peter White the revised lists for Brockville and sent them up

to him. That is the way we were treated in the Brockville election. I do not know what mail Mr. Comstock got his voters' list by.

Mr. BERGERON. Blackmail.

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, there was blackmail, too. Here I have the lists of my county published in June, 1898, and although the law makes it imperative upon this Government to print them immediately, they are not printed yet, and I have to depend upon the municipal lists to find out who the electors of my county are. This is a nice state of things. The Government passes an Act of Parliament making it compulsory on one of their officials to do a certain thing, and either the Secretary of State, or a member of the Government goes to this official and tells him to violate the law. If a man is drunk and infringes the law he is punished, but the Government can break the law whenever they like. This Government will pass a law to say that you must keep sacred the Sabbath day, but they hie themselves to New York and hold a conference on the Sabbath with reference to the negotiations at Washington. They pay no respect to the Sabbath day or to the law or anything else. They come to this House and they tell us that they mailed the voters' lists to both candidates in Brockville on the same day, when we know that is not the case, for I sent a special messenger to Mr. White with them.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. How many days before the nomination?

Mr. TAYLOR. After he was in the field as a candidate. They would not give them to the Hon. Mr. White, until he was a candidate, for they said he was not entitled to them.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. How many days before the nomination?

Mr. TAYLOR. I do not remember, but Mr. Broder can tell the date. It was after Mr. White was in the field as a candidate, and after the nomination, I think. They told us that Mr. Wood was dead, that there was no defeated candidate who was entitled to them, and until Mr. White was regularly in the field they would not give the lists. They were not sent through the mail, but they were sent by me through a special messenger.

Mr. JAMES CLANCY (Bothwell). This is a grave matter, and the Minister of Marine has not done himself justice in treating it so lightly.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am not treating it lightly. I consented an hour ago to let this vote stand, and now I see a determined attempt made not to let it stand.

Mr. TAYLOR.

Mr. CLANCY. I can quite understand why the Minister may want it to stand, because it is an unpleasant matter for him. We have here the statement of the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) that these lists were not given to the Conservative candidate in Brockville until after nomination day, for it was not known until then that he would be a candidate.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The Secretary of State says they were sent to both candidates at the same time.

Mr. CLANCY. There is no doubt he makes a mistake about that.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. He says further that the Queen's Printer, Mr. Dawson, will corroborate his statement.

Mr. CLANCY. The Government have no right to do such a thing as they have done. If they continue that sort of thing they can take the electors by surprise at any time and prevent a fair expression of opinion. The people of Ontario have taken some care to look after the lists from year to year, and they did it in good faith that the list would be printed, but we are now absolutely without any published lists, and why? Because the Government has set the law at defiance. I hope this item will not be permitted to pass until we are told who prevented the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery obeying the law. We all know how bitterly the hon. Minister himself declaimed against the late Conservative Government for asking the authority of the House to dispense with the revision of the lists. But that Government took the constitutional means of dispensing with the revision and the people knew just what to do. This Government, however, after putting through Parliament a new franchise Act, substituting a new franchise for the old one in order to get clear of the expense, found themselves confronted with the consequences of their law, and what then did they do? They simply violated it and try to fasten the responsibility on the Auditor General. I venture to say that the Auditor General never went to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, but to one of the Ministers, perhaps more than one, and there must have been some communication between them and the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery in order to have the law set at naught. The people of this country want the law enforced, and will not be content to wait until these hon. gentlemen may bring in some Act to get them out of the difficulty. The revisions of the lists that have taken place this year, at the expense of the candidates, are absolutely worthless: and if these hon. gentlemen are to be permitted to do as they have done, all they need do is to bring on an election and place those printed lists in the hands of candidates only after the nominations have taken place. It is an unfair advantage which

they are taking. They have been guilty of bad faith and deception, because the whole electorate believe that the lists were being printed and that we would have official lists whenever required. I hope the House will insist that we should know at whose instance the law was disobeyed before we go on with these estimates.

Mr. N. C. WALLACE (West York). There are one or two other features that deserve the consideration of the House. In the province of Ontario we have the municipal voters' lists, which are printed, and when we have a revision of these lists before the county judges. Take the west riding of York. There we revise the lists of every municipality. In the municipality where I live, the Liberals added some 25 or 30 names to the municipal lists and we put on 75 or 80. The lists were under the control of the Grit assessors there, and I do think they did their duty very well. In the township of York and other municipalities the same thing occurred. We added hundreds of names to the lists, but those names are not printed to-day. They were taken down by the county court judge and handed in some where, and we are unable to see the list of voters as it should be. We have the municipal list printed, but it is very imperfect, because many names were struck off before the county court judge in revision and others added. We want that revised list printed. We want to know who the voters of York are, because the law provides that we shall be furnished with copies of these lists. But what does the Minister of Marine and Fisheries coolly propose? He proposes to bring in an amendment to that Act, providing that it will not be necessary to print these lists at all. Why, one of the strongest fights we had last session was that these lists should be printed so that we might know who are the voters in our various constituencies, and to prevent any possible change, as there might easily be, in the written lists. Every precaution should be taken to insure the sacredness of the revised voters' lists; and yet we are told to-night by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries that after we have secured the right of having the voters' lists printed in their entirety, the Government are going to bring in a Bill to do away with that safeguard, and thus prevent a voter knowing whether his name is on the lists it is entitled to be on. For my part I must enter my strongest protest against any such legislation. One of the things that reconciled us to the new franchise Bill, with all its iniquities, was the fact that we would have a decent revision, and that after the revision the lists would be printed, so that we would be in the position of knowing who were the voters in each electoral district. But now it is proposed to do away with this provision of the law. I can tell hon. gentlemen they will find a good deal of difficulty in getting rid of it.

The committee rose and reported progress.

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

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 10.10 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 1st May, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 98) respecting the Cobourg and Northumberland and Pacific Railway Company.—(Mr. Guillet.)

Bill (No. 99) to incorporate the Canadian Mutual Benefit Advertising Company (Limited).—(Mr. McAlister.)

### GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I shall now give to the House the information asked for on Friday last by the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) with reference to the business of the House, that is to say, in so far as Government business is concerned. To-morrow my hon. colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), will deliver the Budget speech, and after the debate on that speech has been exhausted, the Government will proceed with the two resolutions on the Order paper, namely, the Pacific Cable and the Drummond County Railway purchase. The measures still remaining to be introduced are, first of all, the Senate resolutions, of which the House has already had notice, and then the Redistribution Bill and also certain resolutions in aid of railways and Supplementary Estimates. In addition to these, there may be one or two other matters of minor importance, but still of some moment, which may be introduced. All these measures I have announced, and even those I have not announced, will be introduced before the business now before the House has been completed.

### THE OTTAWA ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). With regard to what took place on Friday night relative to the Ottawa Electric Railway Company and the changes which were found in the Bill, after it had been reported by the committee, in justice to Mr. Ferguson, the solicitor for the company, and also to my-

self, I deem it but right to say, after the explanation of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell), that I certainly exonerate Mr. Ferguson from any blame in connection with the changes in that Bill. I intended to say this before the debate closed, but was called out of the House, and before I returned the matter was disposed of, and I now take the first opportunity of doing so.

#### LOBSTER COMMISSION REPORT.

Mr. G. V. McINERNEY (Kent, N.B.) Is it the intention of the Government to bring into operation the suggestions or recommendations in the report of the Lobster Commission with regard to changing the seasons in the different divisions along the coast?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The report, as I said Friday last, was only just then submitted to me, and I had not the opportunity of reading it. I have read it since, but before taking any action, it will be necessary for me to submit it to my colleagues and have their decision as to what action we should take on the recommendations of the commissioners.

Mr. McINERNEY. I would call the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that it is very important that this should be made known at a very early day.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I fully appreciate that. Not a moment is being lost. The report is being drafted and will be distributed amongst the members at once. Of course, the hon. gentleman (Mr. McInerney) sees that before I could venture to bring into operation any of the recommendations they have made, I must consult with my colleagues.

Mr. McINERNEY. Of course the hon. Minister remembers a conversation I had with him on Friday, in the course of which he told me that he thought he would be in a position on Saturday, or on Monday at the latest—in view of a telegram of some importance which I showed him—to give me an answer.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman is quite right; and had it not been for the fact that my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) is so much engaged just now in a matter which will require his attention to-morrow, I would probably have been able to have given an answer to-day. But I would like to consult with him and some other representatives of the maritime provinces—

Mr. McINERNEY. Can the hon. gentleman give me a day when he will probably be able to give me an answer?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I cannot fix a positive date; but the answer will be given within a very short time.

Mr. SPROULE.

#### MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. A. A. C. LaRIVIERE (Provencher). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to draw the attention of the House, and of those whom it may concern, to the fact that to-morrow morning we are called to attend meetings of the principal committees at the same hour of the day. One of these is the Railway Committee, composed of 172 members, and the other the Committee on Agriculture, composed of 108 members. As quite a number of members of this House are members of both committees, and as important business will come before each committee, I think there should be an understanding between the respective chairmen of these committees, so as not to call their meetings for the same day and the same hour. I think we have enough days in the week so that it can be arranged that members shall be able to attend to their duties on both these committees. These committees have the largest membership of any of the Standing Committees, and the business transacted by each is very important. It should be arranged so that the business we have to attend to shall not clash.

#### THIRD READING.

Bill (No. 25) to confirm an agreement between the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the Hull Electric Company.—(Mr. Poupore.)

#### SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 75) to incorporate the Canada Permanent and Western Canada Mortgage Corporation.—(Mr. Osler.)

Bill (No. 89) relating to the Canada Life Assurance Company.—(Mr. Wood.)

Bill (No. 90) respecting the Great North-west Central Railway Company.—(Mr. Macpherson.)

#### BATISCAN POST OFFICE.

Mr. MARCOTTE asked :

1. Whether the hon. First Minister did, on 28th January, 1897, indite a letter to Madame J. E. de la Bissonnière, of the parish of Batiscan, county of Champlain, promising to pay close attention to the case of her husband the postmaster of Batiscan, in relation to whom a departmental inquiry was then being held? Did he promise that "nothing will be done against the said postmaster, if the charges laid against him are not proved"?

2. Did Hon. W. Mulock write, on 26th July, 1897, to Hon. M. Dechene, Minister of Agriculture, Quebec, inclosing the report of M. Lavergne, the commissioner appointed to inquire into the case of the postmaster of Batiscan, and containing, in particular, the following words:—"I send you herewith a copy of the report of M. Lavergne, commissioner, to whom was referred the charge laid against the postmaster (the present postmaster of Batiscan), and you will, I think, admit with me that the report fur-

nishes no grounds to justify the dismissal of the postmaster. It is neither asserted nor proved that he canvassed or worked at public meetings. The postmaster says that he did not even vote at the last election, and took no part in the political struggle. Under these circumstances, I see no reason for dismissing the present postmaster" ?

3. Did Hon. Mr. Mulock, through his secretary, Mr. W. D. LeSueur, on 15th August, 1898, address to M. de la Bissonnière, postmaster of Batis-can, a letter saying ; " In reply to yours of 9th instant, I am instructed to tell you that the Postmaster General having been informed that you did not observe proper neutrality during the election time, deems it advisable to appoint a successor in your position " ?

4. Is there not an absolute contradiction between the two assertions, and is the First Minister prepared to keep the promise 'he made to Mde. de la Bissonnière, and to reinstate her husband in the position taken from him under the circumstances above set forth ?

Mr. SPEAKER. My recollection is that the first part of this question was answered the other day.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). Yes. The answer to the remaining questions are as follows : 2. The Postmaster General wrote a letter bearing date 20th July, 1897, to the Hon. Mr. Dechêne, the same being a private communication. If the words set forth in the question are suggested as being an exact copy of the letter in question, such an inference would be incorrect. 3. The quotation is a fair translation of a letter sent by the secretary of the department to the postmaster.

#### PAYMENTS TO R. J. McLAUGHLIN AND TO McLAUGHLIN & McDAIRMAID.

Mr. HUGHES asked :

1. What sums have been paid to one R. J. McLaughlin, and to the firm McLaughlin & McDairmaid, of Lindsay, since July, 1896 ?

2. What sums are yet due the said person or persons ?

3. For what services were such sums paid ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The following sums have been paid : 1898, July 3rd, \$20.70 ; October 22nd, \$45.95 ; October 27th, \$18 ; total, \$84.65. 2. The Department of Justice has written Mr. McLaughlin asking if any further sums are due him, but no reply has yet been received. 3. The sums paid were in connection with the acquisition of lands for the Trent Canal.

#### COST OF PLEBISCITE—POLLS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

1. How many votes were polled at the taking of the prohibitory plebiscite at the following polling places respectively in British Columbia, viz. : Dease Lake, Lake Bennett, Hazleton, Telegraph Creek, Lorne Creek and Cortez Island ?

2. What was the total cost of obtaining the votes at each of the above polling places ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). My hon. friend will find the information he wants if he looks at the returns

which were brought down a few days ago. 2. The total cost of obtaining the votes at the different polling places mentioned is as follows :—Cortez Island, \$22.50 ; Lorne Creek and Hazleton, \$151 ; Telegraph Creek, \$11.60 ; Dease Lake, \$55.50 ; Lake Bennett, \$293 ; total, \$533.60.

#### THE BROCKVILLE ELECTION.

Mr. BRODER asked :

Who was the deputy returning officer appointed for subdivision No. 2 in the Centre ward of Brockville, in the by-election held on the 20th instant ? Is he an employee of Mr. Comstock, one of the candidates, and was he such employee when appointed ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). It is impossible to give my hon. friend the information which he asks for to-day. The return of the returning officer has not yet been received.

#### OFFICIAL POSITION OF W. H. P. CLEMENT.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax) (by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) asked :

1. Is Mr. W. H. P. Clement under any restrictions or instructions imposed or given by the Government or by the Department of the Interior with respect to his right to practice as a barrister or solicitor in the Yukon territory or district ? If so, what are such restrictions or instructions ?

2. Is the Government aware whether Mr. Clement is engaged in the practice of his profession as a barrister or solicitor in the Yukon territory or district outside of and in addition to his duties as official legal adviser of the administrator or of the council, or of any of the officials of the Government in the Yukon territory of district ?

3. Has the Government any information as to whether Mr. Clement or his professional partners accept retainers from clients who have business which in the ordinary sense may come before the council, of which Mr. Clement is not only a member but also the legal adviser ?

4. Does the Government consider that it is proper for Mr. Clement or his professional partners to accept retainers or business from clients in respect to matters which in the ordinary course may come before the council for adjudication or administrative action ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Yes, Mr. Clement is not permitted to practice before the Gold Commissioner, or to act professionally in regard to mining titles. 2. Yes. 3. No. 4. The Government will require a more definite statement of facts than is contained in the question before expressing an opinion.

Mr. SPEAKER. In regard to this question, the House will perhaps permit me to suggest that the manner of putting this question is worthy of imitation. Question No. 2 asks : " Is the Government aware whether Mr. Clement is engaged," &c., instead of being put, as some questions are : Is the Government aware that Mr. Clement is engaged, &c. Now, when questions in-

clude a positive statement as of something that is a fact, they are not likely to be answered by the Government as readily or as pleasantly as if they were put in the way that the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) has put questions Nos. 2 and 3. That hon. gentleman is not present at the moment, therefore, I do not hesitate to praise the form of the question.

### LEGISLATION IN REGARD TO LOTTERIES.

Mr. MONK (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Is the Government aware of the existence in the city of Montreal of a number of lotteries under the guise and pretense of associations for the promotion of art ?

2. Is the Government aware that these societies claim that they are exempt from the operation of the general law prohibiting lotteries and gaming houses by section 205 of the Criminal Code, which states : "That every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two years' imprisonment, and to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 who : (a) Makes, prints, advertises or publishes, or causes or procures to be made, printed, advertised or published, any proposal, scheme or plan, for advancing, lending, giving, selling or in any way disposing of any property by lots, cards, tickets, or any mode of chance whatsoever ; or (b) sells, barter, exchanges or otherwise disposes of, or causes or procures, or aids or assists in the sale, barter, exchange of any lot, card, ticket or other means or device for advancing, lending, giving, selling or otherwise disposing of any property by lot, ticket or any mode of chance whatsoever" ?

3. Every one is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a penalty of \$20 who buys, takes, or receives any such lot, ticket, or other device as aforesaid.

4. Every sale, loan or gift, barter or exchange of any property by lottery, ticket, card or other mode of chance, depending upon or to be determined by chance or lot, is void and all such property so sold, lent, given, bartered or exchanged, is liable to be forfeited to any person who sues for the same by action or information in any court of competent jurisdiction.

5. No such forfeiture shall affect the right or title to such property acquired by any bona fide purchaser for valuable consideration without notice.

6. This section includes the printing or publishing, or causing to be printed or published, of any advertisement, scheme or proposal or plan of any foreign lottery, and the sale or offer for sale of any ticket, chance or share in any such lottery or the advertisement for sale, chance or share.

7. This section does not apply to :

(a) The division by lot or chance of any property by joint tenants or tenants in common or persons having joint interests (droits indivis) in such property, or

(b) Raffles for prizes of small value at any bazaar held for any charitable object if permission to hold the same has been obtained from the city or other municipal council or from the mayor, reeve or other chief officer of the city, town or other municipality wherein such bazaar is held, and the articles raffled for thereat have first been offered for sale and none of them are of a value exceeding \$50 ; or

(c) Any distribution by lot among the members or ticket-holders of any incorporated society es-

Mr. SPEAKER.

tablished for the encouragement of art, of any paintings, drawings or other works of art, produced by the labour of the members of, or published by or under the direction of such incorporated society.

(d) The Credit Foncier du Bas-Canada or to the Credit Foncier Franco-Canadien."

8. That inasmuch as these so-called art unions claim exemption from the provisions of the general law above quoted under subsection "c" of the latter half of the section, to conduct under the disguise and pretense of encouraging art the notorious gambling game of "policy," whether it is the intention of the Government to so amend the law by the amendment or repeal of the said subsection, in order to prevent this abuse ?

9. Whether the Government is aware that the operations of these so-called art unions are being conducted in contravention of the law in the city of Montreal to an alarming extent, and that petitions have been presented to Parliament at the present session signed by the leading judges on the bench in the said city, and many of the most prominent citizens of the said city, asking for the repeal of the subsection above referred to, and for an amendment to the Criminal Code providing for the summary trial before the police magistrate or judge of session of all cases of infraction of the law against gambling and lotteries ?

10. Is it the intention of the Government this session to introduce such amendments to the Criminal Code as will prevent this abuse of the law against gambling and lotteries by repealing subsection "c" of section 205 of the Criminal Code, and by so amending the law as to make all offences against the law prohibiting gambling and lotteries triable summarily before the police magistrate or judge of sessions ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I may say to my hon. friend that the Minister of Justice is engaged at this moment in preparing some amendments to the Criminal Code. Probably this subject will be included in the amendments.

### MR. GIROUARD, REGISTRAR OF TITLES.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked:

1. Is Mr. Girouard, the registrar of titles in the Yukon district, a member of the Bar ?

2. Is he under any restriction or instructions imposed or given by the Department of Interior as to practicing his profession as a barrister or solicitor ? If so, what are such restrictions or instructions ?

3. Is the Government aware what are the office hours of Mr. Girouard in his office or capacity as registrar of titles ?

3. Is the Government aware that during such office hours he practices his profession and appears in court in connection with his private business as a barrister or solicitor ?

5. Is this course adopted by Mr. Girouard with the consent or sanction of the Government and of the Department of the Interior ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. Yes. 2. He is under the restrictions imposed by the statute under which he holds office—Revised Statutes, Canada, cap. 51, sec. 31. 3. The Government presume the office hours are those fixed by statute, sec. 33 same Act. 4. No. 5. If Mr. Girouard has adopted any course not

in accordance with the statute governing his duties it is not with the consent of the Government or department.

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MAILS.

Mr. MARTIN asked :

1. To whom was the contract for carrying the Prince Edward Island mails between the Intercolonial Railway and Cape Tormentine, during last winter, awarded ?

2. Was the contract let by tender ?

3. What were the terms of the contract ?

4. What was the total cost of the service ?

5. Did the contractors make regular connections with the ice boats at Cape Tormentine so as to deliver the incoming mails from Prince Edward Island 24 hours earlier than the former arrangements ? If not, how many times did they fail to make such connections ?

6. Did the contractors deliver the outgoing mails from Prince Edward Island to the Intercolonial Railway as early as under the former arrangement ? If not, how often were the outgoing mails from Prince Edward Island delayed beyond the time they would have been delivered to the Intercolonial Railway under the former arrangement ?

7. Were the conveyances, &c., provided sufficient to carry the whole of the mails each day ? If not, how often were a portion of the mails left over for want of sufficient teams to carry them ?

8. Is the Government aware that when roads were bad mail bags were sometimes left on the way ?

9. Did the Government have any negotiations with the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Railway Company for special trains to carry those mails ?

10. Did the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Railway Company make any proposals to run special trains in connection with the ice-boat service to carry the Prince Edward Island mails ? If so, why were they not accepted ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. Mr. H. Dixon. 2. The attention of the department was not called to the matter in time to admit of the winter service, for last winter, being put under contract as the result of tender. Moreover, the plan adopted was, so far as last winter's service is concerned, an experimental one, and therefore a temporary arrangement for last winter was made. The result has proved so satisfactory that it is intended at an early date to invite tenders for a permanent service. 3. The price was \$6 per single trip. 4. The total cost of the service was \$786. 5. So far as this department is aware the contractor made regular connections with the ice-boats so that mails for Prince Edward Island were delivered twenty-four hours earlier than under the former arrangements. 6. The service was in operation from the 17th day of January, 1899, until the 13th day of April, 1899, both days inclusive, and during that period the same connections were made with the Intercolonial as formerly, with the exception of three occasions when connection was missed with the Intercolonial on account of the non-arrival of the ice-boats at Cape Tormentine. 7. The conveyances, &c., were sufficient to carry the whole of the mails each day, and

the department is not aware of any mails having been left over. 8. The department is not aware of any mails having been left on the way. 9. Yes. 10. The department applied to the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Railway Company to ascertain on what terms the company would run special trains in connection with the ice-boat service to carry the mails to Prince Edward Island, and received three propositions, one involving an expense of \$70 per day, the other the payment by the Government of \$24 a day for the use of the company's track, the Government to run the train at their own expense, furnish engines, snow plough, necessary cars and train hands, excepting conductor, the company to provide a conductor and to be entitled to retain all passenger fares. The third proposal was to perform the service for a bulk sum of \$4,000 for a period of three months. The department considered each of these proposals excessive and accordingly made the special contract referred to and secured the performance of the service as efficiently as if done by the railway and at a cost of \$786.

#### LANDS OF CALGARY AND EDMONTON RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. OLIVER asked :

1. What amount of land has been earned by the Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company ?

2. What amount of land has been selected by them and agreed to as being theirs by the Government ?

3. What amount of land is still due them, and why has it not been granted ?

4. Has the land selected and agreed to as being theirs been patented to them ?

5. If not patented, is it taxable for school and other local purposes under authority of the Northwest Government ?

6. If not taxable for these purposes, is it the intention of the Government to place it in such a position that it will be taxable ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. The Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company have earned 1,888,448 acres of land. 2. The company have selected and had passed to them by Order in Council 1,757,826 acres (including the 407,402 acres held by the Government as security for the earning of the \$80,000 per annum subsidy for twenty years for carriage of mails, &c. 3. Area still due to company is 130,622 acres. It has not been granted because the company have not as yet selected it. 4. No, except in some small individual parcels, as the company have not asked for patents. 5. No. 6. The Government has not yet arrived at any conclusion in regard to the matter.

#### LIGHT-KEEPER AT WOOD ISLAND.

Mr. MARTIN asked :

1. Why has Mr. D. McMillan been dismissed as light-keeper at Wood Island, in the province of Prince Edward Island ?

2. Were there any complaints made against Mr. McMillan for not efficiently discharging his duties ?

3. If not, what was the nature of the charges preferred against him, and by whom preferred ?

4. What was the report of the commissioners appointed to investigate these charges ?

5. Has the Department of Marine and Fisheries any information to the effect that the charges proven against Mr. McMillan were of a trivial nature ?

6. If the charges proven against Mr. McMillan were only of a trivial nature, why was he appointed on the 3rd March, 1898, a fishery overseer—nearly one year after the investigation into charges against him was held ?

7. On whose recommendation was Mr. McMillan dismissed and his successor appointed ?

8. Has the Department of Marine and Fisheries any information as to the age of Mr. McMillan's successor ? If so, what is it ?

9. Has Mr. William D. McMillan been fully paid up to the 11th October, 1898, when his successor took charge ?

10. Is the Department of Marine and Fisheries aware that Mr. McMillan was highly commended by Commander Spain, as a most useful and efficient officer ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). 1. He was found guilty, after a formal investigation, on the sworn evidence of witnesses, of offensive political partisanship, and he refused to give his evidence in reply, under oath. 2. Not aware of any. 3. The charges were as follows:—Offensive partisanship, canvassing, attending caucus meetings, denouncing the Liberal party, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier in particular. 4. The report of the commissioners was to the effect, that offensive partisanship was clearly shown. 5. No. 6. All light-keepers of McMillan's class were, by a general Order in Council, appointed fishery overseers, without salaries, to exercise, within the limits of their districts, the powers of a justice of the peace, ex officio, for all the purposes of the Fisheries Act. 7. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries assumes the responsibility. 8. John McKay is successor to McMillan. He was reported to be about forty years of age, when appointed. Representations have been since made to the department that he was much older, which are being investigated. 9. Yes. 10. No.

#### IMPORTS OF SUGAR FROM BRITISH WEST INDIES.

Mr. FOSTER asked :

What have been the imports, quantities and values of British West India sugar for the first eight months of the fiscal years 1898-9 and 1897-8 respectively ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). I regret that I cannot give the hon. gentleman the information he asks for, as the monthly returns received by the department do not show the countries from which goods are imported. I can give him the statement for six months, if that would be useful.

Mr. MARTIN.

Mr. FOSTER. Yes.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. For the six months ended December, 1898, 9,049,020 pounds; value, \$161,901. For the six months ended December, 1897, 6,245,924 pounds; value, \$124,804.

#### STEEL RAILS FOR INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Mr. McINERNEY asked :

Did the Department of Railways and Canals during the past year or since May, 1898, call for tenders for the furnishing of steel rails for the Intercolonial Railway ? If so, on what dates and for what quantities ? What tenders were received in answer to such notice, for what quantities, at what prices, and what deposit was exacted from each tenderer ? Who were the persons tendering, and their post office addresses ? What tender, if any, was accepted ? Were any steel rails during the said period bought for the Intercolonial Railway bought otherwise than by tender ? If so, why, what quantity, at what price, and from whom ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Yes, the Department of Railways and Canals called for tenders for the furnishing of steel rails for the Intercolonial Railway. Tenders were asked on the 1st of June, 1893, for 5,000 tons, 80-pound rails for the Intercolonial Railway. The following are the names of the tenderers, with post office addresses, quantities tendered for and prices asked:—

|  |         | Tons. |
|--|---------|-------|
| Canada Switch and Spring Co., Montreal .....                             | \$23 75 | 5,000 |
| J. W. Wurtele & Co., Ottawa.....   | 21 54   | 5,000 |
| F. E. Came, Montreal.....  | 19 25   | 5,000 |
| James Cooper, Montreal.....  | 21 53   | 5,000 |
| Chas. G. Glass, Montreal .....   | 21 50   | 5,000 |
| Allan & Fleming, Ottawa.....   | 22 75   | 5,000 |
| B. J. Coglin, Montreal.....  | 21 55   | 5,000 |
| Drummond, McCall & Co., Montreal   | 21 92   | 5,000 |
| James Watson & Co., per J. R. Hutchins, Montreal.....                    | 21 55   | 5,000 |
| C. I. deSola, Montreal.....  | 22 74   | 5,000 |
| Steel Rail Supply Co. (G. H. Humphrey) 100 Broadway, New York, U. S..... | 22 05   | 5,000 |
| Carnegie Steel Co. (Charles Cassells), Montreal .....                    | 20 14   | 5,000 |
| Andrew T. Drummond, Kingston...  | 22 95   | 5,000 |
| Bertram, Wilson & Co., Toronto...  | 20 40   | 5,000 |

No deposit was asked from the tenderers. The tender of Mr. F. E. Came to deliver the rails at \$19.25 per ton, being the lowest, was accepted, but the party tendering declined to enter into a contract at that price. Offers were received from the Illinois Steel Company and the Cambria Steel Company for 5,000 tons each at \$20 per ton, delivered. Their offers were accepted by the department, and contracts were entered into with these two companies at that price.

Mr. McINERNEY. I would like to call attention to the fact, that there is another part of the question that the hon. Minister has not had his attention called to, as to whether there were any rails bought by private contract.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I have said to the hon. gentleman, that there were offers received from these two companies, which he will see, when he reads the answer.

#### COMMISSION OF INQUIRY AT DAWSON.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** asked :

1. Has the Government received a protest, dated 27th February, on behalf of the Miners' Committee in Dawson against the inadequacy of the commission of inquiry conducted by Mr. Ogilvie ?

2. If so, when was such a communication received ?

3. What action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

4. Has any reply been sent to the communication ?

5. If there is correspondence on the subject, will the Government promptly lay the papers before the House without a notice of motion being given ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). In answer to the hon. gentleman, I beg to say : 1. Yes. 2. April 27, 1899. 3. None at present. 4. No. 5. No.

#### CERTIFICATES OF QUALIFICATION.

Mr. **ROSS ROBERTSON** (by Mr. Hughes) asked :

Why do not the nature of certificates of qualification appear in the Militia List after the names of permanent corps officers, as they appear after the names of other militia officers ?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). The officers of the permanent corps are professional soldiers, and it is, therefore, considered unnecessary to give their qualifications prominence. That is the answer given by the General.

#### REINSTATEMENT OF J. A. L. STRATHY.

Mr. **ROSS ROBERTSON** (by Mr. Hughes) asked :

Did Major-General Gascoigne recommend the reinstatement of J. A. L. Strathy to the rank of Lieut.-Colonel in the militia ?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). Colonel Lake, acting G.O.C., recommended that J. A. L. Strathy's rank be restored, and that he be placed on the reserve list.

#### OFFICERS REQUIRED TO QUALIFY.

Mr. **ROSS ROBERTSON** (by Mr. Hughes) asked :

Are the officers who were appointed to the permanent force in 1898, after the regulations as to qualification had been suspended, required to qualify ?

If so, within what time, and how ?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). 1. Yes. 2. Time not specified.

#### ARTILLERY INSTRUCTION IN ENGLAND.

Mr. **ROSS ROBERTSON** (by Mr. Hughes) asked :

1. Have officers been sent from the Royal Canadian Artillery to the Artillery College in England for a course of instruction ?

2. If so, did such officers pass any qualifying examinations ?

3. What examinations are they expected to pass in England ?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). The replies to the above inquiry are as follows:—1. Yes. 2. No. 3. At Artillery College, Woolwich—construction of ordnance, military carriages, ammunition, electricity, steam, hydraulics, machinery and ballistics ; at School of Gunnery, Shoeburyness—practical and theoretical gunnery with all natures of ordnance.

#### MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN WALTHAM AND CHAPEAU VILLAGE.

Mr. **POUPORE** asked :

At whose request was the mail service between Waltham and the Chapeau village abolished ? Is the Government aware that a serious injustice has been done to the inhabitants of the portion of the country lying between the two points above named, viz., Waltham and Chapeau ? Has the Government received a petition from the county council of Pontiac asking for the re-establishment of said mail service, and what is the intention of the Government in relation thereto ?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). The mail service between Waltham and Chapeau village was put an end to on the advice of the controller of the railway mail service, because it was of no practical use for mail service purposes, the mails from Chapeau being carried by the stage service between Chapeau and Pembroke. The outgoing letters by the stage service between Chapeau and Waltham averaged about two a day, and the incoming about one, and this service is as well performed by the Pembroke route, being the route that mails had always taken. A petition has been received, but, as experience has shown that the abolished mail service was not of any practical value as a mail service, the department does not consider itself justified in re-establishing it.

#### THE MODUS VIVENDI.

Mr. **McALISTER** asked :

1. To how many United States fishing vessels not possessing modus vivendi licenses were concessions granted in the Atlantic ports of Canada during the months of November and December, 1898, and January and February, 1899 ?

2. What are the names of such vessels, and under what circumstances were privileges granted to them ?

3. Did the Minister of Marine and Fisheries or the Minister of Customs assent to the granting of such concessions ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). As the answer to that question will involve a large amount of detail, I would suggest to the hon. gentleman (Mr. McAlister), that he would put the question in the form of a motion, so that the information may be brought down in a return.

#### LIGHT ON BROTCHIES LEDGE.

Mr. McINNES asked :

1. Why has the light on Broтчies Ledge, opposite Victoria, British Columbia, not been completed and operated ?
2. When will this light be completed and operated ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). 1. The beacon for Broтчies Ledge has been completed, but delay has occurred, as it was found that the electric cable by which light was to be supplied was defective, and it has been found necessary to procure another cable. 2. The light will be put in operation during the present year.

#### RATES OF THE CROW'S NEST PASS RAILWAY.

Mr. McINNES asked :

1. Did the Canadian Pacific Railway Company submit to the Governor in Council for approval and revision its rates and tolls on the Crow's Nest Pass branch, and on its lines connecting with such branch, as contemplated by clause "c" of the agreement between the Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company respecting the building of the said branch ?
2. If so, did the Governor in Council alter the said rates and tolls as submitted for approval or revision, or in what respect, if any ?
3. In the exercise of the powers contained in said clause "c," what steps have been taken by the Government, of any kind, to secure reasonable rates and tolls over the said branch and connecting lines ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). No, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have not submitted to the Governor in Council for approval and revision its rates and tolls on the Crow's Nest Pass branch and on its lines connecting with the said branch.

#### SHOAL IN NEW CHANNEL, LAKE ST. LOUIS.

Mr. MONK (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Has the Government received any representations from the shipping interests of the port of Montreal, as to the necessity of removing the shoal on the south side of the new channel in Lake St. Louis ?
2. Is it the intention of the Government to accede to the demands of said interests and see to the removal of said shoal ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). 1. The Government have received representations from the ship-  
Mr. McALISTER.

ping interests of the port of Montreal with reference to removing the shoal on the south side of the new channel in Lake St. Louis. 2. There is already a 300-foot channel through Lake St. Louis, and it would involve a very large expenditure to remove the shoal referred to, and the Government have not decided to incur said expenditure.

#### MEN EMPLOYED AND WAGES PAID ON INTERCOLONIAL.

Mr. McLELLAN asked :

1. What is the average length of sections on the Intercolonial Railway ?
2. What is the average number of men employed on each section ?
3. What wages per diem are paid to the foremen and section men respectively on said railway ?
4. Are any of the section men placed on half-time during the winter season ?
5. What men, if any, are on half-time during the winter season on the said railway ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). The average length of sections on the Intercolonial Railway is 6 miles. The average number of men employed on each section is 3 men. The wages per diem to foremen are \$1.60. The wages per diem to trackmen are \$1.15. No section men are placed on half-time during the winter season. No men are on half-time during the winter season on the Intercolonial Railway.

#### ELEVATOR AT HALIFAX.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax) asked :

1. Has the attention of the Government been directed to the following report of a discussion in the Halifax city council on the 14th April, 1899 :—

##### " THE ELEVATOR.

" Alderman Hawkins asked when the Dominion Government was going to complete the elevator. A skeleton of it had stood during the winter. Alderman Geldert said the contractor expected to have it finished by snow fly (laughter). The United States builders said a structure of that kind could be put up in six weeks."

2. At what date does the Government expect to have this elevator completed and ready for operation ?
3. At what date was its construction begun ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). 1. The attention of the Government has not been directed to a discussion in the city council of Halifax on 14th April, 1899. 2. It is expected that the elevator at Halifax will be completed and ready for occupation on the 1st October, 1899. 3. The contract was signed on 22nd September, 1898, and the contractor took possession of the site on 4th November, 1898.

#### STONE-PILES—BALSAM LAKE.

Mr. HUGHES asked :

Is it the intention of the Government, this season, to remove the unsightly piles of stone

which have been dumped in the water along the once beautiful shores at Rosedale near where the river leaves Balsam Lake ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). No, it is not the intention of the Government, this season, to remove the piles of stone which have been dumped in the water along the shore at Rosedale, near Balsam Lake.

#### ROSEDALE SWING BRIDGE.

Mr. HUGHES asked :

(a) What expenditure has been made by the Government in regard to Rosedale swing bridge, North Victoria ?

(b) Why was it necessary to raise the elevation of the swing bridge ?

(c) Did the Government contribute any sum or sums towards the changes rendered necessary by the elevation of the bridge to the municipality of Fenelon, which has at great cost had to practically rebuild the main bridge ?

(d) What is the rule of the department in regard to assistance to municipalities for bridges part swing, the balance of which is under control and support of the municipality ?

(e) Why did the Government not pay the cost of the necessary changes in the main portion of the bridge controlled by Fenelon township ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). 1. The Government expended in building the swing bridge at Rosedale, the sum of \$5,103.84. 2. The Rosedale bridge was raised two feet higher than the old bridge to allow of water level being raised two feet higher in case it was in future desired to make draught of canal eight feet instead of six feet as at present. 3. The Government did not contribute any sum towards the rebuilding of the approaches to the swing bridge to the municipality of Fenelon. The rebuilding of the approaches became necessary owing to their rotten dilapidated condition. 4. The rule in such cases as the one in question, has been carried out in the case of this Rosedale bridge. 5. The Government paid the cost of the swing portion of the bridge because it was necessary to widen the opening in the swing span. The approaches thereto, being a work for the municipality, the Government did not pay the cost.

#### SOULANGES CANAL ARBITRATION.

Mr. MONK asked :

1. How long did the Soulanges Canal arbitration last ?

2. How many cases were examined ?

3. Were the arbitrators dismissed ?

4. What was the cause of their dismissal ?

5. Had all the cases been examined when the arbitrators ceased to act ?

6. Was another person sent by the Government to finish their work ?

7. At whose request were the arbitrators dismissed ?

8. How much did said commission cost ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). There has not been any arbitration in connection with the Sou-

langes Canal. Assuming that what is meant by the question refers to valuers of land damages of land taken for canal purposes, I may state that : 1. The first land valuers on the Soulanges Canal were Messrs. A. F. Wood, F. X. Paradis and François Lalonde. Messrs. Wood and Paradis were appointed on the 18th of September, 1891, Mr. Lalonde being appointed on the 20th of August, 1892—about one year later. Messrs. Wood and Paradis served about five years, and Mr. Lalonde about four years. 2. About 158 cases were examined. 3. Their services were dispensed with. 4. There was no reason assigned for dispensing with their services. 5. No. 6. Yes. 7. No request was made for the dismissal of the Board of Land Valuers. 8. Messrs. Wood, Paradis and Lalonde were paid for their services and expenses, \$14,235.03.

#### Second Board of Valuers.

1. Messrs. Emery Lalonde, Roger Duckett and A. McNown, land valuers for the Soulanges Canal were appointed on the 14th of October, 1896, and continued for one year and seven months. 2. From 45 to 50 cases were examined. 3. The services of the land valuers were dispensed with. 4. The position of matters being such as not to require or warrant the expenditure which would be entailed by the further maintenance of the board, their services were dispensed with. 5. No. 6. No. 7. No request was made for the dismissal of the Board of Land Valuers. 8. Messrs. E. Lalonde, Duckett and A. McNown were paid for their services and expenses, \$16,635.53.

#### STANLEY PARK AND DEADMAN'S ISLAND, B.C.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria) moved for :

Copies of all Orders in Council respecting Stanley Park and Deadman's Island, Vancouver, B.C., and all correspondence between the different departments of the Canadian Government and the Imperial military and naval authorities respecting the park or island, or both. Also, for copies of all correspondence respecting the same with the Government of British Columbia, the city of Vancouver and the park authorities. Also for all correspondence between the member for Burrard, the Hon. Minister of Militia and Defence and the Department of Militia, the Hon. Minister of the Interior and other members of the Government respecting the same. Also for all correspondence between Mr. Ludgate and his representative and any department of Government respecting Deadman's Island. Also a copy of all applications and correspondence respecting a lease or grant of Deadman's Island. Also a copy of all departmental reports, memoranda or letters on file in the Departments of Justice, Interior, Militia and Defence respecting the park, Deadman's Island or the title and disposal of the same. Also a copy of all grants or leases of the park or Deadman's Island. Also all reports or information obtained by the different departments before any lease or grant of Deadman's Island was enacted. Also all memorials or correspondence respecting the granting of any lease of Deadman's Island.

He said: I do not at present intend to speak to this motion—

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). I did not understand that this motion would come up to-day. Of course I do not object, but I would suggest to the hon. member (Mr. Prior) that as there are now negotiations pending with regard to this matter between the city of Vancouver and Mr. Ludgate and the parties with whom the lease has been made, and as these negotiations are with the view of a settlement, perhaps it would be more convenient to wait a day or two until it can be seen if an arrangement may be arrived at. I merely make this as a suggestion.

Mr. PRIOR. I would ask the House to pass this motion at the present time, as I do not think it would make any difference as to the negotiations. I do not wish to discuss the motion at present, but we would like to see the papers brought down so that we may know how the matter stands. It is a very interesting question as to the ownership of this property, and we would like to know who really is the owner.

Motion agreed to.

#### THE IMPERIAL SERVICE—A CANADIAN BRIGADE.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES (North Victoria) moved:

That in the opinion of this House, having in view the growth and development of Canadian trade, the assisting to perfect the union of Great Britain and her colonies and the maintaining the commerce, prestige and integrity of the British Empire, Great Britain should be given authority to enroll a brigade of Canadian officers and men for the Imperial service abroad, and that Canadian seamen should be afforded opportunity of serving in the British navy.

He said: I respectfully ask the sympathy of this House for this motion, and I trust that hon. gentlemen may come to the same conclusion as I have on the matter. It has been suggested in the press of the country, that members of Parliament who happen to be officers in the militia should not either directly or indirectly criticise the military affairs of the Dominion, or criticise the general officer commanding, or any one in connection with the Militia Department. Inasmuch as my intention is to discuss military matters on this occasion, and, on every other occasion when they arise in the House. I take the liberty of placing before the House, what the custom, the law, and the constitution are on this subject. We will take first the precedent of the mother country, in relation not to militia officers but to officers in the regular pay and service of the British nation. In Todd's "Parliamentary Government in England," vol. 2, page 320, I find he quotes from May's "Parliamentary Practice," as follows:—

There are sound constitutional reasons for the exclusion of all non-political servants of the

Mr. PRIOR.

Crown (excepting, of course, officers in the army or navy, who are exempted from disqualification by the 28th section of the Statute of Anne) from the House of Commons. An exception which constructively includes several descriptions of military appointments when conferred upon officers of the army and navy.

May goes on to say:

In the case of Major Jervis, M.P., who, being appointed assistant superintendent of the Royal Small Arms Establishment, with pay and allowances of over four hundred and fifty pounds per annum, was allowed to retain his seat, because an election committee held "that it was not a place of profit, but was extra work given to a commissioned officer, which he was bound to execute, as part of the duty attaching to his commission." Mere promotion does not disqualify; but a commission given to a civilian avoids the seat, except in certain cases expressly exempted by law.

Todd, commenting on this extract from May, goes on to say:

Strictly subordinate, and accountable for their conduct, to the minister of state who is charged with the oversight of the department to which they belong—and who is exclusively responsible to Parliament for the administration of the same—the presence, in either House, of a permanent officer of any branch of the public service—who might possibly differ in politics with his responsible chief—would be found highly inconvenient, and might lead to unseemly and injurious collisions.

Half a century ago, the constitutional practice in this particular was less stringent than it is now. Nevertheless, in 1820, when Col. Sir Herbert Taylor, the military secretary to the commander-in-chief (the Duke of York) was elected to the House of Commons, he was distinctly informed by the Premier (Lord Liverpool) that "he ought not to interfere in the military discussions on the Estimates," as the Secretary-at-War was the mouthpiece of the Government to sustain any attacks that might be made upon the commander-in-chief, or his office. For the same reason, and in order to prevent the commander-in-chief from interfering in the House of Commons, Lord Liverpool objected to Major-General Sir H. Torrens, the adjutant-general, accepting a seat in Parliament. Sir H. Torrens, therefore, declined the offered seat, as he was to be mute on military discussions, and Sir H. Taylor never interfered in the discussion of the Estimates.

Thus it will be seen that the only restriction placed upon an officer in the English House of Commons is when he holds some position directly in the office of the commander in chief. Thus, for example, it might be very inconvenient that a permanent officer from the militia department, say the secretary of the general officer commanding, should be elected to a seat in the House. You can readily see that he, being directly under the control of the general officer commanding, might, by his voice and vote in this House, make it very inconvenient for the Minister of Militia, who would thus be the responsible head. That is the only restriction placed upon army officers in Great Britain. On page 213 of Todd's *Parliamentary Companion*, volume 2, I find another reference to this matter:

Furthermore, in the case of military or naval officers, no impediment is placed in the way of their becoming candidates for a seat in the House of Commons and, if elected, no intemperate, or even factious, language made use of by them in their place in Parliament—unless taken up by the House itself, and made the subject of an Address to the Crown—would be accounted a sufficient reason for dismissal from the service. And similar freedom of speech is also allowed at ordinary political meetings, provided that nothing be said that is treasonable, or a direct infringement of the Mutiny Act, or the Articles of War.

These references are to officers of the regular service in the British army, and not the militia officers. Throughout the length and breadth of the constitution. Sir, whether written or unwritten, there is not one line or word that can possibly apply to prevent a militia officer in the British House of Commons criticising to the fullest extent the Secretary of War or the commander in chief, or any other branch of the service. In connection with our own House, I need not do more than refer to that section of the Bill of Rights which prevents any language or criticism made use of in this House of Commons being brought up outside the House against the person who made use of it. However, while this is the case, I do not hesitate to say that it would be very unbecoming an officer of the militia of Canada even to take any stand here in relation to the Militia Department or the general officer commanding, or any person in connection with the militia service, which he would not feel inclined to take outside of the House, or to use any language with regard to those officers here which he would not use to them personally, or make use of any information which he had in his possession, owing to his having been a militia officer, and which was not made public to the country. In the discussion of the subject which I now bring before the House, however, no question can arise as to the fullest rights of any officer, be he a member of the permanent force or otherwise, giving his views on it to the fullest extent. The motion I submit to the House reads as follows :

That in the opinion of this House, having in view the growth and development of Canadian trade, the assisting to perfect the union of Great Britain and her colonies, and the maintaining the commerce, prestige and integrity of the British Empire, Great Britain should be given the authority to enrol a brigade of Canadian officers and men for the Imperial service abroad, and that Canadian seamen should be afforded an opportunity of serving in the British navy.

It may be said at the outset that there is nothing in that resolution which does not already exist ; but, as I proceed, I shall endeavour to point out the various phases of the case in order to show that while indirectly all that is in the motion already exists, indirectly it does not. In brief, the proposal which I make is :

1. Give Great Britain the privilege of enrolling a brigade of Canadians, officers and men, for service in any part of the world.

2. The term of enlistment to be five or seven years.

3. The British Government to pay the force, the pay to be the same as British soldiers receive.

4. The brigade to be composed of : (a) One maritime province battalion ; (b) one Quebec province battalion ; (c) two Ontario province battalions ; (d) one from Manitoba, the North-west and British Columbia ; (e) artillery, cavalry, engineers, army service corps, and medical staff in proportion for each unit and each locality. In all, say, 5,000 men, or one to each 1,000 of the population. I may say that these units are merely suggestions as to the basis of proportion. On the discharge of each soldier he should be entitled to receive, not from the Government of Great Britain, but from Canada, say 160 acres of land, with a cottage and team of horses, a couple of cattle, with agricultural implements and other outfit, in all worth a few hundred dollars, sufficient to enable him to begin life as a small farmer. Similar concessions should be made by Canada to her sons who have served a term of years in the Imperial army, and this grant should also be extended to those who have served a term in the Imperial navy. Personally, I would be pleased to see this grant extended to those enlisted in Great Britain, in other words to purely British soldiers, who, on honourable discharge, would come to Canada and take up their homes here.

It is not my intention to enter at length into this subject, my object being merely to place the plan before the House and the country in order that it may take root and gradually grow, if at all possible. I have long looked forward to that day when Canada shall form an integral portion of the British Empire. We are growing in that direction along the lines of trade and commerce, and we expect to grow in the same direction to a considerable extent in military lines. It was only the other day that we read the announcement in the papers of a Queen's New Zealand volunteer regiment offering their services in the Samoan Island, and in this morning's paper we find the announcement that a corps of New South Wales Lancers, under pay of the New South Wales Government, has been sent over to England for military training. We find the same spirit abroad in Canada, and thus little by little the various colonies are gradually shouldering their burden and taking their part in the military events of the Empire.

I may say that in addition to the trade and military associations between Great Britain and her colonies, I look forward still further, in no very distant future, to an alliance between them on political lines.

But I am met at the outset, because this is no new matter with me, with the statement ; Oh, but look at the serious objections to any such scheme. It was my privilege to talk over this matter a couple of years ago with a very distinguished officer of the Im-

perial service. And, Sir, would you believe it, the chief objection on the part of that gentleman was that it would require a little re-arrangement of the work in the War Office in the old country—a new book would have to be opened, I presume, a new eye-glass procured, or a new clerk employed. This gentleman looked at it merely from the viewpoint of the clerical work in the department in the old land. He said—and he spoke as one having authority—that the scheme could not be carried out owing to the serious disturbances of the clerical work in the War Office.

Mr. PRIOR. Who said that?

Mr. HUGHES. A very distinguished officer of the Imperial service within the last two years. However, Sir, I presume that this difficulty could be overcome.

But there are other objections. A great many say: You are strengthening the jingo spirit, you are pandering to this imperialistic spirit that is abroad. Well, Sir, in the proper acceptation of the word "jingo" I stand here to defend the jingo idea; in the proper acceptation of the Imperial idea, I stand here to defend that idea. We find that it is the jingo spirit that has brought peace to the British Empire on more than one occasion. I do not know whether our friends the leader of the Government and his colleagues displayed a little of the jingo spirit at Washington, when they found that they could not get anything in relation to the boundary; but if they showed that spirit in proper degree, I heartily commend them for it. A display of the jingo spirit will produce more than the old spirit which was so familiar to the people of this country on the part of our friends who now control the Government. It is a jingo spirit that has carried British trade and commerce to the extent we find it carried throughout the world to-day. It is the jingo spirit that has won us the Soudan, and has brought peace instead of war in that part of the world with European nations. It was the jingo spirit that brought Germany to time a few years ago, and that, I trust, may bring her to time in the near future in case she attempts to meddle with the affairs of Great Britain. And we find that it was the anti-jingo spirit, the spirit of subserviency on the part of the Government in England, that brought Great Britain into the Egyptian war away back in 1882. It was the anti-jingo spirit that lost Great Britain the Transvaal, which will ultimately have to be re-conquered. It was the anti-jingo spirit which caused practically all the wars that we have had over affairs in Afghanistan. This spirit was so prevalent in England a few years ago that it threatened to lead Great Britain to throw aside her colonies throughout the world, which would have reduced the old land to the position of little England. I can well remember how, in my early days, when I was teaching school, on the maps of those times England was shown in one

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colour, Ireland in another and Scotland in another and Wales in another, and every province of the Dominion was shown in a different colour. I remember spending my time one Saturday afternoon painting them all a bright, brilliant red. I think that that old map possibly hangs in that school to-day—

An hon. MEMBER. Green.

Mr. HUGHES. I have no objection to the green. It is a good colour, and quite suitable to some gentlemen who occupy positions in this House. In my young days, I saw no reason why we in Canada, associated as we were with the old land and possessing all liberties that the mother country could give us, should not be regarded as an integral portion of the British Empire; and, as years have gone on, I have become strengthened in the conviction I then formed. In matters of trade, in militia and naval affairs—and in matter of politics, for that matter—there is no reason why the Anglo-Saxon mind cannot overcome all difficulties that stand in the way and bring about the ultimate union of Great Britain and her colonies in one magnificent nation.

But I am met with the charge: Your scheme would be very expensive. Well, there would be no expense to Canada, nor would there be any additional expense to Great Britain, for she has to get these men from somewhere. Great Britain would pay the men under this proposition; and, under any proposition, I do not think the time would ever arrive when any colony should pay for the maintenance of a force in the service of the Empire as a whole. The central authority, whether it be the Government of Great Britain, as it is to-day, or whether it be composed of some great council of the whole Empire, would levy upon each integral part of the confederation its fair share of the expense. Whatever the central authority may be, that should be the paying authority. However, Sir, I do suggest that Canada should bear a share of this expense.

Now, we find brought to the shores of this land a large number of—I will not say anything against the people—let us say a very eligible class of people, the Galicians and the Doukhobors. They were brought to this country at very considerable expense, and, more than that, are maintained at considerable expense to this country. First, there is no gainsaying the statement that this country has met the expense connected with the maintenance of these people for some considerable time. We give 160 acres of land, besides a considerable amount of cash, to the Galicians and Doukhobors coming to this country. I maintain that it would pay the Dominion of Canada ten times better to give 160 acres of land and \$500 to a good Britisher to come here rather than \$10 to a Doukhobor. But the share that I ask Canada to contribute to this brigade is this—that after spending his five or his seven years, as the case may be, in the ser-

vice of the Empire, doing duty for Canada as well as the motherland, a man, if he chooses to return to Canada, shall be given his little farm of land such as we give to settlers from any part of the world, and, in addition to that, he shall be given, say, \$300, or \$400 in the form of an outfit—a cottage, a team of horses, some cattle, agricultural implements, some seed grain, enough to help him to start in the world. Referring to this, I may just point out that the finest class of citizens that any country was ever blessed with receiving were the old soldiers who settled in Canada in the early days. Nova Scotia and the maritime provinces generally were settled almost entirely, so far as the early days were concerned, by discharged British soldiers or men who had served their country in the wars in the United States.

Go down to Fraserville or Rivière du Loup, in Quebec province, and you will find some of our finest French Canadian people there are descended from the soldiers of the old Highland Scottish regiments who settled there. Take the best of the old settlers of French nationality, in the province of Quebec, and you find that they are descendants of the old French soldiers of the 17th and 18th centuries. And, so far as Ontario is concerned, let those who are acquainted with the River St. Lawrence, the Bay of Quinté, or any of those earlier settled portions of the province, aye, or even the more recently settled portions—for we find the Crimean veterans settled in various portions of the country—and we see that the old soldiers are the best class of settlers we have ever had and no country ever had better. But I have been told in discussing this question—by military men, too—that we want our Canadians at home; we do not want to send people out of the country. That is very true. But you must remember this, that during the American civil war, there were 58,000 boys from Ontario alone who fought in the Northern armies. In the recent Cuban war also, there were thousands fighting under the flag of the United States. Why, there is scarcely a town in Ontario that has not buried its boy who was shot before Santiago or who died of fever in some of the camps during the war. It was only the other day that I read of two boys from Almonte who were brought home, having been shot before Santiago.

I know from my own county there were two young men killed, and one young man wounded, fighting at Santiago. In the whole force, I am satisfied there were thousands of Canadians engaged in that war, and there was not a man of them but would have a thousand times rather worn the uniform of the British Empire, serving Her Majesty Queen Victoria in some part or other of the world. There are men, Sir, in every nation, but more especially in a young nation like Canada, inhabited by Anglo-Saxon people, who are imbued with that sort of fearless military spirit, and who will seek service

wherever they may find an opportunity; therefore, I, for one, would be perfectly willing to give this class of young men, just as fine a class of young men as you can find in any land, the opportunity of engaging in Her Majesty's service rather than in the service of a foreign nation. I have no doubt in the world but that thousands of them would seek that service. Leave the country? No, Sir; they would merely leave it for a few years, because, under the proposal that I make here, they would return at the end of the service and become citizens; in other words, we would merely give them an opportunity, at the expense of the Empire, of going to college, going out to see the world, going out to broaden themselves in all that pertains to the upbuilding of a great nation, and then return home and become good and permanent citizens.

Then, Sir, the moralist comes in and says: Oh, these questions of war, and of foreign service, and of Canada spending money for the benefit of the Empire, are things that should pass away; times of peace have arrived. Well, Sir, whenever I hear a young lady declare that she is never going to get married, I always look, during the next few months to see her marriage notice in the paper. Whenever I hear serious talk of peace, that wars have ceased for ever, I always look—and if you will read back into history you will find that history bears out my view—I always look very soon to see some intensely stubborn war breaking out among the very people who were professing peace. Take, for instance, Russia. I think there is no one who is familiar with the circumstances at the present time but knows that Russia, in proposing this peace conference to-day, is merely playing her cards. Russia is building her railways, which are to her what Great Britain's battleships are to the British Empire; and just as soon as Russia gets her railways nicely completed to suit her convenience, those who are living at that time will find that it will be very convenient for her then to break her peace proposals and to engage in war for her own advantage. I have very little faith, I may say, in these peace proposals. Does any one suppose that the Fashoda incident would have been settled peaceably had not Britain had her ironclads ready? I maintain that the truest solution of the peace problem is for Britain and her colonies to stand shoulder to shoulder, and present to the world a solid phalanx which no combination of nations can break, and the peace of the world is assured, so far, at all events, as the British Empire is concerned.

We are told also that Canadians would not enlist, and reference has been made to the 100th Regiment, and at the attempted repatriation of the 100th Regiment now stationed in Halifax, as an illustration. Why, Sir, it was placarded up and down the country that the old Royal Canadian Regiment was being brought out to this country, and that an opportunity would be given for the

young men of Canada to rush in and fill the ranks. I do not want to say anything disrespectful of any regiment in the British service, but young Canadians will not enlist in any regiment in the British service, to be drilled by British officers, unless that regiment has a record which would commend itself to their pride and to their national honour. Now, I do not want to say, as I have already remarked, anything disparaging of the old Royal Canadian Regiment. At the time of its formation it was not a purely Canadian regiment, it never was a Canadian regiment, and it never can become a Canadian regiment by repatriation here. We have no sympathy here with the officers of that corps, we have no sympathy with the men of that corps. It may be a very fine regiment, but in order to win the affections of the young men of Canada it would require to come here covered with more laurels than are borne on its banners at the present time. I say this with all kindness; and to expect our young men to go off and enlist in any regiment stationed to-day at the borders of the country such as this, is showing, at all events, a lack of appreciation of the spirit of Canadian loyalty. Our young men are loyal enough to Canada to look for officers of their own, and to look for a higher type of Imperial regiment than the 100th Regiment in which to enlist. We are told that Canadinas are not fighters. Well, Sir, let me point out this fact, that wherever a British regiment has stood side by side with a Canadian regiment in active service, victory has always perched upon its banners. In the war of 1812, wherever British soldiers were backed up by, or stood side by side with Canadian soldiers, no disaster ever befell the British arms, and the only disasters that did befall the British arms in the war of 1812 with the United States, occurred when there were no Canadians to help the British troops on to victory.

Another, and I may say the only objection I have ever heard urged to the formation of a Canadian brigade in the British service, is the one that the pay is too small. Now, I will not go into details of the question of pay, but my experience is that, whether it be in militia work or in the regular service, whether the pay be large or small, at the end of the year the soldier has about as much in his pocket who receives a shilling a day as the one who receives fifty cents a day. It is not a question of how much goes in, but it is a question of how much goes out. The rule in any part of the world is that all that goes in goes out. So I think that question could be left to settle itself. I am satisfied that if the Canadian Government could be induced to take up the supplementary position I have pointed out, that is to give to these soldiers, on their return from foreign service, a little outfit along with the land, every man would appreciate that kind of pay, and to a much greater extent than he would were he to get the same amount distributed to him daily throughout the seven

years' service. I would again suggest that the privilege of taking up these farms in Canada with the suggested outfit, should also be extended to the reserve soldiers discharged from the British service on good conduct certificates.

Well, Sir, we find a great many objecting to people going into military service for the simple reason that they do not want our sons to be made food for powder. The answer to that has already been given. Our sons will seek service somewhere. Why, during the late American war a young lad from the town in which I live, wrote home saying: I am on board a vessel, a gunboat, in which there are only 85 men, and 65 of these are British or Canadian born subjects. In our ward-room there are 25 boys, and there is only one foreigner among them, and he comes from Vermont. So that in the American service, in the last war, we find our boys offering themselves as food for powder. But it is not in offering themselves as food for powder that the greatest danger consists in soldiering nowadays; the danger nowadays, unless they are carefully looked after, comes rather from disease and that class of trouble than from bullets of the enemy. So that question of being food for powder may be passed over without further consideration.

But we find another class of people who say: We do not want old soldiers; old soldiers are not a very desirable class of a community. Well, Sir, go down into Glengarry, and where will you find a finer lot of men, a broader class of men, than the old soldiers. Go along the St. Lawrence frontier, up the Bay of Quinté, down into Nova Scotia, where old disbanded soldiers reside, and you will find the verdict of their neighbours to be that they are a thrifty class in the community, a class which any one should be pleased to have in the country. There is an old expression which we have heard very often, and which applies to-day as it did in all times:

When war's proclaimed, and danger's nigh,  
"God and the soldier" is the cry;  
When war is over, and wrongs are righted,  
God is forgotten and the soldier slighted.

That is true in all times and in all lands. But, says one, there is no need to give permission to officers or men from Canada to go into the service of the British Empire. That is true, but there should be an official sanction given to this. The Canadian soldier is a democratic individual; he might possibly become acclimated to the treatment of a British officer after a few years' service; but I feel free to say, that the relationship existing between a British officer and a soldier in the old land is not the relationship that exists between the officer and soldier in Canada. The Canadian citizen will find that the system in Canada is not the system prevailing in England, and I am satisfied, that our young Canadians would not put up with the treatment that is accorded to soldiers, as a rule, in the British service. More

than this ; it is only natural that our own officers and men would feel more at home under Canadian officers, in a foreign land, than under British officers, so that, this aspect of the case need not be dwelt upon. Then, going as a Canadian regiment, there will be more pride felt in it by those who compose it. If 5,000 Canadians were sent over there in so many regiments, and if, in comparison with that, 5,000 Canadians were distributed throughout the length and breadth of the British forces, which would reflect the greatest honour and glory upon the country ? Under which system would you find the greater feeling of pride and self-respect, and, when it came to an engagement, whether would a thousand Canadians fight better together than if distributed among other regiments ? The national honour, the prestige of the Canadians, and their self-respect would be more up-built by pursuing a system of having them in one Canadian contingent, rather than having them distributed throughout the forces of the Empire.

But, says one, we have no right to fight Britain's battles. Why should we not help to fight Britain's battles ? Has not Britain defended us by her fleets and armies in the past ? I may refer to 1812 and since that. Has not Britain given to Canada millions of dollars of property ? Have we not the use of her consuls and ambassadorial officers to promote our interests in the markets of the world ? In almost every respect, I care not whether it be on the question of finance or of the development of trade, we have the prestige of the British Empire, and it is our duty to take our fair share in up-building the Empire. We are told that Canada has already done so, in that she has built the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is true, we built the Canadian Pacific Railway, but the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway is not sufficient, I maintain for Canada's share in the future up-building of this great Empire. We are told, also, that, if Canada were to take her part in the armies of Great Britain, it would excite the envy of other nations. I think the British nation, at the present time, has come to the conclusion that the best cure for the envy of other nations is the strengthening of her own fleet and armies. We have had an illustration of the fact, that the best cure for the envy of any European nation, or of any American nation either, for that matter, is to show that the British people have confidence in themselves, and that they are prepared to stand or fall by their rights. I need not refer further to the objections that are urged, or may be urged, in respect to the proposition that I make. But there is one other objection, and it is, that you cannot have all the British Empire loyal. Now, there are two different kinds of loyalty. There is the loyalty which you may call the loyalty of the head, or of reason, and there is the loyalty of the instinct or of the heart. So far as the loyalty of the Anglo-

Saxon race goes, we need not say anything. That is to be taken for granted ; but there is another kind of loyalty, and it is the loyalty which guarantees us civil and religious liberty, which guarantees our rights in every occupation and every association of trade and commerce, as well as in matters of government, which, I maintain, is stronger than the loyalty of the heart. I will take the opportunity, in this connection, of referring to a matter which, I am free to say, is not being referred to in the matter of questioning at all—to the loyalty of the people of the province of Quebec, and I take the opportunity to say, that I regard it in the same light as a distinguished member of this House, the mayor of Montreal, Mr. Préfontaine, from whose remarks, speaking the other night, I beg to quote, as follows :—

He cherished England because of the liberty she had given to Canada. Under the folds of the Union Jack the French Canadians enjoyed a freedom such as they could not secure under any other flag. Liberty of conscience, liberty of thought, freedom of worship, a deep-seated regard for the conscientious religious convictions of the French Canadian race ; these were what had endeared the English nation to the members of that race. The result was that nowhere in Her Majesty's vast dominions were a more loyal people to her throne and person to be found than in French Canada. They had no desire for annexation or independence ; they were as loyal, he felt absolutely certain, and as true in their allegiance to the Crown as were the English, Scotch or Irish.

So much for the French Canadian race, and the words spoken by Mr. Préfontaine, the mayor of Montreal, regarding the French Canadian race. We find, also, that all the native races in the countries governed by Great Britain are loyal to the British Empire. We have only to remember, in that regard, the famous Indian mutiny, to find that, in these tremendous temptations, the native races have stood true to British interests, and that, as often as the Empire is threatened, these races are as true to the civilization of Britain as are those of her own race and blood. I shall not take up the time of the House further than to state that, in case the Government sees fit, at any time, to call for men in Canada to form such a project as this, I feel perfectly satisfied that both officers and men, thoroughly fitted to take their place in any army in the world, would be forthcoming. It was my good fortune, some two years ago, to volunteer the services of a Canadian regiment for Imperial service. Although there was no great war on at that time, merely an Afghan war and some trouble in the Transvaal, I had offers of upwards of 2,000 men from various parts of Canada and upwards of 100 officers, a good many of them equal in rank to myself, and many of them my seniors, offering to take posts in any such regiment as might be raised in the defence of the Empire. I am satisfied, that, if such a corps as is suggested here could receive the official notice of the Government

of Great Britain and the Government of Canada, that, in place of having 5,000 men in time of peace, we could double that number; and, in time of war, there would scarcely be any limit short of two or three hundred thousand, who could be obtained in the Dominion of Canada to lend a hand for the defence of the British Empire. I move, seconded by my hon. friend, Colonel Prior, M.P., the motion which stands in my name on the Order paper.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Mr. Speaker, I do not know that I can enlighten the country very much on this subject, or, that I can entertain the House to any extent, but I regard it not only as a right but as a duty, which every member of Parliament owes to his constituents and to the country, to express his views on such a proposal, especially in its initial stage. I am unable to see any relationship between this movement proposed in this resolution and the development of trade and commerce in Canada. That statement in the motion seems somewhat incongruous, and it scarcely appeals to us as a reason for our sympathy. Sir, we are first of all a peace-loving people; our population is engaged in the industrial pursuits of life. We require all the settlers we have, and more, to occupy the soil of Canada and to work in our manufactories. We are offering, year after year, large inducements to foreigners to settle amongst us; we take the trouble to indicate the special class of immigrants that are required here, namely, persons who will settle on the soil, and mechanics who will become sharers in the industrial life of the country. For this purpose we spend a large amount of money every year, and we send immigration agents not only to the American republic, but to European countries, to offer inducements to all who will settle in Canada. We do that because our population is sparse and our acreage broad. We do that for the purpose of bringing settlers to cultivate the soil; who will increase our population, and thereby help us to bear the burdens of life in the development and enrichment of our country. It does seem to me, that while we are doing that, we would not be acting in the best interests of the country, if we were to throw out inducements for our people to enlist in military pursuits, and leave our shores for the purpose of going into the armies of the world. It seems to be inconsistent, that, on the one hand, we should offer inducements to bring people into the country, and, on the other hand, offer them inducements to get out of the country. I believe, Sir, such a course would not be compatible with the best interests of Canada, and I feel it incumbent upon me to express this view to the House. There is another feature of this proposal, which is worthy of our serious consideration. We know that if you put men into the regular army service for five, or six, or seven years, they acquire fixed habits which destroy their usefulness for indus-

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trial pursuits afterwards. We are largely governed by force of habit throughout our career. Permit a boy to be lazy for four or five years, and you will never get him afterwards to prosecute labour so successfully as the boy who from his very cradle is trained to be industrious and steady in any line of life. If you think that you can put men into the military career for several years, and afterwards have them settle down in the country, to till the soil or work in our factories, in my opinion you are making a great blunder. The habits they have formed during years of military training, when they have not been engaged in labour and industry, will be so strongly ingrained in their very nature, that they will never become willing or able to take up a laborious life as others do who are kept constantly to work from boyhood to manhood. If men spend a number of years in what I regard, as perhaps one of the lazy lines of life—I am not saying now that it is not a useful and worthy occupation—you cannot expect them to settle down afterwards and become useful citizens. Several examples have been cited as illustrations of the contrary idea. I have not had a very extensive acquaintance with the sections of the country in which the old army soldiers settled in Canada, but I have some limited acquaintance with them. I remember very distinctly, when a boy, that in different parts of the counties of York and Simcoe, some old army pensioners were settled there, and so far as I have been able to remember I fail to recollect a single one who became an active worker. The land given them became practically useless, so far as grain-growing and cultivation went, and the contrast between their lands, and the lands of the genuine agricultural settlers was very marked, indeed. They held that land for a little time and then sold it, sometimes almost for a song. Or if it did remain in their possession, it was not cultivated, so that many of those lands given years ago are to be found to-day almost in their original condition of wildness. That was largely due to the fact that the habits of these soldiers were not industrious. They were not accustomed to labour as are those who have grown up on the land and cultivated it and followed labourious pursuits in life from the time they were of age to begin work. In my opinion the land given would be practically valueless to them. It would be traded off by them almost for a song, and though it might prove useful to others would be of little value to them.

Then with regard to the amount of money to be spent on giving these men an outfit and to the grant of a homestead of 160 acres, why should we do more for these people than we do for our own who remain at home? Why give to them what we are not prepared to give to our own young men who go out from the older provinces to settle in Manitoba and the North-west? We give these young men, in many instances, where our lands are open for settlement a free grant but nothing more, and yet each of these set-

tlers is of more value to us than ten old soldiers who would settle on the land after their term of enlistment had expired.

For these reasons I am opposed to this motion. If there are any young men in this country who desire to enlist in the British army, they have plenty opportunities of doing so. They are perfectly free agents, and at liberty to take up that life if they chose, and I can see no reason why we should offer them special inducements to do so, when by so doing we will be simply tempting them to leave our own soil and thus to that extent retarding the developing of our own country, which we are all so anxious to facilitate, and doing this besides at a pecuniary sacrifice to ourselves. Again, I doubt whether it is wise to encourage military spirit among our young men, because that is not so much needed as some suppose in this country of ours, as is the spirit of settling down and cultivating our undeveloped lands. No doubt we are bound to do a great deal for the defence of the Empire of which we form an integral part. But we are now doing that and doing it on lines which do not interfere with peaceful pursuits and the settlement of the country and without undergoing the expense which would be entailed by the adoption of the principle embodied in this motion. I do not think that what the hon. gentleman aims at is what Canada requires at present. It may be in the interests of the Empire in many ways, but I do not think it is in the interests of the development of Canada, and, therefore, I am inclined to oppose the taking up of this scheme and endeavouring to carry it to a successful issue, as no doubt my hon. friend proposes to do.

Mr. J. V. ELLIS (St. John). I followed the hon. member for North Victoria (Mr. Hughes) very closely in his speech, which he had evidently taken some time to prepare, and no doubt one of the objects of his resolution was to enable him to declare his views with regard to what might be done for these soldiers after they have served their term, but the resolution simply affirms that authority should be given to Great Britain to enroll a brigade of Canadian officers and men for the Imperial service abroad and to afford Canadian seamen an opportunity of serving in the British navy. But what is there to prevent their serving in the army and navy of Great Britain at present? The hon. gentleman asks that Great Britain should be given authority to do a certain thing. Who is to give her the authority? Why, Great Britain can do this now without our authority at all, and, therefore, I do not see why it is necessary to give her authority by resolution to do what she is perfectly free to do at present without any resolution. The hon. gentleman did not at all touch that portion of his subject in his remarks, so that I was not able to get from his observations any reason why we should pass this resolution. If Great Britain wants this

power, surely her Parliament can take it and it is not necessary for us to pass a resolution of this kind. Without going into the main question at all, as to whether it is advisable for us to enter into a career of warfare, I must say that in my opinion it is not necessary for us to confer authority of that sort by a resolution of this House, on the Parliament of Great Britain or upon Great Britain herself.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The criticism made by my hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Ellis) is, I think, a very sound one, and it was referred to by the hon. gentleman who introduced this resolution. I understood that hon. gentleman to admit that at present Great Britain could enroll a brigade here or enlist seamen for the navy if she chose, but he thought it desirable that if Canadians were to serve in the Imperial army or navy, they should do so together in a body. Rather than enlist in a dozen different battalions, it would be better for them to enlist together in one battalion or brigade. So far as that part of the speech is concerned, I agree with him, but no doubt, as my hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Ellis) has said, it is open to the Imperial authorities to-day to enlist men in this country for the Imperial service. In fact, as my hon. friend from Victoria (Mr. Hughes) knows, a general order was issued not very long ago by the Militia Department here, pointing out that recruiting may be done for the Imperial army at the various depots in this country. Every one must have listened with the greatest of pleasure to the speech which my hon. friend made in presenting his resolution. I assume that his object was rather to call the attention of the country to his views and more particularly the attention of the people specially interested in military matters in this country, and I am convinced that the statement he has made here will prove a very interesting contribution to our military literature.

My hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule) in criticising the observation of the mover of the motion, without intending to be unfair, misrepresented, I think, to some extent his meaning. He seemed to be under the impression that while we were expending large sums of money to bring useful settlers into this country, the proposition of the hon. member for Victoria was one to pay out money to send young men out of the country.

Mr. SPROULE. I did not so understand it, but he wanted us to give a pension to these men after they had served their term in the British service, and thus encourage the loss of their labour during that term.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I thought the hon. gentleman understood that the proposal was to pay money in order to send them out of the country.

Mr. SPROULE. No.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. In that case, I stand subject to correction. I understood the hon. member for North Victoria (Mr. Hughes) distinctly to say that all the expenses were to be borne by the Imperial authorities, but that on the return of these men from service they should be given land in the North-west in order that they might settle in that country. I think that my hon. friend from East Grey's (Mr. Sproule) criticism of old soldiers as settlers was scarcely fair. Whatever may have been true of some of the old settlers that have come to this country with the Imperial army, I think he will hardly say that young Canadians who had gone away for five or seven years' service in the Imperial army, on returning to Canada hale and hearty would not be good settlers to settle our great North-west country. I think the hon. gentleman would hardly say that; and if he did say it, I should differ with him in toto. One observation was dropped by my hon. friend from East Grey with which I entirely concur, and that is that it is not desirable in this country to give undue prominence to the military spirit. Though I have been connected with the militia for a long time and am now head of the department, I do not desire that undue prominence should be given to that spirit or undue trouble taken or undue expense incurred to build up in this country a spirit of militarism. I think it would be very undesirable to do that. The whole object contemplated by our militia system, so far as I have been able to study it and understand it, is rather that we should be able to defend ourselves in case of attack and aid the civil power in this country in case of any trouble in our own borders. I do not think that we, at the present time at any rate, should look beyond that; and I should be very sorry to see anything of that kind attempted. Nor do I understand that my hon. friend from North Victoria has any such idea in putting forward his motion.

Now, we have enough to do at the present time to perfect our present militia system. We have done a great deal, we have made great progress during the last twenty-five or thirty years in the development of our militia; but there is still much to do. It seems to me that, for the present at any rate, we have enough to do to perfect that system. And I would say to my hon. friend from North Victoria that after we have succeeded in perfecting our system, as I believe we shall do within a few years more, it will be time enough to undertake what he proposes. But when this is done, I think that what the hon. gentleman desires will come about naturally. If we have a perfect, self-contained force in Canada, each branch of that force ready within a reasonable time for active service, then it will be an easy matter, in case the mother country should desire our assistance, to send that assistance forward, for we shall be prepared to do it. In this

Mr. BORDEN (King's).

way, it seems to me, that what the hon. member for North Victoria desires will come about naturally within a few years. The hon. gentleman has referred to trade lines, which he desires to see improved as between ourselves and the mother country; and he says that, *pari passu*, as the trade lines are improved between us and the mother country, and as our trade relations become closer, our military relations will improve also. I fully agree with him in that; but I would point out to him that we have made very rapid strides in that direction since the Government of my right hon. friend the Premier (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) came into power. We have done much to make common interest with the mother country on lines of trade by giving to the mother country a special preference in our market for what she has to sell as against the rest of the world. And, so the relations with the mother country are becoming closer and closer. My hon. friend speaks of "jingoism," and approves of it. I go heartily with him in the idea that he expresses, though, for my part, I think that idea might, perhaps, be better expressed by another word. My idea of jingoism was rather different from that which he expressed; but I entirely concur with the view which he has presented to this House of the desirability of the closest relations between the colonies and the mother country as a sound one. What we want is the unification of the Empire; what we want is the drawing together of every part of the Empire; and, as I said a moment ago, the most important step in that direction ever taken in any colony was taken by the right hon. the First Minister when he held out to Great Britain the offer of preferential trade relations with this country.

Now, in view of the fact that my hon. friend (Mr. Hughes) has had an opportunity of bringing his views before the House and the country, and in view of the fact that, even at the present moment, what he chiefly desires can be brought about under the existing law. I ask him whether he would not think it wiser to withdraw the motion. I believe that by having the motion discussed, as he has to-day, he has done all that he hoped to do even if the motion carried. So, I would ask my hon. friend to be kind enough to withdraw his motion.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES (North Victoria). I presume that I am entitled to say a few words in reply to some of the criticisms and suggestions that have been made by hon. gentlemen who have addressed the House. And, first, in reference to the remarks of my hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule). The hon. gentleman could see no connection between the trade part of the motion and the other. In addressing such an intelligent body as the House of Commons, I thought there was no need to enter into a long argument to prove that there is no truer maxim than that "Trade follows the flag." I feel that if our Canadian troops were in service in India, in

China, in the Pacific Islands or in Australia, the fact that our young men were there would direct the attention of the merchants to those lands, and new channels of trade would be opened up which, to-day, are practically closed to us. I would say, whilst speaking of that, that I, for one, object, and will continue to object, to the Dominion of Canada participating in the benefits that accrue to us as British subjects from the defensive forces of the Empire and the rights they secure for us in various markets of the world while contributing only a niggardly pittance of twenty-five cents a year for the support of the militia of this country, while the British people, who benefit to no greater extent, man for man, than we do, contribute dollars where we contribute cents to the upbuilding of the empire. A Canadian doing business in China is protected by the flag of Great Britain just as much as is the British merchant, and yet, all that Canada contributes to the support of her militia is the sum of 25 cents per head of her population, and not one dollar do we contribute to the navy that protects our merchants there. I maintain that it is our bounden duty, sooner or later—and my motion is for “sooner” rather than “later”—to take hold of this matter and contribute our fair share to the upbuilding of this great means of developing our trade and commerce under the flag.

Now, I was fortunate enough to anticipate in my preliminary remarks every objection that was urged by the hon. member for East Grey. I pointed out that it was said that we wanted immigrants rather than emigrants. But I pointed out also that these young men will go soldiering in any case :

The danger's self is lure alone.

There are men who will seek this service ; and if they cannot engage under the banners of the British Empire they will enroll themselves under that of a foreign nation—and, most likely, that of the United States, for that is where our young men drift to, for it is cheaper to go there than to cross to Great Britain. Our men go in thousands, when there is trouble, and enlist under a foreign flag. There is a certain element who are prone to soldier, and who, if they cannot soldier under the British ensign will do so under some other.

You cannot build up a people composed exclusively of farmers or merchants, there will always be some imbued with the military spirit. These men will seek an outlet for their military spirit, and if they cannot seek it at home, if they cannot seek it under the flag of their own Empire, they will seek it, as they are doing to-day, in the United States. I prefer giving these young men an opportunity of serving under their own flag. I also anticipated objections of the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), that soldiers would make poor settlers. My hon. friend has never done any soldiering. I have seen men before to-day objecting to young men joining the volunteer force of this country. I knew

a distinguished clergyman in Canada who objected to military service, and in preaching to the people he endeavoured to prevent their sons from joining the volunteers. I asked him what he knew about volunteers, and told him that if he was not any better posted on the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that he preached on Sundays than he was on the volunteer force, he had better leave his pulpit. I advised him to put on a uniform and come down to the camp, and he did so, and the result was that he asked to be appointed chaplain of the regiment. He was never more surprised in his life. A conference of clergymen could not conduct themselves better than the boys did in camp. Those men talk of what they do not know. I may say that that gentleman is not chaplain of that regiment to-day, as he has been promoted to a much larger district than the district in which he then lived ; although I may say that his successor, as soon as he came to replace him, asked to be appointed chaplain of the regiment. Talk of old soldiers making poor settlers. Go down to Glengarry, go up along the St. Lawrence frontier, go to Fraserville, up the Chambly Valley, down to Nova Scotia, go to North Victoria, go to the county of Grey, and I tell you the best men in those counties to-day are sons of old soldiers. I will take my hon. friend to the township of Stanhope, in North Victoria, where there are settlers there to-day just as good and as true men, and as energetic farmers, as any that can be found. Talk of soldiers being lazy, why, the very business of soldiering tends to drive laziness out of men. They learn habits of discipline and habits of life that for ever stand them in good stead. The most prosperous farmers I have ever known in Canada are men who have served the long term of twenty-one years, served in the ranks under the flag. I was thunderstruck to hear the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) making use of such remarks about old soldiers making poor settlers, to talk of them as being lazy, as following lazy lines of life. I think the trouble with the hon. gentleman is that he does not find them getting sick, they don't have occasion to call for medical attendance. I am afraid that is what has turned him against old soldiers.

An hon. MEMBER. Perhaps they don't vote right.

Mr. HUGHES. Yes, they always vote right. The trouble with the hon. member for Grey is that they never get sick, and he never has a chance to render them doctor's bills. He also spoke of it being a detriment to the settlement of a country to have men engaged in military service. I have heard a distinguished gentleman state that one thing that built up Australia as much as anything else, was the fact that old soldiers had gone out there and become settlers, and the fact that the English cricketers were occasionally going out there on a

visit. I venture to say that the arrival of the New South Wales Lancers in England yesterday will bring more immigrants to New South Wales than ten times the money that New South Wales is spending to pay their expenses in Britain. The offer of the New Zealand government of a regiment to go to the Samoan Islands a week or two ago, will do more to bring immigrants to New Zealand than any such beggarly policy as this Government is pursuing, not only this Government, but all Canadian Governments without exception, in relation to the militia of this country. We tax the people of this country a beggarly 25 cents per head a year for the militia, and there is not a country on the face of this globe that does not double that amount. I do not know that there were any other objections made by any of the speakers that had not been anticipated. As the hon. Minister remarked, the objection that was advanced by the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Ellis) had been advanced and met by me in my introductory remarks. In deference to the wish of the Minister I am willing to withdraw my motion, now that the matter has been ventilated and brought to the attention of the great power which lies behind all these matters, the public sentiment of the country. I will now let this question be discussed and considered by the people. But I may say that I am satisfied the Government would be carrying out the wishes of the country if they were to intimate, indirectly, if they do not wish to do so directly, on the floor of the House, to the British Government in a semi-official manner that the privilege would be given them to enlist men in this country. Now, I will say a word in connection with the recruiting stations that have already been arranged for under an order of the Militia Department for the 100th Regiment. I give the Minister of Militia and Defence fair warning that his recruiting stations for a regiment will be an utter failure, and if he takes my advice, and the advice of men who have studied the question, he will not allow it, because the result will be that it will go abroad that Canadians are not loyal, and do not seek to enlist in the British service. I say that Canadians will not enlist in the British service under British officers, but they will enlist in a Canadian regiment of their own under Canadian officers, men who are familiar with their ways and with their wants and wishes. Then, mark my words, you will fill the ranks of that regiment within twenty-four hours of the first issue of that order. But you will never fill a regiment with Canadians by opening recruiting stations in order to fill up any regiment such as the old Royal Canadian regiment at Halifax. At the request of the Minister and with the consent of the House, I will withdraw the motion.

Mr. A. McNEILL (North Bruce). I do not wish to take any part in

Mr. HUGHES.

the military discussion, not being a military man myself. I venture to say, however, that I think we are fortunate at the present time in having the very able military adviser who has been sent out to us by the mother country, and personally I feel safe in his hands. I am glad to see, from what I find in the press, that that officer and the present Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden) seem to be acting together in such perfect harmony, and in such a thoroughly good spirit. I would not have risen to say a word on this occasion but for two remarks that have fallen from previous speakers. One remark fell a moment ago from my hon. friend with reference to the question of the expenditure of Canada on military matters, and in defence of the Empire. I would only say that I entirely agree with the view that it is not creditable for a great country like Canada to expend only something like 33 cents per head of her population in defence of the Empire of which she forms so great a part. I think that the time has come when, in duty to ourselves if not duty to the Empire, we ought to show that we are not satisfied that the workingmen of England should defend Canada—for that is the position in which we stand to-day. The labouring men in England are paying to defend us, to take care of us, and I think the time has come when we should consider ourselves to be a little too big for that. How best to contribute to the defence of the Empire is another thing. I desire simply to make that one remark. I may say, as I have said before, that I think we ought to have a common fund raised by special tax for the purpose of Imperial defence and inter-communication. I believe that a fund of that kind could be established over the Empire by imposing a small duty, irrespective of any existing duty or any existing tariff, upon goods imported by the Empire from foreign countries. That, I believe could be done, and a defence fund raised in a broad and statesmanlike way as was proposed by Mr. Hoffmeyer long ago. But there was a remark which fell from the hon. Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden) which chiefly caused me to say a word, and that was when he took so much credit to the Government for having given to the mother country preferential trade as against the rest of the world. I do not feel inclined, Mr. Speaker, to sit still and hear a remark of that kind made without entering a protest. I have already said that I do give credit to the Government for having done something which has eventuated in a British preference. I think that credit they deserve, but I cannot go further than that.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). That is enough.

Mr. McNEILL. My right hon. friend says, that is enough.

The PRIME MINISTER. It is a matter for congratulation.

Mr. McNEILL. Yes, it is a matter for congratulation, and I give the right hon. gentleman my congratulations cordially.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Do not go farther than that, because that would spoil it.

Mr. McNEILL. When the Government brought down their tariff in 1897 they had no intention of giving to England any better terms than they gave to the rest of the world. They brought down a tariff, the principle of which was diametrically opposed to preferential trade with England. By bringing down that tariff, as they did, and by the fact that, under the terms named, English goods had to come in immediately with a preference and no other goods could come in under that tariff, immediately, with a preference, until an investigation took place, they accidentally gave preferential trade for the time being. But my right hon. friend knows very well, and the hon. Minister of Militia knows perfectly well, that, when the Government were pressed, over and over again, in this House, to say that they really meant to give a preference to England, in the true sense of the word, they refused to commit themselves to any such policy. The essence of the offer was reciprocity to the world, not only the essence but the literal term of it, and, as explained by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), and by the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), in the most explicit terms, the preference offered to England was offered equally to any country in the world, whose tariff was as favourable to Canada as Schedule D was to that country. This was a curious kind of preference to England. I do not think the Government should have taken very much credit for that preference to England, in view of the fact that the preference to other countries was claimed, within the course of a few weeks and that their goods must have been admitted on the same terms upon which English goods were being admitted. Under the terms of that offer the goods of other countries must have been admitted and there the matter would have stood. But now there is the true preference. Does the Government claim credit for that? Will my right hon. friend say that his action brought about that true preference as distinguished from the preference his Government brought down in 1897? My right hon. friend knows perfectly well that Mr. Chamberlain, in London, told him and told the other premiers, that in order that there should be any preference to England, it was necessary that it should be given 'nominatim.' He pointed out to him, and to the other premiers, that by the terms of the offer that had been made by the Canadian Government, so soon as a minor country, like Holland, was admitted under the offer of their tariff, every other nation had to come in with Holland, no matter how hostile their preference might be. The intention of the Government was that only those countries whose tariffs were as fav-

ourable as our Schedule D was to those countries, should be admitted. Mr. Chamberlain pointed out, in London, to the premiers, the impossibility and absurdity of that offer, because, as he said, as soon as one of these countries was admitted, then, by the most-favoured-nation clause, as he said, almost every great trading country in the world came in, no matter how hostile their tariffs might be. So that the Government were forced to give this true British preference, and when the credit is taken for it by the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence, I do not feel inclined to sit still and allow a statement of that kind to go without entering my protest. The Government were compelled to give a true British preference. Either the Government had to give a true British preference or they had to withdraw that clause from the tariff altogether, one or the other, and as the right hon. Prime Minister, and the hon. Minister who sits beside him (Sir Louis Davies), had stated in England, in the most explicit language, that they were really desirous of giving a true British preference, and as they had received honours by reason of the course they had pursued in that regard, as a matter of course they could not withdraw the clause, and they were compelled by the stress of circumstances to give this true British preference. Therefore, I say, I do not think it was altogether fair that my right hon. friend and his colleagues should claim credit for something which was really wrested out of their hands, which was imposed upon them, which they had absolutely refused to say they were willing to do, and which is directly contrary to the principle of the resolution they placed on record in 1897.

Motion withdrawn.

#### DOMINION RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Mr. S. HUGHES (North Victoria) moved :

That in the opinion of this House, the best interests of the active militia would be advanced were the Government annually to grant transport to, and entrance fees for, the matches of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, to two men or more, not previously prizewinners in the said matches, from each battalion or similar unit of other arms of the active militia of Canada.

He said: In moving this resolution, Mr. Speaker, I may say that I have at heart the interests, not only of the Dominion Rifle Association of Canada, but also of the militia of this country. At the time I gave notice of this motion I was not aware of the proposition which I find in the very excellent report of the General Officer Commanding in the Dominion. I find the same idea in his report, although it is not the same plan exactly, where he proposes centralizing, in a sense, and distributing, in another sense, the interests of rifle shooting in connection with the Dominion Rifle Association matches. I have, for a number of years, been an attendant at the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association matches, and I have, for a number of years, been an officer of that

association. I do not stand here to underestimate or minimize the value of that association to the rifle and militia interests of this country. They are patent; therefore, I need not take up the time of the House in discussing that. However, I feel that the benefits accruing to the country from that association, would be further extended were some such suggestion as the one I have proposed here, carried out. It would stimulate the interest in the objects of this association. At the present time the interest in rifle shooting is largely confined to such centres as Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Victoria, and the few limited centres where the men have the Government rifle ranges at their disposal.

It is a very difficult matter for a rural battalion to pay the expenses of the men to Ottawa, pay their entrance fees to the matches, and pay their board and lodging here. Even if every man who came here won a first prize, he would indeed return home out of pocket. I am free to say, that there are pot-hunters connected with the rifle shooting of the Dominion, but they are very, very few, and, were some such proposition as this carried out, whereby the Government would assume the responsibility of bringing up two of the best new shots in a battalion, we could overcome that difficulty. It is my intention, that the men coming up each year would be men who were not previously prize-winners, and, in that way, at least two new shots could be easily supplied by each corps. Once they developed their ability under the Government patronage, these men would come up year after year, and the old pot-hunters would be got rid of in the only way he ever will be got rid of; that is, by encouraging the rising young shots in the country. The people of British Columbia, I believe, pay the expenses of a few of their shots at Ottawa, and other localities do the same. But, supposing more than the eight who are sent from British Columbia, wish to come to Ottawa, the barriers in their way are insurmountable. In the western part of Ontario, if a rural regiment wants to send a few men down here, the expenses will amount to between from \$30, to \$50 each. Nevertheless, we find that, year after year, young men come from long distances and pay their way to participate in the Dominion rifle matches and take the chance of the honour of their being selected on the Bisley team. I am satisfied, that, if this motion is adopted by the Government, it will improve the shooting, bring in new men, drive out the pot-hunters, and afford a link between the Canadian militia and the Queen's prize. I have reason to believe that a change in the basis of the National Rifle Association is being considered, and I trust the day is not far distant when, under the auspices of the Government, riflemen from every regiment in Canada will have an opportunity of competing in our Dominion rifle matches, stand an equal chance of winning a position on the Bisley team, and, ultimately, of becoming Queen's prize winners. I

Mr. HUGHES.

have great pleasure in moving this resolution, seconded by Colonel Prior.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Before the resolution is put, I would like to make one observation. I had the honour of attending the annual meeting of the rifle association this year, as representing my hon. friend the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden), who happened to be absent, and I listened with very great pleasure to the extremely practical and sensible remarks which were made before that association by His Excellency the Governor General. He more than hinted, that possibly we were spending our money in the wrong direction, and that, while we were cultivating individual shooting in the different battalions throughout the country, we were losing sight of that which experience has now shown to be an essential of all effective work, viz., the training of companies in precision of shooting. The motion of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Hughes) is in the direction of simply singling out a few men in each company, and devoting a great deal of expense and time to enabling these men to become crack shots. We would bring them from regiments in remote parts of the country to compete here, without securing the great practical result which His Excellency referred to. I think His Excellency's remarks were endorsed by the General, when he said that experience had shown that company shooting as a whole was the great essential of all effective field work. I do not wish to discuss the matter further, because I am, perhaps, not competent to do so, but I was deeply impressed with the remarks made on that occasion, and I think my hon. friend the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden)—with whom I have not had an opportunity of conferring since the meeting of the rifle association—if he thinks the matter over, will find that possibly more good will be effected from acting on the suggestion made by His Excellency and the General Commanding, than by spending more money in the development of individual crack shots.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). I think my hon. friend the Minister of Marine (Sir Louis Davies) and the mover of the motion (Mr. Hughes) are perhaps referring to two quite different things. I was not present at the meeting of the rifle association, but I know that for two or three years past the question of volley firing at targets has been considered, and I also know that it is a very important one. While General Gascoigne was here, a commencement was made in that direction, but that shooting will probably take place at the headquarters of each battalion, and will not involve any expenditure, because it will be conducted at the camps. There is now an annual issue of the necessary cartridges, and, instead of firing all their shots individually, as they have been in the habit of doing, the militia companies will fire a certain number of volleys. What my hon.

friend from North Victoria (Mr. Hughes) refers to is something different. I sympathize very much with his views. In fact, I have no hesitation in saying, that it has been my own idea for some time past, that we should restrict even the men going to Bisley to some extent; that, instead of having what is known as pot-hunters, year after year, we should say that, after two years, or three years, or one year for that matter, teams should be composed of entirely new men. This would give new hope for the younger men. As it is now, I know, by personal experience, that the younger men get discouraged. They say: It is no use going into this thing, for here is Mr. A, or Mr. B, or Mr. C, who seems to have possession, and there is no hope of trying to compete with him. If rifle shooting is going to do this country any good, this evil must be overcome, and the exact knowledge of the rifle must be disseminated throughout the whole militia. What we want is a general knowledge of the use of the rifle, and in order to get that, I think we should have some restriction against the pot-hunters, and we should offer some special encouragement to bring a new lot of men into competition. I am entirely in sympathy with the remarks made by my hon. friend from Victoria (Mr. Hughes). I suppose, however, he will be quite willing to leave the carrying into effect of his idea in the hands of the department, and that he will not press his motion to a vote. I will ask the hon. gentleman, therefore, to do what he was good enough to do in the other case, and that is, after having presented his views, in which I entirely concur, withdraw his motion.

Mr. SAM HUGHES (North Victoria). I presume no one wishes to discuss this matter further, and I may say that I would not have put this motion on the paper if I had had access, before the opening of the House, to the very excellent report of the Major-General Commanding. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries is correct in saying that no doubt volley firing is an absolute necessity, but I maintain that a man cannot do well in volley firing unless he can do good individual shooting. I have read up the different authorities at home and in this country on that subject, and I find that a great many of them hold that individual firing after all is very essential. In my opinion, good shooting should not be limited to one or two men in the company, which is the result the present system tends to lead to, but that it should be brought down to the ranks of every company in the Dominion. I have pointed out that under the present system, men in the rural battalions and many men in the city battalions are not in a position to take advantage of the competitions at the Dominion matches, and it is to bring such men to the front that I have proposed this motion. If we could enable men in every battalion to come here and take part in the Dominion matches, the effect would be that every man in the battalion would have a

prize in front of him which would be an incentive to him to perfect his skill. He would no longer feel that he was not in a position to afford to come to Ottawa to take part in these matches, as many men do now, who say, to themselves: It does not matter whether I win first place or not, I cannot afford to go to Ottawa to compete in the Dominion Rifle Association matches, and, consequently, there is no practical benefit to me in keeping up my practice. Such is the feeling to-day, and under this condition of things it is only those men who are ardent sportsmen or who can afford the expense who practise for competition in those matches. The position I take is that in order to have accurate volley firing, we must cultivate individual shooting; and it is with the view of doing so that I make this proposal. As I have said, I would not have made this motion had I seen the report of the Major-General Commanding, and now that the matter is already in such very good hands, I shall withdraw it.  
Motion withdrawn.

#### LIEUT.-GOVERNOR OF B. C. AND TURNER ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria) moved for:

Copies of all petitions addressed to His Excellency the Governor General by members of the Turner Administration in the province of British Columbia respecting the conduct of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of that province, and praying for the appointment of a commission to inquire into the same, together with all papers and correspondence connected with said petition; and also copies of all papers and correspondence in any way relating to the action of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia in dismissing the Turner Administration in the said province.

He said: I very much regret, Mr. Speaker, that I find my duty compels me to make a motion of this kind; but it is of great interest to the country, and especially the province from which I come, that the correspondence and papers I ask for should be brought down. The proceedings of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, with regard to the dismissal of the late Government of that province and the formation of a new one were such that I think they should be ventilated in Parliament, and it is for this reason I consider it my duty to call for the papers. I do not intend to discuss the matter—in fact, I am not at present in a position to do so, nor are the other gentlemen who are much abler than I to treat it from a constitutional standpoint—but after the papers are brought down, I hope to have more to say on the matter.

Motion agreed to.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA JUDGES.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou) moved for:

Copies of all correspondence between the Government of British Columbia and the Government of Canada since July, 1898, to the present date, respecting the Supreme Courts, County Courts or any of the judges for the province aforesaid, the

appointments of said judges or any of them, or other matters relating to the administration of justice in the said province.

He said : My object is to have brought down, as soon as possible, the correspondence I ask for, which cannot be at all lengthy. There have been several appointments, since the date mentioned in the resolution, in British Columbia, and there has been some interesting legislation passed by the local legislature of that province regarding the work of the judiciary there. There have been also some rather extraordinary changes with regard to the salaries of the county court judges, who up to this year received \$500 per annum more than they now do. I do not know myself what the correspondence there really was, but it is tolerably clear to my mind that before or during 1889 there was some correspondence between the local government and the Federal Government with regard to the payment of county court judges, and the sum, if my memory serves me right, that the local authorities undertook to provide was \$500 for certain judges, at any rate, who were to perform, in addition to the duties of county court judges, the duties of stipendiary magistrates in considerable districts. Suddenly, I believe, and without notice, the legislature discontinued voting that \$500, which these judges have previously been voted in addition to the amount provided by this Parliament of \$2,400 per year, so that the incumbents of those positions now find themselves in a position never anticipated by those of them who accepted an appointment when the salary made up by these two legislatures amounted to some \$500 more than they are now getting. If I am not mistaken, there was some correspondence between the Ontario Government and the Federal Government with regard to the adjustment of a similar condition of things in that province. The local legislature of Ontario did not consider the salary paid the judges of the Court of Appeal there by this Government sufficient to secure the services of as strong a court as they would like. Consequently, they were in the habit of voting these judges \$1,000 per annum in addition to the amount voted by this Parliament. There were constitutional questions involved, and that was not considered a proper mode of dealing with that court, so that by arrangements this vote of \$1,000 was stopped in Ontario, but the deficit was made up by this Parliament. I think that the Federal Government, the Justice Department particularly, took objection to the principle of the local authorities supplementing the amount voted for the judges by this House ; but in order that no one should suffer and no wrong be done, this Parliament made the necessary provisions to compensate them for the discontinuance of the vote by the local legislature. It will be interesting to have the correspondence, if there has been any, in connection with the county court judges in the province of British Columbia between this Government and the local gov-

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou).

ernment of British Columbia. Then, no doubt, there was also some correspondence regarding a matter freely discussed in the local press, namely, the appointments to the two vacancies that occurred since July, 1898, in the Supreme Court of that province.

According to newspaper statements and to rumours among members of the bar, the Government endeavoured to make arrangements or to discuss the questions of residence with possible appointees to the Supreme Court, and it was supposed to be a question whether a leading member of the bar in British Columbia should be appointed to the bench, when he would reside in Vancouver instead of Victoria. There are interesting points, if that question comes up, as to how much this Parliament or the Government is at liberty to consider conditions in connection with the appointment of a judge or whether their duty is not a perfunctory one, as the Prime Minister mentioned in connection with this subject of judicial appointments, the duty of the Government simply being to fill vacancies. There are questions, too, of another character. I understand that a leading member of the bar would not take the position on these conditions, and I venture to think that he had the correct opinion of the position and the importance of it and the connection between any member of the bench and the executive. Then there appears to be, and I think this motion will cover the case, correspondence to show how that was brought about. I may refer to Judge Irving. He lives in Victoria in one sense, but is practically all the time in Vancouver. There may be, I have no doubt there is, some correspondence which will explain how it is that he is compelled to make his arrangements as they are now made, although the Chief Justice resides very near Vancouver, in the city of New Westminster. All of these points are covered by the motion which asks for the correspondence since last July, and I will be very glad if the correspondence could be brought down as soon as possible.

Motion agreed to.

#### RAILWAY BRANCHES IN P.E.I.

Mr. ALEXANDER MARTIN (Queen's, P.E.I.) moved for :

All correspondence, petitions, resolutions and other papers in possession of the Government, relating to the proposed branch railway from Southport to Murray Harbour and other proposed railway branches in the province of P.E.I.

He said : A motion of this kind has been brought before Parliament by me on several occasions, but not disposed of. Last session of Parliament met on 3rd day of February. On the 15th February, I gave notice of a motion similar to this. It did not come up for discussion until the 2nd of May. I spoke on the subject that day until six o'clock, when the debate was adjourned, and it did not come up again during that tolerably long session. The same fate had overtaken the motion in two previous sessions.

I think that the leader of the House should make some provision to have such motions concluded during the session of Parliament. At the last session of Parliament, I believe, about 30 motions similar to this were not disposed of before prorogation. I do not say it in any carping spirit, but I think that for the business reputation of this House there should be some way by which such motions would be disposed of. The one I now propose to discuss has been put before this House for three or four sessions, and the correspondence has not yet been brought down. No doubt this motion will cover a great deal of correspondence; a large number of petitions very numerous signed; resolutions passed at public meetings in various parts of the province; and resolutions passed by the Legislature of the province, the majority of whose members are in sympathy with the Government now in power in the Dominion. There were also resolutions passed by the Board of Trade in Prince Edward Island asking this Parliament to carry out the project covered by the motion which I have just read. The agitation for this railway dates back for a period of over 25 years. It is true, perhaps, that it did not come before this Parliament, at least in a tangible form, previous to the year 1895 or 1896, but when the main line of the Prince Edward Island Railway was built and the Tignish and the Souris branches proposed to be constructed, there were promises made that this branch railway would be the first built of the three. But party squabbles at that time defeated the project, and Prince Edward Island shortly afterwards entered confederation. It was supposed that on becoming part of a large country like Canada, that the confederated country would take hold of this project and carry it to a conclusion. But I am very sorry to say that party strife interfered again in carrying out this project, and the measure of justice which Prince Edward Island should have had in the carrying out of this railway extension has not yet been accorded to it. The present Prince Edward Island Railway was in progress of construction at the time of confederation, and I do not suppose there is any person who will dispute that if there was a very great necessity for the building of that road for the advancement of the province then there is a still greater necessity to-day that this project should be carried out. One-fifth of the province is interested in the building of this road, and that proportion of the province is retarded in its growth, progress and development for the want of it. The section traversed by this road is one of the finest in the province of Prince Edward Island, and one of the finest, perhaps, in the whole of Canada. It is peopled by an enterprising, hardy, honest and industrious class of people. But they find a serious drawback in the want of good harbours and proper means of communication. Those harbours are small and in most in-

stances need dredging and attention. As hon. gentlemen are aware, the province is practically cut off during the winter season from communication with the rest of Canada; so much so that in that province we are in a position of what may be called "splendid isolation" during the winter season. True, there is a boat running from one port in the province to the mainland, but the accommodation which that boat gives is not sufficient for the wants of the province. Let me inform this House that Prince Edward Island is the most densely populated of any province in the Dominion; and when I tell you that Prince Edward Island has fifty-four people to the square mile, against 1.5 for the whole of the rest of Canada, it will be understood that though the province is small, its agricultural exports are proportionately large. Being an agricultural country, and the exports being chiefly in the coarser grains, and there being only a limited season in which to ship those products, while that season lasts the people have to improve every opportunity. What remains over after the ice has formed requires a great deal of trouble to ship, and besides there is also a good deal of uncertainty about it. Although we have a boat there which does tolerably fair work, there is still a certain amount of uncertainty, and when produce needs to be shipped the boat may be, and very often is, caught in the ice, so that practically the shipping of that province must be done in a very short period in the spring and fall. Now, the change that has been made with regard to butter and cheese-making, renders it still more necessary that there should be exit from the province during the winter season. A large part of the province is debarred at present from even taking any advantage of the communication which the "Stanley" at present affords. The Dominion of Canada may boast, and think that it is doing a great deal for us in providing a new steamer to replace the "Stanley." But I have this remark to make, and I wish the members of the Government to give some attention to it, that during the time that steamer is performing service in Prince Edward Island in the winter season, the traffic is so great that the boat is self-sustaining, or more than self-sustaining. So that so far as the boat is of service to the province of Prince Edward Island, that province is paying you a quid pro quo, and is not any burden on the Dominion of Canada. I may say that this line is proposed to extend between Southport, opposite Charlottetown, and Murray Harbour, and I am going to make this assertion in regard to the ports between those two points, that there is not one well-equipped harbour between Charlottetown and Murray Harbour South the proposed terminus of this road. I am sure that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries will bear me out in every word I say. Take these harbours seriatim from Murray Harbour South to Charlottetown, and I doubt if there

is one well-equipped harbour on that coast. Take the first one at Murray River. It is naturally a good harbour, but it needs dredging. Private enterprise had to step in and provide the accommodation at Murray River which the Dominion Government have time and again refused to provide, and you still refuse to dredge it. Take the next harbour, that of Wood Island. The late Government, to be sure, spent a good deal of money there, but the harbour is practically of little service. As it is, it either wants dredging or else still further extension of the western block before it is fit for shipping for vessels of any size. Take the next harbour, Belle River. The Minister of Public Works is not in his place, but last session I asked for a very small sum, one or two thousand dollars, to be expended at Belle River, and what answer did I receive? The Minister of Public Works got up and told me that that harbour was not under his control, and he did not spend money on any harbours in this Dominion which were not under his control. I immediately asked for a return showing the amount of money which this Government had spent for three years on harbours over which he had no control, and the answer made me was that the expenditure was so large, and the harbours so numerous in different parts of Canada in which expenditures were made, that he could not bring the return down last session, and it has not yet been laid before the House. So that when an expenditure is wanted in Prince Edward Island the Minister of Public Works can stand up and say: Oh, well, we are not spending any money on private harbours, I can spend no money on a harbour not under my control, but when it comes to a harbour in Quebec or some other province, the money is freely voted.

#### REPORTED SEIZURE OF SLOOP "DOROTHY."

Mr. PRIOR. Mr. Speaker, before you leave the Chair at six o'clock, I wish to be allowed to put a question to the right hon. leader of the Government in regard to a matter of great importance, to my mind. I see a telegram in the "Citizen" this morning from Vancouver, which says:

United States customs authorities at Skagway have seized the sloop "Dorothy," belonging to Vancouver parties, for alleged failure to report at an American port. The news of this capture has aroused intense indignation here, and it is looked upon as a spiteful bit of retaliation on the part of the local American customs officials.

I would ask the right hon. gentleman if he can tell the House whether any information of that proceeding has been received by the Government.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I can only say that up to this moment I have received no intimation of it.

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

Mr. MARTIN.

#### After Recess

Mr. MARTIN. Mr. Speaker, before you left the Chair, I was referring to the harbours on the south coast of Prince Edward Island, between Charlottetown and the proposed terminus of the railway. I made the assertion, that there was no shipping port between these two points adequate to the trade of that section of the country. I was proceeding to refer to those harbours, one after another, and I referred to the harbour of Belle River. The next harbour contiguous to Belle River is Pinette harbour. This harbour is one in whose interest the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries has often pleaded, when he was on this side of the House, but I am afraid that he has forgotten what he has said so often in reference to the inadequacy of the shipping accommodation there. I hope, Sir, that, perhaps, this session that harbour may receive some attention. Take next the harbour of Vernon River. Perhaps the hon. members of this House may not be acquainted with that harbour, but I am sure the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries knows the difficulties that harbour has to contend with. That harbour has been in need of dredging for years. The hon. Minister himself has, time and again, during thirteen or fourteen years, advocated the dredging of that harbour, but since he has crossed the floor to that side of the House he has forgotten it completely. Take the next harbour to Vernon River—China Point, and it has a history. The pier at China Point has floated down the river, and has been in that condition for two or three years. I think there was an appropriation of \$500 a few years ago, and an appropriation last session of \$2,000, but I do not think that there is any accommodation for shipping at that point yet. Take the next harbours from China Point—Pownal and Alexandria. These two harbours need attention. I may say, what I said at first, that there is not one well-equipped harbour between Charlottetown and the proposed terminus of this road. The expenditure on these harbours in Prince Edward Island has been very small; there is more spent on one harbour in some of the other provinces in this Dominion than in the whole province of Prince Edward Island. It may be said, that, if you improve the harbour on the south side of the province, there will be no necessity for this road. You must remember that there is a large inland section, and you must also remember the conditions there in consequence of the peculiar position of Prince Edward Island, and that, during the whole of the winter season, communication with the Dominion necessitates ample accommodation for shipping before they are frozen in. But there is also another argument which I might place before the House, in regard to the necessity of this road. Hon. members are probably aware that the steamer which plies between Pictou and the port of George

town has, time and again, been caught out in the ice. The proposed terminus of this road would provide an alternative place for landing passengers and freight. During this last season, the ice-boat floated helplessly in the gulf for eighteen days. After floating helplessly in the gulf for eighteen days, she had to land passengers very near the proposed terminus. Some years ago the boat had been in the gulf ten or twelve days, caught in the same way. So that this road would provide a landing place for the passengers and freight and carry them to their different destinations all over the province. When I make this statement, I think I am justified in saying, that the building of this road is of Dominion importance, as it affords an alternative route for landing the passengers of the ice-boat during the winter season. I may say, also, and I do not think it will be contradicted, that this proposed railway will be a feeder to the main line in Prince Edward Island. I am here to say that one of the great mistakes that was made in regard to the Prince Edward Island Railway was in regard to the fixing of such high rates. The rate on the Prince Edward Island road is the same as on the Intercolonial Railway, but when you consider that the Prince Edward Island Railway is only a cheap narrow gauge road, and when you consider further that it has fifty per cent of a curvature—I believe that is the report in regard to it—you will find that before you make two miles of progress on that road you will have to pay for three miles of travel. Therefore, the rate being 3 cents a mile you have actually to pay four and a half cents per mile; you pay one-third as much more for actual travel on the Prince Edward Island Railway as you do on the Intercolonial Railway, which is comparatively straight. The same holds good with regard to freight, and I contend that there was almost a crime perpetrated on the people of the province—there certainly was a barrier placed against the success of the road, when the rates were fixed on the same basis as on a railway which cost three times as much to build. I am aware that these rates were fixed as far back as 1875, and I am well pleased that a Conservative Government never fixed these rates, although I blame the Conservative Government for leaving the rates so high for such a long period of years. The Liberal party will now redeem itself in my eyes, and in the eyes of the people of that province, and of the whole of Canada, if it reduces the rates on the Prince Edward Island Railway to a fair and equitable basis as compared with the Intercolonial Railway. I referred to the starting point of this road as being at Southport, and I may say that it will pass through some of the richest parts of the province. Starting at Southport it passes in the vicinity of Kippock, Alexandria, Pownal, Village Green, Millview, Cherry Valley, Mount Herbert, Donagh, Johnson's River, Auburn, Fort Augustus, Pilsquid, Fairview and Avondale. Turning to

the south, it goes through or not far from the flourishing sections of Vernon River, Orwell, Alberry Plains, Uigg, Kenross, Dundee, Fairville, Lyndale, Valleyfield, Grandview, Newton, Belfast, Montague, Surrey, Garlaich Middleton, Melville, Flat River, Caledonia. Let me say here, and I hope the Minister of Marine (Sir Louis Davies) will give me his attention, at this particular point, there is a very large interior section of the country here, which, perhaps, it is rather difficult to place in communication with railways, for there would no doubt be a good deal of trouble in getting a line so as to accommodate a large portion of this section, unless great care were taken to select a proper route. I may say that the proposal of the late Government to build a spur at some point of the new line by the way of Montague Bridge was a good one, and unless that is done, the beneficial results which will arise from the building of this road will to some extent not be fulfilled. I do hope, although the road has been surveyed, that the Minister of Railways will seriously consider this and that the Government will consider the desirability of the short spur I have mentioned. Now that conditions have changed in Prince Edward Island, and that we have shipping in the winter months of fresh fish, butter, poultry, &c., it is all the more important that ten or twelve miles of railway should be built here, which would serve a large section of lots 59, 61, 63 and the eastern parts of lots 57 and 58. I wish to call the attention of the Minister of Marine to that, and trust that he will have it carried out by the Government. The road turns at this point to Murray River, and passes through or in the vicinity of Wood Island, Culloden, Mount Vernon, Iris, Dover, Glen William, Peters' Road, Little Sands, High Bank, White Sands, Hopefield and from Murray River down to deep water at Murray Harbour South. As I said, it will afford an alternative route in the winter, should the steamer "Stanley" be caught in the ice as she has been time and again for some years past. Some hon. members of this House may think it a light thing that a steamer loaded with freight and passengers should be floating about ten or fourteen days in the ice. If you build this road and make this the proposed terminus, it will give you an alternative route for that steamer in the winter, and you are doing a work that is not only beneficial to the province, but which assumes Dominion importance. This spur line will be a great accommodation to the farmers and fishermen for shipping in the winter season. It will shorten the route over which they have to ship about four-fifths, and I need hardly say that that is quite an item in shipping freight. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not think that any good reason can be shown why the construction of the proposed road should not be proceeded with. True, you may say that Prince Island is the smallest

province in the Dominion; you may say that province has no influence; you may continue to build railways all over the rest of Canada; you may not only do that, but you may build parallel lines of railway, as has been done between Quebec and Montreal; and you may compel Prince Edward Island to pay its share of the interest of the construction of these roads; the Government, I say, may continue to do that, but all the time the Government is doing an injustice to Prince Edward Island. You will remember that a proposal was made some years ago for the admission of Newfoundland into this great Dominion, but Newfoundland saw clearly what was happening in Prince Edward Island; it saw that Prince Edward Island had to bear its share of the railway and canal expenditure all over the Dominion, and got nothing in return, and so Newfoundland said: We will likely receive the same treatment at the hands of this great confederation as Prince Edward Island is receiving, and we will not enter. The same thing happened not very long ago when the Australasian provinces were propounding a scheme of confederation. New Zealand refused to join the confederation, because the larger interests of the greater colonies would probably extinguish the smaller interests of New Zealand. Need I refer to the case of Ireland. Ireland has suffered in the same way. There we find that the strong have oppressed the weak, and the weak have hated the strong; but I hope that you will not introduce into Prince Edward Island the same element of discord by refusing to grant a small measure of justice to that province.

A great objection has been raised against the building of this road in Prince Edward Island by the statement that the railway there was built at the cost of this Dominion. Now, I need not, I think, to any of the hon. gentlemen who heard me last year, refute that fiction again; but, lest there may be any here who did not learn the true position of affairs in regard to that railway, I will refer to it again. When I spoke on this question last year, I quoted the very highest authority which I think anybody could bring before this Parliament to show that Prince Edward Island paid every dollar of its own railway expenditure. What I quoted from to prove that assertion was an Order of the Privy Council of Great Britain passed in the year 1873, when Prince Edward Island entered the confederation, which runs as follows:—

By Order in Council dated Windsor, 26th June, 1873, Her Majesty thought fit to approve the terms and conditions set forth in the Addresses from the Houses of Parliament of Canada and from the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, May, 1873, and it was declared by Her Majesty: "From and after the 1st day of July, 1873, Prince Edward Island should be admitted and become part of the Dominion."

By the resolutions which formed the basis of union it was provided "that the railways under

Mr. MARTIN.

contract and in course of construction for the Government of the Island shall become the property of Canada."

To carry out the above provision it was agreed that the cost of the railway should be borne by the Dominion, and the money so paid, charged as a debt against the Island.

Hon. members will notice the last part of that sentence.

Besides this minute of council, I placed before the House, when addressing it on another occasion, a statement of the different amounts which were charged against Prince Edward Island for the construction of that railway, and I will read that statement again for the information of the House:

|       |    | \$   | cts.           |
|-------|----|--|----------------|
| 1873. |    |  |                |
| July  | 1  | Debit against the province for railway debentures issued..                 | 1,324,606 54   |
| "     | 29 | Draft paid on account P. E. I. Railway .....                               | 110,063 33     |
| Aug.  | 11 | Paid on contractor's account per A. Drummond .....                         | 83,133 00      |
| "     | 11 | Interest on \$100,000, unpaid warrants from June, 1873..                   | 493 15         |
| Sept. | 17 | Paid A. Drummond on railway account .....                                  | 143,068 37     |
| Nov.  | 18 | " " " ..   | 135,528 50     |
| Dec.  | —  | " " " ..   | 32,406 35      |
| 1874. |    |  |                |
| Jan.  | 19 | Paid contractor on railway account .....                                   | 1,072 67       |
| Feb.  | 5  | Bill of exchange on railway account .....                                  | 103,848 39     |
| "     | 25 | " " " ..   | 23,207 30      |
| May   | 14 | " " " ..   | 19,511 55      |
| Mar.  | 23 | " " " ..   | 2,160 00       |
| April | 16 | " " " ..   | 11,818 43      |
| May   | 12 | " " " ..   | 88,340 69      |
| June  | 19 | " " " ..   | 26,108 80      |
| "     | 19 | " " " ..   | 229,725 86     |
| Aug.  | 31 | Baring Bros., on account P. E. I. Railway .....                            | 72,590 09      |
| Sept. | 30 | Glynn, Mills & Co., on account P. E. I. Railway .....                      | 238,511 83     |
| Oct.  | 31 | " " " ..   | 106,077 00     |
| Nov.  | 30 | Baring Bros., on account P. E. I. Railway .....                            | 89,236 39      |
| Dec.  | 31 | Glynn, Mills & Co., on account P. E. I. Railway .....                      | 84,884 67      |
| 1875. |    |  |                |
| Oct.  | 30 | Paid Bank of Montreal P. E. I. Railway account .....                       | 140,000 00     |
| 1878. |    |  |                |
| Jan.  | 1  | Payment on account of land damages, P. E. I. Railway.                      | 38,815 36      |
| Sept. | 13 | Paid Hon. G. W. DeBlois, on account of land damages...                     | 30,355 98      |
| 1882. |    |  |                |
| Dec.  | 15 | Paid Provincial Secretary land damages on account P. E. I. Railway .....   | 8,174 00       |
| 1888. |    |  |                |
| July  | 25 | To Provincial Secretary on account of land damages, P. E. I. Railway ..... | 375 00         |
|       |    |  |                |
|       |    | Total .....  | 81 07          |
|       |    |  | \$3,144,214 41 |

This was the sum with which Prince Edward Island was charged for the construction of that railway. I may say—and it is a

proud boast for the province of Prince Edward Island—that this is the largest expenditure per head made by any province of Canada for railways—very much the largest. On the basis of the population of Prince Edward Island in the year 1873 when we entered the Dominion, it would amount to \$32.50 per head. No other province of Canada, as I have said, has expended nearly as much. Even the debt which Canada incurred for the construction of the great Canadian Pacific Railway, which is now the admiration of the world, is not as great comparatively as the debt which the little province of Prince Edward Island incurred in constructing its railway in 1875. The cost to the taxpayers of Canada for the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway was only \$15 per head of the population of Canada as against \$32.50 per head which the people of Prince Edward Island had the enterprise to incur years before in the construction of their railway. Yet we find some hon. members in doubt as to whether Prince Edward Island ever paid a cent for railways. Let me call attention to the railway expenditure by the Dominion. I am going to refer to a return which was issued by the hon. Minister of Railways in the year 1896, asked for by me, showing the expenditure by the Dominion Government on railways since 1873, when Prince Edward Island entered the Dominion :

Statement showing separately the amount of money expended in each province of the Dominion and in the North-west Territories by the Dominion Government, from the 1st day of July, 1873, to the 28th September, 1896, for constructing, equipping and subsidizing railways in Canada :

|                           |                  | Per capita. |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Ontario .....             | \$29,889,153 51  | \$14 13     |
| Quebec .....              | 14,666,937 61    | 9 85        |
| New Brunswick.....        | 9,045,538 07     | 28 15       |
| Nova Scotia.....          | 14,718,155 81    | 32 69       |
| Manitoba .....            | 8,024,432,37     | 52 61       |
| British Columbia .....    | 21,441,700 42    | 218 40      |
| North-west Territories... | 7,604,819 60     | 76 84       |
| Prince Edward Island....  | 635,830 27       | 5 82        |
|                           | <hr/>            |             |
|                           | \$106,026,567 00 | \$66 00     |

This Dominion, therefore, had expended in many provinces of Canada over four times as much as in Prince Edward Island, while Prince Edward Island, on the other hand, out of its own resources, paid over four times as much as many of the provinces of the Dominion. I extended that return down to the 30th June, 1898, which shows figures still more favourable to Prince Edward Island, and I submit it in tabulated form :

Statement showing expenditure made by the Dominion Government in each of the provinces, separately, from the 1st July, 1873, to 30th June, 1898 :

|                     |                 | Per capita. |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Ontario .....       | \$30,323,705 51 | or \$14 34  |
| Quebec .....        | 15,382,381 03   | 10 33       |
| New Brunswick ..... | 9,215,361 14    | 28 68       |

|                         |                  | Per Capita. |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Nova Scotia .....       | 15,037,780 40    | 34 27       |
| Manitoba .....          | 8,024,432 37     | 52 61       |
| British Columbia.....   | 21,962,072 09    | 223 70      |
| North-west Territories. | 7,604,819 60     | 76 84       |
| Prince Edward Island..  | 653,372 15       | 6 10        |
|                         | <hr/>            |             |
| Total .....             | \$108,208,924 29 | \$22 38     |

While, therefore, we have been spending millions of dollars all over the rest of Canada on railways, Prince Edward Island has to put up with nearly the same railway accommodation she had when she entered confederation in 1873. Even that does not tell the whole story. Besides those large sums I have mentioned, we have given away of the heritage of this country 53,000,000 acres of land to build railways in other parts of the country in which Prince Edward Island had no direct interest. I ask again how in the face of those large expenditures in other parts of the Dominion, compared with the small pittance expended in Prince Edward Island, can you refuse to Prince Edward Island the small amount required for the construction of this railway ?

Now, I am going to submit to the House a statement of the expenditures made by the provinces, and I am going a little more minutely into that to show that the contention I have made with regard to the railway expenditure in Prince Edward Island as compared with the other provinces, is correct, namely, that Prince Edward Island has expended out of her own resources far beyond the amount expended by any other province. I have here a tabulated statement which I submitted last year of the expenditure by the local governments and municipalities of the various provinces on railway construction up to the 30th June, 1896. That statement is as follows :-

|                        |              |                        |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Ontario—               |              |                        |
| Local government ..... | \$ 7,306,538 |                        |
| Municipalities .....   | 10,069,143   |                        |
|                        | <hr/>        |                        |
|                        | \$17,375,681 |                        |
|                        |              | Or \$8.21 per capita.  |
| Quebec—                |              |                        |
| Local government.....  | \$12,409,008 |                        |
| Municipalities .....   | 482,075      |                        |
|                        | <hr/>        |                        |
|                        | \$12,991,082 |                        |
|                        |              | Or \$8.72 per capita.  |
| New Brunswick—         |              |                        |
| Local government ..... | \$ 4,169,729 |                        |
| Municipalities .....   | 273,500      |                        |
|                        | <hr/>        |                        |
|                        | \$4,443,229  |                        |
|                        |              | Or \$13.83 per capita. |
| Nova Scotia—           |              |                        |
| Local government ..... | \$ 2,376,116 |                        |
| Municipalities .....   | 261,685      |                        |
|                        | <hr/>        |                        |
|                        | \$2,637,801  |                        |
|                        |              | Or \$5.85 per capita.  |
| Manitoba—              |              |                        |
| Local government ..... | \$ 770,677   |                        |
| Municipalities .....   | 595,600      |                        |
|                        | <hr/>        |                        |
|                        | \$1,376,277  |                        |
|                        |              | Or \$9.02 per capita.  |

|                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| British Columbia—       |                        |
| Local government .....  | \$ 37,500              |
| Municipalities .....    | 57,500                 |
|                         | \$75,000               |
|                         | Or 76c. per capita.    |
| North-west Territories— |                        |
| Local government .....  | .....                  |
| Municipalities .....    | \$ 25,000              |
|                         | \$25,000               |
|                         | Or 25c. per capita.    |
| Prince Edward Island—   |                        |
| Local government .....  | \$ 3,144,214           |
|                         | \$3,144,214            |
|                         | Or \$28.82 per capita. |

So that according to this tabulated statement, which is correct, no other province has paid as much as Prince Edward Island out of its own resources on railway construction. But last year when I made this statement, the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), who I am sorry is not in his seat, asked if this expenditure by Prince Edward Island was made previous to confederation or since. I replied that it did not change the question very much, when that expenditure was made, because the sums paid by the provinces on railways previous to confederation were charged against them in their debt to Canada, and as Prince Edward Island had no debt on entering confederation, outside of her railway expenditure, she would to-day be drawing interest on the sum of \$3,140,000 from the time of confederation up to the present day if she had not made that large railway expenditure. I may say this, that if we take the period previous to confederation and include the expenditure previous to confederation by the provinces, as the hon. Minister of Finance seems to indicate it should be included, it will not change the figures very much. In fact, it will not change those figures at all, as far as the province of Ontario and Quebec are concerned, because they never spent a dollar on railways previous to confederation, while Nova Scotia and New Brunswick spent pretty largely. Let me read for the information of the House an extract from the Minister of Railways' report, which bears out the assertion I am making. On page 10 of that report for 1898, you will find the following:—

The Government expenditure on railways prior to and since the date of confederation (1867), amounts, on capital account, to \$123,551,091.77, including a payment of \$25,000,000 to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and for railway subsidies charged against the Consolidated Fund, the further sum of \$17,619,222.11, making a total expenditure of \$140,834,731.39. In addition, there has been an expenditure since confederation for working expenses of \$73,029,631.71, covering the maintenance and operation of Government roads, or a grand total of \$213,863,363.03; all of which, with the exception of \$13,881,460.65, has been expended on railways during the past thirty-one years.

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This shows that only \$13,000,000 was spent on railways altogether, previous to confederation. Of that sum, there was spent in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick \$10,766,725.54, and the remainder of it, over \$3,000,000, was spent in Prince Edward Island. So that, if you take the expenditure prior to confederation, and include it in the statement I laid before the House, it will be as follows, giving to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia credit for the expenditure they had made previous to confederation. That would be a perfectly fair statement for all, including those provinces that had no expenditures under this head prior to confederation. I submit this statement, also, in tabulated form:

| Province.                  | Total.     | Provincial aid per Capita. |
|----------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
|                            | \$         | § cts.                     |
| Ontario .....              | 17,375,681 | 8 21                       |
| Quebec .....               | 12,991,082 | 8 72                       |
| New Brunswick.....         | 9,085,713  | 28 21                      |
| Nova Scotia.....           | 8,762,222  | 19 45                      |
| Manitoba.....              | 1,376,801  | 9 02                       |
| British Columbia .....     | 75,000     | 0 76                       |
| North-west Territories ... | 25,000     | 0 25                       |
| Prince Edward Island . .   | 3,144,214  | 28 82                      |

This statement is brought down to the 30th June, 1896. But, if we carry the statement down to 30th June, 1898, it will be found still more favourable to the province of Prince Edward Island. The following are the figures:—

| Province.                   | Total.     | Per Capita. |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|
|                             | \$         | § cts.      |
| Ontario .....               | 17,644,962 | 8 34        |
| Quebec .....                | 13,404,036 | 9 00        |
| New Brunswick .....         | 9,116,575  | 28 37       |
| Nova Scotia.....            | 8,696,042  | 19 30       |
| Manitoba .....              | 1,366,277  | 9 02        |
| British Columbia .....      | 37,500     | 0 38        |
| North-west Territories..... | .....      | Nil         |
| Prince Edward Island ....   | 3,144,214  | 28 82       |

Now, I wish to contrast the expenditures made by the provinces and the aid given by the Dominion to railways in the provinces in order to show this House that the province of Prince Edward Island has not been as generously dealt with by the Dominion in regard to railways as other provinces, although, as the smallest province, it might fairly expect to have the largest measure of justice. I will re-read the statement I have already given, together with the statement showing Dominion aid, in order to contrast these expenditures:

But, if this comparison is brought down to June, 1898, the figures are as follows:—

Dominion aid per Capita in each Province. Provincial aid per Capita in each Province.

|                |          |                |         |
|----------------|----------|----------------|---------|
| Ontario .....  | \$ 14 13 | Ontario .....  | \$ 8 21 |
| Quebec .....   | 9 85     | Quebec .....   | 8 72    |
| N. Brunswick.. | 28 15    | N. Brunswick.. | 28 21   |
| Nova Scotia .. | 32 69    | Nova Scotia .. | 19 45   |
| Manitoba ..... | 52 61    | Manitoba ..... | 9 02    |
| B. Columbia .. | 218 40   | B. Columbia .. | 0 76    |
| N. W. T. ....  | 76 84    | N. W. T. ....  | 0 25    |
| P. E. I. ....  | 5 82     | P. E. I. ....  | 28 82   |

This contrast is brought down to the 30th June, 1896. If we were to bring the comparison down so as to cover the period between 1896 and 1898, the statement would be still more favourable to the province of Prince Edward Island. The following is a statement in tabular form, giving the aid per capita to 30th June, 1898, by the Dominion and the provinces respectively:—

Dominion aid per Capita in each Province. Provincial and Municipal aid per Capita in each Province.

|                |          |                |         |
|----------------|----------|----------------|---------|
| Ontario .....  | \$ 14 34 | Ontario .....  | \$ 8 34 |
| Quebec .....   | 10 33    | Quebec .....   | 9 00    |
| N. Brunswick.. | 28 68    | N. Brunswick.. | 28 37   |
| Nova Scotia .. | 34 27    | Nova Scotia .. | 19 30   |
| Manitoba ..... | 52 61    | Manitoba ..... | 9 02    |
| B. Columbia .. | 223 70   | B. Columbia .. | 0 38    |
| N. W. T. ....  | 76 84    | N. W. T. ....  | nil.    |
| P. E. I. ....  | 6 10     | P. E. I. ....  | 28 82   |

Now, Sir, I do not think there is any one but will say that, so far as railway expenditure is concerned, the province of Prince Edward Island has nobly done its part. Let us look at it from another standpoint. We will take the railway mileage of every province in the Dominion, and consider the Dominion aid given, in proportion to that mileage. This table I bring down to the 30th June, 1896:

| Province.           | Railway mileage. | DOMINION AID. |              |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
|                     |                  | Total.        | Per Mile.    |
|                     |                  | \$            | cts.         |
| Ontario.....        | 6,568            | 29,889,153    | 57 4,550 72  |
| Quebec.....         | 3,159            | 14,666,937    | 61 4,643 21  |
| New Brunswick...    | 1,420            | 9,045,538     | 02 6,370 09  |
| Nova Scotia .....   | 916              | 14,718,155    | 81 16,067 85 |
| Manitoba .....      | 1,474            | 8,024,432     | 37 5,443 98  |
| British Columbia..  | 860              | 21,441,700    | 42 24,932 20 |
| N. W. Territories.. | 1,780            | 7,604,819     | 60 4,216 19  |
| P. E. Island...     | 211              | 635,830       | 27 3,013 41  |

| Province.           | Railway mileage. | DOMINION AID. |              |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
|                     |                  | Total.        | Per Mile.    |
|                     |                  | \$            | cts.         |
| Ontario.....        | 6,674            | 30,328,705    | 51 4,544 30  |
| Quebec.....         | 3,315            | 15,382,381    | 03 4,640 00  |
| New Brunswick....   | 1,447            | 9,215,361     | 14 6,368 66  |
| Nova Scotia .....   | 933              | 15,037,780    | 40 16,117 66 |
| Manitoba .....      | 1,621            | 8,024,432     | 37 5,443 98  |
| British Columbia..  | 892              | 21,962,072    | 09 24,621 16 |
| N. W. Territories.. | 1,778            | 7,604,819     | 60 4,216 19  |
| P. E. Island.....   | 210              | 653,372       | 15 3,111 29  |

Now, if we contrast that with the mileage in each province, and the aid which each province has given towards the construction of those roads, the statement will be as follows:—

| Province.           | Ry. Mileage in each. | Provincial Aid. |              | Aid Per Mile |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
|                     |                      | \$              | cts.         |              |
|                     |                      | \$              | cts.         |              |
| Ontario.....        | 6,674                | 17,644,962      | 00 2,613 90  |              |
| Quebec.....         | 3,315                | 13,404,036      | 42 4,043 45  |              |
| N. Brunswick.....   | 1,447                | 9,116,575       | 10 6,301 01  |              |
| Nova Scotia.....    | 933                  | 8,696,042       | 68 9,320 51  |              |
| Manitoba.....       | 1,621                | 1,366,277       | 50 842 85    |              |
| B. Columbia.....    | 892                  | 37,500          | 00 42 00     |              |
| N. W. Territories.. |                      |                 |              |              |
| P. E. Island.....   | 210                  | 3,144,214       | 00 14,901 40 |              |

Now, I wish to call the attention of the House to these figures. I think they are of some importance in a discussion of this question. You will find that these statements bear very directly on the question. If the Dominion of Canada gives at the rate of \$3,000 for every mile of railway in Prince Edward Island, and that province out of its own resources, gives \$14,000 to the mile; if Quebec receives from the Dominion Government at the rate of \$6,370 per mile and only gives out of its own resources \$4,043, it appears to me that these figures show that some of the provinces have been doing more than their share of railway construction. I point out especially that the province from which I come has paid more than its share of that work, and when I come to this House and ask for a small expenditure, I think I come with a very good case.

I am going to refer to one other feature of the question which I think ought to be of some interest to this House; I am going to submit a state-

ment of the railway mileage, and I wish the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to give me his attention :

| Province.                  | Miles of Railway. | Population per Mile. |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Ontario.....               | 6,568             | 321                  |
| Quebec.....                | 3,159             | 470                  |
| New Brunswick.....         | 1,420             | 226                  |
| Nova Scotia.....           | 916               | 490                  |
| Manitoba.....              | 1,474             | 103                  |
| British Columbia.....      | 860               | 114                  |
| North-west Territories ... | 1,780             | 55                   |
| Prince Edward Island ....  | 211               | 517                  |
| Whole Dominion.....        | 16,388            | 294                  |

Now, Sir, Prince Edward Island is by far the most densely-populated province of the Dominion. There is no doubt that the railway mileage of every country increases according to the density of population. Take the world over, and you will find that the railway mileage increases directly according to population. But here you have the province of Prince Edward Island, with the densest population, containing 54 people to the square mile against 1·5 for the rest of the Dominion, and yet having the smallest railway mileage in Canada. I think this fact shows clearly that the railway mileage of Prince Edward Island ought to be increased so as to bear a nearer ratio to its population. The density of population to the square mile in Canada is 1·5; for Manitoba, 2·4; for British Columbia, 1·3; Quebec, 6·5; for Ontario, 10; for New Brunswick, 11·4; for Nova Scotia, 22; while for Prince Edward Island it is 54. That was not the condition of affairs in regard to railway mileage when Prince Edward Island entered confederation. At that time it had one mile of railway for every 480 of the population; while the Dominion as a whole had only one mile for every 1,006 of the population. That is to say, while the population of the whole Dominion has only increased 33 per cent for the last 31 years, the railway mileage has increased 700 per cent. I think it is something to be proud of that the railway mileage of this country has increased 700 per cent since confederation. But in Prince Edward Island the railway mileage has only increased 6 per cent.

While you may boast, and we all may boast of the large railway expenditure of Canada, of this system of railways infusing life in the trade of the country, I say it is something to be proud of, but we have nothing to be proud of as far as railway extension in Prince Edward Island is concerned. When we entered the union, we had a mile of railway for every 480 people, but we have not that to-day. You have increased your railway mileage 700 per cent, and have increased your population 33 per cent. Our population increased 14 per cent, and

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you give us this small increase of 6 per cent of railway mileage. I think, when hon. members consider this, they cannot, with a proper sense of fair-play, exclude Prince Edward Island from participating in that railway expansion, which is the proud boast of Canada. Now, I will refer to this question from another standpoint, and, I think, a standpoint which cannot successfully be assailed. I may say, that I have gone into the figures in regard to the expenditure in different provinces. I did that, because, when I came to this House some years ago, I was met on either side of the House by members, saying, "Oh, but you have a splendid railway system in Prince Edward Island." I said, "We have nothing to thank the Dominion for, because our own province built it." But there was a number of members who said, that Prince Edward Island did not pay for its railway facilities. So, I have to give these facts minutely, in support of what I say, in order to place this question before the House in its true light.

Now, let me refer to the terms under which Prince Edward Island entered this confederation in 1873. You may remember, that Prince Edward Island at first refused to enter confederation. I have no doubt that, to some extent at least, the province foresaw the conditions of things that exist to-day, that in this great Dominion large expenditures would be incurred from which that small province would hardly have any direct or indirect benefit, although it would certainly be called upon to shoulder the interest on these vast expenditures of money. There was something else, in the case of Prince Edward Island entering the Dominion, it was different from that of the other provinces. When confederation was formed, the other provinces were allowed to enter on the basis of a certain ascertained debt, on the basis of the debt of Old Canada and the debt of the several provinces. But, when Prince Edward Island, a few years later, entered confederation, the debt of Canada had been increased, and not only had the debt been increased, but the Dominion of Canada was pledged to large expenditures on public works. Prince Edward Island said: If we enter the Dominion of Canada we will not only have to come in with a proportionate debt equal to the larger debt which stands against the Dominion to-day, but also with a quid pro quo for the proposed expenditures on railways and canals. I have here, Sir, a statement showing the basis on which Prince Edward Island entered the union in 1873, which I have, for convenience, in tabulated form. The debt of Canada in 1873 was \$82,187,072; but, besides that debt, there was an authorized expenditure on canals of \$25,000,000, on the Intercolonial Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway, of \$40,000,000, and there were other expenditures authorized of \$14,000,000. That would be, that in 1873, with the debt and the authorized expenditure on

canals, the Intercolonial Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway, there would be standing against the Dominion \$161,187,072. On that basis Prince Edward Island entered the Dominion. That basis, according to population, would give Prince Edward Island a debt equal to \$4,701,000 on entering this Dominion. But this large expenditure, which the delegates were told would be the authorized expenditure, was largely exceeded, and, if the delegates who came up here in 1873, had for one moment anticipated that the Dominion of Canada would not keep within the authorized expenditures on canals, on the Intercolonial Railway and on the Canadian Pacific Railway, there is a very grave doubt, in my mind, whether the union would have been consummated, at least without some further advantage to Prince Edward Island. When these authorized expenditures, which was the basis of the union in 1873, were exceeded, there is no doubt that Prince Edward Island ought to demand, and she does demand, some equivalent. I have been at some pains to take from the Public Accounts what the excess of expenditure was. I will say that, if these expenditures had been kept within the figures submitted to the delegates from Prince Edward Island in 1873, I would have nothing to say; though the province had a right to expect that she should have a fair share of the expenditures since. Not only has that not been the case, but the expenditures which were the basis of union, have been exceeded by sums which I am going to read. The actual expenditure, since 1873, on canals is \$51,538,691.89. The actual expenditure on the Canadian Pacific Railway is \$62,214,584.89, and on the Intercolonial Railway, \$35,569,140.39, or, altogether, an expenditure of \$149,322,417.17. Now, Sir, the authorized expenditure, which was the basis upon which the province of Prince Edward Island entered confederation, was only \$65,000,000 on those three public works; but the authorized expenditure, which was the basis of union, went up to \$149,322,000, or, in round figures, \$150,000,000. Thus the Dominion to the extent of \$85,000,000, exceeded the expenditure which Prince Edward Island was assured would be the expenditure on the canals, Intercolonial Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway. Now, Sir, Prince Edward Island being one-fortieth of the population of Canada, one-fortieth of that over-expenditure may fairly be claimed as her share of that expenditure. That would give Prince Edward Island, as her share, \$2,100,000. I say that should be the claim of Prince Edward Island on those three items alone; that is, on the excess of the expenditure on these public works. But that would not be all. You will remember that in the year 1883 there was a new departure made by the Dominion Government in reference to railway expenditures. Previous to 1883 there were no expenditures made on railways which were not of Dominion importance, and the

British North America Act did not allow those expenditures; that is, railways which would not connect two or more provinces together. But in 1883 it was said the resources of the provinces were inadequate to building railways, and that the Dominion Government would have to come to their rescue, and consequently since then the Dominion Government have gone largely into the business of building railways which were merely local. When you expend public money in one province it is only reasonable that each other province should receive some corresponding proportion of that expenditure. I declare, Sir, that that has not been done so far as Prince Edward Island is concerned. You may say that you have built twelve miles of railroad in the province, but I have something to say about that, for I think it is worth while to give the House some idea of what benefit these twelve miles are. Remember, it is the only foot of road that has ever been built by the Dominion Government there, and I will tell you what it amounts to. To show you the commercial value of this piece of line, I will say that it was built altogether for the purpose of carrying Her Majesty's mails from Cape Traverse to Emerald. There is not a harbour worthy of the name at the terminus, so that in the summer season when that 12 miles of railway would be of any service, there is no accommodation for a steamer, and as a matter of fact there is no steamer plying there. In the winter season, the only part of the year that it is of any little service, what is the condition of affairs? I think I referred to this a few years ago, and I asked my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) if he could remedy it, but it was overlooked. Now, as to its commercial importance in the winter season, I may say that 3 cents a pound for freight is charged from its terminal point to Cape Tormentine, a distance of nine miles. What trade can there be on twelve miles of a road from Cape Traverse to Cape Tormentine when the freight is \$60 a ton across the Straits of Northumberland. That shows that Prince Edward Island is not being generously treated. The expenditure of the Dominion Government from the year 1883 to the present time on local railways is given in the Minister of Railways' report at \$43,119,220. I am aware that in that expenditure there is \$25,000,000 which I have already counted as being spent on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and that will reduce it to about \$17,000,000, and out of that \$17,000,000 Prince Edward Island may fairly claim as a proportion over \$400,000, which, taken together with \$2,100,000 already referred to, amounts to over two and a half million dollars. I have detained the House perhaps a little longer than I expected.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. MARTIN. It is a question which this House may try to put off from year to year.

but as the hon. Minister of Marine (Sir Louis Davies) said some years ago, you are only staving off the evil day; you will have to settle with Prince Edward Island some time. It is all very well for hon. members coming from provinces which have received vast sums of money for railway construction to say "hear, hear," because they think I have spoken for some considerable time. But considering that Prince Edward Island is the smallest province in the Dominion, I do not think that the larger provinces, with all their majority, and all their votes, should be ready to jump on Prince Edward Island in that way. I think it ill-becomes the great provinces which have received the aid which Ontario and Quebec have received for railways and canals, to prevent the claims of Prince Edward Island from being fairly and fully put. To show that the people of Prince Edward Island have some confidence in this road, I need only refer to a resolution which was passed in the local legislature of that province some days ago. As to the construction of the bridge across the Hillsborough River, there is no doubt that it will cost a pretty large sum of money, but the provincial government have shown their readiness to come to the rescue of the Dominion Government, and to share in the building of this bridge. I will read to the House the resolution which was introduced by the Attorney General of the province a few days ago. It says:

Resolved,—That the Government be authorized to enter into an agreement with the Government of Canada stipulating that should the Federal Government build a bridge across the Hillsborough River from a point in or near the city of Charlottetown, to a point in or near Southport, and said bridge be so constructed as to be adapted and suitable not only for railway purposes, but also as a public highway bridge for vehicles and foot passengers, and for general traffic of all kinds, the Government of Prince Edward Island will, on the completion of such bridge, pay annually to the Government of Canada towards the interest of the money required to build that part of the said bridge appertaining to local interests only, a sum not exceeding \$12,000, and said Bill to contain provision enabling the provincial government to arrange and determine with the Government of Canada, the exact amount so to be paid annually, and the terms of payment, the said sum so determined to be on completion of said bridge a charge on the revenues of the province, and also provision that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may in such agreement make terms for the levying and collection of tolls upon the said bridge, and for keeping the same in repair, and generally upon such other matters relating to the said bridge, and the interest on the cost of construction, as may be agreed upon by both Governments.

I need not say, Sir, that that shows the people of the province have some confidence in the building of this road, and are anxious to proceed with it. This sum of \$12,000 a year, will represent the interest on the large sum of \$400,000. Now \$400,000 is quite a large sum for a small province like Prince Edward

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island, for it is nearly \$4 per head of the population. While they have already spent at the rate of \$28 per head for railways in Prince Edward Island, they are now willing, in order to extend the railway system which was proposed there over 20 years ago, to bear the further burden of \$400,000. This fact shows the great necessity which exists for this road. The subsidy which is at present voted for this road by the province of Prince Edward Island is one-half as much per capita as has been paid by the great province of Ontario for railways altogether; and I have pointed out that the province of Ontario came into this Dominion without having previously expended anything for railway construction. That great province came into confederation with very bad securities, handing us over \$25,000,000 of Grand Trunk Railway debentures, and about \$1,150,000 of Bank of Upper Canada stock, which is practically worth nothing, and it can hardly sneer at Prince Edward Island. When the province of Prince Edward Island came into this Dominion she had 1-24th of the railway mileage of Canada, while to-day she has only 1-80th of the railway mileage of Canada. During that time the railway mileage of the Dominion has increased from a mile for every 1,000 people to a mile for every 296 people, and Prince Edward Island has only a mile for every 517.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have spoken much longer than I intended, but I could not do otherwise than go at some length into this question. I trust, however, that this question will be settled at once, and for ever. In the words of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), I hope the matter will not be delayed until a general election. Some years ago that hon. gentleman said that it was not a good thing to agitate for railways previous to or during an election. I hope that now, if the hon. gentleman is going to act squarely with the province this road will not be delayed any longer. Twenty-nine years is a very long time for a province to wait. I shall watch anxiously for the Supplementary Estimates to come down, when I hope to see the promises made by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to the electors of Prince Edward Island fulfilled. The hon. gentleman is only walking in the footsteps of his predecessors. The late Government was committed to the construction of this road; the present Government, or at least the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, is also committed to it; and I hope that this Government, of which he is an honoured member, will think sufficient of him to see that the promise he has made shall be implemented. Let the province of Prince Edward Island not have to wait any longer.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Mr. Speaker, there is no objection at all to bring down the papers which the hon. gentleman moves for. The subject-matter of his address is, of

course, very familiar to me and to other gentlemen who come from Prince Edward Island. This perhaps is hardly the time for us to discuss it with any practical object, because, as he remarks, the late Government committed themselves to the principle of the construction of the road he advocates, together with a number of other roads; and the question will be for the consideration of the present Government at a later stage during this session, and I am not without hopes that we shall be enabled to make some proposition. The Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) is not in his place, but I can say that the matter has not yet been finally decided upon. As the hon. gentleman remarks, the railway is one of very great importance to the people—one which they have been looking for for many years; one which they have every reasonable right to ask the construction of, and one which I hope will be built for them. There was one difficulty that stood in the way heretofore—the construction of a bridge across the Hillsborough River, connecting the chief city of the province with the line of road, without which bridge the road would not be of much service, and the local legislature has already pledged itself to contribute to the construction of that bridge \$400,000. That removes one of the difficulties very largely out of the way. I will not go into the discussion of the matter now. I will only ask the hon. gentleman to wait until the papers come down, and I am not without hopes that later on the Government will be able to make some proposition with regard to this matter. I need not say to him how much I have the matter at heart, or how I have pressed it upon my colleagues. It has to be considered, of course, along with other projects in other parts of the country. But I have a right to think that the righteousness and feasibility of the scheme are such as will commend it to my colleagues as they have commended it to myself. I am sorry that the hon. gentleman has not had a larger House to listen to his speech. I can promise him that the papers will be brought down without undue delay. A complete and thorough survey has been made of the line of railway and of the bridge, and we have data which enables us to know accurately, with very close approximation, at any rate, what the cost of the undertaking will be, and we know what proportion the province is prepared to contribute, so that every information is in the hands of the Minister of Railways to enable him and his colleagues to judge whether they are in a position to bring down a proposition to the House for the construction of that railway in the near future.

Mr. MACDONALD. Can you give us an approximate estimate of the cost?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. When the papers come down, we shall have the details, including plans

and estimates. It would be out of place for me to go into that now.

Mr. A. C. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.) Mr. Speaker, I am not going to trouble the House with a speech after the very full and able speech which has been delivered by the hon. member for East Queen's (Mr. Martin). He has given facts and figures to the House to show the very strong claims of the province of Prince Edward Island for further railway facilities, particularly in that portion of the island which has not heretofore had railway accommodation. As the hon. gentleman who has just spoken has said, the Government have before them the fact that their predecessors in office were committed to the construction of certain lines of railway in Prince Edward Island, not only the railway that has been particularly referred to to-night as the Southport and Murray Harbour Branch, but also a small branch in my constituency of some seven or eight miles in length, which I contend, and have always contended, is needed even to a greater extent than the Murray Harbour branch. I allude to what is known as the Elmira Branch, running from Souris towards East Point. That is a portion of the country which is very hilly, and over which it is very difficult for the farmers to haul their produce and for the fishermen to get their supplies and take their fish to market. The Government have not seen fit to have a survey made of that branch during the past year, but I trust that when the Government do see their way clear to come down with an amount in the Estimates for the construction of the Murray Harbour branch, they will not overlook the short branch to Elmira. I might further say that the gentleman who opposed me at the last election contended on that occasion that if the Elmira branch were ever built, it would be by the present Government, and I hope, therefore, they will not overlook that promise, but will see that it is carried out. For my part, I shall only be too happy to do anything I can to assist the Government in carrying out the branch lines in Prince Edward Island. I think it is not necessary just now that I should say anything further on this question, as it has already been so fully gone into.

#### DOMINION CENSUS.

Mr. W. W. B. McINNES (Vancouver) moved:

That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, praying that he may be pleased to request Her Majesty's Imperial Government to amend "The British North America Act, 1867," so as to provide that the next general census of the population of Canada be taken in the year 1900, and that each subsequent census be taken every ten years thereafter.

He said: It will be admitted, Mr. Speaker, that the purposes served by a census are twofold in a country such as ours. In the first

place, it affords concise information as to the progress made by the country in population and other respects, and in the second place, it furnishes a reliable basis for redistribution. I submit, therefore, that from whatever standpoint you view the suggestion contained in this resolution, it must be admitted to be a wise one. So far as the statistical aspects of it are concerned, you are aware, Sir, that in the United States the census is taken on the even decade, and, therefore, for the purposes of comparison with the United States it would be very desirable that we should have our census taken in the same year. That would serve a very good purpose as regards comparison between British Columbia and our western territories and the western states, between Manitoba and Dakota—between Maine and New Brunswick, as well as between the whole of the United States and the whole of the Dominion. It is also desirable that we should begin even with the start of the next century. For many reasons, I can conceive that it would be very convenient hereafter in looking back for evidences of our progress. Since giving notice of this motion, I have received a copy of the resolution passed by the Chamber of Commerce of Montreal, which sets forth an additional reason, and a very strong one, to my mind, why this motion should be adopted. In that resolution the Chamber of Commerce pointed out that the Dominion statistics furnish a great deal of information regarding our country, and that it would be very advantageous to have such facts distributed at the Paris exposition in the year 1900; but if the present system be continued, we will only be able to furnish the statistics of some nine or ten years ago, whereas if the census should be taken in 1900, the statistics could be distributed at that great exposition up to date, and there serve a very good purpose. It is, therefore, evident, from the standpoint of statistics and such considerations, that it is eminently wise this resolution should be adopted. So far as redistribution is concerned, you are aware that a measure has been promised in the speech from the Throne, and that the promise has been renewed today by the right hon. Prime Minister. But while such a measure will, no doubt, be eminently fair, so far as the opportunities of the case will permit, it must necessarily, under the circumstances, fail to do justice to the great western part of this country. The House knows that that section of the country west of Lake Superior has very rapidly increased in population, and if a redistribution Bill is brought on this session it cannot take account of that increase of population, so that we can simply rearrange those districts in the provinces and territories without increasing the representation. But if this resolution be carried, there is no reason at all why the census should not be taken sufficiently early next year for the returns, as regards population, to be in, and a redistribution Bill framed next session which would give effect to the additional information that

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the census may afford. In that way a measure of justice would be done the western part of our country, which it is impossible to do if the redistribution Bill be brought on this session. I have heard no objection to this motion since giving notice of it except one, and that is that it is the custom throughout the British empire to take the population upon the year after each even decade—1871, 1881, &c. Of course, under ordinary circumstances, where the benefits are in harmony with the conditions, it is not advisable to break away from the custom which prevails throughout the empire, but when, as in this case, all the advantages are on the side of making the change and taking the census of this country upon the even ten years, to hold to the Imperial rule would be a case of imperialism run mad. Where there is no decided advantage, but on the contrary decided disadvantage, in adhering to that rule, I submit there is no reason why we should continue it.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I do not in any way deny that there may be some convenience if the census were to be taken in the year 1900 instead of the year 1901. The advantages which have just been enumerated by my hon. friend would certainly accrue. As he has said, we would be in a better position to make a good showing at the Paris exhibition. We would be in a position to show the undoubted advance which has been made in this country during the last decade. This is a reason, perhaps not a very strong one, but still of some convenience. A reason of greater convenience, however, would be what has just been stated by my hon. friend with reference to the next election and the redistribution Act. The majority of this House, at all events, and I may perhaps venture to hope, all the members, will agree to have a new distribution Act; and, if the next election, which must take place at some day not very far distant, were to take place under the redistribution, and according to the new census, the needs of justice would be largely met. But I must say to my hon. friend, with perfect candour, that I have an objection to his motion, which, to my mind, is an unanswerable objection. I feel very strongly, and I hope that in this I am voicing the sentiment of the House and the country, that the constitution should not be lightly amended. Indeed, I lay down the principle that it is better to submit even to some inconvenience which might be remedied by amendment of the constitution than to have the constitution lightly amended. I am strongly of opinion that the constitution should not be amended except not merely a strong case, but an overwhelming case is made out. And, holding this view, which, I think, ought to represent the better sentiment of this country it should be a matter of duty to all Canadians to maintain the constitution as far as it can be maintained in its absolute entirety; and only change it

when it is made plain that a very great wrong would arise if it were not amended. For these reasons, which, I hope, my hon. friend, on reflection, will adopt, I feel bound to say, though I am sorry to say that I cannot agree with his motion, and hope he will have no objection to have it declared lost.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Picou). I agree with what the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) has said, particularly with regard to the great delicacy that should be observed in connection with any proposed change of our constitution. I have very little to add to the objections which he has so concisely put to this motion. I would point out, however, to the hon. mover of this resolution that I think he is mistaken, and perhaps the Prime Minister is mistaken, in thinking that by the adoption of this resolution, and by the legislation proposed, it would be at all possible to obtain even the enumeration of population in time for the Paris Exposition. According to my recollection of the last census, a considerable time would elapse before even the number of people for the different provinces could be properly tabulated. With a very large staff, and with very great expense, I think it was two or three years before even that portion of the work was overtaken on the last occasion. In any event, it would involve enormous expense, perhaps, out of all proportion to the object the hon. gentleman seeks to attain. It would also involve a radical change in our system of taking the census, and such changes are to be avoided except where there has been admitted inconvenience or admitted impropriety in the system, because it destroys the basis of comparison with enumerations or statistics prepared in times past. I hope the hon. mover of the resolution will take the advice of the Prime Minister.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). It seems to me it would be unwise to make a change in our method of taking the census which would interfere with the comparisons we desire to make between decade and decade. We made one change in our system in the taking of the last census, and if we were to make another it would spoil our figures completely for purposes of comparison. Another objection to the proposal is that the system appears to prevail of taking the census throughout the British Empire at the same time, which enables us to compare our rate of progress with that of other portions of the Empire in the same periods, and it would be unwise to make such a change as would make these comparisons impossible. These are two strong reasons against the motion, and there is the other, which was mentioned by the right hon. the Premier, which is, perhaps, even stronger than either of the others—and that is that we should not lightly in-

terfere with the constitution of the country, that only on the strongest ground should we attempt such a change. If I might give advice, I would advise the Premier to take that into his serious consideration when he thinks of proposing to make any change in the constitution of the Senate.

Motion negatived.

#### DISMISSAL OF G. W. BALL.

Mr. URIAH WILSON (Lennox) moved for:

Papers, documents and correspondence in connection with the dismissal of D. W. Ball from being postmaster at the village of Bath, Ontario.

He said: This resolution is in line with what we have heard so much about since hon. gentlemen took office. I have had two dismissals in my riding in a little over a year. We had a promise of the Prime Minister, according to my recollection of his words, that no dismissal should take place without a trial. It is true we had the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) agreeing that no dismissal should take place without a trial of any person occupying a high position in the civil service, but saying that the ordinary workingman might be dismissed without trial. A year ago last March the caretaker of the public building in my town was summarily dismissed. I think the letter is dated 28th March, but was not mailed in Ottawa until the next day, and he had to give up his position to his successor on the 1st of April. And this was after the Minister of Public Works had promised me to have an investigation. I went to the hon. Minister and told him he had acted very unfairly with the caretaker, that he could not deal with a servant of his own so summarily, but would have to give him notice. The hon. Minister did allow the caretaker a month's pay. So I dropped the matter and had no more to say. Another dismissal has taken place, and I think most unfairly. I might tell you the reason why the first took place and why the second took place. In the first place, we had an Ontario general election, which took place a year ago last March. We have a number of soreheads, commonly known as Grits, who got together and said unless this man was dismissed and a Liberal appointed in his place they would not vote for the candidate. I think the Minister got a gentle hint as to this, and the man was dismissed immediately after the elections. I heard rumours of a similar character before our last by-election, which took place last November; and our postmaster was relieved of his duties, I think on the 8th of December. A certain number of Liberals in the village of Bath—I presume they had found how well it had worked in Napanee—had put their heads together and declared that unless this man was dismissed and a Liberal put in his place, they would not vote for the Liberal candidate. And

the man was dismissed on the 8th of December, while the election took place in the middle of the previous month.

Mr. Armstrong, who was postmaster, died, and his son occupied the office for a year, and then Mr. Ball was appointed. Mr. Armstrong and his friends were very much annoyed at the appointment, and you know how a few dissatisfied persons can make trouble for an official in a small place. They watched him and harassed him in every way. They had an investigation, one of the charges being that he had given letters to the wrong persons. It appears there were two families named Hawley that got their mail matter at the village of Bath. In both of these families were maiden ladies, and there came a letter addressed to Miss Hawley, and Mr. Ball gave it to the first Miss Hawley that came in. It happened to get into the wrong hands, and that was one of the charges against Mr. Ball, that he had committed a grievous mistake in giving a letter to the wrong party. I think if the Postmaster General had not been politically opposed to the postmaster of that town he would hardly have been able to tell which of the Miss Hawley's got that letter, but it did not happen to be a very serious matter, for I think on investigation the charge simply fell through. Another charge against the postmaster was made, I believe, by a lawyer who was asked to get up a case against him, that a registered letter had been mailed to that office on a certain day but had not been delivered, and the sender did not happen to have a receipt from the office from which it was posted. He told the assistant inspector that he would look at his books when he got home, and would write him the next day all about it. He did so, but could not find any trace of the registered letter. There was another case, that of an old lady who came in and inquired for her mail matter. It happened that the registered portion of the mail had not been distributed, and as she had received her other letters she did not get the registered letter for two or three days. I did not know whether she had called at the office in the meantime or not. That was another charge, but so far as I was able to learn the whole thing fell through, there was nothing done about it, because Mr. Ball kept the office for two years after that. Then there was another matter Mr. Ball tells me that happened not very long ago. He was charged with having held a letter too long, and then restamped it to destroy the date at which it came to his office. Now, Mr. Ball explained that to me in this way: He said that his wife helped him to distribute the mails when they came in, and when she happened to make a poor stamp she would stamp it over again. The inspector called his attention to this particular letter, and I understand sent in a declaration for them to sign, and both Mr. Ball and his wife made a declaration that they never had restamped a letter to destroy the date upon it. It seems

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to me that if that was not satisfactory evidence to the Postmaster General, he ought at least to have given them an investigation, and if they were not able to sustain their position, then, I think, they ought to be dismissed, because I would not justify for one moment any postmaster restamping a letter to destroy the date on it after it came to his office. But I think he was at least entitled to an investigation. Well, there was a strong petition sent to the Postmaster General from that district. Bath is a small village, of about 100 voters. There were 90 people who signed that petition, got up on the spur of the moment, and half of them were Liberals.

Mr. LANDERKIN. What is the salary of the office?

Mr. WILSON. The salary is about \$330 or \$340.

Mr. LANDERKIN. That is the salary?

Mr. WILSON. This is the petition:

To the Postmaster General, Ottawa.

Honourable and dear Sir,—We, the undersigned patrons of Bath post office, wish to express our regret and surprise at being informed that you have made a change in the postmastership here. Mr. W. D. Ball, who has been in charge here for the past three years, has given the work his closest attention, and has been most courteous and obliging. He has given satisfaction to all but a few men, who, apparently, were unwilling to be satisfied. We believe the facts of the case have not been fully and fairly placed before you by those persons who are looking for the position.

The man you have mentioned as our future postmaster was assistant postmaster for 19 years, and his father, Mr. Henry Armstrong, postmaster.

During this time, Mr. Fred. W. Armstrong drew the full pay of the office, and for the greater part of the time was under Conservative rule. There were errors during his time, and considerable dissatisfaction at his conduct as postmaster, but no one reported him.

We are quite certain that the proposed change will be quite unpopular and unsatisfactory, and we humbly petition you to retain our present postmaster.

Now, that petition was signed by 90 people, one-half of whom were Liberals. I have in my possession another petition of a similar character that was being circulated, but when they found that the postmaster had been dismissed and his successor appointed, they dropped it, because they felt that it was of no use. To show you the feeling in that particular district, I may mention that the Liberal candidate at the local election carried the town of Bath by over 40. They had a reeve of that town who had been a Liberal, but the people took up Mr. Ball and elected him last January as reeve of the town, showing how dissatisfied the people are with such a change, and one made in such an unfair way. I would like to have the First Minister tell me, if he will, whether he intends to stand by the promise I understood he made to this House that no man would be dismissed without a fair trial. It

seems to me that is a fair question, and that this is a fair case. Mr. Ball is a respectable man who has the confidence of the community in which he lives, as shown by this petition which was signed by as many Liberals as Conservatives, and as shown by the fact that in a village which has been Liberal almost continuously, he was elected reeve last January. It seems to me that it is a reasonable thing to ask, even at this late date, that Mr. Ball should have a chance to appear before an investigating committee of some kind to vindicate his character, because I think it is most unfair that a man should be dismissed without any cause, so far as we know, and without any charges being made publicly known. Now, I wanted the Postmaster General to be here. The First Minister will remember the other night that I did not go on because I did not want to make any statement in this House without giving the Postmaster General a fair chance to answer. All I want in this matter is fair play, and I think the Minister ought to be prepared to give us fair play. I know the Government can do as they please about it, but I think we have a right to hold the First Minister to his pledge. If it was the Minister of Railways and Canals I would have no hope, because I suppose he would consider this man as one of the ordinary people, and therefore, not deserving of an investigation.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). My hon. friend has made a personal appeal to me. I feel very much flattered. I may tell him, by the confidence which he places in me, and I will try to deserve it, though, on general principles, I have tried to do that with very little success. But, perhaps, in a special case I may be more successful. At all events, my hon. friend will understand that it is impossible for me to give him an answer at this moment. I am totally ignorant of the facts of the case, and never heard of it until the notice was put on the paper. But I can promise my hon. friend that the papers will be speedily brought down and then he will have an opportunity of again calling the attention of the House, and of myself personally, to the matter.

Motion agreed to.

#### DISMISSAL OF MR. W. J. CHRISTIE, WINNIPEG.

Mr. WILLIAM J. ROCHE (Marquette)  
moved for:

Copies of all Orders in Council and all reports and correspondence made by or had between W. J. Christie, late of the Inland Revenue Department, Winnipeg, and other officers of department in Manitoba, and the department at Ottawa or the Minister of Inland Revenue relating to the removal, the suspension and final dismissal of W. J. Christie, lately one of the chief officers in department at Winnipeg.

He said: Mr. Speaker, in moving for a copy of the Orders in Council, in reference to the removal, suspension and dismissal of Mr. W. J. Christie, late Deputy Collector of In-

land Revenue at Winnipeg, I do so, because, in my opinion, that gentleman has been treated unfairly, discourteously and in a manner not commensurate with the position he occupied in the civil service of this country for a number of years, by the hon. gentleman who is at the head of the Department of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). Mr. Christie, I understand, has been in the service of the country for about eighteen years. He has been in the position of accountant in the office of the Inland Revenue Department at Winnipeg for over five years; he has been Deputy Collector of Inland Revenue for upwards of ten years, and during that time he has always performed his duties faithfully, efficiently, and in such a manner as to win the approbation of his superior officers. No charge of a political or partisan character has been made against him; no charge of inefficiency or dereliction of duty has been levelled against him during all that time; no charge could truly be made against that gentleman in that particular direction. Therefore, I consider that he was deserving of the very greatest consideration at the hands of this Government. Now, it appears, that the former Collector of Inland Revenue at Ottawa, was superannuated, and my information is that he was superannuated much against his own will. To fill this vacancy the former Collector of Inland Revenue at Winnipeg, Mr. H. A. Costigan, was moved to Ottawa. The vacancy that was created in Winnipeg was applied for by the then Deputy Collector of Inland Revenue, Mr. Christie. Now, I think it is a safe rule of government to be laid down that in large cities such as Winnipeg, having a large business, it is only fair and right, all other things being equal, that the one who is next in charge, should receive promotion to the vacant position, providing he has the necessary qualifications and is fitted, in every way, to discharge the duties in an efficient manner. It was, therefore, not at all unreasonable for Mr. Christie to apply for this vacant position of Collector of Inland Revenue at Winnipeg. I do not know whether the present Minister of Inland Revenue has been taking a leaf out of the book, or at least, has had any consultation with the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) as to how he might best do away with the services of Mr. Christie, because I am quite willing to give credit to the hon. Minister of the Interior that he has, particularly since coming into this Government, showed himself to be an adept at getting rid, in the most unique manner, of officials, not by dismissing them, but by removing them to far-away places so that he might oblige them to resign and allow the vacancy to be filled by his own political friends. I am quite willing to pronounce the hon. Minister of the Interior an expert in that line, although I do not think that the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue with his benign countenance would require any instruction in

that particular after having travelled through the country with Li Hung Chang who has proved himself to be an expert in this regard. At any rate, a leaf has been taken out of the book of the hon. Minister of the Interior by refusing Mr. Christie this promotion and by offering the position of Collector of Inland Revenue in the far-off town of Calgary. Now, it was in August, 1897, that Mr. Christie applied for the position of Collector of Inland Revenue at Winnipeg. I may say, in reference to this communication, that he received no reply from the hon. Minister, but in January, 1898, he addressed the following communication to the head of the department:—

Winnipeg, Manitoba, January 8th, 1898.

The Hon. Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière,  
Minister of Inland Revenue,  
Ottawa.

Dear Sir,—Last August I made application to the commissioner of inland revenue through Mr. District Inspector Barrett for the collectorship of inland revenue here, should the position become vacant. Knowing the well-defined policy of the department to promote officers, who had passed special examinations, I was quite prepared to rest my claims to promotion of my past record in the service.

This record I will summarize here :

I entered the service in 1880, and passed my first examination in the same year. In 1881 I passed my special class examination. I came here in 1882, and was placed in charge of the books of the office by Collector Kenning, and acted as accountant until January, 1887, when I was appointed deputy collector. I have continuously held that position for ten years, and during all that time have faithfully performed all the duties of that office and received the best reports of my superior officers;

Having lived in this city for fifteen years, and having materially aided in organizing and developing our service in this province, I think I am fairly entitled to promotion.

My object in writing you is not to press my claims, for, as I said before, I can confidently rest my departmental claims for promotion with your deputy, Mr. Miall. My reason for writing you are the following: A warm personal friend, who is anxious to see me promoted, tells me that my chances of promotion may be interfered with because charges of political partisanship during the Federal election have been made to you against me.

I do not know who my accusers are, or what is the nature of the charges made; but I give to all charges of partisanship the most unqualified denial. Neither directly nor indirectly have I been guilty of any act of political partisanship at the last Federal or any other Federal election since I entered the service, beyond casting my vote. I never solicited any vote for any candidate. Conscious of the rectitude of my conduct in this behalf, I naturally feel very indignant to hear of these charges. If innocent, it is alike unfair and unjust that these charges should cloud my title to promotion, and if guilty, after this unqualified and positive denial, I am unfit to occupy any position in the public service. I, therefore, most respectfully ask that you appoint a commissioner in whose honesty and integrity you have the fullest confidence to investigate these charges; let all the charges made against me be placed in his hands with full authority to examine witnesses under oath, and

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I pledge myself if any one serious charge be substantiated before such impartial tribunal, to place my resignation in your hands forthwith. If, on the other hand, they are untrue, I respectfully ask that they do not prejudice my just claims to a promotion which I feel I have honestly earned.

Knowing that it is your policy to promote where merit justifies, and the public interests demand it feel confident that if any charges of political partisanship have been made you will give me an opportunity to defend myself, and thus remove any unjust cause for not promoting me should a vacancy occur in the collectorship.

I am, Sir Henri,

Your obedient servant,

W. J. CHRISTIE.

Mr. Christie only had heard by rumour, that he was likely to be refused the appointment, because of some charges that had been made against him. He, therefore, directed this communication to the head of his department, but received no reply whatever as to whether these charges had been made or not. He was left entirely in the dark in reference to this matter, and the only communication he received was one letter, to the effect that the changes about to be made were solely in the public interest. I hope to show the House, that there was not a single change made in connection with the Inland Revenue Department in Winnipeg that could truthfully be said to be made in the public interest. On April 6th, 1898, Mr. Christie sent the following letter to Mr. Miall, the Deputy Minister of Inland Revenue, at Ottawa:—

Ottawa, April 6th, 1898.

E. Miall, Esq.,

Commissioner of Inland Revenue,  
Ottawa.

Sir,—I have been informed that it is the intention of the department to remove me to Calgary to fill the position of collector of that division.

During the eighteen years I have been employed in the excise service, it has been my desire to comply with the wishes of the department, but if it is your intention to remove me to Calgary I would have to sacrifice the educational advantages that my family have in Winnipeg, and sooner than do that it would suit me better, and at the same time be a saving to the department, to superannuate me.

I, therefore, beg to apply for superannuation.

The saving can be made as follows:—I believe it is the intention of the department to appoint me collector at Winnipeg at a salary of \$1,700, and as Calgary is a sixth-class division, the collections averaging about \$20,000 a year, a man could be appointed at a salary of \$1,000 a year, which is the maximum salary of a sixth-class division. If the department superannuates me, my allowance would be \$540 a year, which would be a saving of \$160 a year.

According to the divisional salary classification the collections would have to increase to more than \$50,000 before the salary of collector could be increased, so you will readily see the saving would not be temporary.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) W. J. CHRISTIE.

Now, it seems that, when Mr. Christie made that application for superannuation, of course it was because he had received information—I will not say how, but, no doubt,

from another officer, that he was about to be removed to Calgary, and, sooner than forego the educational advantages afforded to his family, sooner than remove himself from his social and business friends, he decided that he would prefer superannuation. But, in asking for that, it seemed, he asked something which it was beyond the power of the department to give him at the time, according to this communication that was sent in reply :

L-77,662.

77,089.

Ottawa, 23rd May, 1898.

W. J. Christie, Esq.,  
Deputy Collector of Inland Revenue,  
Winnipeg, Man.

Sir,—Your communication of the 6th April ultimo, asking for superannuation has been laid before me by the commissioner.

I have looked very carefully into the matter, and am compelled to say that I see no grounds that would justify me in recommending your superannuation under existing conditions, and, furthermore, it would be in direct contravention of the provisions of the Superannuation Act.

Your promotion to the collectorship at Calgary is in an official sense an advancement of position in the service, and naturally the department expects its officers to make such change of residence as it deems best in the public interest. Should your private interests prevent you carrying out the wishes of the department, you must yourself see what the inevitable result will be.

I remain, sir, your obedient servant,  
(Sgd.) H. J. JOLY DE LOTBINIERE,  
Minister of Inland Revenue.

Now, the Minister of Inland Revenue claims that Mr. Christie asked for something in direct contravention of the Superannuation Act. That may be so: but, when the Minister says that Mr. Christie's promotion to the collectorship at Calgary is in the sense of promotion, I beg to disagree with him. As Mr. Christie has pointed out in his correspondence, Winnipeg is a first-class division, and the maximum salary of the deputy collector of inland revenue there is \$1,500 per year: whereas Calgary is a sixth-class division, and the maximum salary, according to the law, is about \$1,000; so that, anything Mr. Christie might receive over and above that would be in direct contravention of the law, and would only be temporary. It would seem, that, if the attention of the Government was at any time called to this contravention of the law, the salary must be reduced, and, therefore, Mr. Christie drew the attention of the department to it. This, however, was a sinister method of getting rid of Mr. Christie's services, knowing that he would refuse to go to Calgary, and that, therefore, the vacancy would be created. Mr. Christie protested against this action being taken, and protested in a very gentlemanly spirit, addressing the following communication, on June the 25th, to the hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue:—

(Official.)

Winnipeg, June 25, 1898.

Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière,  
Minister of Inland Revenue,  
Ottawa.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of 23rd ult., in which you state: "Your promotion to the collectorship at Calgary is in an official sense an advancement of position in the service, and naturally the department expects its officers to make such change of residence as it deems best in the public interest. Should your private interests prevent you carrying out the wishes of the department, you must yourself see what the inevitable result will be."

As the relation of my family and my own interests bind me strongly to Winnipeg, you will pardon my discussing the subject of my removal at sufficient length to put the facts fully before you.

I was appointed deputy collector of inland revenue at Winnipeg on the 1st day of January, A.D. 1886. I believe I can say that since that time I have filled that position with credit to myself and entire acceptance to the department. My services have received the highest approval from my superiors, and I have no hesitation in saying that my record is such that no fault of any kind can be suggested as to the manner in which I have performed my official duties. It is true some time ago I heard, unofficially, that parties interested in obtaining my position had made charges against me on the ground that I took an active part in the last election campaign. As I sent to you (January 8th, 1898) a direct and emphatic denial of any such action, demanded an investigation, and pointed out that if on such investigation my denial was found to be to the slightest extent untrue, it would be highly improper that I should continue in the public service, and as I undertook to refute absolutely any such charges (if, indeed, such were ever seriously made), and as you did not do me the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the letter, and the matter was never officially communicated to me, I presume that either my information was incorrect or my denial fully and frankly accepted.

I must beg you to bear with me if I dispute your suggestion that the proposed change will be "in an official sense an advancement of position." Winnipeg, as you know, is a first-class division. Calgary, on the basis of the Order in Council, No. 216, dated 9th January, 1889, is a sixth-class division. The maximum salary for a deputy in a first-class division is \$1,500 per annum; the maximum for a collector in a sixth-class division is \$1,000. As I am now in receipt of \$1,500 per annum, in what sense can such promotion be termed an advancement even "in an official sense"? It is true, I am temporarily offered an increase of \$200 per annum. This increase, after allowing for extra cost of living in Calgary as compared with Winnipeg, is really a decrease of about \$100 a year. The nominal increase is thus not only an actual decrease, but is of the most temporary and chameleon-like nature. There is no law or Order in Council authorizing its payment. I must, therefore, should I accept the charge, be in receipt of a salary illegally paid and in the constant anticipation of its reduction to the proper amount should a political aspirant for office, or unkindly disposed person choose to bring the matter to the official attention of the Government.

You suggest, however, that the proposed changes are deemed by your department to be in the best public interests. Could I believe this was the honest opinion of the department,

I would, no matter what my own interests might be, cheerfully accede to your request. With extreme diffidence and great respect for your high office, I regret to say that I cannot believe such conclusion is honestly formed. You may be assured I would not assume to differ from the department on a matter so exclusively and particularly within their judgment if I were not in a position to state reasons, direct reasons, incontrovertible reasons, and reasons of which I know you, sir, and the officers under you have long had full and intimate knowledge, which absolutely and entirely prevent the conclusion you state.

What are the proposed changes? Mr. Costigan, the late collector at Winnipeg, has been appointed collector at Ottawa. To make room for his appointment, Mr. Martin Battle, a tried and capable officer of the Government, has been superannuated against his own wishes and the protests of his friends. A vacancy having been thus created, Mr. T. S. Gosnell, collector at Calgary, is to be promoted to Winnipeg. I am to go to Calgary to fill his position, and Mr. Watson has been appointed deputy collector at Winnipeg to fill the office I am to vacate.

Mr. Costigan's official record as reported to your department, would scarcely lead one to suppose that his continuation in the public service was influenced by considerations of the public good. The details of his shortcomings have been fully and officially reported to you. You, sir, know from these reports, dated as far back as the early part of 1897, and recurring at only too frequent intervals since that time, and from official investigations held under your instructions, that Mr. Costigan has time and again proven his total unfitness to hold any position of trust. You know, sir, that for two years preceding his appointment at Ottawa, his work was practically done by his fellow officials, yet this man is not only "in the public interests" retained in the public service, but with full knowledge of these facts, appointed collector at the capital of the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. Gosnell was, until the 3rd November, 1894, accountant in the Winnipeg office under me as deputy collector. Mr. Gosnell is one of those gentlemen appointed to public office under the Government of the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, who, while the Conservative party was in power, could not be accused of strong political activity, but who, since the change in Government, have demonstrated what latent political fires may, under proper circumstances, smoulder unsuspected in the human breast.

As you know, sir, to become entitled to the appointment of collector or deputy collector of inland revenue, it is necessary to pass a most stringent special technical examination. The necessity of such examination is the protection of the public revenue. The determination of the amount to be collected is constantly based upon nice and accurate calculations and investigations of quantity and quality of manufactured and crude articles. Incapacity or inaccuracy would, therefore, lead to direct and possibly enormous loss to the public revenue. It is for this reason the high standard heretofore maintained in the Inland Revenue Department has always been insisted upon by the Government of the day.

Mr. Gosnell tried this examination twice, but was unsuccessful. Failing to win by ability, he determined to pass by strategy. He was notified to proceed to Toronto to try his examination for a third time on the 30th August, 1887. He pleaded inability to make the journey. Having obtained from a friend in Hamilton a full copy of the questions which were set at the Toronto

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examination, and having prepared himself, during eight months' study, to answer these particular questions, he applied to the department for a special examination, knowing that the Government, trusting, perhaps too implicitly, in the honesty of their employees, would not go to the expense of preparing special technical papers for one applicant. As was anticipated by Mr. Gosnell, the papers which had been used at the Toronto examination were set before him. As one can imagine, his efforts were crowned with hard-earned success.

I am not aware of his standing by marks, but as promotion to the higher offices of the department goes largely by merit, and as Mr. Gosnell was put on the special list, limited to 24 for the whole Dominion, in priority to others who honestly passed on the same papers at the Toronto examination, I have no doubt that his merit was sufficiently demonstrated by the examination to recommend him for promotion.

If you, sir, had ever attended a political meeting in Manitoba, it would be less necessary for me than it is to discuss Mr. Watson. It is true he has been of the greatest assistance to the supporters of the present Government by his public utterances; utterances, however, exclusively and loudly made from the body of the meeting and as interruptions to the speeches of his political opponents. So far as this is a recommendation for his appointment, he is entitled to it. So far, and no further, for in all walks of life, as an implement agent, on the farm, or as the proprietor of a Chicago commission shop, he has not displayed sufficient business ability to commend him to his creditors. He has passed no examination qualifying him for his present position, he is not a man of education, is not fitted to perform the first part of his technical duties, yet your department has placed him in charge, instructing his subordinates in office to show him what he is to do and how he is to do it. If they, sir, know enough to teach him his duties and are honourable men, would it not be equally in the public interests to promote them or to appoint some person who may have passed the necessary qualifying examination, rather than to place this high public trust in the hands of a mere political hanger-on whose sole recommendation is influence and past political services.

For these reasons, sir, I cannot conceive that the proposed changes are in the public interests. You will, I am sure, on the facts being thus stated, make such arrangements as will avoid a prostitution of high offices of public trust. Being forced by the circumstances above stated to take the view I do, I must respectfully refuse "to accept advancement in an official sense," and decline to become the collector at Calgary.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. J. CHRISTIE.

I think this is a very terse, emphatic and gentlemanly manner of putting the case, and I am quite confident that the accuracy of this statement cannot be denied by the hon. Minister at the head of the department. The hon. Minister, it seems, rather than receive such a letter as that, decided at once to suspend Mr. Christie from the Deputy Collectorship at the port of Winnipeg, and on 7th July, 1898, Mr. Christie received the following letter from Mr. Barrett, the District Inspector:—

Inland Revenue Inspection, Canada.  
District Inspector's Office,  
Winnipeg, Man., July 7th, 1898.

W. J. Christie, Esq.,  
Winnipeg, Man.

Sir,—I am in receipt of a telegram from the commissioner of inland revenue instructing me to place you under suspension for refusing to comply with your duties as defined by His Excellency the Governor General in Council appointing you to the position of collector of inland revenue at Calgary.

You will therefore accept this letter as an official notification to you of the action of the department.

I have the honour to be, sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Sgd.) JNO. K. BARRETT,  
District Inspector.

As I said before, this gentleman, although possessed of every qualification, having passed a splendid examination, was refused the promotion which he was entirely deserving of and which his qualifications eminently fitted him for. I claim that the Deputy Collector in Winnipeg was the very man who should have been appointed to the position of Collector, for the reason, in the first place, that by many years' residence in the city he had become thoroughly acquainted with the business men who were transacting business from day to day in the office, and because, in the second place, he was thoroughly conversant with the details of the office, and was in fact instrumental in laying the foundations of the organization of this important branch of the department. He was, therefore, thoroughly fitted to discharge the duties of collector in an efficient manner, not only to suit the convenience of the public, but also to suit the Government of the day. But he refused to be removed to Calgary; and very likely his removal was proposed with the idea that he would refuse, and thereby afford another vacancy for the appointment of another political hanger-on. He was suspended because of his refusal to go to Calgary. He placed his case in a very reasonable manner before the hon. Minister, addressing to him on the 8th of July, 1898, the following communication:—

Winnipeg, July 8th, 1898.

Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière,  
Minister of Inland Revenue,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that I was notified yesterday by Mr. Inspector Barrett that he had received instructions from the department at Ottawa to suspend me.

I can only conclude that the action of the department is due to the statements contained in my letter to you of the 25th ult. In writing that letter I was, of course, aware that unless I could prove the serious charges preferred by me respecting the maladministration of the department my dismissal from the service would follow.

That was something quite reasonable for him to suspect. Therefore, to leave no loophole open, Mr. Christie goes on to lay his suggestions before the department and requests them to act; but no action whatever

was taken by the department with regard to his charges, so far as I am aware, further than by some officers against one particular gentleman who was the collector in the city at that time.

I now write to ask the Government to give me an early opportunity of substantiating the charges made by me, which are as follows:—

1. That when Mr. Costigan was appointed to the collectorship at Ottawa the department was aware that while collector at Winnipeg he was from time to time, and for long periods of time, when he should have been present in Winnipeg to attend to his duties, residing in the United States of America, a defaulter in large amounts of public money entrusted to him by the department.

Now, that is a very serious accusation—that a gentleman, acting as collector of customs at Winnipeg, was residing in the United States from time to time, and for long periods of time, having funds of the Government in his possession, and no steps taken by the Government, but, instead, the position kept open, the gentleman's salary going all the time, and paid by this Government.

2. That the department paid Mr. Costigan's salary and expenses for the time he was absent in the United States on his own business, then knowing he was a defaulter in public moneys.

3. That Mr. Gosnell, who has been appointed collector at Winnipeg, passed his most important examinations by means of a fraudulent scheme.

4. That Mr. Watson, who has been appointed deputy collector at Winnipeg, does not possess any of the technical knowledge which is essential to enable him to protect the public revenue.

I would ask that the commissioners be empowered to take evidence under oath, and that reasonable notice may be given me of the date when the investigation will take place.

I have the honour to be, sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Sgd.) W. J. CHRISTIE.

There are three or four specific charges made which go to show, if they be true—and this gentleman claims he can prove them, and some have already been proven—that the excuse given by the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue, that these changes were made solely and entirely in the public interest, is entirely without foundation; and this third charge, that Mr. Gosnell, who was appointed collector at Winnipeg, passed his most important examination by means of a fraudulent scheme, is a most serious one. I do not blame this Government for this fraudulent passing of the examination, nor do I blame the late Government, because, possibly, they knew nothing about it; but, when this charge was brought to the notice of the Government by Mr. Christie, they failed in their duty in not taking steps to investigate whether it was true or not. The charge is, that this gentleman was enabled to pass his examination by getting surreptitiously an advance copy of the examination papers and studying them for several months. Under these circumstances, it is no wonder he passed the examination and secured his appointment to the position of

collector of inland revenue at Winnipeg. This is a most serious charge, and yet this Government did not take the first steps to ascertain its truth or falsehood.

As far as Mr. Watson is concerned, he is, no doubt, a good citizen of Winnipeg, but a man thoroughly unfit for the position of deputy collector, as he has not the education and never passed the necessary examination. I think, certainly, it was a gross case of mismanagement by this Government to appoint a man deputy collector, over a lot of other officers, who did not pass an examination in any shape or form. Why, the officials under him were instructed to show him what his duties were and how to discharge them. If it was in the public interest to appoint Mr. Watson, would it not have been much better, in the public interest, to appoint to that position one of those men who were instructed to teach him what his duties were and how to perform them? Mr. Watson was an implement agent and a commission agent, and conducted his affairs in such a manner that, at the time he received the position, he did not enjoy a very high standing among his creditors, according to those communications I have just read, and his business capacity was not of that high character one would consider essential in a man appointed to occupy the high position to which he was named. On October 18th, 1898, Mr. Christie received his final dismissal, in the following words:—

Sir,—I am directed to inform you that His Excellency in Council has been pleased to dispense with your services as collector of inland revenue at Calgary, N.W.T., from the 1st July, 1898.

I remain, sir, your obedient servant,  
(Sgd.) WM. HIMSWORTH,  
Secretary.

Now, that is the case, as Mr. Christie submitted it to the department. Mr. Christie, as, of course, the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue may say, refused to comply with the instructions of the department; but, on the other hand, he claimed that these instructions were absolutely unfair, and that, instead of being removed to an inferior position, as he certainly was, he was entitled to promotion. He was ordered to remove to Calgary, where, though his salary would be nominally \$200 higher than at Winnipeg, still, as Mr. Christie has pointed out, the cost of living was, at the very least, \$300 per annum more than it was at Winnipeg. Besides, he did not care to go from the city of Winnipeg, where he had been residing for many years, and where he enjoyed all the educational advantages to be obtained in that city, and, in very polite terms, he refused to comply with the instructions of the department, and submitted to the Minister a very strong case to show that the reasons given were not the true reasons for his removal. It may be said, that the charges were made by a gentleman who was about to lose his position, and, therefore, not of very much consequence; but, when  
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I point out that Mr. Christie offered to have them proven before an impartial commission, one would imagine, naturally, that the Minister of Inland Revenue would have accepted that challenge, and either have the charges proven or shown to be without foundation. But, in order to show that the department was fully cognizant of the truth of at least some of the charges, I may read a letter that Mr. Christie sent to it on the 6th September, 1897:

Winnipeg, Sept. 6, 1897.

E. Miall, Esq.,  
Commissioner of Inland Revenue,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Sir,—I beg to report that I called on the executors of Alex. McIntyre for their bonds and license fee for excise bonding warehouse. Mr. Litchfield, one of the executors, informed me that he executed bonds and handed Mr. Collector Costigan a cheque for \$20. He produced the cheque, which was dated July 6th, 1897, and made payable to the order of the collector of inland revenue. It was endorsed "H. A. Costigan, Collector of Inland Revenue," was accepted July 9th, 1897, and marked paid. The bond I cannot find.

I called on Messrs. Richard & Co., for their bond and license fee excise bonding warehouse, and was informed that they executed bond and gave Mr. Collector Costigan cheque for \$20. They produced the cheque, which was dated July 16th, 1897, and made to the order of the collector of inland revenue. This cheque was endorsed "H. A. Costigan, Collector of Inland Revenue," and either deposited or cashed at the Bank of Hochelaga July 17th, 1897. The bond I cannot find.

I reported the above to Mr. Inspector Barrett. The executors of Alex. McIntyre and Richard & Co., have spirit in bond, and are transacting business as if licenses were issued.

Would you be good enough to advise me what action to take.

I have the honour to be, sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Sgd.) W. J. CHRISTIE,  
Deputy Collector of Inland Revenue.

Again, on December 14th, 1897, he sent another communication to Dr. J. K. Barrett, inspector of inland revenue:

Winnipeg, Dec. 14, 1897.

Dr. J. K. Barrett,  
Inspector of Inland Revenue,  
City.

Sir,—I beg to advise you that I called at the city treasurer's office for a cheque for the two drums methylated spirits invoiced by the Department of Inland Revenue (invoice No. 6448), to the medical health officer, Winnipeg.

The treasurer informed me that a cheque was handed Mr. Collector Costigan for \$209.64, and showed me the account receipted by H. A. Costigan, on the 27th November, 1897.

He showed me a cheque on the Bank of Montreal, dated Nov. 23, 1897, for \$209.64, payable to the order of the collector of inland revenue, cheque was endorsed H. A. Costigan, collector of inland revenue, and W. J. O'Connor. The cheque was cashed by W. J. O'Connor on December 1st, 1897.

Not receiving the cash or cheque for methylated spirit, I take this opportunity of acquainting you of the facts.

Yours truly,  
W. J. CHRISTIE,  
Deputy Collector of Inland Revenue.

Here again was a case where \$209.64 was obtained by the then collector and of which no account was given. Now, the Government did take some action in reference to this communication. On 18th December, 1897, Mr. Barrett received the following telegram :—

Ottawa, Dec. 18, 1897.

J. K. Barrett,  
Inspector Inland Revenue,  
Winnipeg.

Suspend Collector Costigan, pending inquiry.  
(Sgd.) E. MIALL.

Again, on 22nd December, 1897, he received another telegram, as follows :—

J. K. Barrett,  
Inspector Inland Revenue,  
Winnipeg.

Minister desires you to hold official investigation, and report facts fully to department.  
(Sgd.) E. MIALL.

Then, it appears, Mr. Barrett handed in a report to the department, and on 28th January, Mr. Miall received the following telegram :—

Winnipeg, Jan. 26, 1898.

E. Miall,  
Commissioner Inland Revenue,  
Ottawa.

Referring to my report, is it Minister's wish to hold investigation ?

(Sgd.) J. K. BARRETT.

Mr. Barrett received the following on the 27th January :—

Ottawa, January 27, 1898.

J. K. Barrett,  
Inspector Inland Revenue,  
Winnipeg.

Do not investigate ; the facts are potent.

There is evidence that the Minister was fully cognizant of the defalcations that had taken place by the then collector at the city of Winnipeg. He orders an investigation, then receives a report from the inspector at Winnipeg, and the case was so clear that the department wired : "Do not investigate, facts are potent." Yet the Minister of Inland Revenue says that Mr. Costigan was moved to the city of Ottawa in the public interest. Here was a gentleman who, by the department itself, had been proved to have been guilty of these transactions that should have forced his dismissal, and still he has been removed to the city of Ottawa to occupy a position of Collector of Inland Revenue here. And, when Mr. Christie, the Deputy Collector, a gentleman of the very highest character, private and public, and a gentleman of the highest qualifications, seeks the vacant position he is told that, in the public interest, he cannot receive it, but he is instructed to go to Calgary, while Mr. Gosnell is removed to Winnipeg—a gentleman who has been charged with having passed his examination at the third attempt, after having been plucked twice only by means of surreptitiously securing in advance a copy of the examination

paper, a charge to examine which no steps have been taken, so far as I know. Mr. Gosnell was appointed in Mr. Christie's place, appointed without the slightest qualifications or examinations, and still the Minister claims that it is in the country's interests. I leave it to the House whether that is a fair statement of the facts ; and I would like to hear what the Minister of Inland Revenue has to say in refutation of these charges and in his own defence in refusing Mr. Christie his promotion and in making these other appointments.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). I hope that no person will object to this motion being adopted at once. I invited Mr. Christie to try to find somebody to bring the matter before the House. Mr. Christie behaved in such a way that, notwithstanding my repugnance to dismissing a public officer, I thought it my duty to dismiss him, and I did dismiss him. And, as I say, I invited him to bring the matter before the House. He has brought it before the House. When the papers are laid on the Table so that you will be able, Mr. Speaker, to understand the case, I think you will agree, and so will all the members of the House, that I did perfectly right in dismissing Mr. Christie. That is all the explanation I have to give for the moment.

Mr. JOHN COSTIGAN (Victoria, N.B.) It is not a very pleasing duty for me to offer a few remarks upon this motion. But the circumstances are a little out of the usual course. The motion is that certain papers shall be brought down. My own opinion is that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Roche), who moved this resolution, would not be disappointed if no further papers were brought before this House. He has made an exceedingly strong case from the papers he has read, and I am bound to say that, having been at the head of the Inland Revenue Department for some years and having known Mr. Christie, I would not believe that Mr. Christie had penned the letter which the hon. gentleman read to this House ; and, if he penned such a letter, some influence must have been brought to bear to change the feeling and manner that he was possessed of to my knowledge. So far as his record as a public officer is concerned, I am willing to testify that, while I was in a position to have knowledge of it, it was quite satisfactory. The letter of Mr. Christie is made to show that Mr. Battle was forced out of the department to make a vacancy to which my son might be appointed. I have information outside of the department, which, I presume, is possessed by the department also, that the question of Mr. Battle's superannuation was entirely apart from the question of my son's appointment to the place ; that the question of Mr. Battle's superannuation had been settled before the vacancy was discussed. Mr. Battle had reached an age several years past

the time when he was entitled to the maximum superannuation allowance, and the department had decided, rightly or wrongly—I think rightly—that he was getting too old for the active charge of the duties of collector of an important division like this. I am not going to go into that part of the subject any further than to say that my son was transferred from a collectorship of the first-class in Winnipeg, at a salary of \$2,200, to a collectorship here at a salary, I think, of \$1,600. It was not a promotion. I think that the hon. senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Herbert Tupper) can bear me out in this, that my son was anxious, and I have been anxious for many years, to have an exchange made by which my son could be brought nearer to us here. While we were in power, I might have managed, if I chosed, to bring about the change; but I would never think of doing anything like that to the prejudice of any other officer, and it was difficult to find an opportunity for making the exchange, which was the only way I could see by which the object could be accomplished. The reason I refer to the hon. senior member for Pictou is that I think he will recollect that an arrangement was partly made—at least, the late Sir John Thompson had agreed as far as he was concerned—to a transfer between my son and an inspector then in Nova Scotia. Some objections were made, and it was not carried out. When the vacancy occurred here, then my son applied for that vacancy, being eligible for that position certainly by reason of the position he had already occupied. What I complain of is that the case was dwelt upon very strongly to the prejudice especially of the collector at Ottawa, by reading all this correspondence and making out a one-sided case, before the papers are brought down to the House, while the country will only have the statement that has been made here to-night. Now, I am quite satisfied that when the papers come down they will not sustain the accusation made by the hon. gentleman, or volced by him for Mr. Christie; they will not sustain the charge that my son was a defaulter for a length of time, that he lived in the United States for a length of time, and that he received a salary during the time that he was absent from his position there. When my son went to the United States, he went on official duty, he went on the instructions of the inspector of that division. I am bound to confess, of course, that my son is like other men, human, and he has erred, which I regret deeply to have to confess. But there are few who would not be obliged to make that confession also if they were frank and candid. Perhaps the hon. gentleman who moved the motion may some day have to confess that he has not been infallible all through life. But there is nothing that I know against the honour, or the honesty, or the integrity of the collector of Ottawa today, and I am quite sure that when the

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papers come down neither the mover nor those behind him will be able to prove anything dishonest in his conduct. With regard to the services performed by this officer, Mr. Christie, I say he has been a good officer, but that he organized the service in Winnipeg, is complete nonsense. The service at Winnipeg was under the control of one of the most efficient officers in Canada, Inspector Barrett, who organized the service there, and who is responsible for it. Mr. Christie was holding a subordinate position under him, that of deputy collector, the highest rank he could have reached. Now, I only rose to say that while I do not charge the hon. member with having pursued a course which was unfair, I complain that the effect will really be unfair to the collector of Ottawa from the way the matter has been handled. The hon. gentleman has read that long, carefully prepared indictment—for it is not a letter, it is an indictment—at a time when there was no chance of having the official papers to speak for themselves. Then the interpretation he has placed on some of the telegrams is most extraordinary, particularly the telegram with regard to the investigation. After the accusation had been made that the then collector at Winnipeg was a defaulter, certainly I presume that the Minister properly ordered the suspension and an inquiry. But I think the records will show that with regard to that point, his absence was already known to the department. The report will show that he was not a defaulter to the extent of one farthing; therefore, there was no necessity for an inquiry, not because the case was established that he was a thief and a defaulter, because he was not a defaulter, and, therefore, there was no necessity for an inquiry. When the papers come down I am sure that they will not sustain many of the statements that have been made before the House to-night.

Motion agreed to.

#### RETURNS ORDERED.

Copies of all petitions, correspondence, letters or documents in relation to the following dismissals:—Job Bilodeau, postmaster of Chambord; Louis Desbiens, postmaster of St. Jérôme; William Larouche, postmaster of Lake Bouchette; Ferdinand Larsouche, postmaster of Delisle; F. X. Setowneau, postmaster of St. Bruno, all in the county of Chicoutimi; together with all petitions, correspondence, letters or documents in relation to the appointment of their successors.—(Mr. Casgrain.)

Copies of all letters and telegrams that have passed between the Government and the Ashcroft Water and Electric Company, or Mr. Peter Ryan, or Mr. John Shields, or any other person on their behalf in regard to the purchase of some 4,000 acres of land near Ashcroft, B.C., within the railway belt.—(Mr. Prior.)

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 10.55 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, 2nd May, 1899.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 100) respecting the Guarantee and Pension Fund Society of the Dominion Bank, and to change its name to the Pension Fund Society of the Dominion Bank.—(Mr. Bertram.)

Bill (No. 101) to incorporate the Glenora Railway Company.—(Mr. Morrison.)

Bill (No. 102) to incorporate the Yukon Pacific Railway Company.—(Mr. Morrison.)

Bill (No. 103) to incorporate the Klondike Mining and Railway Company.—(Mr. Maxwell.)

Bill (No. 104) respecting the Dominion Permanent Loan Company.—(Mr. Clarke.)

### BUSINESS OF THE SESSION.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved :

That Government Orders have precedence on Thursdays, after Questions, for the remainder of the session.

He said : I call the attention of my hon. friend to this motion. I think he will find it reasonable, and I hope he will agree to it.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER** (Cape Breton). I presume I may assume that if this is conceded, there will be no attempt to infringe further on the business of private members until such business is pretty well forwarded.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. If my hon. friend will look at the Order paper he will see that private business has been pretty well advanced these last two weeks. At all events, I think we may fairly take this day, and for some time to come I do not intend, of course, to supplement it.

Motion agreed to.

### COMMISSIONER OGILVIE'S REPORT.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER**. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask my right hon. friend if the Government has yet received Mr. Ogilvie's report on Yukon affairs, and if so, how soon it will be laid upon the Table of the House. It is very desirable that we should have that at the earliest possible moment.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. I am just informed by my colleague the Minister of the

Interior (Mr. Sifton) that Mr. Ogilvie's report has not yet been received.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER**. I would like also to call the attention of the right hon. gentleman to the fact that a number of motions have been carried for the production of papers in regard to matters relating to the Yukon, and I would express the hope that the Government should lose no time in laying those upon the Table of the House.

### PUBLIC BUILDING AT ANNAPOLIS ROYAL.

**Mr. JOHN B. MILLS** (Annapolis). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), if he intends to paint the public building at Annapolis Royal ; and if so, whether he has asked for tenders for the performance of the work ?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). This question is of such vast importance that a notice of motion must be given.

**Mr. SPEAKER**. I am inclined to think it is not of sufficient importance to put upon the paper.

### WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding) moved :

That the House resolve itself into committee to consider the Ways and Means for raising the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

He said : In availing myself of this motion to make the customary statement of the financial affairs of the Dominion, I have the agreeable duty of dealing with a period which is unquestionably the most prosperous period in the history of the Dominion of Canada. I shall treat, in the first place, of the fiscal year ended June 30 last, and as some nine months have elapsed since that date, and all the main features of the year's accounts have long been public property, I shall be as brief as is consistent with the importance of the subject. Speaking generally, the operations of the year have surpassed the expectation formed by me a year ago in the statement I then made. The marked revival which has been experienced in all lines of trade in the business world has, of course, contributed to this result, and I am persuaded that the policy of this Government in relation to all that touches the people's interests has alike been an important contributory cause. For the year 1897-8, the total revenue amounted to \$40,555,238.03, or \$1,255,238.03 more than I anticipated, and \$2,725,459 more than the previous year. The details of this revenue I give as follows, with a comparison of the receipts of the previous year 1896-97 :—

|                 | 1897.      | 1898.      | Increase. | Decrease. |
|-----------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
|                 | \$         | \$         | \$        | \$        |
| Customs ..      | 19,478,247 | 21,704,892 | 2,226,645 |           |
| Excise....      | 9,170,378  | 7,871,562  |           | 1,298,816 |
| Post Office     | 3,202,938  | 3,527,809  | 324,871   |           |
| Miscellaneous.. | 5,978,213  | 7,450,972  | 1,472,758 |           |

Showing a net increase for 1898 over 1897 of \$2,725,459. The increase in customs duties is very pronounced. From an analysis of the report of my colleague the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), I find that on the following articles we received an increase in the amount of duty as compared with the previous year:—

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Ale, beer and porter .....                           | \$ 4,073 |
| Animals, living.....                                 | 31,521   |
| Brass and manufactures of.....                       | 4,572    |
| Arrowroot, biscuits, rice, macaroni.....             | 65,729   |
| Flour and meal of all kinds.....                     | 29,119   |
| Brooms and brushes .....                             | 6,132    |
| Candles .....  | 5,080    |
| Cement .....   | 37,780   |
| Clocks and clock springs.....                        | 11,302   |
| Coffee .....   | 3,814    |
| Copper and manufactures of.....                      | 5,342    |
| Cotton, manufactures of.....                         | 172,816  |
| Drugs, dyes, chemicals and medicines...              | 34,752   |
| Earthenware and china.....                           | 7,125    |
| Fancy goods .....                                    | 90,545   |
| Flax, hemp and jute, manufactures of...              | 48,634   |
| Fruits and nuts, dried.....                          | 80,716   |
| Fruits and nuts, green .....                         | 25,147   |
| Furs and manufactures of .....                       | 5,115    |
| Gunpowder and other explosives.....                  | 3,509    |
| Gutta percha and India-rubber, manufactures of ..... | 20,992   |
| Hats, caps and bonnets.....                          | 38,148   |
| Iron and steel, manufactures of .....                | 744,756  |
| Jewellery .....                                      | 25,624   |
| Lead and manufactures of.....                        | 10,784   |
| Leather, manufactures of.....                        | 48,674   |
| Marble, manufactures of.....                         | 6,413    |
| Metal composition and other.....                     | 63,879   |

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Musical instruments .....                              | \$11,717 |
| Paints and colours .....                               | 10,158   |
| Paper and manufactures of.....                         | 32,288   |
| Pickles, sauces and capers, all kinds....              | 3,844    |
| Printing presses .....                                 | 11,013   |
| Provisions, viz., butter, cheese, lard and meats ..... | 243,882  |
| Ships and vessels and repairs on.....                  | 16,474   |
| Silk, manufactures of.....                             | 166,047  |
| Spices of all kinds.....                               | 4,004    |
| Spirits and wines .....                                | 77,803   |
| Sugar candy and confectionery .....                    | 5,376    |
| Tobacco, manufactures of.....                          | 180,046  |
| Varnish .....  | 4,287    |
| Vegetables .....                                       | 15,167   |
| Watches and parts thereof .....                        | 3,552    |
| Wool and manufactures of.....                          | 174,207  |
| All other dutiable goods .....                         | 507,979  |

On the other hand, we have received from the following classes of articles a reduced revenue, as compared with the previous year:—

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Books, periodicals and other printed matter ..... | \$ 20,951 |
| Grain of all kinds .....                          | 116,722   |
| Bricks and tiles .....                            | 2,906     |
| Carriages .....                                   | 90,048    |
| Carpets and squares .....                         | 11,047    |
| Coal and coke.....                                | 38,629    |
| Cordage of all kinds.....                         | 5,829     |
| Embroideries, n.e.s.....                          | 30,176    |
| Fish and products of .....                        | 3,791     |
| Glass and manufactures of.....                    | 45,355    |
| Gold and silver, manufactures of.....             | 2,362     |
| Oils .....  | 46,316    |
| Seeds and roots.....                              | 10,782    |
| Sugar of all kinds .....                          | 399,039   |
| Sugar, molasses .....                             | 12,630    |
| Wood and manufactures of.....                     | 3,980     |

Our receipts from excise declined to the extent of \$1,298,816, and, had the circumstances been at all normal, this decline would challenge comment. But you will remember, Mr. Speaker, that, owing to the expectation of increased duties in the spring of 1897, large quantities of spirits, malt and tobacco were ex-warehoused for consumption, and, as a consequence, the receipts from excise suffered in the year 1897-98 to the extent of this anticipation. The movement in the various articles of excise is as follows:—

| Articles.             | Quantity, 1897.  | Quantity, 1898. | Duty accrued, 1897. | Duty accrued, 1898. | Increase. | Decrease. |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                       |                  |                 | \$                  | \$                  | \$        | \$        |
| Spirits .....         | Galls. 2,782,514 | 1,878,345       | 4,732,506           | 3,563,575           |           | 1,168,931 |
| Malt .....            | Lbs. 68,443,353  | 38,954,715      | 1,026,652           | 584,321             |           | 442,331   |
| Cigars.....           | No. 113,276,105  | 113,132,223     | 678,029             | 676,577             |           | 1,452     |
| Cigarettes.....       | " 93,798,000     | 80,562,817      | 156,257             | 240,343             | 84,086    |           |
| Tobacco and snuff.... | Lbs. 10,690,765  | *17,321,045     | 2,398,443           | 2,651,633           | 253,190   |           |
|                       |                  |                 | 8,991,887           | 7,716,449           | 337,276   | 1,612,714 |
|                       |                  |                 |                     |                     |           | 337,276   |
|                       |                  |                 |                     |                     |           | 1,275,438 |

\* This includes 8,506,199 lbs. of foreign raw leaf tobacco, on which a Customs duty of 10c. per lb. was collected.

The per capita consumption of spirits, beer, wine and tobacco for the year 1897-98 and for the three preceding years, according to the report of my colleague the Minister of Inland Revenue, is as follows:—

|            | Spirits,<br>Galls. | Beer,<br>Galls. | Wine,<br>Galls. | Tobacco,<br>Lbs. |
|------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1895 ..... | 666                | 3,471           | 090             | 2,163            |
| 1896 ..... | 623                | 3,528           | 070             | 2,120            |
| 1897 ..... | 723                | 3,469           | 084             | 2,243            |
| 1898 ..... | 536                | 3,808           | 082             | 2,358            |

Leaving the revenue, and coming to the expenditure side of the statement, I find the total expenditure on Consolidated Fund amounted to \$38,832,525.70. This is somewhat in excess of the estimate of \$38,750,000 I made last year, and is \$482,765 more than was expended in the previous fiscal year. In the following services I find there have occurred increased outlays:—

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Sinking funds .....                              | \$258,154 |
| Arts, agriculture and statistics .....           | 20,841    |
| Immigration .....                                | 133,756   |
| Quarantine .....                                 | 17,081    |
| Pensions .....                                   | 5,305     |
| Superannuation .....                             | 32,393    |
| North-west Mounted Police .....                  | 239,253   |
| Public Works, Consolidated Fund.....             | 237,594   |
| Railways and Canals, Consolidated Fund           | 56,085    |
| Mail subsidies and steamship subventions         | 35,961    |
| Lighthouse and coast service .....               | 28,473    |
| Indians .....                                    | 44,520    |
| Government of the North-west Territories         | 27,151    |
| Customs .....                                    | 26,074    |
| Excise .....                                     | 3,893     |
| Culling timber .....                             | 2,627     |
| Public Works, collection of revenue .....        | 8,745     |
| Railways and Canals, collection of revenue ..... | 323,584   |
| Trade and Commerce .....                         | 2,582     |

There have been decreases in the expenditures on the following services, as compared with 1896-97:—

|                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Interest on public debt .....       | \$ 28,905 |
| Charges of management .....         | 43,340    |
| Premium, discount and exchange..... | 72,086    |
| Civil Government .....              | 19,424    |
| Administration of justice .....     | 9,153     |
| Dominion Police .....               | 1,688     |
| Legislation .....                   | 404,943   |
| Penitentiaries .....                | 23,203    |
| Militia .....                       | 153,115   |
| Ocean and river service.....        | 42,704    |
| Fisheries .....                     | 1,862     |
| Geological Survey .....             | 10,000    |
| Miscellaneous .....                 | 21,006    |
| Weights and measures, and gas.....  | 1,469     |
| Post Office .....                   | 214,066   |
| Dominion Lands .....                | 20,118    |
| Electric light inspection .....     | 1,993     |

The principal increases will be found in Sinking Funds, Immigration, Mounted Police, Public Works (consolidated fund), and Railways and Canals (collections). The increase in the sinking fund is, of course, only nominal, as the money is simply taken out of one pocket and put into another. I need say nothing with regard to immigration other than to mention the necessity of bringing to our shores those who are capable of taking advantage of our vast tracts of unoccupied lands. The increase with regard to the

North-west Mounted Police is created by reason of the administration of the Yukon, and my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) has had to keep our various public works in the best shape, and the extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal is the principal reason for the increase in railways and canals collection.

The principal decreases occur in Legislation, Militia and Post Office. You will remember that in 1896-97, we had two sessions of Parliament, and the accounts of 1896-97 contain the charge for the extra session; hence the reduction under the head of legislation in comparing the accounts of the year 1897-98 with those of the previous year. With regard to militia, in 1896-97, we had to expend extra sums on the annual training, in consequence of the camps having been omitted the last year of the administration of hon. gentlemen opposite, and hence the reduction of the expenditure in 1897-98 as compared with 1896-97.

The reduction in the Post Office Department expenditure of 1897-98, as compared with 1896-97, follows as the result of the business-like management of that branch of the public service by my hon. friend the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), whose accounts show an increase of revenue to the extent of \$324,871, and a decrease of expenditure to the extent of \$214,066, making, as regards these two items of increased revenue and decreased expenditure, a betterment in the Post Office Department amounting to \$538,937.

#### Post Office Department—

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Increased revenue as compared with previous year .....    | \$324,871 |
| Decreased expenditure as compared with previous year..... | 214,066   |

Total betterment in P. O. Dept.. \$538,937

This state of affairs has encouraged the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mulock), and the Government to take the important step of reducing the domestic postage to 2 cents, and also to extend the advantages of penny postage to a great part of the Empire.

I have dealt thus generally with the revenue and expenditure, and now let me recapitulate. We received a revenue of \$40,555,238; we expended \$38,832,525, and this left us a surplus of \$1,722,712, as a result of the operations of the year on the ordinary services.

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Revenue received ..... | \$40,555,238 |
| Expenditure .....      | 38,832,525   |
| Surplus.....           | \$1,722,712  |

In my financial statement of last year I intimated that my aim was to insure a surplus for the year 1898-99 which at least would be equal to the deficit of the previous year, namely, \$519,000; and leave something to the good. I went on to say, however, that there were certain conditions of the trade at that time which were so hopeful that I would not be surprised if a more favourable result

were obtained. I am glad to be able to say that buoyancy of trade and our revenues was even greater than my own expectations, and so we are able to have this handsome surplus, which is largely in excess of the amount which I estimated in my statement to the House last year.

In addition to the outlay chargeable to what is ordinarily known as income in 1897-98 we expended other sums known as capital charges to the amount of \$4,156,696, made up as follows :

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Intercolonial Railway and Prince Edward Island Railway .....  | \$ 270,298 68         |
| St. Lawrence River and Canals....   | 2,535,949 61          |
| Other canals .....  | 671,658 68            |
| Public Works—Government Buildings, Ottawa, improvement in St. Lawrence and Port Arthur Harbours ..... | 376,852 66            |
| Dominion Lands .....  | 127,504 71            |
| Militia .....   | 173,740 32            |
| Canadian Pacific Railway Company.   | 692 17                |
| <b>Total.....</b>   | <b>\$4,156,696 83</b> |

There was also paid out for railway subsidies—an item which goes to increase our debt, but which is not technically chargeable to capital, although it amounts to the same thing—the sum of \$1,414,934.78 ; making for capital expenditure and railway subsidies for the year a total of \$5,571,631.61.

After paying for this outlay and making provisions for \$930,482.25, representing discount and expenses of the loan of 1897 ; the net debt for the year 1897-98 has only been increased by the sum of \$2,417,802.

The capital expenditure was, of course, large in 1897-98, and is large this current fiscal year, but with the approaching completion of the enlargement of the canals, a reduction on this head is proposed, as you will see by the Estimates for the year 1899-1900, recently submitted.

The following statement gives details of how the increase in the net debt is accounted for :

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Capital expenditure and railway subsidies .....                                 | \$5,571,631 61        |
| Discount and expenses of loan of 1897 .....                                     | 930,482 25            |
| <b>Total.....</b>   | <b>\$6,502,113 86</b> |
| Less—Amount of receipts over expenditures on account of Consolidated Fund ..... | 1,722,712 33          |
| Sinking Funds .....   | 2,359,968 55          |
| Refunds on account of public works (capital) and N. W. Rebellion....            | 1,630 53              |
| <b>Total.....</b>   | <b>\$4,084,311 41</b> |
| <b>Net increase debt .....</b>  | <b>\$2,417,802 45</b> |

Coming now to the current fiscal year, of which but two months have to elapse. I wish to lay before you, Mr. Speaker, what my expectations are as to revenue and expenditure.

Up to the 30th of April of the present year, our receipts were \$37,232,700.46 ; being \$5,077,160.61 more than we received during the

Mr. FIELDING.

same period last year. From April 30th to the 30th June last year we received \$8,399,698.18, and if to these two sums we add the probable proportionate increase of \$1,000,000 between the 30th April and the 30th of June, we arrive at an estimated revenue for the current year of \$46,632,398.64.

On the other hand, up to the 30th April, 1899, we expended \$27,972,847.04 ; or \$2,493,503.14 more than for a similar period last year.

If to these we add the amount of expenditure between the 30th April and the 30th of June last year, namely, \$13,352,181.80, and estimating the probable proportionate increase of \$700,000 this year over last year, between this and the end of the year ; I estimate that our expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 1899, will be \$42,026,028.84.

As I have just estimated the revenue at \$46,632,398.64, you will see, Mr. Speaker, that for the current fiscal year I anticipate a surplus of receipts over expenditures of, in round numbers, \$4,600,000. With reference to this estimated surplus for 1898-99, I must, however, say that in consequence of the buoyancy of trade and the confident tone of business, the making of an exceedingly close estimate is very difficult. Some features which enter into the estimate, such as the amount of the royalties and other receipts from the Yukon, are conjectural, and there are no means of arriving at accurate estimates. But the figures given are based on the actual results up to the 30th of April of the present year, to which are added the figures of last year to represent the expenditure for the unexpired portion of the present year, with a proportionate estimated increase in the revenue and expenditure. It may possibly be the case that the surplus will turn out larger than the estimate I have just made ; but to be within reasonable bounds, and to avoid anything like being over-sanguine. I have put it down at \$4,600,000.

With regard to the capital expenditure and the effect on the net debt of the operations of the current fiscal year, I find, Mr. Speaker, that up to the 30th of April, 1899, we expended on capital account and for railway subsidies the sum of \$7,162,795.18. To complete the service of the year it is estimated that \$1,500,000 additional will be required, making in all an expenditure of \$8,662,795.18. If we deduct from this amount the aggregate of the estimated surplus of \$4,600,000, and the estimated outlay for sinking fund of \$2,355,000, it will be found that I anticipate an addition to our net debt on the 30th of June next of \$1,700,000.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. My hon. friends opposite, I see, smile at the modesty of the amount, and at the idea that the Government should be able to carry on the vast operations which this Government have engaged in, and show only the moderate increase in the debt of last year of \$2,500,000

or less, and an estimated addition to the debt of the present year of only \$1,700,000, as against the average of \$6,000,000 which hon. gentlemen opposite added yearly to the public debt.

Now, while I put down the sum of \$1,700,000 as the estimated increase of debt, it is but right that I should add a word of explanation similar to what I have stated in estimating the surplus of the current year, because the amount of surplus affects the amount of net debt. It may not be surprising if at the close of the year it be found from increased revenues from the Yukon, which we cannot possibly at the moment foresee, that the increase of debt is not so large as I have anticipated. I may say also that the estimate of the capital expenditure and for railway subsidies for the next two months is a very generous one. Keeping these two circumstances in mind, I think the figure I have given of \$1,700,000 as the increase of net debt is an outside one. My desire has been to give you, Mr. Speaker, a fair, safe and accurate estimate of my expectations of the year's out-turn, and to keep well within bounds.

In speaking of our debt it might not be out of place to bring to the attention of the House the value of our principal stocks in the London market, as shown by the quotations of the Stock Exchange.

From the year 1894 until the end of 1897 the Bank of England rate ruled very low, for the greater part of that time being only 2 per cent, and during this period of stagnation there was a decided reserve on the part of investors to touch any class of securities except those of the very highest grade. As a consequence of the low rate of interest, the scarcity of first-class investments, and this reserve on the part of investors, all "gilt-edged" stocks rose in 1896 and 1897 to values which a leading financial paper characterized as abnormal. The market prices of Canadian 3 per cents rose with others to as high as 108.

With the revival in business, the rise in the bank rate, and the increasing openings for safe investments the abnormal values of 1896 and 1897 receded. This fall affected not only Canadian stocks but was experienced by all the highest class issues, even consols. In the case of the latter (consols), there was a fall of 2 to 2½ points between the prices of the end of December, 1897, and December, 1898. In India threes there was a similar decline of three points. In the class of securities known as British corporations, that run on all-fours with the colonial stocks, there has been a very special and noticeable set-back of from four to seven points in the prices of December, 1897, and those of December, 1898. In the whole line of colonial stocks there was a fall of three or four points, though in some cases the fall was as much as seven points. Although the Canadian securities were to some extent depreciated, as was the case with other stocks, yet the depreciation was not

so great nor so lasting as in the case of other securities of a similar character.

Taking the two stocks that have some time yet to mature, I refer to the 3 per cent and 2½ per cent issues, and eliminating the other stocks that are gradually approaching par in consequence of their early maturity, I find that the 3 per cents are quoted at 102-4 and the 2½ per cents at 91-2.

There is another subject of interest to which I might refer in this connection, and that is as to what has been done in the direction of obtaining Imperial legislation, so that Canadian inscribed stocks might be included in the list of securities in which investments might be made by trustees. Without going at all into the history of the matter, I may say that on the 23rd of February last an Order in Council on the subject was passed and forwarded to the Imperial Government, putting our case as strongly as possible, and urging that Her Majesty's Government take such action as would provide for the inclusion of Canadian stocks in the list of securities authorized for trustee investments. Our efforts are being ably aided by the High Commissioner, Lord Strathcona. This would be a distinct advantage to our securities, and I estimate that their enhancement in price, if they could be put on the trustee list, would be somewhere about two or three points. It was recently shown that in consequence of legislation according some favourable terms to Crown colonies in respect of their loans, the market price advanced so as in effect to place this class of securities on a level with the trustee list. The gain in several cases was from three to six points.

It may be noticed that recently a 2½ per cent loan of £1,000,000 was floated by the corporation of Liverpool. This security comes within the category of trustee investments, and it realized £93 10s. 5d. per £100. So that I am within bounds when I say that I think the effect of placing our securities in this class would enhance their value about two or three points. Looking at the large amount of our debt that matures at an early date, the advantage to Canada of this privilege is a very material one.

It is no doubt very probable also that at an early date, owing to the large absorption of consols by the Imperial Government for savings bank investments, they may have to extend the field of securities in which investments may be made. It is to be hoped that a further impetus will be given towards putting our stocks on a higher plane. In view of the fact that a very large amount of our debt is to mature within a comparatively early period, the very great importance of our inducing, if we can, Her Majesty's Government to place our securities on the trustee list will be realized at once by the House; because, if that were done, it would make a very material saving in our rate of interest.

With regard to the year 1899-1900, I am afraid that I cannot approach the making

of an estimate of the out-turn with any degree of certainty. The circumstances of this current year have been so exceptional, and the likelihood of their continuance is such, that I can do nothing but deal in very general terms with the year's operations. The Estimates for 1899-1900 have been laid before you, and I do not anticipate that the year will prove less favourable in its results than the current one.

The net increase in the Estimates for 1899-1900 over 1898-99 is \$563,484.99. The main items of increase are interest on public debt, immigration, railways (income and collection), and the government of the Yukon provisional district.

The increase in interest on public debt arises from the retention of the 3 per cent rate of interest on savings bank deposits, and the probable amount to meet new indebtedness.

The increase in the estimate for immigration of \$100,000 speaks for itself. The increase in the railways and canals expenditure arises mainly from the repairs to different canals. The enlarged appropriation for the Yukon provisional district speaks for itself. We are also asking for a larger vote for militia in order to put our forces on a more efficient footing.

I have alluded, Sir, in this connection, to the fact that in our Estimates for the current year we include the three per cent rate on the savings bank deposits. In that connection I may remind the House that a year ago it was suggested that we might probably reduce the rate on these deposits from 3 per cent to 2½ per cent, except in the case of the smaller depositors, for whom it was understood we ought to make exceptional provision. I argued then that it ought not to be the policy of the Government of Canada to make money artificially high by paying a rate of interest higher than it would command in the open market. At that time, there was a very evident tendency towards cheaper money, and I thought the probability was that we might be able to make a reduction in the rate with perfect safety. As we had just placed our new issue of securities on a 2½ per cent basis it seemed not unreasonable that we should follow this rate into our savings bank accounts. But the tendency towards cheaper money which appeared to exist at that time was not maintained; the demand for money throughout the world was strong, and we considered that the time was not favourable for reducing the rate below 3 per cent. We have, therefore, in our present estimate included the 3 per cent rate, which adds \$237,500 to the charge for interest as compared with last year's estimate, though it does not represent an actual increase of debt. For the time being, therefore, I have postponed making any reduction, though, of course, leaving myself free, if at any time the market should permit, to make the reduction contemplated. It is not likely at present that that will be done, but if it should at

any time become practicable, some provision could be made for a reduction of the rate, allowing the present rate to be continued on the smaller deposits.

I wish now to call the attention of the House to the fact that in January last we contracted a temporary loan of £500,000 sterling by the discounting of treasury bills, and our anticipation is that on the 1st July next we shall require to discount a further sum of £500,000 sterling, which will then make our floating debt on that date £1,000,000 sterling in all.

I would remind the House that in the session of 1897 we passed an Act giving us power to borrow \$15,000,000. At that time there were outstanding borrowing powers to the extent of \$8,000,000, so that at the passing of that Act the Government had borrowing powers to the extent of \$23,000,000.

It was the general impression of hon. gentlemen opposite that in view of the large obligations which were arising, we would speedily require a larger borrowing power, but I am glad to say, however, that owing to the buoyancy of our revenues we have been enabled to administer public affairs by the exercise of only a part of the borrowing powers I have mentioned. It will be remembered that the loan we placed on the market in the fall of 1897 was for £2,000,000 sterling, or something less than \$10,000,000. Having regard to our moderation in borrowing at that time, it would not have been surprising if we had been obliged since then to incur large temporary loans; but owing to the steady improvement of our revenues, it was not until January, 1899, that we had occasion to raise any temporary loan.

I have noticed a criticism emanating from our political opponents in connection with that temporary loan to which I ought to make a passing reference. It has been represented that the borrowing of this £500,000 in the month of January was conclusive evidence that the finances of the Dominion were not in that healthy condition which was had alleged. "The Government," said these critics, "pretend that there is a surplus; but how can that be possible when they have to go on the money market and borrow about two and a half millions?"

Among those familiar with our public affairs, no answer to that criticism would be required. But we shall agree, I suppose, that our duty is to have these matters so explained that they will be understood, not only by financiers, but by the general public as well. And no doubt some people were impressed by the criticism that because we had to borrow, therefore we could not have the surplus we claimed. Let me then point out that there is no connection whatever between a question of a surplus and the question of a temporary loan. It is quite possible that temporary loans may be required, even in the most prosperous years, and reference to the Public Accounts will show that under

the administration of our predecessors such loans had sometimes to be obtained even in years when there were handsome surpluses.

There are seasons when the revenue flows rapidly into the treasury and our bank's balance swell to gratifying figures. But there are other seasons when our expenditure not only keeps pace with the income but outruns it. At such times it may be necessary to obtain temporary loans to meet demands. Such a condition would be possible without the expenditure of a dollar on capital account. If the Minister of Finance should begin the year with an absolutely clean sheet, having nothing to provide for but the ordinary service of the year, his first duty would be to go into the money markets and raise a loan. At the very beginning of the year—before receiving a penny of revenue—he would find himself under obligation to provide over \$2,000,000 to pay subsidies to the government of the provinces, which under the British North America Act are paid in advance. Then he would require a considerable sum to meet other demands as they might arise. He could not afford to rely entirely on the receipts from day to day to meet the daily demands. The traditions of the Finance Department recognize about a million and a half dollars as about the lowest sum that should be kept available to respond to the demands from time to time, and no Finance Minister feels comfortable when he finds his balance falling below that sum, as may sometimes happen. It will be seen, therefore, that even in prosperous years that the question of a temporary loan has nothing whatever to do with the question of our surplus, and it is quite possible even in most prosperous years—years of surpluses—that it may be necessary to effect temporary loans to meet temporary conditions.

Mr. FOSTER. Is my hon. friend leaving this matter of the loan? He might give us an idea as to the terms, the interest, &c.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The loan was effected by the discounting of treasury bills with the Bank of Montreal at 3½ per cent per annum.

Mr. FOSTER. What was the amount of the balance in the bank on January 1st?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I shall be glad to inform my hon. friend later on but have not the figures at hand. At all events the loan was really necessary in order to keep up our balance to the factor of safety as established by the traditions of the Finance Department.

With regard to the increase in the public debt, it has been very moderate under the present Administration, as will be seen by comparison with the records of previous Administrations.

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| In 1894 the increase was..... | \$4,501,989 87 |
| 1895 .....                    | 6,891,897 61   |
| 1896 .....                    | 5,422,505 68   |
| 1897 .....                    | 3,041,163 69   |
| 1898 .....                    | 2,417,802 45   |

Showing that the increase in the public debt during the two years of the present Administration has been exceptionally low as compared with its increase in the years in which our predecessors held office.

Mr. FOSTER. I hope that my hon. friend will not omit to mention the abnormal increase in 1896.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. My hon. friend is quite correct. There was an item of upwards of \$2,000,000, some \$2,400,000 odd if my memory serves me right, for the province of Quebec, which had been originally granted as a railway subsidy and placed to the credit of that province and which it was not at liberty to draw, but by a subsequent Act of Parliament the province was authorized to draw it, and, therefore, it became a part of the debt. I thought, on coming to office, that it should be added to the debt of the country. Therefore it was shown in the amount for the year 1896 and did go to abnormally increase the debt of that year. But if we compare the whole Conservative period of administration with ours, you will find that during their eighteen years of office the Conservative Government increased the debt from year to year on an average of over \$6,000,000 per year against our annual increase of about two and a half million dollars.

That there should be any increase of the debt while the accounts show a surplus is something that some of our opponents profess to be unable to understand. The fact that at the close of the last fiscal year there was a surplus of \$1,722,712 appears to have been much more satisfactory to the public generally than to some of the Government's critics.

The statement has frequently been made, that there was no surplus, inasmuch as there was a large expenditure on capital account for railway subsidies, which, if added to the ordinary expenditure, would more than wipe out the surplus. This is a favourite line of attack from the Opposition press. It would be a fair criticism, if the practice of the Government in past years had been to add such railway and capital charges to the ordinary expenditure, before declaring a surplus. But every one who knows anything of the matter is well aware that such has not been the method in the past. We treat these charges in precisely the same manner as our predecessors did. Expenditure for the construction or subsidizing of railways and for the more important works, such as canals, is always charged to capital account. These being permanent improvements, are regarded as legitimate subjects for increase of the public debt, and only the interest thereon as a proper charge upon the ordinary expenditure of the year. If the ground now taken by the Conservative press is a correct one, then surpluses in Canada have been very rare indeed. The Public Accounts for the two

periods of Conservative administration purport to show sixteen surpluses. If we could admit the present Conservative argument to be a fair one, that a surplus does not exist unless the revenue exceeds the expenditure on both ordinary account and capital account, we would be obliged to wipe out fourteen of these surpluses and accuse hon. gentlemen opposite of having, in all these years, cooked their accounts. In the thirty-one years of confederation, there have been only two years in which the receipts exceeded the total expenditure chargeable to both income and capital accounts. But I have no intention of making such a charge against hon. gentlemen opposite. There have been many surpluses in the past; and, perhaps, the most gratifying of all was that of that \$1,720,000 last year, which was brought about by a policy which, at the same time, reduced the rate of taxation under the customs tariff. I have here a statement of the receipts and expenditure for the Yukon district:

## YUKON DISTRICT.

| 1897-98—             | Expenditure.          | Revenue.              |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Interior .....       | \$ 81,670 17          | \$735,485 09          |
| Customs .....        | 6,608 81              | 310,005 04            |
| Mounted Police ..... | 495,777 08            | .....                 |
| Militia .....        | 99,976 00             | .....                 |
| Public Works .....   | 14,000 00             | .....                 |
|                      | <u>\$698,032 06</u>   | <u>\$1,045,490 13</u> |
| 1898-99—             |                       |                       |
| Interior .....       | \$218,112 26          | \$472,872 40          |
| Customs .....        | 19,569 02             | 322,884 67            |
| Mounted Police ..... | 760,000 00            | .....                 |
| Militia .....        | 117,900 00            | .....                 |
| Public Works .....   | 31,000 00             | .....                 |
|                      | <u>\$1,146,581 22</u> | <u>\$795,757 07</u>   |

This statement shows a balance against the Government on the Yukon account for the present year, but the receipts of the Yukon will likely come in before the 1st July, to more than cover the deficiency, because it is at the close of the fiscal year that we receive a considerable amount of royalty.

It will be remembered that, when the increase was made in the tobacco duties, the opinion was expressed by some hon. gentlemen—and not without reason—that tobacco had, perhaps, reached a point at which any addition to the taxation would fail to produce additional revenue. It is always possible, especially with an article of that character, to place your duty at such a figure that you encourage smuggling to an enormous extent, and so obtain no increase of revenue. In view of the difference of opinion—and a very legitimate difference—I have had a statement prepared showing the revenue collected on tobacco of all descriptions for a series of years:

Mr. FIELDING.

| Year.        | By Inland Revenue. | By Customs. | Total.       |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
|              | \$ cts.            | \$ cts.     | \$ cts.      |
| 1893-94 ...  | 3,136,053 51       | 287,703 95  | 3,423,757 46 |
| 1894-95..... | 3,002,709 69       | 263,392 26  | 3,266,101 95 |
| 1895-96..... | 2,997,852 95       | 267,245 59  | 3,265,098 54 |
| 1896-97..... | 3,232,731 02       | 301,001 45  | 3,533,732 47 |
| 1897-98 ...  | 3,568,554 75       | 481,048 32  | 4,049,603 07 |

It will be seen, therefore, Sir, that, to a very large extent, our revenues have profited by the addition that was made to the taxation of tobacco. I have no doubt, however, that the smuggling of tobacco has, to some extent, been increased; but I think that, with the vigilance of my hon. friends the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) and the Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière), we may hope that that will not go on to any very large extent.

Mr. FOSTER. If I do not mistake, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding), when he proposed the increase of duty, estimated an increase of nearly a million dollars from tobacco.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes. The revenue for the year 1897-98 exceeded the average of the four years previous by \$677,430.47. Though we did not get the full million, we did obtain a very large amount; and I think that the difference would be, in part, explained by the fact, that there has been a very considerable displacement of foreign tobacco by the cultivation of the native leaf, which has been carried on to a very large extent. Perhaps, the figures on that question would interest the House. I have here a statement of the production and consumption of tobacco, the product of the Canadian raw leaf:

| Year.                         | Number of Factories. | Produced.  | Entered for Consumption. | Duty.     |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------|--------------------------|-----------|
|                               |                      | Lbs.       | Lbs.                     | \$ cts.   |
| 1893-94.....                  | 10                   | 322,581    | 302,836                  | 15,141 82 |
| 1894-95.....                  | 11                   | 523,347½   | 472,643                  | 23 632 20 |
| 1895-96.....                  | ...                  | 474,205    | 463,654                  | 23,182 63 |
| 1896-97.....                  | 12                   | 690,141½   | 726,081                  | 36,304 25 |
| 1897-98.....                  | 14                   | 1,949,429  | 1,887,959                | 94,398 03 |
| First 9 mos. of 1898-99.....  | 11                   | 1,502,153½ | 1,497,498                |           |
| + ¼ for balance of year ..... | .....                | 500,718    | 492,499                  |           |
| Probable output, 1898-99..... | .....                | 2,002,868½ | 1,969,997                |           |

Mr. FOSTER. Will my hon. friend be kind enough to tell me what the excise on the foreign leaf is?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. 25 cents on manufactured, plus 10 cents on the leaf, 35 cents. During the past year there have been licensed 11 tobacco manufactories using Canadian leaf, 3 tobacco manufactories using Canadian and foreign mixed; 6 cigar factories using Canadian leaf, and 2 cigar factories using Canadian and foreign leaf mixed. In 1897, there were 2 cigar factories licensed to use Canadian leaf; in 1898, 3 were licensed to use Canadian leaf. There has been a large development of the Canadian tobacco industry, and many persons who, in the course of our tariff investigations, testified that there was no probability of Canadian leaf entering into general consumption, must, I am sure, be quite surprised at the extent to which their anticipations have been proved to be mistaken. Canadian leaf has been improved both in its growth and in its curing, and it is entering largely now into consumption in Canada. There is a side of that question that a Minister of Finance has to treat somewhat seriously, for every pound of that Canadian leaf that is used displaces foreign leaf, which would be a larger source of revenue. But, I suppose, there is a large number of hon. gentlemen in the House who will not attach so much importance to the revenue as a Minister of Finance is obliged to attach to it, and who rejoice in the fact that there has been a very large increase in the growth, production and consumption of native Canadian tobacco.

In view of the change of administration which occurred some two or three years ago, it is but natural that comparisons should be made between the expenditures of the late Government and the expenditures of the present Government. Such comparisons are eminently proper, always provided that they are made on a sound basis and with due regard to new conditions. The expenditure charged to consolidated fund for the year 1896, that is the last year of the late Government, was \$36,949,142.03. Hon. gentlemen opposite have been disposed to claim the expenditure of that year as a proper measure of the requirements of the country, as the proper standard of our expenditures, as a measure of the sum which would have been required to carry on the public affairs of the country if they themselves had been permitted to remain in power. I have had to take exception to that view in the past, and I am obliged to take exception to it here. I think it must have been quite plain from our past discussions that the expenditure of 1896 is not a fair standard, and if we would reach a fair conclusion by the records of the Government, we may properly see what was the expenditure from year to year. I have here a statement showing the increase for six years, beginning with 1890:

| Year.         | Expenditure.    | Increase.  |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1889-90 ..... | \$35,994,031 47 | .....      |
| 1890-91 ..... | 36,343,567 96   | 349,536 49 |
| 1891-92 ..... | 36,765,894 18   | 422,326 22 |
| 1892-93 ..... | 36,814,052 90   | 48,158 72  |
| 1893-94 ..... | 37,585,025 52   | 770,972 62 |
| 1894-95 ..... | 38,132,005 05   | 546,979 53 |

The average increase for the six years is \$427,594.70 per annum. It will be observed that in every year there was an increase. In one year the increase was slight, but in all the other years the increase was very considerable. Can any one, with these figures before him, believe reasonably that that expenditure, which increased year after year to the extent I have mentioned, was going to stop suddenly in the year 1896? Is it not reasonable to suppose, and would not anybody who looked over these figures reach the conclusion, that the apparent reduction in 1896 was only temporary, and effected under conditions necessitating an enlargement of the expenditure in the following year? The figures I have given go far to sustain this view. But there is other evidence of a most conclusive character in the same direction. It is well to remember that the estimates of Parliament are presented in at least three stages. First, we have the main Estimates, usually at an early stage of the session; then, later on, we have the supplementary Estimates. The supplementaries very often contain very considerable sums. Both these books of estimates are submitted usually in advance of the fiscal year, while the old year is still running. Then, at the following session, when the year is well-nigh ended, it is usually discovered that some services have been left unprovided for, and further supplementary Estimates have to be introduced. So that we have these three stages of Estimates whereby appropriation Bills are passed. Now, the Estimates for the year 1897 were prepared in the session of 1896, and submitted to Parliament by my hon. friend the member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster). Events, into which it is not necessary to enter, prevented the hon. gentleman from carrying through their supply Bills; but the Estimates which they brought down remained on record, and they amounted to \$38,308,548.13. If we make reasonable allowance for sums which would have lapsed, we should still find that the main Estimates for 1897, so prepared and submitted to the House by my predecessor, contemplated an expenditure largely in excess of the total expenditures for 1896. And all the supplementary Estimates had yet to come. These statements, I am sure, will show clearly to the House that the expenditure of 1896 cannot be accepted as a proper standard for comparison. But we have further information respecting the probable expenditure for 1897. I have shown that the main Estimates submitted were \$3,308,548.13. What the Supplementary Estimates for that year would have been if the late Government had remained in power is one of the subjects upon which my hon. friends opposite and myself have occasionally had some discussion. The ex-Minister of Finance has said that these so-called Estimates ought not to be considered, because, he says, no Estimates whatever were agreed to by the Government. Well, under ordinary circumstances, we should be obliged to accept a statement like that coming from the

hon. gentleman who had occupied the position of Minister of Finance. But our difficulty is that we cannot accept that statement of my hon. friend without discrediting some of his colleagues and supporters in the House. It is a matter of public notoriety that Government candidates, during the election of 1896, constantly referred to the Estimates which had been prepared and to sums of money which had been arranged for in the Estimates. We have had evidence of that in this House since this Parliament met; we have had hon. gentlemen, incidentally, unconsciously explaining to the House that certain things which were since done by the present Government had been arranged for and provided for in the Estimates of their predecessors. Now, if that was a fact, how can we accept my hon. friend's statement that there were no Estimates agreed to? If I am to accept it, then I am forced to the conclusion, that somebody was trying to play a sharp trick upon the electorate of the country, and the matter may be even worse than that, because it looks as if hon. gentlemen were also trying to play some sharp tricks upon the members who supported them, and who, no doubt, accepted in good faith the promises that were made. If we are to treat these Supplementary Estimates which were submitted and discussed in this House, and the details of which were given to the House, as bona fide Estimates, and if we are to make allowance for reasonable further Supplementary Estimates, which would be necessary to be brought down some months later, we should be forced to the conclusion that hon. gentlemen opposite contemplated an expenditure, or so estimated, at all events, for the year 1896-97 of about \$42,000,000. Now, of course, let us remember that we do not spend every item

of the money that is estimated. For one reason or another, considerable sums of money which are estimated and voted in Parliament, are not spent. Sometimes appropriations are made in the House, and then they lapse to a considerable extent. If we make a rough calculation in this respect, and, suppose we allow a million for possible reductions and for certain lapses, that would bring us down to the sum of \$41,000,000 as that which the hon. gentlemen, on the basis of these Estimates, must have spent in the year 1897, had they remained in power, whereas, we actually expended in that year only \$38,349,759. So, if this calculation be anywhere correct—and I admit it can only be a rough calculation—after we have credited hon. gentlemen opposite with lapsed items, the difference in favour of the present Government, in the year 1897, was nearly \$2,500,000. But let me, for the sake of argument, give my hon. friend the benefit of his contention that there were no Estimates agreed upon, and, of course, that necessarily implies that some of the hon. gentlemen who made various statements in letters and on the platform, were not as accurate as they should have been: but we need not dwell upon that. Let us assume that there were no Estimates agreed upon; but let us also assume that there must be Supplementary Estimates, in the natural order of events. What is a fair means of ascertaining the Supplementary Estimates that the hon. gentleman would have been obliged to ask for in 1897? I propose a method of calculation to which, I think, my hon. friends opposite cannot object. I have prepared a statement, showing what the Supplementary Estimates had been for three preceding years, which is as follows:—

| Fiscal Year.                | Passed in Session of | Amount.   |      | Passed in Session of | Amount.   |      | Total.    |      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------|------|----------------------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
|                             |                      | \$        | cts. |                      | \$        | cts. | \$        | cts. |
| 1892-93                     | 1892                 | 1,494,026 | 91   | 1893                 | 1,062,585 | 04   | 2,556,611 | 95   |
| 1893-94                     | 1893                 | 1,023,783 | 62   | 1894                 | 791,876   | 99   | 1,815,660 | 61   |
| 1894-95                     | 1894                 | 1,327,803 | 31   | 1895                 | 707,852   | 61   | 2,035,655 | 92   |
| Total for three years ..... |                      |           |      |                      |           |      | 6,407,928 | 48   |
| Average .....               |                      |           |      |                      |           |      | 2,135,976 | 16   |

This statement shows, that, in the three years, from the actual figures of the hon. gentleman's own blue-books, he had Supplementary Estimates to the amount of \$6,407,928.48, and an average per year, in these three years, of \$2,135,176.16. Now, if we

Mr. FIELDING.

take the amount of the Main Estimates submitted to Parliament by him, in the first session of 1896, for the fiscal year 1896-97, \$38,308,548.13, and add the average amount of the Supplementary Estimates for the preceding three years, \$2,135,976.16, we

have a total of \$40,444,520.29, as the least sum which the late Government would have appropriated for the year 1897. But to get at the probable actual expenditure of the year, we must take into account the sums that were usually allowed to lapse. As I have just said, it is not possible to spend every dollar of the moneys that are appropriated. Owing to various causes there are always sums which it is not found convenient to spend, although Parliament has appropriated the money. To ascertain what deductions should be made for lapses, I again take the average for the three preceding years. The following statement shows the sums estimated, the sums expended and the sums allowed to lapse for the three years, beginning with 1893 :—

|                             |                 | Lapsed.        |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Estimates for 1892-93.      | \$38,479,892 12 |                |
| Expenditure in 1892-93      | 36,814,052 90   |                |
|                             |                 | \$1,665,839 22 |
| Estimates for 1893-94.      | 38,365,031 13   |                |
| Expenditure in 1893-94      | 37,585,025 52   |                |
|                             |                 | 780,005 61     |
| Estimates for 1894-95.      | 39,103,912 71   |                |
| Expenditure in 1894-95      | 38,132,005 05   |                |
|                             |                 | 971,907 66     |
| Total for three years ..... | \$3,417,752 49  |                |
| Average .....               | \$1,139,250 83  |                |

It will be observed that, in the two later years, the lapses are smaller in amount than they were in the earlier one, a fact which indicates that the Estimates were more closely made. But, to give my hon. friend the fullest benefit in the comparison, I take the average of lapsed appropriations for the three years, which I find to be \$1,139,250.83. From the figures obtained in this way I make the following statement :—

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Hon. Mr. Foster's Estimates for 1896-97, submitted to the House..                                | \$38,308,548 13 |
| Add for Supplementary Estimates the average Supplementary Estimates of the preceding three years | 2,135,976 16    |
| Total Estimates for the year 1897 would thus have been .....                                     | 40,444,524 29   |
| Deduct the average lapses of three years .....   | 1,139,250 33    |
| Balance representing probable Conservative expenditure for 1897..                                | 39,305,273 46   |
| Against the actual expenditure of the present Government of.....                                 | 38,349,759 34   |
| Showing a reduction by the present Government of .....   | 955,513 62      |

The tendency of Opposition financial critics, no matter what party may be in power, will always be in the direction of a large measure of confidence in their own ability to cut down expenditures, and it will not always be found possible for a Government to realize all the expectations of its friends in that direction. My hon. friend who now leads the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) has had some experience in that line. Towards the close of the session of 1878, on the eve of

his appeal to the people, he made a speech in this House, in which he attacked the extravagance of Mr. Mackenzie's Government, and he made this statement, standing in his place, as an important member of the Opposition of that day in this House. He said he was prepared to carry on the Government of the country with less money than the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie had spent. He said he and his colleagues had proved this by their experience in the past and that they could conduct the business of the country for a smaller expenditure than that which Mr. Mackenzie had taken. We have proved it before, he said, and we are prepared to do it again if we are placed in power.

I have given the quotation from memory, but I am satisfied it is substantially correct, and I shall be glad to give the actual words if they are called for. The hon. gentleman came into power on the strength of that assurance. The expenditure the last year of the Mackenzie Government (1878) was \$23,503,158.25. The leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) and his friends came into power and the expenditure, instead of being reduced, was rapidly increased, as follows :—

|            | Expenditure.    |
|------------|-----------------|
| 1879 ..... | \$24,455,381 56 |
| 1880 ..... | 24,850,634 45   |
| 1881 ..... | 25,502,554 42   |
| 1882 ..... | 27,067,103 58   |

Therefore, it will be seen that during the first parliamentary term after the Conservatives came into power under the assurance that they would conduct the public business for less money than Mr. Mackenzie had spent, they increased the public expenditure from \$24,500,000 to \$27,067,000. After that the expenditure went up by leaps and bounds, until at last it was more than \$38,000,000. Now, I venture to cite that as a proof that whatever expectations any persons may have as to the kind of government which the country would experience under the leadership of my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper), there is one thing certain, and that is, that nobody will ever expect him to carry on a Government of economy.

Perhaps, Sir, the best test, after all, of the degree of expenditure, and the fairest method of comparison, will be one which takes into account the growth of population and the responsibilities and development of the country. No one, I imagine, will suppose that the expenditure of a country like ours, under any Government, can remain at a standstill. As the country increases in population its needs will correspondingly increase. If the expenditure just keeps pace with the increase of population, or shows a diminution per head of population, there is nothing in it to alarm. If the expenditure per head increases, then there is just ground for criticism, and the increase will have to be justified by some important and urgent outlay. Under the administra-

tion of the late Government, not only did the total expenditure increase, but it increased much more rapidly than the population, and consequently the expenditure per head showed an increase. I have here a statement showing the expenditure of Canada chargeable to consolidated fund for all the years from 1867-68 to 1897-98, giving the rate per capita—the population in each year being taken from the census or from the estimates furnished by the Government statistician :

Expenditure of Canada chargeable to consolidated fund for years 1867-68 to 1897-98 : giving the rate per capita.

| Year.  | Expenditure<br>Con. Fund. |      | Population. | Expenditure per<br>Capita. |      |
|--------|---------------------------|------|-------------|----------------------------|------|
|        | \$                        | cts. |             | \$                         | cts. |
| 1868.. | 13,486,092                | 96   | 3,371,594   | 4                          | 00   |
| 1869.. | 14,038,084                | 00   | 3,412,617   | 4                          | 11   |
| 1870.. | 14,345,509                | 58   | 3,454,248   | 4                          | 15   |
| 1871.. | 15,623,081                | 72   | 3,518,411   | 4                          | 44   |
| 1872.. | 17,589,468                | 82   | 3,610,992   | 4                          | 87   |
| 1873.. | 19,174,647                | 92   | 3,668,220   | 5                          | 23   |
| 1874.. | 23,316,316                | 75   | 3,825,305   | 6                          | 10   |
| 1875.. | 23,713,071                | 01   | 3,886,534   | 6                          | 10   |
| 1876.. | 24,488,372                | 11   | 3,949,163   | 6                          | 20   |
| 1877.. | 23,519,301                | 77   | 4,013,271   | 5                          | 86   |
| 1878.. | 23,503,158                | 25   | 4,078,924   | 5                          | 76   |
| 1879.. | 24,455,381                | 56   | 4,146,196   | 5                          | 90   |
| 1880.. | 24,850,634                | 45   | 4,215,389   | 5                          | 90   |
| 1881.. | 25,502,554                | 42   | 4,336,504   | 5                          | 88   |
| 1882.. | 27,067,103                | 58   | 4,383,819   | 6                          | 18   |
| 1883.. | 28,730,157                | 45   | 4,433,363   | 6                          | 48   |
| 1884.. | 31,107,706                | 25   | 4,485,395   | 6                          | 94   |
| 1885.. | 35,037,060                | 12   | 4,538,790   | 7                          | 72   |
| 1886.. | 39,011,612                | 26   | 4,589,414   | 8                          | 50   |
| 1887.. | 35,657,680                | 16   | 4,638,109   | 7                          | 69   |
| 1888.. | 36,718,494                | 79   | 4,688,147   | 7                          | 84   |
| 1889.. | 36,917,834                | 76   | 4,739,617   | 7                          | 79   |
| 1890.. | 35,994,031                | 47   | 4,792,605   | 7                          | 51   |
| 1891.. | 36,343,567                | 96   | 4,846,377   | 7                          | 50   |
| 1892.. | 36,765,894                | 18   | 4,899,273   | 7                          | 50   |
| 1893.. | 36,814,052                | 90   | 4,953,557   | 7                          | 45   |
| 1894.. | 37,585,025                | 52   | 5,009,296   | 7                          | 50   |
| 1895.. | 38,132,005                | 05   | 5,066,562   | 7                          | 53   |
| 1896.. | 36,949,142                | 03   | 5,125,436   | 7                          | 21   |
| 1897.. | 38,349,759                | 84   | 5,185,990   | 7                          | 39   |
| 1898.. | 38,832,525                | 70   | 5,248,315   | 7                          | 39   |

It will be seen from this statement that the present Government, while carrying on the ordinary services efficiently, and meeting large new obligations, have kept the expenditure down to 7.39 per head, against 7.53 in 1895. If we leave out the exceptional year 1896, for reasons which I have already given, we find that the expenditure per head under the present Government has been materially lower than it has been at any previous time during the past fourteen years. In view of all the urgent calls upon the treasury, including additional interest charges on account of large expenditure on canals and railways, the opening of the Yu-

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kon district and the extension of the Inter-colonial Railway to Montreal, it would not have been surprising if we had been obliged to show an increased expenditure per capita, but we have the satisfaction of presenting to the House a statement which shows that while meeting all the demands of Canada's "growing time," we materially reduced the expenditure per head of the population in 1897 and 1898. Sir, we are glad to be able to point out that whatever may happen this year or the next year (concerning which we have not the material yet for making a calculation) we are glad, I say, to be able to point out that for the year 1897-98 our expenditure was only 7.39 per head as against 7.53 in the year 1895.

The question of economy is very widely discussed, and I suppose we can all agree as to the desirability of economy, but I am afraid there will not be such a universal agreement and clear understanding as to what economy means. It is very easy for men to advocate economy in classes of expenditure in which they feel they have no particular interest, but it is not so easy for men to favour economy in the case of public works in their own locality, or public works in which they feel interested. A large number of the gentlemen who rise to cry out against this Government in the matter of expenditure, and to call for economy, are among the first to come before the Government and ask that we enter upon large and expensive public works. As a curious example of the Conservative method of treating this question, I note that only a few days ago the chief organ of the Conservative party contained an article commenting on the Estimates which I had just laid on the Table of the House, the article being designed to show that we are spending far too much. But in the very same column there appeared a leading article complaining that we have not provided half a million dollars for Toronto harbour, and intimating that we shall be expected to do so in the Supplementary Estimates. I have no doubt that Toronto harbour ought to have a liberal expenditure, and if the object of that expenditure is half as good as has been represented by this newspaper, I shall be glad to assist my hon. friend (Mr. Tarte) in doing what is right for Toronto harbour. I think, however, that we shall have to ask some of our Conservative friends to recognize the fact that economy—like charity—should begin at home. If a gentleman of the Conservative party, whether he is in the House or out of it, looking around, sees the need of some particular public work in his own district or country, or some great scheme in which he feels interested, and if he is going to ask the Government to provide money for that scheme; then we must ask him to be broad-minded enough to remember that there are like public works and schemes in other parts of the country, and, if he expects these things to be done for the development of the country in his

own particular district, he must be prepared to have the same things done in other districts, and if necessary in other provinces. The critics, in Parliament and out, who condemn our expenditure as too lavish, and then call upon us to spend money freely in great enterprises, such as fast lines, Pacific cables, railways, canals, harbour improvements and public works of all kinds, can hardly expect to make much of an impression upon the fair-minded people of Canada.

I will give the House briefly a few statistics of Canada's trade—not because they have already appeared, but because they usually are a portion of the Budget speech. I have here a statement showing Canada's foreign trade on the basis of "total exports and imports" for the last five years, which is as follows:—

**CANADA'S FOREIGN TRADE FOR FIVE YEARS.**

Statement showing Canada's foreign trade on the basis of "Total Imports and Exports" for the last five years:

|            | Total Exports. | Total Imports. | Total.        |
|------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1894 ..... | \$117,524,949  | \$123,474,940  | \$240,999,889 |
| 1895 ..... | 113,638,803    | 110,781,682    | 224,420,485   |
| 1896 ..... | 121,013,852    | 118,011,508    | 239,025,360   |
| 1897 ..... | 137,950,253    | 119,218,609    | 257,168,862   |
| 1898 ..... | 164,152,683    | 140,323,053    | 304,475,736   |

I have now a similar statement of our foreign trade for the last five years on the basis of goods entered for consumption and Canadian produce exported, which is as follows:—

Statement showing Canada's foreign trade for the last five years on the basis of "Goods entered for consumption and Canadian produce exported":

|            | Goods entered for Consumption. | Canadian Produce Exported. | Total.        |
|------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 1894 ..... | \$113,093,983                  | \$104,161,770              | \$217,255,753 |
| 1895 ..... | 105,252,511                    | 103,085,012                | 208,336,523   |
| 1896 ..... | 110,587,480                    | 109,915,337                | 220,502,817   |
| 1897 ..... | 111,294,021                    | 123,959,838                | 235,253,859   |
| 1898 ..... | 130,698,006                    | 145,594,385                | 276,292,391   |

The following is a statement of goods entered for consumption for the nine months ending March of the following years, made from the monthly returns:—

|          | 1896.      | 1897.      | 1898.      | 1899.       |
|----------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
|          | \$         | \$         | \$         | \$          |
| Dutiable | 50,972,796 | 50,299,935 | 56,534,679 | 64,772,597  |
| Free     | 28,915,510 | 30,249,701 | 36,505,121 | 43,939,716  |
| C. & B.  | 4,263,958  | 4,553,388  | 3,116,081  | 4,077,693   |
| Total    | 84,152,264 | 85,103,024 | 96,155,881 | 112,790,006 |
| Duty     | 15,463,213 | 15,169,626 | 16,585,938 | 18,751,708  |

I also give the exports for the nine months of the following years:—

|             | 1896.       | 1897.       | 1898.         | 1899.         |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
|             | \$          | \$          | \$            | \$            |
| Produce     | \$2,387,098 | \$8,513,890 | \$112,575,032 | \$104,544,707 |
| Not produce | 5,182,349   | 7,822,895   | 10,521,046    | 14,807,944    |
| C. & B.     | 4,475,101   | 3,344,339   | 4,245,124     | 3,519,696     |
| Total       | 92,044,548  | 99,681,124  | 127,341,202   | 122,872,347   |

There is here a slight falling off in 1899 as compared with 1898, but in comparison with any previous year the increase is very large; and it is not unlikely that the difference, as compared with 1898, may be made good before the close of the fiscal year.

I want now briefly to call the attention of the House to the extraordinary growth of the trade of Canada during the past two years. I have here a statement showing the total trade of Canada for several periods—imports and exports, but not including coin and bullion—as follows:—

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| In 1868 ..... | \$121,266,217 |
| 1878 .....    | 171,432,739   |
| 1896 .....    | 229,099,732   |
| 1898 .....    | 295,461,754   |

The increase in the total trade of Canada from 1878 to 1896, eighteen years, was \$57,666,993; the increase in the total trade of Canada from 1896 to 1898, two years, was \$66,362,022; showing, Mr. Speaker, that the total trade of Canada in two years, under this Liberal Administration, the advent of which to power we were told was to bring ruin and disaster to our country, increased more by \$8,695,029 than it did during the eighteen years of the Conservative Government.

The attention of the world is being drawn more and more to Canada as a mining country. Apart from the precious metals, there is a wealth of other metallic and non-metallic substances the mining of which gives employment to numbers of our people and affords remunerative avenues for the employment of capital. That there has been a very great development of these mineral resources will appear from the tables issued by the Geological Survey, giving the mineral production of Canada for some years back, I give the total values of mineral production from 1890 to 1898:

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| 1890 ..... | \$16,763,353 |
| 1891 ..... | 18,976,616   |
| 1892 ..... | 16,628,417   |
| 1893 ..... | 20,035,082   |
| 1894 ..... | 19,933,857   |
| 1895 ..... | 20,758,450   |
| 1896 ..... | 22,584,513   |
| 1897 ..... | 28,661,430   |
| 1898 ..... | 37,757,197   |

In 1898 there is an increase of over 32 per cent as compared with 1897. Whilst the large increases of late years have, of course, been partly due to the discovery and working of the rich gold placers of the Yukon, other important mineral industries have also

contributed to them and there is every reason to expect a continued rapid growth in many of them for some years to come.

Speaking generally of the business of the past year, I can fairly congratulate the country on having experienced the advantages of marked prosperity and sound progress. On every hand we are met by evidences of expansion, and at the risk of wearying you, Mr. Speaker, I propose to allude to a few of the many directions in which the activity has made itself felt, so that we may measure and compare what has been done in the past year with what has been done in years previous. In banking circles I find a healthy and strong tone pervading the returns coming to us from month to month, and running through the reports presented at the various annual meetings of these financial institutions throughout Canada. It is of interest to note the very striking advance in the aggregate of the deposits of the people in the chartered banks and the two classes of Government savings banks. For the two years 1896-97 and 1897-98, the figures tell their own tale. I give the detail of these deposits for the past eight years :

|           | Deposits,<br>Chartered<br>Banks. | Deposits,<br>Gov. Savings<br>Banks. | Total.        |
|-----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| June 30—  |                                  |                                     |               |
| 1892 .... | \$160,942,778                    | \$39,529,547                        | \$200,472,325 |
| 1893 .... | 170,817,433                      | 41,849,658                          | 212,667,091   |
| 1894 .... | 174,930,936                      | 43,036,012                          | 217,966,948   |
| 1895 .... | 180,664,121                      | 44,450,498                          | 225,114,619   |
| 1896 .... | 183,769,992                      | 46,799,318                          | 230,569,310   |
| 1897 .... | 201,141,688                      | 48,934,975                          | 250,076,663   |
| 1898 .... | 227,063,343                      | 50,111,118                          | 277,174,461   |

On the 31st of March last the total reached \$297,483,152, indicating that the pronounced increase of the last two years in this direction is being more than maintained in the current fiscal year.

That there has been an unusual activity in business generally will be apparent if we look at the returns of the clearing houses throughout Canada. The total clearances in the six cities—Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Halifax, St. John and Hamilton—during the year 1898, reached the aggregate of \$1,390,019,394, as against \$1,174,710,345, during the previous year, or an increase of over \$215,000,000, or over 18 per cent. You will remember that the clearings of the same six cities in 1897 were over \$125,000,000 in excess of those of 1896. So that the year 1898, so far as the clearings reveal it, shows a very much larger volume of business than 1897.

In the case of the city of Montreal, which now, I may say, comes ninth in the list of American cities according to bank clearings, coming immediately after San Francisco, the increase in 1898 over 1897 has been over 21 per cent, and in the city of Toronto the increase has been in the same proportion.

There is another feature of banking business that is of interest to us, and to which I will now refer, that is the note issue. In times of activity there arises a strong demand for currency. From year to year this

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is specially noticeable at harvest time, and immediately after, when the crops are being moved.

During the past year there has been a continued demand for currency, especially for small notes. At times it has been difficult to keep pace with the demands.

To show the extent of the issue, I give a statement of the circulation of the notes of the chartered banks and of the Dominion notes for the past years, taking for the purpose of comparison the 31st of October in each year, when as a rule the demand is greatest :

|            | Banks.       | Government.  | Total.       |
|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 31st Oct.— |              |              |              |
| 1892 ..... | \$28,688,429 | \$18,647,063 | \$57,335,492 |
| 1893 ..... | 36,906,941   | 19,844,248   | 66,751,189   |
| 1894 ..... | 34,516,651   | 22,212,834   | 56,729,535   |
| 1895 ..... | 34,571,028   | 22,893,259   | 57,564,287   |
| 1896 ..... | 35,955,150   | 21,607,553   | 57,562,703   |
| 1897 ..... | 41,580,928   | 24,751,932   | 66,332,860   |
| 1898 ..... | 42,543,446   | 24,315,988   | 66,859,434   |

In the case of the Dominion notes of the small denominations, \$1 and \$2, the demand in the fall of the year has been very great, indeed. So much so that my department has at times had difficulty in keeping up with it. The amount of these notes outstanding on the 31st of October in each year for the past seven years is of interest, and I give it, as follows :

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 1892 ..... | \$7,266,569 |
| 1893 ..... | 7,266,937   |
| 1894 ..... | 7,031,368   |
| 1895 ..... | 7,295,368   |
| 1896 ..... | 7,583,712   |
| 1897 ..... | 7,940,520   |
| 1898 ..... | 8,612,602   |

Closely allied to the banking business is that of insurance. The prosperity of to-day leads the prudent man to think of to-morrow, and so we find that the buoyancy in business generally is reflected in the business of life insurance, which is regarded more and more in the light of an investment as well as a provision for a rainy day.

In the life business there is a very pronounced development in the net amount of insurance in force in the straight life companies, as will be seen from the figures of the past eight years :

|            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| 1891 ..... | \$261,475,223 |
| 1892 ..... | 279,110,265   |
| 1893 ..... | 295,622,722   |
| 1894 ..... | 308,161,436   |
| 1895 ..... | 319,257,581   |
| 1896 ..... | 327,800,499   |
| 1897 ..... | 344,012,277   |
| 1898 ..... | 368,517,074   |

The amount of life insurance effected in Canada in the straight life companies during the same period was :

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| 1891 ..... | \$37,866,287 |
| 1892 ..... | 44,620,013   |
| 1893 ..... | 45,202,847   |
| 1894 ..... | 49,525,257   |
| 1895 ..... | 44,341,198   |
| 1896 ..... | 42,624,570   |
| 1897 ..... | 48,267,665   |
| 1898 ..... | 54,270,775   |

or nearly \$5,000,000 more than in any pre-

vious year. These figures do not include insurance on the assessment system.

That the year has been a prosperous one with the traders will appear from the records of failures kept by the commercial agencies. Indeed, in this respect 1898 has the best record we have had for years. The commercial agencies give the total number of failures in Canada in 1898 as 1,300, with liabilities of \$9,821,323, against 1,809 failures with liabilities of \$14,157,498 in the year 1897, or a reduction of 28 per cent in number and 30 per cent in amount as compared with the year 1897. That is the best record for the past thirteen years.

The showing of the principal railroads have been very favourable, notwithstanding the rate war that lasted throughout the greater part of the year. The earnings of the Canadian Pacific Railway increased \$1,973,000, and those of the Grand Trunk Railway \$582,000 over those of the previous year. The figures for these two companies for 1897 and 1898 are :

|            | C. P. R.     | G. T. R.     |
|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1897 ..... | \$23,822,000 | \$23,530,000 |
| 1898 ..... | 25,795,000   | 24,112,000   |

The large street railway companies have experienced an impetus from the improved conditions of the people. Their earnings show a steady progress. The following table gives the amount of the receipts of these companies in operation from 1894 to 1898 :

|            | 1894.     | 1895.     | 1896.     | 1897.     | 1898.     |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|            | \$        | \$        | \$        | \$        | \$        |
| Montreal . | 896,090   | 1,102,777 | 1,265,898 | 1,342,367 | 1,471,979 |
| Toronto... | 958,370   | 992,800   | 997,273   | 1,077,612 | 1,210,613 |
| London...  | 57,010    | 56,536    | 94,194    | 101,365   | 113,811   |
| Ottawa...  | 193,991   | 203,173   | 212,105   | 223,801   | 231,802   |
| Hamilton.  | 120,008   | 121,311   | 124,537   | 115,419   | 121,353   |
|            | 2,226,371 | 2,476,600 | 2,694,009 | 2,860,167 | 3,149,504 |

In the city of Halifax, the receipts of the Halifax Tramway Company for 1897 were \$194,775, and for 1898, \$198,837. In the city of St. John, the receipts of the street railway company were :

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| For 1896 ..... | \$51,743 |
| 1897 .....     | 57,949   |
| 1898 .....     | 64,790   |

These are some of the features, Mr. Speaker, of the business record of the Dominion. They carry with them the inference that there exists a strong feeling of confidence, not only in the resources of the country, but also in the basis on which its business is founded.

There are other interesting figures of a like character which I am desirous of laying before you. These I have had incorporated into diagrams, copies of which will be placed in your hands. They cover fuller statements of the import and export trade ; the shipping and coasting trade ; the railways and railway traffic ; life and fire insurance ; deposits in chartered banks and savings banks ; dis-

counts of the chartered banks ; and deposits made with loan companies ; and show at a glance the strides that have in recent years been made.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, instead of using words of my own to describe the prosperous condition of Canada, I shall do better by quoting the words of others who are in a good position to speak with authority. Of the great development that has taken place in the Yukon gold fields, I need not speak. We have had abundant evidence of that in our recent discussions. As one of the indications of improvement in the North-west, I take this passage from the latest annual report of the Canadian Pacific Railway :

The satisfactory progress which has been made in the settlement of the North-west is evidenced not only in the largely increased land sales of the company, but in the number of homesteads taken up from Government lands in Manitoba and the territories beyond, which, according to official returns, were 4,848 in 1898, as against 2,406 in 1897.

To show what has been accomplished by the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, let me quote a recent article from the correspondent of the Montreal "Star" :

Never before in the history of the Canadian North-west did a wave of prosperity at once so sudden and so general, sweep over any portion as completely as did that ushered in by the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Everywhere along its line new towns have sprung up, as mushrooms in a warm shower. The land office and the newspaper led the van, and the settlement and upbuilding of the entire district has been nothing short of phenomenal. Nor are the towns so built carelessly knocked together, to be abandoned the moment the novelty wears away. The line runs, in its entire length, through a country of vast and varied resources ; and while the wild-cat operator may be here to-day and away to-morrow, the fact remains that the natural wealth of the country is such as to demand and abundantly repay years of development, so that all signs point to steady and permanent growth.

The last report of the Board of Trade of the city of Toronto offers abundant evidence of business activity in Ontario and throughout the country. I quote a passage from the address of the retiring president, Mr. Elias Rogers :

Turning to the always interesting subject of inter-Imperial foreign trade, the retrospect was no less agreeable. For the first time in the history of Canada the total imports and exports had exceeded \$300,000,000 in value.

The increase was due in part to the high price of wheat during a portion of the year, and to the large crops of 1897, which permitted heavy exporting. With the single exception of foreign products, however, all classes of exports contributed to the increase. The result was seen in the freedom of importation during the past summer, even before assurance of another good harvest gave added strength to the movement, and in the increasing demand upon our own factories and mills.

How much of the prosperity now to be seen on every side is due to the increase of the export trade must remain a matter of opinion. It may be noticed in passing that until six years ago the

exports of Canadian produce never exceeded one hundred millions, and that, as compared with a date so recent as 1896, the exports of 1898 show an increase of thirty-four and a half million dollars.

The greatest increase of late in the volume of free imports give to some extent the measure of the country's industrial development, because the free imports consist largely of raw materials for manufacture.

At the annual meeting of the Montreal Board of Trade, the retiring president, Mr. Charles F. Smith, spoke as follows:—

I think the time opportune to call your attention to this fact, for we are now in the enjoyment of prosperity such as this country has never known, and it is pretty evenly divided throughout Canada. Our railroad extensions are bringing to life new villages—indeed I might say new towns. Our population is steadily increasing, with a development in our agricultural and mining resources, to the importance of which we should be fully alive. Many of the towns on or near the lines of traffic are building elevators, deepening their harbours, or otherwise preparing to share in the profits of handling the produce that is moving eastward. Gentlemen, I believe that we cannot realize the valuable growth of the trade and traffic that must become our portion in the near future.

From an address delivered at the same meeting of the Montreal Board by Mr. James Crathern, one of the oldest members of the board, I read as follows:—

I think to-day I may venture to congratulate this board, that the past year has certainly been to us what may be termed a jubilee year, in connection with the trade and commerce of this country. During the forty-five years in which I have been actively engaged in business as a merchant in this city, I have passed through many seasons of mercantile and financial depression; but at no time have I known the commercial and financial interests of the country to have been on a sounder or better footing than at present. We have been blessed with a bountiful harvest, and all engaged in commerce and manufacture report a satisfactory volume of business.

While the condition of the country generally is remarkably good, I recognize the fact that in the Lower Provinces they have not shared in that prosperity as fully as have the provinces further west. Nevertheless, we have very encouraging reports from that quarter. I have not at hand a quotation from the St. John Board of Trade meeting, but, from personal knowledge of the community. I am led to believe that the business of the port of St. John was a very encouraging one indeed. They have a good winter port trade, and with the revival of the lumber industry, which is of the utmost importance in New Brunswick, I think we may make up our minds that, in that province, there will be a fair degree of business activity. As to Nova Scotia, I take the following from the annual report of the Halifax Board of Trade:—

The business of the year has been of a fairly satisfactory nature, and although the prosperity which has attended the upper provinces, through abundant crops and high prices, has not been participated in by us to the same extent, we have

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great cause to be thankful. Our gold mines have yielded a larger return than ever, the production of our coal mines has increased, our fishermen have had their smaller catch largely made up to them by higher prices, our fruit-growers have been similarly blessed; our lumbermen, although compelled to accept lower prices than during the previous year, have not done badly; our new enterprise of pulp manufacture is flourishing, and generally speaking there has been throughout our province a very fair degree of prosperity. Failures have been much fewer in number, and smaller in amount, and we all look forward with confidence to the great future which awaits our province, with its varied interests, many of which are capable of great development.

Now, I am going to ask the attention of the House to a statement respecting the foreign trade of the United States and Canada. I have had prepared a comparative table, comparing, in very considerable detail, the foreign trade of Canada and the United States from the time of confederation down to the present moment. Living, as we do, alongside the great republic, it is natural that we should make comparison from time to time between their affairs and ours. I realize, Sir, that the United States, more than any other country, is a self-contained country: it does not need to go beyond its own borders for variety of products so much as does Canada, because they have a greater diversity of soil and climate than we have. Nevertheless, the people of the United States are very anxious to develop a foreign trade; and many of our American friends would be surprised to know how far behind Canada they are in this respect. The total trade of the United States, imports and exports, exclusive of coin and bullion, in 1898 amounted to \$24.60 per head. For the same year, the corresponding figures for Canada are \$56.29 per head.

Mr. FOSTER. That is foreign trade.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I am speaking of foreign trade. And I quite recognize the fact that we must not draw from this too quickly the conclusion that we are more prosperous than our neighbours, because, as I have said, from their natural condition, they do not need to go abroad for so many goods as we. Still, I think the comparison is a very interesting one. It will be seen by the table to which I refer, that in 1868 the total trade of the United States was \$17.29 per head, and thirty years later, in 1898, it had increased to \$24.60 per head, an increase of \$7.31 per head. The total trade of Canada for 1868 was \$35.96 per head, and in 1898, \$56.29 per head, an increase in thirty years of \$20.33 per head, as against an increase of \$7.31 per head in the United States.

Mr. FOSTER. Does my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding) happen to have the population of both countries in 1868?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I have not the figures in the statement before me. The United States domestic exports per head, last year, were \$18.05, while the Canadian ex-

ports, during the same year, were \$27.54 per head. Making a comparison for two years, I find the following:—The total trade of the United States for 1896 was \$23.32 per head, and for 1898, \$24.60 per head, an increase in two years of \$1.28 per head.

The total trade of Canada for 1896 was \$44.69 per head, and for 1898, \$56.29 per head, an increase in two years of \$11.60 per head for Canada, as against \$1.28 per head for the United States. The total trade of the United States for 1897 was \$24.94 per head, and for 1898, \$24.60 per head, showing a decrease in 1898, as compared with 1897, of 34 cents per head. In the same time the total trade of Canada increased from \$48.01 per head in 1897 to \$56.29 per head in 1898, showing an increase for the year of \$8.28 per head, as against a decrease of 34 cents per head in the United States.

This statement I shall ask the House to allow me to put in "Hansard" for future reference; it covers many details with which I do not wish to trouble the House.

Mr. FOSTER. I have no objection personally. But I want to call my hon. friend's

attention to the fact that I was very strictly kept to the rule. I think it was all nonsense to do it, and I do not propose to ask my hon. friend to do it.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Not tables.

Mr. FOSTER. If my hon. friend denies that, I shall stand by my demand, that every thing be read.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I do not deny. I am much obliged to my hon. friend for his suggestion.

Mr. FOSTER. I remember it, time and again.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I accept my hon. friend's statement. Last year, I spoke to the editor of "Hansard," and he told me, that, while that was the rule, an exception was made in the case of the Budget speech. However, I accept my hon. friend's statement, and, thanking him for the courtesy he has extended to me, I will put this statement in.

Mr. FOSTER. We will be as generous to you as we can under your difficulties.

COMPARATIVE Trade Statement of the United States and Canada, *exclusive of Coin & Bullion.*  
UNITED STATES.

| Year.     | Domestic Exports. | Foreign Exports. | Total Exports. | Total Imports. | Total Trade.  | Domestic Exports per Capita. | Percentage of increase or decrease of Total Exports. | Percentage of increase or decrease of Total Trade. | Total Trade per Capita. |
|-----------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|
|           | \$                | \$               | \$             | \$             | \$            | \$                           | p. c.  | p. c.  | \$                      |
| 1867..... | 279,786,809       | 14,719,332       | 294,506,141    | 395,761,096    | 690,267,237   | 7.73                         | .....  | .....  | .....                   |
| 1868..... | 269,389,900       | 12,562,999       | 281,952,899    | 357,436,440    | 639,389,339   | 7.29                         | 4.26   | 7.37   | 17.29                   |
| 1869..... | 275,166,697       | 10,951,000       | 286,117,697    | 417,506,379    | 703,624,076   | 7.29                         | 1.47   | 10.04  | 18.63                   |
| 1870..... | 376,616,473       | 16,155,295       | 392,771,768    | 435,958,408    | 828,730,176   | 9.77                         | 37.28  | 16.35  | 21.49                   |
| 1871..... | 428,398,908       | 14,421,270       | 442,820,178    | 520,223,684    | 963,043,862   | 10.83                        | 12.74  | 16.20  | 24.34                   |
| 1872..... | 428,487,131       | 15,690,455       | 444,177,586    | 626,595,077    | 1,070,772,663 | 10.55                        | 0.30   | 11.80  | 26.37                   |
| 1873..... | 505,033,439       | 17,446,483       | 522,479,922    | 642,136,210    | 1,164,616,132 | 12.12                        | 17.62  | 8.76   | 27.94                   |
| 1874..... | 569,433,421       | 16,849,619       | 586,283,040    | 567,406,342    | 1,153,689,382 | 13.31                        | 14.98  | 0.93   | 26.95                   |
| 1875..... | 499,284,100       | 14,158,611       | 513,442,711    | 533,005,436    | 1,046,448,147 | 11.36                        | 12.42  | 9.29   | 23.80                   |
| 1876..... | 525,582,247       | 14,802,424       | 540,384,671    | 460,741,190    | 1,001,125,861 | 11.64                        | 5.24   | 4.33   | 22.17                   |
| 1877..... | 589,670,224       | 12,804,996       | 602,475,220    | 451,323,126    | 1,053,798,346 | 12.72                        | 11.49  | 5.26   | 22.73                   |
| 1878..... | 680,709,268       | 14,156,498       | 694,865,766    | 437,051,532    | 1,131,917,298 | 14.30                        | 15.33  | 7.41   | 23.78                   |
| 1879..... | 698,340,790       | 12,098,651       | 710,439,441    | 445,777,775    | 1,156,217,216 | 14.29                        | 2.24   | 2.14   | 23.66                   |
| 1880..... | 823,946,353       | 11,692,305       | 835,638,658    | 667,954,746    | 1,503,593,404 | 16.43                        | 17.62  | 3.00   | 29.97                   |
| 1881..... | 883,925,947       | 18,451,399       | 902,377,346    | 642,664,628    | 1,545,041,974 | 17.23                        | 7.98   | 2.75   | 30.10                   |
| 1882..... | 733,239,732       | 17,302,525       | 750,542,257    | 724,639,574    | 1,475,181,831 | 13.97                        | 16.82  | 4.52   | 27.91                   |
| 1883..... | 804,223,632       | 19,615,770       | 823,839,402    | 723,180,914    | 1,547,020,316 | 14.98                        | 9.76   | 4.87   | 26.95                   |
| 1884..... | 724,964,852       | 15,548,757       | 740,513,609    | 667,697,693    | 1,408,211,302 | 13.20                        | 10.11  | 8.97   | 25.64                   |
| 1885..... | 726,682,946       | 15,406,809       | 742,089,755    | 577,527,329    | 1,319,717,084 | 12.94                        | 0.22   | 6.28   | 23.54                   |
| 1886..... | 665,964,529       | 13,560,301       | 679,524,830    | 635,436,136    | 1,314,960,966 | 11.60                        | 8.44   | 0.36   | 22.90                   |
| 1887..... | 703,022,923       | 13,160,288       | 716,183,211    | 692,319,768    | 1,408,502,979 | 11.98                        | 5.39   | 7.11   | 24.00                   |
| 1888..... | 683,862,104       | 12,092,403       | 695,954,507    | 723,957,114    | 1,419,911,621 | 11.40                        | 2.82   | 0.81   | 23.67                   |
| 1889..... | 730,282,609       | 12,118,766       | 742,401,375    | 745,131,652    | 1,487,533,027 | 11.92                        | 2.92   | 4.76   | 24.27                   |
| 1890..... | 845,293,828       | 12,534,856       | 857,828,684    | 789,310,409    | 1,647,139,093 | 13.50                        | 15.44  | 10.72  | 26.30                   |
| 1891..... | 872,270,283       | 12,210,527       | 884,480,810    | 844,916,196    | 1,729,397,006 | 13.63                        | 3.10   | 4.99   | 27.02                   |
| 1892..... | 1,015,732,011     | 14,546,137       | 1,030,278,148  | 827,402,462    | 1,857,680,610 | 15.53                        | 16.48  | 7.41   | 28.40                   |
| 1893..... | 831,030,785       | 16,634,409       | 847,665,194    | 866,400,922    | 1,714,066,116 | 12.44                        | 17.72  | 7.73   | 25.65                   |
| 1894..... | 869,204,937       | 22,935,635       | 892,140,572    | 654,994,622    | 1,547,135,194 | 12.73                        | 5.24   | 9.73   | 22.66                   |
| 1895..... | 793,392,599       | 14,145,566       | 807,538,165    | 731,969,965    | 1,539,508,130 | 11.37                        | 9.48   | 0.49   | 22.07                   |
| 1896..... | 863,200,487       | 19,406,451       | 882,606,938    | 779,724,674    | 1,662,331,612 | 12.11                        | 9.29   | 7.97   | 23.32                   |
| 1897..... | 1,032,007,603     | 18,985,953       | 1,050,993,556  | 764,730,412    | 1,815,723,968 | 14.17                        | 19.07  | 9.22   | 24.94                   |
| 1898..... | 1,210,291,913     | 21,190,417       | 1,231,482,330  | 616,049,654    | 1,847,531,984 | 16.05                        | 17.17  | 1.75   | 24.60                   |

COMPARATIVE Trade Statement of the United States and Canada, *exclusive of Coin and Bullion—Continued.*

## CANADA.

| Year.     | Exports, produce of Canada. | Exports not the produce of Canada. | Total Exports. | Total Imports. | Total Trade. | Domestic Exports per Capita. | Percentage of increase or decrease of Total Exports. | Percentage of increase or decrease of Total Trade. | Total Trade per Capita. |
|-----------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|
|           | \$                          | \$                                 | \$             | \$             | \$           | \$                           | p. c.  | p. c.  | \$                      |
| 1867..... |                             |                                    |                |                |              |                              |  |  |                         |
| 1868..... | 48,504,889                  | 4,196,821                          | 52,701,720     | 68,564,497     | 121,266,217  | 14.38                        |  |  | 35.96                   |
| 1869..... | 52,400,772                  | 3,855,801                          | 56,256,573     | 66,167,933     | 122,424,509  | 15.35                        | 6.74   | 0.95   | 35.87                   |
| 1870..... | 59,043,590                  | 6,527,622                          | 65,571,212     | 70,478,810     | 136,050,022  | 17.09                        | 16.55  | 11.13  | 39.38                   |
| 1871..... | 57,630,024                  | 9,853,244                          | 67,483,268     | 93,359,877     | 160,843,145  | 16.38                        | 2.91   | 18.22  | 45.71                   |
| 1872..... | 65,885,140                  | 12,744,125                         | 78,629,265     | 108,676,778    | 187,306,043  | 18.24                        | 16.51  | 16.45  | 52.14                   |
| 1873..... | 76,538,025                  | 9,405,910                          | 85,943,935     | 125,005,816    | 210,949,751  | 20.65                        | 9.30   | 12.62  | 57.50                   |
| 1874..... | 76,741,997                  | 10,614,096                         | 87,356,093     | 123,990,300    | 211,346,393  | 20.06                        | 1.64   | 0.19   | 55.24                   |
| 1875..... | 69,709,823                  | 7,137,319                          | 76,847,142     | 120,860,194    | 197,707,336  | 17.92                        | 1.20   | 6.45   | 50.87                   |
| 1876..... | 72,491,437                  | 7,234,961                          | 79,726,398     | 90,990,235     | 170,716,633  | 18.35                        | 3.74   | 13.65  | 43.22                   |
| 1877..... | 68,030,546                  | 7,111,108                          | 75,141,654     | 97,153,873     | 172,295,527  | 16.95                        | 5.75   | 0.92   | 42.93                   |
| 1878..... | 67,989,023                  | 11,165,655                         | 79,154,678     | 92,278,061     | 171,432,739  | 16.66                        | 5.34   | 0.50   | 42.02                   |
| 1879..... | 62,431,025                  | 8,355,644                          | 70,786,699     | 80,325,338     | 151,112,007  | 15.05                        | 10.57  | 11.85  | 36.44                   |
| 1880..... | 72,899,697                  | 13,240,006                         | 86,139,703     | 84,607,940     | 170,747,643  | 17.29                        | 21.69  | 12.99  | 40.50                   |
| 1881..... | 83,944,701                  | 13,375,117                         | 97,319,818     | 104,207,565    | 201,527,383  | 19.35                        | 12.96  | 18.02  | 46.47                   |
| 1882..... | 94,137,657                  | 7,628,453                          | 101,766,110    | 117,915,757    | 219,681,867  | 21.47                        | 4.56   | 9.00   | 50.11                   |
| 1883..... | 87,702,431                  | 9,751,773                          | 97,454,204     | 130,978,499    | 228,432,703  | 19.78                        | 4.23   | 3.98   | 51.52                   |
| 1884..... | 79,833,098                  | 9,389,106                          | 89,222,204     | 114,189,377    | 203,411,581  | 17.79                        | 8.44   | 10.95  | 45.34                   |
| 1885..... | 79,131,735                  | 8,079,646                          | 87,211,381     | 105,987,242    | 193,198,623  | 17.43                        | 2.25   | 5.02   | 42.56                   |
| 1886..... | 77,756,704                  | 7,438,079                          | 85,194,783     | 100,814,004    | 186,008,787  | 16.94                        | 2.31   | 3.72   | 40.53                   |
| 1887..... | 80,960,909                  | 8,549,333                          | 89,510,242     | 112,360,018    | 201,870,260  | 17.45                        | 5.07   | 8.42   | 43.52                   |
| 1888..... | 81,382,072                  | 8,803,394                          | 90,185,466     | 108,719,158    | 198,904,624  | 17.36                        | 0.75   | 1.46   | 42.42                   |
| 1889..... | 80,272,456                  | 6,938,455                          | 87,210,911     | 114,649,680    | 201,860,591  | 16.93                        | 3.29   | 1.48   | 42.59                   |
| 1890..... | 85,257,586                  | 9,051,781                          | 94,309,367     | 120,775,230    | 215,084,597  | 17.78                        | 8.11   | 6.55   | 44.87                   |
| 1891..... | 88,671,738                  | 8,798,631                          | 97,470,369     | 118,156,468    | 215,626,837  | 18.29                        | 3.35   | 0.24   | 44.49                   |
| 1892..... | 99,032,466                  | 13,121,791                         | 112,154,257    | 125,587,538    | 237,741,795  | 20.21                        | 15.06  | 10.26  | 48.52                   |
| 1893..... | 105,488,798                 | 8,941,856                          | 114,430,654    | 122,540,068    | 236,970,722  | 21.29                        | 2.02   | 0.32   | 47.83                   |
| 1894..... | 103,851,764                 | 11,833,805                         | 115,685,569    | 119,451,868    | 235,137,437  | 20.73                        | 1.09   | 0.77   | 46.94                   |
| 1895..... | 102,828,441                 | 6,485,043                          | 109,313,484    | 106,205,062    | 215,518,546  | 20.29                        | 5.50   | 8.34   | 42.53                   |
| 1896..... | 109,707,805                 | 6,606,738                          | 116,314,543    | 112,785,189    | 229,099,732  | 21.40                        | 6.40   | 6.30   | 44.69                   |
| 1897..... | 123,632,540                 | 10,825,163                         | 134,457,703    | 114,542,415    | 249,000,118  | 23.83                        | 15.59  | 8.66   | 48.01                   |
| 1898..... | 144,548,662                 | 14,980,883                         | 159,529,545    | 135,932,209    | 295,461,754  | 27.54                        | 18.64  | 18.65  | 56.29                   |

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. My hon. friend must see that the presentation of these interesting statements must be a matter of exceeding difficulty. In the Budget of a year ago we extended the benefit of the preferential tariff to the British West Indies (including British Guiana). This step on the part of Canada was received with great satisfaction by the press and people of the West Indies. Some improvement in our trade with these islands has already been accomplished, and we have ground for hoping for further extension, although there are certain conditions respecting the United States tariff which tend to check the growth of trade with Canada. Our West India trade has not been in a healthy condition for several years. Our imports from the British

West Indies have been steadily declining. In the year ending 30th June, 1898, before the preferential tariff came into operation as respects the West Indies, our imports from these islands were a little more than half what they were in 1897. Our exports to the British West Indies also showed a steady falling off. The situation was such that but for the preferential tariff our trade with those islands would have been almost destroyed. While the trade is still far from what it should be, I am hopeful that when we have the statistics of the present year, which will include 11 months of the preferential tariff, we shall be able to show a very decided improvement as compared with the year before the preferential tariff began. Our

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imports of sugar from the British West Indies (including British Guiana) for the six months ending 31st December, 1898, were :

|                       | Lbs.        | Value.    |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Six months, 1898..... | 9,049,020   | \$161,901 |
| Six months, 1899..... | 6,245,924   | 124,804   |
| Increase .....        | \$2,803,096 | \$37,097  |

There is a feature of the United States tariff which tends to encourage trade between the West Indies and that country, and which to some extent, balances the preference we have extended to the West Indies. I know that when we extended a preference rate to the West Indies there was a disposition in some quarters to criticise us for giving a preference when we were getting nothing in return. But I am afraid that the advantage to our West India friends which we intended them to have, is not as great as some persons imagined. We give a preference of 25 per cent on sugar coming from the West Indies, and the United States, though they have not a preference in the same form, actually give a preference on cane sugar over beet sugar, which is more than 25 per cent ; in fact in some instances it may be as high as 35 per cent, and possibly more. They do this by a system of countervailing duties. They levy the ordinary tariff on beet sugars which come into the United States ; then, in addition, they have a provision in their tariff that wherever any sugar comes from what is called a bounty-fed country, then that sugar shall pay, in addition to the stated ordinary duty, an additional duty equal to the amount of the bounty which is paid by the Government of the country from which the sugar is exported. Now, as beet root sugars of the continent are all bounty-fed sugars, they are subject to this additional countervailing duty in the markets of the United States, and the difference thus made between the cane sugar which comes from the West Indies and the beet sugar which comes largely from the continent of Europe, amounts, as I said a moment ago, to fully 25 per cent, and indeed in some cases to a considerable more. Therefore, there is a great demand in the United States for cane sugar. There are strong inducements on the part of the American refiner to buy cane sugar, because he can enter it at a duty very much less than beet sugar. Whether we can do any large amount of trade with the West Indies, even under our present preferential tariff, is a question which, I frankly say, is open to some debate, and we may have to consider, if we desire further to encourage our West India trade, whether we can not devise some other methods of doing it. For the present, I think the figures of the present year show a considerable increase in our West India trade, but I am afraid we cannot look for any great increase while the United States tariff stands in the position to which I have referred.

In this connection my attention has been called to the fact which is very interesting

indeed. It will be remembered that attention has been drawn to the fact, both in the press and in the House, that one result of the arrangements recently made between the United States and Porto Rico was to place Canadian shipping at a decided disadvantage. A considerable proportion of the shipping of our maritime provinces, and possibly some from the St. Lawrence also, carried the products of Canada out to Porto Rico, then loaded with sugar and carried the sugar back to ports of the United States. Under the changed condition of affairs whereby Porto Rico becomes virtually part of the United States—at all events it is so treated—that at once became a coasting trade, and under the coasting laws of the United States our ships were no longer permitted to take sugars or any other products from Porto Rico and land them in the United States ports. It was a matter of considerable embarrassment to our shipping interests, and though I do not know that we could have expected anything else, still it was a very regrettable arrangement, and one that we were particularly anxious to have modified if possible. I am glad to be able to say that from information now received, orders have been sent by the War Department to the general commanding in Porto Rico to permit all vessels, American or foreign, to load and clear for the United States. This is information which comes to us from the Foreign Office. I understand, of course, that they will always have the right to go to a foreign port ; the difficulty was that they had no right to go to a United States port, but they can now clear from Porto Rico for the United States.

The extent of the tariff reductions made by our Act of 1897 have been the subject of much discussion in Parliament and in the press. The positions assumed on this question by hon. gentlemen opposite from time to time have been strangely inconsistent. When the new tariff was brought down nobody doubted that the reductions were numerous and important. The fact that there was a sharp reduction on a great many items all along the line was recognized by hon. gentlemen opposite and by their press. If it were necessary I could quote abundant proof of that fact, and if the accuracy of my statement is called in question, some of these quotations will be given before the debate closes. It is enough for my present purpose to say that hon. gentlemen opposite and their press have recognized that we made a great many important reductions. Indeed the charge was made against us that our reductions were of such a character that we would paralyze the industries of the country. The opponents of the Government either believed or hoped that under the change of tariff policy the business interests of the country would suffer, and so they were prepared to condemn the Government roundly for the reductions that were made. But their expectations or hopes in this direction were doomed to disappointment. The

Liberals claimed that under a policy of tariff reform the business interests of the country would be benefited, not injured. Time proved the correctness of their views. In almost every branch of industry the settlement of the tariff question was followed by a revival of business. Trade, commerce and even manufactures flourished as never before. Then, finding that all their predictions as to the disaster which was to follow under a Liberal Administration had proved unwarranted, our opponents quickly swung round to the other side of the question, and took the ground that we had made no tariff reductions, and that the old so-called National Policy was still in force. This appears to be the last attitude of the Conservative party, and, therefore, I propose to devote a little attention to it. How a tariff in which, by their own admission, the duties in many lines had been cut unsparingly, could still be described as the old National Policy, is one of the things that an independent observer will have much difficulty in understanding. The facts and figures show conclusively that the old National Policy has not been continued, but that under a Liberal Administration a very large and substantial measure of tariff reform has already been accomplished. I shall invite the attention of the House to some of the evidences of this tariff reduction.

Our method of tariff reform involved the taking of three steps, two of them at the beginning and one at a later stage. In the first place, we prepared what we called a general tariff in which large reductions from the old tariff were made. Then we made our preferential tariff, whereby we provided that as compared with the general tariff, there should be a reduction of one-eighth of the duty in favour of British imports. And we made a further provision that, after the lapse of a little more than a year, there should be a further reduction of one-eighth so that at the end of that time, the duties on British goods would be one-fourth less than the duties on other goods. In the making of our general tariff, there were a few cases in which the duties were increased. In nearly every one of these, however, it will be found that when you apply the preferential rate, you have these duties lower now than they were under the old tariff. As the effort has been made to lead the public to believe that our reduction of tariff burdens was confined entirely to the preferential rate, I think it is important that the error of this view should be clearly pointed out. The preferential tariff was a most important and valuable feature of our tariff reform. But apart altogether from that, there was a large degree of relief from burdens in the form of reductions made in the general tariff, and of goods which were formerly dutiable and were transferred to the free list.

I have here a statement showing articles now in the free list of the tariff which were

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dutiable under the old tariff, and showing also the rates of duty imposed under the old tariff. These lists have been made by the officials of the Customs Department and they are guaranteed to be correct. I hope my hon. friend will consent to my putting them in without reading.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, I cannot do that, not because I do not want to be quite generous, but we have to reply to that statement, and we cannot reply to a thing which is not read.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I will give it to my hon. friend with permission to put it in the "Hansard" afterwards.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend will have to read this too.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I do not object, but these statements are rather long and tedious.

STATEMENT showing articles now on the free list of the tariff which were dutiable under the tariff in force when the Liberal Government came into power, with the rates of duty then imposed.

| Articles.   | Former Rates of Duty. |
|---|-----------------------|
| Degras, oleostearine. (This was formerly free for the manufacture of leather only)..... | 20 p. c. ad valorem.  |
| Florist stock, as follows:—   |                       |
| Corms, tubers, rhizomes, arum, caria spiraea.....                                       | 20 p. c. "            |
| Indian corn.....  | 7½ cts. per bush.     |
| Seed beans from Britain.....  | 15 cts. "             |
| Rape seed—sowing.....   | 10 p. c. ad valorem.  |
| Mushroom spawn.....   | 20 p. c. "            |
| Artificial limbs.....   | 20 p. c. "            |

Mr. FOSTER. Is that a heavy importation?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No, many of these items are not heavy, but they were regarded as very important to be put on the free list nevertheless. Of course, I could have selected only the heavy items, but I have taken them all fairly, big and little.

| Articles.   | Former Rates of Duty.          |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Asphaltum or asphalt, refined...  | 20 p. c. ad valorem.           |
| Binder twine.....   | 12½ p. c. "                    |
| Articles for manufacture of binder twine.....   | Varying according to material. |
| Religious tracts.....   | 35 p. c. ad valorem.           |
| Books for the use of libraries of schools, or for the library of any incorporated, medical, literary, scientific or art association or society..... | 6 cts. per lb.                 |

| Articles.  | Former Rates of Duty.   | Articles.   | Former Rates of Duty.  |
|--|---|---|--|
| Books on the application of science to industries of all kinds, including books on agriculture, horticulture, forestry, fish and fishing, mining, metallurgy, architecture, electric and other engineering, carpentry, shipbuilding, mechanism, dyeing, bleaching, tanning, weaving and other mechanic arts, and similar industrial books. . . . . | 6 cts. per lb.  | Steel for the manufacture of axes, hatchets, scythes, reaping hooks, hoes, hand rakes, hay or straw knives, windmills, and agricultural or harvesting forks, when imported by the manufacturers of such articles for use exclusively in the manufacture thereof in their own factories. . . . . | \$10 per ton.  |
| Canvas or fabric, not frictionized, for the manufacture of bicycle tires, imported by manufacturers of bicycles for use exclusively in the manufacture of bicycle tires in their own factories . . . . .   | 20 p. c. and 22½ p. c. according to material                            | Steel springs for the manufacture of surgical trusses, when imported by the manufacturers of trusses for use exclusively in the manufacture thereof in their own factories. . . . .   | 1 ct. per lb. and 20 p. c. ad valorem.                                 |
| Clay crucibles . . . . .   | 20 p. c. ad valorem.  | Flat spring steel, steel billets and steel axle bars, when imported by manufacturers of carriage springs and carriage axles for use exclusively in the manufacture of springs and axles for carriages or vehicles other than railway or tramway, in their own factories. . . . .                | Flat spring steel and steel bars, \$10, per ton; billets, \$5 per ton. |
| Cyanogen or compound of Bromine and Potassium for reducing metals in mining operations   | 20 p. c. "  | Spiral spring steel for spiral springs for railways, when imported by the manufacturers of railway springs for use exclusively in the manufacture of railway spiral springs in their own factories. . . . .   | \$10 per ton.  |
| Quebracho. . . . .   | 20 p. c. "  | Stereotypes, electrotypes and celluloids of newspaper columns in any language other than French and English. . . . .  | ¾ cts. per sq. in.   |
| Extracts of nut galls. . . . .   | 20 p. c.  | Barbed fencing wire of iron and steel. . . . .  | ¾ cts. per lb.   |
| Fashion plates—Tailors', milliners' and mantlemakers'. . . . .   | 6 cts. per lb. and 20 p. c.   | Wire of zinc, screwed or twisted, or flattened and corrugated, for use in connection with nailing machines for the manufacture of boots and shoes. . . . .  | 25 p. c. ad valorem.   |
| Head ropes (fishermen's). . . . .  | 1½ cts. per lb. and 10 p. c.  | Galvanized iron or steel wire, No. 9, 12 and 13 gauge . . . . .   | 20 p. c. and 25 p. c., according to purpose used.                      |
| Jute and hemp yarn for hammocks  | 20 p. c. ad valorem.  | Philosophical instruments and apparatus, such as are not manufactured in Canada, when imported for use in public hospitals. . . . .   | 25 p. c. ad valorem.   |
| Life boats and life saving apparatus. (When specially imported by societies established to encourage the saving of human life. . . . .   | 25 p. c. ad valorem.  | Photographs, not exceeding three sent by friends and not for purpose of sale . . . . .  | 20 "   |
| Brass, in strips, not polished, planished or coated . . . . .  | 30 p. c. "  | Rubber, powdered . . . . .  | 20 "   |
| Copper, in strips, not polished, planished or coated . . . . .   | 30 p. c. "  | Surgical and dental instruments and surgical needles . . . . .  | 15 "   |
| Brass trimmings for bedsteads, when imported for the manufacture of same. . . . .  | 30 p. c. "  | Books—donations of, for charitable purposes . . . . .   | 6 cts. per lb.   |
| Cream separators. . . . .  | 27½ p. c. "   | Specimens, models and wall diagrams, for illustrations of natural history, for universities and public museums. . . . .   | Dutiable according to material.  |
| Cable chains. . . . .  | 5 p. c. "   | Astrachan or Russian hair skins and China goat plate or rugs, wholly or partially dressed but not dyed . . . . .  | 15 p. c.   |
| Wrought iron tubing, butt or lap-welded, threaded or coupled or not, not less than 2½ inches diameter, when imported for use exclusively in mining, smelting reducing or refining. . . . .   | 15 p. c. "  |   |  |
| Platinum, in bars, strips or plates  | 20 p. c. "  |   |  |
| Sewing machine attachments. . . . .  | 30 p. c. "  |   |  |
| Steel, No. 12 gauge and thinner, but not thinner than No. 30 for the manufacture of bed fasts and furniture castors, when imported by the manufacturers of such articles for use exclusively in the manufacture thereof in their own factories. . . . .  | 12 to 16 gauge, \$10 per ton. 17 gauge and thinner, 5 p. c. ad valorem. |   |  |
| Steel, for the manufacture of bicycle chain, when imported by the manufacturers of bicycle chain for use in the manufacture thereof in their own factories. . . . .  | \$10 per ton.   |   |  |

This is a large list of items, some of which go directly into general consumption, such articles as cordage, barbed wire, binder twine, &c., but many of these articles are the raw material used by the manufacturer, and the cheaper raw material which is furnished to the manufacturers has been the secret, to a very large degree, of the manufacturing prosperity which Canada is now enjoying.

Mr. McNEILL. Does this statement say that these goods are now free ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. These are now free, and I gave the duty that they formerly bore.

Mr. FOSTER. Is it not a fact that a large number of these articles could, by Order in Council, be admitted free for the use of manufacturers ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That may be so : I have received the statement from the Customs Department. I will have that matter looked into, and, if it is so, I will have that correction made. The hon. Minister of Customs says that some were subject to Order in Council, and to that extent this list should be modified, and I will see that it is done.

Besides this transfer of goods from the dutiable to the free list, that were, as I

have said, important reductions in the general tariff. I shall now submit a statement giving a list of the dutiable goods upon which the duty under the present general tariff is lower than it was under the old tariff and giving also the respective rates under the two tariffs. It is to be noted carefully that the rate of duty on all such articles is reduced still further by one-fourth under the preferential tariff. I hope the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) will consent that I should put these items in. I will send the statement across to him and he can have the privilege of taking it home and studying it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Read, read.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. In the statement which I am now about to read, it should be noted that if any of these articles come in from Great Britain the present rate of duty is further decreased to the extent of the preferential tariff. These rates of duty which I shall read have no reference to the preferential tariff at all, but the statement is entirely a comparison of the present general tariff with the old tariff, and, as I have said, the present general rate of duty is to be further reduced to the extent of the British preferential rate on goods coming from that country.

STATEMENT giving a List of Dutiable Goods upon which the Duty under the present General Tariff is lower than it was under the Old Tariff, and giving also the respective Rates under the two Tariffs.

|  | Old Rate.  | Present Rate.   |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Belts, surgical, and trusses, electric belts, pessaries and suspensory bandages of all kinds.....  | 25 per cent.....   | 20 per cent.    |
| Books, printed ; periodicals, and pamphlets, n.e.s.....  | 6c. per lb., equivalent to 18 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>16</sub> p. c. ad val. computed on basis of 1896 imports ..... | 10 per cent.    |
| Posters, advertising bills and folders.....  | 15c. per lb. and 25 per cent.....  | 15c. per lb.    |
| Labels for cigar boxes, fruit, vegetable, meat, fish, confectionery, and other goods; also shipping, price or other tags, tickets or labels; and railroad or other tickets, whether lithographed or printed or partly printed, n.e.s... .. | 15c. per lb. and 25 per cent, equivalent to 46 per cent ad val. computed on basis of 1896 imports.....           | 35 per cent.    |
| <b>Breadstuffs—</b>  |  |                 |
| Wheat.....   | 15c. per bushel.....   | 12c. per bushel |
| Indian or corn meal .....  | 40c. per bbl.....  | 25c. per bbl.   |
| Wheat flour.....   | 75 " .....   | 60c. "          |
| Cane, reed, or rattan, split or otherwise manufactured, n. o. p. ....  | 17 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> per cent.....   | 15 per cent.    |
| <b>Carriages—</b>  |  |                 |
| Buggies and carriages, pleasure carts and similar vehicles, n. e. s. ....  | Costing not more than \$50, \$5 each and 25 per cent .....   | 35 "            |
| Sleighs.....   | 30 per cent. ....  | 25 "            |
| Tower clocks .....   | 30 " .....   | 25 "            |
| Coal, bituminous.....  | 60c. per ton .....   | 53c. per ton.   |
| Collars of cotton or linen, xylonite, xyolite or celluloid..   | 24c. per doz. and 25 per cent, equivalent to 52 per cent computed on basis of 1896 imports.                      | 35 per cent.    |

Mr. FIELDING.

|  | Old Rate.  | Present Rate.   |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Cordage, n. e. s. ....   | 1½c. per lb. and 10 per cent, equivalent to 28 per cent computed on basis of 1896 imports.....         | 25 per cent.    |
| Corset clasps, busks, blanks and steels, and corset wires, tipped or untipped.....   | 5c. per lb. and 20 per cent, equivalent to 37 per cent computed on basis of 1896 imports.....          | 35 "            |
| Cotton—  |  |                 |
| Embroideries, white.....   | 30 per cent. ....  | 25 "            |
| Duck, white.....   | 25 " .....   | 22½ "           |
| Jeans, coutilles and sateens, imported by corset and dress stay makers for use in their own factories. ....                                    | 25 " .....   | 20 "            |
| Sheets.....  | 32½ " .....  | 30 "            |
| Shirts of cotton, costing more than \$3 per dozen.....   | \$1 per doz. and 25 per cent, equivalent to 37 per cent ad val. computed on basis of 1896 imports..... | 35 "            |
| Socks and stockings .....  | 10c. per doz. pairs, and 35 p. cent  | 35 "            |
| Cuffs of cotton, linen, xylonite, xyolite or celluloid. ....   | 4c. per pair and 25 per cent, equivalent to 59 per cent ad val. based on 1896 imports....              | 35 "            |
| Drugs, etc.—   |  |                 |
| Glycerine imported by manufacturers of explosives for use in the manufacture thereof in their own factories..                                  | 20 per cent .....  | 10 "            |
| Proprietary medicines, liquid, not containing alcohol...   | 50 " .....   | 25 "            |
| Sulphuric ether.....   | 5c. per lb.....  | 25 "            |
| Solutions of peroxides of hydrogen.....  | 50 per cent .....  | 25 "            |
| Earthen and Chinaware—   |  |                 |
| Demijohns, churns or crocks .....  | 3c. per gall. holding capacity, equivalent to 38 per cent ad val. based on 1896 imports. ....          | 30 "            |
| Electric light carbons and carbon points. ....   | \$2.50 per 1,000, length 12 inches, equivalent to 44 per cent based on 1896 imports.....               | 35 "            |
| Electric light carbons over six inches in circumference..  | 25 per cent .....  | 15 "            |
| Insulators of all kinds.....   | 30 " .....   | 25 "            |
| Gunpowder and other Explosives—  |  |                 |
| Giant powder, nitre and other explosives.....  | 4c. per lb.....  | 3c. per lb.     |
| Nitro-glycerine .....  | 4c. per lb.....  | 3c. "           |
| Gun or pistol covers or cases, game bags.....  | 32½ per cent.....  | 30 per cent.    |
| Loading tools .....  | 35 " .....   | 30 "            |
| Gutta percha and India-rubber, manufactures of—  |  |                 |
| Boots and shoes, with cloth uppers.....  | 30 " .....   | 25 "            |
| Belting .....  | 32½ " .....  | 25 "            |
| Agricultural Implements—   |  |                 |
| Farm, road or field rollers.....   | 35 " .....   | 25 "            |
| Forks, pronged.....  | 35 " .....   | 25 "            |
| Hay tedders.....   | 35 " .....   | 25 "            |
| Hoes.....  | 35 " .....   | 25 "            |
| Knives, hay or straw .....   | 35 " .....   | 25 "            |
| Knives, edging .....   | 35 " .....   | 25 "            |
| Manure spreaders.....  | 25 " .....   | 20 "            |
| Post hole diggers.....   | 35 " .....   | 25 "            |
| Potato diggers.....  | 35 " .....   | 25 "            |
| Rakes, n.e.s.....  | 35 " .....   | 25 "            |
| Scythes and snaths, sickles or reaping hooks. ....   | 35 " .....   | 25 "            |
| Spades and shovels and spade and shovel blanks and iron or steel cut to shape for same.....  | 50c. per doz. and 25 p.c., equivalent to 38 p.c. based on 1896 imports.....                            | 35 "            |
| All other agricultural implements, n.e.s.....  | 35 per cent. ....  | 25 "            |
| Cart or wagon skeins or boxes.....   | 32½ " .....  | 30 "            |
| Bar iron or steel, rolled, whether in coils, bundles, rods or bars, comprising rounds, ovals, squares and flats, and rolled shapes, n.o.p..... | \$10 per ton.....  | \$7 per ton.    |
| Butts and hinges, n.e.s.....   | 32½ per cent.....  | 30 "            |
| Cast iron pipe of every description. ....  | \$10 p. ton, but not less than 35 p.c.   | \$8 "           |
| Cast scrap iron.....   | \$4 per ton .....  | \$2.50 per ton. |
| Chain, malleable sprocket or link belting for binders....  | 27½ per cent.....  | 20 per cent.    |
| Tacks, shoe, equivalent to 52 p.c. based on 1896 imports.  | { ½ ounce to 4 ounces to }<br>{ 1000, one cent per thou- }<br>{ sand. }                                | 35 "            |
| Steam engines and boilers. ....  | 27½ per cent.....  | 25 "            |
| Fittings, iron or steel for iron or steel pipe.....  | 35 " .....   | 30 "            |

|  | Old Rate.   | Present Rate.            |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| Forgings of iron or steel of whatever shape or size or in whatever stage of manufacture, n.e.s.....  | 35 per cent, but not less than \$15 per ton.....  | 30 per ton.              |
| Steel shafting, turned, compressed or polished; and hammered iron or steel bars or shapes, n.o.p.....  | \$10 per ton and $\frac{1}{4}$ c. per lb. additional, estimated equivalent to 35p.c         | 30 "                     |
| <b>Hardware, namely,—</b>  |   |                          |
| Builders', cabinetmakers', upholsterers', harness makers', saddlers', and carriage hardware, including curry combs .....   | 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.....  | 30 "                     |
| Iron or steel ingots, cogged ingots, blooms, slabs, billets, puddled bars and loops and other forms, n.o.p., less finished than iron or steel bars but more advanced than pig iron, except castings .....  | \$5 per ton .....   | \$2 per ton.             |
| Iron in pigs .....   | \$4 " .....   | \$2.50 per ton.          |
| Iron in pigs, (charcoal) .....   | \$4 " .....   | \$2.50 "                 |
| Iron in kentledge.....   | \$4 " .....   | \$2.50 "                 |
| Locks of all kinds .....   | 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.....  | 30 per cent.             |
| <b>Machines and Machinery—</b>   |   |                          |
| Fanning mills .....  | 35 " .....  | 25 "                     |
| Grain crushers .....   | 35 " .....  | 25 "                     |
| Windmills .....  | 30 " .....  | 25 "                     |
| Ore crushers and rock crushers, stamp mills, cornish and belted rolls, rock drills, air compressors, cranes and derricks and percussion coal cutters.....  | 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ " .....  | 25 "                     |
| Fodders or feed cutters.....   | 35 per cent.....  | 25 per cent.             |
| Horse powers .....   | 30 " .....  | 25 "                     |
| Portable engines.....  | 30 " .....  | 25 "                     |
| Portable saw mills and planing mills.....  | 30 " .....  | 25 "                     |
| Threshers and separators.....  | 30 " .....  | 25 "                     |
| All other portable machines.....   | 30 " .....  | 25 "                     |
| Slot machines .....  | 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ " .....  | 25 "                     |
| Typewriting machines.....  | 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ " .....  | 25 "                     |
| All other machinery, composed wholly or in part of iron or steel, n.o.p.....   | 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ " .....  | 25 "                     |
| Nails and spikes, cut, and railway spikes.....   | $\frac{1}{4}$ c. per lb.....  | $\frac{1}{4}$ c. per lb. |
| Nails, wire, all kinds, n.o.p.....   | 1c. " .....   | $\frac{1}{4}$ c. "       |
| Mould boards or shares or plough plates, land sides and other plates for agricultural implements, cut to shape from rolled plates of steel but not moulded, punched, polished or otherwise manufactured, when costing 4c. per lb. and under.....   | 20 per cent.....  | 5 per cent.              |
| Pumps .....  | 30 " .....  | 25 "                     |
| Railway fish plates and tie plates.....  | \$10 per ton.....   | \$8 per ton.             |
| Rolled iron or steel angles, tees, beams, channels, joists, girders, zees, stars or rolled shapes, or trough, bridge, building or structural rolled sections or shapes, not punched, drilled or further manufactured than rolled, n.e.s., and flat eye bar blanks, not punched or drilled. | 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.....  | 10 per cent.             |
| Rolled iron or steel hoop, band, scroll or strip, eight inches or less in width, No. 18 gauge and thicker, n.e.s.  | \$10 per ton.....   | \$7 per ton.             |
| Rolled iron or steel angles and channels, weighing less than 35 lbs. per lineal yard, not punched, drilled, or further manufactured than rolled, n.o.p....   | 35 per cent, but not less than \$10 per ton.....  | \$7 per ton.             |
| Rolled iron or steel plates or sheets, sheared or unsheared and skelp iron or steel, sheared or rolled in grooves, n.e.s.....  | \$10 per ton .....  | \$7 per ton.             |
| Rolled iron or steel plates not less than 30 inches in width and not less than $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch in thickness, n.o.p....   | 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.....  | 10 per cent.             |
| Rolls of chilled iron or steel.....  | 35 " .....  | 30 "                     |
| Skates of all kinds and parts thereof.....   | 10c. per pair and 30 per cent, equivalent to 57 per cent ad val. based on 1896 imports..... | 35 "                     |
| Skelp iron or steel, sheared or rolled in grooves, imported by manufacturers of wrought iron or steel pipe for use only in the manufacture of wrought iron or steel pipe in their own factories .....  | \$10 per ton, equivalent to 54 per cent ad val. ....  | 5 "                      |
| Stoves of all kinds and parts thereof, n.e.s.....  | 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.....  | 25 "                     |
| Stove plates and sad or smoothing hatters' and tailors' irons, plated wholly or in part or not.....  | 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ " .....  | 25 "                     |

|  | Old Rate.   | Present Rate.                 |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Boiler tubes of wrought iron or steel, including flues and corrugated tubes for marine boilers .....   | 7½ per cent.....  | 5 per cent.                   |
| Tubes or rolled steel, seamless, not jointed or welded, not more than 1½ inches in diameter.....   | 15 " .....  | 10 "                          |
| Tubes, seamless steel for bicycles .....   | 15 " .....  | 10 "                          |
| Enamelled iron or steel ware, n.e.s.....   | 35 " .....  | 30 "                          |
| Wire fencing woven and wire fencing of iron or steel, n.e.s.   | 27½ " .....   | 15 "                          |
| Buckthorn strip .....  | ¼c. per lb.....   | 15 "                          |
| Wire of all kinds, n.o.p .....   | 25 per cent.....  | 20 "                          |
| Wire, stranded or twisted, clothes-line, picture or other twisted wire.....  | 27½ " .....   | 25 "                          |
| Iron or steel scrap, wrought, being waste or refuse, including punchings, cuttings, and clippings of iron or steel, plates or sheets having been in actual use; crop ends of tin plate bars, blooms and rails, the same not having been in actual use..... | \$4 per ton.....  | \$1 per ton.                  |
| Table cutlery of all kinds, n.o.p .....  | 32½ per cent .....  | 30 per cent.                  |
| Steel plate, universal mill or rolled edge, bridge plates imported by manufacturers of bridges.....  | 12½ " .....   | 10 "                          |
| Steel in bars, sheets or plates, thicker than 17 gauge, when of greater value than 2½c. per lb.....  | \$10 per ton.....   | 5 "                           |
| Steel in hoops, scrolls or strips, 18 gauge and thicker, when of greater value than 2½c. per lb.....   | \$10 " .....  | 5 "                           |
| Adzes, cleavers, hatchets, hammers, picks, mattocks and eyes or poles for the same.....  | 35 " .....  | 30 "                          |
| Axes .....   | 35 " .....  | 25 "                          |
| Saws .....   | 32½ " .....   | 30 "                          |
| Files and rasps, n.e.s.....  | 35 per cent.....  | 30 "                          |
| Tools, hand or machine, of all kinds, n.o.p.....   | 35 " .....  | 30 "                          |
| Leather—   |   |                               |
| Tanner's scrap leather.....  | 20 " .....  | 15 "                          |
| Type-making accessories for lithographic presses.....  | 27½ " .....   | 10 "                          |
| Composition metal for the manufacture of jewelry.....  | 25 " .....  | 10 "                          |
| Stereotypes, electrotypes and celluloids for almanacs, calendars, illustrated pamphlets, newspaper advertisements or engravings, and all other like work for commercial, trade or other purposes, n.e.s., and matrices or copper shells for the same.....  | 2c. per sq. in.....   | 1½c. per sq. in.              |
| Stereotypes, electrotypes and celluloids of newspaper columns and bases for the same, composed wholly or partly of metal or celluloid.....   | ¾c. " .....   | ¼c. "                         |
| Stereotypes, matrices or copper shells for the same.....   | 2c. " .....   | 1½c. "                        |
| Wire of all kinds, except iron or steel, n.o.p.....  | 25 per cent.....  | 20 per cent.                  |
| All parts of organs, except reeds.....   | 30 " .....  | 25 "                          |
| Pianofortes.....   | 35 " .....  | 30 "                          |
| Oils—  |   |                               |
| Coal and kerosene, distilled, purified or refined, naphtha, and petroleum, n.e.s.....  | 6c. per gall .....  | 5c. per gall.                 |
| Products of petroleum, n.e.s.....  | 6c. " .....   | 5c. "                         |
| Crude petroleum, fuel and gas oils (other than naphtha, benzine or gasoline), when imported by manufacturers (other than oil refiners) for use in their own factories for fuel purposes or for the manufacture of gas.....                                 | 3c. " .....   | 2½c. "                        |
| Olive oil, prepared for salad purposes.....  | 30 per cent .....   | 20 per cent.                  |
| Lubricating oils, composed wholly or in part of petroleum and costing less than 25c. per gallon.....   | 6c. per gall .....  | 5c. per gall.                 |
| Paper and manufactures of—   |   |                               |
| Hanging or wall paper .....  | Equivalent ad val. rate based on 1896 imports, 39 per cent .....  | 35 per cent.                  |
| Plaster of Paris or gypsum, calcined or manufactured.....  | 40c. per bri. of 300 lbs.....   | 12½c. p. 100 lbs.             |
| Enamelled iron or steel signs, and letters for same.....   | 35 per cent.....  | 30 per cent.                  |
| Socks and stockings of silk.....   | 10c. per doz. pairs and 35 per cent.  | 35 "                          |
| Slate—   |   |                               |
| Roofing slate.. ..   | 30 per cent, but not more than 75c. per square for black or blue, or more than 90c. per square for other colours..... | 25 per cent, not over 75c sq. |
| School writing slates.....   | 30 per cent.....  | 25 per cent.                  |
| Soap—  |   |                               |
| Pearline and other soap powders.....   | 35 " .....  | 30 "                          |

|   | Old Rate.  | Present Rate. |
|---|--|---------------|
| Stockinettes for the manufacture of rubber boots and shoes, imported by manufacturers of rubber boots and shoes for use in their own factories, unbleached..... | 22½ p. cent }  | 15 per cent.  |
| " " " coloured.....   | 30 " }   |               |
| Stone and manufactures of—  |  |               |
| Flagstone, granite, rough freestone, sandstone and all building stone not hammered or chiselled.....  | 20 " .....   | 15 "          |
| Granite and freestones, dressed ; all other building stone, dressed, except marble.....   | 30 " .....   | 20 "          |
| Flagstone, dressed.....   | 30 " .....   | 20 "          |
| Glucose or grape sugar, glucose syrup and corn syrup, or any syrups containing any admixture thereof.....   | 1½c. per lb.....   | ¾c. per lb.   |
| Watch cases.....  | 35 per cent.....   | 30 per cent.  |
| Rakes, hay, of wood .....   | 35 " .....   | 25 "          |
| Willow or osier—  |  |               |
| Window shades in the piece, or cut and hemmed, or mounted on rollers .....  | 35 per cent, but not less than 5c. per sq. yd., equivalent to 41 per cent computed on basis of 1896 imports..... | 35 "          |
| Wool and manufactures of—   |  |               |
| Socks and stockings of wool, worsted, the hair of the alpaca goat, etc.....   | 10c. per doz. prs. and 35 per cent.....  | 35 "          |
| Yarns costing 30c. per lb. and over, imported on the cop, tube, or in the hank, by manufacturers of woollen goods for use in their products.....                | 30 per cent.....   | 20 "          |
| Worsted tops made from lustre, wools and other like combing wools such as are grown in Canada.....  | 20 " .....   | 15 "          |
| Blankets.....   | 5c. per lb. and 25 per cent, equivalent to 39 per cent ad val. computed on 1896 imports.....                     | 35 "          |
| Carpets, two-ply and three-ply, treble ingrain, composed wholly of wool.....  | 5c. per sq. yd. and 25 per cent, equivalent to 36 per cent computed on 1896 imports.....                         | 35 "          |
| Carpets, two-ply and three-ply, ingrain, of which the warp is composed wholly of cotton or other material than wool, worsted, etc.....                          | 3c. per sq. yd. and 25 per cent, equivalent to 37 per cent computed on 1896 imports.....                         | 35 "          |

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that if even no further reductions had been made than those shown in the above statement, there would still be a large and substantial measure of tariff reform. But when we take into consideration the preferential tariff, whereby the duties of the general tariff are further reduced to the extent of one-fourth, we begin to see how large and important the tariff reductions have been.

I have pointed out the extent of the tariff reductions as applied to a large list of articles. I purpose now to invite the attention of the House to a further evidence of tariff reform ; but before doing so, I think I shall ask you to call it six o'clock.

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

#### After Recess.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Just before you left the Chair at six o'clock, Mr. Speaker, I had read to the House a very long, and, possibly, a very tiresome, list of the items in our present general tariff the duties on which are materially lower than the duties in the old tariff of 1896. And I had observed, Sir, in commenting on that

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list, that if there had been no other tariff reform than that which was contained in the list of items I submitted to the House, our tariff we have been far from continuing the old National Policy, but would have given a large and substantial measure of tariff reform. But when in addition to that we consider that on every one of these items which can be purchased from the mother country, there is a further reduction of one-quarter of the duties, then I think we shall satisfy the House and the country that instead of having the National Policy still in force, as my hon. friends opposite have been contending, we have given the country a very large and substantial measure of tariff reform, which may be regarded as a fair and full compliance with the pledges in the Liberal platform of the convention of 1893.

But I propose now to take another view of the extent of this tariff reform. I have pointed out the reductions on a large number of items ; let me now invite the House to the question of the amount in the gross or the lump sum which these reductions represent in the taxation of the people during the past year. We want to ascertain what the tariff taxation would have been on the trade of 1898, if instead of having the present tariff we had continued in force the tariff of 1896.

Now, there are two ways in which we may ascertain this fact. If we ascertain the average rate of duties imposed under the tariff of 1896 and apply that to the importations of 1898, and then compare the results with the actual payments of duty under the tariff of 1898, we shall approximately reach the sum which represents the saving to the people. But there is a more exact way of making the calculation, and that is the way which I propose to take. That exact way is to take the tariff of 1896, item by item, and apply it to the importations of 1898, and see just what the taxation would be if the tariff of 1896 were applied in that way. I have here a statement of the tariff of 1896, applied to the importation of 1898. The duty on the imports of 1898, applying to these the tariff of 1896, would have been \$24,752,827.08. The duty collected under the tariff of 1898 amounted to \$22,157,788.49, and deducting the refunds under the preferential tariff, estimated at \$120,000, that makes the net duties collected under our tariff in 1898, \$22,037,788.49. Deducting this amount from the duty that would have been levied by imposing the rates of 1896 on the imports of 1898, we find that the reduction by the tariff of 1898 amounted to \$2,715,038.59. Such is the result of a comparison between the sum collected on the imports of 1898 and the sum which would have been collected if the old tariff rates had applied.

But there is one item which may, perhaps, be the subject of special consideration and may go to qualify that statement. I allude to the imports of Indian corn. We imported in 1898, 19,771,314 bushels of Indian corn, which, being free, was entered for home consumption, notwithstanding the fact that a considerable portion was really intended for export and was afterwards exported. It may be said that if the old tariff of seven and a half cents per bushel on corn for home consumption had been in force—corn, of course, being free when passing through in transit—that corn would not have been entered for home consumption, and, therefore, we ought not to consider it in the home consumption at present. I have to observe on that point that if one of the results of our tariff has been that we have not only encouraged the use of corn for home consumption, but besides have attracted into the country a large quantity of corn for export, we have thereby given employment to our railways, elevators, steamships, and all the workmen who are associated with those various industries; and in that respect, we have something to credit the tariff with which is by no means unimportant. But for the purposes of argument, I propose to give our opponents the benefit of their contention respecting the item of corn, and to apply the tariff of 1896, not to the total imports of corn in 1898, but only to that part which remained in the country. That is to say, from the total imports I deduct the quantity, not the produce of Can-

ada, which was exported, and I find the following result:

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Total duties collected in 1898.....                       | \$22,157,788 49 |
| Less—Estimated refunds under the preferential tariff..... | 120,000 00      |
| Net.....  | \$22,037,788 49 |

The duty that would have been collected under the 1896 tariff on all goods, allowing a duty of 7½ cents per bushel on 5,440,764 bushels of Indian corn—being the difference between 19,771,314 bushels set forth in the Trade and Navigation Returns for 1898, as imported free for home consumption, and 14,330,550 shown as the exports of Indian corn not the produce of Canada—I find would have amounted to \$23,678,035.83. Or giving our opponents the benefit of all reasonable contention with regard to this particular item of corn, we still find that the duties levied by our tariff in 1898 were \$1,640,247.34 less than they would have been if the old tariff had been applied to the imports of last year. The foregoing calculations are based on the trade of the year ending 30th June, 1898, but I have had a statement prepared—

Mr. FOSTER. Before my hon. friend leaves that portion of his argument, will he give the House some idea as to the method by which he has arrived at his conclusions. It is all very well to state that such is the case, but how does he arrive at it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. By instructing a very competent officer, who, I am sure, has acted very impartially, to apply the tariff of 1896, item by item, to the importations of 1898, as shown in the Trade and Navigation Returns.

Mr. FOSTER. Has my hon. friend the statement worked out?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Only the results. I have not it by me, but I think I could obtain it for my hon. friend subsequently. At all events I gave instructions that the inquiries should be made. I do not know that I could give more than the results, but I will speak about it later with my hon. friend.

Mr. FOSTER. It would be satisfactory to have it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) thought you said the results were satisfactory.

Mr. FOSTER. Oh, he thinks queerly these days.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I have now a statement for the nine months ending the 31st March, 1898, in comparison with figures of a similar period for 1896:

Comparative statement showing the value of goods entered for consumption for the nine months ending 31st March of the fiscal years 1898-99 and 1895-96, and showing also the reductions of duty under the present tariffs :

Nine months, 1898-99.

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Value of dutiable goods entered for consumption ..... | \$64,772,597         |
| Value of free goods entered for consumption .....     | 48,017,409           |
| Total .....   | <u>\$112,790,006</u> |

Nine months, 1895-96.

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Value of dutiable goods entered for consumption ..... | \$50,972,796        |
| Value of free goods entered for consumption .....     | 33,179,468          |
| Total .....   | <u>\$84,152,264</u> |

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Deducting coin and bullion, the value of goods entered for consumption for the nine months of 1898-99 was..... | \$108,712,313          |
| The total duty paid was.....   | 18,751,708 05          |
| Less—Refunds on account of preferential tariff (estimated) .....   | 40,000 00              |
|  | <u>\$18,711,708 05</u> |

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Average rate of duty on goods, dutiable and free, exclusive of coin and bullion—17·21 per cent.                |                 |
| Deducting coin and bullion, the value of goods entered for consumption for the nine months of 1895-96 was..... | \$79,888,306 00 |
| The duty collected was .....   | 15,463,213 11   |
| Average rate of duty on goods, dutiable and free, exclusive of coin and bullion—19·35 per cent                 |                 |

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
|                     | Per cent. |
| Rate, 1895-96.....  | 19·35     |
| Rate, 1898-99 ..... | 17·21     |

Reduction .....

2·14

This reduction is equivalent to 11 per cent of the old rate, or, in other words, one-ninth of the whole duty.

Applying the rate of nine months of 1895-96 to the importations of nine months of 1898-99, we have the following result : —

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Duty that would have been collected under 1896 rates..... | \$21,035,832 56       |
| Duty actually collected .....                             | 18,711,708 05         |
| Reduction .....   | <u>\$2,324,124 51</u> |

Calculating on this basis, the reduction in duty for the whole year will be over .....

\$3,000,000 00

Summing up these statements, I think it will be clear to the House, that the reduction in the tariff, as compared with the so-called National Policy, during the last fiscal year, when our preferential tariff was only partly in operation, amounted to \$1,640,000, even when allowing for the corn. When our preferential tariff came fully into operation, this reduction became greater, amounting in the nine months of the present fiscal

Mr. FIELDING.

year to more than two and a quarter millions. And, if we make our calculation, as I said, for the whole year, we will find that total reduction on imports for 1899 is about three millions, as compared with what the duties would have been under the National Policy. I think, then, I may reasonably ask the House and the country to believe, that we have made a large and substantial measure of tariff reform; and I think I may say that the facts and figures which I have quoted will silence for ever the story that the National Policy remains in full force and operation.

There has been some discussion in the House, from time to time, over the change from specific to ad valorem duties. Specific duties are admittedly wise in many cases, especially in the matter of food products, because ad valorem duties might cause a temptation to import adulterated food. But in some cases, where you have, upon manufactured goods, specific duties or compound duties—that is, duties partly specific and partly ad valorem—those duties are likely to become excessive. There were cases in the old National Policy in which, adding the specific and ad valorem duties, or taking the specific alone, the duties ran up to an ad valorem equivalent of as much as 50 or 60 per cent, and, as my hon. friend beside me reminds me, in some cases even higher. Whether wisely or not, it was deemed a point of great importance to reduce these specific duties. They have not all been wiped out; but there are 59 items on which the duty was either specific or partly specific and partly ad valorem, which have now been transferred to the ad valorem list.

Mr. FOSTER. How many remain ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Quite a number. I have said we have not removed them all. But give us a little time.

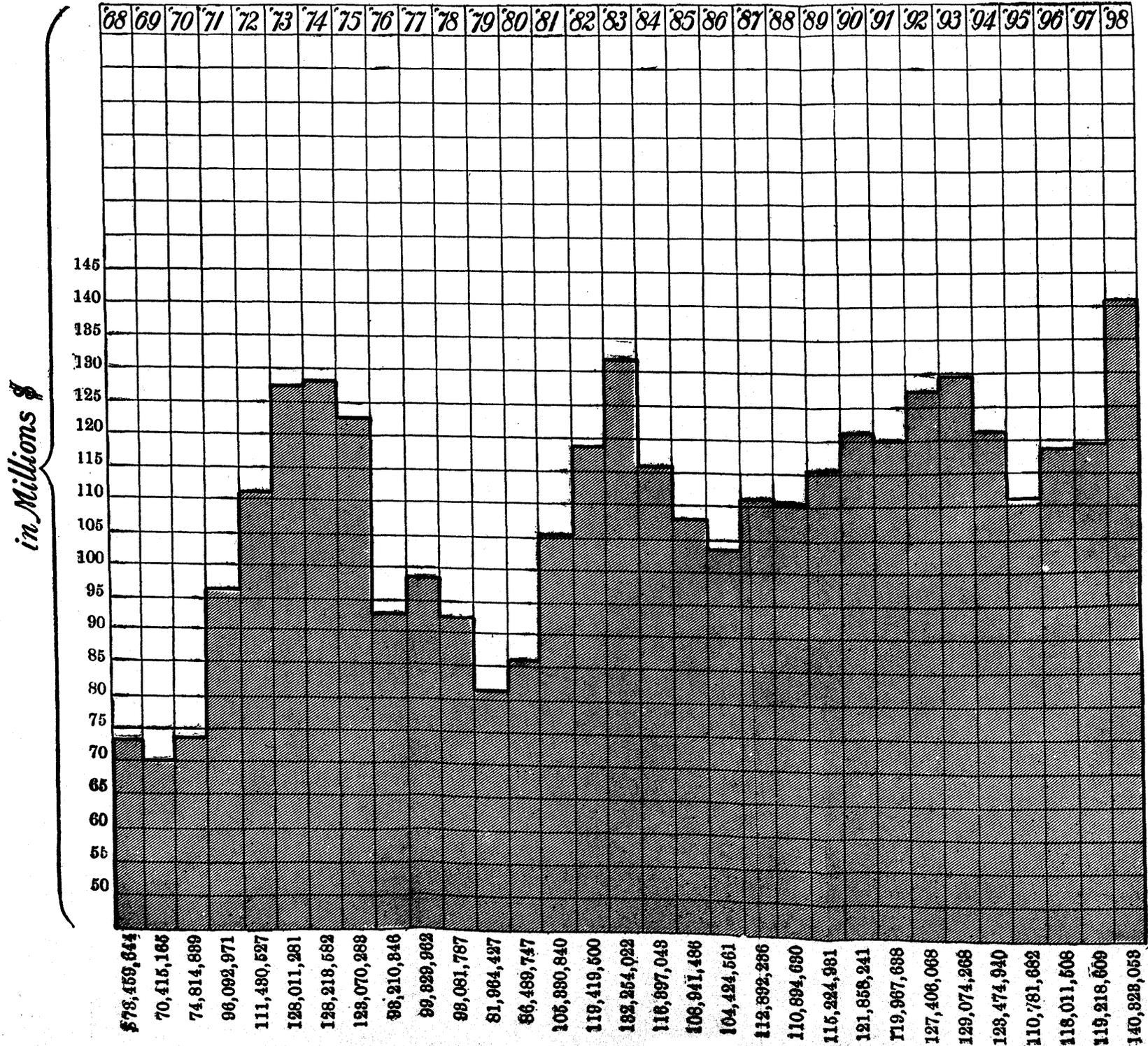
I wish to say something now with regard to the operation of the preferential tariff. I have observed that the opponents of the Government have of late adopted a new line of attack with regard to the preferential tariff. The signal success which followed the adoption of that measure, its effect upon public opinion, both at home and abroad, do not appear to have been entirely gratifying to hon. gentlemen opposite. Hitherto, their chief complaint has been, that we had granted this preferential tariff to Great Britain without receiving anything in return.

Mr. FOSTER. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman evidently wishes to emphasize that as a policy which they have talked about in the past. However, according to their latest view, there is a different argument. They now tell us that this preference, which formerly they complained of our granting freely, and which they said we ought not to have given without receiv-

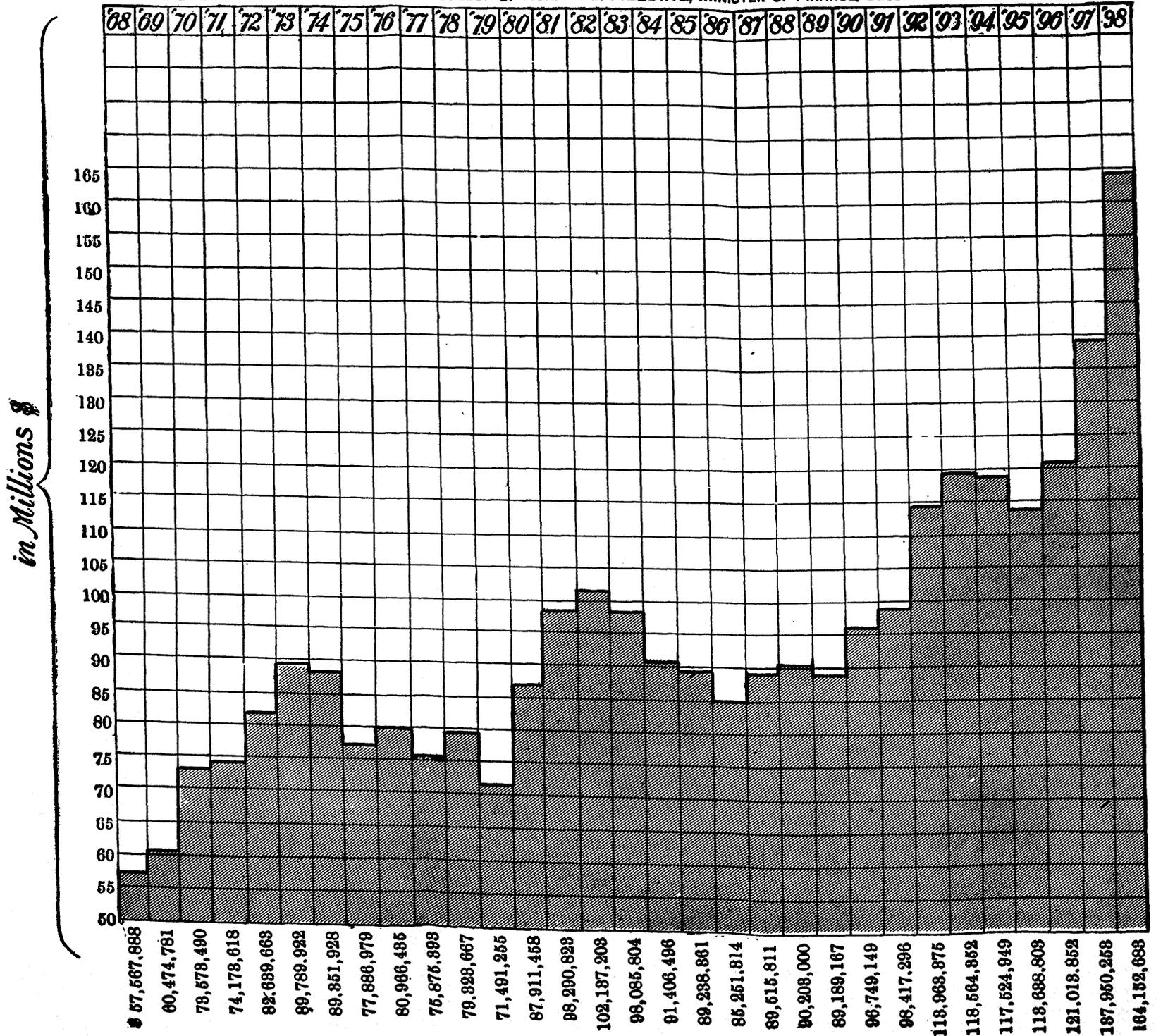
TOTAL IMPORTS FOR YEARS ENDED JUNE 30TH, 18-

(DIAGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH BUDGET SPEECH OF HON. W. S. FIELDING, MINISTER OF FINANCE, SESSION OF 1899.)



TOTAL EXPORTS FOR YEARS ENDED JUNE 30TH, 18-

(DIAGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH BUDGET SPEECH OF HON. W. S. FIELDING, MINISTER OF FINANCE, SESSION OF 1899.)

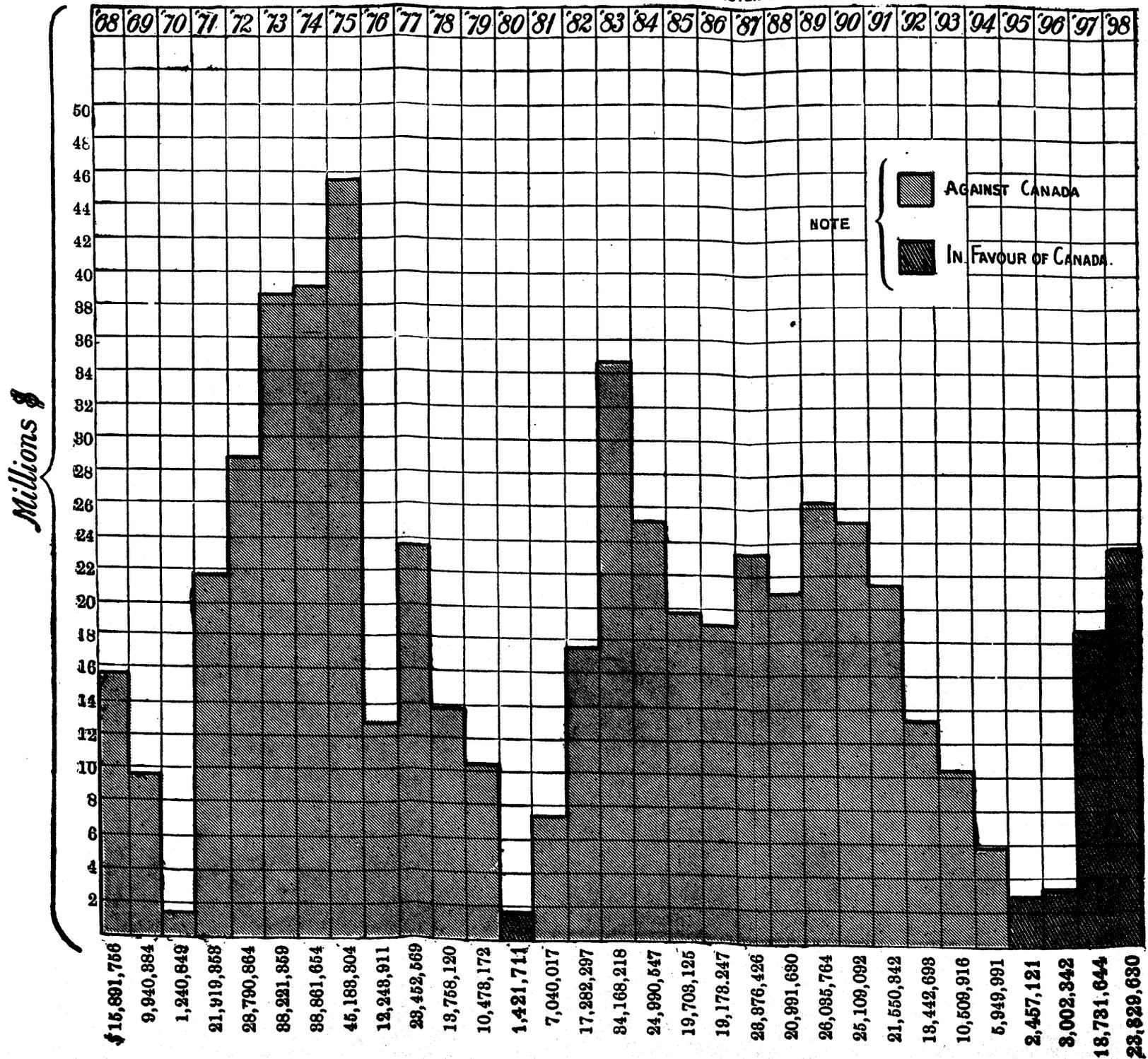


# DOMINION OF CANADA

## BALANCE OF TRADE FOR OR AGAINST CANADA

FOR YEARS ENDED JUNE 30TH, 18-

(DIAGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH BUDGET SPEECH OF HON. W. S. FIELDING, MINISTER OF FINANCE SESSION OF 1899.)



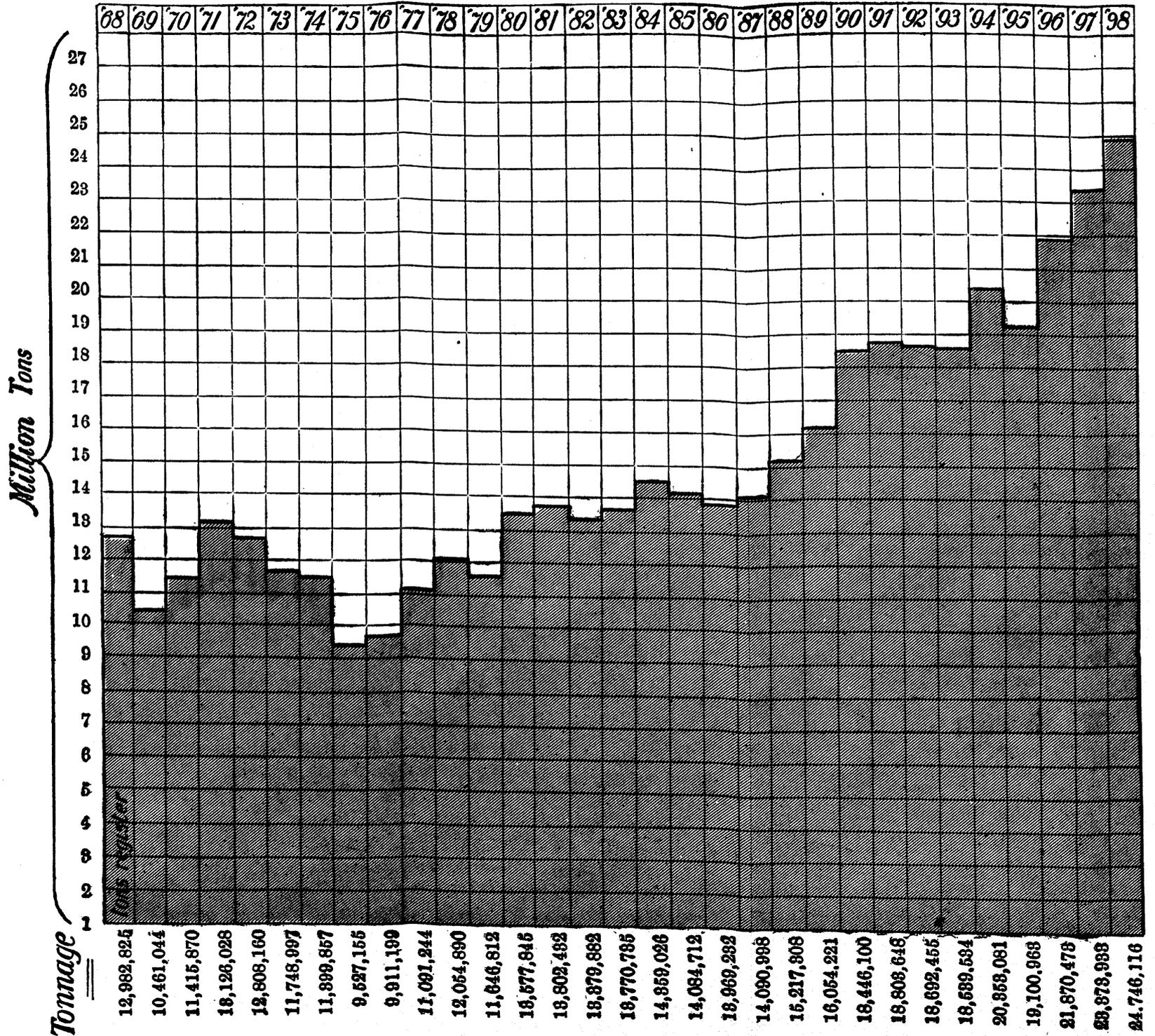
# DOMINION OF CANADA

## SHIPPING, INCLUDING ALL VESSELS (EXCLUSIVE OF COASTING VESSELS)

### TONNAGE EMPLOYED

(DIAGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH BUDGET SPEECH OF HON. W. S. FIELDING, MINISTER OF FINANCE, SESSION OF 1899.)

JUNE 30TH, 18-



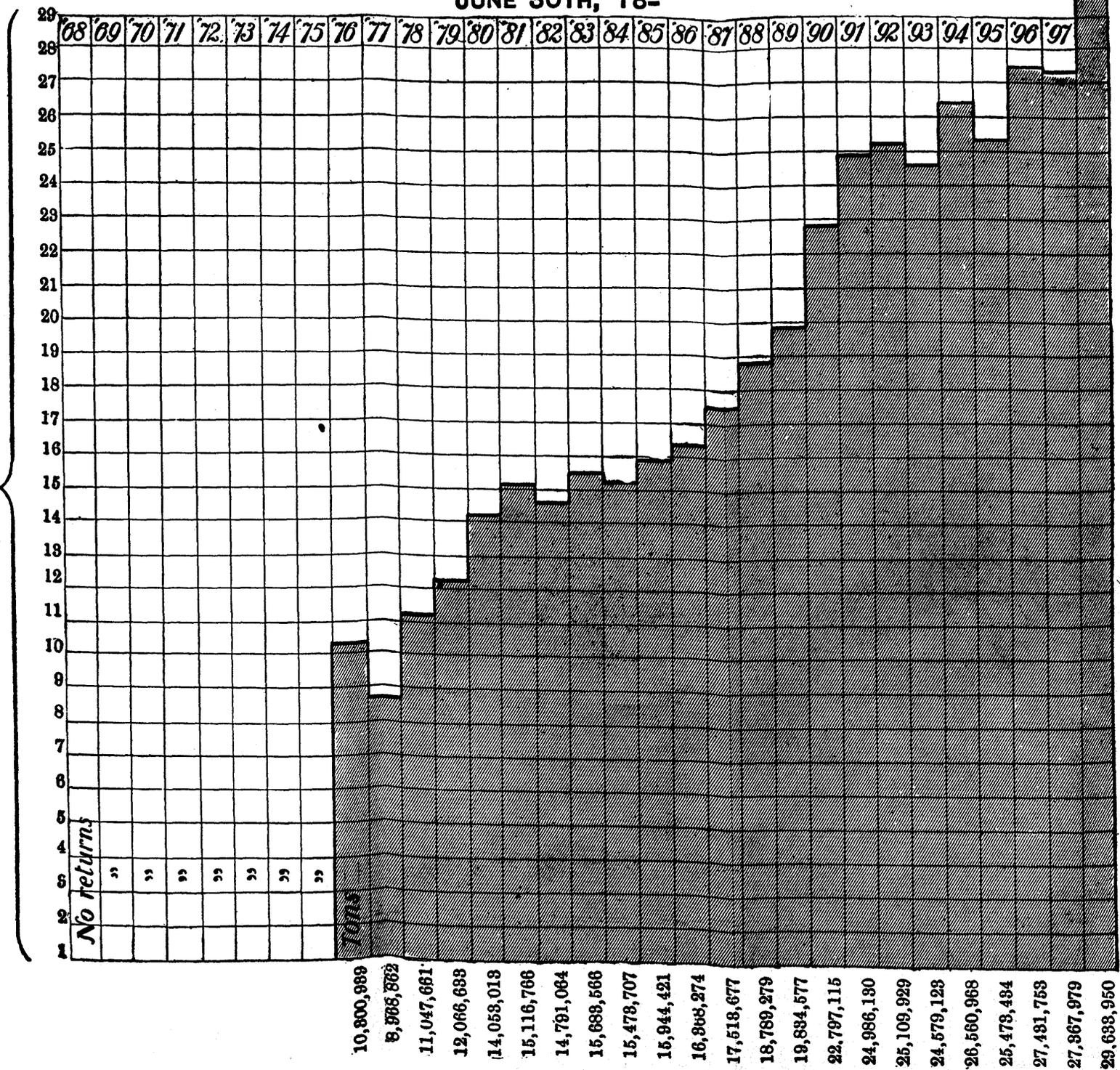
# DOMINION OF CANADA COASTING TRADE—TONNAGE EMPLOYED

(DIAGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH BUDGET SPEECH OF HON. W. S. FIELDING, MINISTER OF FINANCE, SESSION OF 1899.)

JUNE 30TH, 18-

98

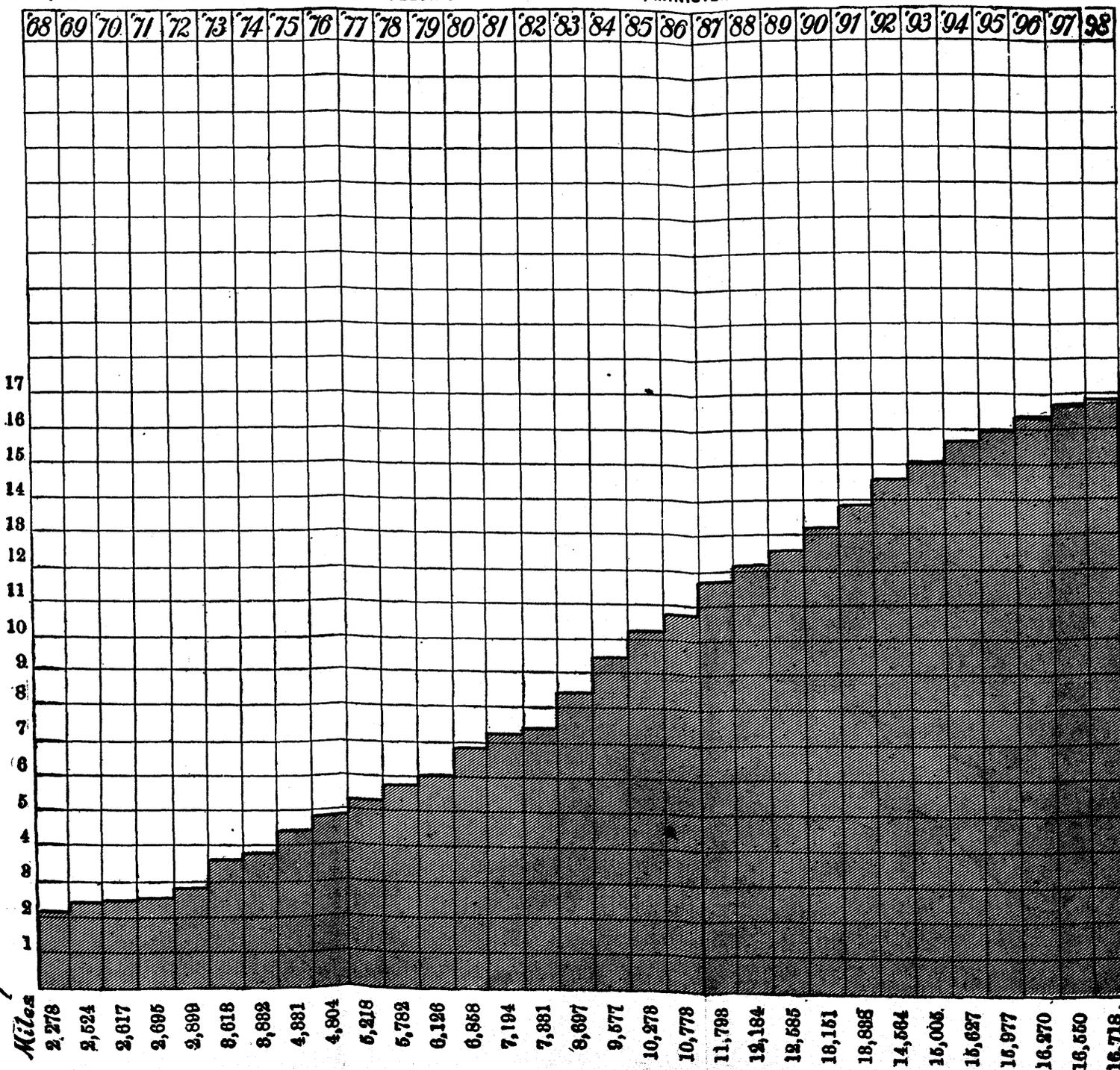
Million Tons



# DOMINION OF CANADA RAILWAYS IN CANADA (MILES IN OPERATION) JUNE 30TH, 18-

(DIAGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH BUDGET SPEECH OF HON. W. S. FIELDING, MINISTER OF FINANCE, SESSION OF 1899.)

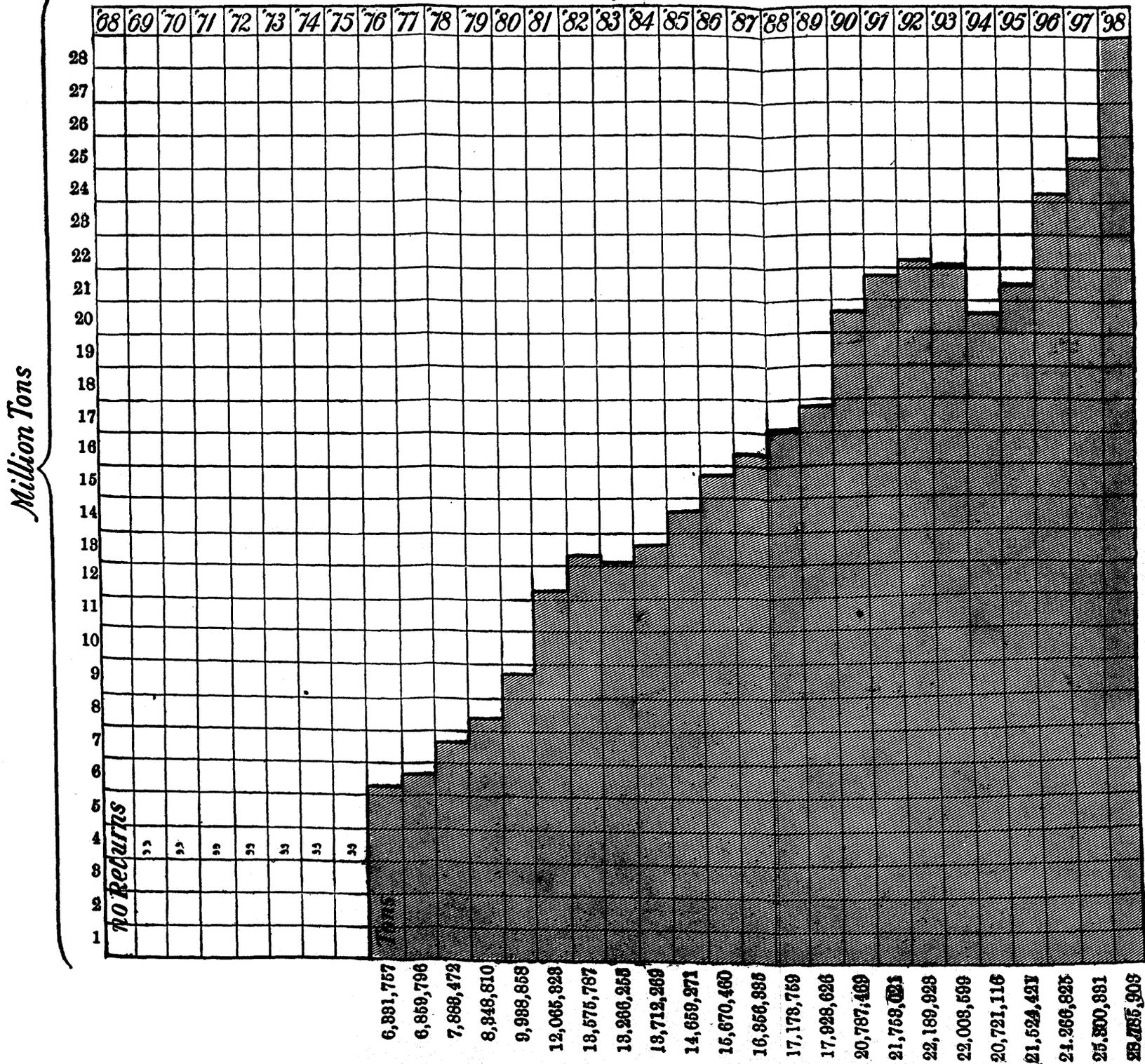
MILES IN OPERATION  
each square equal to 1,000 Miles



# DOMINION OF CANADA RAILWAY TRAFFIC—TONS CARRIED

(DIAGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH BUDGET SPEECH OF HON. W. S. FIELDING, MINISTER OF FINANCE, SESSION OF 1899.)

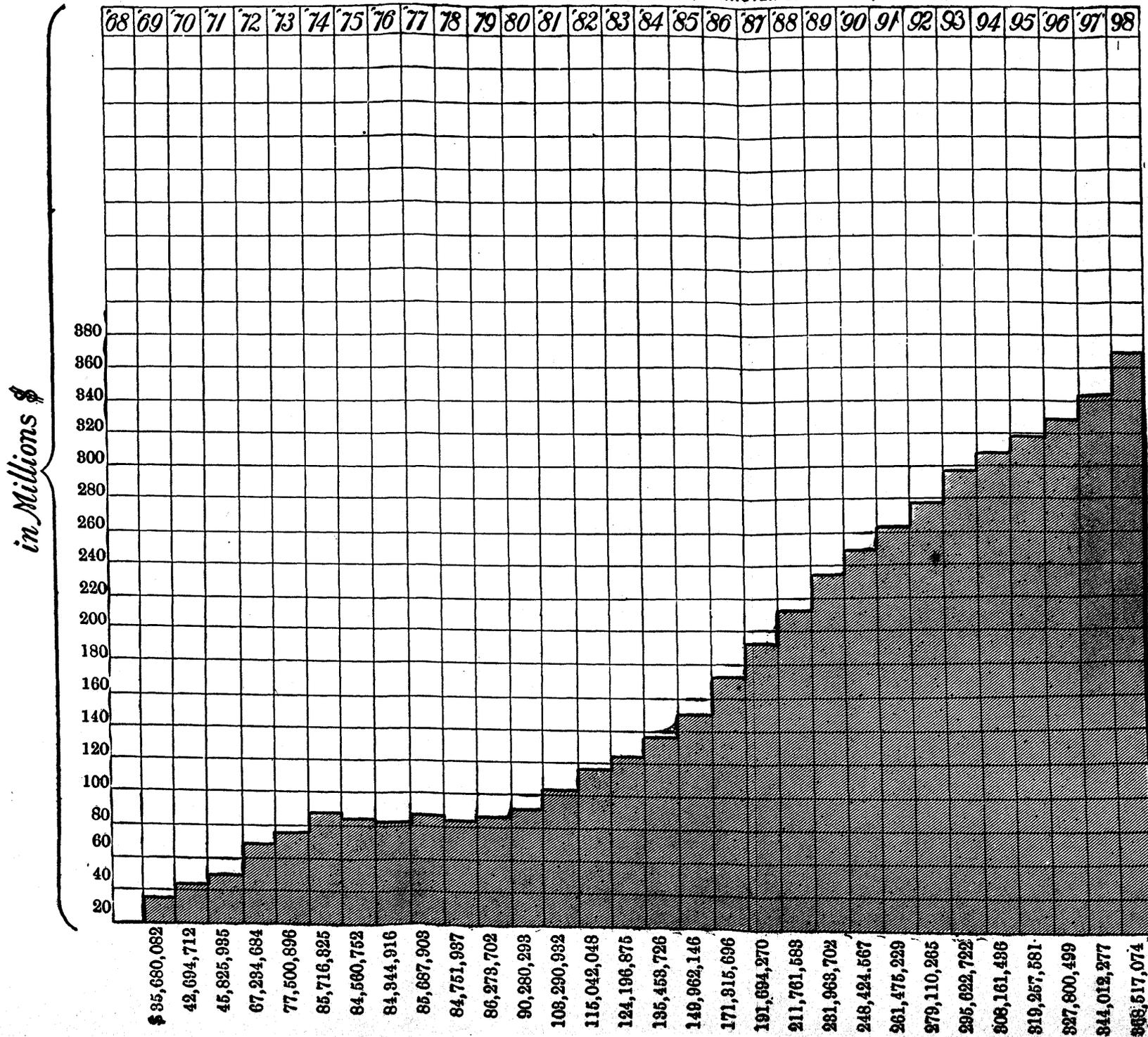
JUNE 30TH, 18-



# DOMINION OF CANADA LIFE INSURANCE IN CANADA.

NET AMOUNT IN FORCE DEC. 31ST, 18-

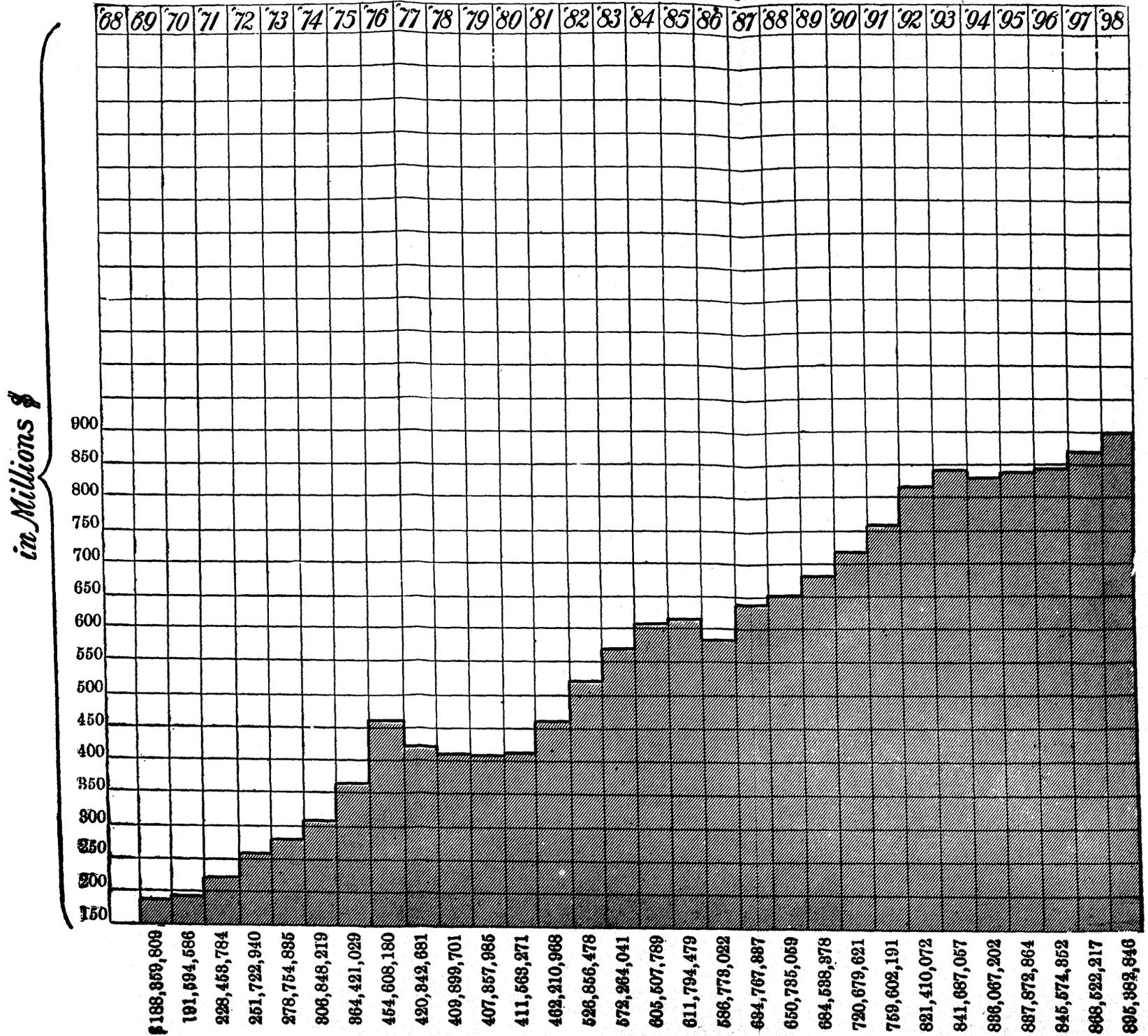
(DIAGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH BUDGET SPEECH OF HON. W. S. FIELDING, MINISTER OF FINANCE, SESSION OF 1899.)



# DOMINION OF CANADA FIRE INSURANCE IN CANADA

AMOUNT AT RISK DEC. 31ST, 18-

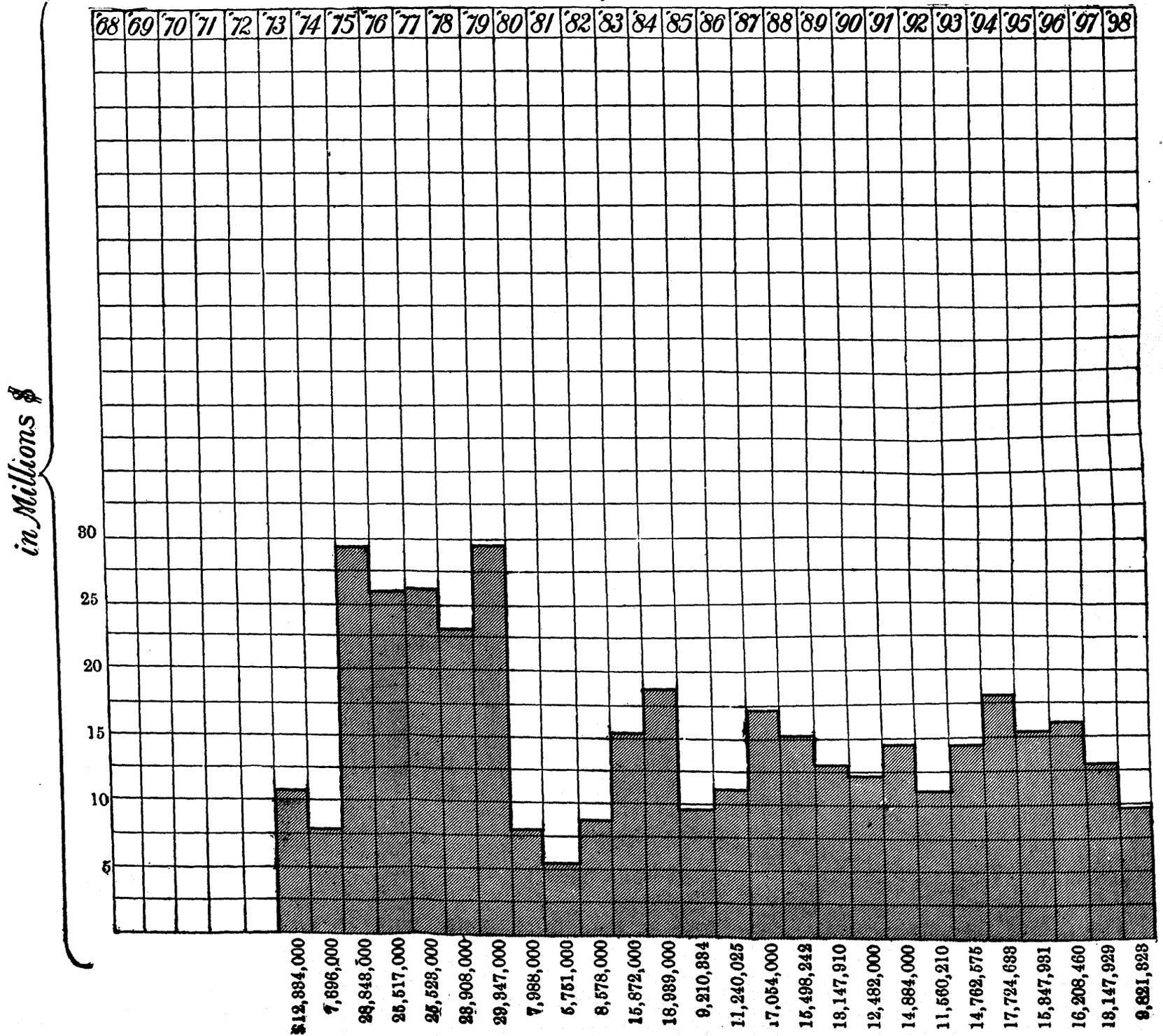
(DIAGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH BUDGET SPEECH OF HON. W. S. FIELDING, MINISTER OF FINANCE, SESSION OF 1899.)



**DOMINION OF CANADA**  
**BUSINESS FAILURES IN CANADA**  
 (NEWFOUNDLAND INCLUDED TO 1891 INCLUSIVE)

(DIAGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH BUDGET SPEECH OF HON. W. S. FIELDING, MINISTER OF FINANCE, SESSION OF 1899.)

DEC. 31ST, 18-



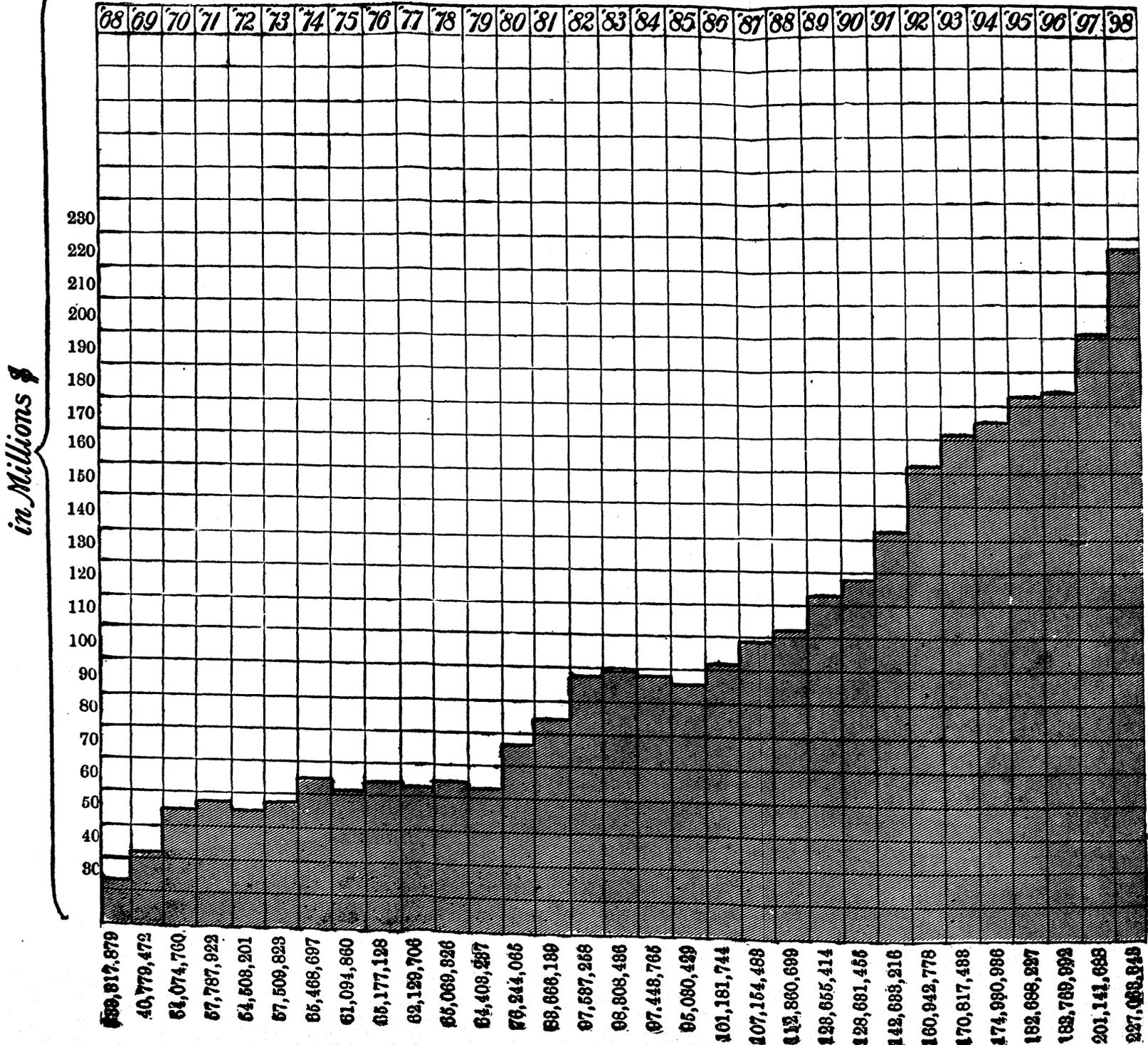
# DOMINION OF CANADA

## DEPOSITS BY THE PEOPLE IN THE CHARTERED BANKS OF CANADA

11

JUNE 30TH, 18-

(DIAGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH BUDGET SPEECH OF HON. W. S. FIELDING, MINISTER OF FINANCE, SESSION OF 1899.)

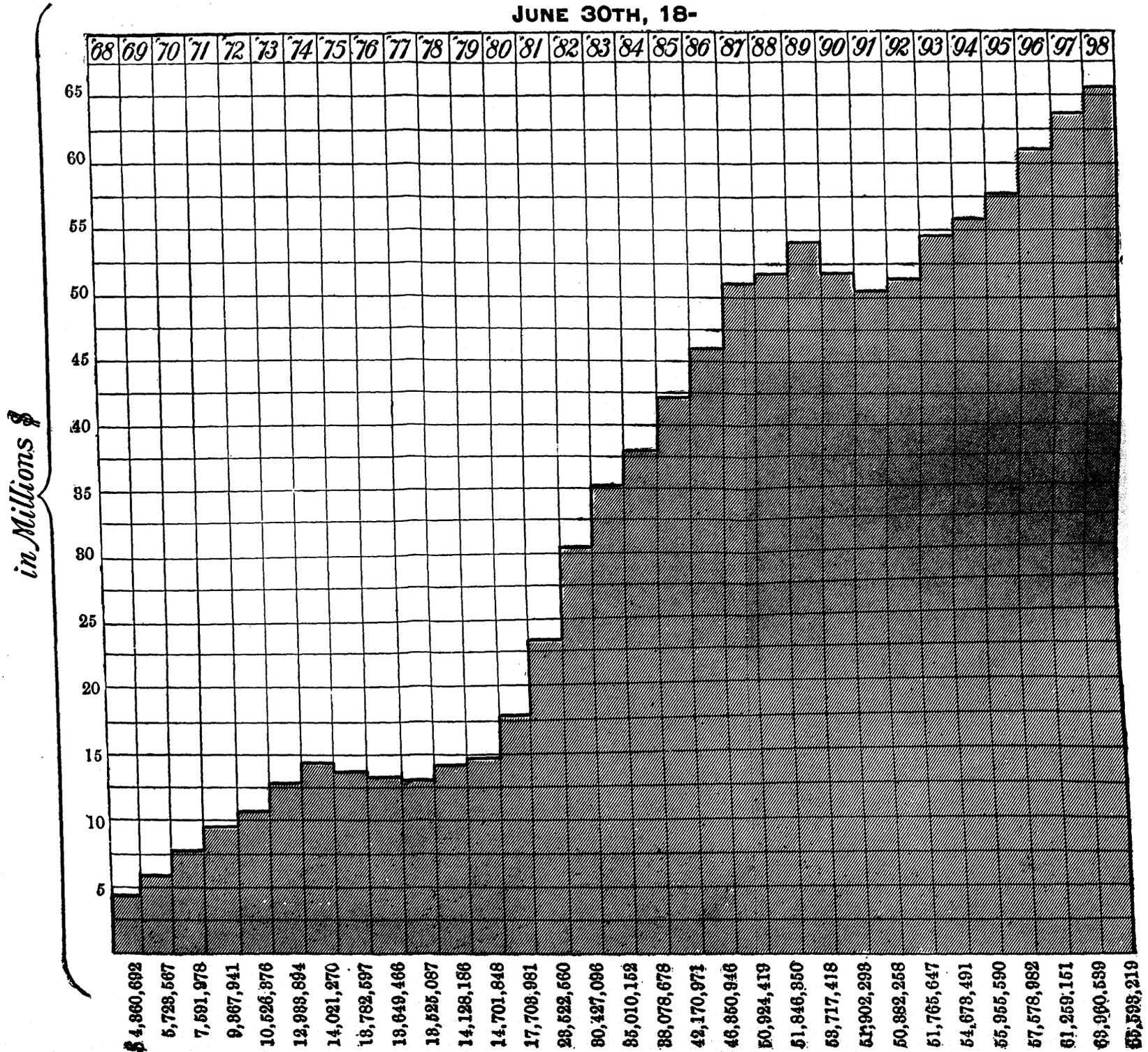


DEPOSITS IN SAVINGS BANKS OF CANADA

Including City and District Savings Bank, Montreal, and Caisse d'Economie, Quebec

(DIAGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH BUDGET SPEECH OF HON. W. S. FIELDING, MINISTER OF FINANCE, SESSION OF 1899.)

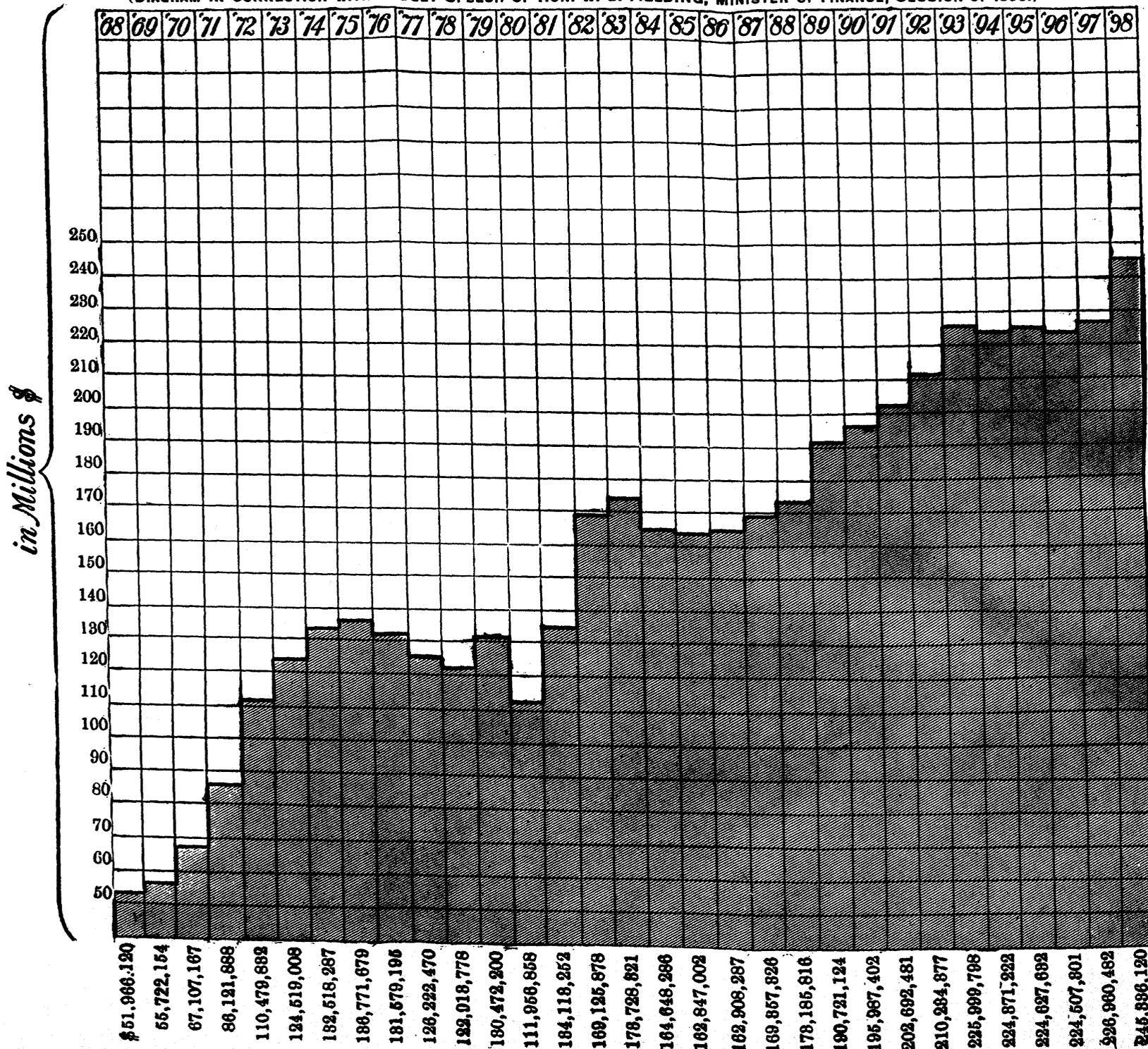
JUNE 30TH, 18-



# DOMINION OF CANADA DISCOUNTS

As shown by the Monthly Statements of the Chartered Banks of Canada, June 30th, 18-

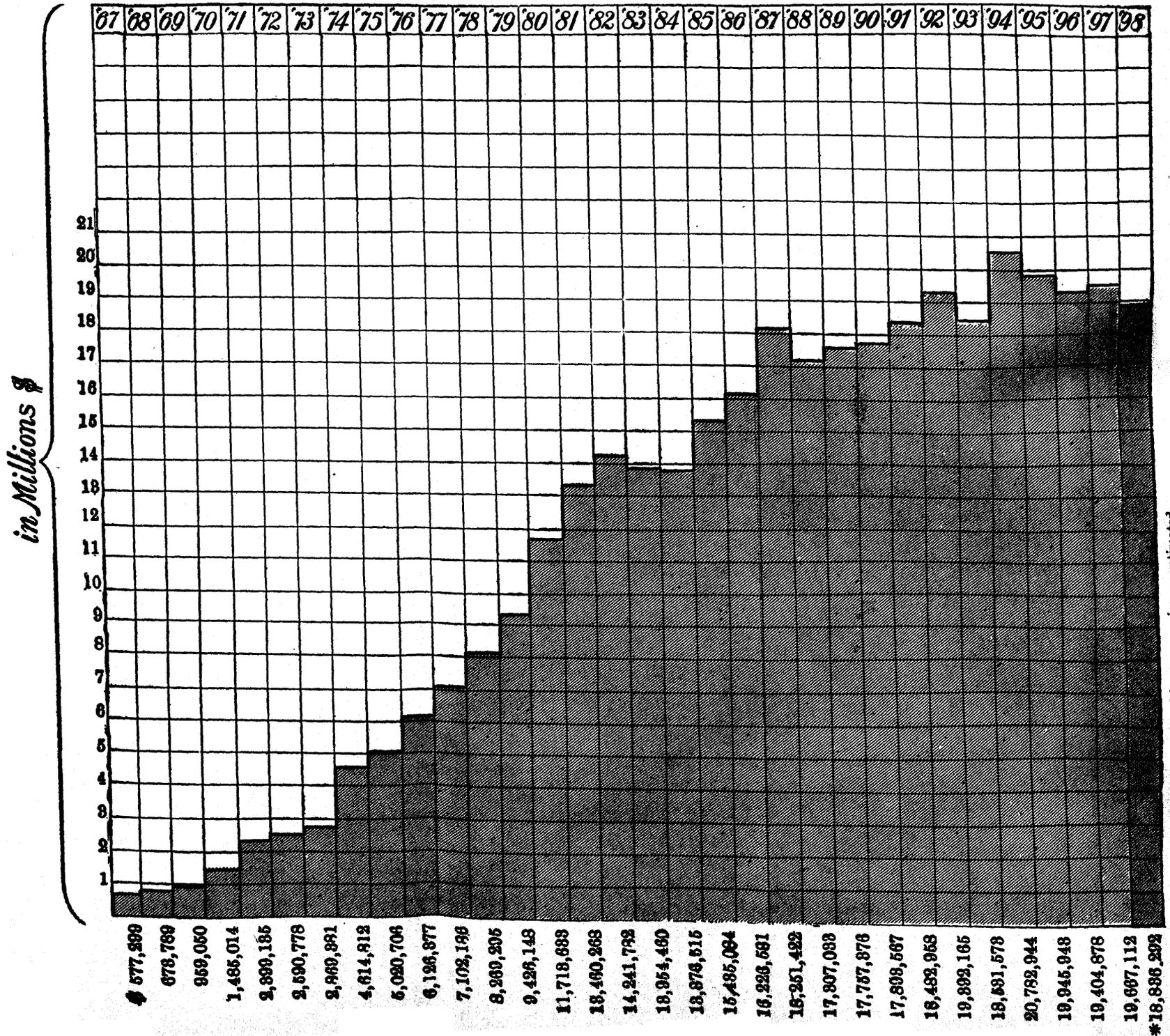
(DIAGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH BUDGET SPEECH OF HON. W. S. FIELDING, MINISTER OF FINANCE, SESSION OF 1899.)



DEPOSITS MADE WITH LOAN COMPANIES AND BUILDING SOCIETIES  
EACH YEAR FROM 1867 TO 1898, INCLUSIVE

[DIAGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH BUDGET SPEECH OF HON. W. S. FIELDING, MINISTER OF FINANCE, SESSION OF 1899.]

DEC. 31ST, 18-



\*Owing to incomplete returns the deposits of four companies are estimated.

ing something in return, does not amount to anything at all. They have spent considerable time in trying to prove that, after all, there is not any preference. They have said that we humbugged and deceived the British people, that John Bull has been sadly humbugged by this Liberal Government. I have here a recent article from the leading Conservative organ; and I am justified in quoting from it as if it were the utterance of the party:

Now we have the exposure of the British preference. The British people, when this offer was first made public, were made to believe that the full 25 per cent was being knocked off in their favour—that is to say, that where the duty was 35 per cent it would remain at that figure for foreigners, but that it would be only 10 per cent for British goods. This tremendous discount was the cause of the jubiliations in Britain, and of Kipling's poem, "Our Lady of the Snows."

The article concluded as follows—I am reading from the Toronto "Mail and Empire":—

The so-called British preference is an imposture on Great Britain, and, owing to the flourish of trumpets with which it was introduced is a dishonour to us.

Now, the statements in the Opposition organ are a little stronger than those made in the House, but they are in line with those of the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) who leads the Opposition, and others, who declare that there is no preference, and that we have humbugged and deceived the British people. Well, Sir, whatever else may be said of the British people, I do not think that anybody outside of the Conservative party in Canada would say that the British people are so unintelligent, so ignorant, that they cannot read the plain words of English in the preferential tariff. No member of this Government, or of this House, ever made such a statement as that we proposed to reduce duties from 35 per cent to 10 per cent in favour of British imports. No such statement was ever published in an English paper. There is absolutely no foundation for such a statement. But we find the chief Conservative organ solemnly publishing that statement, and saying that we have deceived and humbugged the British people.

The preferential tariff stated in the plainest words that the duties provided under the general tariff—not the old Conservative tariff, but the revised general tariff, the duties of which, as I have shown, in many cases are much lower than under the old tariff—that the duties under the general tariff were to be reduced in favour of British imports to the extent of one-eighth of the duty, and that at a later date there would be a further reduction of another one-eighth, making a total reduction of one-fourth of the duty. That preference took effect from the moment the tariff was brought down, in April, 1897. Owing to the action of Her Majesty's Government, based upon the German and Belgium treaties, the

disposition on the part of this Government and this Parliament to give Great Britain the benefit of that preference at once, had to be postponed until a later date, as respects our transactions with many of the countries of the world. But I want to call the attention of the House to an important point which I do not think has hitherto been dwelt upon, and that is that while there was some unavoidable delay, owing to the action of Her Majesty's Government, in bringing that preference into operation as between British goods and goods of the continent of Europe, as respects England and her great competitor in Canada, the United States, there never was any delay in the preference, but the preference took effect on the 23rd day of April, 1897, and continued from that time down to the present moment. Consequently the preference over her chief competitor, the United States, was a substantial preference from the beginning, it was a preference of one-eighth for the first 14 months, and it is now a preference of one-fourth. I would commend this particularly to my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition, who has repeatedly made the statement that there was no preference in this matter, carrying out the same line of argument that they do now, that all this story of a preference was a humbug. Now, whether the duties in the general tariff are high or low, does not in any way affect the extent of the preference. No matter what the duties may be on the general tariff, the preference rate is one-fourth less. Even if the contentions of hon. gentlemen opposite were correct, and if we had largely increased the general tariff, the fact would still remain that there is a real and genuine preference of one-fourth of the duty. If the goods of a British merchant come into the custom-house of Canada alongside the goods of a foreign merchant, the preference makes itself manifest immediately, because while the goods of the British merchant are admitted for 75 cents, the goods of the foreign merchant cannot be admitted until they have paid \$1. That is the simple fact, and I am sure it is understood by the British people, it is understood by the British merchant, it is understood by the British manufacturer and, therefore, there is not any shadow of foundation for the statement that we have misled or deceived the British public. My hon. friend beside me reminds me that it is also thoroughly understood by the American manufacturer. In support of that I may call attention to the fact that Colonel Bittinger, the American consul at Montreal, recently addressed a report to his Government at Washington, in which he pointed out that the decided preference which is given British goods in Canadian markets was operating against the trade of the United States. Now, as an illustration of the extent and value of this preference, I want to give the House a specimen invoice of goods imported by one of the large mercantile houses in

Canada. The merchant imported 91 packages of dry goods covering a wide range. I will read you a list of the articles :

Gloves, caps, wool fabrics, lace, wool cloth, garter elastic, wool yarn, white cotton tape, ribbons, lace curtains, linens, damask, handkerchiefs, towels.

I think we may regard that as a fairly representative statement of a general line of British dry goods. Now, what is the effect of the tariff on that importation? Under the old tariff, the duty would have been \$3,754, equal to 30.62 per cent. The amount actually paid by the Montreal merchant who imported these goods was \$3,058.88, equal to 24.93 per cent, making a reduction in that one importation under the preferential tariff in favour of British goods of \$695.12, being equal to 5.69 per cent on the value of the goods.

Mr. FOSTER. What was the value of the bill of goods?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I think it was about \$12,000, but I find I have not put down the statement of the value. The value is given by the gentleman in the invoice, but I have not put it down in my notes. I have heard it said that the British preference is of no value after all, because it is only sufficient to meet the increased cost of importation of goods from Great Britain as compared with the cost of goods from the States. Well, the fallacy of that argument will be seen at once. If, with the preference, the British importer is only able to meet the American on even terms in the markets of Canada, then it follows that if there were no preference, the British importer would not have the ghost of a chance to get into the markets of Canada; therefore, the argument is evidently baseless. But in addition to that I have ascertained by the experience of a very large importing house in importing goods from England, that the freight, insurance, inland freight and shipping charges, &c., amount to about 10 per cent of the whole duty; therefore, there is 15 per cent of the 25 per cent duty still left, clearly to the advantage of the British importer. But the main point I want to note is the one I made a moment ago, that if it be a fact that the cost of importation from England is somewhat greater than the cost from the United States, and if by the preference the British exporter is only able to get amends in whole or in part for that increased cost, then it clearly follows that if there were no preference the British exporter would have no chance whatever in the Canadian market. The preference therefore is of very substantial value to him.

Attention has been drawn to the fact that imports from Great Britain have been increased but little, while our imports from the United States have increased a great deal. Well, there is nothing in that which our British friends can take exception to. We import from the United States a large

Mr. FIELDING.

amount of raw material, articles which England herself has to import, and which of course she could not expect to send us. Take, if you will, the matter of corn. No Englishman is going to complain because we admit corn free, for free corn, in a much wider sense than we have it, is one of the things of which most Englishmen are disposed to boast. Take the matter of iron. To a considerable extent England herself is buying iron from the United States to-day, and England cannot complain if we are importing from the United States the very class of goods she is obliged to import herself. The Englishman knows that we have given him a plain, straight preference of 25 per cent of the duty. Whether he can avail himself of that, is his business, and he can be safely trusted to look after that for himself. If he finds that the things which are being imported from the United States into Canada are things which by some accidental circumstances are made cheaper than he can make them, then the Englishman is going to look after the matter, and provide a remedy in due course. If, on the other hand, these increased imports are the result of our wanting to purchase things which England has not to sell, things which, by reason of the climate and soil of the United States, can be produced more cheaply in that country, or by reason of any special circumstance which cannot be overcome, then England will recognize the fact that we ought to import these goods from the United States, and she will herself follow in the same direction by importing these same goods, as she actually does. There are several reasons, however, why the British merchant has not been able to take advantage of this preferential tariff as largely as we hoped he would. I think the first reason, and it is a reason that we are pleased to note, is this, that under the broad and liberal tariff of the British Government the English manufacturer, the English merchant, is so busy, and has been so busy for several years, that he has no time to exploit new markets. It is a fact that the manufacturing industries of England are and have been for some time very prosperous, and when the manufacturers are so busy, naturally they are not disposed to stretch out their hands in search of new markets when they have all they can do to supply the old ones. Then there is another difficulty, and this is perhaps not entirely creditable to our English friends—and his only excuse must be that he is so busy—and that is the fact that the English manufacturer does not, in many lines, produce articles which the Canadian merchant and the Canadian people want.

I had a conversation, a day or two ago, with a gentleman who is a large consumer of cottons in Canada, and I asked him why he could not get these cottons from England. He told me that he had to buy them from the United States, because, as he said, the English manufacturer did not make the style of goods that he required, and was

not prepared to change his machinery to suit the Canadian market. Then, there is another reason. I read recently an interesting article from the London correspondent of the Montreal "Gazette" on Anglo-Canadian trade, based on a statement made by Mr. Chamberlain in the British Parliament, as to the extent to which trade with Canada was increasing. The writer, referring to the small increase that had taken place in British exports to Canada, said he had discussed the subject with several well known London merchants, who said that, before we could have any large increase in British exports there must be a body of Canadian merchants in London to whom the manufacturer could go and sell his goods. It is pointed out by the writer that the large business which is being done between England and the Australian colonies is carried on, not by direct communication between the Australian merchants and the manufacturers, but through Australian houses in London. "In this year's London directory," says the correspondent, "there are some 250 Australian and New Zealand export merchants and only five Canadians." All these things, I think, may be taken into account as reasons for the British merchant and manufacturer not being able to avail themselves more largely of the advantages of our preferential tariff. But, while the increase has been less than we would have been glad to see, let us not for a moment suppose that our new tariff has not been of substantial advantage to the British manufacturer, which he understands and appreciates. I have here a statement of British importations in 1898 showing the duty that was actually paid, and the duty that would have been paid under the old tariff. It is as follows:—

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Value of goods, dutiable and free, entered for consumption from Great Britain (less coin and bullion) .....   | \$32,043,461 |
| Amount of duty that would have been collected on such imports if the average ad valorem tariff rate of 1896, on British goods, viz., 22.42 per cent, was applied..... | 7,184,143 96 |
| Duty that was actually collected, less estimated refund of \$100,000 on account of preferential tariff...   | 6,549,428 60 |
| Amount of reduction on British goods in 1898 was .....  | \$634,715 35 |

There is another view of this question of British imports which deserves consideration. If the imports of British goods have not been so large as we had hoped for, let us ask ourselves the question, how much worse would the situation have been if this preference had not been in operation? The blue-books show that the imports from Great Britain had been declining for a number of years. The importations for consumption for the three years 1896, 1897 and 1898 were as follows:—

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| 1896 ..... | \$32,979,742 |
| 1897 ..... | 29,412 188   |
| 1898 ..... | 32,500,917   |

It might be of interest to go back a little further and see how these importations have been steadily going down as appears from the following statement:—

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| 1893 ..... | \$43,148,413 |
| 1894 ..... | 38,717,267   |
| 1895 ..... | 31,131,737   |
| 1896 ..... | 32,979,742   |
| 1897 ..... | 29,412,188   |
| 1898 ..... | 32,500,917   |

So, it will be seen that British imports into Canada had been declining from year to year. But the effect of our preferential tariff has been to arrest this decline, and to show an increase in one year of \$3,000,000. I venture to say that, when we reach the end of the year, there is a strong probability that the imports of the present year from Great Britain will show a still further increase of \$2,000,000. I have shown that the preference that has been given by Canada to Great Britain is a substantial preference, that Great Britain has availed herself of it to a very considerable extent, that we have been gaining because of this preferential tariff in our trade with Great Britain, and, I have no doubt that we will continue to gain as the matter is better understood by the English merchant.

There is another side to the question. Hon. gentlemen opposite have been constantly complaining that, while we give to Great Britain a preference, Great Britain herself gives us nothing in return. The hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) is strong on that point, and he has emphasized it by offering hears, hears, again and again. I must remind hon. gentlemen opposite that they sang the song of preferential trade for a long time, but they never accomplished anything, that they talked preferential trade, that they moved resolutions on preferential trade, but they never accomplished anything in respect to preferential trade, so long as they coupled with the proposition a demand for taxation on British food. I do not say that it would not be largely to the advantage of Canada to have a preference on Canadian grain. If the British people are prepared to tax the grain of foreign nations and admit Canadian grain free, no doubt it would be a very material advantage to Canada. I am not one of those who say that it will never be done. I know that some gentlemen think that it is so unreasonable that it will never be done. I am willing to believe that it is possible, not through the policy which has been pursued by hon. gentlemen opposite, but by the spirit that is fostered and encouraged by the action of this country in respect to the preferential tariff, and by similar offers that probably will be made by other colonies, there may be brought about such a state of public opinion in Great Britain that a change will be made in our favour. I am not going to set my face

against that, of course. But what I want to point out is that, so long as we demanded a preference, we never succeeded in accomplishing anything. When the question was approached in the right way, when we ceased to demand unreasonable things, when we said that we were prepared, in recognition of the generous treatment which we have always received from England, to give a preference to her in our markets, the heart of the Englishman was touched, and what he was not willing to do at the dictation of any colonial government he is willing to do voluntarily of his own account. So, it comes about that though there is no preference for Canadian goods on the British statute-book, there is a preference for Canadian goods in the hearts of the British people, and we are sending over every year increased quantities of the exports of Canada. This argument, which has been used before, I have heard it said, is not well founded. It has been said that the increase of our exports to Great Britain is only a part of the general increase of trade, and that the United States has had a similar increase. But the facts do not sustain that view. On the contrary, they show very clearly that the increase of Canadian exports to England have been, proportionately, much larger than the increase of American exports. The total exports from the United States to Great Britain for 1898 show an increase of something over 11 per cent, but, at the same time, the exports from Canada to Great Britain increased more than 35 per cent. The following are the figures showing the exports from both countries, coin and bullion not included :

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Total exports from United States to Great Britain for 1897.....  | \$483,270,398 |
| Total exports from United States to Great Britain for 1898 ..... | 540,458,367   |
| Percentage of increase—11·833 per cent.                          |               |
| Total exports from Canada to Great Britain for 1897.....         | \$ 77,227,502 |
| Total exports from Canada to Great Britain for 1898 .....        | 104,998,779   |
| Percentage of increase—35·960 per cent.                          |               |

Some of our opponents are not willing to recognize the preference which really exists in England for Canadian goods, but the information before us is most conclusive on this point. My hon. friend who represents the county of Kent (Mr. Campbell) gave us the other night an illustration of the preference which England gives to Canadian goods to-day. He told us that a few years ago, to his own knowledge, it was the practice of British importers to have Canadian goods marked as "American," for the reason that Canadian goods were not popular in the British market, but within the last year or two, so great is the interest in everything Canadian, he has received advice that he had better mark his goods under the name "Canadian," and now his goods are being sold under that name.

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But that is not the only evidence. I shall give to my hon. friends opposite another piece of evidence to show that although there is not any preference on the statute-books of Great Britain, there is, as I have said, a preference in the hearts of the British people. I have in my hands the report of the Federated Association of the Boot and Shoe manufacturers, at the annual meeting held at Leeds, on the 23rd November, 1898, and a further report of December, 1898. I quote from the report :

#### PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS FOR BRITISH GOODS.

The question as to the tariffs that are imposed upon boots and shoes by foreign and colonial countries, and the changes that have recently taken place in some of them, was brought before the meeting, particular attention being called to the fact that Canada had in August last established a preferential tariff in favour of British goods to the extent of remitting 25 per cent of the ordinary duty, and that this preferential treatment had already caused a very considerable increase in the general trade between Great Britain and Canada. It was pointed out that although the reduced duty on boots and shoes into Canada may not lead to a demand for English boots and shoes, yet the extra British trade in other goods must indirectly benefit the home boot trade, and that as Canada, Australia and other colonies are large producers of hides and leather, it would be wise to favour the importation of such colonial productions for manufacturing purposes.

It was resolved, on the motion of the president (Mr. S. Leonard), seconded by Mr. W. Hickson (Northampton) :

"That this meeting of the Federated Associations of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers of Great Britain records its appreciation of the change in the Canadian Government's commercial policy, which has, by the establishment of a preferential tariff for British goods, largely increased the trade between Great Britain and Canada, and trusts that further reductions in the tariff may be made. This meeting recommends boot manufacturers to give a preferential consideration to the leather imported from Canada, Australia and other colonies which admit British goods free or under a preferential tariff, and that a copy of this resolution, together with a complete list of the duties now imposed upon boots and shoes by foreign countries, be printed and forwarded to the members of the Federated Associations."

You will observe, Mr. Speaker, that there was nothing selfish in this resolution. Is it not another strong proof of the increased appreciation of Canadian goods in England? This resolution shows that the boot and shoe trade in England realize that they could not send any great quantity of boots and shoes to Canada, for no doubt they are aware of the fact that that is a line of manufacture in which we can compete with the world. But notwithstanding this, so keen was their appreciation of the new trade policy of Canada, that they passed a resolution advising their members to purchase Canadian leather. I have no doubt that the increased exports of the Canadian product in that line are due, in some considerable degree, to the fact that these boot and shoe manufacturers have in

this way shown their appreciation of the preferential tariff adopted by Canada.

I have another bit of testimony of the same character which I will give to my hon. friends opposite. They seem to be unwilling to believe that there is anything in this preference, but I want to give them evidence to show that the Englishman does give a preference to Canada, and that he gives it voluntarily and cheerfully, although he was not willing to be dragooned into it by hon. gentlemen opposite. In the Montreal "Herald," of the 22nd of April, there was a very interesting article on the growth of the canning industry in Canada. Mr. Innes, a gentleman largely engaged in the canning trade, tells the "Herald" of the extension of his business in various directions, and mention is made of the gratifying increase in sales to Great Britain. I quote from the interview :

"Are the goods giving good satisfaction?" was asked.

"Yes," said Mr. Innes, "they are giving excellent satisfaction, and British customers especially are inclined to favour us all in their power. They give the preference to Canadian goods, and are learning to trust us as to quality."

"Do you think, Mr. Innes, the strong Imperial sentiment that the present Government has fostered has helped your sales at all in Great Britain?"

"I do," most certainly," was the reply, "and I may say that we have sold thousands of dollars' worth of canned apples this past season through a happy idea in having the labels engraved so as to convey this sentiment."

And then, Mr. Innes exhibited to the reporter some handsome labels which he was placing on his cans, including quotations from Rudyard Kipling's "Lady of the Snows," a poem which is itself one of the most notable products of the preferential tariff.

An hon. MEMBER. Mr. Innes is a great Tory.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. My hon. friend behind me says Mr. Innes is a great Tory. Well, this interview does great credit to Mr. Innes, and I have no doubt that there are thousands of men who used to be great Tories in the Dominion of Canada who are going to follow the Liberal Government hereafter, and will not any longer follow the hon. gentlemen opposite.

In another matter also, Canada is receiving a preference, as will be found from this despatch, which appeared in our newspapers, and which is dated London, April 28th :

London, April 28.—British Board of Trade emigration returns for the first three months of the current year are very flattering to Canada. The number of people leaving the United Kingdom ports for Canada show an increase of 24 per cent over corresponding period of 1898, while emigration to the United States shows a decrease of 15 per cent, and that of other British colonies, including South Africa, has practically remained stationary or shown a slight falling off.

So you see, Mr. Speaker, they are giving preferences to us in the matter of our goods, and they are giving that most valuable preference to us in the matter of immigrants who hereafter are going to come to Canada in larger number than ever before.

There is one item in our tariff to which I wish to make special reference, because it has been a subject of two discussions in this House during the present session. I refer to the duty on coal oil, and also to the regulations relating to the trade in that article. It must be admitted, I am sure, that the duty imposed on coal oil, although lower than it was under the old tariff, is still so high as to arouse much opposition, and it is quite evident that the Finance Minister will have little peace until he makes some further reduction.

The cost of coal oil has been made high in Canada, not only by the duty, but also by restrictions that have hitherto been placed on the trade. We removed some of these restrictions at the time we reduced the duty, and I have reason to believe that, so far as such removal of restrictions went, it had a good effect; but the complaint is made that we did not go far enough. Several hon. gentlemen making quotations of the prices of coal oil in the United States and in Canada have made the difference twice as large as the total amount of duty; so it is quite evident there is something at work besides the duty to increase the cost of coal oil in Canada. Now, the regulations which have been imposed in times past—partially for good reasons, and possibly in part taking the form of protection—have materially increased the cost of coal oil. Besides reducing the duty by one cent per gallon we increased the number of points at which oil might be delivered in tank cars; a change which, I think, was of some relief, especially in the North-west Territories. We also granted further liberty to the oil trade by permitting oil to be carried in tank vessels, subject of course to proper restrictions for safety. By some strange process of reasoning, or, rather by assertions without any reasoning, opponents of the Government have solemnly argued that by reducing the duty we made the oil more expensive, and that by permitting the carrying of oil in tank vessels we were doing some great injury to the public. Well, the one argument is about as reasonable as another. The folly of such representations will be apparent to all who give the matter a moment's consideration. The demand for freedom to handle oil in the most economical way, through the medium of tank vessels came from the maritime provinces. To refuse them that privilege would be very unreasonable. The system of tank cars is excellent for the inland districts, but water transportation is generally cheaper than rail transportation, and consequently wherever there is the open ocean or navigable water of any kind the people who live beside it carry their freight chiefly in ships. To grant

liberty to use tank cars, and refuse liberty to use tank vessels, was simply to deny to the people of the sea coast the advantages of cheap transportation which nature had provided for them. Throughout Canada to-day the problem of transportation is one of the most important that occupies public attention. Everywhere the desire is to economize in the cost of handling and transporting merchandise. For this we deepen our canals and increase the size of our steamers and barges to insure the cheapest water carriage. For this we increase the size of our locomotives and railway cars, improve grades and straighten curves, so that goods may be hauled over the land at the cheapest possible rate. Would it not be very absurd were we to do all these things in the interest of cheap transportation and then say that we would make the carriage of oil as expensive as possible?

Since the carriage of oil in tank-ships is a recognized means of transportation, what possible reason could be given for shutting out the people of Canada from that method? To say that the people on our sea coasts should be compelled to receive their oil in barrels, would be about as reasonable as to say that the people of Ontario might import coal from the United States, but should be compelled to bring it in wheelbarrows. Whether one company or half a dozen companies avail themselves of the privilege which we grant, is no concern of ours. Our duty was to remove the restrictions and give to the people who live beside the sea, an opportunity to enjoy the same privileges of cheap transportation as are possessed by the people of other civilized communities. I believe that the privilege of tank vessels has only been used to a moderate extent, but there is no doubt that it will grow and cheapen the cost of the article, just as cheap transportation in any other line of goods reduces the cost to the consumer. While the Government have unquestionably taken a step in the right direction by reducing the duty on oil and removing some of the restrictions which have added to its cost to consumers, there is still room for improvement; and, though we put aside until another time the question of further reduction of the duty, we propose to make further concessions to the people with respect to the restrictions imposed on the oil trade. At present, all petroleum, whether Canadian or imported, must be barrelled before being inspected. The package must bear the inspection marks, and inspection fees must be paid, varying from  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent to  $\frac{1}{4}$  cent per gallon according to the size of the package. We propose to sweep away all these restrictions. Canadian oil will be inspected at the refineries, and imported oil at the port of entry; and, having been so inspected, it may be removed or sold without restrictions as to packages. The inspection fees will be entirely abolished. The present law contains provisions for guaranteeing the safety of the

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oil. These must be adhered to and rigidly enforced. But, apart from what may be necessary in the interests of safety, our aim will be to allow the utmost freedom in the handling of the oil. My hon. friend the Minister of Inland Revenue will introduce immediately a Bill to abolish all the restrictions to which I have referred. There is no doubt that a large part of the oil business will still be handled in barrels. The tank cars and ships will come to large centres, where the oil will be stored in tanks, and from thence distributed in barrels to different parts of the country. Wherever the conditions of the trade require that, well and good; but, where they do not, we do not propose, hereafter, to compel the people to buy oil in barrels. Such regulations as may be necessary to insure safety to the people by the confiscation of any oil found in Canada which does not come up to the proper standard, must be maintained, and possibly made even more rigid; but beyond that we shall abolish all these troublesome regulations, and in that way give to the people a large measure of relief, although not at present reducing the duty on oil.

We do not propose, Mr. Speaker, to make any changes in the tariff this session. In making this statement, I do not, for one moment, assume that the tariff is perfect.

An hon. MEMBER. No.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. My hon. friend says, No; but, if it is the same old National Policy that he, last week, said it was, it ought to be perfect, in his estimation. I may find some little fault in it, but my hon. friend ought not to do so.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE. I did not make any remark whatever.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Then, I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. I understood my hon. friend to say, "No," when I said that the tariff was not perfect. Some other hon. gentleman said so. I wish, however, to point out several reasons why it is not expedient to change the tariff at present. In the first place, a certain reasonable degree of tariff stability is always important, if we are to have that confidence in business without which we cannot hope to have prosperous times. Therefore, even though in all respects the tariff may not be as we would like it, it is better to bear some imperfections than to enter upon revisions which might create disturbance in the business of the country.

But there are further reasons against present change. It is to be remembered that our Tariff Act of 1897 legislated not only for the present, but for the early future. It was a graduated measure, the latest stage of which only came into effect a few months ago. It was not until the 1st of August last that our preferential tariff came fully into force. Our tariff policy, therefore, has been in operation in its present shape for only

nine months. Hence, while recognizing the fact that there are imperfections in the tariff. I feel that it will be better, for the present, to bear with those apparent imperfections than to enter upon a revision of a tariff which, in its present condition, is only nine months old, and under which Canada is prospering; as never before.

There is another reason which is entitled to consideration, although I will frankly say, that it may not weigh as much in the mind of the House now as it did some time ago. I refer to the negotiations between the United States and Canada respecting commercial relations and other matters, which are soon to be resumed by the Joint High Commission, at Quebec. My right hon. friend the Prime Minister, in a recent speech, said it appeared as if Canada no longer wanted reciprocity. Perhaps that statement was a little stronger than some of us would care to make it. This I will say: There never was a time when reciprocity was not desirable, and I do not suppose there will ever be a time in the history of Canada when it will not be desirable that liberal trade relations should exist between the people of Canada and the people of the great republic to the south of us. The people who live along the boundary line, whether in the United States or in Canada, must always find it a source of inconvenience and embarrassment to be denied a profitable and reasonable commercial intercourse. The people who live near the sea shore, in the New England States on the one side, and in the Maritime Provinces on the other, must always feel keenly the denial of that trade intercourse which nature seems to have intended them to have. All this I fully recognize, as respects the Canadian side of the subject. Nevertheless, it is true that the demand for reciprocal trade relations with our neighbours to the south is by no means so strong as it was a few years ago. Whatever our American friends may have intended by their trade policy, there is one thing that they certainly have done: they have made Canadians more independent and self-reliant, and have caused them to look more steadily than before to their home market and their markets over sea, where there is an open door. Especially have our producers given attention to the British market during the past two years, when our trade relations with the mother country have been so developed and increased by the preferential tariff. Therefore, the market of our friends to the south is much less important to us than it was a few years ago, and we are better able to do without reciprocity than we have been at any previous time in the history of Canada. Nevertheless, I say again, there never has been, and I trust there never will be a time when reciprocity between the United States and Canada will not be desirable. Our commissioners will resume their important duties at Quebec in August, with the same

earnest desire that they have manifested in the past to bring about a satisfactory trade arrangement with our American brethren. If it shall appear that no such arrangement can be made, while we shall all regret it, we shall be prepared to go on our own way cheerfully, with full confidence in the resources of our country and in the ability of our people to develop them successfully, for there is but one feeling among the Canadian people from ocean to ocean—that Canada shall have a fair treaty or no treaty at all.

I have presented, Mr. Speaker, some evidences of the remarkable growth and prosperity of Canada, which I am sure, even though presented in the dull form of statistics, must make a deep impression upon the minds of all who give attention to them; and this growth will be the more striking when viewed with the assistance of the diagrams which will be distributed in a few moments.

And now, Sir, in conclusion, let me say that Canada has much reason to be proud of the position she occupies to-day. It is a splendid exhibit of her financial and industrial condition which we are permitted to present to the world. But, Sir, in the midst of all this prosperity I would venture to utter a word of caution. It is said that one of my distinguished predecessors in office, at a time when trade was fairly prosperous, advised business men to "clap on all sail." Far be it from me to utter that sentiment to-day. I can assure you, Sir, that I have no disposition to offer such advice as that. I would much rather, if I thought that words of mine would have any weight, utter a word of caution in the spirit of Kipling's "Lest we forget; lest we forget." In the midst of this great prosperity, I would remind my hearers that the conditions which have brought it about cannot be expected to prevail always. It will not constantly fall to the lot of a Finance Minister to make such an agreeable statement as I have the pleasure of submitting to-day before the House of Commons of Canada. We cannot always have good crops and good prices. Conditions at home and conditions abroad may be such as to bring about a check to all this prosperity. From the experience of the past we know that the pendulum which has now for two or three years been swinging strongly in Canada's favour may soon fall back. There may soon come a time when things will not be so prosperous, and so I would to-day rather, as respects our national housekeeping and in the business world, utter a word of warning and advise our people to make a wise use of our present opportunities so that when less prosperous times come to us, as come they will, we shall be able to bear them easily.

Let our aim be, not to have what is commonly called a "boom" in trade, but to lay strongly the foundations of our business, so that Canada may move steadily forward in

all things necessary for the welfare of her people and the advancement of her position as the greatest colony of the British Empire.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not want to ask any favours, but we have been here since three o'clock, and I have been trying to listen and take notes of the immense mass of details which has just been presented to us, and though I would much prefer myself to go on and get through with my reply to-night, I think my request would not be unworthy of consideration—more especially as I have been suffering with a severe cold for the last two days—if I were to ask that we should now adjourn the debate.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I fully admit that my hon. friend, if he wishes it, is perfectly justified in asking that the debate be adjourned. We have had a most interesting and able discourse and we would be paying a very poor compliment to my hon. friend if we were not to give hon. gentlemen opposite a day to digest and answer it.

Mr. FOSTER moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). The House has listened for a long period with great patience, and unless my hon. friend desires it, I do not propose to ask him to stay any longer. Of course if he wants, we can go on with supply.

Mr. FOSTER. I am not on the list of wants.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 9.25 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 3rd May, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### ELECTION FRAUDS IN MANITOBA.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). I have a motion to make in relation to a matter which I have already men-

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tioned on two occasions. On both occasions the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) asked me to let it stand, and finally asked me to bring it up to-day. It relates to the Ninth Report of the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts presented last session, reading as follows:—

The committee have had under consideration an item of \$10,964.41 to Archibald & Howell, J. D. Cameron and W. E. Perdue, for legal services and expenses in connection with prosecutions for election frauds in Manitoba (including \$4,000 transferred from Unforeseen Expenses), as set forth under the heading Miscellaneous Justice—North-west Territories, on page 1—7 of the Auditor General for the year ended 30th June, 1897; and in connection therewith have examined witnesses under oath, and for the information of the House report herewith the evidence given by such witnesses, and the exhibits filed during the said examination, so that the inquiry may be dealt with and continued at the first available opportunity at the next session of Parliament, and your committee recommends that the said evidence and exhibits be printed.

Hon. members on the Treasury benches who were members of the Public Accounts Committee, will recollect that they attributed some importance to the fact that this inquiry was to be continued at this session of the House. There were suggestions that there should be a report, and a motion that the committee should report at that stage was withdrawn on the undertaking I then made that I would be prepared to continue the inquiry, as in the language of this report, "at the first available opportunity at the next session of Parliament." Accordingly some days ago I proposed to move the motion that I have now in my hands, but at the request of the Prime Minister I postponed that until the next meeting of the House, and again at his request I postponed that motion until now. I therefore move:

That the evidence and proceedings before the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts during the last session of this House respecting certain prosecutions in the province of Manitoba, be referred to the said committee appointed for the present session for further consideration.

Motion agreed to.

### BRIDGES OVER THE PIGEON RIVER.

Mr. HUGHES asked:

Is it the intention of the Government, this year, to construct swing bridges over the Pigeon River, in Emily Township, in order to allow vessels to reach the village of Omemeé?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). There has been some correspondence on this subject, and it is now in the department, with reference to building swing bridges over the Pigeon River, but it is not the intention of the department to construct such bridges. We do not consider that the river is under the

control of the department, as it forms no part at all of the Trent Canal.

#### BOND OF PETERSEN, TATE & CO.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax) asked :

1. Has the Government enforced payment of the guarantee or bond for the sum of £10,000 stg., received or held by the Government or by Her Majesty from Messrs. Petersen, Tate & Co. as security for the performance by that firm of their contract with Her Majesty ?

2. If not, what is the reason for the failure to enforce payment thereof, and for the delay, if any, which has already taken place with respect to enforcing payment thereof ?

3. Does the Government propose to enforce payment thereof ? If not, for what reason ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The Government have not enforced the payment of the guarantee or bond referred to in the hon. gentleman's question, nor will it be enforced. In consideration of the consent given by the contractors to the termination of their contract at a much earlier date than was originally provided for, the guarantee bond was practically released, the Government, however, keeping in their hands the sum of ten thousand pounds sterling as security, which they still hold.

#### LIQUOR PERMITS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. Is the Government, or any member thereof, aware that Major Walsh, when Commissioner for the Yukon territory, issued permits to take spirituous liquors into that territory ?

2. If so, (a) Under what authority did he act ? (b) How many permits did he issue ? (c) To whom were said permits given ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. Yes. 2. (a) Major Walsh was under the impression that his authority as Commissioner empowered him to issue these permits. (b.) Two. (c.) McLeod and Sullivan, and P. McCauley.

#### DOUKHOBOR, FINLAND, MENNONITE AND GALICIAN IMMIGRANTS.

Mr. MARCOTTE asked :

1. What is the exact number of Doukhobors, Finlanders, Mennonites and Galicians brought into the country this year ?

2. What has been the cost per head, to the Government, of this immigration ?

3. What advantages have the Government given to these immigrants who have reached this country, in money, lands and provisions ?

4. At whose instigation has this immigration been effected ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. Up to the present, the number is as follows : Doukhobors, 4,072 ; Finlanders, 162 ; Mennonites, 16 ; Galicians, 1,494. 2.

The cost to the Government for Doukhobor immigrants was one pound (\$4.86) per head. For Galicians, Finlanders and Mennonites, the usual commission of one pound per adult ticket to be paid to the booking agents. 3. In the case of the Doukhobors, a certain tract of land has been set apart to be homesteaded. No money, lands or provisions have been given excepting as a charge against bonus. 4. The immigration of the Doukhobors was effected through negotiations between a representative of an English committee, consisting of members of the Society of Friends and others interested, and the department. No special arrangement was made regarding the immigration of Galicians, Finlanders or Mennonites other than the ordinary work of the foreign agent of the department.

#### BROCKVILLE VOTERS' LISTS.

Mr. FOSTER asked :

On what date and to whom were the voters' list, as required by the Franchise Act, sent to the Brockville constituency for the late election ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The Queen's Printer furnished the following information, and I will read it just as he sends it to me :

Ottawa, May 1st, 1899.

#### MEMORANDUM RE BROCKVILLE VOTERS' LISTS.

The law provides that when the voters' lists are printed twenty copies should be sent to the sitting member and twenty copies to the defeated candidate. When the sitting member dies the only direction then remaining is that lists shall be given to the defeated candidate.

The printing of the lists was done between March 31st and April 3rd, and twelve copies were sent to the hon. the Secretary of State, intended for the defeated candidate. It was observed, however, just as the lists came to final verification, that some trifling errors existed in them. Lest others should exist, and to have them perfectly accurate, the Queen's Printer gave orders that they should all be re-read, from the first, and printed on better paper.

While this was being done Mr. H. A. Stewart, of Brockville, wrote for the lists, which he said belonged to him as executor and representative of the late Hon. Mr. Wood. A reply was sent, as attached, marked "A," under date of April 3rd.

This letter is as follows :—

"A."

Ottawa, April 3rd, 1899.

Sir,—In reply to your letter dated April 1st, I beg to say that the lists for Brockville were not printed until some time after the death of the Hon. Mr. Wood. The law provides that lists shall be sent to the sitting member, and it is clear that an executor cannot be included in that designation.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

S. E. DAWSON,

Queen's Printer and

Controller of Stationery.

H. A. Stewart, Esq.,

Brockville, Ont.

This was followed by another letter on April 7th, marked "B." The letter is as follows:—

"B."

Ottawa, April 7th, 1899.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated April 5th, and in reply I beg to say that I am not aware that the lists should have been printed some time ago. As a matter of fact, very few lists have been printed, for very few have been required.

It will, however, be a waste of time to enter upon a discussion of a question so theoretical. Practically the matter will no doubt be settled to your satisfaction when I inform you that I have this moment sent to Mr. George Taylor, M.P., twenty copies of the complete list for Brockville district, for the Hon. P. White, who is the Conservative candidate for the next election. Mr. Taylor has undertaken to forward them to Mr. White, and therefore I pray that I may be excused from discussing the other points in your letter.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

S. E. DAWSON,

Queen's Printer and  
Controller of Stationery.

H. A. Stewart, Esq.,  
Barrister, &c.,

King Street, Brockville, Ont.

Afterwards an application was received from Mr. George W. Dawson, for five sets of Kitley and Elizabethtown. These were sent him on April 5th. Mr. George Taylor, M.P., called on the 4th or 5th and asked about the lists. A complete set of the Brockville lists was given to him then, and the same explanation was made to him as to Mr. Dawson, and to the hon. the Secretary of State—that there were some slight inaccuracies in the lists—that they must be looked upon as proofs, and that the lists were being re-read for printing.

On April 7th the lists were completely printed, so far as sent in, and on that day twelve copies were sent to the hon. the Secretary of State, twenty copies to Mr. George Taylor, M.P., for the Hon. Peter White, and twenty copies to Mr. Comstock.

The lists had been printed without the manhood suffrage names. The manhood suffrage lists came in afterwards, and kept coming in, as the revision was made, until April 12th. They were finally printed on April 13th, and on the same day copies were sent as follows:—

Twelve to the hon. the Secretary of State.

Twenty to Mr. George Taylor for Hon. Peter White.

Twenty to Mr. Comstock.

The complete lists were, therefore, ready and delivered to those entitled to them, the chief lists on the 7th, and the manhood suffrage lists on the 13th of April respectively.

On the 13th of April the nomination was held, and on the 20th of April the election was held.

The Hon. Peter White was chosen at a convention held in Brockville on April 6th. The news was announced at Ottawa on April 7th, and on the same day the Queen's Printer received orders to send him twenty copies of the lists. These were at once sent through Mr. George Taylor, M.P., who undertook to despatch them at once to the proper address. Hon. Mr. White's post office address is Pembroke. A day or two would have been lost by sending them there.

The law does not provide that the candidates shall have lists. It provides only for the sitting

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

member and the last defeated candidate. It seemed clear that whoever was entitled to the lists, the executor of the late member was not, and if the lists had been sent to him, the candidate, after he had been chosen, might have applied for them.

No other lists but the above for Brockville were sent out, excepting three official copies to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery.

S. E. DAWSON,  
Queen's Printer and  
Controller of Stationery.

Mr. TAYLOR. The Minister of Railways said the lists were sent by mail. I contradicted him and said they were sent by special messenger, and now this corroborates me.

### REQUEST FOR SCRIP FOR MOUNTED POLICE.

Mr. OLIVER asked:

1. Has the Government received any requests or petitions asking that scrip be granted members of the North-west Mounted Police force who were under fire in 1885; thereby to remove the invidious distinction made by the late Government in granting scrip to all volunteers who served in the west in 1885, but refusing it even to members of the police force who took part in the engagements of that year?

2. If so, what is the decision of the Government in regard to the request for scrip?

Mr. SPEAKER. I think that question is rather objectionable in casting a slur upon the late Government. I think the words "invidious distinction" should be changed, and, I have no doubt, the hon. member (Mr. Oliver) will drop the word "invidious" in this question.

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to cast any reflection; I simply wished to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of the Interior to the question.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. Numerous representations have been made to the Government since 1885, urging that scrip be granted to members of the North-west Mounted Police who were under fire during the rebellion. On the 30th June, 1894, an Order in Council was passed to the effect that when the subject of rewards for services during the rebellion was under the consideration of the Government, a distinction was made between the Mounted Police, whose ordinary duties of maintaining law and order within the limits of the disturbed districts, and the militia, who were called upon to leave their homes and occupations at great personal inconvenience, resulting in many cases in serious embarrassment to themselves and their families. The same Order in Council stated that under the circumstances the Government would not feel justified in recommending the issue of scrip to the Mounted Police. 2. The Government has not arrived at any conclusion upon the matter.

### PIER AT CHINA POINT.

Mr. MARTIN asked :

1. How much has been expended upon the reconstruction of the pier at China Point, in Prince Edward Island, since October, 1896 ?
2. What was the date of such payments ?
3. To whom made, and how much was paid to each person ?
4. How much was paid for actual labour performed on this pier ?
5. How much for material used ?
6. How much for material not used ?
7. How much for superintendence, and to whom ?
8. How much has been done towards actual reconstruction, and what is now the condition of this pier ?
9. Has it been in condition to ship at since 1896 ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). If the hon. gentleman will be kind enough to move for a return, the papers will be brought down immediately. He will see that it is not possible to give a short answer to his question. I will bring the information down if he moves for the papers.

### FRANCIS MCKENZIE, OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

Mr. McDOUGALL asked :

Why was Francis McKenzie, of Christmas Island, refused instructions in the Military School at Fredericton, in 1897 ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The only answer I can give at present is, that nothing is known of this case at headquarters. The officer commanding the Military School at Fredericton has been communicated with. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will leave his question on the paper, or repeat it at some later date, as the information is not forthcoming to-day.

Mr. McDOUGALL. May I be permitted to state, that this question was asked of the Minister last year, and he then promised me the information.

Mr. SPEAKER. The question stands.

### PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE POST OFFICE— CARETAKER.

Mr. ROCHE asked :

Who is the recognized caretaker of the Portage la Prairie post office, and what salary does he receive ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). The name of the caretaker is Mr. Ephraim McNeill ; his salary is \$400 a year.

### COUNTY OF ESSEX—EXPERIMENTAL TOBACCO STATION.

Mr. COWAN (by Mr. McGregor) asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to establish an experimental tobacco station in the county of Essex during the present year ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). The Department of Agriculture is taking steps to establish some such station in the province of Ontario, in the district in which tobacco-growing is now so largely undertaken.

### FOREIGN LEAF TOBACCO.

Mr. COWAN (by Mr. McGregor) asked :

1. What is the minimum percentage of foreign leaf tobacco required to be used in mixed factories under present regulations ?
2. Is it the intention of the Government to reduce the percentage of foreign leaf tobacco required to be used in mixed factories ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). The answer to the first question is, 25 per cent. The answer to the second question is, that the matter is under the consideration of the Government.

### CORRESPONDENCE WITH MR. D. H. MACDOWALL IN RE HALF-BREEDS.

Mr. DAVIS asked :

1. Was there any correspondence between D. H. Macdowall, M.P., of Saskatchewan, in the year 1891 or 1892 with reference to putting the half-breeds of Batoche, Duck Lake and Saskatchewan on a reserve ?
2. Did the Government make any suggestions with reference to this matter to Mr. Macdowall? If so, what was the nature of the same ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). The records of the department disclose nothing on the subject in question.

### THOMAS MCKAY, OF PRINCE ALBERT.

Mr. DAVIS asked :

1. Was or is Thomas McKay, of Prince Albert, N.W.T., indebted to the Government for timber dues ?
2. If so, what was the amount ?
3. Was McKay's brother, James McKay, Q.C., legal agent for the Crown at Saskatchewan ?
4. Was he instructed to collect this account ? If so, did he collect the same ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. Yes. 2. \$732.01. 3. James McKay, Q.C., was legal agent for the Crown at Prince Albert ; but the records do not show whether he is Thomas McKay's brother. 4. The answer to the first part of the fourth question is "Yes," and to the second part, "No."

Mr. DAVIS asked :

1. Was Thomas McKay, of Prince Albert, N.W.T., employed by the Dominion Government

in the month of January, February and March, 1886? If so, what salary did he receive?

2. Was the Government aware that for those three months he was electioneering in Saskatchewan?

3. Was he allowed travelling expenses from Ottawa to Saskatchewan and return?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. 1. Thomas McKay was employed from the 25th August, 1885, to the 6th January, 1886, and from the 15th March, 1886, to the 4th July, 1887; his remuneration was at the rate of \$15 a day, the total amount paid him being \$9,135. 2. The records do not disclose whether the Government was aware that he was electioneering in Saskatchewan during the months mentioned in the question. 3. The records show that he was allowed his fare from Winnipeg to Ottawa and return.

#### N.W.M.P.—BARRACKS AT BATOCHÉ.

Mr. DAVIS asked :

1. Did the Government enter into any contract with any person or persons at Batoché, Saskatchewan, in 1891, for the supply of stone for a barracks for the North-west Mounted Police?

2. Was any contract entered into with parties there for the supplying of lime for said barracks?

3. How long were these contracts entered into before the general election of 1891?

4. Was the site for the supposed said barracks at Batoché surveyed? If so, by whom, and what was the cost?

5. Was the said barracks built? If not, why not?

6. What was done with the stone and lime, if same was purchased?

7. How much was there expended in this transaction?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. No contract was made, but a quantity of stone—about 20 cords—was hauled from the river to the site then contemplated for police barracks. 2. No. 3. The stone was hauled during the months of March and April, 1891. 4. The owner of the property had offered to deed to the Government, free of charge, sufficient land for the erection of police detachment buildings. No special survey was then made. 5. The contemplated barracks were not erected, as the owner of the land subsequently offered suitable buildings, already erected, at less than cost price. 6. Some of the stone has been used; the remainder is still available. 7. \$149.50.

#### CANADIAN PERMANENT CORPS—PENSION SYSTEM.

On the Order being called for the following motion :—

That in the opinion of this House, a pension system should be established for officers and men of the Canadian permanent corps, and of the headquarters and district staff who are not under the Civil Service Act.—(Mr. Hughes.)

Mr. SAM. HUGHES (North Victoria). Mr. Speaker, I am informed by hon. members,

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that this motion is likely to be considerably discussed, and I would ask the leader of the House to let it stand until some day next week.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). Very well.

#### BOARD OF RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS.

Mr. J. G. RUTHERFORD (Macdonald) moved :

That the public interest demands that the railway companies of Canada should at the earliest possible moment be brought under the control of a board of railway commissioners, clothed with full power to enforce the provisions of the Railway Act and to prescribe and enforce the observance of such regulations as may be necessary in the public interest.

He said : It will be within the memory of most of the members of this House, that a resolution identical with this, was discussed during last session, and it is, I believe, due to the importance of the question that it should be once more brought to the attention of the Parliament of Canada. It is unquestionable, that there is urgent necessity for proper and systematic control of the railway systems of the Dominion of Canada, and there is no way in which that control can be better obtained and maintained, than through the establishment of a properly constituted and regularly organized railway commission. For some time past, there has been, in some portions of the country, at least, an agitation in favour of government ownership of railways, and, while there is no doubt that government ownership of railways is the proper solution of the transportation question in the Dominion of Canada under existing circumstances, such a proposition is surrounded with so much difficulty as to render it at present outside the field of practical politics. A consideration of the sums of money which it would be necessary to expend in order to acquire possession of the railways of Canada would convince most people of the truth of this statement. At the present time there are in Canada some 16,870 miles of railway, the average capital cost of which per mile has been up to the present \$55,244. This gives a total of \$937,066,280 as the cost of the railway system of Canada, being an average debt of \$1,000 which every Canadian family would have to assume in order to make the purchase. This would nearly quadruple the national debt, and the annual interest charges on this sum, at 3 per cent, would amount to \$30,000,000. I think this very effectually disposes of the question of the present purchase of the railways of Canada by the people of the Dominion.

Of course, it is claimed by those who argue in favour of Government ownership of railways that the roads would pay the interest from their earnings; but the

past history of our railways does not tend to bear out this statement. At no time have the dividends of our Canadian railways equalled 3 per cent; and if the interest was to be paid, it would be impossible to lower the rates to anything like the point at which it would be desired by the advocates of Government ownership of railways to maintain them. The returns from railways in Canada have never been equal to the working expenses. The total working expenses of the railways in Canada, covering maintenance and operating expenses since confederation, amount to \$73,029,631, and the earnings amount to \$64,510,650, leaving a considerable loss. The loss for the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1898, was \$263,401.78.

It is claimed, however, by many of the advocates of Government ownership of railways that, while the roads now existing might be left in the hands of the corporations, any roads which are constructed from this time henceforth should be built, owned and operated by the Government of the Dominion, in the interest of the people. I have never been able to take this view of the matter. In the discussion which took place on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, I took the ground that an isolated railway, situated as that would be, in the Rocky Mountains, and without connection either east or west, would be of no benefit whatever to the people of the Dominion of Canada. This sentiment was, I think, fully endorsed by the members of this House and by the people of the Dominion at large.

During the last few months we in the west have experienced an agitation having for its object the purchase of the franchises or charters of three railways, the combination of which is expected to constitute the new route from the Red River to the great lakes, namely, the Winnipeg and South-eastern, the Ontario and Rainy River, and the Port Arthur, Duluth and Western. The same objection would apply to the Government ownership of these railways as applied to the case of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway; that is to say, they would form an isolated piece of road without feeders, and would consequently be of very little service to the people they are designed to serve, namely, the farmers and producers of the great west.

It is claimed by many of the advocates of Government ownership of railways that the construction of a Government railway from Winnipeg to Fort William or Port Arthur would settle for all time the question of transportation for the west. Such, however, would by no means be the case. A Government railway might be constructed from Winnipeg to the great lakes, and it might be operated at cost, or, as the advocates of Government ownership would wish, at even less than cost; but that would not cheapen through freight from the wheat fields of Manitoba and the Territories to the head of navigation. We have at the

present time in the province of Manitoba a proof of this in the refusal of the railways now existing there to interchange freight, or to enter into arrangements with each other for through freight purposes. We have, in the town in which I live, Portage la Prairie, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Northern Pacific Railway. We have also a railway running up to the north-western portion of the province, known as the Manitoba and North-western. This railway has an arrangement with the Canadian Pacific Railway by which it transfers grain to that road for carriage to Fort William at a very small advance on its rate from Portage la Prairie. For instance, the town of Neepawa is situated sixty-one miles from Portage la Prairie on the line of the Manitoba and North-western. The rate on freight from Portage la Prairie to Fort William over the Canadian Pacific Railway and to Duluth over the Northern Pacific Railway, is 16½ cents per 100 pounds at the present time. Next fall it will be reduced to 15 cents; but to-day it is 16½ cents. The rate via the Manitoba and North-western Railway from Neepawa to Fort William is 17½ cents, or only 1 cent per 100 pounds more than the rate from Portage la Prairie to Fort William. Now, the rate from Neepawa to Duluth over the Manitoba and North-western and Northern Pacific is 28½ cents per 100 pounds, or 11 cents more than the rate via the Manitoba and North-western and the Canadian Pacific Railway to Fort William. This difference is owing to the fact that the Manitoba and North-western Railway refuses to interchange freight with the Northern Pacific, although the latter railway occupies exactly the same position as regards asking for freight as a Government railway from Winnipeg to the head of the lakes would occupy. It is anxious to enter into an arrangement with the Manitoba and North-western Railway to obtain a share of the business which the Manitoba and North-western persists in refusing, and transfers the whole of its wheat to the Canadian Pacific Railway for transmission to Fort William. The people of Portage la Prairie, where these two roads meet, have the advantage of competing rates; but the people of Neepawa, which is not touched by the Northern Pacific, have no advantage of competing rates; and, if there were to-day a Government road from the city of Winnipeg to the head of the lakes, it would be practically useless as an exporting factor, because the other railways would not furnish it with freight, would enter into no arrangement with it, until there was a strong and capable and efficient railway commission which would compel these railways to hand over their freight to that road if it were deemed in the interest of the people of Canada that such should be done. Nevertheless, as far as the Ontario and Rainy River route is concerned, the interests of the people of the west must be guarded;

and if it is not considered best that the Government should build and own that road, it must control its rates and control them in an efficient and thorough manner. It is true that, under the present Railway Act, the Government have a nominal control of rates on all railways which come under the operation of that law, but I gather from what the hon. Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) said last session that such control is far from being effective. The hon. Minister then said :

I confess to you that I myself am not very much enamoured of the sufficiency of the machinery, of the sufficiency of the power which can be exercised by the Railway Committee of the Privy Council or by the Governor General in Council.

Now, if the Minister of Railways, with his experience and knowledge, is not enamoured of the power possessed by the Railway Committee of the Privy Council in controlling freight rates, if, in other words, that power is not sufficient and it is impossible for that committee to control them, it is a self-evident fact that some legislation ought to be enacted which would place the railways of Canada, whether constructed or projected, in such a position that they will be of use and service to the people for whose benefit they are supposed to be built and who have the privilege of paying for them. The rates on the new road must be controlled, the rates on all railways ought to be controlled ; but as this railway in particular is the road which is going into the western country in opposition to the Canadian Pacific Railway—in opposition to that road, which, through the action of the late Government, was placed outside the Railway Act, and which owns no master and acknowledges no law—I say that in the case of this road it must be arranged and predetermined before it is built, that this country, through its Government, shall control the rates in every possible way. If the present Railway Committee of the Privy Council is, as the hon. Minister of Railways admits, ineffective, if its powers are not sufficient to enable it to cope with this question, then I say that the appointment of a railway commission is imperative.

We often hear it stated that railway commissions in other countries have not proved successful and have not justified the expectations of those who were instrumental in their creation. I do not think that the history of railway commissions in general bears out that contention. In England, for instance, although railway legislation there is by no means perfect, they have a very effective and efficient railway commission, known as the Railway and Canal Commission. For forty or fifty years the people of England have been legislating in order to obtain better control over the railways of that country. In 1888, they embodied a great deal of previous legislation in an Act appointing the Railway and Canal Commis-

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sion, and since that time, some eleven years, a great many grievances have been remedied and a great many wrongs redressed by its action. The Board of Trade in England also, as is well known, has control of the railways to a large extent ; and it would be perfectly impossible, under the Railway and Canal Commission and the strict supervision of the Board of Trade, for railways in England to do as they do in this country, and ignore the law in so many different ways. In the United States there are two species of railway commissions. There is the Interstate Commerce Commission, which has been in existence a number of years and has done a great deal of good work in the way of regulating rates, but which has not been as marked a success as its promoters anticipated. The Interstate Commerce Commission, in its last report, acknowledges that it has not been able to control the railways and transportation companies in the way it would like. It gives, however, as the reason for its failure in carrying out its good intentions, the fact that it has not got the power behind it to enforce them, that its powers are too limited, and it demands new and stronger legislation, it demands that more strength be given to it by the people in order to enable it to carry out the wishes of the people and protect them from the rapacity of railway corporations. Until such powers are given, as it says, "it must continue to rest under the responsibility of a duty which it is powerless to discharge." If a great nation like the United States acknowledges—because the acknowledgment by the Interstate Commission is practically an acknowledgment by the nation—its powerlessness with existing machinery, to discharge its duty, it stands to reason that steps must be taken to remedy that state of affairs. It is impossible that any nation, either the United States or Canada, should rest content under such conditions ; and the demand that the United States must pass such legislation as will empower the Interstate Commerce Commission to carry into effect the work which it was intended and created to do, is one that cannot long be resisted. The other class of commission which exists in the United States is what is known as the State Railway Commission. But before leaving the Interstate Commission I may say that the powers nominally held by the Railway Committee of the Privy Council are just such powers, from what I can gather, as the Interstate Railway Commission desires to have, and as far as regards Canada, the difficulty which that commission has met with in the United States would not be encountered by a Dominion railway commission.

With regard to the various state railway commissions, there are some twenty-four of them. They vary in size and expenditure. In the state of New York, for instance, there is a railway commission composed of three members whose salaries total \$24,000, and whose expenses in the aggregate amount to

\$53,325 per year. Massachusetts has three commissioners, whose salaries amount to \$11,000 per annum, and the total expenses of the commission in that state amount to \$27,430. Illinois has three commissioners, whose total salaries are \$10,500, and whose expenditure aggregates \$23,200. The State Commission of Illinois has been most successful, as also has that of Iowa which has three commissioners at salaries amounting in all to \$6,600, and expenses \$10,510.42 per annum. It is unnecessary to read all the figures of the cost of these various state commissions. They run down to the little state of Rhode Island, which possesses one railway commissioner with a salary of \$1,000 and expenses \$1,021. Now, no good argument can be adduced to show why, if these various states can establish and maintain railway commissions to stand between the railways and the people, the Dominion of Canada cannot do likewise. The only difficulty which the state commissions have had lies in the fact that the railway corporations extending as they do outside the individual states are not and cannot be fully controlled by them, but this difficulty would not be encountered in the Dominion, because a federal commission would not be hampered in this way. The failure of state commissions to control transportation in the way they desire is due to the circumstances which I have stated; whereas a railway commission whose power extended from one end of Canada to the other and whose control extended over all the railways in the Dominion would not have that difficulty to contend with.

Now, a Canadian railway commission, if it were appointed, ought to have full power to enforce the provisions of the Railway Act; it ought to have a full working power. As the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals said, in the speech which I have just quoted, he is not enamoured of the power now possessed or the machinery now controlled by the Railway Committee of the Privy Council for dealing with these questions. But, if a real, live railway commission were appointed whose duty would be to see that the provisions of the Railway Act were carried out, and also to suggest and regulate all amendments to that Act, to recommend such changes as might be found necessary in the light of experience, to facilitate the working of the Act, to bring it up to the standard which the people of Canada would like to see, I do not think there would be any difficulty about its having sufficient power to control the great corporations. If the legislation which is brought before this House affecting railways were first submitted to the railway commission as it ought to be constituted, there is no doubt but that such legislation would be more carefully safeguarded than is possible under our present system and with our present machinery.

Another duty of the commission would be to investigate all grievances and complaints.

And I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that in this particular line there is a very wide field of usefulness open to a railway commission. We have, in the first place, the control and regulation of all rates for freight and passengers. Now, nominally, I understand, at the present time, that power is vested in the Railway Committee of the Privy Council. But, with all due deference to the gentlemen who form that committee, who, I am sure, are men of great ability, as is evidenced by the fact of their being in a position which entitles them to become members of that committee, it is out of all reason to expect them to have the special knowledge which it is necessary to have in dealing with such complex questions as these; and also, it is unreasonable to expect them to devote the necessary time and attention to the careful study of the intricate questions which constantly come before them. I do not think that it is possible for a body constituted as is that committee to deal in a manner even approaching satisfactory with such questions. Then, we have such questions as that to which I alluded a few moments ago, when I referred to the Manitoba and North-western Railway and the Northern Pacific Railway—the interchange of traffic between one railway and another, a matter which is of very great importance to the people of Canada. Then, it would be the duty of a railway commission such as I have outlined to check discrimination. We all know that there is discrimination, and, no doubt, some of the hon. gentlemen who are to follow me will quote for the benefit of the House instances in which these great corporations have discriminated and are in the habit of discriminating against individuals, corporations and localities. Sometimes they discriminate against people and places, and sometimes they discriminate in favour of them. But railways which have been so liberally subsidized by the people of Canada ought not to be allowed to interfere in this way with individual rights and interests. Not only do the railways discriminate against one Canadian in favour of another, but there are cases on record where these railways, built up, as they have been, by grants from the people of Canada, have been and are actually discriminating against Canadians and in favour of the people of the United States. All these matters would come under the control of a railway commission. The question of overcharges would be a very wide field of usefulness for them, as also would the classification of freights—and, I may say, that in the classification of freight very many wrongs are perpetrated upon the shipper. They would supervise traffic generally, and see that cars were supplied to shippers and that there was no discrimination in this respect as against one shipper and in favour of another. In the shipment of grain in Manitoba and the North-west, there has been serious discrimination against the producer and in favour of the large milling and grain-buying corpora-

tions. This matter has received the attention of the House on more than one occasion, and I trust that ere this session is over it will be so dealt with as to place it beyond the power of the railway companies in Manitoba and the North-west to continue this unjust system of discrimination against the producers. Then, I wish to mention one matter, which, to those who are not familiar with the question may appear insignificant. If any member of the House thinks that what I am about to mention is too insignificant to be discussed on the floor of this House, I must crave his indulgence, as I feel it my duty to bring it to the attention of hon. members. I refer to the question of cattle guards. That may seem a small matter. But all through Manitoba and the North-west—I do not know from my own knowledge whether the same grievance exists to the same extent in the older provinces—we have a very real and genuine grievance because of the kind of cattle guards provided by the railway companies. They simply refuse to place at the crossings cattle guards which are sufficient to keep animals from going on the railway tracks; and large numbers of horses and cattle are annually killed in Manitoba and the North-west through this cause. This is a matter of live interest to the settlers of the west, and I am sure that a railway commission could find no better use for its ability and time than in standing between the farmer at the railway companies in just such questions as this. It is hopeless for a farmer at the present time, even though he loses a considerable number of cattle or horses, to undertake a lawsuit against one of the corporations. Such a suit would spell ruin to a man, because the case would be appealed from court to court, and, though the plaintiff might win in one or two of the inferior courts, the case would be carried on to the higher courts, until he either threw up the sponge in disgust or was financially ruined. There is the matter of railway crossings, and the matter of drainage across railways, which has been a subject of special legislation in this House every session since I became a member of it, and which, I see, is still engaging the attention of the House. There are, in fact a thousand and one different grievances which the farmers have against the railway companies, which the ordinary citizen has against the railway companies and for which, at the present time, there is no possible redress. The railway commission would stand between these people and the railway companies. The railway commission would take up the case of the farmer or merchant by correspondence. If they found he had a good case, it might be settled in an amicable way; but, if not, it would be the duty of the railway commission, acting on behalf of the people of the Dominion of Canada, to see that, if the man had right on his side, his arms should be strengthened sufficiently to enable him to secure justice.

Mr. RUTHERFORD.

Now, I would offer a suggestion as to the constitution of this commission. A commission such as I have described should be composed of three capable men. It is not so very difficult to obtain capable men in the Dominion of Canada: we have many of them, and it is only necessary to select men who are peculiarly adapted for the position, and to pay them salaries sufficient to enable them to devote their whole time and attention to the subject in hand. In order to obtain a railway commission which would be effective and beneficial to the country as a whole, there should be, first, a railway man, a man of great experience in railway matters, a man who has been superintendent or manager of a railway, and who has a thorough practical knowledge of all the intricacies of railway work. Secondly, there should be a good, sound commercial lawyer, having a thorough knowledge of commercial and railway law, and who would be in a position to advise the commission as to the legal status of any case which they might be called upon to deal with. Thirdly, there should be an experienced business man, a man with large experience as a shipper and dealer, a man who could look on every question that came up, from the shipper's point of view, from the point of view of the public. Take these three men and organize them into a railway commission, and give them high salaries. In the state of New York there are three commissioners, whose united salaries are \$24,000 per annum. That would be \$8,000 apiece, and that would not be at all an extravagant salary to pay to such men as I have described. Then, I would give them a thoroughly competent staff. They should have all the assistance necessary.

Mr. BERGERON. A great idea.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. I am glad I have met with the approval of the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron), because I think a great deal of his opinion. I am glad to see that he is favourably impressed. Now, legislation along this line is, in my opinion, rendered absolutely necessary by existing conditions. We have in Canada a very peculiar state of affairs. We have several large railway corporations which practically, under existing circumstances, do as they like, and it is about time that some restraint was placed upon them, and that they were regulated in such a way as to render them amenable to their masters, the common people of the country. The whole world has been overtaken, as it were, by the rapid development of the last sixty or seventy years. There was never in all history, it is unnecessary to say, anything like the growth, and development, and transformation which have taken place in the conditions of life during the last sixty or seventy years. People were taken by surprise, people generally all over the civilized world have been caught napping, and some men of more sagacity,

more astuteness than others, have taken advantage of the conditions which have sprung up, in order to amass power and wealth. The world is only just beginning to awaken to the fact that people have given away many of their most precious possessions in valuable franchises and rights. To-day we are undergoing a bitter experience in the Dominion of Canada on that very line. The figures which I quoted here this afternoon, giving the amount of money which has been expended in building railways in Canada, furnish a case in point. The same thing has gone on all over the world, and to a greater extent, perhaps, on this continent than anywhere else, people have fallen into the hands of corporations. Corporations, it is well known, have no souls, we do not blame them for that, because they cannot help it. But, at the same time, they ought to be thoroughly held in check. Education and the diffusion of general knowledge among the masses of the people, have awakened them to the fact that many of their fellows are enjoying privileges and emoluments to which they have no moral right.

I have never classed myself as a demagogue, and I do not propose, at this late day to take up that role; but I think the House will bear with me for a moment, while I say, that we must face this situation in Canada at an early date, and the sooner we face it, the better. The situation demands relief for the man who works. The man who works ten hours a day with his hands, in this Dominion of Canada, is, after all, the backbone of the country: he is the strength of the country. That sentiment is applauded. It is all very well to applaud a sentiment just because it is a sentiment, but at the same time, we must not lose sight of the fact. We are never allowed to lose sight of the other side of the case because vested interests are well represented in this House, they are constantly with us. But we are very apt, I think, to forget the workingmen, and it is on behalf of the workingmen—with whom I class all the farmers who are toiling throughout the country and producing from the soil the real genuine wealth which is being diffused throughout the land—it is on their behalf that we ought to legislate. My experience is, that the other fellows can take care of themselves; we have them fully represented here. It is the bounden duty of the Liberal party, which has always been proud to style itself the party of the common people, it is the duty of the Liberal Government, as representing that party, to legislate in every possible way in the interests of the working classes of his country. We never expected anything in this direction from the gentlemen who now occupy seats on the opposite side of the House. Their political history as a party is before us. In this matter I do not accuse them of inconsistency: but, as a party, their history has not been that of champions of the workingmen. The history of the party on this side

of the House, however, has been such, and it is our duty to live up to our principles, and now that we have the power, to enact legislation as rapidly and as thoroughly as possible which will protect the interests of the working classes in the Dominion of Canada. Now, I have only one word more to say, and I trust that the House will pardon me in taking up its time at so great a length. We must admit, every one admits, that a wrong exists; every one admits, that present conditions in Canada are indefensible and unbearable. We do not need to be told, that the railway corporations and the other corporations in Canada at the present time are endowed with too much power, too much strength, and that a private individual has no chance to hold his own against them. Now, if such a condition of affairs exists, as it does exist, it is our duty, as representatives of the people here assembled, to pass such legislation as will remedy this wrong, and I hope there will be no further delay. I trust the Government will at once take steps to establish such a commission as I have ventured to outline, and I hope that the House will in the meantime pass this resolution.

Mr. JOHN McMILLAN (South Huron). Mr. Speaker, on rising to speak upon this very important question, I beg to say that I consider the question of transportation to be one of the greatest questions that can be brought before the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada. I consider that it is one of the questions that lie at the foundation of the future prosperity and development of this country. Let me say that it is a question the magnitude of which few people have any idea of. I myself, until I began to read up upon railway commissions, had no idea of the difficulty and trouble that will have to be gone through in order to get a fairly well organized and well-equipped railway commission in Canada. But the day has arrived when I believe our Government must take up the question of a railway commission. Last session, when I put a question on the Notice paper, the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), replying to that question, said:

The Government have it in contemplation to take up the subject of a railway commission, and deal with it at an early date. I may say that it is not found practicable, owing to the condition of public business and other reasons, to submit a measure with that object in view during the present session, but I am in hopes that we may be able to do it next session.

That was the present session, and I hope the Government will see their way clear to take up the question at this session. The Government of Canada to-day stand in the position that they are more able to deal with the question of a railway commission than almost any other country that I know of. I remember that the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals, last year, made the statement that the people of Great Britain

had not derived the benefits that they had anticipated from the passage of a Bill granting railway commissions in England, but, I hold in my hand the ninth report of the railway commission in Great Britain, showing that in that country they have amended the law from time to time and that they are certainly drawing great benefits. This report shows that not only the traders and business men of the country, that not only the farmers of the country, but that the railway companies themselves have largely benefited by the railway commission. Let me give a single instance. On the North British Railway, from Edinburgh to Berwick, the North-eastern Railway Company have running powers over their line. The railway commission, on being asked to fix the compensation that should be paid, adjudged that the North-eastern Railway Company should pay the North British Railway Company 75 per cent, or 75c. on the dollar, upon all the money that they received from the traffic on that line. This also included the right of using their freight sheds, and the hands to handle their business in Edinburgh. That question was settled at once and without trouble, but, had it taken place in Canada, with the condition of things in this respect to-day, what an amount of trouble there would have been! What makes me say so? Hon. gentlemen will remember the trouble that occurred between the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company when the latter tried to prevent the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway Company from getting a crossing. We know that it had almost come to open war between the Canadian Pacific Railway and the people of the North-west before they got that crossing effected. For these reasons, and many others, we should have a railway commission. Let me give another statement to the House. We had an application for a railway charter before the Railway Committee of this House last session. That was for the Kettle River Valley Railway. I saw lately, Sir, that an agreement had been come to between the Grand Trunk Railway Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in consequence of which they were not going to apply for a charter to build a road into the Kettle River country. Let me say, Sir, that it is too bad that two great corporations should rule the country, that they can chalk out the country and employ every means to prevent railways being built in this country. This is more than any corporation ought to be allowed to do in Canada. I have another statement here of a company that had been shipping over a line of railway in Great Britain since 1884. That is a long time back. They claimed £730 from that railway corporation for extravagant charges; they claimed £50 for not providing proper accommodation at the railway station for their goods, but the railway corporation, before they would allow them to go before the railway commis-

sion, settled this question. They knew that it would go against them. There was another case of a company that had a siding. The railway corporation charged this company 13½d. for every ton of freight they shunted over that siding. The company took it before the railway commission, and the railway commission, considering it an extravagant charge, reduced it from 13½d. to 9d. per ton. This shows what the railway commission is doing for the people of Great Britain. In 1888 the Imperial Parliament passed one Bill, but the last Bill that was passed was in 1894. They have a small railway commission besides the large railway commission in that country. They took up the question some years ago, and they passed a Bill granting cheap railway rates to workingmen who lived out in the country and who went into the large cities in the morning and returned in the evening to and from their labour. It had been found that the railway corporations were not giving justice to the workingmen. The railway commission has taken that question up, and they have not only settled the rates that workingmen will have to pay, but also the hours at which trains should be run to accommodate workingmen, showing conclusively that the people of England are greatly benefited by the railway commission.

Now, with respect to the United States, we know that they have had railway commissions in that country. We know that there are forty states in which there are railway commissions. There are only two states in the United States which have appointed railway commissions and which have given them up. Why did they give them up? Because, Sir, the legislatures of those states acted treacherously to the people, and in favour of the railway companies, but the railway commissions have been a benefit to the people of that country. I hold in my hand a work published this last year upon railway commissions, and which shows that in Illinois they have one of the most efficient commissions to be found in the western states. Benefits have resulted from it there. The people say emphatically that they have been benefited very much, that discrimination against individuals, against localities, and in respect to the classification of freight have been removed and that freight rates have been reduced. I have a list which I got in order to show that, in the United States, freight rates are very much lower than in the Dominion of Canada. There is a circular issued by the Joint Freight Association of the United States, and I have compared it with the circular sent out by the Canadian Joint Freight Association, and I will just give a few statements in this respect of the cost of carrying 100 pounds of freight for a certain distance in the United States and in Canada. The classification of freight is not quite the same in Canada and in the United States. In Canada we have freight divided into

ten classes, while in the United States there are only six classes of freight. I have taken class No. 1 in Canada and compared it with class No. 3 in the United States.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). What part of the United States are you referring to?

Mr. McMILLAN. This is in the classification of the eastern states. I have got the book in my desk, the classification of the Joint Tariff Association of the United States, and it is taken from that.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. But those rates do not apply all over the United States.

Mr. McMILLAN. They apply to all the eastern states; west of the Mississippi they have another classification. The classification I have here is east of the Mississippi. It shows that for 115 miles per 100 pounds, in the United States they pay 24 cents, and in Canada 38 cents; for 160 miles, 28 cents in the United States and 42 cents in Canada; for 475 miles, 45 cents in the United States and 78 cents in Canada; for 565 miles, 76½ cents in the United States and 86 in Canada. I have other examples that I might quote, but this is sufficient to show conclusively that they have lower rates in the United States than in Canada. And, Mr. Speaker, I hold that the lowering of the rates in the United States has been due to the appointment of railway commissions; first, the appointment of the States Commissions, and then the Interstate Commission. I read the book published by Mr. Frederick C. Clark on "State Railroad Commissions," immediately after its publication last year, and it shows conclusively the benefits which the people of the United States have derived from these railway commissions. It shows also conclusively, that there is necessity for the Canadian Government, in appointing a railway commission, to give it much more extended power than even the Railway Committee of the Privy Council enjoys at the present day. The Government must give this commission full power to examine the books of railway companies, for instance. It has been found in the United States that it was necessary to pass a law compelling all railway companies to have a uniform system of bookkeeping, and that was necessary, because on many of the roads there are rebates given that are not shown in the books; there were private contracts entered into with individuals which were described by ciphers, in the books of the companies, and Mr. Fred C. Clark, in his book, explains that even some of the high officials of the companies did not understand what all these private contracts were and what rebates were given. Therefore, in order to have an efficient railway commission, you must have the books of the railway corporations kept in a uniform manner, so that an expert when he goes there can understand them. It was

also found necessary that the railway commission should have power to classify freight, and not to allow the railway companies to do it as they do in Canada. I saw an account last year that 36 men representing the different railway companies met in Ottawa, and settled the freight and passenger rates between them. There was no commissioner sent by the Government to be present at that meeting, but the railway men did it all themselves. Let me remind the House that the people of Canada contributed towards the building of the railroads 21·33 per cent, or more than one-fifth of all the money required to build these roads, and yet the people had not a single voice in the regulating of the traffic or the controlling of the rates. The Canadian Government now have an opportunity of benefiting by the experience of the people of England, who had not a uniform law to regulate their railways, because Scotland had its own laws and England had its own laws, and the railway commission had to deal with both of them. In the United States they are obliged to have state commissioners, and inter-state commissioners, but in Canada, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the Government has all the railways under their control and can regulate them by the one railway commission.

It is not because I have no confidence in the Government of the day that I ask for a railway commission, but it is because I believe that the question is too broad for any one Minister to give his attention to it. I believe that a Canadian railway commission should be composed of such men as were spoken of by my hon. friend (Mr. Rutherford), for depend upon it, that notwithstanding all the laws and all the regulations you may make, unless thoroughly efficient and honest gentlemen are appointed as railway commissioners, the scheme will be an entire failure. The efficiency of a railway commission depends more upon the character of the men appointed upon it, than upon anything else. In the several states of the Union there is a difference of opinion as to how the railway commissioners should be appointed. In some states they are appointed by the Government and in others they are elected by vote. But I am willing to leave it to the judgment of the Dominion Government to deal with that question. The Government of Canada, when they come to appoint a railway commission, have the experience of Great Britain and the United States to guide them, and the question ought not to be a very difficult one to solve. I agree in the statement made last year by the Minister of Railways, when he said, that unless a railway commission had greater powers than the Committee of the Privy Council possesses at present, it would be perfectly useless to appoint one. But the Government of Canada most certainly can take power to appoint a commission, to make rules for it and to give it judicial power to enforce their regulations such as is possessed by the

commissioners in Great Britain. I hold it is the duty of the Canadian Government to do this. In the United States, the commissioners hold office for various periods. In Ohio for three years; in Alabama for four years; in New York for five years; and in Missouri for six years. In Ohio the Governor appoints one commissioner for two years; in Rhode Island one commissioner for three years; in Vermont three commissioners for two years; and in New York three for five years. These state commissioners are paid salaries ranging from \$500 to \$8,000 a year. These salaries are fixed neither according to the amount of responsibility nor the amount of work to be done, nor according to any marked superior ability in the men themselves. In Rhode Island the Governor appoints one commissioner at \$500 per year; in Ohio the Governor appoints one at \$2,000 per year; in New York the Governor appoints three commissioners at \$8,000 per year each, for the term of five years; in Georgia the Governor appoints three at \$2,500 per year for six years. In California the people elect three at \$4,000 per year for four years; and in Missouri the people elect three at \$3,000 per year for six years. In Massachusetts the president of the commission receives a salary of \$4,000, the associates \$3,500 each; in Alabama the president receives \$3,500, the associates \$3,000 each. Therefore, the different states do not agree with respect to the manner of appointing the railway commissioners, nor yet with respect to the powers conferred on them. If the Government of Canada should appoint a railway commission, we need not expect that all the evils would be redressed at once; but here is an example of what took place in Great Britain. In the last report of the British Commissioners for 1898, I find that there were 103 complaints, but there were a large number of these settled by the railway companies when notified that the complaint had been made, and before they allowed the complaints to be heard by the commissioners. That conclusively shows the advantages of the railway commissioners in England, and I believe that like advantages would accrue from the appointment of a railway commission in this country.

Why, some of the most extravagant charges which it is possible to conceive have been made by the railways in this country. During a visit to the North-west, I went from Calgary to Edmonton, and in conversation with a few of the merchants of Edmonton, I said that it must have been a great benefit to them to have that branch of railway from Calgary to Edmonton. One of the merchants, in a sneering manner, replied, "Benefit! Why, before the railway was built I could get all my freight freighted for 75 cents per hundred; and to-day I can get my freight freighted for 75 cents per hundred, and pay the half or even the whole of it in trade; but the Canadian Pacific Railway charges 82 cents per hundred, and the money all goes out of the country." The

Mr. McMILLAN.

same condition of things existed everywhere from Regina to Prince Albert. Is that a proper condition of things in view of the fact that the Government partly built the Canadian Pacific Railway, and gave such large tracts of land to the company for the purpose? The sooner we get a railway commission, the sooner we shall have the railway companies of Canada placed in the right position. Look at the war of rates that took place a year ago between the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway. If we had had a railway commission, that dispute would have been settled speedily and to the satisfaction of the people. Mr. Hays, the general manager of the Grand Trunk Railway, in a recent visit to the old country, stated that the very best of feelings existed between the Grand Trunk Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway, and that there was no danger of any war of rates taking place in the future between these two corporations. They have settled the dispute to their own satisfaction; but, depend upon it, Mr. Speaker, the farmers and the workmen of this country will suffer in the future through that arrangement. It is highly satisfactory to these companies; because, in all probability, when they make a change, they will not place their rates before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council. I understand, from an answer that was given in the House the other day, that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have not yet submitted to the Railway Committee of the Privy Council the rates they charge on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway. It is true, that road may not be finished; but it is carrying a large amount of freight. I hold that every railway that receives a charter from this Government should be obliged to submit every change in its rates to the Railway Committee of the Privy Council for approval. In England, one benefit that has been derived from a railway commission is the preventing of the building of a larger number of railways than is required for the business of the country. In Great Britain no railway can be built until the question is brought before the railway commissioners, and afterwards before the Board of Trade, which makes a thorough investigation into the condition of the country through which the proposed road is to pass, and ascertains whether it is likely to take away business from railways already in operation or is required in the interest of the country. Strangers going to Great Britain have often remarked how very few leading railways there are in England and Scotland. It has been the policy there to have a few leading lines, with numerous feeders, and to have these railways carrying to their fullest extent; and this is a wise policy. Wherever you find a large number of railways in a country competing against each other, you find that, instead of lowering the rates, this condition of things tends to increase rates: for you have more railways than the business of the country re-

quires, and they cannot carry freight as cheaply as could a few railways running to their fullest capacity. We all know what a batch of petitions come every session from the province of Ontario for railway charters; and if these projected railways were built, many of them would compete with existing railways and render them less efficient than they are at present. Before we allow more railways to be built in the older sections of Canada, we should have a railway commission with authority to examine into the condition of the country proposed to be traversed, its settlement, its capability for settlement, and the necessity of further railway accommodation, and in this way prevent corporations getting charters and building railways beyond the business needs of the country. The farmers of Canada to-day are suffering, and suffering severely, at the hands of the railways. For instance, a farmer who deals in stock can get a rate from Chicago to St. John or Portland of 38 cents per 100 pounds, while the same rate will be charged from London to the same point. I know a farmer who shipped a car-load of cattle 190 miles to North Bay, and paid \$90. He shipped another car-load from the same locality in Ontario to 100 miles west of Chicago, a greater distance by 400 or 500 miles, and only paid \$60. Is it fair to the farmers and business men of this country that such differences should exist? Our millers in the province of Ontario for a length of time suffered gross injustice at the hands of the railway companies. They were paying 6½ cents per barrel more on flour brought into Ontario and transhipped to the maritime provinces than the millers of the North-west were charged. I will give a little of my own experience. I shipped apples to the old country: and because we had only the Grand Trunk Railway at Seaforth, we had to pay 5 cents per barrel more than was paid by shippers at Wingham and Ingersoll, where they have both the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway. That difference on a car-load of apples amounted to \$9; and we had to submit to that discrimination simply because we were living in a locality which had not railway competition. The grain rate from Chicago to Peterborough, by Owen Sound, is 6½ cents, while from Chatham to Peterborough, the Canadian farmer must pay 9½ cents. From Owen Sound to Toronto the rate on Canadian oats is 3½ cents a bushel, while the rate on American oats, including elevator and handling, is only 2½ cents a bushel. That is one of the clearest discriminations, as it is for the same freight over the same line. American corn from Owen Sound to Ottawa is 6½ cents, while Canadian corn from Chatham to Ottawa is 10 9-16 cents. At Teeswater, American corn is delivered from Owen Sound for 4½ cents per bushel, while the rate on Canadian corn from Chatham is 7½ cents. The rate on American corn from Owen Sound to Peterborough, 4½ cents a bushel, is a strong contrast to the rate of 9½ cents charg-

ed between Chatham and Peterborough. These are rates which a railway commission would have power to control.

The departure of a number of Canadian cattle-buyers to Chicago is another illustration of the effect of freight discriminations. The rate on cattle for export from Chicago to Montreal is 26 cents, and the rate is the same from London to Montreal, although the distance is 400 miles less. From Toronto to Montreal the rate is 18 cents, or perhaps in some instances 15 cents, which preserves the higher scale of charges against Canadian points.

“Globe,” April 24th, 1899:

Every railway question that crops up presents one more reason why an independent railway commission should be created. The Railway Committee of the Privy Council has shown by its recent action on the agreement between the Standard Oil Company and the railways that it has considerable powers, and that as at present composed it has the courage to exercise them. But, at the best, its powers are not sufficient, and its members are busy men whose attention can be called to that vast body of facts which we call the railway problem only occasionally. In this particular case it would have been a useful and influential thing if Parliament had before it a report from such a body giving reasons whether a charter to such a line as the Kettle Valley Railway should or should not be granted. A report in favour of the line, coming from a well-informed and independent source, would, we think, be practically conclusive on Parliament.

Let me say again, that the railway companies enforced, last fall, heavier rates upon oil coming from the United States into Canada. Here are some of the old rates, as compared with some of the new rates enforced last fall: From Toronto to Brampton, the old rate was 14 cents, and the new rate 22½ cents.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Is that for railway transportation?

Mr. McMILLAN. Yes, the rates imposed by the railway companies, last fall, under the dictation of the Standard Oil Company.

|                    | Old rate,<br>per<br>100 lbs. | New rate,<br>per<br>100 lbs. |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Toronto to—        | cts.                         | cts.                         |
| Brampton .....     | 14                           | 22½                          |
| Southampton .....  | 29                           | 40½                          |
| Port Hope.....     | 20                           | 28½                          |
| Orangeville .....  | 17                           | 27½                          |
| Peterborough ..... | 23                           | 34                           |

Here are increases, in some instances, close on to 50 per cent, and yet I guarantee that these railway companies did not lay their increased rates before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. They are liable to be called upon to refund every dollar paid.

Mr. McMILLAN. I hope they will be. Now, if it had not been for the fact, that we had one or two independent railways in On-

tario at the time these companies entered into that combine, depend upon it, the rates would have been put up all over the country. But there were one or two companies that would not join the combine.

Here are the rates that were charged by the railways, after the change took place, on oil from Hamilton, in barrels, less than car lots :

|                    | On<br>Canadian.<br>cts. | On<br>American.<br>cts. |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| To Ingersoll ..... | 18                      | 27                      |
| Woodstock .....    | 17                      | 25½                     |
| Berlin .....       | 18                      | 27                      |
| Harrisburg .....   | 11                      | 21                      |
| Copetown .....     | 9                       | 19½                     |
| Dunnville .....    | 15                      | 24                      |
| Beeton .....       | 20                      | 28½                     |
| Cookstown .....    | 21                      | 30                      |

You will understand, Sir, that the Canadian oil belonged entirely to the Standard Oil Company, and the American oil belonged to a few independent companies that were sending oil from the United States, and these rates I have quoted are the rates charged from Hamilton to the different towns mentioned. The arrangement I have just quoted is certainly one of the basest ever entered into by railway companies, and it was not from Hamilton alone that the rates were increased. From Toronto to adjacent points a similar policy of discrimination was adopted, as the following figures will show :—

|                  | On<br>Canadian.<br>cts. | On<br>American.<br>cts. |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| To Warton .....  | 24                      | 40½                     |
| Brockville ..... | 25                      | 47                      |

And so on. I shall not weary the House with any more quotations, because no doubt many hon. gentlemen have seen them. But I would ask, is it right that a corporation, which is crushing out all the opposition it can—a corporation such as the Standard Oil Company—should have full control of railway rates in this country? I say, it is too bad. That corporation, in the United States, offered one lawyer, in a case pending before the courts, \$400,000, if he would throw up the case against it. It offered another lawyer \$260,000, if he would not appear in a case against it. If a corporation of that description has got hold of all the oil refineries in this country, it is high time the Government took steps to prevent our railway corporations entering into a combine with it, and I hope the Government will take prompt and effective steps. The appointment of a railway commission, with full power to draw up their tariff of rates, would be a most effective step. In the first place, that commission should classify the goods to be carried, put them into separate classes, because the present classifications—and I have here a copy of both the Canadian and the American—are not properly made out.

Mr. McMILLAN.

One of the first things to be done would be, to insist on a regular and uniform system of book-keeping by these railway companies, so that we might be able to examine and understand their books. To-day you cannot get any two railway corporations in Canada that follow the same system; so that it is impossible even for an expert to get at the true condition of things by examining their books. These books are kept in such a manner by each company that its officials alone can understand them and nobody else. It was found necessary in the United States and it is equally necessary here, to insist that the railway companies should keep their books on a uniform system.

Although there is a great pressure of business upon the Government, I hope they will not fail to grapple with this question, because, the longer they delay doing so, the more difficult will be the task. The longer the Government delay in appointing a commission, the more difficult will that commission, when appointed, find it to settle these questions. We know that, when these corporations are uncontrolled for any length of time, they begin to think that they own the whole country. And just because these railway corporations are the largest in the country, they ought to be most under the control of the Government and the most amenable to a commission. I believe that it is the intention of the Government to create such a commission at an early day. At least, we were told so last year, and I hope the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) has not since changed his mind on that subject. I feel confident that he will not, and I believe that he made the statement he did in perfect good faith.

With regard to the benefits derived from the establishment of a railway commission in Great Britain, let me point out, that 103 cases were brought before that commission during the last year, and that, of these, a number were settled without going to trial, because the railway companies found that the commissioners were dealing justly with the people and the country, and that, if they pushed their cases further, they would lose their suits, and have to pay the expenses besides.

I must ask pardon of the House for having taken so long in dealing with this question, but it is one in which I feel deeply interested, and I have but another word to add. The hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) stated, the other day, that 10 per cent more is paid in transport rates on goods over our Canadian routes than over the American routes to the old country. Let me say, as a farmer, that it is the duty of this Government to make the cost of transportation from this country just as low as possible. As long as the city of Montreal charges wharfage and harbour dues, vessels going there can never compete with vessels going to New York and Boston, where neither harbour dues nor freightage of any kind is charged.

I would say to the Government, whatever may be the condition of the harbour of Montreal, we want a great national harbour. By all means, have these anomalies removed, so that freight passing through Montreal may not have these burdens to bear, but may pass through as cheaply and as easily as through the ports of the United States; and I, for one, will be ready to uphold the Government in assuming that position. This is the time for the Government to strike, and I hope they will strike effectively.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). This is not a new question in the House of Commons of Canada. I think that a dozen years or so ago this same question of the appointment of a railway commission came before us, introduced by the late hon. member for North Simcoe, Mr. Dalton McCarthy. I can remember the circumstances connected with the effort made at that time. I remember that a deputation came down from all parts of the province of Ontario, and probably from other portions of the Dominion, a deputation so numerous as to fill this Commons Chamber. But this was not a deputation to promote the formation of a railway commission, though I will venture to say that a majority of those who composed it were in their hearts in favour of such a commission; but they came down at the direct instigation and at the expense of the railroad companies in order to protest against the appointment of a railway commission. They succeeded at that time in burking the question. If I remember correctly, the appointment of the Railway Committee of the Privy Council was the outcome of that agitation and the attempted solution of the problem at that time. But, Mr. Speaker, while the work of the Railway Committee of the Privy Council has been admirable in many respects, while it is a court that has many features to recommend it—for it does not require that those who have complaints shall appear by counsel, nor are its proceedings expensive, but any aggrieved person can go and state his case—yet it must be admitted by every one who has looked into the question that that committee has fallen far short of the solution of the problems which come before the community and which a railway commission such as is proposed would be able to solve. A railway commission would have many advantages. In the first place, every person would not be compelled, as now, to come to the city of Ottawa in order to present his case. Difficulties are arising in British Columbia, in Nova Scotia, in New Brunswick, in Manitoba and the North-west Territories; and the railway commission would visit the points where the grievances exist, examine into the conditions there, and find a solution for the problems presented. The Railway Committee of the Privy Council cannot do that, and so they cannot be and are not as effective a court in solving the difficulties presented as a railway com-

mission would be. But, Sir, beyond that, what has been the history of the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, under both political parties and both Governments? I think I am quite safe in saying that they have not attempted to solve the question of freight rates; or, if they have, they have done so in a very limited degree indeed. The question of freight rates is a question of the greatest importance. It has been charged against the railroads that they will carry foreign freight through Canada twice the distance that they carry Canadian freight and at the same figure as they charge for the Canadian freight or even at a lower price, thus doing an injustice, an actual injury to the Canadian farmer, manufacturer or producer who has to compete with foreign rivals thus favoured. I contend, Sir, that under such circumstances, the railway company should be called upon to appear before a tribunal—not one that would do them an injustice, for I do not apprehend that the railway commission appointed would do an injustice or wrong to the railway companies—to answer for their conduct. The members of that railway commission would have a judicial duty to perform, and they would be men who had acquired all the technical knowledge necessary to enable them to understand fully the questions coming before them. It was proposed, I think, in the old days that there should be a lawyer—or two lawyers, perhaps, and a business man.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. A man of common sense.

Mr. WALLACE. Yes, a man of common sense. But, Sir, I do not know that the presence of a lawyer would be needed. The members should be men who understand the problems, who have studied the position of affairs, who have an acquaintance with the business of the country, and would recognize the business conditions in the various localities, and would give an honest and straight interpretation of the law and one that would prevent Canadian interests from being sacrificed at the desire of foreign interests. We find that every large railway in this country has branch lines in the United States and connections with the railroads of that country. The Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk Railways have large portions of their lines in the United States. And so we have practically no control over these railroads. Now, on the other side of the line there is an Interstate Commerce Commission, a railway commission somewhat like that which we propose to have for ourselves. That commission has control over the American portion of the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific. They also, we are told, control, in a sense, their operations on the Canadian side of the boundary. But there is no efficient control or protection of Canadian interests. The appointment of this commission would protect our Cana-

dian interests where conflicts arise in this regard. But there is another important matter, one that I conceive to be of great interest to Canadians. If there was a necessity a dozen or more years ago for the appointment of a railway commission—and I believe there was; I voted for it at that time, and I have never seen any reason to change my views on the matter—there is still greater necessity to-day. We find, Sir, that in the United States, and also invading this side, there are combinations that are inimical and injurious to the best interests of the people of this country. Take an example; it is only one, but it is the greatest and most dangerous of them all—the Standard Oil Company. That company to-day assumes to dictate to the railroads of this country. The railroads need protection against such an enormous monopoly as the Standard Oil Company. If the railways are not strong enough to fight these monopolies themselves, then we should have a railway commission to investigate such complaints as that we heard the other day. What was it? It was that this Standard Oil Company were compelling the railroad companies—we will assume that they were compelling them against their will—at any rate, they were causing the railroad companies to give them a better rate in Canada than was given to other forwarders for precisely the same article—coal oil.

Well, that, of course, is directly contrary to all rules of fair-play in business. By the law of the country, by the common law, every forwarder, every man who is doing business, has a right to the same treatment, and the laws of the land presumably give him the same treatment and the same fair-play that others receive. But this Standard Oil Company have undertaken to control business affairs in Canada as they are doing in the United States. We require a commission to-day, we require power, an effective power which the Railway Committee of the Privy Council does not possess, or if they possess it, they do not exercise it, in combatting the influence of all such combinations which are injurious to the progress and the prosperity of the country. I say, then, that I cordially approve of the proposal made by the hon. member who has brought this matter before the House. If a commission be appointed they will become thoroughly versed in all the business conditions in every portion of Canada, because that will be their duty. Every one who had a grievance would come before them with the knowledge that they would give it the most careful and exhaustive consideration, and would give justice to those who are aggrieved. The railroad companies themselves would be protected against those who are to-day presenting a pistol to their heads. The railroad companies, in their hostilities with one another, would have to come before this commission, and justice would be done to them in the difficulties that from time to time arise. I do not see to-day,

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Mr. Speaker, any objection that can be validly urged against the appointment of this railway commission with the view of giving justice to those who have been oppressed, if they have been oppressed, as we are told they are, by the exorbitant charges of the railroads, where such charges would not be justified. The Railway Committee of the Privy Council has in the past and has to-day, utterly failed to grapple with this subject; they have not regarded it as a portion of their business, and I say it is therefore the more imperative that this commission should be appointed in order that the interests of every portion of the people may be protected.

Mr. J. ROSS ROBERTSON (East Toronto). From a reading of the motion of the non-member for Macdonald (Mr. Rutherford), I did not gather that he proposed to discuss the question of a railroad commission from the standpoint of Government ownership. The discussion of the question from that point of view would, to my mind, be useless, simply from the fact that such a proposition is neither feasible nor within the range of practical politics. I think, however, that his remarks concerning the Conservative party are just worth a reference. The hon. gentleman speaks of what the history of the Conservative has been, of how little the Conservative party has done in this country for the workingmen. All I can say is that it is to the Conservative party that the workingmen of this country owe all that they have got. If it had not been for the action and policy of the Conservative party, there would be no workingmen in this country. The hon. gentleman talks about the man who works ten hours a day being the backbone of the country. All I can say is that the hon. gentleman will have an opportunity shortly, in connection with the Bill of my hon. friend the member for London (Mr. Beattie), to vote in favour of a service of eight hours a day for the workingman, as is proposed by that Bill. I do not think, however, that the hon. member for Macdonald has said a word too much as to the evils which the unchecked supremacy of the two great railways, yes, all the railways, has inflicted upon the people of this country. I must also compliment my hon. friend from South Huron (Mr. McMillan) for the capital presentation of the case, from his point of view, that he made in his speech this afternoon. There is not a member in this House, Mr. Speaker, who is more in sympathy with the people of western Canada than I am. In fact, I saw the future metropolis of western Canada before any of the hon. members who now sit in this House. I surveyed the town site of Winnipeg—I do not mean that I surveyed it with the theodolite of a surveyor, I surveyed it through the barred windows of old Fort Garry, during the historic winter of 1870. Therefore, I have some associations which make me the friend of the people of western Canada; and I would

like to tell the betrayed and deluded people west of Lake Superior that I think they will be a long time looking for the blessings they expect from the creation of a railway commission. People talk about a railway commission and railway commissioners as if there were some magic almost divine in the name. Pretty much the same sort of talk used to be heard in favour of a change of Government. The country was groaning, and is for that matter groaning to this day, under the tyranny of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the country was told to look for deliverance to the Liberal party. The country finally took the Liberal party at its word, and the country is still looking for deliverance. I do not know how much truth there is in the statement that the friends of the Canadian Pacific Railway were included and the enemies of the Canadian Pacific Railway were excluded from the present Government; but I do know that Sir William Van Horne must be a mighty hard man to please if he is not pleased with the conduct of the present Government. I must qualify that statement, however, by admitting that the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) has shown some desire to put the interests of this country ahead of the interests of the Canadian Pacific Railway in his management of the Intercolonial. I listened yesterday afternoon with a great deal of pleasure to the remarks which he made at the Railway Committee, in connection with the location of railway stations on the Canadian Pacific Railway route, and to his expressed determination to put the law, so far as the Government could put it, in force with regard to selecting those stations. I only hope that the hon. gentleman's words will materialize, that some day we will have a practical proof that he means what he says, and that the Government will exercise this power. I hope that the hon. gentleman will not backslide but that he will stick, and if he only follows up the words that he uttered yesterday in the Railway Committee, I can tell him that he will have the entire people of this country at his back. However, I wish to say that the Government has not shown in its dealings with the Canadian Pacific Railway that strength which the country had a right to expect. A commission appointed by the Government would be no stronger than the Government, and a commission as weak as this Government is in its dealings with the railway companies, would not be worth its salary. People who thought that the railroads could be controlled by changing the position of parties in this House, were mistaken; and if the hon. member for Macdonald thinks that the railways can be controlled by any commission which his section of the Liberal party may appoint, all I can say is that I do not share his faith. A railway commission without energy would be as useful as a boiler without steam. A commission could only get its vigour from the character of the Govern-

ment that created it, and a commission which partook of the characteristics of the present Government, would neither be energetic or useful to the public.

I am opposed, Mr. Speaker, to the resolution at the present time, because, I believe, that the people of western Canada will get more justice from the railways if the Government is not allowed to stand behind a commission. A commission would be a mere buffer to keep the Government leaders from being jarred by the anger of the people whom it would refuse to protect. There are good reasons why many hon. gentlemen in this House should have little faith in any commission appointed by the present Government. The Government had its chance to serve the country in connection with the Crow's Nest Pass matter, in which it practically surrendered to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, instead of compelling the Canadian Pacific Railway to surrender to it. The Canadians in southern British Columbia asked this Government for the right to have a railway built without any expense to this country and this Government, which is going to cure all the ills with a railway commission, had not the courage to frame a policy of justice for the handful of Canadians who were at the mercy of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. I need not recall the behaviour of the hon. Minister of Justice, who shilly-shallied until there was no chance of fixing the responsibility for the fate of the young Canadians who were done to death on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway. These are the facts that make me extremely dubious as to the value of any commission which this Government might appoint. I do not share the opinion of the hon. member for Macdonald (Mr. Rutherford) as to the blessings that would follow the creation of a commission. The form without the substance is nothing and my fear is that the hon. gentleman's friends would give the country the form of a commission which would lack the courage and public zeal which alone could make a commission useful. There is danger, also, Mr. Speaker, that all this talk about a commission may blind the eyes of the people of Canada, in the east and the west, to the possibility that their chance of getting an independent road from Winnipeg to Lake Superior is being frittered away. The hon. member for Macdonald, perhaps, might allow his railway commission idea to rest until he assures himself that these deals of Mackenzie & Mann, for the Rainy River Railway and for the South-eastern Railway, are not deals with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company; I know all about the theory that Mackenzie & Mann are independent of the Canadian Pacific Railway, but, Mr. Speaker, I do not take any stock in that theory. What I want to know is: Why the Canadian Pacific Railway Company should be so indifferent to the many designs of Mackenzie & Mann and so hostile to the one design of Corbin? Now, if Mackenzie

& Mann are not the agents or allies of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. they must be dangerous rivals of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Certainly, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has more to fear from the many projects of Mackenzie & Mann than from the one little project of Corbin in the Kettle River Valley. But there are no signs of Canadian Pacific Railways hostility to the designs of Mackenzie & Mann. No, Mr. Speaker, the Government winks the other eye, and suggests that all these subsidies to Mackenzie & Mann are part of a clever design to cinch the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is strange that the Canadian Pacific Railway does not seem to be afraid of being cinched by Mackenzie & Mann, but, when Corbin proposes to cinch the Canadian Pacific Railway at one point on the Kettle River Valley, its agents camp out in the lobbies and corridors of the House, and Van Horne and Shaughnessy come and camp out in the Railway Committee room as if they owned the whole place. But all these Canadian Pacific Railway influences are quite indifferent to Mackenzie & Mann's schemes. The meaning of this, Mr. Speaker, is very plain, and is practically found in the fact that the Canadian Pacific Railway and Mackenzie & Mann are working together and when they have drawn all the subsidies in sight, it is the country and not the Canadian Pacific Railway that will be cinched. I yield to no member of this House in my desire to see the people of Canada get fair-play from the railways, but I am not going to support this resolution, at the present time. The appointment of a commission would enable the railway lawyers to practice a new sort of law; I do not know whether any of these railway lawyers would be of the same sort as was referred to by the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan), but it will not save the people of the west from practising the old sort of economy. There is law enough; and there is machinery enough at the present time. The people of the west should insist that this law and this machinery should be used for their protection. I am open to conviction in this matter, and when the Government shows itself strong enough to disagree with the Canadian Pacific Railway in connection with the Kettle River Valley question, I will be tempted to believe in the value of any commission that they might appoint, but, on the evidence in sight, I believe that a sub-committee of the Canadian Pacific Railway brakemen would be as useful to the people of the west as any commission they are likely to get from their representatives in the present Government.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar). I do not think I need offer any excuse for making some remarks upon this subject. I, myself, have a motion on the Order paper calling for a commission of a somewhat different character from this, it is true, but my view is that probably such a commission as that which is now called for might, if sufficiently

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expert, prosecute the inquiry designed by my motion. The importance of the transportation question cannot be emphasized too much in this country. In my belief it overshadows the tariff and all other questions before the people at the present time. I am free to confess that, in my opinion, there exists a great amount of popular ignorance in regard to the real bearing of the transportation question, and I would urge hon. members to make a careful study of it, and, in doing so, I would ask that they should read the speech delivered by the Hon. Edward Blake on the 17th of June, 1885, in regard to the Canadian Pacific Railway. It was my intention to have read considerable extracts from that speech, but time will preclude my doing so in connection with this motion. I propose, Mr. Speaker, to give a few facts with regard to the transportation question, in the country, in order that hon. members may see how it has been handled for the last twenty years and how farcical has been the railway policy of the Government during that time. Take, for instance, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, our great transcontinental highway. We find that the country gave that corporation \$25,000,000 in cash and \$35,000,000 worth of completed railway. In addition to that, we gave them 25,000,000 acres of land, one-quarter of which, according to their own report, has been sold for some \$17,000,000. If we multiply that by four we will find that they obtained land in value equal to \$75,000,000. We have, therefore, given that corporation \$135,000,000, or its approximate value, and their own estimate, as to the cost of this railway, was \$91,500,000; so that, you will see, according to their own estimate, the country has presented them with their railway and given a large bonus into the bargain. In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, this company received large amounts in other bonuses, and the Government also gave a monopoly to them of the railway business of the North-west. Hon. gentlemen will recall the struggle that the people of Manitoba had in order to secure their rights in that connection. The Government of the day placed in their charter what is known as the "10 per cent clause," which provides that, until 10 per cent has been earned on the capital actually expended on the railway, the Government should have no control over the rates. The motion that I have placed on the Order paper has reference to that 10 per cent clause. I want to know, Sir, what the Canadian Pacific Railway actually cost. As you are aware, a construction company was formed, and, according to their book-keeping, the nominal cost of the road was enormously enhanced. I want to know whether the \$135,000,000, in lands and cash and completed road, given by the people of this country, should be considered as part of the capital actually expended on that railroad. I, for one, claim, that it should not be so considered, and the object of my motion is to

have experts appointed, in order that they may go into the entire transaction, from start to finish, and let the country know what the actual cost of that railway was, so that the Government may have some chance of securing control over the rates, as it is my belief that the company now earns more than ten per cent upon the capital actually expended by it. Now, if the Government cannot control the rates on the Canadian Pacific Railway, of what value will a railway commission be, so far as it affects the Canadian Pacific Railway? We cannot, at the present time, give the commission power to control these rates, so that hon. gentlemen will see it is very essential that the inquiry which I propose to move for, should be gone on with.

In addition to the enormous subsidies which we gave to the Canadian Pacific Railway, we gave them the privilege of "stocking" their road to the extent of some \$65,000,000. The House probably knows, or if it does not know, I propose to tell it, that the amount realized from these issues of stock did not average more than 25 per cent of the par value of said stock. The members of the syndicate which was then formed, paid themselves as high as 6 per cent per year on the par value of this stock for which they had only paid 25 per cent on the dollar when they allotted it to themselves. In this way they actually paid themselves out of the proceeds as high as 24 per cent on the amount they paid. Let me read for the benefit of the House, an extract from the Sessional Papers 31, vol. ix., 1884, which shows what members of the syndicate and other stock-holders realized in five years, out of the \$20,000,000 issued on August 17th, 1881:

| Name.              | No. of Shares. | Par Value. | Amt. actually paid. | Dividends received in 5 yrs. |
|--------------------|----------------|------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
|                    |                | \$         | \$                  | \$                           |
| Geo. Stephen.      | 23,411         | 2,341,100  | 585,275             | 652,330                      |
| Duncan McIntyre .. | 975            | 97,500     | 24,375              | 29,200                       |
| R. B. Angus..      | 19,509         | 1,950,900  | 487,725             | 585,270                      |

Others to whom stock was allotted realized on the same basis.

All these men realized in five years more than they actually paid for the stock, so that you will see, Mr. Speaker, that we are not under any very great debt of gratitude to these people for taking up the construction of this road.

Notwithstanding the fact, that the people of Canada gave to this company in cash, completed railway and lands, an estimated amount of \$135,000,000, let me present to the House a few figures to show what the Canadian Pacific Railway have done in return for, Canadians, and also to show how they have discriminated in favour of the

people of the United States, as against the people of Canada. A few months ago I sent down to St. Paul for the latest freight tariffs on the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Sault Ste. Marie Railway, and I also got the rates of the Canadian Pacific Railway, in order to make a comparison. Hon. gentlemen probably know, that the Canadian Pacific Railway owns what is known as the Soo Line, which runs through Michigan and Minnesota, connecting with the Canadian Pacific Railway at the south end of Lake Superior. Let me give this comparison of the rates.

The distance from Montreal to Winnipeg is the same as from New York to Minneapolis, and here are the latest Canadian Pacific freight rates for these respective hauls.

First-class freight from Montreal to Winnipeg, via the Canadian Pacific Railway, \$1.98 per 100 pounds; the same from Minneapolis to New York, via the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Sault Ste. Marie and New York Central, \$1.05 per 100 pounds.

On second-class freight over the Canadian road they charge the people of the Dominion \$1.70 per 100 pounds, and they carry it for the people of the United States for 91 cents per 100 pounds.

On third-class freight they charge the people of the Dominion of Canada, who practically paid for the railway, \$1.35 per 100 pounds, and they carry it for the people of the United States, who contributed not one penny towards the construction of the road, for 70 cents per 100 pounds.

On fourth-class freight they charge the people of Canada \$1.05 per 100 pounds, and they charge the people of the United States 49 cents.

On fifth-class freight they charge the people of the Dominion of Canada 88 cents per 100 pounds, and they charge the people of the United States 42 cents per 100 pounds.

You will see, Mr. Speaker, that, notwithstanding the fact, that the people of Canada have practically paid dollar for dollar of the entire value of this railway, yet the Canadian Pacific Railway is charging the Canadian people almost double the rate that they charge the people of the United States for carrying their freight over the same distance. It seems to me, that such a state of affairs ought to emphasize to this House the fact that the railway policy pursued in this country is certainly not satisfactory to the people, and that, if any control can be exercised over these railroads, it would be in the interest of the people that it should be done.

The hon. member for Macdonald (Mr. Rutherford) takes the view, that government control of Canadian roads is out of the question. On that point I differ from the hon. gentleman. We hear from time to time the statement, that government would never exercise proper control over railways, and could not manage them to the satisfaction of the people of the country; and, as an

evidence of this contention, we are pointed to the Intercolonial Railway. It is quite true, that the Intercolonial Railway has not been a success; but is not that largely due to the fact that it is a political and not a commercial railway? Surely, Mr. Speaker, we have in the Dominion of Canada men who are sufficiently able, honest and shrewd to manage and administer our railways in the interest of the country. Are we obliged to confess, that we have not sufficient honesty and ability in our whole Dominion to properly manage our railroads? Take the experience of Belgium, and of the Australasian colonies, and of other countries, where government ownership has been in existence for some time, and you find that the railways in these countries very often carry passengers at 1 cent per mile, that their freight rates are very low indeed, and yet these railroads are paying institutions. In Germany, I understand that the annual revenue is something like \$25,000,000, showing a handsome profit. It seems to me, therefore, that it would be in the interest of the country, that the present Government should reverse the existing railroad policy. It is high time that the policy by which this country pays sufficient money to entirely build the railroads, and by which these roads are then handed over to private persons, should be put an end to. It is in that view, and in order to lay before this House some facts that I believe to be important, that I have placed my motion on the Order paper. Take the case of the Manitoba and North-western Railway. The cost of that railway was something like \$3,000,000, and it has a debt at the present time, approximately, of \$11,000,000. Take, also, the case of the Hudson Bay Railway, 40 miles of which were constructed within the province of Manitoba a number of years ago, and for which the province of Manitoba was jockeyed out of \$256,000. The same policy has been pursued with regard to the Qu'Appelle and Long Lake Railway. On this subject let me quote from a pamphlet published by Mr. Willison, the editor of the Toronto "Globe":

The history of the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway is faithful to the details of American railway methods. More than \$3,500,000 was received from the sale of bonds. The road cost for construction and commissions, and disbursements in connection with the sale of bonds, probably \$2,500,000. Rolling stock and terminus were supplied by the Canadian Pacific. The road received also a land grant of 1,400,000 acres and a cash subsidy of \$80,000 a year. It was leased for six years to the Canadian Pacific, without rental, and this lease has just been renewed. But the original promoters got a million or two out of the speculation.

With regard to the Calgary and Edmonton Railway, let me quote a few figures:

The cost of the road, according to the company's own figures, has been \$3,717,882, or \$13,000 a mile. Actually, however, the construction did not cost more than \$7,000 a mile. The road-bed

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is now in very poor condition. At this rate the total cost was \$2,065,000. Over against this is a bonded debt of five and a half millions, and the 1,888,000 acres of land grant.

And so you see, Mr. Speaker, the carnival continues. The railway exploiters are more clever to-day than they have been in past years. They obtain bonuses from the provincial governments and from the Dominion Government; they do not let their right hand know what their left hand does, and in that way they are able to secure, and have in some cases secured, more than the entire cost of the railway; and then they place large fixed charges upon it, which the country is obliged to pay for in the form of high freight rates.

It seems to me, Sir, that it is time there was a reversal of that policy. We are liable to have it repeated in connection with the Rainy River Railway; and I want to emphasize, in all solemnity, this point, in order that the Government may realize exactly the feeling of the people of the North-west in regard to that enterprise. At the present time the Canadian Pacific Railway controls the only outlet on Canadian territory from the North-west to Lake Superior. Now, it is proposed to build another line to be known as the Rainy River Railway. A portion eastward from Winnipeg has been built, and the Ontario Government has granted \$4,000 per mile to assist the construction of a section from the Port Arthur, Duluth and Western up to the mouth of Rainy River, where it is proposed to connect with the Winnipeg and South-eastern, now under construction. The promoters of this railway, who have a promise of \$4,000 per mile from the Ontario Government, are now after the Federal Government for a further bonus of \$6,400 per mile. I myself was asked recently to join a deputation to urge that that amount of money be granted, and a member of the delegation informed me that it was the intention of the Manitoba Government to give some \$4,000 per mile on the same section of 280 miles. If that is done, there will be an aggregate bonus to this railway, granted by these three Governments, of \$14,400 per mile. Some people tell me that this is quite ample to build the railway. On that point I know nothing; but I would say to the Government that the country, and particularly the people of the North-west, will hold the Government responsible to see that that railway is built under proper auspices. When we do get that railway built, what is its position going to be? If it is to be owned by a private company, the Government will exercise no authority over it, and the company can either sell out to the Canadian Pacific Railway or make a working arrangement under which the people of the North-west will have their interests completely sacrificed and will suffer just as much as formerly. I want to call the attention of the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) to what I am about to say. I, for one, was delighted to hear the remarks that hon. Min-

ister made yesterday morning in the Railway Committee. It was satisfactory to hear him speak so strongly and independently and fearlessly of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway as he did on that occasion. When the subject of this very Rainy River Railway was before the House last session, the hon. Minister of Railways made a speech from which I may be allowed to read an extract :

I confess to you that I myself am not very much enamoured of the sufficiency of the machinery, of the sufficiency of the power, which can be exercised by the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, or by the Governor General in Council. \* \* \* The hon. gentleman (Mr. Maclean) has said, why does not the Minister of Railways consent to a clause being inserted in this Bill that this railway shall not pass into the hands of the Canadian Pacific Railway? Well, Mr. Speaker, I will tell you why. Not that I would not very much regret seeing this railway, if it becomes, as is hoped, an important trunk line in the future, pass under the control of the Canadian Pacific Railway; but I am not at this moment really able to advise this House as to what kind of words, or what sort of a section could be framed which would prevent the Canadian Pacific Railway from acquiring this road. I wonder how you would go to work to do it. Would you say that the persons who shall invest their money in this enterprise shall not sell their stock or their bonds to anybody who might be acting in the interests of the Canadian Pacific Railway? The only way you could do that would be to say that they shall never sell their stock or bonds at all—that the stock or bonds shall never pass out of the hands of the people who invest in them, and that no person who is, or is likely to be, directly or indirectly subject to the control of the Canadian Pacific Railway shall invest a dollar in this enterprise. Would you not make yourself entirely ridiculous by inserting any such clause in the Bill? If the hon. gentleman cannot come any nearer to a solution than that, he will have to leave things as they are, and run the possible risk of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company buying up those interests. You will have to submit to that contingency, so far as I can see; and no provision that we can incorporate in any law is capable of avoiding it. I would be as averse to the Canadian Pacific Railway getting control of this railway as the hon. gentleman. I am willing to give them fair-play; I think they are entitled to fair-play; but I do not like to see them picking up every little railroad that may be constructed in Canada any more than the hon. gentleman does.

So you see we have the clear declaration made on the floor of this House by the Minister of Railways himself, that he knows of no way under heaven by which the interests of the people can be protected so long as this railroad shall be in the hands of a private company. If that is the case, does it not occur to you and to the Government and to the members of this House, that if there is no other way to control this important railroad—a railroad which is to carry the commerce of that country in the future, or at least to share it with the Canadian Pacific Railway—the Government of the Dominion should make overtures to the Gov-

ernment of Ontario and the Government of Manitoba, and invite them to come forward and join in constructing and owning this important link for themselves? That seems to me to be the only solution of this difficulty. There is no object in building a railroad to compete, for experience in both Canada, the United States and other countries, has shown that competing railroads do not compete, but that the moment they find it to their interest, they put their heads together and make a working arrangement by which the benefits of competition are destroyed. But in addition to that, inasmuch as the country pays for these railways the country has got to bear the extra burden in freight rates. In my opinion, it would be better for the people if the Government were to pay the Canadian Pacific Railway a certain amount in cash and obtain a reduction in rates, because if we build the other road we have to pay for it, and in addition we will have to maintain the staff that runs the road. There is no way in which the Government can avoid responsibility in this matter, and I am here to declare, in the name of the people of Manitoba and the North-west, that they propose to hold the Government responsible. I feel quite warm on this question, because it is one of the greatest importance to the people of that country, who have suffered probably as no other people in any other country have suffered by virtue of the high freight rates and the manner in which they have been treated by the railways in the past. They have endured this treatment until finally patience has ceased to be a virtue, and the country is thoroughly aroused, and intends that if possible a new order of things shall be brought about. While not demanding that the Government shall immediately proceed to own and control all the railways, I believe that it is the firm conviction of 90 per cent of the people of that country that the Government should at least take control of this important link, because if we own that line from Winnipeg to the head of the lakes, nine-tenths of the trade that goes into or out of that country will go via the lakes, and we will then have competition with the Canadian Pacific Railway from the western plains to the east via rail and lake. I regard that as the most important piece of railway that will be constructed in this country for many years, and the Government has it within its power to protect us at this point. We look to the Government to do so, and the Government will be held responsible if the interests of the people are not protected.

With regard to the creation of a railway commission, I do not propose to take up any time discussing that question, but will content myself with reading a brief extract from the last report of the Interstate Commerce Commission presented at Washington. The report declares that the situation has become intolerable, both from the standpoint

of the public and the carriers. What this situation is they describe partly as follows:—

Tariffs are disregarded, discriminations constantly occurred, and the price at which transportation can be obtained is fluctuating and uncertain. Railroad managers are distrustful of each other, and shippers all the while in doubt as to the rates secured by their competitors. The volume of traffic is so unusual as frequently to exceed the capacity of equipment, yet the contest for tonnage seems never relaxed. Enormous sums are spent in purchasing business, and secret rates accorded far below the standard of published charges. The general public gets little benefit from these reductions, for concessions are mainly confined to the heavier shippers. All this augments the advantages of the large capital and tends to the injury and often to the ruin of small dealers. These are not only matters of gravest consequence to the business welfare of the country, but they concern in more or less degree the higher interest of public morality.

Again :

A large part of the railway business is now transacted upon illegal rates, and in certain quarters charging the published is the exception. The results are gross discriminations between individuals and gross preferences between localities—which most always favour the strong and oppress the weak. Probably no one thing to-day does so much to force out the small operators and build up those trusts and monopolies, against which law and public opinion alike beat in vain, as discriminations in freight rates. A further result is that railroad business is carried on largely in conceded violation of law. This condition of the present law is powerless to control.

The Interstate Commerce Commission of the United States is one of the ablest bodies, I believe, on the North American continent, and if that body finds itself utterly unable to cope with the situation—

Mr. RUTHERFORD. In that same report is there not a suggestion that that commission be granted more power by Congress?

Mr. RICHARDSON. Exactly, and the railway companies contend that if the additional power asked for be granted, it will mean the practical confiscation and control by the Government of the railways of the country. That being the case, my hon. friend will agree that if this commission in the United States is unable to cope with the question, it is very doubtful if we can appoint a commission which will be able to cope with the same question in Canada. I am disposed to think that if the sentiments expressed by the Minister of Railways yesterday in committee should be carried out to the letter, we would go almost as far as if we appointed a commission, although, as I said at the outset, a commission such as my hon. friend from Macdonald (Mr. Rutherford) suggests might do very great good in ascertaining exactly where we are at by untangling all the tangles into which our railways have become twisted in the last twenty years.

It behooves every hon. member of this House to study this transportation question thoroughly, and I am satisfied that

Mr. RICHARDSON.

if they do they will come to the conclusion that it is high time something should be done. If the Interstate Commerce Commission in the United States is practically a failure, the natural assumption would be that it would not be a success in this country. So far as my own view goes, I feel that the only proper and satisfactory solution to the railway problem in the Dominion is for the Government to control our railways. I am not prepared to say at present that the Government should purchase all these railways now, but I am prepared to say that the time has come when the country should cease building railways and then presenting them to private individuals. The time has come when the Government should own the railways for which the country pays, and I believe the country is thoroughly alive on the question, and will hold the Government responsible for seeing that the country owns the railways for which the people pay.

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

### After Recess.

#### IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READING.

Bill (No. 17) respecting the Ottawa and Gatineau Railway Company.—(Mr. Champagne.)

#### RESTIGOUCHE BOOM COMPANY.

On the Order being called for :

Second reading Bill (No. 65) to incorporate the Restigouche Boom Company.—(Mr. McAllister.)

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I would ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. McAllister) to allow this Bill to stand. Some communications have been sent to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) about it, and he desires to have time to consider it.

#### SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 83) respecting the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway Company.—(Mr. Rutherford.)

Bill (No. 84) respecting the Quebec, Montmorency and Charlevoix Railway Company, and to change its name to "The Quebec Railway, Light and Power Company.—(Mr. Carroll.)

Bill (No. 92) respecting the Saskatchewan Railway and Mining Company.—(Mr. Landerkin.)

Bill (No. 93) to incorporate the Edmonton and Saskatchewan Railway Company.—(Mr. Oliver.)

Bill (No. 94) respecting the Yukon Mining, Trading and Transportation Company (Foreign).—(Mr. Morrison.)

Bill (No. 95) respecting the Lindsay, Haliburton and Mattawa Railway Company.—(Mr. Hughes.)

Bill (No. 96) respecting the Buffalo and Fort Erie Bridge Company.—(Mr. McCleary.)

Bill (No. 99) to incorporate the Canadian Mutual Benefit Advertising Company (Ltd.)—(Mr. McAlister.)

Bill (No. 104) respecting the Dominion Permanent Loan Company.—(Mr. Clarke.)

#### PUNISHMENT OF SEDUCTION AND ABDUCTION.

House resolved itself into Committee on Bill (No. 2) to amend the Criminal Code, 1892, so as to make more effectual provision for the punishment of seduction and abduction.—(Mr. Charlton.)

(In the Committee.)

On section 1,

Mr. CHARLTON. Mr. Chairman, one word upon the clause under consideration. I explained the character of this Bill briefly upon its second reading, and will do so more briefly on this occasion. The Bill simply provides for the raising of the age of consent from 16 years to 18 years. The law as contained in the Criminal Code, 1892, section 182, upon this matter, is as follows:—

Everyone is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two years' imprisonment who seduces and has illicit connection with any girl of previously chaste character, of or above the age of 14 years and under the age of 16 years.

If this Bill is adopted, the section will read: "Of or above the age of fourteen years and under the age of eighteen years." The word eighteen is substituted for the word sixteen in this section 182 of the Criminal Code. I do not know that it is necessary to enter at any length upon a discussion of this provision. The law as it at present stands has been upon the statute-book for some twelve or fourteen years. The law in its operation, I think, has given general satisfaction—at all events, to the lovers of morality and law and order; and the influence of the Bill has unquestionably been a salutary one in Canada. Last year a great number of petitions were received in this House from various societies representing moral and religious movements, in favour of the adoption of this provision, among other things petitioned for. The evidence of an overwhelming public sentiment in favour of this change in the Criminal Code was, I think, quite satisfactory. I imagine that there can be no question that the adoption of this change extending the age of consent from sixteen to eighteen years will meet the approbation of the Christian and moral people of this country. I am well aware that it may be objected to in some

cases, but I think the trend of sentiment is overwhelmingly in favour of the proposed change. There can be little or no doubt that the proposed change in the law is one in the public interest, in the interest of morality, in the highest interests of society in this country. It is not a feature of law that is novel or untried. It has been in operation in many countries. It has been in operation in the state of New York, with the limit of eighteen years, for a great number of years, and if in Canada the limit of sixteen has been satisfactory, I do not see that it can be very reasonably argued that an extension of that limit to eighteen years will not be equally satisfactory. Without detaining the House by entering at this stage, at all events, upon a full discussion of the merits of the matter, I move that that change in the law substituting eighteen years for sixteen as the limit of consent, be adopted.

Mr. CRAIG. I have pleasure in supporting this motion for this reason, that it is asked for by the women of the country. They have sent deputations here more than once asking for this change. Though they have no votes in this House, I think it only right that their opinions should be respected.

Mr. BRITTON. I do not intend to oppose the Bill as it stands; I only want to call the attention of the House to this state of things. There are several Bills before the House for the amendment of the Criminal Code. When a Bill of a somewhat more extensive character came before the House the other evening, it was suggested by the hon. junior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) that these Bills all be referred to a special committee to report upon; and I rather understood from the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), who was leading the House on that occasion, that that course commended itself to him. In another Bill this section is dealt with, not in the way the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) deals with it, but in other particulars an amendment is asked for in reference to that section. I just mention this fact, as it seems to me that perhaps it might be better to allow all these Bills to go together to a special committee to be dealt with, instead of amending the Criminal Code piecemeal in this way.

Mr. CHARLTON. I presume it would be better to adopt the course suggested by the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) if the desire was to defeat the Bill this session—that would simply be the effect. The provision presented to the House is not by any means a new one; it is not one of a character so novel that it requires consideration by a special committee. The whole principle of this Bill has been argued before this House year after year, and has been embodied in law. There is nothing very complex about the proposition, it is easy to understand the extension of a provision

raising the age of consent from sixteen to eighteen years. I certainly must protest against the idea of referring this Bill to a special committee, because it is a plain issue, it is not a difficult matter to understand at all, the House does not require the investigations of a special committee with regard to this provision. It is a proper thing, I imagine, either to approve or disapprove of the proposition, and I would rather have a decision now than to refer it to a special committee and wait for another year for the outcome of the affair.

Bill reported.

#### CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT.

Order called for resuming adjourned debate on the motion for the second reading of Bill (No. 36) to amend the Criminal Code.

Mr. BRITTON. I would be glad if we could advance this Bill a stage. Of course, I have not had any intimation myself as to the position the Government intend to take about it. If the hon. gentleman leading the Government consents to our going into committee—

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I would be glad to have the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) present when we consider this Bill. If my hon. friend will not object, I would ask him to allow it to stand.

Mr. BRITTON. Of course, he was present, the hon. gentleman will remember.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I know, but he wanted to make some remarks upon it.

Mr. BRITTON. I am afraid, then, it will not be reached this session.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I think it will.

#### NATURALIZATION OF ALIENS.

House resumed adjourned debate on motion for the second reading of Bill (No. 37) to amend the Naturalization Act.

Mr. McINNES. I may say with regard to that Bill that I have given notice that if it is allowed to pass its second reading when in committee, I will amend it in a way to make it meet with the approbation of the House, that is, to make the Bill solely applicable to the province of British Columbia. Upon that understanding, I would like very much if the Bill could receive its second reading.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). This matter has been under the special charge of the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), who is unfortunately unable to be present to-night. I will have to ask my hon. friend to allow it to stand until he appears.

Mr. CHARLTON.

Mr. SPEAKER. The motion stands.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). The House has been so industrious in despatching its business that it has gone through the whole Order paper, and unless we go into Committee of Supply we will have to adjourn. Mr. Speaker, I move the adjournment of the House.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). Mr. Speaker, before the House adjourns, I might say that I casually mentioned to the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries to-day, that an important piece of information had reached me, and that on the first available opportunity I would mention it to the Government, so that possibly, tomorrow, some information may be given on the subject. This is the information to which I refer, and I may say, that it is from the Canadian Development Company (Limited):

United States boats are allowed, without the slightest hindrance, to ply between Seattle and Skagway, calling at Victoria and Vancouver both, and passing through some 600 miles of British or Canadian waters, while this boat (a ship of British register), is obliged to stop at Mary Island, for an hour, to enter. Mary Island is, of course, an American port some 40 miles north of Port Simpson. In addition to entering the ship, a United States customs officer is placed on board, to whom meals and passage are provided free. The ship's bar is closed, and no one is allowed to enter. Now, why should not precisely the same regulations be enforced on all the American boats between Vancouver and Victoria or Port Simpson, and why should not they be made to land their officer there and clear thence for Skagway?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I would just ask my hon. friend, if it is not giving him too much trouble, to inclose a copy of that statement to the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries. I will call his attention to it, but it would be better that he should have the ipsissima verba of it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The matter relates more particularly to the Department of the hon. Minister of Customs, but I mentioned it to the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, because the hon. Minister of Customs is not in his place to-day when I spoke of it. I would like to say to the Treasury benches that this is not a spiteful suggestion or a proposed retaliation for what has been called a pin-pricking policy, but it is simply a suggestion that these restrictions, for which there does not seem any tremendous reason, might be examined into. If there is good reason for their careful protection of their waters, the same reason ought to apply to United States vessels coming through our waters and that such restrictions or precautions may be taken, the suggestion is made. I will be very happy to send to the Minister of Trade and Commerce the extract which I have read.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE**. I will draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries to the matter. Of course, my hon. friend will understand, that very often these things can be better arranged without a formal proceeding by communicating with the authorities at Washington. It is more likely to have been some interference on the part of some subordinate officers than in consequence of instructions from Washington.

Motion agreed, to and the House adjourned at 8.35 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 4th May, 1899.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

### PRAYERS.

**Mr. SPEAKER**. I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery the certificate of the Election Return of William H. Comstock, Esquire, for the Electoral District of Brockville.

### OFFICIAL DEBATES OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

**Mr. ELLIS** presented the Fourth Report of the Select Committee appointed to supervise the Official Debates of the House, as follows :—

Your Committee recommend that Mr. J. G. de la Durantaye be appointed to fill the vacancy on the staff of translators of the Official Report of the Debates, and that for this session he be paid for his services the sum of eight hundred dollars.

**Mr. ELLIS** moved :

That the fourth report of the Select Committee appointed to supervise the Official Debates of the House be now concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 106) to incorporate the Canadian Birkbeck Investment and Savings Company.—(Mr. Bertram.)

Bill (No. 107) respecting the Bedlington and Nelson Railway Company.—(Mr. McInnes.)

Bill (No. 108) respecting the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Pontiac, and to change the name to the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Pembroke.—(Mr. Guillet.)

### REVISION OF ELECTORAL LISTS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

**Mr. McINERNEY** (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

What suggestions or recommendations, if any, were made by this Government, or any person authorized by this Government, to the Government of New Brunswick concerning amendments to the Electoral Acts or Franchise Acts in force in that province ?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). In accordance with an understanding come to last session, the Prime Minister himself, communicated with the Prime Minister of New Brunswick to ask him to have the provincial Act amended so as to give an appeal to the court from the revision of the local officer.

### ELECTORAL LISTS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK.

**Mr. McINERNEY** asked :

When were the electoral lists for the various constituencies in New Brunswick received by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery ? Have any of such lists been printed ? If not, why not ? If not, is it the intention to have such lists printed, and if so, when ?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). With the exception of the electoral district of York, the voters' lists for 1899 for all the electoral districts of the province of New Brunswick have been received at various times between the latter part of December and the beginning of March by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, in accordance with the provisions of section 10 of the Franchise Act. None of them have been printed so far.

### FORWARDING OF REVISED VOTERS' LISTS.

**Mr. FOSTER** asked :

What officers and for what electoral districts were in default in sending in the revised voters' lists to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery at the proper time as defined in the Franchise Act ? Has the Government taken any action, and if so, what in regard to them ?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I have just given an answer to that question—the same thing as No. 4.

**Mr. FOSTER**. I beg to call the right hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that it is not the same as No. 4.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. No ; well, I am not in a position to give the answer to-day.

### ESQUIMALT AND NANAIMO RAILWAY—CLAIMS OF SETTLERS.

**Mr. McINNIS** asked :

1. Did the Government transmit to the British Columbia Government or communicate with them regarding the reports of Commissioner

Rothwell on the claims of certain settlers upon lands within the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway land belt on Vancouver Island? If so, when?

2. What reply, if any, has been received from the Government of British Columbia?

3. Are the said reports to be included in the Report of the Minister of the Interior for the year 1898?

4. Why was the Return to the Address passed by the House of Commons on March 14th, 1898, calling for said reports, and the evidence upon which they were based, not printed?

5. What further action does the Government propose to take with reference to the said claims?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). 1. Yes; by letter to the Provincial Secretary of date the 9th July, 1898, and by a despatch of the 28th November, 1898, to the Lieutenant-Governor. 2. An acknowledgment merely. 3. Yes. 4. Because the Joint Committee on Printing did not so recommend. 5. The Government has not decided as to the further action, if any, to be taken.

#### I. C. R.—EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL AND REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Mr. **POWELL** (by Mr. Taylor) asked:

1. What was the total amount of expenditure on capital in connection with the Intercolonial Railway and the extension thereof to Montreal from June 30th, 1898, exclusive, to the 1st day of May, 1899, exclusive?

2. What was the total revenue of the Intercolonial Railway and Montreal extension thereof from June 30th, 1898, exclusive, to the 1st day of May, 1899, exclusive?

3. What was the total expenditure charged to revenue account in connection with the Intercolonial Railway and Montreal extension thereof from June 30th, 1898, exclusive, to the 1st day of May, 1899, exclusive?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). It would not be possible to furnish the information in reply to a question. If the hon. gentleman would move for a return, I shall be glad to bring it down.

#### YUKON MINERS' GRIEVANCES—MR. OGILVIE'S INQUIRY.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** asked:

1. Does the Government know that the inquiry recently conducted by Mr. Ogilvie into certain grievances of miners in the Yukon territory has been concluded?

(a) If so, when was it concluded?

(b) Has Mr. Ogilvie's report on the same been received by the Government?

(c) What is the latest information the Government possesses which will indicate when the report will be ready to be laid before Parliament?

(d) Will this report be promptly laid on the Table of this House when it is received by the Government, or will the Government require a formal motion to be made to that effect?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). 1. No. (a) It is not known. (b) No. (c) The Government has no information indicating when the report will be ready. (d) The report will be laid upon the Table as

Mr. **McINNES**.

soon as is reasonably convenient after it is received.

#### RUPERTS' LAND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL—DISMISSAL OF MR. FAIRLIE.

Mr. **BOURASSA** asked:

Is Mr. Fairlie still principal of the Rupert's Land Industrial School, in the province of Manitoba? If not, has he resigned or has he been dismissed? If dismissed, was an inquiry held and what was the result of it?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). 1. No. 2. He has been dismissed. 3. Complaints of improper conduct of the principal in regard to pupils in the school having been received, an inquiry was held by the Indian Commissioner, Mr. Laird, who reported that it was not advisable to continue Mr. Fairlie in the position of principal.

#### GRENVILLE CANAL—COLLECTOR OF TOLLS.

Mr. **BERGERON** (by Mr. Taylor) asked:

1. Who was the collector of tolls on the Grenville Canal until 1896?

2. Has he been dismissed, and why?

3. Who has replaced him?

4. By whom recommended?

5. Is the present collector of tolls on the Grenville Canal the keeper of a general store, and is it with the permission of the Department of Railways and Canals that he does work in a store?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). 1. Alexander Pridham was collector of tolls on the Grenville Canal until 1896. 2. Yes, his services were dispensed with for political partisanship. 3. John Wade replaced him. 4. As the Government takes the responsibility of all its appointments it is not customary to state on whose advice it acted in selecting and appointing officials. 5. The collector made application to be permitted to keep store; but he was informed that it was contrary to the rules of the department, and he could not be allowed to do so. The department is not aware that he is doing so.

#### C.P.R. AND G.N.W. CENTRAL RAILWAY LINE FROM MCGREGOR'S STATION.

Mr. **ROCHE** asked:

1. Is the Government aware that a line of railway is being surveyed from a point on the Canadian Pacific Railway at or near McGregor station, to a point on the Great North-west Central Railway at or near Varcoe station?

2. Has any application been made to the Government, by either the Canadian Pacific Railway or the Great North-west Central Railway Company, for the approval of the Government for the location of a road on this line, and has any company power to construct such a line?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). The Government is not aware that a line of railway is being surveyed from a point on the Canadian Pacific

Railway at or near McGregor Station to a point on the Great North-west Central Railway at or near Varcoe Station. Neither the Canadian Pacific Railway Company nor the Great North-west Central Railway Company have made application for the approval of the Government for the location of a road on this line. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company, under their charter, have the power to construct branches (which power would cover this line).

#### I.C.R. SHOPS AT RIVIERE DU LOUP.

Mr. GAUVREAU asked :

Whether it is the intention of the Railway Department to effect a change in relation to the shops of the Intercolonial Railway at Rivière du Loup, by removing them to Lévis or elsewhere ?

If not, has the hon. Minister of Railways given orders for an extension of the shops with a view to rendering it possible to execute therein all necessary local repairs, and to increase the working staff in consequence ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The Government have not under consideration the question of removing the Intercolonial Railway workshops from Rivière du Loup to Lévis or elsewhere, nor is it intended to remove same from Rivière du Loup. The Minister has not given orders for an extension of the shops.

#### I.C.R.—SUPERINTENDENT MR. W. A. DUBE.

Mr. GAUVREAU asked :

1. Whether the Minister of Railways has had cognizance of the following notice issued by J. E. Price, general superintendent of the Intercolonial Railway :—

“ Intercolonial Railway,  
“ General Superintendent’s Office,  
“ Moncton, N.B., 25th April, 1899.

“ Circular No. 11.—To whom it may concern :  
Mr. W. A. Dubé has been appointed superintendent of the Montreal and St. Flavie district, and his office and headquarters will be at Lévis, P.Q. Effective on the 1st May, 1899.

“ Approved, J. E. PRICE,  
“ D. POTTINGER, General Superintendent.  
“ General Manager.”

2. If so, is the hon. Minister prepared to state why the said step has been taken, and why a change has been made in the headquarters of the superintendent which had been located at Rivière du Loup for the last 20 years ?

3. By this change of headquarters are the “ despatchers ” to be transferred from Rivière du Loup to Lévis now or hereafter ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). 1. The Minister has had cognizance of notice having been given that Mr. Dubé has been appointed superintendent of the Montreal and Ste. Flavie district, with headquarters at Lévis. 2. The extension to Montreal made it advisable and necessary to locate the headquarters of the superintendent at Lévis. 3. No arrangement has been made for the removal of the de-

spatchers’ offices to Lévis, nor is it at all probable that such transfer will take place unless it shall be found imperatively necessary in the interest of the railway service.

#### N.W.T.—SETTLERS FROM OLDER PROVINCES OF CANADA.

Mr. GILMOUR asked :

1. Is it the intention of the Government to make any grant or give any assistance to persons in the eastern provinces of Canada who desire to remove to the North-west Territories for the purpose of taking up their permanent abode there as settlers, and who, without such assistance are unable to remove or settle in the North-west Territories ?

2. Is it the intention of the Government to make any such grant or give any such assistance for the purpose of preventing the removal of such persons to the United States and for the purpose of retaining them as settlers in Canada ?

3. Is it the intention of the Government to afford the persons in the eastern provinces of Canada who desire to settle in the North-west Territories, any such aid or assistance, pecuniary or otherwise, for that purpose, as has been given or extended to the Galicians and Doukhobors during the past few years ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. It is not the present intention of the Government to adopt a new policy regarding the giving of assistance by way of grant to persons removing from one part of Canada to another. 2. When applications are made to the Government for grants or assistance with the view of preventing the removal of any persons from Canada to the United States, or for the purpose of retaining them as settlers in Canada, the Government will decide upon its policy with regard to the matter ; but the Government is not at present aware that there are any persons who desire to settle in the North-west Territories, but who are unable to do so without some assistance, and who otherwise are likely to remove to the United States. 3. Yes. It may be added that no distinction has been or will be made between different classes of settlers as to giving of assistance.

#### MISS ANNABELLA HUBERT, OF ARICHAT.

Mr. McDOUGALL asked :

Has the right hon. Prime Minister received a petition from Miss Annabella Hubert, of Arichat, N.S., about the month of September last, complaining of injury to her property at Arichat, N.S., and asking for Government investigation ; the following letter having been received by Miss Hubert :—

“ Ottawa, 7th February, 1898.

“ Madam,—I am requested by the Prime Minister to inform you that your favour of the 3rd instant will receive all due consideration.

“ Yours respectfully,

(Sgd.) “ RUDOLPH BOUDREAU,  
“ Miss Hubert. Private Secretary.”

Has this letter been authorized by the Prime Minister ? If so, has the matter received the

consideration of the Government, and if so, what is the result?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Yes, such a letter was received. The claim of Miss Hubert has been examined, but, so far, I am sorry to say, without any satisfactory result to her.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to draw the attention of the right hon. leader of the Government to a matter, that I think affects very materially the progress of the business of the House. The session is now in, I think, its fiftieth day since the opening, and I would like to ask the right hon. gentleman if he would lay on the Table of the House the only measure which has been mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, namely, the measure proposing to provide for a redistribution of the constituencies.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) was not in the House on Monday last when I announced the intention of the Government with regard to what should be the business from this time up to the end of the session. I then stated that the Government intended to bring down at an early day the redistribution Bill, and the Senate resolution, and I stated also, that those two measures would be introduced previously to the business now before the House being disposed of.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. I am afraid my right hon. friend has not quite comprehended me. I was quite aware of the statement which the right hon. gentleman made to the House on Monday, but what I wish to say is this: That on this fiftieth day of the session, the time has come when the progress of business in the House will be greatly promoted by promptly laying so important a measure as that upon the Table of the House. My right hon. friend will see that we would fail in discharging our duty upon this side of the House if we prevented the progress of public business, and allowed a measure of that importance to be brought before us in the last days of the session.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. I quite understand the hint given by my hon. friend, and I am happy to tell him, that the character of the measure which we will introduce with regard to redistribution will be such that there will be no cause whatever for obstruction.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. And, consequently, no cause why it should not be promptly laid upon the Table of the House.

#### THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY—RUMOUR-ED MODUS VIVENDI.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. I would like to draw the attention of my right hon. friend  
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to a matter of some importance which I see mentioned upon the news bulletin boards to-day, as a cable from London, expressing the opinion that Her Majesty's Government have arrived at an amicable arrangement with the Government of the United States in regard to a subject which my right hon. friend has mentioned to the House, namely, the modus vivendi touching the Alaskan boundary. I would like to ask whether that news is authentic?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The Government has received no instructions whatever to that effect.

#### THE BRITISH COLUMBIA ANTI-JAPANESE LEGISLATION.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. There is another matter to which I am sure the House would attach very great importance, and to which I wish to call the attention of the Government. About a month remains, I believe, within which the Government have the power to disallow the anti-Japanese legislation of British Columbia, passed in 1898, and I would like to ask my right hon. friend, if the Government has decided upon its policy with reference to this legislation.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I can inform my hon. friend, that the Government is at present expecting an answer to a despatch sent lately to the Imperial authorities.

#### FLOODS ON THE GRAND RIVER.

Mr. W. H. **MONTAGUE** (Haldimand). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Railways and Canals. Last session, I brought to his attention the subject of the dangerous floods at certain points along the Grand River, particularly those points where it was claimed, and, I think, very properly, that the floods were caused by the construction of Government works. The hon. gentleman promised then that an engineer would look into the matter, and I should like to know now whether the hon. gentleman has the report.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). I may say to my hon. friend, that I gave instructions in keeping with the statement I made to him. I have not seen the report, and, to be absolutely frank with him, other matters quite drove it out of my mind. I will inquire about it immediately.

#### YUKON LEGISLATION.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** (Picton). I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of the Interior to the provisions of the Yukon Territories Act, sections 7 and 8. The hon. Minister will remember, that, under section 7, the executive council

are required to report to him so soon as ordinances passed by the council have been adopted. Section 8 is the section referring to orders which may be approved by His Excellency in Council. As these two sections provide practically for an extension of legislation, I would like to ask him, if he would be good enough at an early day to lay upon the Table of the House such ordinances as he has received under section 7, and such Orders in Council as have been passed under section 8.

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). I shall be very happy to bring the papers down.

#### WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding):

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into Committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Mr. **GEO. E. FOSTER** (York, N.B.). Mr. Speaker, whatever the impartial critic may say as to the address which was read to us the other day by the Finance Minister—as to its merits as a Budget speech—I am quite sure he would be willing to award the palm of merit, such as it may be, to that speech as a campaign document. I would think it an invidious matter to criticise harshly the effort of my hon. and genial friend; but I think it would be rather a surprise in a British House of Commons to see the Chancellor of the Exchequer rise to make an exposition of the finances of the British Empire, the conditions of trade, and the like of that, and to do it with the spirit and the manner that characterized the address of the Finance Minister the day before yesterday. I am not going to cavil with a large part of the figures which were presented. I could not do that. They are taken from the public documents, which, happily, in our country are above reproach, and we accept them loyally on either side of the House as they are issued from the different departments. The figures which were given to show the commercial and industrial progress and development of Canada along different lines from 1868 up to the present time, are just as gratifying to this side of the House as they are to the other; and there is not the least disposition on my part, or on the part of any gentleman sitting on this side of the House to say one word which would detract from the splendid progress which Canada has made from the time of the inception of confederation, in 1868, up to the present time—a progress which has been material and substantial, no matter what Government has been in power; but a progress which has had its eras of greater and of less expansion, determined by conditions imposed by Parliament, and conditions im-

posed by the circumstances of the country. So far as that is concerned, I have no criticism to make. That Canada's trade to-day is at the highest point that it ever was, is a matter of pride to every Canadian; and may there not a year pass when the figures shall not have climbed yet higher by millions; or, if it happens, in the revolving cycles of depression and of progress, that these figures diminish, let it be that it shall be the result of world-wide causes rather than the result of mistakes in policy or in administration on the part of whatever may be the Government of the day.

While I have said that the speech to which we listened, was largely a campaign document, there are two characteristics of it which probably may be singled out for a moment's remark. In the first place, I think that address was the most complete and full apology that I ever heard a party in the Dominion of Canada make for past errors and past delinquencies. I think it will go down to history as the most complete recantation of the pledges, and the promises, and the policies propounded by these hon. gentlemen for eighteen years of political prominence in this country; a recantation which was as full and complete in these respects as it was lacking in one other essential respect—that candour which should have impelled gentlemen to confess that they were in error and made mistakes, instead of, while acknowledging the fact by making the recantation, absolutely doing it under the disguise of still keeping a consistent position. And, Sir, I could not help contrasting the period of 1896—to keep to somewhat modern history—with the period of 1899. I think the leaders of the Liberal party in this House will never be able to turn around to their followers, so long as they are constituted as they are to-day, and say to them: We have piped unto you, and you have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and you have not lamented. For I noticed that when these gentlemen, the leaders of the Liberal party, mourned unto them over the extravagance of the Government three years ago, over the additions to the public debt, over the continual increasing expenditure, over the burdensome mass of taxation, they, in concert, like docile followers lamented tearfully and well. And the day before yesterday, when the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) piped to them quite a different strain, they at once ecstatically, almost frantically, responded in a chorus of joyous assent. Why, the very same gentlemen who in 1896 applauded my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), when he stood on this side, and in reply to my presentation of the Budget, declared before high heaven and an awaiting electorate that it was absolutely monstrous that any Government should come down and ask for \$38,300,000 to be expended in a country like ours, equally applauded to the echo my hon. friend the

Minister of Finance when he declared the other evening his intention of asking for an appropriation four millions higher. I remember well the hearty, the impetuous, the ostentatious way in which in 1896 my hon. friend from North Wellington (Mr. McMullen)—and his expression is just as strongly imprinted in my memory as though it were but last night—applauded that sentiment as one that burned itself into his very heart, as one that embodied the political convictions and opinions of eighteen years. He then applauded it heartily and I believe honestly. But what was I to think when, on the Minister of Finance declaring the other evening that he required some \$42,000,000 or \$43,000,000 or \$44,000,000 for the expenditure of the country during the coming year I saw that my hon. friend, though he did not applaud quite so ostentatiously, tried to look pleased, and raised no word of dissent? What applies to my hon. friend from North Wellington applies to all, or nearly all, who sit on that side. The hon. gentleman from North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), who looks so complacently upon me as I am speaking now, applauded that same sentiment in 1896, and he did not rest content with applauding, but arose to his feet and made the House ring with the reiteration of that sentiment. He called upon the electorate to stamp out the Government and the party which dared, with the expenditure, the increasing debt and the burden of taxation, such as it was at that time, to appeal to the electorate for their support. What am I to think of my hon. friend now? Will he arise and denounce an expenditure which is nearly \$10,000,000 greater on the whole for the coming year than it was at that time? And so I might gather from individual members of the party sitting opposite instances of what I take to be unquestioned proof that the party and the gentlemen who support it, who three years ago applauded with all the force of conviction that was possible to them every sentiment which went against any increase in the expenditure of that time, any increase in the taxation, any increase in the burdens of the country, are to-day willing to dance when the Finance Minister pipes a strain which is pitched many keys above the one of 1896 on all these points. So much for that. But I think that speech is remarkable in another sense. It is also a splendid vindication of the policy and the result of the policy of the great Liberal-Conservative party. I shall illustrate that remark as I pass on in the course of my remarks.

We must be thankful for small mercies, and we are exceedingly thankful for this small mercy that the hon. Finance Minister accorded to us, namely, that he would give a little credit for the changed circumstances, as he portrays them, to the general revival of business throughout the world. But he insisted on our conceding that a contributing cause of very great strength and force—such was the way he put it at that particular part of his speech—was the policy

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of the present Government. As he proceeded in his speech, he forgot that temperate allusion, and began to claim everything for the policy of his Government, down to the 20 per cent increase in immigration from Great Britain in last January, February and March; down even to the canning labels of Mr. Innes, to which he alluded with so much feeling and so much pride. Well, at the end of his speech he was good enough to utter a word or two, which evidently escaped him in a moment of frankness, and without thinking what effect it would have upon his assumptions of the two or three hours previous, for turning to his followers he said to them: But we may not always have good crops and good prices, and therefore must be prudent, "lest we forget, lest we forget." Now, as to the aptness of that quotation in that particular part, I must confess that my mind is a little misty; but if he had quoted some of the impassioned utterances of my somnolent friend, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) with reference to expenditure and taxation, and then brought in his lines from Kipling: "Lest we forget, lest we forget," I should have understood the allusion.

I do not propose to attempt to follow my hon. friend through all the figures he gave or to follow him closely in all the conclusions to which he was able to come, I am afraid, by a rather rude and vigorous logic, which would hardly conform to the prescribed rules as they are generally taught in the schools, and generally admitted in the country. But there are some points which I wish to deal with briefly.

In the first place, a word as regards the Estimates. My hon. friend can quite see that very little that is apt and definite can be based upon such Estimates as we have now before us. We have nothing before us but the main Estimates, and only the first section of these. And it is quite impossible, as my hon. friend knows, for us to pursue a discussion upon Estimates only one section of which is brought down while a most important second section remains yet to be brought down, and a third, and probably a fourth section to come later in the financial year. Such as it is, however, it gives food for thought. The total Estimates of my hon. friend in the first year he was Finance Minister were \$39,698,000. In the second year, 1897-98, his total Estimates were \$39,282,000. The Estimates for 1898-99, without the second supplementaries, amount to \$40,964,814. The main Estimates for 1899-1900, without any supplementaries at all, amount to \$41,598,298 on consolidated account. Now that, incomplete as it is, shows an increase over the total Estimates of 1898-99—less the last supplementaries—of \$2,403,419. There is food for thought in that for men of an economical turn of mind, and especially to a party which had its birth in the atmosphere of economy—though it seems to have outgrown it now. If the supplementary Estimates are

proportional to those of the preceding year, we must add \$1,838,934 to the amount already estimated. On this basis the Estimates of the Finance Minister for 1900 will be \$43,367,232 on consolidated account alone. Now, if my hon. friend is not going to bring down any more supplementary Estimates—which it is not possible to conceive—he can contradict that. But this much is clear as a basis for argument, that the supplementary Estimates of this year will probably be proportionate to those of last year, and on that assumption, the Estimates run up to the large figure I have already quoted. This shows an increase over the Estimates of the first year the Finance Minister was in office of nearly \$4,000,000, that being the increase in the space of three years. Well, Sir, that is a very strange commentary upon the Prime Minister's promise to the electorate of Canada before he was Prime Minister and when he was seeking the favour of the electors and making a compact with them. Then he pledged his word—not knightly at that time, but I should hope, just as dear to him as though he were a knight—that if the electors put him and his party in power, the expenditures on Consolidated Fund account could be reduced by two, three, yes, and the Hon. David Mills had said, by four millions of dollars. His Finance Minister sits beside him to-day asking for an estimate four millions greater than the first estimate he made after coming into office, and my hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) sits there with his broken pledges in his pocket—they do not go any deeper—and looks complacently on the electorate of Canada whom he has deceived by his failure to carry out the promise he made.

But besides consolidated fund expenditures, there are capital expenditures. The Estimates of capital expenditures brought down by the Minister of Finance so far are \$4,698,900. If you add a proportional increase to that of last year for supplementary Estimates you find that the whole estimate on capital account will be \$5,847,882. That is without counting any railway subsidies, without counting any bounties on pig iron or expenditures of that kind, which will amount to a large sum. Adding the Estimates on capital account to those on consolidated account, we find the total Estimates, exclusive of railway subsidies and bounties, to be \$49,215,114. And yet my right hon. friend the leader of the Government sits there and fancies that he enjoys the unalloyed respect of the electorate of Canada when he sanctions, through his Finance Minister, the calling for an expenditure of fifty million dollars and over just three years after he pledged himself to the electorate that if they put him into power he would reduce the expenditures of the country by a large amount. It will be satisfactory to my hon. friend from North Wellington (Mr. McMullen)—and I must call his attention to it—to know that there are many increases in these Estimates. I am not going

through them all, but there is one increase that I might mention—that of \$19,484 on account of Civil Government. And, just on that point, I do not think it would be amiss for me to read a deliverance by my hon. friend (Mr. McMullen) in this House in 1895. He will find it in "Hansard" of that year, page 1015 :

We are now paying over three and a half million dollars for the civil service, and under a proper administration the staff and expenditure could be very considerably reduced. But, Sir, we cannot expect the hon. gentlemen opposite to do that. They have too many friends and relations to provide for. It appears to become a weakness with every Minister, when he is installed in office, to place his friends and relations in positions, and when Ministers set that example, it is only natural that their followers should try and benefit by the example.

I call my hon. friend's attention to the fact that the expenditure on Civil Government, without any supplementary Estimates yet down, shows an increase of \$19,487. Will the hon. gentleman kindly have a private conference with some of these Ministers who have their relatives fattening in office and who refuse to reduce the civil service—why? Because of the importunities of their friends behind them—and their own weaknesses, as my hon. friend said in 1895, in submitting to these demands.

But, Sir, in dealing with the Estimates we are not on very firm ground. Let us come to something definite. Now we leave the uncertain ground and stand where facts and figures are known. With reference to the expenditure of the country, let me then call the attention of my hon. friend from North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) to some few facts which have, no doubt, escaped his attention in the multiplied duties which have been thrust upon him of late. In 1895-96, the last year of the late Government, the expenditure was \$36,949,142 on Consolidated Fund account. In 1896-97, it was \$38,349,759. In 1898-99, the whole of which is passed, except two months, the Estimates for which have been given us by the Minister of Finance himself—will my hon. friend from North Norfolk believe it?—the expenditure on Consolidated Fund account amounts to \$42,026,028, or over five million dollars more than the expenditure of 1895-96. Or, if it will suit my hon. friend opposite better, \$5,000,000, or a little more than the average expenditure of the Liberal-Conservative Government from 1887 to 1896, a period of 10 years.

But there are other expenditures besides expenditures on Consolidated Fund account; and if my hon. friend will take the Public Accounts, or listen to the figures that I give him, he will find that the other item which goes, of course, to capital account has also very largely increased. In 1895-96, the amount paid out of capital, taking out the North Shore Railway book-keeping entry was about \$4,700,000; in 1899, the year just passing, the amount chargeable to capital ac-

count is \$8,662,795, or creeping up very nearly to twice the former amount. But let us take the whole expenditures, and I find that a table has lately been put in the Public Accounts which is very useful; it gives you at a glance all the expenditures, so that you can see the expenditures on consolidated account, you can see what are those technically known as capital expenditures, and you can see the total expenditures, which take in railway subsidies and some other items outside the two former categories. Well, taking that total expenditure, what does it foot up to? Why, Sir, the first year these hon. gentlemen were in their total expenditures amounted to \$42,900,000. That was the grand total that was expended, an immense amount of money. But in 1898-99, when the 1st day of July comes, that expenditure of \$42,900,000 will have soared up to \$50,688,000, an increase, in round numbers, of \$9,000,000 on the total expenditure between the last year of our administration and the third year of their administration.

Now, Sir, suppose we take some of the figures that my hon. friend gives. My hon. friend, although making an exposition of the Budget, was careful to stop when he came to thin ice. Now, a scrupulous and thoroughly honest exponent of the Budget of a country on an important occasion like that of the Budget exposition, is more careful to warn the country of the thin ice than he is to talk of the safer and more secure paths of finance and of trade. My hon. friend ventured the assertion in his speech that they had done what they had done, expended what they had expended, and they had expended less per head of the population than the Liberal-Conservative Government in 1895, going back one year before the last year of the outgoing Administration. Well, Sir, was that true? It was true for the year 1898, but it was not true for the year ten months of which he had actually travelled over, and the other two months of which he had given us the closest figures as to what the expenditure would be. Now, Sir, it was his duty to have told the House, and especially the country, which cannot find out so well for itself, what his operations, as perfectly known to him for the current year, would have brought about in this matter. Let me read the percentages. In 1895, on Consolidated Fund expenditure, the per capita tax expenditure was \$7.53; in 1896, it was \$7.21; that was the last year of our Administration. In 1897, it was \$7.39; in 1898, \$7.41; and in 1899, on the 1st day of July, it will be \$7.90 per head of the population. That puts a very different colour on the question; that gives you, as compared with 1896, the last year of Conservative administration, an increase of 69 cents a head of the population of this country on Consolidated Fund expenditure alone. Compared with 1895, it makes an addition of 37 cents, or nearly

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half a dollar per head of the population. But suppose we take the total expenditure. The total expenditure in 1896 was \$8.13 per head of the population. The total expenditure for this current year, on the 1st day of July, will be \$9.60 per head of the population, or an increase in these three years of \$1.47 per head of our population. Now, Sir, that is a most astonishing conclusion to come to, and I challenge my hon. friend to dispute those figures, alongside the assertion which has gone everywhere before the country, and will float before the country for the next two years, that he has been able to make all his expenditures, as a Government, and to do it with less expenditure per head than the Liberal-Conservatives did in 1895. So much now with reference to the actual expenditures of the country.

I notice that my hon. friend had a good deal to say with reference to surpluses, and the party press, taking up the cue, are headlining the Minister of Finance's speech with, amongst other legends, this: "The era of surpluses has again arrived." You would think, from listening to the Minister of Finance, and from perusing those headlines and what is written under them, that surpluses are a discovery of my hon. friend, a discovery of the party of whom he is the Minister of Finance. But I beg to say to my hon. friend that surpluses, such as we know them technically in our administration, have been known from 1868 up, more or less; and I propose to give a very short statement of the surpluses that have been recorded in the Public Accounts from 1868 up to the present time. I find that from 1868 to 1875 there were \$12,000,000, in round numbers, of surpluses. One of them only can be credited to the Liberal Administration, and that was largely because of good preceding administration which continued itself over into their term of administration. From 1881 up to 1883-84, there were \$18,250,000 of surpluses, an average of \$4,500,000 per year, and all those surpluses are credited to a Liberal-Conservative Administration. There was a surplus in 1886-87 of \$97,313, a little one, but still gratifying. From 1888-89 up to 1892-93 there were \$9,500,000 of surpluses, an average of \$1,900,000 per year. In 1897-98 there was a surplus which is credited to a Liberal Government. The total surpluses from confederation up to the present were \$41,600,000, and of these surpluses just \$2,600,000 are credited to Liberal Administrations, and \$38,900,000 are credited to Liberal-Conservative Administrations.

But if my hon. friends were not fortunate in the matter of surpluses, they were more fortunate in the matter of deficits. When we turn to deficits, we find that from 1875-76 to 1879-80 there were five deficits, and four of them most assuredly belong to my hon. friends opposite; I think the fifth one properly does, because it resulted from the bad times and faulty administration of the

hon. gentlemen who held the reins of power for between four and five years.

Eighteen eighty-four and 1885 we had two deficits, and hon. gentlemen quite well understand why these occurred. That was the time of the most expensive work on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the payment of the expense entailed by the North-west rebellion. Eighteen eighty-seven-eight saw a deficit of \$810,000. From 1893-94 to 1896-97 there were four deficits, amounting to \$6,214,739, three of which were created during Liberal-Conservative administration. Of the deficits, then, amounting in all to twelve in number and \$23,000,000 in amount, \$16,100,000 belonged to the Liberal-Conservative party, and the remainder belonged to the Liberal party. I can give in brief a statement of the surpluses and deficits. The Liberal-Conservative surpluses were seventeen in number, and amounted to \$38,937,000, and the Liberal-Conservative deficits were seven in number, amounting to \$16,000,000, in round figures, the excess of surpluses being \$22,814,000. Liberal surpluses were two in number, and Liberal deficits five; surpluses, \$2,658,000; deficits, \$6,946,000; excess of deficits, \$4,288,588. But I want to say to hon. gentlemen opposite, and to the country as well, that the net deficit from 1890 to 1895 which occurred, along with the surpluses, in that period of depression, amounted to only \$1,617,000. The debt increase, during that time, amounted to \$15,544,000, a part of which was due to the deficit of \$1,600,000. A fact that I wish to be noted is, that, during that period of depression from 1890 to 1895, the Liberal-Conservative Government met the wants and necessities of the country by reducing the taxation of the people, and in that period they remitted, on sugar alone, \$19,850,000 of taxation; an amount sufficient to cover the whole addition to the debt in that period, including the net deficit, and to have wiped off \$4,400,000 of the national debt. My hon. friend (Mr. Fielding) to-day prides himself upon his surpluses, and taunts us on the deficits, whilst we remitted taxation to that enormous amount, and whilst he remitted the least possible amount of taxation, on the one hand, and added heavily to the burdens of taxation by the actual new taxes that he has placed upon the country, on the other hand. With reference to the increase of the debt, there was an astounding statement made by the hon. Minister of Finance; correct in the mere technical point, but altogether wrong in the impression that it gave to the House and that it would give to the country. My hon. friend says: We have increased the debt less than \$3,000,000 per year since we have been in office, against an increase of the debt of \$6,000,000 a year by the Conservative Government, while they were in power for eighteen years. Now, whilst this is technically correct, it is probably the most incorrect and glaring misstatement that could be made, so far as the real facts of the case

exist and ought to be known. What are the real facts of the case? The facts of the case are, that, when you take the period from 1878 to 1886, you have a period during which we paid out on the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway alone \$50,641,000; you have a period in which we spent on canals liberally, \$15,000,000, and you have a period in which we gave on provincial debts \$10,281,000, in which we bought back lands from the Canadian Pacific Railway, which, if they had gone as part of the original subsidy, would have been an increment to the road, in lands, but would not have figured in the accounts to \$10,199,000. And yet my hon. friend thinks it is fair to make a comparison with these extraordinary expenditures, these extraordinary payments in respect to our indebtedness to the provinces, and these extraordinary commutations in reference to Canadian Pacific Railway lands, by comparing this period with the two years just passed, when, comparatively speaking, there has not been a dollar spent upon the Canadian Pacific Railway, not a dollar given in aid of provincial indebtedness, not a dollar by way of commutation of lands, or anything of the kind, during which they have spent very little more on the canals per year than we did in the three years immediately preceding their coming into office. If my hon. friend will take what is a period of fair comparison, that is, the period after the Canadian Pacific Railway had been built and the moneys paid, if he will take the period from 1887 to 1896, he will find that the average increase of debt was less than \$3,000,000 by over \$200,000, and if he will take the more modern period, from 1890 down to 1896, he will find that the Liberal-Conservative Government increased the debt by exactly \$2,652,000 per year, and not \$6,000,000 per year. I think these periods are fair periods to take for the purposes of comparison. I think that no man has the rights of the case, unless these facts are brought to his mind; therefore, I say, the speech from the hon. Minister of Finance in this respect was rather an ad captandum election speech, than a calm, clear and fair exposition of the financial operations of Canada for the period from 1868, with which he purported to deal.

Now, Sir, let us speak for a moment in reference to the revenue. I notice that my hon. friends opposite applauded very heartily every allusion to the increase in the revenues. I have not forgotten the teaching of these hon. gentlemen, and I think I have it still in my memory, that all and sundry of them used to say: You talk about raising revenues; where do they come from? Do not revenues come from the people; are they not all the contributions of the tax-payers, and the labourers, and the wage-earners of this country. When my hon. friend was saying, that the revenue had increased by \$1,200,000, by \$2,700,000, by \$5,100,000 in successive years, these hon. gentlemen could hardly

contain themselves for very ecstasy; they applauded it to the echo, as though à la the Minister of Public Works, they were making money, and, therefore, it was a great thing, if a million or two were added to the revenues of the country. But I think the old-fashioned doctrine is probably the true one, that these revenues do all exactly represent the contributions of the people of this country to the expenditures of the Government. It is so much money, which, if it were not taken out of the money in possession of the individual and collective citizens of this country, would swell their wealth by that much more; so that it is equivalent to a tax on the people, and it is a burden in that respect. Well, Sir, let us look at the revenue for some years back, and here there is no chance for doubt. This is the customs revenue:

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 1895-96 .....                                 | \$19,833,279 |
| 1896-97 .....                                 | 19,478,247   |
| 1897-98 .....                                 | 21,704,892   |
| Current year, 1898-99 (2 mos. estimated)..... | 25,138,246   |

So much for one branch of taxation by these gentlemen opposite—\$5,300,000 more this year than it was in 1895-96.

Then, Sir, when we come to the Inland Revenue—that also I imagine is paid by the people, and here it is:

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1895-96 .....                                 | \$7,926,005 |
| Current year, 1898-99 (2 mos. estimated)..... | 9,805,562   |

And, if you add Customs revenue and Inland Revenue together, which we generally call the taxation of the country, it stands in this way: That the Conservative Government in 1895-96 took \$27,750,000 of taxation from the people—and we were not lauded; we were denounced by the Liberal party from one end of this country to the other for taking what they called that extraordinary and extravagant amount of taxation from the people, to wit: \$27,750,000—but my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) comes down with perfect equanimity, and tells his subservient followers, that this year of grace he is taking out of the people in taxation, not \$27,750,000, but \$34,900,000.

The hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) looks up at me. Quizzically? No; for my hon. friend (Mr. Charlton) knows perfectly well that these figures are correct; he knows that there is that addition to the burdens of the people, and he knows that he himself once said:

The Liberal party, if in power, could reduce the public expenditure and effect other savings to the extent of \$5,000,000 per annum without impairing the efficiency of the public service.

In the name of all that is economical, if they could do with \$5,000,000 less than we expended, why are they asking for \$5,000,000 more than we expended? Why is my hon. friend (Mr. Charlton) applauding the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) when he reads out these astounding figures? Well, Sir, let us look at the total revenue which,

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as I said, comes from the people as contributions to the expenditure of the country. It was in 1895-96, \$36,618,590, and to-day it is \$46,632,398. There is a round \$10,000,000 taken from the people in one way or another over and above what was taken from them in 1895-96. Yet, in 1896 the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), whose record is behind him—and he would be happy indeed if it were about two years further behind than it is—the Minister of Trade and Commerce, whose record is behind him, stands upon the "Hansard" of this House as declaring:

It was an outrageous and monstrous thing that any Government should ask from this country \$37,000,000, to be expended upon the public services.

Let us take the matter of excess; because that furnishes an argument that strikes some minds with greater force. The customs increase of 1898-99 over 1895-96 is \$5,304,967, and the Inland Revenue increase amounts to \$1,879,557; the excess of taxation imposed under these two heads being \$7,184,524. Let us take the per capita amounts paid. Each individual in Canada, if you take the average, paid in 1895-96, for customs, \$3.94; this year he has the pleasure of paying \$4.73, or 79 cents more. There was paid on the average \$5.42 for Customs and Inland Revenue taxation in 1895-96, and there is paid by each individual this year of grace \$6.57, an increase of \$1.15.

The total revenue paid in all ways by the people of Canada was \$7.14 per head in 1895-96; it is \$8.77 per head to-day, an increase of \$1.63 per head.

Mr. CHARLTON. Would the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) say, what he estimates the population of Canada at the present time?

Mr. FOSTER. In the first place, I do not estimate it except this current year. I take the estimate as given in the Trade and Navigation Returns, upon which all the calculations are made, and I add the proportional percentage for this current year, and so get the divisor for the present year; that is as fair as any one can do it.

Mr. CHARLTON. And what is the number?

Mr. FOSTER. About 5,320,000. Now, Sir, my hon. friend the Minister of Finance was very jubilant over his buoyant revenue. Hon. gentlemen who sit behind him, forgetting all their pledges, all their promises, repudiating all their engagements, actually tearing up the promissory notes they gave the people and scattering them to the four winds of heaven; these hon. gentlemen applaud the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) when he talks about buoyant revenues—five million dollars and more in customs duties alone, or on the whole, ten million dollars more than in 1895-96. Let us ask ourselves: why these buoyant revenues? Well, Sir, a business man would give a different reason

from that given by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding). The Minister of Finance says: The cause of the increased revenues, is the policy of the present Government. A business man looking over this country and studying it would say: The revenues are buoyant, because we have had extra good crops, because we have had extra good prices, because we have had an extraordinary mining development, and when he mentions those three things, he has exhausted the whole repertoire. Why? Because if you take our other sources of wealth, the output has remained stationary or has gone and come—in some cases they are less—the forests and the fisheries and other sources of export are less. But when you come to the products of the farm and the mine, that is where you have your extraordinary development; that is where you have got practically the whole of your extra exportation, and consequently the business man would be perfectly right in saying: Good crops, good prices, and the extraordinary mining development account for the buoyant revenue. And how do they account for it? Because when you have good crops, good prices, a large development at the mines, you have money in hand, and that money in hand immediately calls for the conveniences and the comforts of life. This furnishes the basis for greater expenditures. If a man has no money he cannot expend his own money—he may get credit—but in a country which does not enjoy good crops, well-developed resources, and fair prices, the people have not the money to spend, and they have to deny themselves and cannot buy largely of the comforts and conveniences and necessities of life. That, your business man would tell you, gives you the basis for greater expenditures. And what line did these take? They called for manufactured goods; they called for the products of other countries which add to the comforts of our existence and raise the scale of living. They called for manufactured goods, and the call was met in two ways; it was met by the manufacturers and producers in this country, and it was met by the manufactures and producers in foreign countries; and you had immediately, the business man would tell you, under stimulus a greater output of home products and greater importations of products from abroad. What happened as a direct sequence? The business man will tell you that this needs no legerdemain, no sleight of hand, no writing of a policy; but that the very moment a country has good crops, and finds sale for them, the very moment you get a large development and find sale for the product of that development, as a consequence you begin to call for manufactured goods and importations, and something inevitable happens. What is that? That the whole business of handling and transportation is stimulated, and begins immediately to throb with new life and pulsate with new vigour. Your railroads have more to do than they had before, carrying out and carrying in, and all

the vast army of handlers and middlemen have an extraordinary business that they did not have before—a business which will be, as to its extraordinary part, measured exactly by the surplus product; measured in the line of cash paid, and volume presented for transportation and handling. That is what is taking place; but my hon. friend must remember, and the country will remember, that to accomplish these things, you must have the mechanism for handling and transporting these products. How is it my hon. friend can bank with certainty upon the produce of the mines of our country being carried out for export—upon the produce of our farmers being carried out for export—upon the produce and manufactured goods of other countries being carried backwards and forwards through this country? He can bank upon it because, owing to a policy and the results of a policy of 18 or 20 years, this country has been provided with a very net work of transportation facilities.

My hon. friend indulged in a eulogy of the Crow's Nest Pass branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway. If his party had had its sweet will in 1880 and 1883, there would have been no main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Where then would have been the Crow's Nest Pass portion? It would have been something like that celebrated abortion, the Yukon Railway, beginning nowhere and ending nowhere. It would have been impossible.

But, Sir, what is the great point to a country when a period of good crops, good prices and development comes? The great point to a country consists in its being in a position to take advantage thereof. This country was in a position to take advantage of the good crops and good prices of 1896, 1897 and 1898, because, Sir, in arduous years of struggle, and by the expenditure of large sums of money, the industrial life of this country was put upon a stable foundation, which enabled it to defy all the opposition of the gentlemen who are before me; so that it found itself ready and strong when the good years came in 1896, with a mechanism thoroughly fitted to take hold by manufacture and transportation, and exploit and put to the greatest use this extra product. If my hon. friends opposite were honest in the policy they propounded years ago, and would have carried it out if they been in office—and upon such a proposition I confess to a great deal of doubt, in the light of the events of the last two or three years—you would have had no North-west worthy of the name, you would have had no Canadian Pacific Railway, with its branches running into all the different sections of that country; you would have had no basis of industrial mechanism in this country, ready to take advantage of every line of good times, and, by that very protection itself, holding itself against this line of advance of bad times from other countries, such as this country had experience of from 1890 to 1895. I say, Sir, without cavil or doubt, that no more specific

and splendid instance was ever shown of the power of a country, through a wise protective policy and its results in strengthening its resources, to hold itself independent and steady and strong during five years of a period when other countries were passing through the blackest of hard times—carried through, Sir, with hardly a scratch or a scar, in such a way as to challenge the attention of the civilized world as to her capacity to endure that stress and strain. So, I say, these are the reasons for the buoyancy of trade; and no attempt of my hon. friend, however far it may go with unthinking people, of whom I am glad to believe we have not many in this country, no small plea of my hon. friend, standing in his place as an exponent of a Budget, but forgetting his position and becoming a partisan for party ends—no small plea of his, that it is because of his policy that this happens and that this is due, will have any weight with the business or thinking or intelligent people of this country. I have given then one reason why the revenues were buoyant—because Providence favoured us with good crops; because the genius and enterprise and vigour of our own people enabled them to delve down into the earth and find the hidden treasures that are there, and to develop them successfully and with rapid progress; because, Sir, for 18 years this people of Canada, by their expenditures, their energy and their enterprise, have built up a transportation system in this country, under both Governments, without which we would be very poorly off in this day of competition for the world's markets; and because, without cavil or doubt, the policy of 1878 and 1879 resulted in the establishment of industrial and mechanical pursuits in this country, in so stable and thorough a fashion that they have kept themselves strong through all the period of hard times, and are now able, when the good times come, to take full advantage of the changed conditions. Well, Sir, there was another reason, and it is this: That my hon. friend, while making a show of progress, made very moderate progress towards a reduction of taxation on the tariff lines. I am now going to use figures which to me are new, that is to say, in the source from which I obtain them. They are presented to me by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright). They come from his department, and whether he supervised them or not, I am quite certain that they are the true figures. I have every confidence in the hon. gentleman and his department, so far as that is concerned. That will account for the slight differences in the figures that I read now and those that I read in an address I made here a little while ago with reference to the percentages. But the differences are small. On page 14 of the Trade and Commerce report for the last year, you will find an elaborate tabulated statement, a part of which consists in giving the exact percentages of duties on goods imported into Canada for home consumption from Great Britain

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and the United States—dutiable in one column, dutiable and free in another, giving a most complete exposure of the tariff rates from 1868 up to the present. Well, I simply translate the results of those figures and a few of the figures themselves to this House, and I do so in support of this argument, that the Finance Minister, while pretending to have made a great reduction in taxation, has really made a very small reduction in the rate of taxation of the country.

From 1880 to 1887, to go back no further, the average customs rates on dutiable goods in Canada imported for home consumption, was 26·24 per cent. I wish to ask my hon. friend the Finance Minister if he would consider that the old National Policy was in force from 1880 to 1887? I imagine he will do me the grace of making that admission.

Mr. McMILLAN. Not to its full extent. In 1889 it went up.

Mr. FOSTER. If I remember rightly the discussions that took place between 1878 and 1887, in which I believe my hon. friend was a participant, hon. gentlemen opposite held that the National Policy was very much in force in those days. We will take it for granted then that the National Policy was in force from 1880 to 1887, but the rate of duty was then only 26½ per cent upon all dutiable imports. In 1887 my hon. friend beside me (Sir Charles Tupper) added the iron duty, and from 1888, let us say, until 1896 the heightened duties were in force, and during that period the average was 30·82 per cent. I think my hon. friend will admit that the old National Policy was well in force during those years when the duty was 30·82 per cent, so that we had then the National Policy with the principle of protection, which was the policy of the Liberal-Conservative party, and unanimously opposed by hon. gentlemen opposite from 1880 to 1886, whether the average duty was 26½ per cent or 30·82 per cent. Either of them was an abomination to all free traders and to hon. gentlemen opposite. What I am aiming to prove is that the National Policy does not depend upon a simple percentage of duty. Well, in 1896, under the National Policy, according to the figures of the Department of Trade and Commerce, the average rate of duty was 29·94 per cent. In 1897, it was 29·96 per cent; in 1898, it was 29·22; and for the eight months of 1899 it was 28·98 per cent; and for the month of February it was 29·58 per cent. Will my hon. friend take the deductions from that? From 1888 to 1896, the average duty was 30·82. In 1896 it was 29·94 per cent, being a reduction of 88-100ths under Liberal-Conservative rule. When we come down to 1898, there is a reduction of only 72-100ths of one per cent only, and yet we are told the National Policy then no longer existed. For the eight months of 1899, there was a reduction comparatively of 96-100ths of one per cent, but the National Policy no longer exists; and for the month of February, 1899, there is an

extravagant decrease from 1896 of 36-100ths of one per cent, and the old National Policy has disappeared. Well, a business man, looking at this state of things, would come to the conclusion that the present tariff policy is within 36-100ths of one per cent just as protective in the year of grace 1899 as it was in 1896. He will lose sight of all those fine sprung distinctions of differences of policy and the like and come to the wholesome conclusion that the National Policy and its principle is here firmly imbedded, and according to the dictum of the Finance Minister, likely to stay.

Then again, the device of the preferential cut of 25 per cent was largely deceptive and has been practically inoperative, if we are to judge by the results. But before I leave the point let me refer to one statement of the hon. Finance Minister. After going through his calculation—no, I am not right in saying that—after giving us the results of his calculation, the mode of which he did not lay on the Table and was not able to explain, he came to the conclusion that he had reduced the taxation \$1,600,000, and then made the astonishing statement, that such a reduction of taxation was proof positive that the old National Policy no longer exists.

Well, Sir, in 1891 the National Policy tariff rate was 31.38 per cent. I had the pleasure of revising the tariff in 1891, and in 1892 the tariff was not 31.38, but 29.64 per cent, or a reduction of 1.74 per cent. I never imagined that because there was a reduction of 1.74 in the rate of taxation the old National Policy had been done away with, nor did hon. gentlemen opposite who were not of my way of thinking. On the contrary they berated us for not having given any fair measure of reduction and insisted that we had retained the National Policy and its objectionable principle of protection.

I was going on to say that the device of the preferential cut of 25 per cent was a deceptive device. I am not going to say that it was meant to be deceptive, but I do say, and I can prove it, I think, that it was thoroughly deceptive in this country and in foreign countries as well. A man may take the general tariff and say technically it means thus and so, and he may be correct, but the comments on and the interpretation of that tariff, as given by hon. gentlemen opposite here and in the old country, are very different from the technical meaning and working of the tariff. What did happen? Upon certain British manufactures, where the British have the call of this market, my hon. friend before he made this 25 per cent cut, was careful to raise the taxation, so that instead of giving to the English manufacturers one-quarter of a reduction in the duties, he gave them but one-twelfth to one-eighth of a reduction on the old duties and not one-quarter.

On cotton fabrics, printed, dyed and coloured, the old rate of duty, against which hon. gentlemen opposite inveighed so often, was 30 per cent. Before the British manufac-

turer could be allowed a chance with his 25 per cent preference, the duties were raised to 35 per cent. So the duty the British manufacturer has to pay in the end is 26½ per cent, as against 30 per cent under the old tariff, which is a cut, not of one-fourth, but of barely one-eighth. Cotton clothing was raised in the same way from 32½ per cent to 35 per cent; curtains and fancy goods from 30 per cent to 35 per cent; damask of linen and goods of that class from 25 per cent to 30 per cent. In this last case, the present duty paid by the British manufacturer is 22½ per cent, a reduction of only 2½ per cent as compared with the old tariff, which is not a reduction of one-quarter, but barely of one-twelfth. Linseed oil, formerly 20 per cent, was raised to 25 per cent; woollen worsted fabrics, from 30 per cent to 35 per cent; carpets, Brussels and tapestry, from 30 per cent to 35 per cent. If you examine the Trade and Navigation Returns you find that Britain's strong point as regards exportation to this country lies in these lines of goods almost exclusively; and on these the duty was raised before the mother country was allowed to feel the throb of the generous heart of her Canadian daughter. This was not the case with regard to the cousin to the other side of us. I wonder if my hon. friend, when he stated the other day that one reason why the preference had not been more successful in bringing British goods here was that the British manufacturer was too busy to look after markets, really considered what he was saying. Why, what a boy's reason that was. I wonder if he has read the remark made by Mr. Courtney yesterday in a speech in the British House of Commons. Mr. Courtney, one of the ablest men in the British Parliament and an authority on trade and financial questions, in his place in the House made a most significant declaration, to the effect that a menace to Great Britain greater than any menace of war was the competition of the United States with Great Britain in coal and iron. That is a most significant statement. That does not mean merely that there are two products in which the United States has a chance to get ahead of Great Britain. It goes infinitely wider and deeper than that. For upon the comparative cheapness of coal and iron depends almost inevitably the commercial supremacy of that country. That is why Mr. Courtney used the strong expression he did. Well, Sir, while that competition is going on between the United States and Great Britain in coal and iron and the products which are made with coal and iron, hon. gentlemen were more generous to the United States than they are to Great Britain. Before the mother country could get a taste of our generosity, the dish had to be elevated; but the cousin was given the big cuts. Our cousins on the other side already had the advantage of contiguity; but in products of iron, notably, in which the United States

is the great competitor of Great Britain, the still greater benefit was given them of a reduction of duties. And Canadian labourers must contribute to pay the increase of bounties which are meant to compensate—though they never can do it—the home producer for this cut of duty that was made in favour of the United States iron merchants and manufacturers in this market. Contiguity, cheapness of transportation, the quickness with which you can give an order and have it filled—these things give a tremendous advantage to the United States producers over those of Great Britain. Take the mere consideration of the quickness with which you can give an order and have it filled, and this of itself must send many an order to the United States rather than to Great Britain. All these things go to show how deceptive this 25 per cent preference business was. The Finance Minister did not guard himself as well as he should in the impression he conveyed to

the country. He gave the impression in this House the other day, and through the newspaper press the idea is being carried to every part of the country, that the 25 per cent reduction to the preferential country—Great Britain, to wit—acted as a second reduction beyond the general tariff reduction which was made. Now, is this the case or is it not? Let me read you some figures which will bear upon that point, and which I think will show that the idea that upon many lines of imports the preferential cut of 25 per cent acts in the least degree as a help to further reduce the tariff—which my hon. friend said he reduced and which he did reduce to a certain extent—is quite illusory. I have here a long list of goods, showing the proportion in which these goods come from Great Britain and from non-preferential countries. These figures will show that in the majority of cases their preference has not the least effect in the line indicated by the Finance Minister.

## DUTIABLE IMPORTS.

| Articles.                            | From United States. | From Great Britain. | From all countries. |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                      | £                   | £                   | £                   |
| Animals.....                         | 548,321             | 2,427               | 552,143             |
| Books.....                           | 578,047             | 188,558             | 817,147             |
| Breadstuffs.....                     | 5,672,227           | 164,593             | 6,092,464           |
| Brass and manufactures.....          | 291,213             | 35,155              | 347,836             |
| Carriages and bicycles.....          | 1,240,783           | 13,315              | 1,302,194           |
| Clocks and parts thereof.....        | 130,727             | 7,342               | 164,770             |
| Coal.....                            | 3,509,868           | 134,462             | 3,645,236           |
| Drugs, dyes and chemicals.....       | 629,967             | 299,453             | 1,303,980           |
| Cordage and twine.....               | 190,064             | 22,449              | 213,896             |
| Electrical apparatus.....            | 429,950             | 9,107               | 443,992             |
| Furniture.....                       | 243,980             | 23,060              | 287,565             |
| Fish and products.....               | 280,294             | 61,340              | 490,930             |
| Fruit and nuts, dry.....             | 535,106             | 64,164              | 1,269,965           |
| "    green and ripe.....             | 763,650             | 94,453              | 1,132,982           |
| Glass and manufactures.....          | 371,060             | 229,337             | 1,047,632           |
| Gunpowder and explosives.....        | 120,522             | 15,931              |                     |
| Gold and silver manufactures.....    | 206,085             | 45,493              | 302,634             |
| Jewellery.....                       | 279,243             | 34,424              | 341,396             |
| Leather and manufactures.....        | 1,445,638           | 157,057             | 1,679,816           |
| Iron and steel and manufactures..... | 10,940,015          | 1,880,326           | 13,197,957          |
| Musical instruments.....             | 237,364             | 7,095               | 304,834             |
| Oil, kerosene and products of.....   | 634,773             | 1,882               | 636,655             |
| Philosophical instruments.....       | 144,705             | 17,720              | 196,046             |
| Paper and manufactures.....          | 824,142             | 229,286             | 1,141,468           |
| Provisions.....                      | 2,889,588           | 64,587              | 2,992,611           |
| Seeds and bulbous roots.....         | 452,427             | 9,379               | 473,804             |
| Sugars.....                          | 583,061             | 161,503             | 5,258,213           |
| Vegetables.....                      | 242,918             | 25,567              | 309,142             |
| Watches and parts thereof.....       | 392,674             | 6,636               | 451,061             |
| Wood and manufactures.....           | 825,337             | 53,763              | 963,054             |

Of the third column it may be said that in nearly every case it includes no other preferential goods except those from Great Britain, given in the second column. The exceptions are an item of \$6,000 in iron and steel, \$260,000 in case of sugars, \$3,000 in vegetables, \$2,000 in woods, and \$17,000 in green and ripe fruits.

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That is simply a list of imports into this country, showing the great disparity between the supply from Great Britain and preferential countries, and the supply from the non-preferential countries, and conclusively proving that, so far as these are concerned, the 25 per cent preference reduction has little or no effect at all upon lowering the

prices. Well, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance did something else. He not only had the effect of good crops, good prices, and extra development to make a buoyant revenue, he not only added to that by reducing the taxation as little as possible, but he also, with the other hand, placed on an extraordinary taxation. That has been almost lost sight of by hon. gentlemen opposite and by the country. He did not come down and reduce even his general tariff, by which he says he diminished the taxes by \$1,600,000; he did not even attempt to do that without, on the other hand, laying on more than that amount of extra taxation—that is, if he had got what he proposed to get. What additional taxation did he lay on? Customs duty, 15 cents a gallon on liquors; excise duty, 20 cents a gallon on distilled liquors; cigarettes, \$1 a thousand; cut tobacco, 5 cents a pound; manufactured tobacco, 10 cents; raw leaf, 10 and 14 cents, according as it was stemmed or unstemmed. But, Sir, the most deceptive portion of all—and here, I think, I have fair ground to find fault with the hon. gentleman—he came to this House with a plenitude of revenue, with his increase of taxation, out of which he proposed to get \$1,700,000; he took that, he passed another year, the revenue became buoyant by millions of dollars; then this hon. gentleman came down and played upon the sympathies of the House and of the country—in what way, Sir? By appealing to this country to extend a helping hand to the West India Islands, our sister colonies in the West India Islands. After expressing his sympathy for them, how did he propose to help the people of the West India Islands? He looked over the field, the only way he could do, the one way was by giving them a preferential on their raw sugar; consequently, he proposed that Canada, out of sympathy and good will, should help the West Indian colonies by giving them 25 per cent of a preferential cut on the raw sugars which they might send into this country. He did not impose that for the sake of taxation; I call hon. gentlemen opposite to witness whether he did or not. When I taxed him with the view that he would find, probably, that the West Indies could take but scant advantage of the preference, and, that it would operate to increase the taxation, he admitted that it might do so, but what he did that for was to help the West Indian planter, to extend a helping hand to the West Indian sister colonies. Day before yesterday, in this House and before this country, he acknowledged that it had had absolutely no effect at all. Why had it had absolutely no effect at all? He explained it to us, day before yesterday: Because the effect of the United States tariff was such that it gave a countervailing duty of 25 per cent, or a little more, on West Indian raws; consequently, this was of no use to the West Indian producer, and the statistics show that it has been of no use. Did not the hon. Minis-

ter of Finance know, last year, when he proposed that preferential, that on certain sugars the United States tariff allowed a countervailing compensation, equivalent to, or a little more than, the difference he was giving? If he did not know it he should have known it. It was on the statute-book of the United States then as it is on the statute-book of the United States now. Did my hon. friend not know it, and did he attempt to help the West Indians in this generous way out of error? He does know it now; let him cease unletting the taxpayers of this country in \$500,000 of extra taxation put upon them under false pretenses—I can use no milder word. This House would have met him in a different spirit if he had come down after adding \$1,700,000 of taxation by other means and asked to put another half a million of dollars of taxation on sugars; but, he appealed to the sympathy of the House to aid the West Indian colonists and the country and the House acceded to his plea at a time when he knew—if he did not know it was a most culpable mistake—that the 25 per cent would have absolutely no effect at all in helping the West Indies; but what it would do, would be to saddle \$500,000 of extra taxation upon the sugar consumers of this country, and that is what it is doing to-day. These then are some of the reasons, and very good reasons, for the buoyant revenue that the hon. Minister of Finance tells us about. But that it is due to his tariff policy, or his lack of policy, is an argument of a different kind and one which he will find it difficult to affirm.

Well, Sir, we will come now to the increase in trade, a most gratifying increase in the trade of Canada, particularly gratifying in so far as it takes the line of an increase in exports, and an increase of exports, to a very large extent, to the mother country. All of us are gratified by that, but, really are we not honest and fair-minded enough to rather discount the statement, made by the hon. Minister of Finance, that it is only within two years that the producers of this country have turned their attention to the British market? Do we not know that ten, and, yes, twelve years ago, the producers of this country began to turn their attention to the British market, that the Government of this country began to turn its attention towards exploiting the British market, and that when we were refused fair reciprocity with the United States, when we were met by their high tariffs, we immediately said that Canada would seek other markets in the mother country, and Canada has sought other markets. Has my hon. friend discovered cheese amongst his other discoveries? Was cheese not known, at all, until this tremendous policy, three years ago, dawned upon the British world? It seems to me that we exploited the British market for cheese and had absolutely established ourselves there against all comers long before this hon. gentleman came to be Finance Minister, and long be-

fore his policy was promulgated in this country. In reference to bacon and hams, I wonder if the pork producers of this country and the farmers did not wait upon the Liberal-Conservative Government long years ago. The Liberal-Conservative Government did two things. In the first place, it raised the tariff against the American producer in order that our producers should have the vantage ground of the home production and the home supply, as far as possible, to assist them on strengthened and broadened lines to reach out for the market in Great Britain, and from that time, Sir, to the present time, there has been a steady increase in the exports of ham, bacon and pork products to the old country. It seems to me that that market was discovered before my hon. friend became Minister of Finance of this country. But he plumes himself upon the tremendous progress in the export trade, and that would have gone perfectly well if he had not made the assertion that it was caused by his policy. Will the House attend to just a few figures; they are very brief. If you take the trade exports of 1898, of home produce, and that is of account, and compare them with those of 1896, where my hon. friend shows a total export of \$33,000,000 worth, I will show five articles which mean more than this whole \$33,000,000 worth and I am bold to say that when they are read out, not a man in this House, in his heart, will feel that the policy of this Government has had the least to do with any one of them. What has the tariff policy of this Government to do with the extraordinary development in mining in British Columbia, in Ontario and to a certain extent in Nova Scotia? Yet I find that of the mine there has been exported \$6,500,000 worth more in 1898 than in 1896, of animals and their products \$7,800,000 worth more, of agricultural products \$19,000,000 worth more, and manufactures, \$1,300,000 more, taking \$34,500,000 of an increase in these four products, more than the whole increase in exports, because some other articles of export have fallen off rather than increased. Now, in the name of common sense, what effect has the policy of my hon. friend, the nine-months' policy, as he put it yesterday, giving him the advantage of the whole thing, of a twelve or fifteen months' policy, what presumable, possible, influence has it had on the exports of agricultural products for the years 1897 and 1898? Every seed from which these have grown must have been planted, or, at least, well matured before the policy of the Government had begun to have any effect. What effect has that policy had upon the exportation of animals during these two years to Great Britain, animals which must have been well advanced in years, comparatively speaking, before my hon. friend's nine-months' policy ever saw the light; certainly the animals had the advantage of him in that respect. Eighteen months, or twenty-seven months from this,

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he might grow up some cattle which might be claimed as the result of his policy; time alone will settle that.

But whilst we are glad that our exports are increasing, whilst we hope that they may increase more and more, do not let us lose sight of some other facts:

Lest we forget; lest we forget.

Do not let us lose sight of the fact, that our exports may not always remain so buoyant; that during the eight months of this present year, the products of the mines have decreased in export by \$1,400,000; that animals and their products have increased only \$700,000, whilst agricultural products have fallen off \$8,000,000 and whilst taking the whole exportation for these eight months, there is a falling off of \$9,000,000 worth as compared with the eight months of the preceding year. Do not let us forget either, that whilst these exports are falling off, the increase is going on in imports amounting to \$16,500,000 in the same time.

What one sees in looking over the four years just past is this: A largely increased export of farm and mine produce, and that is gratifying, but one finds further, a large and increasing tendency to buy more from the United States and to buy less from Great Britain, and to sell more to Great Britain and less to the United States.

If we take the year 1896, the home produce exports to Great Britain we find were \$62,700,000; in 1897 they were \$69,500,000, and in 1898 they were \$93,000,000. But we sold to the United States \$43,600,000 in 1897, and only \$38,900,000 in 1898.

Our imports from Great Britain in 1896 were \$32,900,000, whilst the imports from Great Britain in 1897-98 on an average were only \$30,900,000.

But, on the other hand, our imports from the United States were \$58,000,000 in 1896, \$61,000,000 in 1897, and \$78,700,000 in 1898.

Take it in another form. The percentage of the dutiable goods we imported from Great Britain in 1896 was 36.24; in 1897, 30.53, and in 1898 it was only 30.23.

Of free goods, the percentage from Great Britain in 1896 was 22.19; in 1897 it was 22.73, and in 1898 it had gone down to 18.35.

The total percentage of imports from Great Britain in 1896 was 31.15; in 1897, 27.58, and in 1898, 24.78.

Now, that is not gratifying to us as Canadians, and it is not gratifying to the people of Great Britain either. When we go to the United States we find an exactly different operation in process.

The percentage of dutiable goods in 1896 from the United States was 43.28; in 1897, 46.03; in 1898, 51.00.

The percentage of free goods from the United States in 1896 was 64.07; in 1897, 65.69; in 1898, 71.13. The total percentage of imported goods from the United States was, in 1896, 50.30; in 1897, 53.48; and in 1898, 59.24 per cent.

There is one way in which that strikes the observer. For instance, take the last year. We held here, we will say, in our hands, goods, the produce of Canada, which we transferred to Great Britain, and Great Britain put up \$93,000,000 as payment for these goods. We took in goods \$32,000,000 from Great Britain, and we called upon her to pay cash to the amount of \$61,000,000. Now, I am not going to say this is a fine calculation. It is a rough calculation; there are other things which enter into it, but that is a rough and instructive way of looking at it.

Now, let us look at the United States. We held in our hands certain produce which we handed over to the United States, and the United States put up \$38,000,000 to hold these goods. But we bought from the United States \$78,000,000 of goods. That is, we had to pay in cash over to the United States \$40,000,000 more than the United States paid us for our goods. How does it stand? In that rough and ready calculation we are the middlemen standing here, and in last year's transactions we took in balances \$61,000,000 of British gold, and handed \$40,000,000 of it over to the United States.

You may refine on that calculation as much as you please, but there is the skeleton and basis of a fact which is not very gratifying to either Canadians or to the British people, a fact which deserves study, and which no amount of small and cheap talk about the policy of a preference will ever get away with. What else are we doing? Take our iron manufactures imported from the United States, and we find they are increasing rapidly. What does it mean? It means that when we pay ten or eleven millions of dollars out for hardware and iron, to the United States, we are paying out nearly \$10,000,000 for what we might produce in this country ourselves, and it means that we are under this competition with a cheaper producer which menaces Great Britain with worse than war. We are paying out under our low tariff, to the United States, money for manufactured goods, the labour to make up which should be employed in our own country and should live in our own country. That retards our industries; the industries which we as Conservatives are bound to protect; the industries, which gentlemen opposite, have at the long last, undertaken as a settled policy, to protect in this country.

What else are we not doing? We have not opened up a new market to one dollar's worth of goods in the last two years since these gentlemen have been in power. We have had a market closed against us by the higher percentage of duty, in some of the sister colonies in the West Indies, notwithstanding the helping hand we held out to them; and we have practically destroyed our trade in important particulars with Germany where it was growing, and where it promised to be productive

and remunerative. These are the results of the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. They are worth thinking over; at least I ask hon. gentlemen opposite to take them as a sort of a sedative to keep down this extraordinary and too great sparkle, that is apt to be produced by the glittering generalities of my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding) and his policy. They are worthy of serious consideration.

My hon. friend spoke about preferential trade. Our hon. friends are always merry, when they talk of us as critics. They have three lines. They say: Before we came into power, you declared that we were going to destroy all the industries of the country. Yes, and what was our basis for declaring it? Our inherent faith in the utterances of the public men of Canada; and anybody knows, that, if you were to gather, collate and spread abroad the statements made by the prominent men of the party sitting opposite to me, for five years previous to the election, no thinking man could come to any other conclusion than that, if they came into power, the days of protection were numbered; and, if the days of protection were numbered, then I say, the industries of this country, which count for so much, would have been ruined. That they find a weak point in our criticism in that respect, hon. gentlemen opposite must entirely attribute to their own utter lack of faith and utter lack of honour in keeping the pledges they made to the country—pledges which were borne by the oldest of them for the last fifteen or twenty years of their public life, and which they never recanted until they took office and tasted of its sweets. They say: When we first brought our tariff down, you declared that it would destroy the industries of this country. So we did—why? Because of the tariff which they first brought down. What was that tariff? It was a tariff which made distinctly more cuts in the National Policy than the tariff which they ultimately put through. They changed that tariff in important particulars; they changed it wisely; but Sir, there was appended to that first tariff of theirs, taken in connection with the statements of hon. gentlemen opposite—what? A reciprocal arrangement for all the world; and I stand here to state, that, if in good faith they had carried out that reciprocal arrangement with the world, and had granted it to the United States of America, as the Minister of Trade and Commerce informed me it was their intention to do, although it was a little longer way round, if they had put the United States and all other countries in the world upon a preference of 25 per cent or more, as against the manufacturers of this country, the industries of this country would have been largely destroyed. I dare say, that hon. gentlemen opposite will be found to be hardy enough to rise in their places and declare, that they never intended any such thing. I have the exact utterance of my hon. friend the Min-

ister of Trade and Commerce. I have better than that—no, not better than that; but I have another which I think it will be well to read. I do not generally hold my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) responsible for what he says; but in this case, being a matured opinion, and one which he had often given expression to, I venture to quote it—not because it is stronger than that of other hon. gentlemen, but because I do not think I have quoted it before. In that debate, when we said to them: This cannot go into operation, because of certain treaties, and you will not be able to give the preference—when we criticised them on these lines, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries made this statement:

Any gentleman who sat here and listened to that resolution as it was explained by the Minister of Finance, knows that it was intended to be an offer of reciprocal trade to any country which would accept the conditions embodied in the resolution. It was not confined to one country more than another.

Well, we found out afterwards, as the hon. gentlemen themselves did, that they were not able to carry out that broad idea of the Liberal, that you should trade with the whole world, if the whole world will trade with you; and I take exception to the statement made by the Minister of Finance yesterday. He said that they had given Great Britain a preference of one-eighth, but that, owing to the action of the British Government, the British people could not enjoy it. The action of the British Government! What action would my hon. friend have the British Government take? The action outlined when he stood up here as the exponent of the fiscal policy, and, in the Parliament of Canada, a loyal colony of Great Britain, proposed to legislate against solemn and binding treaties? Did he mean that that Government should take the same action, and say to the European powers with whom they had made those treaties: Canada has adopted this tariff, and we are going to carry it out; it makes no difference to us whether there is a treaty or not? My hon. friend would have us suppose that the British Government had obstinately interfered. Great Britain did what Great Britain alone could do in honour and good faith. She said: Whilst this may be a privilege to me, I refuse to take it until we can remove the obstacle of these treaties: they must be given their time to run out, and in the meantime the countries which have them must have the reciprocal advantages bargained for in these treaties. That was the action Great Britain took. That was not the action my hon. friend took; but, when he took such action as he did, it would have been far better that he had not talked of the British Government as he did yesterday, saying that it was by their action that they were precluded from getting the preference. It was because there was an in-

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superable bar that could only be got out of the way by one method, and that the honest method, the British Government took.

We have had these different phases presented by hon. gentlemen opposite; and, when a man presents a certain phase to you, you can only argue with him on that phase. The first phase was that presented by my hon. friend who leads the Government, and was advocated for five or six years in this country—unrestricted reciprocity with the United States and discrimination against Great Britain. We had to criticise them on that point. The country taught them a lesson upon it, and they abandoned it, when they had to. Then Mr. Laurier, as he was at that time, took the ground, before the electorate of this country and prior to the election, that he was in favour of preferential trade—that is, preferential trade as it was known all over this country. He explained the matter clearly in London. He showed what advantage it would be to Canada, if we could only get true preferential trade, and he pledged himself, on his honour as a public man and as the leader of a party, that he believed in that doctrine, and that, when he came into power, he would go to London and try to obtain it. The next phase we had was the Government's proposed policy of reciprocal trade open to all the world, with the idea of travelling around as speedily as possible to the United States of America. After that, we had the policy as modified by the treaties; and for a year or two preference was carried out to almost every nation. Now we have the last phase, and it is the very last phase which hon. gentlemen contemplated. They began business with their settled policy of trading with every country that would trade with us on certain conditions. They went through all these transformations, and at the end what did they want to do? They wanted still to trade with all countries that would trade with us on a reciprocal basis, when Mr. Chamberlain put his foot down and told these hon. gentlemen that, if they wanted to give a preference to Great Britain, the only way they could do it was by discriminating against every other country in favour of Great Britain. This is a phase of the policy which in the end differed entirely from what the hon. gentleman intended, and it was simply the product of compulsion—compulsion and blundering combined. How has it worked out? The results are these, that in dutiable imports of merchandise from Great Britain—and that is what counts—merchandise and its dutiable imports for home consumption, in 1895 and 1896, there was an average of \$23,900,000 sent in by Great Britain. After two years of the present Administration that has fallen to \$21,300,000, an actual decrease of \$2,600,000, on the average of those two years, as compared with the average of the two preceding years. Now, there has been great expansion in trade, and Great Britain should have had her share of that expan-

sion, whether under a preferential tariff or not. But what do we find? We find that Great Britain, instead of sharing in that increase, and with the assistance of the preferential tariff, has actually seen her trade with this country decrease from \$24,300,000 in 1896 to \$22,500,000 in 1898. Whilst from 1895 to 1896, just as we were getting on the up-grade, Great Britain showed \$1,100,000 larger imports to this country. Taking dutiable and free goods—the average in the two years of these gentlemen's administration is \$30,700,000 against \$31,900,000 in the two previous years, or a decrease of \$1,200,000. In the six months of this nine months' old bantling, as was stated in the British House of Commons, commencing August 1st and ending January 31st, being the six months of complete preference so-called, what was the increase? It was 1 per cent exactly, in British goods. In a period of expansion, when the whole world was enjoying a buoyancy in trade and progress in every direction, Great Britain was shorn of her natural increase, and even with this preference, made simply an increase of 1 per cent in that time.

But a worse record is here. Last night there was put in my hands a paper from which I cull this result, that in the three months of January, February and March, just past, the exports from Great Britain to Canada decreased by £72,845 sterling, or 7½ per cent, and that Canada's imports into Great Britain have decreased by £189,187 sterling or 17.59 per cent. This was the state of things during the eight full months of the working of the preferential tariff of hon. gentlemen opposite.

How has that preference acted as regards British Guiana and the British West Indies? With British Guiana, 70 per cent has measured the falling off in trade, and 33 per cent has been the actual falling off in the imports from the British West Indies.

These, then, are the reasons why my hon. friend felt that he had to apologize. True, he said it has not done all that he should have done. But why? Because the Englishman is too busy to bother with Canada. Another reason the hon. gentleman gave was that England did not make what we want. Another reason was that the English merchants would not trade with us unless Canadian merchants went over there and did the trading. But, says the Finance Minister, we have touched the heart of John Bull. It is not the heart of John Bull, Mr. Speaker, that wants touching in trade matters. It is the material essence of trade that he is after. Our Finance Minister says that he still looks for a preference from England, but is not going to get it by bulldozing, but by kindness.

An hon. MEMBER. Sunny ways.

Mr. FOSTER. Yes. This is the first example of that preferential treatment which has been accorded in small doses to British Guiana and the British West In-

dies and Great Britain, and it has not eventuated yet except in a larger percentage of trade with the United States and a smaller percentage with these British countries. I think I did mention Mr. Innes' apple labels. I was disputing in my own mind as to what it was that caught the eye of the British consumer—whether it was the ingenious label that Mr. Innes had devised or the good feeling for which the Minister of Finance takes credit. For this 20 per cent increased immigration I had supposed that the very large expenditures made by the Minister of the Interior might have some credit; but the Minister of Finance is selfish in this respect, and takes away from his colleagues all the benefit of that increase as the result of his labours and attributes it entirely to the tariff policy of the Government.

Now, a word with regard to reciprocity, and I shall be very brief. The first thing my hon. friend did was what Ministers, lay ministers, so to speak, sub-ministers, have in an unhappy fashion of doing with my hon. friend who leads the Government. They undertake to completely snub him and call him down on every occasion. The right hon. leader of the Government made a most astounding statement here a week or two ago in which he declared that he had now come to the conclusion that Canada did not want and practically did not need reciprocity. I noticed a shiver running over the face of my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), and it speedily communicated itself to the representative of the maritime provinces; and so my hon. friend the Minister of Finance took early occasion to say:

The Prime Minister, in a recent speech, appeared to say that Canada no longer wanted reciprocity. Perhaps that statement was a little stronger than some of my hon. friends would like. There never was a time when reciprocity was not desirable.

I trust that my hon. friend who leads the Government may take the hint, or he may find some kicking on the part of the Finance Minister and some others who have not yet lost their faith in reciprocity, or else desire not to completely abandon the ground they have been taking for the last eighteen years. Well, Sir, the reciprocity negotiations were fatally handicapped by these hon. gentlemen, and in a most unbusiness-like way. If they ever desired to be in a position to go to the United States and negotiate a treaty, they took the very best means possible of defeating their efforts beforehand. From 1896 down to 1895 my right hon. friend and his colleagues went about this country declaring that the salvation of Canada depended upon her entrance into the markets of the United States, and that they were willing to go to the extent of discriminating against England in order to get that privilege. My right hon. friend staked his own word in Boston to his American friends that when his party got into power, their very

first effort would be to put the United States on a better footing with Canada in reference to commercial matters. No man who had the hope and was serious in the desire of going to the United States to advocate the negotiation of a treaty would ever have so seriously handicapped himself. These gentlemen, on obtaining office, at once rushed through their tariff and made reductions in favour of the United States on most important articles—the very ones on which the United States desired to have reductions. What could the United States wish more than to have a reduction on than their product of corn, 19,000,000 bushels of which came from that country to this in 1898, a portion to be exported, but a large portion to be consumed in this country. We ventured to warn the right hon. gentleman on that corn business. We ventured to point out that on a very small amount would the distillers pay the duty of 7½ per cent after he admitted corn free for other purposes, but the Minister of Customs said, there will be no difficulty about that. I asked the Finance Minister what he expected to get from the duty on corn for distillation, and he replied, \$60,000, at least. What has he got? A little less than \$15,000. Some 200,000 bushels paid duty. What better thing can Americans wish to have on the free list than binder twine which they manufacture, than barbed wire and than iron products, in which they are the great competitors with Great Britain in the neutral markets of the world, while their contiguity with us gives them a decided advantage in this market. On these large reductions were made, and the taxpayers of Canada were burdened to make compensation to the iron producers of this country. Thus corn was let in, offering an immense market to United States producers and paying freights to their railways which handle the corn in its transport to this country. Then, having handicapped themselves in so many ways, these gentlemen went down to the people to whom they had given the most of what they wanted, and said: Now, let us sit down and negotiate a treaty. And what has it ended in? In nothing. These hon. gentlemen know as well as they know that they are sitting there that they can make no treaty with the United States of any breadth at all as regards trade, if they persist in keeping the discrimination of preference with the great competitor of the United States, Great Britain, in this market. They have now tied themselves to the British preference, and it is impossible for them to go back upon it. It would be a sorry thing for this country if they should go back upon it in favour of any reciprocity they could get with the United States.

Lastly, there is to be no change in the tariff. Well, Sir, the Napoleon from the west was right, after all. He forced their hand. There was a bit of a row about it; a row in the North-west; a row in British Columbia; a row nearer the seat of Government.

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The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) did not take back his utterance; Napoleonic in everything else, he was Napoleonic in his explanation. It was not, he said, that the Liberals had moved forward, but it was that the Liberal-Conservatives had gone back—they had not come to meet us in the line of protection, but we had gone back to meet them on the line of revenue tariff and free trade. And this is the revenue tariff and free trade they have introduced. Well, Sir, we can only come to one conclusion, and that is that the question of protection for the industries of this country is settled and settled for many a year to come. And it is settled in accordance with the long-time conviction and battle-tryed standards of the Liberal-Conservative party. The victory for protection was won from sturdy and doughty opponents who fought toe to toe and point to point every inch of the ground, who did not give up that for which they contended until they were overwhelmed, not by the arguments of the party opposed to them merely, but by the intelligence, the public spirit, the aspirations, the very necessities of this country, which they found to be like a wall of adamant in their way, through which they could not pierce with their doctrines of free trade and tariff for revenue only to the destruction of the life and the hope and the energies of this country. The long tariff battle is settled in favour of protection; and hon. gentlemen on this side of the House will stand shoulder to shoulder with hon. gentlemen on the other side to keep the line of protection intact, to make that line still stronger where, to-day, it is not so strong as it ought to be for the benefit of the industries of Canada. This side of the House will not renounce its principles because it is in Opposition. Before it came into power in 1878, it took its political life in its hand, and went to the country declaring the principles to which it committed itself. It triumphed in the country, and when it came back it embodied its principles, it embalmed its pledges in the statute-books of the country. It proposes to work on that line so long as it is a party—true to its principles, true to its traditions, true to what has proved by actual facts, by actual results, to be the stay and hope of progress of this Dominion of Canada.

But what did hon. gentlemen come in to do? They came into curse, and lo, they have blessed. They came to destroy, and lo, they have been compelled to build up in some instances and to destroy as little as possible. But other things they came in to do. They came in to lower taxation; they have raised it \$5,300,000. They came in to lower expenditure; they have raised it \$10,000,000. They came in to stop an increase of the debt; the debt is going up despite the immense surpluses and buoyant revenue; the debt is going up notwithstanding that, whatever they may say, they are not making larger expenditures on

canals and railways than we made during the last five or six years of our term of office. They came in to destroy protection; they have embraced it. They came in to purify and elevate public life; let the promise that Langelier held in his pocket which was signed by the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) himself and by means of which he was dragooned into the voting for what he did not like for two sessions in this House—let that promise testify to the purity that the right hon. gentleman has introduced into public life. And let the fact that when Langelier would stand it no longer and kicked, the right hon. gentleman joined to his extraordinary view as to the way of purifying public life that most deplorable weakness—lack of courage—for either he should have implemented his promise at first or he should have backbone enough to let the man kick and refuse to implement that promise if there was reason for refusing. He was going to purify public life and prevent the virus of bribery from spreading among the electorate, but he sent a letter, signed by himself, to Mr. Migneault, a member of Parliament, and Mr. Migneault read it to the electors, promising to subsidize certain roads that ran through several contested counties. That is the way the right hon. gentleman takes to purify public life. Purify public life! There have been gentlemen sitting behind him put upon his committees to do his bidding, men who knew just as well what their reward would be if they did "right" as though they had that reward already in their hands. They did what they were expected to do, and they have got their reward. I assert what I have asserted before, that no worse poison could be spread abroad in the atmosphere of our public life than for men of the highest position to show the electorate that they do not propose to carry out the promises they make when in Opposition. If you can bribe the whole electorate with the gold of a public man's promise and then when you have got into position refuse to redeem your promise, how far-reaching is corruption like that, as compared with the mere use of money here or there given to a poor elector to pay for his vote. But these things now, under the new philosophy, do not count. The Bourassian philosophy has been introduced the Bourassian method has become current. Now it is to be recognized in Liberal politics that consistency does not mean consistency; that if a man promises to do a thing this very moment and if, two minutes afterwards, he is minded not to do it, or to do another thing, he has been consistent both times, he has worked according to his intention; and the plaudits that that peculiar philosophy received from hon. gentlemen opposite, and the way in which my right hon. friend left the front seat and went back to congratulate the hon. gentleman upon the introduction of that

brand new political philosophy of his, showed how greatly it was in accord with his own heart.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much for having listened to me for this length of time. Let me say to you, in conclusion, that the Liberal-Conservative party, if I can speak for them, this whole country through are heartily glad to endorse the statement that we are passing through a period of prosperity in Canada as great, if not greater, than any it has ever enjoyed. Why should it not be so? Canada has been making great sacrifices to become ready to meet favouring opportunities in the development of her most wonderful resources. She has spent her money like water, and without grumbling; she has faced a future often which looked dark indeed, as it did in those times of 1883, and staked her all upon the throw for the future in this country. She has come out of a period of sectional differences, to a large extent, she has welded herself into the condition of a grand and united body. She is just beginning to find out the depth, the extent, the boundless nature of the resources which she possesses. Her men have the moral calibre, they have the mental power, they have the push, and the vigour, and the vivacity, to make of this country what it ought to be. And, thank God! since hon. gentlemen opposite have exchanged the seats of Opposition for the seats of Government, this whole country now is pretty nearly a unit for independent Canadian development. So far as I am concerned, as one member of the Opposition, I willingly forego any of the toils of official life. I would willingly forego many years of the toils of official life, just to bring that large and, at heart, pretty good section of the people of Canada known as old-time Grits and Liberals—just to translate them out of the despondency in which 18 years of Opposition had thrown them, which had brought them to the very verge of a smarting discontent well-nigh akin to treasonable thoughts. Their success at the polls has clothed them in their right minds, made them strong Canadians, willing to buckle on the armour and fight the competitive battle against the United States of America, willing to go out into this broad world of empire building with Canadian pluck, and hope and energy, and fight the battle of the nations, than which no nobler battle can ever be fought. Though we may differ in minor points, though we may differ in party politics, I am bound to hope that now, under the favourable influence of office, hon. gentlemen opposite may speedily take on the consistency of thorough Canadians, may so fortify themselves that even in coming opposition days they will not easily slide again into those cold and frosty regions of discontent, and that we are now approaching that period when both parties in Canada, the Liberal-Conservative party from long conviction, the Liberal party from the

comfortable feeling that power always gives them, added to their better impulses, will become strong, loyal and united Canadians.

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

### After Recess.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE** (Sir Richard Cartwright). Mr. Speaker, the speech to which we have just listened from the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster), whom I regret not to see in his place, on the present occasion, was, as might have been expected from that hon. gentleman, well worthy of an exceedingly clever advocate, but, like a good many other speeches which that hon. gentleman has delivered in former times and on similar subjects, while I am quite willing to admit that he spoke as a clever advocate would speak from his brief, I regret to say that, as on former occasions, it was marked with a great lack of knowledge of his subject. Perhaps, in his closing remarks, the hon. gentleman gave as good an illustration as could well be imagined of the exceedingly small attention that he chose to bestow on the subject in hand, in so far as dealing with facts was concerned. The House will recollect that the hon. gentleman took occasion to read us a lecture on the score that we had admitted corn free into this country, and, among other things, the hon. gentleman stated that we had actually admitted last year the enormous amount of 19,000,000 bushels of corn into Canada. He went on to say—I took down his words with care—that the great majority of this vast quantity of corn was consumed in this country. Now, for his first statement the hon. gentleman had good authority; he had consulted the Trade and Navigation Returns, which show that 19,700,000 bushels of corn were entered for consumption in Canada. But, as usual, he had forgotten to turn over a few pages, or he would have learnt that, of the 19,700,000 bushels of corn imported into Canada for consumption, 14,332,000 bushels were exported from Canada. I do not know whether any of the hon. gentleman's friends will champion the hon. gentleman's statement that 5,300,000 is the great majority of 19,700,000. That was one of the new lights that the hon. gentleman has shed on the subject, and had he consulted the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), or had he consulted the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan), he would have learnt that the 5,300,000 bushels of corn that remained in Canada were subsequently re-exported in the shape of Canadian beef and Canadian cheese. And he might have learnt or he might have known that all parties, whether they be protectionists or free traders, whom I have ever heard discuss this question, are agreed that, when any article is exported from the country, it is good policy to allow its constituent parts to be im-

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ported free, for the simple and self-evident reason that, in this case, you help the Canadian producer of beef and cheese, and the Canadian producer of similar articles, by placing him on a footing of equality with his American competitor in the market of the world, which fixes the price for both. Now, I give that just as an illustration of the carelessness with which the hon. gentleman, himself a Finance Minister of long standing chose to deal with this subject, which, had he taken the trouble to investigate it, he certainly never would have brought the charge against us that it was a matter of grave impolicy on the part of this Government to have permitted the importation of 19,700,000 bushels of corn into this country. As to the hon. gentleman's other argument that we gave away our whole case to the Americans by allowing this huge quantity of 5,300,000 bushels of corn to be imported into Canada, for the benefit of our cattle-raisers, perhaps the hon. gentleman is not aware that the total production of corn in the United States for the last year for which I have any record, amounted to 2,283,000,000 of bushels. Now, does he or any other hon. gentleman in this House suppose that the American people are likely to be bulldozed by our refusing to admit some 5,000,000 bushels of corn, being exactly one-quarter of 1 per cent of the total quantity produced in that country? The burthen of the hon. gentleman's song appeared to be that the tariff which he had denounced and abused some two years ago, was really after all his own child. After two years he recognizes it, and finding it a thriving and lusty babe, desires to adopt it. Through the whole of the debate on the Address, the air has been filled with charges that we were an extravagant Government, that we were a dishonest Government, that we were an inconsistent Government, that we were a Government of broken pledges and a Government of incompetents. Some of the charges made were very often contradictory and very often absurd; they were sometimes mistaken, and they were always baseless. There may have been occasionally, in respect to some one or two statements made by the hon. gentlemen, some superficial air of truth, but, as I shall presently show, they are utterly and entirely unable to stand investigation.

I desire to inform hon. gentlemen that I am not here for the purpose of apologizing for this Government in any shape or way. It is about the last thing in my mind, now or at any other time. I am here to justify their action. I am here to dispel the slanders that have been levelled at the Government. I am here for the purpose, as far as I know how, of placing the truth before the people, and for the purpose of taking issue at all points with everything said by hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House. I propose, first of all, to deal with a charge which has, perhaps, some little superficial appearance of correctness in it-

self, and that is the charge that we have been extravagant in the administration of public affairs. I propose to show, Mr. Speaker, that, service for service, we are doing the public work far better and far cheaper than ever it was done before for eighteen years, at least. I propose to show, Sir, that all of the new services which have been inaugurated were well warranted, that they are either fruitful in themselves and return to the public treasury as much money as they take out of it, or that they produce such indirect benefits as to well warrant the Government in making these expenditures. Further, I have to take issue with the hon. gentleman on the question which he raised as to the per capita cost of the administration. I say that, service for service, the cost of our administration per head is much less than under the hon. gentleman himself, and I will also show that the burthens on the people are much less under our administration than they were under his. As to the tariff, I propose to deal with that at a later period, but I may say a word or two now as to the charge of inconsistency which has been freely bandied about from the opposite benches. There is no inconsistency whatever in any hon. gentleman on this side of the House stating that he is not prepared to give to the people now, under the wholly altered condition of things, under wholly new circumstances, the same advice which he would give to them ten or twenty years ago. I admit, Sir, that the advice which I myself would give to a country containing but four millions of people might very well differ from the advice which I would give to a country with something like six millions of people. I admit that the advice I would have to give to a country in which the growth of population had become perfectly stationary over wide areas to a country where there was no real increase of wealth—taking the country all over and taking into account the amount which one section lost in comparison with the amount which another section gained—with the advice which I would give, during a period of rapid growth, when, as our record shows, the income of the people has increased in one single year by about \$50,000,000. These are circumstances which warrant and which require, under certain conditions, a different advice and a different policy.

Neither is it true to say that the Liberal party has opposed all outlay. The Liberal party has opposed, and I trust will continue to oppose, all useless outlay; but the Liberal party neither under the administration which I had the honour of being a member twenty years ago, nor under the administration of which I have the honour of being a member now; were ever in principle or in practice opposed to a proper expenditure for proper ends and objects. If the expenditure be demanded by new circumstances, the Liberal party are prepared to grant them. All I ask is, that the House on both sides should

judge of each new proposal on its merits. If hon. gentlemen opposite think we are extravagant in any particular vote that we ask for, let these hon. gentlemen rise in their places, let them expose our extravagance, let them divide the House upon it, or let them hold their peace. Sir, there is an underlying absurdity in this whole contention which deserves a word of explanation. There are two ways in which the burdens of any country can be lessened. Which of those two methods are to be adopted depends, as I have said, wholly and entirely on the circumstances in which the country finds itself. One of these methods, if it be possible, is to reduce the expenditure, and that is always desirable when it can be done with advantage to the general weal. That is sometimes necessary, and is especially necessary when a country is in a stationary, or much more, in a retrograde condition. The other mode, and in a new and growing country like this, the better mode, is to apply ourselves, so as to increase the population, so to increase the wealth, so to develop the resources of the country; that we may multiply the number of taxpayers, that we may increase their means, and thereby as effectually reduce the burdens of the people as if we reduced the actual expenditure. It will cost Canada no more if she spends two or three millions additional and has a couple of millions of extra population; on the contrary, it will cost Canada far less than if we were to succeed in reducing the present expenditure by two million dollars, but lose two millions of additional population.

There is a true test of prosperity which ought to be applied in the case of a country like Canada, and it is the only true test of prosperity—as I have said often in Opposition, as well as on this side of the House—the only true test of prosperity in my mind which can be applied to a country in our position. If you want to ascertain whether a country like ours is prosperous, the test is a simple one. You have got to find whether the natives of the country are remaining in it, or whether these foreigners whom you bring to the country continue denizens of it. Apply this test and you have a test which will not deceive you as to whether the country is prospering or not.

Much has been said by these hon. gentlemen opposite as to the marvellous results of the National Policy inaugurated by them. I propose to give this House briefly one or two illustrations of the very remarkable results—applying that particular test—which were evidenced in Canada in the periods from 1871 to 1881, and from 1881 to 1891.

From 1871 to 1881, as every one knows, this country was under a revenue tariff; partly inaugurated by the predecessors of these hon. gentlemen opposite, partly continued by the Liberal party, but to all intents and purposes a revenue tariff. From 1881 to 1891, the people were in full enjoyment of all the blessings of this wonderful National Policy, and I call the attention of the House

to the results of those two policies ; applying that test which alone I recognize as the real test in a young country like Canada. I begin with the province of Prince Edward Island, from which my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) beside me comes.

From 1871 to 1881, under a revenue tariff policy, Prince Edward Island increased in population nearly 16 per cent ; from 1881 to 1891, under the beneficent influence of the National Policy, Prince Edward Island did not increase at all. Sixteen per cent to nothing—the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) may make out the percentage as he pleases.

In the case of his own province of New Brunswick, from 1871 to 1881, under a revenue policy, the population increased 12½ per cent ; from 1881 to 1891, under the National Policy, it did not increase at all.

An hon. MEMBER. Oh, yes ; it did.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I believe I am wrong. It did increase ; it increased 32 persons, and these 32 persons, it may interest the House to know, were wholly represented by the increase of lunatics in the main asylum at St. John, N.B.

In the case of the province of Nova Scotia, from 1871 to 1881, under a revenue tariff, the increase was 13½ per cent ; from 1881 to 1891, under the National Policy, it is said to have increased 2½ per cent, as to which I shall have a word to say later on.

In the province of Quebec, from 1871 to 1881, the increase was 14 per cent ; under the National Policy from 1881 to 1891 it fell to 9½ per cent.

In my own province of Ontario, the increase from 1871 to 1881 was a little over 18 per cent ; from 1881 to 1891, it fell to 9½ per cent, or a little more than half the increase during the previous decade.

Percentages of Increase of Population of the older provinces of the Dominion.

|                        | 1878 to 1881. | 1881 to 1891. |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Prince Edward Island.. | 15·8          | 0·17          |
| New Brunswick .....    | 12·4          | None.         |
| Nova Scotia .....      | 13·6          | 2·24          |
| Quebec .....           | 14            | 9·53          |
| Ontario .....          | 18            | 9·73          |

If the House want to understand what these figures mean, I will point out to them that the total average of increase in our older provinces was rather less than 8 per cent, while in England and Wales, from 1881 to 1891, the total increase amounted to 11½ per cent—England and Wales increased in population nearly fifty per cent more than Quebec, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. And mark you, all that occurred in spite of the well-known fact, that from England and Wales a great number of immigrants go every year to every country in the world ; while, according to the statements made by hon. gentlemen opposite, we in the older provinces were receiving a large number of immigrants over and above our own natural growth during that entire period.

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There is another matter connected with that to which I might call the attention of the House while I am about it. I have pointed out the scandalously bad record made by the National Policy from 1881 to 1891 ; I have to add, that there is every reason to believe that bad as that record is, it does not represent the true facts. These hon. gentlemen who were in this House eight or nine years ago, will recollect the exposure made by my hon. friend the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden), who proved to a demonstration on the floor of this Parliament, that in certain sections of Nova Scotia the very grossest frauds had been committed by counting among the population numbers of people who had not been resident in Nova Scotia for four, five, eight, ten and twelve years. And, I remember right well, when my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) made this statement, when he exposed these frauds ; instead of the Government of the day doing their duty, taking the matter up and investigating it, ascertaining what the real facts were, my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) was utterly and entirely refused any further information on the subject. Under these circumstances I am justified in impugning, as I do impugn, the accuracy of the figures recorded, for Nova Scotia at least ; and I believe, if the truth were known, that a very great number of people would have been proved to have been absent from the provinces who were most improperly counted in the census of that time. I speak only of what absolute and unanswerable proof was given of on the floor of this House.

Sir, how stands the case to-day ? It is always difficult to obtain anything like an accurate statement of the increase of population in the periods between the census ; but there is a considerable accumulation of evidence, all of which goes to show that the terrible loss of population which was going on in Canada under the National Policy from 1881 to 1891 is, as the " Mail and Empire " for once truly stated, a thing of the past. Sir, there is reasonably good ground for believing that the people who come to Canada stay here, and that our own native population are remaining here ; and I will give the House presently some incidental proofs of the correctness of that assertion. One important proof of the correctness of our assertion lies in the fact that in the year 1898 the importation of settlers' effects reached the very large sum of \$2,828,000, of which about \$2,300,000 represented settlers' effects coming through the United States. In the next place, we find, as my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) informs me, that there has been a large and pleasing increase in the number of applications for homesteads, these having risen from about 2,400 in 1896 to about 4,800 in the last year. We are also advised by his agents that without taking into account the number of persons who are known to have settled in the Klondike and elsewhere, the total number of settlers last year amounted to 32,702 souls, of whom we have every reason to be-

lieve the enormous majority remained in this country. I have further obtained from the authorities of the Canadian Pacific Railway an interesting statement showing the amount of sales of lands made to actual settlers during the last four or five years, which goes very far to confirm the truth of the assertion which I have made, that population is not only coming here, but is remaining here in vastly greater degree than before. The sales of lands by the Canadian Pacific Railway have been as follows :—

|               | Acres.  |
|---------------|---------|
| In 1895 ..... | 55,000  |
| 1896 .....    | 66,000  |
| 1897 .....    | 135,000 |
| 1898 .....    | 242,000 |

Being exactly five times the amount that had been sold in 1895. The Manitoba South-western Colonization Railway records a somewhat similar state of things, the sales from its land grant being as follows :—

|               | Acres.  |
|---------------|---------|
| In 1895 ..... | 5,000   |
| 1896 .....    | 21,000  |
| 1897 .....    | 63,000  |
| 1898 .....    | 106,000 |

Being 21 times as many as they had sold in 1895. Now, Sir, when I add to all that the reports that reach us from almost every quarter of the country tending to show that our people are busy and are remaining here, that they have ceased to emigrate, in any great numbers at any rate, to the United States, I am justified in saying that there is every ground for believing that the growth of population in Canada, since our accession to power, has been at least double or treble what it was in the three or four years previous. As I said, you cannot absolutely estimate these matters until the census is taken; and when it is taken I am aware that we are likely to be handicapped to a very considerable extent by the method in which the census was taken nine or ten years ago. We shall be sufferers from the frauds which my hon. friend exposed; and were it not that, instead of being as extravagant a Government as our hon. friend would indicate, we are desirous, even for our own political advantage, not to expend any public money which we can avoid expending, I would have earnestly desired that a census could have been taken in 1896, so that in 1901 you would have a fair opportunity of judging how the country throve under the respective regimes.

Now, Sir, I come to deal with the main charge preferred by the hon. member for York, that this Government has been guilty of gross extravagance. Sir, I admit that the speech the hon. gentleman made was a very fine specimen of perverted ingenuity, which might be dangerous if not answered; but I do not think anybody who will bestow any serious consideration on the subject can fail to see that I am strictly within my rights when I say that, service for service

we are rendering a better and a very considerably cheaper service to the country than our predecessors were able to grant. What is the hon. gentleman's main statement? His main statement is this: We spent, he said, in our last year of office \$37,000,000, while you demand \$41,500,000, and I think you will probably require more, consequently you are abominably extravagant.

Now, Sir, in the first place, I repeat what my hon. friend the Finance Minister enlarged upon the other evening, that the accounts for 1896 were cooked if any accounts were ever cooked. They were not honest accounts; they were not accounts that were creditable to the ex-Finance Minister or to the Government of which he was a member. How did the hon. gentleman cut down his expenditure from \$38,250,000 in 1895 to \$37,000,000 in 1896? Sir, the means he took were, *mutatis mutandis*, precisely the same as if he had turned off every lighthouse-keeper in the St. Lawrence, and after the people of Canada had lost \$10,000,000 from wrecks, he had then claimed credit for economy for having saved \$300,000 in the cost of lighthouses. What he did was to lay his hands on the militiamen of Canada and refuse to allow them to drill in 1896. What was the result of that? It happened, owing to the illness of my hon. friend the Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden), that I administered that department for several months, and I found in 1897 that the whole militia of Canada had been reduced to a state of disorganization—that whole regiments had been disorganized and might as well have been disbanded, because, as everybody knows, in the great majority of cases, if you deprive the rural battalions of the opportunity of being brought together and drilled for a period of two or three years, which was the result of the hon. gentleman's proceeding, you render all the rest of the militia expenditure absolutely useless. It might as well have been thrown into the sea. What was his other expedient? He insisted in cutting down the public works of the country to such a point that it was impossible to make the necessary repairs to many important public works, so that grievous injury was done to these works all over the country; and my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), whom I am sorry not to see in his place to-night, was obliged and will be obliged to expend hundreds of thousands of dollars for the purpose of repairing the mischief that was then done owing to, I cannot call it the economy or the parsimony of the hon. gentleman, but his attempt to force a false balance in 1896. Sir, in 1895 the hon. gentleman spent \$38,132,000. I am not going to take his Estimates for 1897, although I might very fairly do so; but I will take his actual expenditure for 1895, and I will compare it, service for service, with the actual expenditure which my hon. friend proposes; and I think

when I have done, that the House will admit that I have made good my position that service for service we are giving a better and a cheaper service than hon. gentlemen opposite were able to do. Sir, it is quite true that my hon. friend the Finance Minister asks for \$41,500,000 for the services of the year 1900; but it must be remembered that in that there are included a number of services for which there is no corresponding charge whatever to be found in 1895. Of what is the additional sum of \$3,300,000 made up? First of all, there are the charges for the Yukon, amounting to \$814,000. What have the hon. gentlemen to correspond to these? And these charges, be it remembered, do not inflict one copper of burthen on the people of Canada, thanks to the administration of my hon. friend. What is spent in the Yukon is provided by the Yukon, and Canada bears no share of that burthen.

Next, my hon. friend the Minister of Railways has extended and enlarged the canal system, and has greatly extended the Inter-colonial Railway. These additions will amount, I believe, to something like a million dollars more than in 1895, but bear in mind, that he expects to get from this extension of his railway and his canals a sum which will bring whatever deficit there may be within about the same figure as the deficit which was incurred in 1895, and that large sum will, therefore, involve no additional burden on the people, or, at the outside, a very small burden, probably not exceeding \$50,000 or \$75,000. Then, there is a third item to which the hon. gentleman paid no attention. In 1895 he had to provide a sinking fund of \$2,000,000, but we had to provide a sinking fund of \$2,419,000, or an additional sinking fund of \$419,000. Those three items amount to \$2,225,000 at least, and involve no additional burden whatever on the people. The money that is taken out of one side of the account is put into it on the other, because I presume nobody here would imagine that the money expended on the sinking fund, which goes in reduction of the debt, can be charged, in any shape or form, as an additional burden on the people.

There remains the fourth, and an important item, the item of interest on the capital expended by us (less the cost of our special subsidy to the Crow's Nest Pass Railway) in carrying out those engagements which the hon. gentlemen had entered into for the completion of our canals. I do not blame them for having incurred that expense. We have adopted that policy, but, at the same time, they have no right to charge against us, as an addition for which we are responsible on the burdens of Canada, the \$358,000, more or less, which represents the interest on the \$12,000,000 or \$13,000,000 expended since 1895 in the completion of those canals. Deduct those sums from the \$41,500,000 which my hon. friend asks, and you will find that there remains to be accounted for by

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us something like \$700,000. For this we are responsible. I admit the responsibility, and I invite the criticism of hon. gentlemen.

Sir, for the first item of that \$700,000, I find a charge from my hon. friend here (Mr. Sifton) of \$163,000 above the expenditure of 1895 for immigration purposes. And I believe that in his hands, in a very short space of time, the country will admit that no money was ever better spent. I find that my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) requires an additional expenditure of \$113,000, mostly to be invested in the development of cold storage and other similar projects. I find that, for small subsidies, largely for the benefit of the maritime provinces, we require an additional sum of about \$150,000, required mainly in connection with the development of the winter port service. I find that for militia purposes we require an additional sum of \$132,000, mainly at the instance of the Imperial authorities, who have demanded a considerable additional expenditure on our part for the purpose of providing a garrison in Esquimalt. If you add to that the fact, that the government of the North-west Territories involves an expenditure of \$50,000 more, and that the additional lighthouses require \$40,000, you will see where the extra expenditure comes in. If hon. gentlemen opposite disapprove of the expenditure, if they think that these sums ought not to be voted for those particular services, the remedy is in their own hands. Let them denounce those appropriations, when my hon. friend proposes them, and vote against them on the floor of this House. But if they shun, as I believe they will, voting down the militia expenditure, the expenditure on agriculture, the expenditure on immigration, the subsidies to St. John and Halifax to which I have alluded, it does not lie in their mouths to say, that this Government is extravagant in making them.

Now I come to another point raised by the hon. gentleman. He entered into a long per capita computation, and he produced results which differ materially from those my hon. friend produced. I call attention, first of all, to this point. So far as it is possible for us to ascertain the growth of population in 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894 and the greater part of 1895, it was very slow indeed. During most of these years, the exodus continued: during none of them was any considerable immigration coming into Canada; and, so far as my experience goes—and I have watched the movement of population very carefully—I believe that I am within the mark, when I say, that it is doubtful whether our total population in 1895 amounted to 5,000,000. I do not believe our population, during those four or five years, increased one bit faster than in the preceding five years. But after 1895 the situation changed. There is no doubt whatever that a far greater portion of our own people are remaining in Canada than before.

There is no doubt whatever, putting to one side the vagrant population attracted to such places as the Klondike, that a much larger population is coming in than ever before, and I think, in comparing 1895 and 1900, you will be perfectly justified in assuming that an addition of about 100,000 a year will have been made to our population by the close of 1900. However, I give that calculation for what it is worth. My point is this: Deducting the Yukon charges, the railways and canals, the sinking fund and the interest on the expenditure incurred by those hon. gentlemen, for none of which can we be properly held responsible, and none of which is it fair to include in a per capita valuation, you have this result, that, in 1895, 5,000,000 people expended \$38,132,000, averaging per capita, \$7.62. In 1900, adding these additional services I have referred to—adding immigration, adding agriculture, adding subsidies, adding militia, adding all these others, the expenditure, apart from the items I have mentioned, amounted to \$38,750,000, and the cost per capita, instead of being \$7.62, would be \$7.04. Now, I call the attention of the House to the exceeding unfairness, when calculating the per capita expenditure, of taking into account such items as those I have referred to—the charges in regard to the development of the Yukon, the charges for the sinking fund and interest—though that formed a small part of the whole. And again I repeat the question and challenge: Do these hon. gentlemen impugn these expenditures? Do they propose to challenge them by their votes in this House?

Now, I make one remark here for the benefit of all concerned. If there has been one thing more noticeable than another since we assumed the reins of office, it has been the steady, persistent efforts with which these hon. gentlemen opposite have resisted every attempt on our part to lessen the expenditure. When we declined to add \$30,000 or \$40,000 a year, to the charge for civil government, what did these hon. gentlemen do? They fought us, Sir, like tigers, for the purpose of adding a couple of hundred thousand—for it amounted to that in five years—to the annual charge on account of civil government. They have made it a constant reproach to us, that we would not spend \$750,000 a year before we knew where we were, on a fast Atlantic service. They urged expenditure upon telegraph lines; they strongly opposed the reduction in the rate of interest in the savings banks proposed by my hon. friend. Aye, and they opposed the abolition of the Franchise Act, under which an expenditure of a couple of hundred thousand dollars was inflicted on this country. Why, Sir, if we had listened to them, my hon. friend would have wanted forty-five millions, instead of forty-one millions and a half. Nevertheless, Sir, the point is good, that, service for service, we have done all these things, and done them

better than they did; and that, taking into account the probable increase in the population, the cost per capita is very considerably lessened below what it was in 1895.

And now I desire to return for a few moments to the tariff. And here I may take the liberty of defining the position I hold myself on that subject. I have never pretended, and I do not pretend now, that the present tariff is perfect or that it is a final tariff. But I say, that, as compared with the tariff it superseded, it is an immense improvement. Before proceeding to a consideration of the facts, let me point out two glaring absurdities. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) who spoke last devoted a greater part of his speech to prove that the preferential tariff given to England was a sham and mockery. He rises in his place, he, an ex-Finance Minister, and tells this House, that it is a sham that an English manufacturer is allowed to import goods into this country and pay \$3, when the manufacturers from every other country are compelled to pay \$4. Then, Sir, he assumed, as have so many more, to judge the preferential tariff by the returns to date. As my hon. friend showed again and again, the preferential tariff practically did not come into effect until the 1st August last, and they are not in possession of returns; yet, during the debate on the Address, I heard a number of these gentlemen declaring the preferential tariff to be a failure because it had not shown any great results in 1897 or 1898. Why, Sir, in 1897 it was not in existence at all; and in 1898, only half the preference took effect until the 1st of August, when the whole 25 per cent came into effect. And now I come to deal with the question of percentages, in which my hon. friend the member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) delights. Sir, this is a case where a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Percentages are valuable things, without doubt, where conditions are similar; but they are worth nothing where conditions differ. I will tell the hon. gentleman, or the hon. gentleman's friends, that, as to this matter of percentages, I could, with a few strokes of my pen, draw a tariff on which the percentages would be extremely low on all the goods imported, and yet be almost absolutely prohibitory. All you have to do, is to make the tariff high enough on the largest classes of goods to exclude them, and make it low on the small remainder. Let me give the House an illustration which, I think, ought to go some way to convince some of these hon. gentlemen opposite that this matter of percentages had better be handled with a little care. If hon. gentlemen will take the Trade and Navigation Returns, and look at the figures showing our trade from Holland, they will find that we imported from that country \$374,000 worth, all told, and on that amount we collected \$908,000. Now, on the principles laid down by the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) and a good many

of his friends, I would be justified in saying, that we had an average tax of 300 per cent on every article we imported from Holland. I need not say to my hon. friend, that this arises from the fact that there is one particular article in that importation which is taxed enormously high, and thus disturbs the entire average, from end to end. Now I propose to analyse briefly the facts of this protective tariff. If the hon. member for York would turn to the Trade and Commerce Returns—from which, I observe, he quoted to-day without quite understanding, as I thought, what he was quoting—he will find some noticeable facts, to which I call the attention of the House. He will find, in the first place, that we imported from Great Britain, in the year 1878, \$32,139,000 worth of dutiable goods, on which there was a duty paid of \$6,445,000. He will find that in 1888, when the National Policy was in full operation, we imported from Great Britain a matter of \$30,848,000 worth of dutiable goods, on which the duty was \$8,972,000. I will come presently to the operation of the tariff on the goods imported in 1898; but, in the meantime, and for the benefit of all these super-loyal gentlemen on the other side, I want to show in one word the general result of the Mackenzie tariff of 1878 and—what shall I call it?—the mongrel tariff, the semi-Yankee tariff that succeeded it in 1879. Now, in 1878 we imported from Great Britain, of dutiable goods, considerably more than a million dollars more than we imported in 1888. But in 1878 we charged the British importer two and a half millions less than these gentlemen charged on a million dollars less of goods in 1888. That was the way that they encouraged and fostered British trade.

Now I come to, perhaps, a more interesting point; I come to the point as to how far, or to what degree, our present tariff has really affected the importation of British goods into this country, how far it has lowered the standard of duty. And here I beg, as I did just now, to call attention to the fact that if you wish to ascertain the real effect of the tariff, the least you can do is to deduct those articles with which the tariff does not meddle at all. As everybody knows the preferential tariff has nothing to do with the duties on spirits and wines; and I propose to deduct those from the importations of 1898; and I propose, further, to apply the preferential tariff, as it now exists, to the importations, and we will then see what the real and full effect of our preferential tariff is likely to be. Sir, in 1898 we imported, in round numbers, \$22,556,000 of dutiable goods from Great Britain, and on these we collected \$6,649,000 of duty. In that I include a quantity of spirits amounting to about \$600,000, on which there was a duty of \$885,000. Deducting those, we find that the dutiable goods imported amounted, as nearly as possible, to \$22,000,000, in round numbers, on which there was a duty, of \$5,764,000. Now, nobody can deny that to

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get the true effect of the preferential tariff you must deduct the other 12½ per cent, which would be deducted to-day if these goods were imported, and you will find, if you do that on this \$22,000,000 worth of goods, that we would have levied a tax of \$4,941,000. Sir, the result of that is, that on the dutiable goods, less spirits and wine, which we imported from England in 1898, our present tariff barely averages 22½ per cent as against the 28 per cent which was levied in 1888, and, I may add, as against the 19 per cent which was levied under my own tariff in 1878. Now, I do not say that we got down, in the matter of British goods, absolutely to a revenue tariff, but we have come exceedingly close to it; and I break no secrets of office when I intimate that the tariff now imposed by us in 1898 on these British goods, is, in its actual results, almost identical with that which I wanted to propose in 1876 myself.

Now, Sir, on this same question of preference, I have a word or two to say further. It is a very misleading thing to state to the House that the whole effect of the reduction of duty is measured by the reduction on these same English goods. The House will recollect that these English goods imported into Canada come into direct competition with the goods imported from all other countries, and chiefly with those from the United States. It will also remember that they come into competition with the goods produced by our own manufacturers here, and if you reduce the duty on that line of goods, largely consumed in Canada as English goods are, you compel the American manufacturer to a certain extent, and compel our own manufacturer, to lower his prices. So the result of our preferential tariff is to benefit those two great classes whom I believe the people of Canada desire to see benefited, the Canadian consumer in the first place, and the Canadian consumer's best customer, that is to say, the English manufacturer and producer, in the second place. As to the effect on the United States, I can only say this: I believe it is true enough that the effect of our preferential tariff has not been largely to reduce the volume of American importations. For that there are many reasons, one of which is that from their peculiar position and contiguity, and from reasons of freight rates and other things, the American goods will bear a considerable higher rate of duty than English goods will bear without putting a stop to their importation. I recollect very well, in discussing this matter with an extremely intelligent American gentleman, what he pointed out to me in that respect. He pointed out that while it was perfectly true that we did not diminish the volume of American importations, we had enormously diminished the amount of American profits on these same importations, enormously diminished them to the benefit of the people of Canada and to the Canadian consumer.

Now, Sir, I turn to another branch of the subject which was not fully dealt

with, but which was undoubtedly alluded to by the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster). That hon. gentleman laid a good deal of stress, as the House will recollect, on the enormous quantity of American goods that we imported into Canada, and in particular, on that enormous quantity of American free goods that we imported into Canada. Sir, I want to call the attention of the House and of the country to what these same free importations consist of, and to inquire whether it is wise or practicable, or in our own interest, largely to tax these same free imports. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that if we did tax them there would rise up a howl of protest from every manufacturer in Canada. Sir, I will give the House a brief list of what these same free goods, \$40,000,000 worth in all, imported in 1898, consist of; and I advise our friends opposite to consider whether they would wish to put a severe tax on most of them. The first item is \$2,225,000 of settlers' effects coming into this country. Do my hon. friends advise us to put a heavy tax on settlers' effects coming into Canada free from the United States? The next item is \$4,000,000 of coin and bullion. Do they desire to tax \$4,000,000 coin and bullion? The third item is \$5,000,000 of grain in transit, which comes through our railways, through our canals, by our ships, and which gives employment to our people, and provides freight for our shipping. Do they wish to put an end to the free importation of three or four hundred thousand tons of freight through our railways and canals? And these items amount to \$11,225,000 out of the \$40,000,000? The next class is a series of items composed of goods we find it to our great convenience to import through American territory. We import about \$2,225,000 of hides for the use of our manufacturers. We import \$1,000,000 of drugs for the use of our manufacturers, and to enable them to compete with the Americans in our own market. We import of raw rubber and similar articles, \$1,725,000 for the same purpose. We import of raw wool a value of \$333,000; of fruits, \$500,000; of raw furs, \$225,000; of raw flax, \$225,000; various articles for the use of our fisheries, amounting to \$225,000. We import twine, which the hon. gentleman was objecting to, for our farmers' benefit, to the tune of \$400,000. We import animals for the improvement of our own stock, to the tune of \$400,000; we import a lot of rags, about \$200,000 worth, and we import a quantity of bags. Now, most of these goods, the House will note are imported by us for our own convenience through the United States, and in all cases, we believe, for the benefit of our own manufacturers, or of particular classes of our own people. What else do we import? What else would these hon. gentlemen like to tax? Well, there is \$4,225,000 worth of cotton wool. Do they desire to tax that? Do they advise that we should tax cotton wool coming into this country? We import \$6,225,000 worth of anthracite coal, coal

which we cannot get anywhere else. Do they propose to tax that? We import for the benefit of our manufacturers, and for their benefit alone, about \$5,000,000 worth of metals of various kinds, chiefly iron, to be used in our manufactories. Do they desire to have this raw material in that shape taxed? If they do, let them say so, and my hon. friend, I dare say, will consider the matter. We import, besides that a matter of \$2,500,000 worth of lumber, a large part of which, however, is for the use of our manufactories. And lastly, for the use of our agriculturists and cattle growers to enable them to compete in the English market with the Americans who get their corn free, we import about \$2,000,000 of corn, and there you have your \$40,000,000. Is it wise or prudent for the people of Canada to refuse to avail themselves of these articles or to impose taxes on articles almost all of which are imported for the benefit of our people and our own manufacturers? If they think it is so, it is in our power to do it, but I doubt very much the assistance they will get from the manufacturers if they propose that measure. The fact of the matter is that we are taxing, at the present moment, all American manufactured articles, and we are taxing them highly; we are taxing them at least \$4 for every \$3 of taxes that we impose on English manufactures of a similar character. We are importing large quantities of American goods and we are importing them directly for our own benefit and our own profit.

Now, the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster), in his speech on the Address took occasion to make some rather invidious remarks in reference to the question of specific duties, in which he charged that we had deceived the people, or, at any rate, that we had failed to carry out our pledges. He alluded slightly to it to-day, though not as fully as he had done before. What the hon. gentleman said in brief, was this—I do not want to misquote the hon. gentleman, so I prefer to give his words. Here is the passage, Sir, which I shall read. The hon. gentleman is referring to specific duties.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. McDougall. Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is not in order in referring to a previous debate.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Well, I will quote what the hon. gentleman said, and I will not read it. The hon. gentleman alluded to it to-day, and the hon. gentleman stated the same thing in the House before, that we—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Mr. Speaker, I am in order. I am dealing with the question of specific duties; I am dealing with the allegation that

we have failed in our professions in the matter of specific duties. The hon. gentleman said that there were 175 specific duties in the tariff, and all you have done, he said, is to repeal twenty-eight of them. And he proceeded to argue that this was a miserable abortion, in no wise entitling us to make the statement that we had abolished specific duties. What are the facts? There were 175 specific duties in the old tariff; there are 147 now, and of these 147 117 are on articles of food or drink which nobody that I ever heard of has ever proposed to treat except with specific duties. They have nothing at all to do with the argument brought forward on our side of the House condemnatory of specific duties. We found fifty-eight specific duties, many of them involving a large class of articles, and we have reduced these to twenty-nine or thirty. Of those that remain, fourteen, nearly one-half, are retained in regard to some description of iron manufactures, and in respect to these we reduced them very largely, and in many cases to the extent of one-half. The other duties that are specific are absolutely insignificant. There are two or three specific duties, on coal, coal oil, and its various products; there are three specific duties on stereotypes and some such preparations, three on opium, and three specific duties on various kinds of gunpowder. Under these circumstances, to pretend that we have failed to rid the tariff of specific duties, is simply absurd. We have reduced the specific duties; we have, in point of fact, absolutely abolished specific duties on all important lines except on a small list of iron duties. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) states that ours is a protective tariff. There is an easy way to test whether a tariff is protective or not. Under a protective tariff, if it be a genuine protective tariff, you will find that importations into the country which imposes it, will grow less, and if the hon. gentleman will take the trouble to look into the operation of the Dingley tariff for the year which has just past, or for the first six months of the present year, he will find that it has in the most marked degree had that effect. There, Sir, they have a protective tariff, and as a result of it their importations were reduced from something like \$760,000,000 to something like \$600,000,000 in the course of a year under this Dingley tariff. That was the case there, and as stated by the hon. member for York, under our tariff, the imports of all kinds have increased largely in 1897, and still more in 1898. That is the true test of a protective tariff, and by that test I am perfectly willing that the House should judge as between our tariff and the American tariff. If hon. gentlemen will compare our tariff with the American tariff they will see that ours is not a protective tariff, but that in its main point, is approaching, though not already having reached it, but is approaching, the standard of a true revenue tariff.

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Now, Sir, as regards the future, I entirely agree with the opinion expressed by my hon. friend that there is occasion for us to be cautious. We must not presume too much on the good times we now have, because they will not last for ever, but I point out that there has been great development of new resources in Canada within the last few years. I point out that new industries of great magnitude are likely to arise which will afford means of profitable employment to a large number of our people; I point out, as the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) also pointed out, and with truth, that there has been a most extraordinary development in many parts of Canada, in our great mining industries. I believe the time has come when we shall be able to turn our magnificent water power to greater advantage than we have hitherto done. Having regard to all these things, I think that while we must and should exercise a due degree of caution, there is reasonable ground also for hoping that our present prosperity may be continued to us for a good while to come.

And here, although I know that comparisons are odious, I cannot forbear one word or two as to the way in which the present Government have dealt with the duties which devolved upon them, in connection with the development of the new regions which are now being opened up. I might remind the older members of this House, that there was a time when a vast territory was placed at the disposal of the people of Canada, and when hon. gentlemen opposite undertook to exploit it; and I might remind them of the promises that were made in connection with it. I might remind them of the \$58,000,000 cash, or securities better than cash, that were to flow into the public treasury from the way in which hon. gentlemen opposite would deal with the North-west Territories. I might remind them of the 640,000,000 bushels of grain per annum, which were to be produced, and which were to flood our harbours, our railways, and canals, and every available means of access to the sea, as the result of the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. And I might remind them also, that the net result of the use the Conservatives made of all that vast territory was, that from the day they got possession of it down to the present moment it has not even paid the expense of survey, and the people of Canada, first and last, are probably something like \$200,000,000 worse off, although I have good hopes that even that vast sum will be recouped to them before long—but not owing to the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. We were called upon under somewhat difficult circumstances to deal with the acquisition of new territory. We were called upon to administer a territory to which there was no means of access, except by a long and perilous journey of months in duration. We were called upon to do so under circumstances in which we might well have been pardoned if we had demanded large sums of money from

the people of Canada, and made no return. And how have we administered the charge entrusted to us? Why, Sir, the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) made it a reproach to us the other day, that we had taken millions out of that country more than we had put in, and he was good enough to tell us that the people of Canada owed many hundreds of thousands of dollars to the American miners who had gone in to explore the Klondike, and who were kind enough to take away our gold, and allow us 10 per cent in return.

Now, I do not want to weary the House; I do not believe that after such a speech as was delivered by my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), it is at all necessary for me to do so. I rose more particularly to deal with certain, as it appeared to me, grave mis-statements and blunders, into which the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) had fallen. I repeat that I am prepared to show, and prove, that service for service—and it is the only way to judge—we are administering the country at less cost per head than these gentlemen opposite were doing five years ago; both relatively and absolutely, certainly relatively, when you take into account the increased population the country now contains. I say that we have very considerably reduced the burdens of the people. I say that we will be able, I hope and trust, to reduce the burdens still more in time; for I, for one, am entirely in accord with the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), that even if there be inequalities, even if there be things that should be redressed in the tariff, it is not expedient, it is not wise, to disturb the tariff frequently from time to time. Better endure some little inconveniences than put the whole business community in a ferment without very good cause for disturbing them. I pointed to the fact that there has been a great growth of population in Canada within the last few years, and that there is every reason to believe that that growth will continue. There is every reason to believe that we shall attract many immigrants here; there is every reason to believe we will keep the great bulk of our own people in this country, and there is proof positive that there has been a great increase in the wealth of Canada. I believe that that will be to a very great extent permanent, and although I would be the last man to use that as an excuse for unnecessary extravagance or unnecessary expenditure. I do say it is a justification for a liberal dealing with the urgent wants of the country. Although we may not have moved quite so fast as we would desire in all respects, although we may not have been able to do everything we desired to have done, yet, I do say, and I think the people will agree with me, that never since Canada was confederated down to the present hour, do the people of Canada, or the Government of Canada, or Canada as a whole, stand higher, and more deservedly

so, than they do at this present day and hour.

Mr. T. D. CRAIG (East Durham). Mr. Speaker, I have listened with pleasure, as I always do, to the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright), not because his arguments were very strong, but because his style is rather pleasing. I noticed that in the beginning of his speech, he told us he had no desire to apologize for anything that his Government had done, but that he rose rather to justify all they had done. It seemed to me that the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) occupied rather an unenviable position. Why is it, that the hon. gentleman, who was so long the financial critic of the Liberal party when in Opposition, is not now the Finance Minister of Canada? That, of course, is known only to the members of the Government themselves, but nevertheless the public outside have a very good idea of the reason, and that reason is: That the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) had made so many speeches denouncing the National Policy, decrying the country, picturing the extravagance of the Conservative party and advocating economy, that the Prime Minister in forming his Government, thought it would be impossible to make the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) his Minister of Finance. The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) was afraid that the manufacturers of Canada would have been alarmed if the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) was made Finance Minister, and as the Liberals in power were determined to go back upon their pledges when in Opposition, the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) was laid aside, and a new man sought to take the important portfolio of finance. I do not envy the Minister of Trade and Commerce in his present plight. He addressed the House to-night, but in doing so, he answered his own speeches rather than the speech of the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster). It is all very well for the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) to say that the speech of the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) was full of fallacious statements, but hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House know that that speech was an able one, and that the arguments it contained cannot be controverted by the Minister of Trade and Commerce or by any one else. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) succeeded, I say, in answering his own speeches made on the floor of the House year after year, and to-night, by reason of the company in which he finds himself, he was compelled to eat his own words. The Minister of Trade and Commerce discovered that the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) had made a little mistake about corn, and it was surprising to see how hon. gentlemen opposite applauded his discovery of this slight error. It was only a slip of the tongue, and it would

not have been noticed by me, had it not been that the moment it was pointed out, there was immense applause from the supporters of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. They were so afraid they would not have anything to applaud in what the hon. Minister said, that they made sure they would avail of that small opportunity. But after all, the statement made by the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) was merely bearing out the statement made by the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) in Chicago. That hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton) is a member of the commission appointed to negotiate a treaty with the American authorities, and speaking at Chicago he told his audience, that the Liberal party in Canada had made a mistake in admitting corn free of duty, without waiting to make it a matter of bargain for better terms with the American Government. That was the argument made by the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) in this House, and that is borne out conclusively by the statement made by the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) in Chicago, a gentleman who understands these things thoroughly, and who was on the commission trying to negotiate a treaty, but who felt before going to Washington that the party had given away almost everything they had to give, and therefore were not likely to accomplish anything.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce first of all took up the question of extravagance. He says we are charging them with extravagance. Well, I think he is somewhat mistaken in that. We are not the party who raised the charge of extravagance in this House. We say to hon. gentlemen opposite: The cry of extravagance was the one great cry which you raised all over this country; you talked about it constantly and everywhere, and the Minister of Trade and Commerce was one of the greatest sinners in this respect. In this House, and out of it, that was one of his great cries, and he made the people of his own party, and perhaps some of the Conservative party, believe that we were extravagant. His argument was this: There is an expenditure of \$38,000,000; I could cut that down by two or three million dollars; there is no necessity for spending \$38,000,000 in a country with only 5,000,000 people. Does the hon. gentleman say that to-day? Not at all. He does not use that argument any longer, and he will not allow us to use it either. He says: If the expenditure can be justified, it is all right. Well, I do not think it is all right. I do not think that is a good argument at all. The point is this—and there was some force in his argument, when in Opposition—that a country of 5,000,000 people should not require such a great expenditure; and, if there is any point in that argument, that is the argument we make to-day. It is all very well for the hon. gentleman to say: Let our opponents object to some specific item in the Estimates. That is not the argument at

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all. We are not responsible for these expenditures, and it is no use for the Minister of Trade and Commerce to try and throw the responsibility upon us. We are not carrying on the affairs of the country; hon. gentlemen opposite are responsible. We do not intend to object to particular expenditures; but we do say, that a gentleman who said that \$38,000,000, including supplementary Estimates, was far too great an expenditure, and who stands up to-day and says that \$41,000,000 without supplementary Estimates, which would bring the expenditure up to \$44,000,000, is not excessive at all, because it is going to be spent for the good of the country, is using a poor argument, which does not answer his own argument. It shows that these gentlemen in power and in office are two different kinds of people altogether, and are using entirely different arguments. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce says, that this increased expenditure is justified by the increase of population and the prosperity of the country, and he went on to say, that there was a true test of prosperity. I never heard of this test before, though, no doubt, it is a good one. It is, that the natives are staying in the country, and the immigrants are not going out, but are kept in, too. How does he prove that? He says: Take the two decades, from 1871 to 1881, and from 1881 to 1891. From 1871 to 1881, under a revenue tariff, he says, the people stayed in the country; and from 1881 to 1891 the people were going out of the country. Now, I want to call his attention to the fact, which he has been told many a time, but which he seems to forget—because these hon. gentlemen have very short memories, now that they are in power—that there was a great difference between the way the census was taken in 1881 and the way it was taken in 1891. There is no doubt that the country was growing between 1881 and 1891, and the increase of population between those years was probably just as great as it was between 1871 and 1881. But the hon. gentleman need not have taken as long as he did to prove that the country is prosperous. Why, we all know that the country is prosperous. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce imagines that we ought to use the same kind of arguments that he used, when in Opposition. He seemed to imagine that there was a double of himself standing in front of him, on this side of the House, trying to show that the country was not prosperous, because it never was prosperous until he got into power. It is a remarkable thing, but it is the case, that, in his estimation, the country was never prosperous while he was out of power; but, strange to say, as soon as these gentlemen got into power, the country became prosperous. But I make some allowance for the Minister of Trade and Commerce talking about the exodus, because he is very familiar with that subject. He talked about it year after year in this House, and I think he was largely

responsible for it. A great many of his speeches were used by agents in the United States and by people in the old country to show what sort of a country Canada was. I have said before in this House, and I repeat it, that, if I had been an emigrant, contemplating coming to Canada, and had read some of the speeches made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, when he was in Opposition, I never would come to this country. Blue ruin was his constant cry. I remember him saying, that the black flag was floating over the farmers of Canada. How could we expect people to come to a country like that? If there is any reason for gratification that the hon. gentleman has got into power, it is because he has stopped talking blue ruin and has begun to compliment Canada. I say, I excuse the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce for talking about the exodus. It is said, that he cannot sing the old songs, but this exodus was one of his old songs. He is quite familiar with it, and he has not many opportunities of singing it, and, therefore, I excuse him for singing it a little to-night.

Then, the hon. gentleman went on to make a statement which I do not think he substantiated, and which I do not think he can substantiate. He said, that, taking it all in all, they were giving cheaper service for the amount of money expended. Now, we dispute that statement. The hon. gentleman gave no proof of it. It is very easy to stand up and make such a statement in this House, and it may be believed by some people in the country; but I would not accept it, and I do not think the people at large will accept it, unless it is proved by the figures. But, as I said before, all this was of no account, when the hon. gentleman was in Opposition. These arguments went for nothing then. We used these arguments, when on that side of the House. We said the money was voted for right purposes, and we challenged our opponents to point out where the money should not be spent. They criticised some things in the Estimates, but very often they let them go through without criticism. So that argument had no weight at all, when used then, and it is not entitled to any more weight now.

Now, there is an organ which claims to be independent, and I am very glad that it is, although, as a rule, it leans strongly to one side; that is, the Montreal "Witness." I am going to read from that paper a little extract which is so good that it ought to be placed in "Hansard." It is headed "More Spending," so that it is appropriate to this discussion, and it says:

The Minister of Public Works sends a thrill of expansive exhilaration through every community he visits with his airy schemes of money-spending. In Ontario he sometimes spices his dishes with slighting expressions about the selfish merchants of Montreal, who, he says, are a clique who want everything for themselves. He is the hero who is delivering the country from these old fogies, who are so retrogressive and selfish

as not to be able to understand why he has been so determined in his efforts to cripple Montreal harbour. At Toronto, a few days ago, Mr. Tarte declared the necessity of spending \$25,000,000 during the next few years on public works.

Now, I call the attention of the Minister of Trade and Commerce to the next sentence.

Here, one would think, is fit subject for the old jibes of Sir Richard Cartwright against Ministers who went about imploring promoters, contractors and jobbers to join them in a high old time. Is Mr. Tarte so much out of his office because it is haunted by the ghost of Mackenzie, who in his position lay on his arms night and day, not trusting even a deputy, that the country might not be robbed by either his opponents or his own supporters. Had a Conservative Minister made the boast that the Government had made lots of money, and was therefore justified in spending lots of money, how would Sir Richard Cartwright have torn to tatters the idea that a Government can make money or get money in any other way than out of the pockets of the people or at the cost of the capital resources of the country.

Mr. TAYLOR. What paper says that?

Mr. CRAIG. The Montreal "Witness."

"The Government is but a fly on the wheel," was Sir Richard's famous and true dictum. "Hands off," was the "Globe" and Sir Richard's old watchword against Governments meddling with industry and commerce.

Then, the Minister of Public Works went on to speak about the Georgian Bay and Toronto Railway, but I will not trouble the House reading the whole article, and will confine myself to just reading the conclusion:

Yet the Minister of Public Works has given the people of Toronto what they talk of as "an assurance that the Government will give \$3,000,000 for the building of the air line." We think the Government, before undertaking any further great transportation projects costing millions of dollars, should ascertain what the results of the deepening of the canals are going to be. It is curious, to say the least, that the Minister of Railways and Canals, rather than the Minister of Public Works, was not consulted by the Toronto people in regard to the Georgian Bay and Toronto Railway, as it comes within his department.

Now, I commend that article about spending to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and especially the references to himself. It is certainly absolutely true that if such statements had been made by any Conservative Minister, they would have received, and with reason, most severe criticism at his hands. But I suppose it is too much to expect that he will criticise his colleague the Minister of Public Works, though he may, perhaps, have a private conversation with him.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce went on to say further that we on this side have no right to talk about the extravagance of the Government, because we object to the Government cutting off the statutory increases. No doubt many of us did object, but we did so first of all because these statutory increases do not amount to such a very large sum, and then, because we thought that those who had joined the civil service under the

law providing for statutory increases were not being fairly dealt with. But if the Government wish to lay down the principle that those going into the service should not be entitled to such increases, hon. members on this side would make no objection. We do think, however, that the Government are not treating fairly these civil servants who had been led to expect these increases and yet are debarred from receiving them. Besides the Government themselves have not taken away these increases in all cases, and the criticism by this side was that these increases are often given in an arbitrary manner, apparently without very good reason, and may have been made to their own party friends. We do not say that they were, but they may have been, and it will be far better to give them according to the statute and not according to the caprices of Ministers of the Crown. Another criticism of my hon. friends was that we objected to saving money on the fast line. Well, we do, and I think with good reason. We hold that if the contract entered into by the late Government had been carried out, the fast line would have been in operation to-day and it would have been a good thing for the country, whereas now there is apparently no prospect of its ever being completed. What did the Government do? They objected to the subsidy of \$750,000 as being too large, and declared that \$500,000 was ample. But what has been the result? The result is that to-day the prospect of our having that fast line has completely disappeared. If it is a good thing, and they admit it is by offering \$500,000 subsidy, well, the sooner we have it the better. As they say Canada is now enjoying an era of great prosperity, and if we had the fast line that prosperity would be increased; and we, therefore, do object to their saving this \$750,000 subsidy on the very line of argument given by my hon. friend, because this money would have been well spent and be amply repaid to the Treasury of the country.

Then, we are charged with objecting to the abolition of the Franchise Act which was going to save a lot of money to the people. I do not know that we do object. A great many members on this side have expressed the opinion that we do not object to its abolition or to its being made simpler in many ways, but what they do object to is the replacing of that Act by one which is such a muddle that it is most unworkable, and the Government themselves do not understand it.

The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce says we opposed their making a saving in the statutory increases and the fast line, and we admit that we did and with good reason, but I would remind him that we are not opposed to saving money but are in favour of doing so in the proper way, and, therefore, we not only opposed these things but also the Yukon scheme, which we thought was giving away far too much for the return we were to receive, and the Drummond County Railway scheme. And by our opposition to

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that Drummond scheme alone the country will, I believe, save \$600,000, and some say \$1,000,000. Surely the hon. gentlemen ought to give us credit for what we did in these matters.

The hon. gentleman says that he does not claim that the present tariff is perfect. I imagine that in saying this he is making a bid for the support of the farmers. It is very plausible for the Finance Minister to say: We do not propose to make any changes in the tariff this year and believe that tariff stability is a good thing for the country. In that belief he is in accord with hon. members on this side. I do not believe that tariff tinkering is a good thing, but what does the Minister of Trade and Commerce mean when he says he does not claim the tariff is perfect? Perhaps he does not mean anything, but I think he wants to lead the farmers and those who believe in free trade to believe that at some time or other the Government may make further reductions. He says to them practically: Keep quiet, support us, and some day, perhaps, we may meet your views or perhaps you may come down to ours.

He referred to the preferential tariff. Now, we object to that tariff, but I do not propose going into that question, because I do not feel competent to discuss it, but shall leave that matter to be discussed by my hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace), who will, no doubt, treat it as he has already done in this House. But I think it will be admitted by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce that the duties on many English imports were raised before this preferential rate was given. What I object to in the preferential tariff is that it is one-sided. I notice that the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) expressed the hope that some day we might obtain a preference on our breadstuffs from the mother country. The Minister of Finance does not say that it is impossible; he thinks it may come about. But he says it will not come about by our bartering or trading, but is more likely to result from our being benevolent and showing our friendly feeling for the mother country. It seems to me that in business matters, in matters of dollars and cents, such as tariffs, there is not much sentiment. It seems to me that by giving this preferential treatment to Great Britain without getting anything in return, we were taking out of the mouths of the statesmen in England who were favourable to giving us a preference a great argument. What can they say? When they advocate the giving of a preference in the British markets for our goods, their people will naturally ask: What are we going to get for it? They must answer: The Canadians have already given you a preference and they cannot give any more. The people will say: Then, we are better as we are. But if the Government had not given its preference; if we could go and propose a preference, not in a spirit of barter, but in a spirit of good-will to

the mother country and say : We are willing to give goods from Great Britain a preference in our market if you will give us a preference in yours—the statesmen in England could show their people that they had something to gain by the change. They would have an argument, a sensible argument, and one that would appeal to the pocket. In these matters it is not the heart that requires to be touched so much as to show that there is actual benefit in it to those with whom we seek to deal. It seems to me that in this matter the Government has been altogether too liberal. They are treating the United States in the same way. They gave them free corn, free binder twine, free barbed wire, and reduced the duties on many articles from the states. And when they ask for something from the Americans, the natural reply of the Americans is : We do not see that we are going to gain anything by giving you what you ask. If we had all these things in our hands again, we could propose to the United States to make a bargain with them. But under present circumstances, I do not see how any United States politician could justify himself in making concessions. He would be justified in reality, but I mean I do not see how he could justify himself to his constituents. His constituents would naturally say to him : You got nothing in return for these concessions, for we already had everything that Canada could give us. This idea of touching the heart of a nation is a far-fetched idea, I think. It seems to me that nations are a good deal like corporations—they have no souls to be touched.

The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce says that the present tariff is not protective. That is rather a startling statement. The hon. Minister says he can prove his statement, and he does so by showing that our imports have not declined and by declaring that under a protective tariff the imports always decline. I think I could prove that the National Policy was not a protective tariff according to that rule. Did the imports decline year by year under the National Policy ? No, they increased. If his tariff is not protective, then neither was ours. And, if this was the case, why did the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) talk so much against the protective policy during the eighteen years when he opposed the late Government ? But we say this is a protective tariff, and we say that the tariff retained by the hon. gentleman is a protective tariff to-day. Not only that, we go further and say that some of the leading manufacturers of this country were given to understand, on the quiet, before the last election took place that their manufacturing industries would not be injured by the tariff if the Liberals got into power, and this was done in order to do away with any opposition they might otherwise offer to the Liberal party.

Well, then, what fault do we find with hon. gentlemen opposite ? For my part, I

certainly do not find fault with them for not taking protection out of the tariff. But I should fancy that some people throughout the country who believed them when they said that protection was a great evil would find fault with them for not removing it. But certainly I do not. Why, then do we find fault with them ? We charge that they deceived the people of this country. That may be a light charge in the estimation of some gentlemen ; but it seems to me a grave charge to make against a great political party comprising, no doubt, half the people of the country. We charge them with making a complete change of front. Why, what did they preach when in Opposition ? First of all, they preached economy. The Minister of Finance has tried to get out of the charge that they are not economical and has done it in a very clever way. He says that economy is a different thing at different times, and he thinks that because times are good, economy need not be practised. He is getting lots of money in, and he rather adopts the theory of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) : We are making lots of money and we are going to spend it. But when they were in Opposition they talked about economy from one end of this country to the other. They charged the Conservative party with extravagance year after year ; and I have no doubt they secured a good many votes by preaching economy, not the economy defined by the Finance Minister to-day, but economy as defined, let us say, by the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) in the old days when we used to hear his voice in this House—he is here, but his voice is silent now. No doubt the hon. gentleman feels cribbed, cabined and confined ; he is out of place in this House, and the Government ought to put him in another House where he may be able to say something. Economy as they preached it when in Opposition meant reduced expenditure, and not as defined by the Minister of Trade and Commerce now—being able to justify your expenditure. You might spend any amount of money in that way, if that was all that was needed to prove economy. In every constituency in this country I could find where hundreds of thousands of dollars could be spent in a way that would benefit the locality and the country. But this would not be spending with economy. Economy consists in living within your income. I understand the Minister of Customs to say just now that we are doing that. I do not think they are, and I do not think they can show the people of the country that they are, considering that they have to go abroad to borrow money and are continually increasing the public debt. Not only did they preach economy as defined by the hon. member for North Wellington, but they preached reduction in the public debt. They used to talk about the great debt resting upon this small population and grinding the people down. I remember that in my county I met an ardent

Liberal whose great complaint against me was that I was supporting a party who had helped to pile up the debt, and he wanted a party in who would reduce it. He did not want to have this debt staring him in the face when he read the official returns. I tried to reassure him by saying I thought we would not have to pay the debt, but I could not reassure him. I do not know how he will get along if the gentlemen in power to-day are increasing the debt. I am sure that a great many people in this country, a great many farmers, took the hon. gentlemen at their word when they denounced the debt, and said that if placed in power they would reduce it.

Now, are they reducing the debt? Why, Sir, instead of reducing the debt, they are increasing it constantly. The Minister of Trade and Commerce tried to show by figures that they are not increasing the debt as fast as the Conservatives did. Well, that is a queer argument to come out of his mouth, to justify what he is doing by what the Conservatives did, a party who, according to him, did everything wrong. And yet he stands up in this House and the country, and says: Well, the Conservatives did this, and we are doing no worse. In saying that he admits that the Conservatives did right, or else he is doing wrong and tries to humbug the people by saying that they are no worse than the Conservatives were. I say that they are deceiving the people by not practising the economy which they promised the people, by not reducing the expenditure below what the Conservative party had it. They said they could reduce it, that they would reduce it, and instead of that, they have gone on increasing the debt year after year.

But there was another thing that they preached, preached very loudly, and strongly, and energetically, and that was free trade, a reduction in the tariff. First of all it was free trade. But that was rather too definite, because the people had an idea that they knew what free trade was. I suppose somebody told them it would hardly do to talk about free trade in this country, because it sounded too radical. So they changed that word to freer trade, which did not mean anything, or meant anything you liked. But that was a very good idea. They did talk about freer trade, and I say they deceived the people of this country by making them believe that they were going to cut the tariff down to a very large extent. I would like the Minister of Trade and Commerce to tell me whether they did not make the people believe that they were going to cut the tariff down at least to 15 per cent. In my canvass I used to make this argument in my own defence. I would say: they cannot do it, they must have a revenue—just what we hear to-day. But that argument did not gain me a single vote, it did not make a bit of difference. The people were going to put a party in power that

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would reduce the tariff, they were not going to be oppressed—I am talking now about the good, hard-shell Grits—they were not going to be oppressed by this terrible protective tariff, they were going to have a party in power which had promised to cut this tariff down. Now I wonder what those people think?

Mr. BRITTON. They don't feel very bad about it.

Mr. CRAIG. I don't think the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) belongs to the farming class, he belongs to the class that prey on the farmers. I do not think he is able to answer for the farmers. I have many farmers in my constituency, and I must find out what they think about these hon. gentlemen when the next election comes round. I must find out what they think about gentlemen who promised to practise economy, and are increasing the expenditure faster than ever it was increased before, a party who said they would reduce the debt and are piling it up year after year. I want to see what they think about gentlemen who promised to reduce the debt, to cut it down to a revenue tariff, to have free trade, or freer trade, or whatever they chose to call it. Now, Sir, I leave them to answer to their own supporters about these matters. I suppose they feel quite satisfied they can hold their supporters in this House. I have noticed that while some of them kick on the quiet, we never see much of their kicking in this House. They seem to vote straight. I think some of them have hard work to stand up when a vote comes round on some of these questions. They have some small relics of principle left which weigh them down. But they have to make a great effort and stand behind this Government, hoping, perhaps, they will do better some time.

There was one other statement made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce—he has gone out just now. He said the present tariff is about the same as one he wanted to introduce in 1876. I was wondering why he did not introduce it, and I have one reason to give which may be a true one. At that date there was a Premier, his Premier, who had free trade or revenue tariff principles, and who would not, for the sake of staying in power, sacrifice those principles, and so would not allow him to bring in that tariff. That may be one reason. I have heard other reasons too. I have heard about the Hon. Mr. Jones coming from Halifax and making a strong kick about it. I suppose that may be a reason why he did not introduce this tariff. But this tariff, which he now defends, is just about the same as the tariff we have had for the last 18 years. I asked myself why he has been denouncing this tariff ever since 1878—because the present tariff is almost the same as the tariff that the Conservatives have had for 18 years. He was constantly de-

denouncing that tariff, and denouncing protection, which is in the tariff to-day—hon. gentlemen opposite cannot deny it. But I ask: Why has he been denouncing this tariff for 18 years? The question also comes to my mind: At what time was the Minister of Trade and Commerce sincere? Was he sincere on the trade question in 1876 when he wished to introduce a tariff of this kind, or was he sincere during the 18 years when he denounced this tariff, practically the same tariff, and said it was a curse to this country? When I ask myself when the Minister of Trade and Commerce was sincere, another interesting question arises: Are any hon. members on the other side sincere? Are any of the members of the Cabinet sincere in the principles they hold on the tariff—I may, perhaps, say on prohibition, too? But I am not discussing that question just now. I would ask if any of the hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House have any settled principles at all. I think it would be interesting if any of those gentlemen who have settled principles would get up one after the other, and state these principles to the House. Let us know what their views are on the trade question. I know the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) says decisively that he is an out and out free trader. But still he supports the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) on this tariff, he supports him always, he supports him now, because he says he hardly expects free trade for 40 years. Well, I do not suppose he expects to be in the House at that time, so he is quite safe in putting it off that far. But it would be an interesting sight for hon. gentlemen opposite who have settled principles on the trade question to stand up and tell us what their sincere and settled principles are. I think we would find that there would be a wonderful variety for a united party. I am sure that in the Cabinet itself they do not agree on this trade question. I am satisfied that in the Cabinet itself there are gentlemen who believe in free trade if they could get it. There are some who believe in a revenue tariff, and there is no doubt others believe in a protective tariff. But they won't let us know they hold all these various opinions. Since they cannot agree on any tariff of their own, they have to take the tariff of the Conservative party, and make a few changes in it and call it their tariff. Now, I do not like to think it, but I really believe the people of the country have not very much confidence in these gentlemen on the trade question.

I think there is no doubt of the fact, that when the country learned that the commissioners to Washington had returned without doing anything, the country heaved a great sigh of relief. I know I spoke to one prominent Liberal in Toronto before they came back, and he said: I wish they would come back from there; I wish they would come home. They have been staying down there too long already. Not only one Lib-

eral said that, but many Liberals expressed that idea. That showed that the Liberals, as well as the Conservatives, were afraid these hon. gentlemen might give away something that they should not give away, to the Americans in their great anxiety to obtain a treaty of some kind to bring back with them. I admit, it was disappointing for them to have to come back without a treaty, but I commend them for not making a treaty when they could not get one without too great a sacrifice, and I only hope they will stick to that right through, and I will support them, if they do that. I believe in making a treaty if a fair treaty can be made, but I have my doubts that a fair treaty can be made, and I say again, that it showed me that the people have no very great confidence in hon. gentlemen on the treaty question, because the country, as a whole, heaved a great sigh of relief, when the announcement was made, that they had returned without making a treaty. I believe, too, that the country heaved another sigh of relief, when the announcement was made by the hon. Minister of Finance, that there would be no tariff changes. They were afraid that the hon. gentleman might be tempted to make some changes, and, when he gave the information to the country, that there would be none, the people were very well satisfied. Sir, I hold that these gentlemen have forfeited every claim to the confidence of the people, and I will be surprised, if the country does not show this at the first opportunity that it has. It would be a sad day for Canada, if public men and the leaders of a great party could gain power by making certain pledges, and then failing to carry them out. I will make that statement again; I think it is a statement that will be agreed to by members on both sides of this House, I think it will not be denied by the people of the country, that it will be a sad day for Canada, if public men and the leaders of a great party could gain power by making certain pledges, and then failing to carry them out. I will leave the leaders of the Liberal party to answer this charge of breaking the pledges they made to their supporters throughout the country. I claim that they have broken their pledges. They obtained power by making these declarations and pledges. They said, that after they obtained power, they would practise economy; they said, that \$38,000,000 was too much for this country to spend, and that they would reduce the expenditure. They pledged themselves to reduce the debt of this country, whereas, instead of reducing it, they have largely increased it, and the prospects are, that they will go on increasing it. They told the people they would give them freer trade, and gave them the impression that, if they attained power, they would largely reduce the tariff and lighten the burdens, as they used to call them, of the people. There is no doubt of that fact. The people expected they would

do that, but they have practically retained the old tariff, the tariff that they denounced so roundly for eighteen years. If the people are satisfied to be ruled by men who have broken every pledge—every important pledge—they have made, then I am greatly mistaken in the people of Canada. I do not think they will be satisfied. I think, if we had a party in power which has the same pledges in Opposition as it has in power, it would be a good thing for the country. That is what we find in the Conservative party. They have the same policy to-day that they had when they were in power. As stated by the hon. member for York, this afternoon, the Conservative party do not propose, because they are in Opposition, to abandon the principles they held while in power. They hold the same principles to-day. They held them when they were in power, because they believed that they were for the best interests of the country. I think they are for the best interests of the country to-day.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) is not here to-night. He wants to speak on this question. I do not purpose speaking myself, unless I am forced to do so, at this hour of the night, and I do not intend to speak at any stage of the debate; but I take the liberty of moving the adjournment of the debate on behalf of the hon. leader of the Opposition, if that will be acceptable to the Government.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). If the hon. gentleman does it at the request of the hon. leader of the Opposition. I do not care to resist the motion; but, if there are any other hon. gentlemen who may wish to follow the example of the hon. member for East Durham (Mr. Craig), and continue the debate, I think we should proceed. We have been adjourning so early of late that I fear the public will think that we have no business to do. All the important Government business has been delayed at the request of the hon. leader of the Opposition, and we are asked to consent to a delay once more.

Mr. TAYLOR. If the hon. gentleman insists on sitting until twelve o'clock, I will proceed; but I would prefer not to talk upon this question and allow the hon. leader of the Opposition to make his speech to-morrow.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Does the hon. gentleman say, that the hon. leader of the Opposition wishes to speak?

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, Sir.

The PRIME MINISTER. Very well; adjourn.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

Mr. CRAIG.

The PRIME MINISTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 10.25 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 5th May, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

### PRAYERS.

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (A.) No. 88, from the Senate, for the relief of David Stock.—(Mr. McCarthy.)

Bill (C.) No. 105, from the Senate, for the preservation of health on public works.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)

### CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. T. B. FLINT (Yarmouth). I beg to move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by Mr. McClure:

For leave to introduce Bill (No. 109) to further amend the Canada Temperance Act.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Explain.

Mr. FLINT. This Bill is simply to provide, in the first place, for alternative penalties; more severe penalties in some instances, or greater latitude in the imposition of penalties for violations of the Act. The Bill, in the second place, provides more perfectly and completely, as experience has shown to be necessary, for the enforcement of those clauses of the Act which relate to search for liquors supposed to be kept for sale in contravention of the Act. On the second reading of the Bill I will explain these points more fully.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Before the Orders of the Day are called, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), if he will see that the Public Accounts Committee is called together upon Monday next.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I will keep that in mind and endeavour to arrange for a meeting as soon as possible, but Monday is a day upon which we rarely call a meeting of the committee.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE** (Sir Richard Cartwright). I would suggest to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) that he had better make it some other day ; either Tuesday or Wednesday.

Mr. **FOSTER**. There are some preliminary motions; we might have a short meeting on Monday.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. I will endeavour to arrange for an early meeting.

#### WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) :

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into Committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER** (Cape Breton). Mr. Speaker, I may say at once to the House that in the present condition of my voice and health, I should not attempt to address the House at all at the present moment if it were not that the very able, the very exhaustive, and the very admirable criticism of the Budget speech, or rather, I should say, the Budget essay, delivered by the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) to this House, has rendered it unnecessary that any large amount of time or consideration should be bestowed upon this subject. Not having been able to return to the House last night, owing to the condition of my health, I requested an hon. member to move the adjournment of the debate at the close of the speech delivered by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), with the idea that perhaps it would be incumbent upon me to review some of the statements which that hon. gentleman might have addressed to the House. But, having got the best information I could as to the speech delivered by that hon. gentleman, I found that it would really not be at all necessary for me, so far as that is concerned, to trouble the House with any remarks whatever, as I find that the hon. gentleman concluded that discretion was the better part of valour: and, instead of attempting to grapple with the unanswerable and overwhelming case put by my hon. friend from York (Mr. Foster), the late Minister of Finance, he endeavoured to get as far away from the subject as was possible. I am not at all surprised at that, because the position of the hon. gentleman himself in regard to this question is one of so vulnerable a character as to make it very difficult for him to attempt to deal with it.

Now, Sir, I do not intend to say—I would not say it even if you had not ruled that it was not parliamentary—that the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce is a mischievous demagogue. I do not think he is. I think there was a time in the his-

tory of this country when that appellation would have been appropriate to the hon. gentleman; when on every occasion, standing on this side of the House, that hon. gentleman availed himself of the position he occupied to assail every measure that was brought forward by the Government, calculated to advance the interests of this country; and not only to assail it, but, in order to discredit the Government, he did not hesitate to use his position in this House on all occasions, so far as his abilities permitted him, to decry and lower the character and estimation of this country in the eyes, not only of the people and Parliament of Canada, but of the people of other countries. Now, Sir, however mischievous a demagogue the hon. gentleman may have been in those days, he has reformed. The position he occupies on the Treasury benches has taken away all the virus which his speeches on those occasions exhibited. Relegated as he is by the Prime Minister to the back seats in the Administration, he has confined himself rather to the promotion of those family interests which are so dear to every person, than to dealing with public questions; and I am able to congratulate the hon. gentleman on having been singularly successful in his new role; and on having been able to pension as many of his relatives on the public treasury of this country as has been the good fortune of any gentleman on either side of the House in past times.

On a former occasion the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce ventured to describe the maritime provinces as the rags and tatters of this Dominion.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE** (Sir Richard Cartwright). No, it was not rags and tatters.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. I am corrected. I am speaking from memory. I am told that it was only the shreds and patches of this Dominion; and Sir, I wonder if the hon. gentleman enjoys the position he occupies to-day in having the right hon. gentleman who was called upon to form an Administration, go down and ransack those shreds and patches to patch up an Administration for this country. The hon. gentleman, finding, as I have said before, that his fangs had been drawn and that that mischievous demagoguism for which he was formerly so noted, had been checked by his friends, who, when they went to appeal to the people, came to the conclusion that the only means by which they could ever hope to obtain success in this country was by muzzling the hon. gentleman, confining him to his own district, and preventing him from going out and delivering those philippics which had done such vast injury to the party to which he belongs—I say that, having obtained power in that way, the hon. gentleman was content to accept a back seat on the Treasury benches and to have his place taken by

one of those patches which he referred to, in order to provide an Administration for this country. But, Sir, it will not be forgotten that the hon. gentleman was entrusted with some duties. He was entrusted with the Department of Trade and Commerce, and he had one subject confided to his care. That was a subject which the Prime Minister in his place in this House—aye, from both sides of this House, I will do him the credit to say—declared again and again was a most important subject for the people of Canada; that was a fast Atlantic service. The hon. Prime Minister, having committed himself to that project, entrusted a department to the hon. gentleman, who no longer was found acceptable, and for very sufficient reasons, to occupy the position of Finance Minister of this country. The right hon. gentleman who formed this Administration knew that the Liberal party in this country had been held back by the policy and the principles avowed by the hon. the present Minister of Trade and Commerce. As long ago as 1887, when a struggle took place between the two parties in this country, the Hon. Edward Blake, then leading the Opposition in this House, and the head of the Liberal party, having become convinced that his party never could obtain power until they hauled down the flag of free trade, and declared themselves ready to support the National Policy of Canada, in a celebrated speech during that campaign, announced to the people of Canada that a change of Government would practically involve no change in the financial and tariff policy of Canada. Well, Sir, what happened? The House met. I cannot blame the then leader of the Opposition for having failed to get a majority; because it is well known that it is very difficult and dangerous to swop horses in crossing a stream. He was too late in the enunciation of that policy, and the result was the triumph of the National Policy, under the leadership of those who were entitled to claim its paternity. What happened? When the House met, from my place on the Government side, I congratulated the leader of the Opposition. I said: You have at last had the sagacity to remove a great barrier that stands in the way of your party returning to power. The question of the Canadian Pacific Railway has settled itself by the construction of that road and that question has been removed from your path; but the National Policy is dear to the hearts and judgment and intelligence of the people of this country, and you can never reach power without abandoning your hostility to that policy. That hostility, I said to the hon. gentleman, you have abandoned, and I congratulated him on the change, though with some misgivings, because, as I said, I felt that, under the circumstances, the time was not remote when the different parties in this House might change places, as was not undesirable occasionally.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

What then occurred? Why, the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce stands responsible to this House and country for having then got up in his place and thrown over his leader, and treated with contempt the position his leader had taken and on which he had accepted my congratulations without a word of protest. But, in response to my congratulations, the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce got up, kicked over the traces, and took the most violent and determined free trade attitude he had ever taken in this House. What was the result? The result was that the Hon. Edward Blake ceased to be the leader. From that day Mr. Blake practically gave up the leadership, and soon took the opportunity of abandoning the position altogether, and left the policy of the Liberal party of Canada to be controlled and directed by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright). What then followed? Then came forth the policy of unrestricted reciprocity, propounded by that gentleman as the means of getting the Liberal party into power. On the floor of this House, on the platform all over this country, the hon. gentleman declaimed upon the policy of unrestricted reciprocity, which would involve the making of our tariff in Washington instead of at Ottawa, and discrimination by Canada against the mother country and the rest of the world in favour of the United States. In the most unqualified manner he declared that if it did involve discrimination against England, she must take the consequences. Canada must look to herself, and our only future lay in the adoption of unrestricted reciprocity, of free trade on the continent of North America, and making common cause with the United States against England and everybody else. What was the result? My right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), with that plastic nature which, unfortunately for Canada, he possesses, yielded to the tempter, surrendered his own judgment, if he had any, to this vile policy, committed himself to it in the most unmistakable manner. With what result? I do not hesitate to say here that had the policy of Mr. Blake been adopted and had the issue been simply a change of men, an ordinary change of Government, in 1891, Mr. Blake and his party would have been then returned to power. Hon. gentlemen opposite have done me the honour of saying that I abandoned my position of High Commissioner—or, rather, held on to it, for I did not resign—to come out to take part in that election, and that my action had a material result in bringing about the majority obtained by us in 1891. I do not say whether they were right or wrong, but nothing would have induced me, holding that high position—which I did not consider a party position at all—to have come out and taken part in the election of 1891 except my conviction that British Institutions were at stake.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** Do you want proof of that statement? You have either to accept my statement that British institutions were then at stake or discredit the ablest man who ever sat in your ranks, Mr. Edward Blake. When the great electorate was appealed to on that occasion, what did Mr. Blake do? He refused to stand for a constituency, and the day after the elections were over, he published, over his own signature, a letter in the London "Times," declaring that he had abandoned his party because he was not willing to fight under false colours, and because he believed that the policy of unrestricted reciprocity, of which the Minister of Trade and Commerce was the father, was one that would land this country in commercial subjection to the United States, soon to be followed by political subjection. Those gentlemen had better be careful when they question the soundness of the position I take in this matter.

**The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE.** Hear, hear.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** They are on the horns of this dilemma. Either they must discredit the ablest man who ever served in their ranks or who ever led them or accept my statement. That being the issue I took part in the election, and felt that I was placing my position as High Commissioner entirely at stake, because it would be impossible for me to hold that office in the case of a change of Government under the circumstances. But I did not hesitate, when I felt there was at stake so vital an issue as that which the Minister of Trade and Commerce forced upon the country. I am not surprised, therefore, that when the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) became leader of the party he should have discovered that there was but one means by which he could reach power, and that was by giving, as he did give, directly or indirectly—I know indirectly—the positive declaration that if his party should succeed, Sir Richard Cartwright never would be Finance Minister. I say that boldly, and but for the fact that that declaration was circulated broadcast among the great manufacturing industries, among the people carrying on the business of the country, hon. gentlemen opposite would not have obtained power, even under the exceptional circumstances in which they did obtain it.

Now, Sir, that is the position the right hon. gentleman occupies. And, as I say, I am delighted to see him sitting on the Treasury benches. I am delighted that anything should happen to transform one of the most mischievous demagogues that Canada ever had into a loyal subject, a man prepared to stand by and uphold the British constitution and look after the interest of himself and his family. You can see, Sir, that I have no great admiration for the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce. Nevertheless, he has my sympathy. Why, what was the task imposed upon him; what was the punish-

ment inflicted upon him for his sins? It was to become Minister of Trade and Commerce, and to find himself charged with dealing with the question of the fast Atlantic service, and, like Sinbad of old, to find an Old Man of the Sea on his back, in the person of the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell). I do not mean to insinuate, notwithstanding his many trans-Atlantic trips, that my hon. friend from Quebec West has been for the greater part of his time, since assuming office, more than half-seas over. But, if ever Sinbad was entitled to the sympathy of people who feel for those who suffer, this modern Sinbad, struggling and staggering about with his Old Man of the Sea upon his shoulders, is entitled to sympathy because of the difficulties with which he was compelled to face this question of a fast Atlantic service. But my hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) has more than justly punished the sins of this Sinbad of his Cabinet. And, more than that, I think that the right hon. gentleman's constituents in Quebec were entitled to something better at his hands than the treatment he has meted out to them. For, when he was thrust out of his own constituency, where he was known best and understood, he found a refuge in Quebec. Surely, the people of Quebec might look for something better at his hands than to be punished as they have been punished in regard to this fast Atlantic service. Is there any part of this country that is more directly and more vitally interested in that question than is the city of Quebec? What would it have meant for Quebec, if hon. gentlemen opposite, instead of their maladministration in regard to this matter, had obtained this service—as they would have obtained it but for the fatal influence of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who refused to implement the contract made before he gained office—

**The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE.** Which was never made.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** The hon. gentleman is too late in saying that. I say, that the Messrs. Allan, not only representing the great pioneer service in Atlantic navigation between this and the mother country, but associated with one of the most powerful and wealthy firms to be found in Europe, the Allans of Glasgow, had entered into this contract. The Allans of Glasgow sent out one of its own members, and that contract was negotiated and arranged with myself and the Minister of Trade and Commerce of that time. And not only was the contract negotiated, but all the arrangements were made with Her Majesty's Government and to the satisfaction of that Government, to put that service into full operation two years ago.

And what is the position now? The hon. gentleman has brought in two contracts made with the Messrs. Petersen. I support those contracts. Why? Because I felt

that we were bound to give these hon. gentlemen every opportunity to carry out the service that we knew, and that they had admitted, was of such importance to Canada. But I told them, when the first contract came in—and when it broke down and the second contract was made, as the hon. gentlemen know, I told them—that, having given a year to the constant study of the question in consultation with the ablest financiers, shipping men and others engaged in seafaring affairs, their contract was not worth the paper it was written on. A paltry question is now raised about the returning of the deposit of Messrs. Petersen. I do not hesitate to say, that I would be glad to see every penny of that deposit returned to them, because I believe they acted in good faith, because the steps they took were taken in the belief that they could carry out what they had undertaken. But, when they came to grapple with it, as I told the House it would be, they found it to be impracticable and incapable of accomplishment. I take this opportunity of saying, that I would not regret to see that deposit returned; I consider it an utterly insignificant matter, in comparison with the obtaining of this service? And, at the end of two years, where are we now? Is there a fast Atlantic service in sight? No, Sir. The bottle-necked steamer, with the hon. member for Quebec West at the prow and the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce at the stern, lies stranded, broken and incapable of doing anything for anybody. And what about the people of Quebec—deluded, deceived by the First Minister, deceived by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, deceived by the member for Quebec West, who has held the promise to the ear and broken it to the hope. I believe I express the sentiments of the people of Quebec, when I say, that they long for the hour when the city of Quebec and its interest shall be represented on the floor of this House as they were represented by Sir Hector Langevin.

There was no more important practical question before this country, when these gentlemen took power, than this fast Atlantic service. Every one knows that, with the position nature had given, a position that no other part of the continent could occupy, with regard to the connection between Europe and America, and with a similar line of steamers to that running between England and New York, Canada could deliver letters and all mail matter so speedily as to defy competition. Practically the whole postal communication between North America and Europe would have crossed by our line of steamers. But that is one of the slightest and most inconsiderable features of the case. With a suitable line of steamers, plying to Quebec in summer and to Halifax in winter, and with the Dingley Bill and its vexatious regulations affecting passengers entering at New York, we should have had our steamers crowded

with the wealth, and intelligence, and ability of the United States. Every person knows what it is to attract to the borders of a country such as Canada, with its unlimited resources and enormous advantages, people of this class, who can do so much to assist our development. But even that is not the most significant matter connected with this fast line, which, under the contract with Messrs. Allan, would have been in operation two years ago. Under that contract, not only would there have been as fine a fleet of steamers as ever crossed the Atlantic, crossing between the mother country and Canada, but the company would have been bound to provide all the cold storage that the Government demanded. What would that mean for Quebec? What would it mean for Ontario and for every section of this Dominion? It meant an increase in the value of every article of perishable goods raised in Canada, an increase in meat, fruit, poultry, eggs, butter; it meant an increase in its value to every farmer in Canada, and in every part of Canada. While on that subject I may say that I have on previous occasions complimented the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) for having humbly walked in the footsteps of his predecessors in the matter of cold storage. I am sorry to say that I am obliged to take it back. I find that in an address presented by the fruit-growers of the province of Nova Scotia to the Minister of Agriculture, they tell him that his cold storage system has been a complete failure, and they tell him that it is absolutely necessary to grapple with the cold storage question in a different manner from the manner in which he has grappled with it, if it is to be of any good to Canada. They tell him this in an address to that hon. gentleman himself. We find, moreover, that he is only putting \$70,000 into the Estimates for this service. There is no service at this moment more vitally important to Canada than a system of cold storage by which the products of the Canadian farmer can be put into the only market that now remains for us, the market of Great Britain, and they must be put into that market in the shortest possible time by a fast Atlantic service, and by a complete system of cold storage, such as is adopted by the Australian provinces who, being 17,000 miles distant against our 3,000 miles, with the Red Sea to overcome, and an equatorial climate with a thermometer at 90, have yet been able, by that system, to take a better position in the markets of England than Canada can take in reference to butter and other perishable articles. But instead of that we find that hon. gentleman making a paltry and utterly insignificant saving of \$15,000 this year in the cold storage system, which shows practically that he has abandoned it, and that the great agricultural population of Canada is to get no more benefit from it.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) referred among other things, and referred in a tone of exultation, to the Drummond County Railway. Why, Sir, that is the last thing that I should have expected any man in this House to allude to, with the facts patent to the House as they stand now upon the public records. He said that an increase in the traffic of the Intercolonial Railway had resulted in connection with the Drummond County Railway. Did he tell the House the cost at which that has been purchased? Did he tell the House that the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) had had the hardihood, the audacity, to bring down to this House a proposal to add \$6,000,000 or \$7,000,000 to the debt of Canada for the purpose of buying the Drummond Railway from Mr. Greenshields and for other purposes connected with it? He knows, and the Minister of Finance knows, that that increase of traffic has not removed or weakened in the slightest the burthen that the Intercolonial Railway is upon the Government of Canada, under this administration. That increase of traffic on the Intercolonial Railway would have occurred under any circumstances. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company had no Drummond County Railway, neither did the Grand Trunk Railway Company. But look at the receipts during the last two years under the present flourishing condition of things in Canada. Why, they say that they are rolling up by millions increased receipts, and yet all the increase on the Intercolonial Railway, an increase which we share relatively with other great railway lines of communication, is attributed to the Drummond County Railway. The Prime Minister has inflicted upon Quebec a deeper wrong than that which he inflicted upon the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) when he saddled him with that Old Man of the Sea who is sitting upon his shoulders with his legs wound round his neck, making his life a burden to him; I say that a deeper wrong than that was inflicted upon the city of Quebec when that Drummond County Railway was undertaken. The city of Quebec is a great historic city, and everybody deplures the thought of grass growing in its streets, and of its trade and commerce being wiped out and disappearing. What has this city been longing for, striving for, for years? It has been to bring the Intercolonial Railway into the city by means of a bridge. Does the First Minister, does the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell), believe that the citizens of that ancient city are going to be satisfied with an annual meeting of half a dozen gentlemen who say they are going to form a company and build a bridge, when the only *raison d'être*, the only grounds upon which Parliament could properly be approached for aid to construct that bridge, would be to bring the Intercolonial Railway and Grand Trunk Railway and other lines into that

city which will be of vast importance to it? What would it have cost this country to bring the Intercolonial Railway into Montreal, if that was considered an important question? By the contribution of \$1,000,000, and by aid from the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway a bridge could have been put across the river that would bring all these railways into the city of Quebec. Then when we were there we would be in a position to say to the Canadian Pacific Railway, that great line of railway communication between Quebec and Montreal—the Minister of Railways and Canals knows that all that he would have had to say to them, would be: Gentlemen, you want me to take your trains and your traffic from St. John to Halifax and to give you the benefit of our terminal stations there, and I will do it in consideration of your taking the traffic, and cars, and passengers of the Intercolonial Railway from the city of Quebec up to the city of Montreal and giving me the advantage of your terminus there.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). That would not have been a very fair trade for the Government.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Well, the hon. gentleman when he says it would not have been a very fair trade knows perfectly well that it would not have cost the Government anything.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I know it would have cost the Government a great deal.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. He knows it would not have cost the Government anything, and he knows that all the city of Quebec had a right to look for, with the pledges they had received from both Governments and both parties, all they had a right to demand would have been accomplished. Where are you now? Why, does the hon. gentleman not know that at this moment, after this enormous expenditure in securing the Drummond County Railway, there is a potent demand, one that has to be responded to by the right hon. leader of the Government, for a large subsidy to a south shore line of railway to compete with the Drummond County Railway? That is the present position. But I do not intend, as this question is on the paper, to deal with it at length now. But I tell the Minister of Railways and Canals that he is deluding the people of this country into the belief that he is doing them a service, when he says that he will carry freight over the Intercolonial Railway 250 miles further round to the east side of the harbour of St. John, when the Government were already provided with every facility by a short line of railway, built at an enormous cost, to the west side of the city of St. John. He says he is going to carry that freight 250 miles for nothing

in order to get it there, and compete with a company that has been subsidized by the Government under an impression that its rights would be protected. I am not speaking for them, I am speaking for the principle at stake. I say this Government have no right. I care not whether it is the Canadian Pacific Railway, or the Grand Trunk Railway, or any other private company in Canada. I say this Government acts dishonestly when, having—

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman has certainly no right to use a remark of that kind in reference to the Government.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I think, Mr. Speaker, that a moment's reflection will satisfy you that I am not using the term improperly. I do not say wilful dishonesty, but I will put my argument, and leave it for you to say, Sir, whether it is honest or dishonest.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman is speaking to a point of order.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am not speaking to a point of order. I am going to put my argument, and then I will leave it for hon. gentlemen to say whether it is honest or dishonest.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have not the slightest doubt, in my own mind, that, to make the unqualified statement that the Government is dishonest, is not according to parliamentary practice.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, I abide by your decision, but I will undertake to produce fifty cases in which, with you sitting in the Chair, far greater latitude of language has been permitted. I say that distinctly; but, I abide by your decision. I put the case to the judgment, not of every dishonest—I will not say that—but of every honest man in this House, Mr. Speaker included, to say whether this is right or not. I ask the right hon. First Minister, I ask any intelligent man on either side of this House, what term he would use for a Government which, after an appropriation of public money had been made—I care not how large or how small—to induce a company to spend millions of their private capital in performing a certain work, turns around and applies to Parliament for public money to render the expenditure of that capital worthless. I will leave it to every hon. member of this House to say whether the term that I made use of is a proper one, and whether this is a fair and legitimate transaction for the Government of Canada to engage in. That is the position that the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals places himself in to-day. When Minister of Railways and Canals, and after an enormous expenditure on the Intercolonial Railway, I

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

came down to this House and asked for a vote of a very large sum of public money to induce the Canadian Pacific Railway to build a short line of railway from Montreal to the harbour of St. John.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). So as to compete with the Intercolonial Railway, and depreciate the value that had been imparted to the Intercolonial Railway by the expenditure of public money.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am not sorry to allow the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals to make an interruption. He never opens his mouth but he puts his foot in it, and he never put his foot into it worse than he did just now. The position was this: I said that the object of Canada is to have a port of its own, and it is not for this great Dominion to be dependent upon a port in the United States for its intercourse with other countries. I said that we had tried it and my experience as Minister of Railways and Canals, and the experience of every man in this country, who has given this subject attention, has proved beyond doubt, that it is impossible for the Intercolonial Railway, either at St. John or Halifax, to compete with a railway running to Portland.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). When did my hon. friend discover that?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) knows as well as I know, when I discovered that. And he knows that when I had discovered it, I came to this House, frankly, and told the House what, in my judgment, it was absolutely necessary to do, and which was based upon the experience of the past, that brings everything to an absolute certainty. We found it impossible to compete, and having found that out, this House voted a large sum of money to induce the Canadian Pacific Railway to build a short line of railway, the shortest that could be obtained, from Montreal to the harbour of St. John.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Through United States territory?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Was that the scheme, to build it from Montreal to St. John? I understood the hon. gentleman to say in Halifax that it was to build it to Halifax.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman must have taken me for an idiot, if he supposes that I ever proposed anything so monstrous to this House, or, to this country, as to parallel a line of railway, built by the Government from St. John to Halifax, with a line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. I say that the hon. gentleman knows that it is perfectly childish; there is nothing in his Budget speech that compares, for childishness, with that statement. I ask you what the people of Quebec have a right to say,

what the people of Canada have a right to say when the Minister of Railways and Canals, violating every principle that I hold, binds and controls the action of a Government, when the hon. Minister of Railways, in violation of every principle, comes down with an enormous expenditure and undertakes to ask this House to sustain a proposition, so monstrous, as to carry freight 250 miles further, at the same rate, when he knows, that the cost of the carriage has to be taken out of the taxpayers of this country? It may be that the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals wanted to make a sweep in New Brunswick, and to capture the Conservatives of St. John, but it is at too great a cost to Canada when he incurs a debt of \$750,000 of public money to furnish railway facilities to the east side of the harbour of St. John, when the people of St. John, by the most munificent efforts on their own part, combined with those of the Canadian Pacific Railway, have furnished all the facilities on the other side of the harbour. I ask the right hon. Prime Minister what he has to say to the people of Quebec, after they are side-tracked, and after they have been led to believe for many years that something would be done to raise that historic city into a position of more commercial importance, and when their hopes are swept aside by this enormous waste of public money that would have given Quebec everything that she had been led to expect by both Governments, and when a debt of, at least, \$6,000,000 is put upon the people in order to sidetrack Quebec? The hon. Minister of Finance referred to this Drummond County Railway project as one of the great things that he was so proud of, and I, therefore, had, in passing, just to give this little hint to that hon. gentleman, and to tell him that he must not take the people of Canada for being quite so simple as he seems to imagine them.

To return to the subject under discussion, I must say that we all listened to that interesting essay on the Budget, not exactly with that keen freshness that everybody listened to something that is quite new, but we listened with interest to that carefully prepared essay, though in my experience, this House has never been similarly honoured. It reminded me, Mr. Speaker, of your custom of saying, upon the opening of the House, that for greater accuracy, you have obtained a copy of the Speech, and you give us the benefit of it. In passing, I might remind my hon. friend that his copy was not a very accurate one; at least, the French copy of the Speech from the Throne, was not a very accurate one to be put in the hands of the Speaker. I am finding no fault with the hon. Minister of Finance, but I could have called him to order at any moment, in the discussion, and he could have been prevented from being able to have this charming speech circulated in the country by simply drawing the attention of Mr. Speaker to the fact that the hon. gentleman was doing

what no hon. gentleman has any right to do under the rules of this House. You, Mr. Speaker, did not see fit to call him to order, and I would have been very sorry to have done so, because I was listening with intense delight to every word he uttered. Why was I listening with intense delight? To me it was a most delectable sound when I remember that the hon. gentleman had spent years of the prime of his life in endeavouring to break down and destroy confederation—when I knew that that hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) had gone to the people and with all the force and power and eloquence he could use, had wrought up a demand in Nova Scotia for secession from Canada—when I knew that the policy of that hon. gentleman was to convince the people of Nova Scotia that everything that was vile, everything that was dishonourable, everything that was untrustworthy, was to be found in Canada—when I knew that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) had committed himself, under his leader to the declaration that he would put legislation on the statute-book that would wipe out everything that had the smell of Canada on it—when I remembered that this gentleman (Mr. Fielding) had spent years of his life in a vain, abortive effort to break down and destroy this confederation, that he now vaunts before the people of this country as the most magnificent act of statesmanship ever accomplished.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Does the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) mean to say that I vaunt as magnificent the manner in which he carried confederation? Sir, that is what I have denounced before this country, and that is what I shall never cease to denounce whether the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) is present or absent.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, that is a little too thin. He (Mr. Fielding) could have denounced the man; he could have denounced the mode in which confederation was carried, but he did not do that. If he had done that I would rest content; but, Sir, he denounced confederation itself, and I can produce pages and volumes coming from the lips of the hon. gentleman, and from the press that he controlled, to show that everything was done by him that man could do; not against me, but against confederation itself. He did everything a man could do to hold confederation up to obloquy, to odium, and to hatred, and to induce the people of Nova Scotia to declare that they would not permit themselves to be called Canadians. Who would imagine that it was the same man who spoke for three hours on the floor of this Parliament the other day? I listened to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) happy, never more happy in my life: I listened to his eulogium of everything Canadian, and his arguments to show what a

great nation Canada had become. Who can doubt the admiration with which I hung on the words coming from the eloquent lips of my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding). A greater treat it was impossible to enjoy, and the greatest service my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding) can do me, the greatest service he can do his province of Nova Scotia is to put a copy of his speech in the hands of every intelligent Nova Scotian.

But, Mr. Speaker, that speech ought not to have been delivered in the jubilant manner assumed by the hon. gentleman; it ought to have been delivered in that penitential mood that the greatest crimes are atoned for. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) should have had a white sheet around him; he should have had the grace to ask for absolution from his deceived countrymen for the manner in which he had played upon their passions and upon their feelings. When the late Hon. Joseph Howe—and it was the mistake of his lifetime—committed himself in an unfortunate hour to an attack upon confederation, he had no more zealous, no more determined supporter than the present Minister of Finance. But, Sir, when that great man, finding that all he could do would have only the effect of destroying his country; when he turned around and said: Now that I have exhausted all my efforts in conjunction with the Minister of Finance to break up confederation, and now that I have failed, I will do my best to make it a success; what did the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) do in this crisis? When that great man, Joseph Howe—for he was a great man, and his memory will always be revered—when Joseph Howe said that he would change his attitude and support that confederation that he had formerly denounced, he was hounded to death by the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) and those who were associated with him. They turned upon the Hon. Joseph Howe and the English language could not supply terms for them sufficiently violent and odious to describe the character of the great Nova Scotian, and as I say, they hounded him into an untimely grave. And, why did they do this? They did it because Joseph Howe did exactly what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) stands up hour after hour in this House, in this year of Our Lord 1899, to do, namely, to hold up to the delight and admiration of our people, Canada as one of the greatest nations the sun has ever shone upon.

That was the reason why I listened to the Minister of Finance with such admiration. Why, Sir, I have never seen any exhibitor in any dime museum or place of like distinguished character; I have never seen any dime museum exhibitor parade the three graces with greater delectation, and point out all the charms of form and feature to an admiring audience than did the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) dwell on the beauties of these three graces—confede-

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ration, the National Policy and the Canadian Pacific Railway. During the three mortal hours that he spoke, he took back the work of years of his life.

Now as to the point raised by the hon. gentleman, as to the mode in which confederation was carried. He cannot escape on that. What did the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) do when a motion was made in the Parliament of old Canada to refer the question to the people? He voted it down. And what did Alex. Mackenzie and George Brown—whom the Finance Minister claims to be a follower of—what did they do? They voted down the principle adopted in the old Parliament of Canada led by that great Rouge leader, Mr. Dorion, who was also hostile to confederation; they voted down the proposal then made to have confederation referred to the people, and they voted it down as being utterly useless and unconstitutional. Therefore, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) is not in a position to attack me, even for the mode in which confederation was carried. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) knows that notwithstanding his puny attacks, notwithstanding the great advantage which the party had in being led by that most eloquent Nova Scotian Joseph Howe, he knows that when the people of Nova Scotia came to their second sober thought and learned what the position of Canada and the Canadians was, sixteen out of twenty-one members were elected by the people of that province to stand at my back in this House of Commons and to vote down the policy of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding). But the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) is like that eminent Yankee stump orator who declared that although the principles he announced were the solemn convictions of a lifetime, and as dear to him as his life-blood, yet if the people did not agree with those principles, he could change them. And so the Minister of Finance, when the time came that he found his future as a public man, required that he should swallow himself and swallow all these bitter diatribes against Canada and Canadians as he rode to the pathway of the Ministership of Finance, then, as the Yankee stump orator said, he discovered that he could change his principles in the twinkling of an eye.

Now, Sir, what about the National Policy? Is it a controversy as to whom the paternity belongs, is it a controversy as to whether it exists in Canada to-day? Well, that can be very easily settled. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) might as well undertake to convince this House that a full-blooded negro could claim the paternity of a white child as that he could claim the paternity of the National Policy which to-day exists in Canada. One is as easy as the other. They are both utterly at variance with nature and common sense and both claims would be repudiated by all.

And what is the National Policy? When the hon. gentleman exhausted his three hours' speech of magnificent eulogium on Canada, we knew that he was compelled to sit down without answering the challenge which I had thrown out on the floor of this House to him or to any other man of the Liberal party, to show that this Government can claim one jot or tittle of credit for the prosperity that Canada now enjoys. He knows that that challenge is unanswered. He closed his three hours' speech without an attempt to show that in one single particular could they lay claim to anything that has contributed to the present prosperity of Canada. I am prepared to show that all they have done in tinkering, with their 'prentice hand, at the National Policy, has been to injure and interfere with the progress and prosperity of the country. Fortunately that child which they attempted to strangle in its cradle, that child which the Minister of Trade and Commerce ventured to visit with his most dire objurgations from the moment of its birth, has grown to such a vigour of manhood, that they are only too glad to take shelter beneath the arm of that National Policy which has made Canada what it is to-day.

Then we come to the Canadian Pacific Railway. The Minister of Trade and Commerce laughed at the idea, when we told him that we were going to get a revenue by putting on high taxes. Why, he said, the imports are small enough now, but if you want to extinguish them altogether, put on a high tariff, and you will soon do it. Well, Sir, the fact remains that the revenue of \$22,500,000 of that day has, under the fostering protection of that great National Policy, reached over \$46,000,000 to-day. That is the answer. What, I ask, would Canada be to-day but for the National Policy? Why, Sir, that king of deficits, as the Minister of Trade and Commerce in those days used to be styled, who, with all the additional taxes he imposed on the people, could not get money enough to enable him to wash one hand with the other, to carry on the ordinary affairs of the country, much less to grapple with such a great enterprise as the Canadian Pacific Railway, knows that that policy has enabled Canadians, with Canadian hands, on Canadian soil, to do the work, and to lift Canada out of that slough of despond into which it fell under the administration of the hon. gentleman. That great enterprise has made Canada the cynosure of all eyes; and the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and the whilom secessionist, the man who hated and endeavoured to inspire hatred of everything Canadian, stands here and spends hours of his time in holding it up as the most magnificent achievement ever accomplished in any country; and he is quite right. Well, I say, what about the Canadian Pacific Railway? As late as 1880 you find a resolution put on the Journals of the House of Commons of Canada, declaring that it was in

the interest of Canada that further expenditure in British Columbia in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway should be stopped. What did that mean? \$14,000,000 had then been expended in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway, and \$8,000,000 of work was then under contract in British Columbia. That resolution was supported by the hon. gentleman who leads the Government, by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and by every other Liberal who is in this House now and was in the House then. What would that vote have meant had it prevailed? It would have meant striking down—and every man with a head on his shoulders knows it—that great means of making this confederation of Canada practicable—changing it from being a paper confederation into a vital, living, vigorous confederation that makes a nation of Canada. That would all have been stopped had these hon. gentlemen been able in 1880 to carry out their purpose. I do not blame them, Sir. I have no doubt they did what they thought was right. I have no doubt their incapacity to grapple with the first principles of politico-economical science was what troubled them. They had not studied this question. They had no faith in Canada. They said, what, do you mean to tell us that you are going to build, at such enormous cost to the country, a railroad from Lake Nipissing in Ontario, to the shores of the Pacific Ocean, when there is only one village from end to end of the line with 400 people in it, and the whole country through which it passes is a desert inhabited by savages and wild animals? Where is the traffic to come from? You cannot build the road. What was the position of the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, able man as he was? When the contract was made with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to build the line in ten years, he put on record the declaration that the whole resources of the British Empire could not do the work, much less Canada with its less than five millions of people at that time. But, Sir, we believed that, with the inexhaustible resources and enormous natural wealth which Canada possessed, the giving of facilities for traffic would create traffic. Where are those hon. gentlemen now with all their gloomy predictions? With regard to the Canadian Pacific Railway they are just where they are with regard to the National Policy, under which they said we could not get a revenue, when we have shown that it has increased from \$22,500,000 to \$46,000,000. Why, they said that after the Canadian Pacific Railway was built, you could not operate it; and yet during the last year that railway had a gross revenue of over \$28,000,000, a larger revenue than the whole of Canada had when the work was undertaken, and a net revenue of \$10,000,000; and you have the common stock of that great enterprise standing to-day above par in the city of London. What does that mean for Canada? Why, Sir, it is a

great advertisement. What was one of the greatest drawbacks that Canada suffered from in old times? It was the fact that the Grand Trunk Railway had been built at the expense of English shareholders, 20,000 or 30,000 of whom knew that Canada was the sink-hole in which they had lost all their money. I rejoice to know that that company, under its present able management, bids fair steadily to rise and relieve itself from that position, and to command the confidence of the capitalists. There is not a man in Canada who is not interested in seeing these great commercial enterprises, let them be in whose hands they may, so succeed as to lead people who invest their money in Canada to believe that they have made a good investment. But, Sir, what is the position of these hon. gentlemen? Why, Sir, they are in a position to know that this great work of completing the confederation and opening up our country from sea to sea by a great international line of railway, is not their work, but has been accomplished under the National Policy, in spite of all the efforts one and all of them could make to bring it down. So I tell my hon. friend the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding), that I ask no greater favour at his hands than to send broadcast over Canada this evidence that he and all his party utterly failed to comprehend the position of Canada, and that it remained for the Liberal-Conservatives of this country to build up this country until it has become the great nation that attracts the admiration of the world. What were we told of the credit of the country by the Minister of Trade and Commerce? Why, he told us: Engage in this frightful undertaking, commit yourselves to these subsidies for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the credit of our country will be gone. You will not be able to borrow a dollar in the money market of the world for any purpose, however necessary, because you will have ruined our credit irretrievably. Well, just as mistaken in that as in everything else connected with the public affairs of the country, he wakes up and finds that, when all the obligations were incurred, when all the debts were placed on the shoulders of Canada, connected with the construction of that road, I was able to cross the Atlantic and put the first 3 per cent loan on the market ever floated on the English market by any colony in the world. He knows that, when the present Government came into power we handed over office into their hands with the proud conviction that the credit of Canada had attained the highest point it had ever attained in the history of this country, and that there was no country in the world, except the United Kingdom itself, whose debentures demanded so high a price. The hon. gentleman went into a laboured explanation to show why our credit was not as good to-day as it was when they came into power. I am not going into an argu-

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ment, but I state the fact, that the 3 per cent securities, that were up to 108 when the hon. gentlemen got into power, have, somehow or other, got down to 102, and that the 2½ per cent loan which the hon. gentleman put on the market, is, I believe, to-day below the rate at which it was floated.

I have given reasons to the House for the great pleasure with which I listened to the hon. gentleman's speech; but he made a personal reference to me which I must not pass by unnoticed. He wanted to know, in the course of his speech, why, on the eve of a general election, I had told the people that we could govern the country for less than the Liberal party. I did say so, and I will give the hon. gentleman the grounds on which I made that statement, and prove its correctness. I hold in my hand a copy of the Year-book, in which these statistics are given in tabulated form, and offer interesting evidence. I find that, from 1874 to 1878, when the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie was Minister of Public Works and had charge of the Intercolonial, the deficit on that road was—I shall only give the larger figures—in 1874, \$954,000; in 1875, it was \$695,000; in 1876, \$387,000; in 1877, \$605,000; in 1878, \$518,000; which totals up, for the five years during which the Intercolonial was administered by Mr. Mackenzie, \$3,151,463.

I had the honour of succeeding Mr. Mackenzie as Minister of Public Works, and had the Department of Railways and Canals under my control, and I shall give the figures and leave hon. gentlemen to decide, as to which was best qualified to carry on the great public works of this country in the most economical manner. In 1880, the deficit was \$138,000; in 1881, it was \$74,000; in 1882, \$71,000; in 1883, \$109,000; in 1884, \$83,000; in all, \$478,145 during the five years of my administration, as against \$3,151,463 during the five years of Mr. Mackenzie's administration, or a balance to my credit of only \$2,673,318. That is only one illustration of what this country will always find. It will always find that the people who understand political economy are the Liberal-Conservatives.

**The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE.** Hear, hear.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** And the people who do not understand political economy, and who, when they have the opportunity, dip their hands into the treasury of Canada right up to the elbow, are the Liberal party, who are never more liberal than when helping themselves. Let me draw the attention of the House to further evidence on this matter, by contrasting the administration of the late Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart) with the present. Under Mr. Haggart's administration, the deficit on the Intercolonial in 1893 was \$26,000; in 1894, it was \$47,000; in 1895, \$54,000; or, during the three years, the total deficit was \$128,310. Then the

present Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) got his hand into the public treasury, and with the usual result. We find, that, in 1897, the deficit under Mr. Blair was \$135,000, and in 1898, \$263,000.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The hon. gentleman is entirely astray in his figures. He will have to reinform himself.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I shall let this go on "Hansard," and settle the question with my hon. friend; and I am confident, that, if there be any slight inaccuracy, it will be found the other way. It will be found that, against Mr. Haggart's deficits during three years of \$128,310, Mr. Blair has managed in two years to make the deficit \$409,288, and I believe that this latter figure, when we get a little more daylight into this matter, will be very much increased.

I hope it is not necessary for me to say any more to my hon. friend in support of my contention, that the Conservatives understand political economy, and practise it, and that hon. gentlemen do not know anything about it.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Where does the political economy come in, in that calculation?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I will tell the hon. gentleman. It comes in in this way, that the man who understands political economic science—and I am inclined to think, if it is not too late in life, that my hon. friend would do well to resort to Queen's College where a chair on that science has been founded in memory of the Rt. Hon. Sir John Macdonald, and follow the lectures there—it comes in in this way, that the man who has any knowledge of political economic science will not pay \$2,100,000 for a railway which has been hawked about for \$500,000. And now I come to the only point in which, so far as I could follow his speech, the hon. Finance Minister claimed for this Government the credit of having done anything to bring Canada to its present wonderful position. I say it was the only point I noted, although I followed the speech closely, as I usually follow an interesting essay that shows that a good deal of the midnight oil has been consumed in its preparation. The point referred to by the hon. gentleman was the policy of preferential trade. The hon. gentleman ventured to remind me that when that policy was propounded I repudiated it. The hon. gentleman is mistaken. He will have to cast his mind back with a little more care and a little more regard for the facts as they have transpired on the floor of this House. When the hon. gentleman proposed his policy of 1896, I did denounce it. What was that policy? Was it a policy to give England a reduction of 12½ per cent in one year and 12½ per cent a year later—a total of 25 per cent? Not at all. Nobody knows better than the right hon.

leader of the Government that that was not the policy. That right hon. gentleman would have had no Cobden medal decorating his breast if that had been his policy. I want to ask the right hon. gentleman whether I am right or wrong when I say that when the Cobden medal was presented to him by Lord Farrer it was with the distinct statement that they would not have been there to confer any such honour upon him if the policy brought down by the Government, of which he was the head, had been a policy of discrimination in favour of England. He declared that neither he nor any other Cobdenite would do honour to a man who would strike at the very foundation of Cobdenism as would be done by discrimination. It was because their policy as propounded was declared to be an offer open to the world that the Cobden medal was presented to him. That policy was not the least like the policy we are all satisfied with to-day.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I echo that "hear, hear," from the bottom of my heart. I know perfectly well that the greatest piece of political good fortune could have fallen to the party which I have the honour to lead, would have been to have hon. gentlemen opposite keep their pledges to the country. Had they done so, we should have already have occupied the places that they now occupy. They would have been compelled by the very men behind them to abdicate their positions. But it would have been an equally great misfortune to the country had the National Policy, for which we worked so long and so successfully, been torn down. We felt, as Liberal-Conservatives have always felt, that there is something higher than party success, that the point for the public man to keep his eyes steadily fixed upon is the good of the country. No man is more rejoiced than I am to see the ground cut from under our feet, as literally, it has been, by the adoption of the National Policy by hon. gentlemen opposite. I would rather remain to the left of the Speaker to the end of my life, be it as short as it may, I would rather have my children after me occupy the same position than obtain power at the sacrifice of what I know to be the best interests of my country. Feeling that, we say that the Government of this country, although we criticise them, although we accuse them of having acted disingenuously, we rejoice to see that when they were called upon to grapple with these questions, they thought more of the interests of Canada than they did of their own pledges and promises. There are great questions with which this Government should grapple now and here, questions involving the largest interests of the country. They are assured in advance of my support if they will deal with them in a proper manner. I will surrender

the position I occupy, if necessary, to vote with them in maintaining a policy that, in my judgment, will promote the best interests of the country. On this question of preferential trade, the hon. Minister of Finance took a great deal of trouble to show that he had not deceived the English people. A greater delusion never was practiced upon the people of any country than that practiced upon the people of England in the policy propounded by hon. gentlemen opposite. Why, Sir, the right hon. First Minister stated when the policy was brought in that there was only one country in the world that could take advantage of Canada's offer. The hon. gentleman says that the press understood it. I can point him to a long and laboured article, written by a financial gentleman in England and published in a most influential quarterly, pointing out that the policy of the Government in Canada had the effect of extending these tariff concessions only to such countries as received their produce free of any charge whatever. Was that a mistake or not? I hold in my hand a copy of the organ of the Liberal party in England, the "Daily Chronicle," which deals with this tariff after four months' experience:

**A DISAPPOINTING TARIFF.—SOME STARTLING FIGURES.**

"What is the matter with our new tariff?"

That question is being eagerly discussed just now in Canada and in Canadian circles in this country. The tariff, with its 12½ per cent reduction upon British goods entering Canada, was brought in with a splendid flourish of trumpets.

Does the House remember when I told my hon. friend that he could not do what he proposed? And he said: But I have done it; all over Canada, from Cape North to the Pacific, every custom-house officer has his orders to give the benefit to England, and to-morrow those instructions will be carried out. But the hon. gentleman found out, like a good many others who have not studied politico-economic science, that he did not know what he was talking about.

A new era had dawned in the history of the Empire. For the first time a British colony came forward, and out of the pure gratitude of its heart for the joys of British citizenship, and without asking fee or reward, pulled down its barriers against British trade, and gave the British manufacturer practically the free run of his country from Atlantic to Pacific. This free gift was the talk of the Jubilee celebrations.

I think my right hon. friend will have some recollection of that matter—

—and it would fill a good-sized volume to reproduce one-half the eulogies which were bestowed upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Canadian Government and people because of their large-handed magnanimity.

That is perfectly true; but they found it was a perfect delusion:

Well, more than four months have elapsed since British goods enjoyed this reduced tariff.

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and the result is, to say the least, somewhat startling. It is set out in detail in the "Canadian Gazette," upon the basis of the returns of the English Board of Trade, and will, it is believed, instead of an increased British export trade with Canada, show there is a heavy decline.

Before the year was out, my hon. friend had the candour, before a great meeting in Sheffield to make the confession—which, no doubt, was good for his soul—that there was no preferential tariff. But he stated, "You will have it next year," and next year they got it. I say that no answer can be given to the exposure that my hon. friend from York (Mr. Foster) made in the House yesterday on that subject. We are now at the eight months of the 25 per cent preference pretended to be given, but it was proved to be a complete delusion, for there is a deficit of 7 per cent in British trade, absolutely less than the trade that came to this country before these gentlemen came to the Treasury benches, in 1896. I ask if it is any wonder that people in England wake up and say: Well, we have been subjected to a perfect delusion; we were led to expect that something marvellous would happen. But that takes me away from my subject.

I think I have a right to ask my hon. friend whether he has returned the Cobden medal. It is not a personal question; it is a matter of public importance. That Cobden medal was hung around the hon. gentleman's neck by Lord Farrer on the distinct statement that if he was going to do what he has since done, and what his Government have done, that is, make a discriminatory tariff in favour of England, they would not give it. Now, does he hold it on false pretenses or not? The ground is cut from under his feet by the very statement upon which that medal was awarded to him. I suppose the hon. gentleman will say: I took it in good faith from Lord Farrer, but from the fact that my Minister of Finance made a pledge as to what Canada would do when the treaties were abolished, I had no alternative. Now the hon. gentleman must say that he is a discriminator, he is not a Cobdenite, he is not a free trader, he has gone in for a National Policy for Canada and for discriminating in favour of one country over others. Now, I was glad to hear, after what had taken place, the declaration made by the right hon. leader of the Government, when addressing the House in an impassioned speech which has been thought worthy of infinite reproduction all over Canada, and which I do not regret. He declared that he had come to the conclusion that Canada did not want reciprocity with the United States. Now, I ask the right hon. gentleman here if that is the conclusion to which he has come after six months of negotiations with the United States what is going to take him back to Washington on the second day of next August to resume those negotiations? Does he want to force upon Canada something that Canada does not

want? No doubt, he is wiser than he was when he went down, first to Quebec and then to Washington. I want to know whether the right hon. gentleman intends to go back and endeavour to obtain that which Canada does not want? He has got to settle that question with the Minister of Finance, who has taken it out of his hands. We all listened with profound astonishment to a statement of the Minister of Finance in his Budget speech, repudiating a public declaration of his leader, and the leader of the Canadian delegation entrusted with these international negotiations. Whom are we to believe? Under which King Benzonian? Are we to accept the declaration of the Minister of Finance that he still believes in reciprocity with the United States, or are we to take the straightforward declaration made by the leader of this Government that he has discovered, what a good many people had discovered long ago, that while at one time reciprocity with the United States was of the most vital consequence to the people of Canada, that time has passed away.

Mr. EDWARDS. Not a bit of it

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Then, the Minister of Finance has got one supporter on that side of the House. I am afraid if the Minister of Finance gets too many supporters, we will have to have a new Premier; because, while I have said that the Minister of Finance is ready to swallow himself, I have not, on this occasion, at all events, said that in regard to the Prime Minister. I think, therefore, we ought to be taken into the confidence of hon. gentlemen opposite on that point. It is a very alarming thing. A house divided against itself cannot stand. It becomes of great importance for us to know, in view of the fact that these hon. gentlemen are to be re-entrusted with the important duty of representing Canada on this great international commission, what are their views, and what are their principles. You cannot deny that we were entitled to know. You have denied us that which you would have been compelled to disclose if you had closed that conference instead of adjourning it, as I hold you were bound to do. You would have been compelled to disclose the protocol of what had taken place on these various negotiations, reciprocity among the rest. But you have tied the hands of Parliament, you have prevented us for a time from taking up and carrying out these great measures that lie at the foundation of the prosperity of this country. I say, therefore, that before you get rid of us and go with a free hand to deal with these great interests, we have a right to have this question settled here and now, before this House rises; we have a right to demand a plain, manly and straightforward declaration of where we are, and what you propose to do with regard to those important interests.

Now, Sir, I may say that I took occasion,

in a former speech, to which I must not now refer, to speak highly of the great ability and attainments of a gentleman connected with that commission. I mean the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton). Well, I want to know what are the views and opinions of this Government in relation to a question upon which that hon. gentleman's views are pretty well known. It is a matter of public importance, because, as I said before, a house divided against itself cannot stand. We have a right to know whether these gentlemen, after six months' experience in these negotiations, agree with each other, and what are the leading principles that will guide them in the future. The hon. member for North Norfolk has stated over his own signature, at all events, he has put on record in an important speech he delivered in the city of Chicago, his opinion on the present position of affairs, after two years and a half of Liberal administration, conducted by these hon. gentlemen who were to bring about a most delightful change with the great republic to the south of us. It would appear from his speech that this Government, after two years and a half of the most bungling mismanagement, have brought the relations between Canada and the United States into a condition that justifies the hon. gentleman in saying that a bitterer feeling exists in Canada to-day than ever before towards the United States of America. Is that true? If it is, I think it demands some attention, some consideration at the hands of a Government who led the infatuated and deluded people of Canada to believe that all that was necessary to secure the most harmonious relations with the United States was to put them in power.

Now, Sir, I have put the question to these hon. gentlemen as to what the enunciation of that policy is; they do not seem to attach any importance to that. They have taken the ground, having gained power, that their policy was of no importance to the country at all, that it could change from day to day and from hour to hour, that they were mere opportunists, having no principles or policy, and, I believe, that is really what is the case. With this utter absence of principle or policy, they expect to hold their friends behind them, together, on the most important questions; and, in a most vital manner, by judgeships and appointments to high offices of various kinds, in the hope of getting some more manageable persons in their places, by whom, again, they will be obliged to use the same means of keeping them together. It reminds me of the position taken by a passenger on a car going through the Rocky Mountains. The passenger wanted to see the country, and he stood on the platform of the rear car. The conductor coming along said, "Sir, you cannot stand here." "Cannot stand here," said the passenger, "I want to see the scenery and the country." "But," replied the conductor, "it is contrary to orders, and I cannot allow

you to stand here," "Is not the platform made to stand on," asked the passenger. "No," said the conductor, "this platform is made to get in on." Hon. gentlemen opposite have had a platform, not to stand on but a platform to get in on.

Now, I was a little amused—I do not see the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) in his place—but, I was a little amused at the attempt to whitewash the hon. Postmaster General that the hon. Minister of Finance indulged in during his speech, or, rather his essay. He says that the post office betterment for the year is \$538,937. This is a very different story from that which has been told to the people all over the country for the last nine months. We have been told all over the country, that the hon. Postmaster General has reduced a deficit of \$750,000, or thereabouts, down to something like \$50,000. That does not appear in the Budget speech.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Two different periods are dealt with—1898 and 1897.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Now, I want to know where this money came from. How is there a betterment shown of \$538,937? A betterment, you say, because the receipts of the post office and the expenditures show these figures, and there is a betterment to that extent. But, where is a betterment shown there? I do not hesitate to say that the financial position of the Post Office Department, in any country in the world, was ever improved by the disgraceful manner in which this was done. We have had the hon. Postmaster General held up in this House to the admiration of Canada because of his admirable management of the Post Office Department. Sir, I say, in the presence of this House, that, in my judgment, the evidence is ample to show that the Post Office Department has been carried on with an utter disregard of the just rights of the people on the part of the hon. Postmaster General, such as no country in the world was ever scandalized with before. The hon. Postmaster General undertook to contradict the statement made by the correspondent of the "Globe" newspaper, that the mail service in the Yukon was in a deplorable condition. The hon. Postmaster General gave that statement a flat denial. Despite the denial of the hon. gentleman, the press and people know that in the Yukon, and, aye, in British Columbia, and in many other parts of Canada, the hon. Postmaster General has starved the service in order to show some advantage to himself, some advantage of his management, and he has been guilty of cruelty and injustice, and has ignored the interests of the people in a way that has never been done by any Government before. I have information from right and left, beyond all possible error, in respect to mail routes being curtailed, and a variety of things done in a way that has never been done before. We have come to this that we know how it is that the hon. Postmaster General dared to

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trifle with the postal service of the Yukon, in the way that he has done. A greater scandal has never been presented in reference to the administration of a public department—tons of mail matter lying strewed along the route, hidden under boats, cached all over the country, in utter disregard of everything right. Men who have been paying over a million of dollars—I care not for the statement of the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) which, it appears, will require a little qualification—but there is a million and a half of dollars contributed by these miners, men who have taken their lives in their hands, who have gone out there at great personal peril to themselves, who have gone out to exploit that part of Canada, and from whom the most onerous exactions ever inflicted upon a mining population, in any part of the world, were made—these men had a right to expect that their mail communication with their wives and families, with business men who had hundreds of thousands of dollars, perhaps, invested in these important enterprises, would be kept up, that they would receive the letters sent to them from the outside, and that the people outside would receive the letters sent from them. I say that you may search this country, or any country in the world, in vain to find such an utter disregard to right and justice. There is where it comes in. How did the hon. Postmaster General get this betterment? By compelling the mounted policemen to do the duties of the post office. Did he pay them when he saddled upon the Mounted Police of this country the work that he was bound to provide for, and when he received the money of the country, the people, whose correspondence had to be carried in, expected that he would do the work. Major Walsh in his report complains that the policemen are taken away from their proper duties. No person has a higher opinion of the Mounted Police, with the manner in which they have discharged their duties, than I have. It has been the most creditable to them, and it is only now that they are dragged into disgrace and discredit by having imposed upon them duties which they never contracted to do, and for which they are entirely disqualified. Is that where the betterment of \$538,937 comes in? It would have taken every dollar of what has been called the betterment, if the hon. Postmaster General had maintained that service as every humble miner—I care not how humble his position—who was paying his money into the treasury of Canada, an enormous exaction, was entitled to expect. This is a matter that demands attention at the hands of this House, and I give the hon. Postmaster General notice, that when the estimates for the postal service come up, I shall consider it the duty of every hon. member on this side of the House, to aid in getting the information as to why it is that the fair name of Canada, and the administration of the post office of Canada, has been disgraced as it has been under the administration of the

hon. Postmaster General. The postal service was handed over to policemen, and it was a duty utterly apart from all their duties, and one which it was impossible they could properly perform. If you read Major-General Hutton's report, you will find that, while the Mounted Police have been performing duties for the Postmaster General, and enabling the Minister of Finance to show this betterment of half a million dollars, the military force of Canada, maintained at a very great cost to the country, has been drawn upon, improperly and unnecessarily, to do duties which should be performed by the Mounted Police. Indeed, in one sense, the permanent force did not discharge the duties of the Mounted Police, for they had no duties to perform, but I suppose, that half a million dollars at least was uselessly extracted from the people by this Government, who seem to have lost every idea of governing the country according to established and well-defined principles. You have only to read Major-General Hutton's report to find, that, on account of the mismanagement by the Government, our very moderate regular force has all been disorganized, and you will find, that the Major-General demands from the Government, that they must either return these 200 men who were sent up to the Yukon without the slightest necessity in the world, or replace them with a similar number. I repeat, there was no necessity for this military expedition to the Yukon, because the Mounted Police were able to maintain for us a reputation for order and propriety such as no country in the world could equal, and yet you have this enormous charge foisted on the revenue of Canada, and you have the military service for which this country pays so much, disorganized, for no other reason than that there may have been two or three officers, or some other persons, to be provided for, and that there may have been transport of men and materials to be jobbed by parties very closely connected with the Government of this country. That, Sir, will demand a rigid and careful investigation. Major Walsh shows that the Mounted Police were utterly incapable of discharging the postal duties with which they were charged, and it also shows that there was not the slightest necessity for the military to be sent there at enormous expense—40 cents a pound for the carriage of supplies as far as Teslin Lake paid over to the Hudson Bay Company; and the transport of materials through the United States handed over by the Department of Militia to some bankrupt people who were not able to perform the duty. I only remark on that, in connection with the attempt of the Finance Minister to use his whitewash brush a little on the Postmaster General.

I find a statement made by the Minister of Finance in this connection that altogether contradicts a statement made by the Minis-

ter of the Interior. But that is nothing new, for we are accustomed to have the statement of the Minister of the Interior frequently contradicted, either by himself, or by his officials, or by other parties. In the "Globe" of March 11th, 1899, Mr. Sifton is reported as saying, at Stratford:

The Administration had to take proper steps for the government of the Yukon, and the result was a very considerable expense. Last year this came to \$647,000, but owing to the policy the Government had pursued in that country, there was a revenue of \$1,530,000.

That statement shows, that there was a surplus of \$883,000 paid into the treasury of Canada last year by the miners of the Yukon, who are subject to this tyrannical and oppressive tax. And yet the mail service, the most vital matter connected with the family and business of the men exiled there, notwithstanding that surplus in the hands of the Government, was utterly neglected and disorganized. But the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) gave us another account, for he said:

The expenditure in the Yukon for 1897-98-99 is \$1,844,613, and the revenue \$3,336 less.

These figures are certainly very extraordinary, when compared with the figures given at Stratford by the Minister of the Interior.

Now, Sir, I come to the temporary loan which the Finance Minister dealt with, and I have no exception to take to his argument in reference to that: but I want to draw attention to the fact, that for that temporary loan he paid the Bank of Montreal  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. With that I do not cavil, but I do say, that it was a fortunate thing for the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding), that, when he had the cruelty to propose to this House to reduce the interest on savings bank deposits to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, the Opposition stood between him and that improvident project. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) fought for it like a tiger, in this House; he fought for the right to strike down the payments to the thrifty depositors in the savings banks from 3 per cent to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, and he cannot be too thankful to the Opposition for preventing him doing that. The hon. gentlemen opposite are in office, but in this matter they were not in power. The question was so ventilated by the Opposition, that the Government had to recede from that proposition, and they were compelled to take their hands off the throat of the thrifty depositor in the savings banks, and allow him 3 per cent interest. The effect of that reduction of interest would have been a large withdrawal of money from the savings banks, and there would, of necessity, be a largely increased temporary loan from the Bank of Montreal at a rate of 1 per cent more than it was proposed to pay the savings bank depositors. I trust that fact will make the Finance Minister very careful in his attempt to carry out, as he has threatened, should the opportunity offer, this pro-

posal to reduce the interest on the savings bank deposits.

I was much struck with a little observation which the Finance Minister made in the course of his interesting essay. Mind, Sir, it was not a Budget speech; it was not a speech delivered in Parliament, as that which my hon. friend from York (Mr. Foster) delivered last night, with the help of only a few notes and with brief time for consideration. The essay of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) was carefully prepared with the midnight oil, and every figure and word written down, as it was read to this House. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) was making a contrast between the position of the late Government and the position of the present Government in regard to the average increase of the public debt. My hon. friend from York (Mr. Foster) said to him: Why, surely, you do not intend to charge that the increased public debt of 1896 was not accidental? "Oh, no," said the Finance Minister, "if my memory serves me right, there was a little sum of \$2,400,000 that has to come off that account." Well, Mr. Speaker, the memory of the Finance Minister served him very badly, and it does not look so much like a lapse of memory as it does like an attempt to mislead this House in reference to the very important question of the extent to which the public debt is being rolled up.

Now, Sir, there is one subject which the hon. gentleman did not touch upon in his Budget speech, but which I hope he will deal with before this House rises. I need not say to the House that but for the iron policy adopted by the Liberal-Conservative party and by this House in 1887, in which there was a great change in the iron tariff, there would not be a blow struck in connection with the iron industry in Canada today. The hon. gentleman, not in the interest of the mother country, but in the interest of the United States of America, anxious apparently to take away the very arms which the negotiators were to have when they went to Washington to negotiate a reciprocity treaty, cut down everything that was calculated to be advantageous to Canada in dealing with the United States, and among other things, made a heavy reduction in the duties on iron. Now, Sir, I hope the attention of the House was struck by the remark made by the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster), in regard to Mr. Courtney's speech in the House of Commons of England, in which Mr. Courtney, than whom no gentleman is better qualified to speak on such a question, drew attention to the fact that the time had come when England could not compete with the United States of America in coal and in iron. I draw the attention of my hon. friend to that point as one which affords him an opportunity of doing something, the first thing which this Administration could claim as being of immense value to the people of Canada; that is, tak-

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ing hold of the iron question. Unless they wish this Canada of ours filled as it is with an inexhaustible store of iron ore and coal, and everything calculated to create a great iron industry—unless they wish us to become completely helpless and subservient to the United States of America in regard to the manufacture of iron, this Government, I hold, are bound to take action. I did myself the honour of waiting upon the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Customs and the Minister of Railways and Canals on this subject during the recess, and I pressed upon them the vital importance of so extending the bounty system in accordance with the policy of the late Government, a policy adopted and ratified by the present Government, as to lead to the establishment in Canada promptly of one of the greatest and most important industries, the iron industry, not only in one section of the country, but generally through the country. I will not say more, because I do not believe my hon. friend is not sufficiently impressed with the importance of that subject not to have given it some attention, and I shall look confidently before this House rises for some action to enable Canada, with some little assistance from the Government to take her place in the foremost rank of the countries of the world in the manufacture of iron. I draw the attention of my hon. friend now to that subject as affording an opportunity of establishing one of the greatest industries, and that at no distant day. I was glad to hear the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), at a meeting of the British Empire League, say that he hoped the time was not remote when we would build iron steamships in Canada. I have discussed the subject with that hon. member, and I am strengthened in the opinion that all we require is vigorous, determined, patriotic action on the part of this Government in relation to the manufacture of iron, not only to make Canada a country where iron will at no distant day be furnished cheaper than it can be in any other part of the world, but to carry out the views of the hon. member for Centre Toronto, so that we shall have Canada taking just as important and prominent a position in connection with iron shipbuilding as she has taken in connection with wooden shipbuilding in times gone by.

Now, Sir, I do not intend to detain the House further than to say that the question of preferential trade I shall not refer to, because there is a notice on the paper of a resolution under which that question will more properly come up. Nor do I intend to refer to the question of the mining laws, the question of alien labour, or the question of export duties on logs, on pulp-wood and on nickel, as I suppose these are subjects that will come up before the commission. When a year ago the Finance Minister asked me behind the Speaker's Chair if I would be prepared to support the placing of power

in the hands of the Government to deal with these questions, especially the question of export duties, I told him that I would give such a proposition my most hearty support; and I presume that no action has been taken in that direction, because it would interfere with the negotiations being carried on by the commission. I shall not say more before I sit down than again to express the delight with which I listened to the long, interesting and valuable essay of the Finance Minister, which I am glad to know will be a permanent record of the country, and a grand tribute paid to the National Policy and to the construction of that inter-oceanic line of railway which binds the country together. In my judgment, the question as to who shall claim the paternity of any one of these matters is altogether insignificant compared with the realization of what has been effected by Canada and what may still be effected by Canada by steadily keeping our eye fixed on that polar star of regarding our duty to Canada and Canadians as above all questions of party, and adopting and maintaining the policy that has made Canada great, and so deservedly conspicuous in the eyes of the world, and which, if steadily pursued, will make Canada infinitely greater and infinitely more conspicuous in the future.

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS** (Mr. Paterson). Mr. Speaker, I am sure the House will congratulate the hon. baronet on the vigour he has displayed in his remarks. I must confess, however, to a little feeling of disappointment that he has not dealt with the speech of the Finance Minister, which he has attempted to criticise, in such a manner as it was dealt with yesterday by the hon. gentleman who sits beside him (Mr. Foster), and who, while unable to controvert the statements and arguments made in that speech, nevertheless addressed himself somewhat to that task. The hon. leader of the Opposition has contented himself with simply uttering statements and making declarations without at all seeking to establish them.

The hon. gentleman found fault with the hon. Minister of Finance for having referred at some length to manuscript, but I think it must be admitted that any one having to deal with tables and figures to the extent the Minister of Finance necessarily had would have to follow the same course, and we must also admit that such a course is the most satisfactory one to all parties, for it is very desirable that financial statements should be made in such a shape that they can be relied on and not consist merely of assertions made from memory and glittering generalities dealt out broadcast. The hon. gentleman himself has been Finance Minister, and I would just like to ask him if, when he had occasion to deliver a Budget speech in this House, he was not also compelled by the circumstances to confine himself almost exclusively to manuscript and

not trust to extemporaneous delivery in dealing with such a mass of facts and figures. I think the hon. gentleman will admit that when he occupied the position of Finance Minister he did precisely what my hon. friend has done, and did it with advantage to the House and the country.

I cannot pretend to follow, nor do I think it would be wise to make the attempt, my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition through all the various subjects he touched upon, which were aside altogether from the question before the House. I shall not attempt to follow the hon. gentleman through his references to old Nova Scotia matters and his fierce denunciations of individual members of the Cabinet, but shall instead confine myself to considering the live questions of the day, the questions that are before the House now. I notice, first, that he made an attempt to deal with the question of expenditure under the Conservative regime when he was himself a member of the Government, and he did so because of an allusion personal to himself, made by the Finance Minister, when he stated that the hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition had declared when in Opposition that the amount of money taken by the Mackenzie Government was in excess of what was really required, and that if he and his party were entrusted with power they would carry on the Government at a much less expenditure. The hon. gentleman acknowledged that statement and attempted to prove it. What were the reasons he gave in its support? He took up just one item, the item of Intercolonial Railway expenditure, and contrasted the expenditure on the railway by the Mackenzie Government with the expenditure by the Government that followed and of which my hon. friend was a member. It does not concern my argument whether his figures were correct or not, but I simply call the attention of the House to the way in which the hon. gentleman evaded the issue by simply confining himself to one item of expenditure and leaving all the others out of the question. But what are the facts? They are in the Public Accounts, and they show that while the expenditure under the Mackenzie Government amounted to \$23,500,000, at the end of the five years of the succeeding Government, that expenditure had increased to \$28,730,000 in round numbers. Instead of decreasing, as promised by the hon. gentleman, it had gone up \$5,000,000 under Conservative régime, and yet the hon. gentleman wants us to believe that the Conservative party is the only one that understands political economy and figures in this country.

My hon. friend then touched upon the public debt, and charged the Finance Minister with omitting to give the late Government credit for an exceptional item of expenditure in the year 1895, when contrasting the increase of the public debt under the present Administration with its increase under their predecessors. Well, Mr. Speaker, if exceptional circumstances are to be taken into

consideration on the one side, they must also be taken into consideration on the other. I have no fault to find with hon. gentlemen for attacking the Government if they find the public debt is being increased in a reckless manner, because the Opposition would be lacking in their duty if they did not do so; but when a comparison is challenged, I say it does not lie in the mouth of hon. gentlemen opposite to declare that this country is being ruined by extravagance when we are able to point to all the extraordinary works we have been engaged in and all the new projects that have come before us—when we can point to the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, opening up a vast mineral region; to the opening up of the Yukon and giving life and property out there the protection enjoyed in older and more settled portions of the country; when we can point to the fact that we have brought the Intercolonial Railway from where it formerly terminated, the small town of Lévis, right up to the great commercial metropolis; when we can point to the millions we are spending in deepening and enlarging our canals, and giving extra tonnage and freight and wealth to the people—when we can point to all we have accomplished within two years on a net increase in the public debt of only about \$2,700,000 for each year, I think we have no reason to fear comparison with our predecessors or feel dissatisfied with the result of our efforts. Go to the blue-book and compare the two last years of hon. gentlemen opposite with the two years of this Administration, and what result will you find as regards the increase in the net debt of the country? Why, put their last two years together, and the average is over \$6,000,000 added to the debt, while ours was only about \$2,700,000, in spite of all the extraordinary expenditures we have had to meet. Then take the whole eighteen years when hon. gentlemen opposite were in office and strike an average, and you will find that for every year of these eighteen they added \$6,000,000 to the public debt. But they will say: Oh, we granted subsidies to the Canadian Pacific Railway. True, they did; and so did we. And I would remind the hon. gentleman, who belongs to that party which alone understands political economy, who alone have the genius of government, who alone know how to make calculations and manage the finances of the country, that they made grants to the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Mr. POPE. We built it, too.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Pope) says they built it. He was not in the House at the time—

Mr. POPE. But I was in the country.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. But does the hon. gentleman know how his present leader induced the Conservative members at that time to vote the money for the railway?

Mr. POPE. He did not have to induce them.

Mr. PATERSON.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I will tell the hon. gentleman, if he will listen. If he will turn to "Hansard" he will see what the genius for government, the knowledge of political economy and the ability to make financial calculations in his party are worth. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) got the Conservative members supporting the Government of that day to vote for this expenditure of money by coming down to this House and pledging his financial reputation that if the money were voted it would be nothing more than a loan virtually for by the sale of lands the treasury would be repaid for every dollar by the year 1890, the amount being \$58,000,000. And, when the year 1890 came around, these gentlemen, who understand political economy, who alone have the genius of government, who alone possess financial knowledge, found that, instead of having \$58,000,000 placed in the treasury of the country, it actually cost more to manage the Dominion lands than the total amount received from them up to that time.

Mr. POPE. We have got the land.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. If I adopt what the hon. gentleman says, it is only pouring contempt upon his leader; for his leader said, that we would not have the land, but that they would be sold and the cash would be in the treasury.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I think I quote the hon. gentleman correctly. He said he would either have cash in hand—

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No, no.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS—or securities as good as cash—

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Better.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Did not the hon. gentleman say that?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) is mistaken. I read to the House a calculation made in the Department of the Interior. I did not commit myself to it at all. It was not even in my department but it was brought down by the Prime Minister and placed in my hands from the Department of the Interior and I read it.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Of course, I accept the hon. gentleman's statement.

Mr. POPE. Begin again.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No, I will not begin again; for, while I accept the hon. gentleman's statement, he must not consider that I am casting any doubt upon his word, when I say, that what he said can probably be seen in "Hansard," and we can see who is correct and who is not. But do I understand, that, in a matter of this kind,

involving tens of millions of dollars, the hon. gentleman would use, without being prepared to endorse it, a statement of this kind to support an argument intended to convince members of the House? We will see whether he endorsed it or not. If he did not endorse it, will he say he did not give the members supporting him reason to believe that he thought it was a safe calculation? He shelters himself behind a clerk in the Department of the Interior, and says he took from that clerk a statement prepared by him and in a matter involving not merely the well-being, but, it might be said, almost the national life of this country, and, without being prepared to endorse it, he laid it before the House as a reason why members supporting him should vote the money. I commend that to the House and to the country as a sample of a genius for government of the Conservative party, as a sample of their political economy.

Mr. McNEILL. May I ask my hon. friend (Mr. Paterson), if he was a member of the Immigration and Colonization Committee in 1883?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I think I was; but I would rather the hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) would ask me that question at some other time. I am debating the Budget just now.

Mr. McNEILL. But it has reference to this matter.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I have been on a great many committees.

Mr. McNEILL. I do not wish to interrupt my hon. friend (Mr. Paterson), and will not ask the question if he does not desire it.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) proceeded to point out what he considered a divergence of views between the Minister of Finance and the right hon. leader of the Government. He thought he had discovered a difference of opinion between these gentlemen with reference to the necessity, if I might use that word, of reciprocity at this time, as compared with the need felt for it in times gone by. I did not notice that these gentlemen contradicted one another. I have not noticed that there was any difference of opinion between any members of the Government in reference to that point. But the hon. gentleman professes to see it so clearly that he reminds us of what we are told in Scripture—that a house divided against itself cannot stand. I think we have had proof of the truth of that saying, as it affects governments. Not in the case of the present Government, for no one has yet been able to discover, I think, that there is any division existing among its members. But the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) can speak feelingly. He knows of a Government that was divided against itself, and, for that reason, was not

able to stand. He knows of a Government, some six or seven of whose members turned against their leader, and, without giving him any notice whatever, that they were about to take the stand they did, in open Parliament, did what had never been done before by men who had been honoured by being called to be Privy Councillors—through the mouth of one of their number, as spokesman, they declared, that the leader of the Government was virtually unfit to lead the Government. And in the changes that followed, the present leader of the Opposition came in himself to lead the Government. And what was the result? When again they came back, they had patched the house up, in a measure, so that it would hold together. But—I do not wish to make a personal allusion—I think the indications during last session, and during this session, with the Conservative party on the opposite side of the House, while united in opposition to the Government, would not lead us to believe that they are a united party. We cannot forget how the hon. gentleman who leads that party, who alone have the instinct of government, who alone understand political economy, on one occasion, in the city of Montreal, declared that a certain project was a wise financial operation and in the line of sound political economy, and gave it his endorsement. But we saw him taken to task by members of his own party and made to eat his words with reference to that project. Why, then, we could say that a House divided against itself cannot stand. I can only say to the hon. gentlemen opposite that not only can that saying be applied to the Government, but it can be applied to an Opposition. An Opposition can never be strong if there is among them a lack of faith in the gentleman who leads them, if they are divided into factions, and if one or more of their party seek to occupy positions of commanding influence in the party in opposition to the gentleman who has been entrusted more particularly with the leadership.

I will notice only briefly the hon. gentleman's denunciation of the management of affairs in the Yukon. He alludes to some difficulties that we experienced some months past in the transmission of mails to that country. He speaks of utilizing the Northwest police as something that was not desirable in the interest of that force. He points out that taking vast sums of money, as he says we have taken, from the people up there and not to give them the facilities that they require in postal communication, is to do a grievous wrong to them, and he calls upon every member on the other side of the House, when the post office Estimates are under consideration, to speak out on this subject. I need not dwell upon that in detail, because when the Postmaster General will be in his place and can give us the explanations and answer the attacks

that may be made upon him, the subject can be discussed and settled. I have only this remark to make with reference to the management of the Yukon. There was a task imposed upon this Government, such a task as was never before imposed upon a Canadian Government; and I can say here, speaking generally, that the affairs of the Yukon have been managed in the interests of the people in the Yukon as well as in the interests of the people of older Canada. We have this to remember, that the policy of this Government has been, and is, that the Yukon should pay the expenses of the Yukon. Holding that policy, we have seen fit to require that customs duties should be paid on goods going into that country, as into any other portion of Canada; and we have seen fit to declare that we believe that as that gold was the possession of the people of Canada, when aliens in very much larger numbers than native Canadians have gone into that country to take the mineral resources that belong to the people of Canada, it is nothing but right and proper that when these men had taken \$5,000 for themselves without paying any share to the Government for the amount they took out over that sum, \$10 in every \$100 should be given to the people of this country as it belongs to them by right. These hon. gentlemen are condemning this Government because of their expenditure, these hon. gentlemen denounce us because there is a slight increase upon the public debt. If they had their own way, if we may judge by the utterances of their leader in this House, they would allow these foreigners to go into that country and take the gold that belongs to the people of Canada without giving back a particle of toll, or at most a very slight toll, to the people of Canada who have spent hundreds of thousands, a sum that will run into millions of money, in order to open up that country and to give to the people dwelling there the benefits that the people are enjoying in other parts of this Dominion. Sir, the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) charged this Government with being extravagant. It was pointed out to them that when this Government attempted to economize hon. gentlemen opposite, instead of seconding their efforts, demand that we should make extra expenditures. The hon. member for East Durham (Mr. Craig) honestly acknowledged that, and says that we should pay more to the civil service than we are paying now. While they make that demand on the one hand, on the other they denounce the Government because they have increased the expenditure on civil government. Well, Sir, they thought to keep on the statute-book of Canada a law that not only deprived tens of thousands of the young men of Canada, during the last election, of the right to vote, while at the same time giving voice to men who have left the country for good and have moved to other lands—they thought

Mr. PATERSON.

to retain that law on the statute-book, though it involved an expenditure of \$250,000 or more every time the list was revised, while that law was only in existence to the detriment and not for the benefit of the people of the country. Their other contention is that the gold in the Yukon is to be given to aliens, and the leader of the Opposition says that they should only pay 2 per cent on what they take out as their share of the royalty, after all the expenditure the people of Canada have made in that country to give to their lives and to their property the same security that are given to life and property in every other part of this Dominion.

Mr. CLANCY. What about the Canadians there?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Canadians there are enjoying the same safety with regard to life and property that Canadians are enjoying here to-day. The hon. gentleman knows that while there may be one Canadian there, if we are to believe the statements we have heard, there are eight or nine, if not more, from other countries; and yet the hon. gentleman, if he is following the leader of his party, wants us to deduct only \$2 out of every \$100 they take out, after having taken out \$5,000 upon which we levy no tax at all.

Mr. CLANCY. Is that the population which the Minister of Trade and Commerce claimed last night?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. That is exactly what I said, and with emphasis.

Mr. CLANCY. We will see.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. It is more satisfactory to the hon. gentleman to get an answer direct from the hon. gentleman who spoke than from myself, and he has got it. Now, I wished to touch a little upon a question that the hon. gentleman has alluded to, and which was alluded to at more length by the ex-Minister of Finance, but I will reserve those remarks until after recess: that was with reference to the preference that we have given in the tariff that was enacted, and one or two other subjects which have engaged the attention of the House.

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

### After Recess.

#### IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 28) respecting the British Columbia and Southern Railway Company.—(Mr. Prior.)

Bill (No. 11) to confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of Thomas Robertson.—(Mr. Robertson.)

## COLUMBIA AND WESTERN RAILWAY.

The House resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 26) respecting the Columbia and Western Railway Company.—(Mr. Costigan.)

(In the Committee.)

On clause 1,

Mr. FRANK OLIVER (Alberta). Mr. Chairman, before this clause is adopted, I think it would be well to draw attention to the discussion that took place at the Railway Committee the other day, on an important principle involved in its consideration. The clause asks, as was said on that occasion, for extraordinary bonding powers—powers to bond to the amount of \$35,000 a mile, which is considerably in excess of the usual amount allowed to railways. The claim is put forward, on behalf of this railway company, that the road will cost an extraordinary amount, and this claim is supported by evidence that it will cost, for the main line from Robson to Midway, the sum of \$39,000 a mile, of which it is proposed to provide \$35,000 by the sale of bonds and \$4,000 by subsidy from the British Columbia Government. It was agreed, on the part of the members of the committee, that we cannot get railways built except they are paid for, that if a railway is wanted, no matter how much it costs it is to be built and paid for, and that the company is to be allowed to raise the money necessary to build the road by the sale of its bonds. Therefore, there is no objection to the granting of the bonding powers to the extent asked for the main part of the road. But objection is taken to the further request that power be granted to bond all possible branches, built for any possible purpose, to any possible point, at any cost, whether great or small, to the extent of \$35,000 per mile. The question was asked, very distinctly, of the railway company, what amount of line would be contained in the branches for which this extraordinary power of bonding was asked. The reply was that the length of the line could not be told, nor could there be any information given as to its cost; therefore, some members of the committee took the ground, that while it was perfectly legitimate to grant the request of the company, in so far as it was substantiated by evidence of actual requirements, it was not sound public policy to grant such a large bonding power for reasons which were not specified and which would practically give the company building this road the right to load it to an unlimited extent with bonds. One special reason why it is considered desirable not to allow excessive bonding privileges is, that this road is for the development of a very important section of the country, which it is hoped at some time may be assisted in its development by the construction of a competing line, and it is believed that by loading up the line now being built—allowing it to be loaded up, practically to an unlimited extent—

with bonds, there will be an association of interest created which will be a protection to the company against the introduction of railway competition there. The attempt is being made now at the very beginning of the construction of this road to found the argument that competition into that country is not to be allowed because it would affect vast vested interests which are to be created by this Act to which we are asked to give our sanction at the present time. It is because we believe it to be entirely desirable that there should be no such excessive concentration of interest created; that there should be no such piling up of charges upon this road with the view of preventing competition in the future, that I desire to move:

That all the words after "Midway" in the 14th line of section 1 be struck out.

That will not interfere in any way with the requirements of the company, as stated by themselves, in regard to the main portion of the line. It will only interfere with lines to be built, of which the location, the terminals, the number, the length, or the cost are neither specified nor known. I hold that it is not sound public policy to grant such unlimited powers in regard to roads which will be constructed only in the future. It is a sufficient responsibility for this House to legislate with respect to matters which properly come before it. It is unfair, and unjust, and not sound policy, to legislate in regard to matters that will properly come before succeeding Parliaments, or succeeding sessions of this Parliament.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Campbell). There has been no notice given of this amendment, and consequently it is out of order and we cannot consider it.

Mr. HEWITT BOSTOCK (Yale and Cariboo). There is a very important matter in connection with this Bill. These bonding privileges are very large, and the question of freight rates will come up in connection with this company at some future time. When the Crow's Nest Pass charter was passed, power was given to the Government to deal with this question of freight rates, and it occurs to me we should watch very carefully any power of this kind given to a railway company, for this power must naturally have a considerable amount of influence on the question of freight rates when it has to be decided whether the rates over this line are such as ought be charged in the interest of the people. Any company coming before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council in connection with this matter, would naturally expect that the amount of dividends they have to pay on the bonding powers of their road, should be taken into consideration in the matter of deciding the freight rates that should be charged. It is in the interest of the people of the Boundary Creek country, and also of the whole Dominion, that this bonding pri-

vilege should be very carefully watched. The privilege that has been asked for under this clause of the Bill, is a very extensive one, and I think larger than has been granted to any other railway in that country. Of course, we all know that the cost of building railways in these mountainous mining districts is very high; yet it is surprising that when they come to survey the line they often find that the cost of building is not at all so much as it was at first supposed to be. I know this was a surprise to myself, as it would be to any other, who travelled over the Crow's Nest Pass line. We are giving this railway company very great powers under this section, in allowing them to have the bonding privilege over these branch lines. Under the provincial charter they have the privilege of building a branch line to any mine in the vicinity of the main line, and although these branch lines are limited to twenty miles from the main line, still, on account of the large number of mines in that part of the country which we hope to see developed, the number of branch lines may be very considerable. I am not altogether disposed to think that the cost of building some of these branch lines will be anything like so heavy as the cost of building some portions of the main line has been. It is of course with the object of covering the cost of the main line of this road, that we are asked to grant this bonding privilege over, not only the main line as far as Midway, but also the branch lines. There are portions of that line that can be built at a very small figure, and I believe we are giving this company too much in the way of bonding privileges, when we allow them to bond not only the main line, but also the branch lines. Of course, if we grant this privilege now, we will create a precedent which other railway companies will demand should be afterwards followed. We hope to see a great many more railways there, or the extension of the present railways, and as they will be built in a country similar to that through which this road passes, the companies will no doubt ask for a similar privilege to be granted as in this case. I hope the committee will take this matter very seriously into consideration, and that hon. gentlemen will, if possible, curtail the privilege granted to this company under this particular clause.

Not very long ago the Canadian Pacific Railway Company saw fit to increase their freight rates on the main line, which caused an outcry on the part of merchants at Kamloops and other points. The company not only increased the rates, but charged what they call an arbitrary. Now, if the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have increased their rates on the main line, they might possibly, if it suited their purpose, when the power given to the Railway Committee of the Privy Council under this clause of the Crow's Nest Pass Act is put into force, also increase their rates between points on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway

Mr. BOSTOCK.

and points on this Columbia and Western line; and then we might find that we could not get those rates reduced again to what they ought to be; or we might only get them back to what they were to within the last nine months or a year. Consequently, the power now held by the Government of dealing with this question of freight rates will have to be exercised more than once in order to put the traders on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, at places like Kamloops and Vernon, on practically the same footing that they were on 12 months ago. This matter of freight rates is one that considerably exercises the people all through the western country. They have only the one railway to deal with; they have no chance of getting competition in any way, and they find that it is very hard to carry on their business; because, after they had made their calculations on the basis of a rate which has prevailed for two or three years, they find that the railway company has increased the rates, and, in addition to the increase, is charging an arbitrary. If they cannot ship their goods to some central point, where they shall be able to sell them at a profit, they are obliged to keep their goods on hand, and in the case of perishable goods, they probably have to lose their whole crop. The question of freight rates, therefore, is one that affects them in a very serious manner, and they have to watch exceedingly carefully any move of this kind on the part of a railway company that would tend to keep up the rates. Therefore, I desire to ask this committee to consider very carefully what they are doing when they allow a clause such as this to be passed, granting bonding privileges to this company. We all hope that this country is going to be a very great mining country, and that there will be a great development there before long; but we must not lose sight of the fact that the development of the country will depend to a very large extent on the freight rates charged by the Canadian Pacific Railway, especially in view of the fact that that company has also gone into the smelting business; and will have the mining industry of the country very largely in its own hands. It will be able practically to keep control of the output of the coal mines and the coke product along the Crow's Nest Pass Railway. It will have the power to charge pretty nearly what it likes for carrying coke to the smelters, and thus it will be able practically to control the smelting business. In these remarks I think I have pointed out to the committee the seriousness of this bonding privilege which is proposed to be given to this company, and I trust I shall be able to put this matter in a proper light before the House.

Bill reported.

#### RESTIGOUCHE BOOM COMPANY.

On Order for second reading of Bill (No. 65) to incorporate the Restigouche Boom Company (Mr. McAllister).

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). This is practically a public Bill, affecting public interests very materially; and as I am in daily receipt of petitions and letters in support of and in opposition to it, I am getting a report from my officers. I would, therefore, ask the hon. gentleman not to proceed with this Bill until I am in a position to express an opinion upon it.

Mr. McALISTER. I think any objections to it can be dealt with in committee. I am prepared to give any information the Minister desires at any time, and it has been put back several times already.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Of course, it has not been put back by any desire of mine, but simply because I am receiving communications from parties complaining that it is against the public interest. The House will expect me to be in a position to declare whether the principle of the Bill should be conceded, and I cannot do that before I have received a report from my officials. I am having collected the different memorials and petitions and letters coming in, and must ask some delay before I can consent to the second reading.

Mr. McALISTER. I do not see why it should not get its second reading and be sent to the committee where the whole matter will be discussed. As far as the New Brunswick side is concerned, the Bill does not confer greater power on the company than they already possess. They are only asking permission to make a boom on the other side.

Mr. SPEAKER. There is no motion before the House, but simply the question whether the Bill should stand or not.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. On that question, might I ask the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries whether the subjects he mentioned are not really ones that would require to be considered as matters of evidence before the committee. I fail to see any danger in advancing the Bill in the usual course. Public purposes would be served by sending the Bill before the usual committee, and the information the hon. gentleman is expecting should be laid before that committee.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The point I make is this, that the Bill is practically a public one under the guise of a private Bill, and as I am daily receiving communications from municipal corporations and private individuals concerning it, I cannot be, until I have had a report from the officials in my department, in a position to say whether the Bill should take its second reading or not. Even if the Bill should now get its second reading, I am not in a position to say what committee it should go to.

Mr. SPROULE. What is the difference if it be a public Bill, when it goes before the Railway Committee?

Mr. HAGGART. The usual plan adopted with regard to these Bills is to give them a second reading. There is nothing against the principle of this Bill. This is an ordinary boom company which no doubt interfered, as any other company would, with private rights, and perhaps with public rights. The usual practice is to send such Bills to the committee, and then the Minister, who is on the committee, asks the committee to take no proceedings until he has consulted his colleagues, and if the Bill be of sufficient importance to give a Government opinion upon it, that opinion is given.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I would have no objection under ordinary circumstances, but when I am receiving daily communications from municipal corporations and private persons, writing in the public interest, in connection with this Bill, I am placed in a very different position. I am not asking the hon. gentleman to take a course which will delay him very much. He would perhaps be better off by having a private conversation with myself about the Bill than attempting to force it through the House at present. It may be that this Bill ought to go to a special committee. I am getting a report made upon it now which I hope will be ready Monday.

Order allowed to stand.

#### SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 98) respecting the Cobourg, Northumberland and Pacific Railway Company.—(Mr. Guillet.)

Bill (No. 100) respecting the Guarantee and Pension Fund Society of the Dominion Bank, and to change its name to the Pension Fund Society of the Dominion Bank.—(Mr. Bertram.)

Bill (No. 101) to incorporate the Glenora Railway Company.—(Mr. Morrison.)

Bill (No. 102) to incorporate the Yukon Pacific Railway Company.—(Mr. Morrison.)

Bill (No. 107) respecting the Bedlington and Nelson Railway Company.—(Mr. Bostock.)

#### WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS** (Mr. Paterson). Just before recess, there was a little difference between the leader of the Opposition and myself with respect to what had occurred in the House fifteen or sixteen years ago. Of course, it is quite possible for any one, after so long a time, to think that a certain version of what occurred is correct, while it may not, in fact, be so. My recol-

lection was, that the leader of the Opposition had read a statement to the House, and had endorsed it, that, by a certain time, he would receive from land sales and other sources in the North-west \$58,000,000; that he had argued that the Canadian Pacific Railway would virtually cost the country nothing, because the cash received from these sources would balance the account. When I said, that that had been his statement, I was interrupted by the hon. gentleman, who said, that he had not made that statement, but that he had read to the House a statement prepared by a clerk in the Department of the Interior, but had not endorsed it. I think those were his words. I think the matter of sufficient importance—though I very much dislike reading extracts from “Hansard,” or from anything else, for it is not really debating—to show what was said on that occasion. In the session of 1883, the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper), speaking with reference to the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway—as will be seen at page 975 of “Hansard” of that year—said:

I now turn the attention of the House for a single moment to another point in this connection, and that is the position in which the country stands in relation to the sales of land. I will read a short note which was addressed by Mr. Burgess, the able secretary of the Department of the Interior, to my friend the Speaker of the Senate, who has been giving this subject his constant and careful attention for a length of time. It was not given me for publication, but it expresses the facts of the case so tersely and so much to the point, that I venture to give it to the House.

I consider that an endorsement myself.

Ottawa, 4th May, 1883.

Sir,—Having given the subject my best and fullest consideration, I estimate that the receipts of this department from the sale of agricultural and coal lands, timber dues, rents of grazing lands, and sales of mineral lands other than coal, with the royalties from the minerals, between the 1st January, 1893, and the 31st December, 1891, both inclusive, will amount to not less than \$58,000,000.

This note is signed by Mr. Burgess, under whose personal observation and information all these various points come. I give it to the House as an evidence of the soundness of the statement made by my right hon. friend, the Minister of the Interior, when he told the House, three years ago, that he confidently relied upon the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway being accomplished without its costing one dollar to the people of Canada, as the entire amount required to recoup the Government and the country for their expenditure in connection with it would, at no distant date, be returned by the sale of lands and the revenues derived from lands in the North-west. I say that the evidence on that point is very conclusive.

Now, I think my recollection was rather better than that of the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper). But he did more than that. I find, in the same speech, turning over the page, the following:—

Mr. PATERSON.

It will be remembered that my right hon. friend made a computation of what would be received in connection with the sale of lands in the North-west.

This referred to the calculation made by Sir John Macdonald in the year 1880, when this project was brought up. I have here the calculation of Sir John. I suppose that the argument will apply equally well to this—for it will be remembered that we were considering the statement made by hon. gentlemen opposite, that the Conservative party alone had the genius of government, and that they alone understood political economy—for it will not be denied that Sir John Macdonald belonged to that party. Speaking on the 5th April, 1880, he figured up the number of settlers to go in every year and how much would be paid for land within a certain distance of the railways and how much for land at a little distance further away, and he sums up his calculation in this way:

But, besides, there will be all the instalments to come in after 1890, accruing yearly, so that the lands sold in 1890 will be one-tenth paid for nine years afterwards—for each year there will be an instalment of one-tenth paid. The actual value, in 1890, of the pre-emption, of that date, unpaid, will be \$16,440,000. The actual value of the railway lands sold up to that date will be \$16,272,000, making in all, \$32,712,000. If you add to that total, unpaid, the \$38,593,000 that will be paid in 1890, you will get a grand total of \$71,305,000.

But he was very close in his calculation, because he estimated that there would be some expenses.

Deduct from that the estimated cost of surveys for the ten years, \$2,000,000, and of the land officers, \$400,000, and you would reduce it by \$2,400,000.

Having shown that the estimate of the number of settlers, if the land to be taken up, and if the average price is not excessive, we find we shall have \$69,000,000 either of money in hand, or money for which we shall have the best security in the world—the land itself.

That was the calculations submitted by Sir John A. Macdonald, the leader of the party at that time. It is to that subject that the present leader of the Opposition directed himself three years after, when he had had some experience of the working of it, and when he was even three years nearer the time at which this money was to be recouped to the treasury. He says:

It will be remembered that my right hon. friend made a computation of what would be received in connection with the sale of lands in the North-west; and it will also be recollected that my hon. friend, the leader of the Opposition, not only took great exception to the statement, but pronounced it so absolutely beyond any possible conception, as to entirely discredit, so far as that hon. gentleman was able to discredit, the prediction and the computation which the right hon. gentleman made. We estimated by the time the Canadian Pacific Railway contract was to be completed, under the terms of the contract, we would receive not merely the \$53,000,000 we were going to pay in connection with the construction of that work, but that

we would receive about \$60,000,000, or a considerable amount over and above the entire expenditure we were called upon to make in connection with the construction of the road. In order to show the House how thoroughly reliable and within the mark that calculation is, I will give the calculation made by my right hon. friend, and communicated to the House as our estimate two years ago,—

Linking himself with Sir John A. Macdonald.

—when it was very much discredited by hon. gentlemen opposite, and I will also give the result.

I thought it was worth while to make this quotation, seeing that the hon. gentleman was criticising the Budget speech of a Liberal Minister of Finance and his estimate of the receipts and expenditures of the year. I do not think that the hon. gentleman was notably successful in preserving the dignity of leader of one of the great parties in the country, when he endeavoured to belittle, and indeed forgot himself so far as to liken the delivery of the Minister of Finance to some performance that he had seen in a dime museum, a place I should never have supposed that the hon. gentleman frequented if he had not led us to suppose so by that remark. He was criticising a statement made by the Minister of Finance, who, in his calculations, I think, so far as they have been submitted to this House, has this merit, at any rate, that if he has not calculated the receipts and expenditures to the very dollar, he has come very near it, indeed; and where he has erred (and I trust Finance Ministers of this Dominion will ever so err) he has erred upon the safe side. While he estimated that he would have a deficit in the year 1897, that deficit was less than he estimated; and while he estimated that he would have a surplus of revenue over expenditure in the following year, he found his surplus even greater than he had given the House and the country reason to look for at his hands. If the surplus at the end of the year is larger than we were led to expect by the Minister of Finance, it is a result that inures to the advantage of the country. He has ventured this year to estimate for the year uncompleted—for Finance Ministers must estimate ahead, and here is where their ability comes in—he has given an estimate to the House that at the end of the current year, which will be within a very few months now, he will have paid all the consolidated revenue accounts of this Dominion out of the revenue that he shall derive from different sources, and with a greatly reduced rate of taxation so far as customs are concerned; he estimates that he will have paid all his debts and have a surplus of \$4,600,000. In the light of the estimate made by this hon. gentleman hitherto, I have great faith that that will take place. And yet we find an hon. gentleman opposite who, at one time, acted as Minister of Finance, and at other times as the colleague of a Minister of Finance, endorsing the statement of

the Finance Minister of that day, giving the House and the country to understand that though they were launching out into an expenditure of tens of millions, that it did not mean a burden upon the people, because the money would be returned to this country, that not only the total amount we were giving for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway would be returned, but that millions over and above such expenditure would come in from the receipts from land, and that the national debt, instead of increasing, would be reduced. But what were the facts? Why, Sir, in 1883, when the hon. gentleman made that statement, the net debt was \$158,000,000, speaking in round numbers. Seven years after, when, according to the hon. gentleman's statement, the debt was to be decreased because they would have received more than they had paid out, the debt had increased to \$237,000,000. That was as near as the hon. gentleman could come in his estimates of the revenue and expenditure of this country at that time. In 1896, when these gentlemen went out of office, did they leave the net debt—decreased below \$158,000,000? No, but the net debt increased by \$100,000,000 more than it was when the hon. gentleman made that prediction. Now, Sir, that gives us some idea of the value that can be put upon the calculations of hon. gentlemen opposite. While we do not deprecate the severest and closest criticism of a Minister of Finance's statement, while it is the bounden duty of the Opposition to make such criticism, yet I hold that hon. gentlemen who have erred so widely in their estimates, who have made such fallacious statements of the financial prospects, when they are discharging their duties as critics of the financial statement of my hon. friend, they should at any rate be careful not to draw invidious distinctions in view of their own past achievements in that respect.

Now, I want to say a few words with reference to the reduction of taxation and the preferential tariff. The ex-Minister of Finance, who addressed the House the other night, took the ground that the reduction of taxation was very slight, indeed, that it was less than 1 per cent; I think he made it one-third of 1 per cent. His mode of calculation was not one that I thought would be satisfactory. I think it is one that will not bear examination if looked at from what I think are proper criteria. Upon another occasion the Minister of Finance, as well as myself, applied a rough and ready test, stating at the time that it was not absolutely correct, that you could not hope to get it correct, that circumstances vary, that sometimes you might import more of one article than you would import in another year, and that might bear a different rate of duty, and therefore, it could not be correct. But it was proper to take the rate of taxation of one year and apply it to imports of another, and if it showed a difference, whether great or less in that respect, it would show either an increase of taxation or a decrease of tax-

ation. So we ascertained the rate of taxation upon all goods, dutiable and free, entered for home consumption in the year 1896, and applied that to the total imports, dutiable and free in 1898, and found that the saving was nearly \$2,000,000. But I have since had a calculation made in which, item by item, have been taken the imports during the last fiscal year, and applying the rate of 1896 to these, we will get almost at a point where we can be assured of accuracy. There may be a slight inaccuracy in it because the classification of the articles, in some respects, may be different, and, therefore, there may be a little difference in that way, but we ascertain by that statement that the reduction of taxation was equivalent to \$1,600,000, a reduction of taxation far greater than the hon. gentleman is willing to admit. Then it will be remembered that, in this year, since the 1st of July, there has been a full 25 per cent taken off goods from countries that were entitled to the preferential rate, and that will mean a very large reduction in the taxation that is levied upon the people of the country during the present year from what it was during the last fiscal year. Now there is another point that I wish to make. They say we have not carried out our pledges; that we pledged ourselves to reduce the burden of taxation that was upon the people of the country. I want the House to remember, and I want the country to remember, that the Government do not make the price of articles that the people buy; that is made by the markets of the world. The Government do not determine the quantity of dutiable articles that a man, or a man's family shall buy; the man or the man's family determines that. Therefore, when you find that your customs revenue has increased some millions, it by no means follows, as the "Mail and Empire" would have the people believe, that because you have some millions more by way of customs revenue, it means increased taxation taken from the people of the country. It means nothing of the kind; if the rate of taxation has been reduced. That, and that alone, the Government controls, and if the Government controls that, the people of this country have a right to see that this Government do reduce it as the Government pledged itself to do. But they did not pledge themselves that extra revenues of millions would not come into the treasury. Because the Government has reduced the rate of taxation it does not mean more taxation taken from the people as the result of the action of the Government. It is the result of the action of those people themselves who, in a period of prosperity, under Liberal Government, find themselves in comparative wealth, while before they were in perhaps comparative poverty, who buy more and are living in greater luxury. In addition to this enhanced means of purchasing, there has been a vast increase in the population of this country, and in that way you have the extra millions of customs

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pouring into your revenue while you have greatly reduced the rate of taxation. It is the rate of taxation that a Government can be held responsible for, because that alone is what the Government can control.

Now, I have a little statement here in reference to the preferential tariff, and it shows this: If the full 25 per cent preference had been in operation during the last fiscal year, the average rate of duty on goods dutiable and free, exclusive of corn and bullion, entered for consumption from Great Britain would have been 17·85. The average rate on the same goods coming from Great Britain for the fiscal year 1895-96 was 22·42. In other words, in 1895-96 the rate was 22·42 on those goods from Great Britain, while in 1898-99, the rate would have been 17·85, or a reduction of 4·57 per cent. That is 4½ per cent reduction on all goods entered at the previous rate of 22·42 per cent, which means a reduction in taxation on goods from Great Britain of 20 per cent. That is what that shows. Do not make a mistake. Hon. gentlemen, perhaps, think that when we talk of a reduction of 4½ per cent it means a reduction of 4½ per cent, whereas a reduction of 4½ per cent from 22·42, is equal to a reduction of 20 per cent in the rate.

There is another point I want the House to grasp, and that is, what the hon. gentleman opposite (Mr. Foster) did not seem to have grasped, because in that portion of his speech in which he discussed it, he took the ground that even Great Britain did not get the full benefit of the preference, because in three or four items that he mentioned—he mentioned a great many more lines; he might have mentioned cottons and woollens, but he did not do so—but what he said was, that the preference of 25 per cent in some cases did not mean a reduction of 12 per cent, even to the consumer, and he went on and read another table in which he gave a list of articles imported from Great Britain and imported from the United States and other countries, in which the importations from Great Britain were very much lighter than they were from the other countries. Therefore, he says it is a mistaken idea to give the people of the country; that speaking generally, very little of this 25 per cent reduction will take from the burdens of the people because there is a comparatively small quantity of these goods coming from Great Britain in comparison with other countries. He will not deny that Great Britain gets the benefit of the 25 per cent reduction on all goods coming from that country. During last year \$22,556,000 of dutiable goods were entered for consumption from Great Britain; from the United States \$38,063,000, and some \$14,004,000 from other countries. In this list, which he gave, of goods imported from Great Britain he left out, strange to say, the article of cotton and the article of woollens, of which we get millions worth from Great Britain. I want to point out this fact to him, and I do not give it as an absolute

statement, or say that in all cases it will work out, because I recognize the fact that the United States are nearer to us than England, that the rate of freight is perhaps less, that the necessity for a quick order may lead some to go there, that there may possibly be certain lines and certain styles of American goods that take better than English goods—I recognize all that, but I recognize as one grand, broad principle that has not been insisted upon in this House, or in this country, as it should have been, and which I want to insist upon now, (and if any hon. gentleman thinks the statement ought to be challenged he can do it), and it is that Great Britain enters into competition in our markets in many classes and lines of goods our people want. I say that if you take the article of cottons, and the hon. gentleman complained of that—strange that the ex-Finance Minister left it out of his speech, for this is the very thing that we bought largely from Great Britain—we imported from Great Britain cottons to the value of \$3,127,120, and from all countries \$4,763,362. Now there is no mistake about it. On that \$3,127,120 worth of cotton that we imported from Great Britain there was 25 per cent of the rate of taxation, under the general tariff—the Fielding tariff—taken off that amount. But I want to say more; I want to say qualified, as I have already qualified it, but speaking in the main, I venture to say, that great portion of the cottons coming from other countries, has been reduced in price by virtue of the preferential tariff to the consumers of this country. Hon. gentlemen opposite are not in a position to deny that. I have heard them in this House rise up, time and again, and say that it did not matter so much what the rate of duty was on goods coming in from other countries. When we pointed out that in many lines of manufactured goods there was only an infinitesimal quantity of them coming into the country compared with what was produced in the country, their answer was: No matter whether it be a small or a large item of import, that determines the price of all the home-made goods. That was the argument of these gentlemen opposite then.

An English cotton merchant, we will suppose, comes to the city of Ottawa selling his goods, and an American cotton merchant comes to this city at the same time. They are anxious to make sales and they quote their prices on the same line of goods to the local merchant. The local merchant ascertains the prices of the Englishman, and he ascertains the prices of the American; and if the American and the English prices are equal, he will say to the American: My order must go to the Englishman because there is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent less rate of duty that I will have to pay on the goods coming from England than on the goods coming from the United States; true, there is a little difference in cheaper freight from the United States; true, your goods

may come a little quicker; but I am not in a hurry for my goods, and possibly, after all, there may not be much difference in the freight, for ocean rates are very low. But on account of lesser duty, I cannot lay the American goods down as cheaply as I can the English goods. Now, if the American manufacturer takes that order—and the Americans have taken millions of dollars' worth of such orders—I venture to say that in a large proportion of these cases the preferential rate has been secured to the man who buys that cotton, while the revenue of the country gets the benefit out of the Yankee cotton merchant.

And so in reference to woollen goods. We imported from Britain woollen goods to the value of \$6,291,762 worth, and we imported from all countries to the value of \$8,115,928. Strange, the ex-Finance Minister (Mr. Foster) forgot that item amongst the others when he was dealing with fifty thousand dollar figures, and so on, and when this is a matter of \$8,000,000 on one item alone. Precisely what I have said with reference to cotton goods will apply to the woollen goods, and so I might run through the list of English articles imported to Canada, but I do not intend to weary the House with them, and I shall not ask again, as I suppose it would be refused, to let them go on "Hansard." Take, for instance, iron and steel and the manufactures of iron and steel. True it is, we got of these manufactures \$1,880,326 worth from Great Britain and \$13,197,957 from all countries. But, Sir, I venture to say that it was not alone that \$1,880,000 that had the benefit of the 25 per cent preferential rate as far as the consumer of these articles is concerned, because the manufacturer in Belgium and the manufacturer in Germany, whence large quantities of these goods come, have just as heavy freight rates against them as the Englishman, and are just as long in filling the orders, so that they would have no advantage. I will venture to say—I do not say to the full extent of the foreign importations—that to an amount which is not readily grasped by the people of the country, not only was that \$1,800,000 of English hardware that was imported into Canada reduced by virtue of the preferential tariff to the man who bought the goods, but that a large portion of these goods that came from other countries, was also reduced by virtue of the preferential rate. These are matters into which I might enter into detail, if I cared to weary the House, but I shall not do so, although it is a point I thought worthy of being alluded to.

Let me ask the attention of the ex-Finance Minister (Mr. Foster), if he will give it to me for a moment, in order that I may allude to a matter connected with the tariff which is a little personal. It is the first time I have had the opportunity of meeting the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) face to

face, under circumstances to which I could refer to this subject. I was very much refreshed yesterday on hearing the high moral tone he took, and the good advice he gave to the House. I shall always appreciate that.

Mr. FOSTER. Does my hon. friend (Mr. Paterson) object to it?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS I do not object to it at all. My only desire is that that high moral tone which the hon. gentleman takes in the House should abide with him when he is on the public platform of the country. Now, I am not about to accuse him that he did not preserve that high moral tone on the public platform, but I will give him the opportunity to make a denial here and now, if he sees fit to make it. My excuse for mentioning the matter is that not only have I been told by those that were present that it is true, but also I read from the Sarnia "Canadian," which is the Conservative paper in the county of Lambton, and would not be likely to do the hon. gentleman an injustice, as follows:—

Mr. Foster next dealt with the Grit methods of tariff reform, and showed how the whole efforts of the Government to root out the National Policy had resulted in lowering the tariff sixty-four-hundredths of one per cent. Mr. Paterson made candy—got rich by making it. The duty on everything that went to make candy had been reduced; but the duty on candy itself had been increased. That was the Grit idea of tariff reform.

Did the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) say that? I read from another paper, the Sarnia "Post." I fancy it is Conservative also; the report is somewhat on the same lines as in the Sarnia "Canadian." It says:

And the Valleyfield cotton lord still lives, said Mr. Foster, fingering his chin. He entertainingly told about Mr. Paterson, and his sweet biscuit and candy business. Mr. Paterson made candy—got rich by making it. The duty on everything that went to make candy had been reduced, but the duty on candy itself had been increased. That was a Grit idea of tariff reform.

I find that statement in two papers, and I am told by those present that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) said that Mr. Paterson, helping to form the tariff and having a large share in it naturally from the position he occupies in the Government, had lowered the duty upon that which was his raw material, and had increased the duty on his finished product.

Now, all I have to say is: That gentleman (Mr. Foster) spoke in two places after I did. That statement went to the good people of Lambton, and they had no means of having it contradicted unless my hon. friend (Mr. Mulock) contradicted it. This is a matter that is personal, and I am much averse to troubling the House with personal matters; but it appears that Liberal members must even have their private business spoken of, and statements made concerning it that are not correct. I have

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asked the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) if he made that statement, and he does not deny it. I would like to ask him another question; I ask him whether at the time he made the statement that under the Fielding tariff the duty on candy and sweet biscuit was increased from what it was before, if he did not know then that what he was saying was not correct. I ask him if he did not know that he himself levied the same rate of duty on candy and sweet biscuits that is levied upon them under the Fielding tariff. I want to tell the hon. gentleman that he is correct when he says that the duties on articles going into the manufacture of candy were reduced, but, if they were reduced, I want to tell him that the duty on confectionery was reduced as well, and that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) did not tell the people of Lambton. He did not tell them that there was 25 per cent reduction under the reciprocal tariff, reducing the duty on candy instead of increasing it, and on sweet biscuit reducing it instead of increasing it, for these articles come from Great Britain as well as elsewhere.

Mr. McDOUGALL. How much?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Such as come. I have not the exact figures, but the hon. gentleman will find that these articles come from Great Britain, and they come from the United States, too; but, whatever may come from Great Britain, they have a 25 per cent reduction upon them. And I want to tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. McDougall) who laughs and asks, how much—I want to tell him, further, that, whether the quantity was great or small, more of them came from Great Britain, when the Fielding tariff was enacted, than ever came of the refined sugar out of which they are made, under the reciprocal tariff, for, when that tariff was introduced, sugar was exempted from its operations. I fancy the hon. gentleman has not forgotten, that, when the Fielding tariff was introduced, and until last year, sugar was one of the articles not subject to the preferential rate at all. Therefore, the full duty was paid on the sugar, when imported; there was no cut on it at all; but the goods produced from it were subject to the 25 per cent reduction.

Mr. COWAN. Take it back.

Mr. FOSTER. I have nothing to take back.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Now, Sir, my words will probably reach Lambton, and the people there will know what value to place upon the word of one who will make statements of a personal nature, dealing with a member's business. Even if the statement had been true, there was no necessity for it. The reason I mention it is not to bring a personal matter before the House; but I mention it for the purpose of demonstrating what I want the ex-Finance

Minister to lend the weight of his influence to, so that the people on his side of the House will believe him. He says, that by the reduction that was made on articles that go into the manufacture of candy, that article is cheapened to the man that uses it. That he has laid down as a principle; that he cannot depart from. Very well; refined sugar is the principal article that enters into the manufacture of these goods.

Mr. TAYLOR. And a little flour.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Flour does not go into them. It is an honest business.

Mr. TAYLOR. Oh, yes, it does—and a little glucose.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No flour goes into them. The hon. gentleman's statement, that the duties on those articles entering into the manufacture of candy were reduced, has no meaning, except that Paterson bought his sugar cheaper than before by virtue of that reduction; and I grant it. What was the reduction? That is something you do not find by working out percentages of the saving to the people—and why? Because the Fielding tariff found 50 cents per 100 pounds of duty on raw sugar, and \$1.14 per 100 pounds on refined sugar. That is, 64 cents per 100 pounds was the difference between the duty on the refiner's raw material and the duty on the refined article. The raw sugar that comes into this country for consumption is very little. Sugar is an article that goes into every household of the land to such an extent that between 50 and 60 pounds per head of the population is consumed. It is consumed, not only by those engaged in the manufacturing business, but by every household in the land; and what did the Fielding tariff do? I have the authority, inferentially, for saying, what I fancy the hon. gentleman will not deny, that the Fielding tariff took 14 cents per 100 lbs. from the sugar, which meant 14 cents per 100 lbs. reduction to everybody who bought the sugar. What was the result? There is about 300,000,000 pounds of sugar imported, the greater part of it unrefined. There is a loss in refining of, say, one-eighth; so that I venture to say, that you will find that there is 250,000,000 pounds of refined sugar produced in this country, on which, under the Fielding tariff, the tax paid by the people who consumed it was 14 cents per 100 pounds less than before. In other words, the people of this country saved, on that one item, \$350,000 per annum. And, mark you, that saving was not paid on some other article that was taxed to make it up, for the raw sugar was taxed precisely the same under the Fielding tariff as it was under the Foster tariff, and that tax went into the treasury. So there is a reduction of \$350,000; and the ex-Minister of Finance himself, in his remarks at Sarnia, verified the truth of it, because he took the ground

that the duties were reduced, and that I was benefited by the reduction. If I was, every household in the country was also benefited by it.

Mr. FOSTER. Is the hon. gentleman going on to prove that my statement was incorrect?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I ask the hon. gentleman, whether he denies that he made the statement?

Mr. FOSTER. I am not going to say, that the newspaper from which the hon. gentleman quoted, gave exactly what I stated, but I am waiting to hear my hon. friend deny that the duty on the raw material which went into his candy and his confectionery was lowered, and that the duty upon the finished articles was the same or higher.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I have stated distinctly, that I accepted your statement, that the duty on the raw material was reduced, and I have based my argument upon it, and have showed, that, while it was reduced to me, it was reduced to everybody in the country.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend attempted to show, that I stated an untruth at Sarnia, and, after he attempted to show that, sundry of his followers asked me to take it back, and I am waiting for him to prove to this House that I did state an untruth.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman stated, that the duties on candies had been increased, and I am showing that that is not true.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear. Take it back.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman should not say, that another hon. member has stated what is untrue.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I beg pardon. I am alluding to a platform utterance of a gentleman in Lambton, who made a statement that was not correct.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman must understand, that, if a member of the House makes a statement, it should not be characterized in this House as he has characterized it, although the hon. member did not make the statement in the House.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman asked me, if I denied what he stated. I asked him, first, if he stated it, and I said, that, if the statement was made by anybody, that the duty on the article that went into the manufacture of those goods was reduced, that was correct, but that, if the statement was, that the duty on the goods themselves was increased, that was not correct.

Mr. FOSTER. May I ask, whether the duty on sweetened biscuit is higher or lower than the duty under the former tariff?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. It is precisely the same, as I understand it.

Mr. FOSTER. Then, the hon. gentleman understands it quite wrongly.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. What is it, then?

Mr. FOSTER. I am not here to give information.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. In the Fielding tariff, biscuits, sweetened, are found in item 58, and the duty is 27½ per cent ad valorem.

Mr. FOSTER. Now, will my hon. friend kindly read the duty on sweetened biscuit under the preceding tariff?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes. Item 25, biscuits of all kinds, not sweetened, 25 per cent ad valorem; biscuits of all kinds, sweetened, 27½ per cent.

Mr. FOSTER. Now, I will ask my hon. friend to read the tariff—

Mr. COWAN. Oh, sit down.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Take it back.

Mr. FOSTER. Sit down? Do hon. gentlemen want to see their champion triumph without having the facts of the case before him? Will my hon. friend now read the last Foster tariff, if I may call it so, not the preceding one.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Ah! then; did the hon. gentleman know there was a last Foster tariff, that had been in force, and which was the tariff that was repealed by the Fielding tariff, and still quote from a previous one. He does not improve his position.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend must be more than willing to misunderstand me. I want him to tell me what was the duty in force for sweetened biscuits when the present Minister of Finance undertook his revision.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. 27½ per cent, the same as it is now in the Fielding tariff.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend is quite mistaken. It is 25 per cent.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Here is the tariff.

Mr. FOSTER. I cannot help what you have in your hand. My hon. friend will go back to ancient history and persist in his mistake. That is not my fault, and it is certainly not much to his credit.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. This is the tariff of 1895, which was in force and was repealed by the Fielding tariff. The rate was 25 per cent on sweetened and unsweetened biscuits in the tariff of 1894. In 1895, the hon. gentleman came down to the House and proposed changes. That was the

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time, I believe, when he put a duty upon raw sugar of one-half cent a pound, and a higher duty upon refined, and he then increased the duty on sweetened biscuits, into which sugar so largely enters, from 25 per cent to 27½ per cent. That was done in 1895, and that was the tariff in force when the Fielding tariff came in. When Mr. Fielding made his revision, he left the raw sugar at a half cent a pound as before, and he left the sweetened biscuits at 27½ cents just as before, only subject to the 25 per cent reduction when they came from Britain.

Mr. FOSTER. My impression is that the duty upon sweetened and unsweetened biscuits was the same, namely, 25 per cent. If my hon. friend is right in his contention, then I was wrong. I shall look up the statutes themselves, and if I was wrong, I shall certainly say so. I am, however, right in the contention I made in Sarnia and elsewhere, that my hon. friend in his revision did not reduce the duty upon the material which was manufactured, but that he did avail himself of the lowering of the duty on the raw material.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. If the hon. gentleman was reported correctly, he said that the duty upon the manufactured article was increased, and in that he was inaccurate. Besides, the duty is not the same, because biscuits are an article that come from Great Britain subject to the reduction under the preferential rate.

Mr. FOSTER. That would depend on how much came in under the preferential tariff, and that is infinitesimal.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That affects the whole manufactured product. This is the only opportunity I have had of meeting the hon. gentleman's charge, and I have taken advantage of it. I should not suppose that he wanted to injure any man in his business or in a personal matter of that kind, but as this is not a matter which concerns the House or the country, I shall not dwell further upon it. If the hon. gentleman can show me that I am wrong, I will acknowledge my error, but I believe that I am correct. Here, however, is what I wish to point out. I wish to point out that the reduction in the duty reduces the cost to the consumer, not only upon the article imported into the country, but upon the article manufactured in the country. I would point out further that in addition to the lessened taxation by the reduced rate levied on imported goods from England, the preferential tariff also applies in a large, indirect way to the large quantities of goods that are not subject to it, but as to which an abatement must be made in their price by the foreign manufacturer in order to make his commodity as low, other things being considered, as the Englishman's commodity. But, in addition to that, the tens of millions of dollars worth of various kinds of manufactured goods in this

country are also, by virtue of that preferential rate, reduced in cost to our people, and, therefore, when we speak about a paltry one or two million dollars as being the saving to the people by the reduced tariff, you do not begin to grasp the saving really effected through the enacting of the Fielding tariff. The proposition I now make is that when duties are reduced on importations, the articles made in the country become cheaper to the consumer. You may take up your list of goods brought from England, and you will find that of the same kind of goods millions of dollars worth are made in this country; and that being the case, according to the logic of the hon. gentleman himself, there is a saving effected to our people of an amount I am not prepared to estimate now. Take these goods that come largely from Great Britain under the preferential rate, take the duties levied on cottons under the preferential rate, and I claim the preferential rate affects the American cottons as well as the English. The same with the woollens. Take the reduction and apply it, not only to the goods you import from England, but to the millions of goods made in the country, and you begin to form an estimate of the reduction made in the burdens of the people.

I want the House and the country to understand that when the ex-Finance Minister says that the preferential tariff is largely deceptive, that the people do not get the benefit, he has not grasped its effect; he has lost sight wholly of the fact that it is a factor, not only as regards the goods from Great Britain, but the goods from other countries as well. He has lost sight entirely of the fact that the reduction of taxation on the articles imported into this country operates to reduce the price to the consumer of the like articles purchased in this country.

My hon. friend beside me has been kind enough to give me the statutes of 1895, and there I find in the tariff that biscuits of all kinds, not sweetened, are charged a duty of 25 per cent ad valorem, and sweetened, 27½ per cent ad valorem.

Mr. FOSTER. That is the case. The published tariff list or customs tariff—the last complete publication—was that of 1894, and in that sweetened and unsweetened biscuits are down as paying 25 per cent. When the change was made in 1895 on sugar, the items of biscuits were put back as they were before, but there was the new complete publication of the tariff, so that one having the last complete publication of the tariff, without the little sheet sent out when the change was made, would not have noticed that, and that is why I fell into the error in that respect. So far as that is concerned, sweetened biscuits were 2½ per cent above the non-sweetened biscuits, just as in the Fielding tariff. While I am on my feet, I may as well make the whole explanation, showing what was right in my statement and what was wrong. I stated that the duty on sweetened biscuits was increased. I was in error, and the rea-

son of that error I have explained. When I said that the raw material that went into confectionery and sweetened biscuits was reduced, I was correct. When I stated that the manufactured products were not lowered, I was perfectly correct. Consequently, my hon. friend had whatever advantage in his business there was in such changes as were made.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. But the hon. gentleman is hardly correct there. His statement was that the duty was increased.

Mr. FOSTER. I said I was in error there.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. But he says that it was not decreased. I say it is decreased under the 25 per cent preference.

Mr. FOSTER. As to that, I am quite willing to take my stand and say that the 25 per cent preference, in its practical results, is virtually no decrease at all. I may say further that glucose, which some manufacturers of candy use to a considerable extent, was largely reduced.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. But in any case the hon. gentleman argued that the reduction of duty on the article entering into this manufacture had cheapened the manufactured goods to the consumer. That is perfectly right. But if it applies to these goods, it applies to others, and the reduction of duty on every article imported means a reduction of the cost of that article to the consumer in this country—a reduction of the tens of millions on all the goods used. I am glad the hon. gentleman made that statement. Under the preferential tariff there was a reduction of 25 per cent on confectionery, while the duty on sugar of which it is made was not reduced, as it was not subject to the preferential tariff as originally introduced. So he will see he was wrong in that respect. Now the hon. gentleman has confessed that I was right. I would ask him if he does not think it would be well to exercise the greatest care before personal observations of this kind are made, reflecting upon those engaged in any business. The object of these statements is clear. It says here: "Mr. Foster spoke entertainingly about Mr. Pater-son." I am not thin-skinned; I can stand it. I can readily understand that speaking in the way he would, the hon. gentleman could entertain a meeting of his friends. But he would draw a picture of a member of this Government upon whom largely devolved the duty of arranging the tariff, abusing the position he occupies, so far forgetting himself as to use the power of his position for his own benefit; betraying the trust reposed in him and benefiting himself at the expense of the people. In my opinion a gentleman should think carefully before he makes a remark of that kind, especially when his statements are without foundation, as the hon. gentleman now admits that, in part, his statements were without foundation. I

confess that, owing to the reduction of duties, the men engaged in this manufacture get their sugar cheaper. But so does every household in this country. They save 14 cents per 100 lbs., which means that \$350,000 is left in the pockets of the people over and above anything they save on imports. And applying the same rule, as it may fairly be applied to the many articles the duties on which have been reduced, we see that millions of dollars are saved to the people of the Dominion.

I need not go further. Abounding prosperity on every hand testifies that the people have more money in their pockets for the purchase of goods. That prosperity is manifested by the number of people coming into our country and by the increase of imports as well as by the growing trade of our manufacturers. My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce, in one short sentence wiped out the contention of hon. gentlemen opposite that our present policy is the same as theirs was, that the present tariff is the same as the old National Policy. As the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce pointed out, the object of protection is prohibition—to keep out foreign goods. That is what hon. gentlemen opposite want. But ours is a revenue tariff. What does that mean? Taxing goods only sufficient to give you a revenue to carry on the affairs of the country. Go to a protective country where the principle is carried out more fully than hon. gentlemen opposite ventured to carry it out, and you will find imports decreasing. The tariff excludes more and more goods from other countries. If your tariff is the same as ours, the result will be the same. Is there less importation of foreign goods under the Fielding tariff than there was under the National Policy? No; twenty millions of dollars more. That shows where the difference is between the two policies. But hon. gentlemen opposite declared: If you bring that about, you will close the manufactories of this country; thousands now in employment will be thrown on the streets. The duty on every single article in the tariff, except the eight or nine insignificant ones that I mentioned, is lower under the preferential tariff than under the former tariff. And while our foreign trade and imports are increased, giving us more revenue with a lower rate of taxation, every hon. gentleman knows that never in the history of the Dominion were our foundries, machine shops and factories of all kinds kept so busy as they are to-day. Never were building operations so brisk; never was there as great difficulty of getting men to man the works of various kinds. Old establishments are running night as well as day; new buildings are being rushed up in order that the goods ordered from the manufactories may be put upon the market. And all this with abounding imports and a flourishing revenue. And these hon. gentlemen tell us that our tariff is the same as theirs. Look at the results. Let hon. gentlemen

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apply any test they choose, and they cannot show their position to be one that should commend itself to the judgment of the people of this country.

I have spoken of increased prosperity and of the additional consumers that we have who help us to keep a buoyant revenue notwithstanding reductions of duties. What do we find with regard to our newer provinces? Last night figures were given showing the immigration into our great North-west. I will not trouble the House by repeating those figures. But to show how Manitoba, the North-west and British Columbia, a grand portion of the Dominion which gives us solidity and strength that will rank us high among the nations of the earth, have made progress within the last two years, Consider the increase of importations for consumption within the last two years. In the year 1896, the importations for consumption into Manitoba, the North-west and British Columbia, amounted to \$8,349,988; in 1898, two years after, they amounted to \$13,505,306. Not quite doubled, but nearly doubled, in two years—I am speaking of importations entered at the custom-houses in these provinces. That does not mean all the goods consumed by those people. The goods consumed by those people, I venture to say, millions of dollars' worth, pay their duty into the public treasury, it may be at Hamilton, or Toronto, or Montreal, wherever they pay duty when they come in. But these are direct importations that have gone up there and paid duty. So I rejoice that not alone in the province of Ontario, not alone in Quebec or in the other older provinces, but throughout the length and breadth of this Dominion, from ocean to ocean, there are prosperity and activity, and the revenues, as a consequence, are buoyant, notwithstanding that the taxation has been greatly reduced.

We were told this afternoon by the leader of the Opposition that we had accomplished nothing; he challenged us to say what we have done since we came into power. He said it reminded him of a story that has been told by himself or by a member of his family, more than once, of a man standing upon a platform of a passenger car and being told to go in, and asking the question if that was not a platform to stand upon, he was told it was not one to stand on, but it was one to go in on. The hon. gentleman likened that man to the Liberal party which had attained power on a platform that was designed to go in on but was not to stand on after we had got in. I challenge the hon. gentlemen opposite to read the platform of the Liberal party as made and promulgated by the Liberal party itself—not by two or three men as Conservative platforms have been made in the past, but by the representatives of the great Liberal party from ocean to ocean, who in this city assembled and in a series of resolutions, formulated the platform of this party. Upon that platform this party took

its stand. That is the platform of the Government of this country. It is recognized as the platform of the Liberal party and we recognize that we are bound to carry it out.

I ask these hon. gentlemen to examine that platform and they will find that plank after plank of it has been carried through by our legislation in this House until but two or three planks are left and they are mentioned in the Speech from the Throne this year and will go into effect, I believe, before this House rises. That is where this party stands. Why, Sir, they ask what we have done. We secured the repeal of the Belgium and German treaties. Hon. gentlemen opposite talked about that for years and years. They knew these treaties stood in the way of Canada's freedom, but they could do nothing in reference to it. The Prime Minister of this Dominion, the leader of the Liberal party, took charge of the affairs of this country, and a preferential tariff was enacted by this Government when they came into power. The leader of the Liberal party went to England to take part in the Jubilee that the leader of the Opposition alluded to so feelingly this afternoon. Sir, he went there when the preferential tariff had touched the British heart. When they saw that Canada had had the courage to do that, there was a feeling of sympathy created in Britain, and the mother country recognized that under the existing treaties she would either have to forego the advantages this colony were offering to her or repeal those treaties. Then there happened what this Government believed would happen; the Government of Great Britain gave notice of the termination of those treaties, and to-day they are terminated. Canada is free, and she has given to the mother country and to the other British possessions a 25 per cent preference on the admission of their goods into this country, over and above that which is given in favour of any other country. It has established preferential trade with the mother country. Hon. gentlemen opposite pretend to find fault and say this preferential tariff is a fraud and a deception. Let one of them rise and put a motion before the House to repeal that 25 per cent preference clause. If they dare not do that, what is the use of their standing here and denouncing it? If they are honest when they say they believe it is a fraud and a deception practised upon the English people, are they going to be partners to a fraud and a deception practised upon the mother land? They stand there, they are free representatives in this House, but not one of them makes a motion or dares to challenge a vote of the House. They say: What good have you accomplished with your preferential tariff? You have not secured any advantage to Canada in the English market. The figures are against them. Our expanding exports to that country proclaim that statement is incorrect. What

has given the vast impetus in our exports to Great Britain? I grant that Providence has blessed us with abundant crops, I grant that market conditions at certain times are more favourable than at other times. But I say that that preferential tariff, and the effect produced upon the English people by the visit of the Liberal Prime Minister of this Dominion, opened the door of the British market to us wider than it has ever been opened before, and we are reaping the benefit of it to-day. Take the exports that are going there, facilitated by the efforts of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) of this country, who recognizes their importance. You will find that the export of butter to that country has almost doubled, you will find that our exports of dairy produce are increasing in that direction. I venture to say that the increase of our products exported to the mother country has been largely the result of the policy of this Government.

We abolished the Franchise Act, we saved the people about \$250,000 from that source. That Act was doing no good, and its abolition was one of the planks of our platform. We have secured the construction of the Crow's Nest Railway, opening up and developing a wealthy mineral region. There is a mine of wealth for this whole Dominion in that region of country. That puts me in mind that there are men in this House who concurred in voting for that in Supply, but who so far forgot themselves when they went out, as to endeavour to raise a point against the Government for doing the very thing that they themselves were among the most anxious in this House to accomplish. The Intercolonial Railway has been extended to Montreal. The hon. gentleman who preceded me this afternoon endeavoured to belittle that extension, saying that business men everywhere condemned it. Here was a railway that cost this country over \$50,000,000, and the policy of the Minister of Railways and Canals has succeeded in making this railway of greater use to the country, and has put it in a position to pay its own way. Improvements have been made in our maritime harbours, in the harbours of Quebec, the great sea harbours of this country, and these improvements will go on more and more. The Yukon has been opened up and, to a great extent, without any cost to the people of this country. How different this achievement to the opening up of the North-west, that was comparatively so easy, when these hon. gentlemen opposite said they would make the North-west pay not only the cost of opening it up, but pay the subsidy to the Canadian Pacific Railway, although it did not pay, under their administration, even the cost of the management of the land alone. We have opened up a region near the North Pole, under the Arctic circle, hundreds of miles beyond where white men had seldom trodden, a region almost unknown. Now, thousands of people are dwelling there, dwelling there in

safety, owing to the action of this Government, who have, without expense to the people of this country, rendered life and property secure and at the same time have taken means whereby the people of this country shall be recouped out of the minerals of that region for the expenditure we are making. We have succeeded in doing that, contrary to the achievements of hon. gentlemen opposite who were to repay the \$53,000,000 that we gave to the Canadian Pacific Railway out of the sales of land when they did not get a cent back.

There has been a large increase in immigration to this country as every one can see. We know that people are pouring into the North-west. Hundreds of settlers we read in the papers are settling in the province of Quebec away down in the Lake St. John region to the number of 1,500, I am told, already. People are coming from all parts of the world, and settling our unoccupied territory, making farms for themselves, and becoming producers of wealth, ready to share in the burdens of taxation, and making us stronger as a nation. Imperial penny postage, carried through by this Government, belittled by hon. gentlemen opposite, when they only belittled that which created a sensation in Great Britain, when it was passed. They recognized it as something of importance, if the hon. gentlemen opposite did not. So did the people of Canada recognize it, and the people of Canada did not take any stock in the argument of hon. gentlemen opposite, that, because, by following the introduction of the penny postage rate by another important step, in reducing the home rate to 2 cents, it meant that the Government would have to tax the people in order that they might accomplish it. The people of Canada believe, that, by the wise management of the Post Office Department by the Postmaster General, while for a year or two there may be a discrepancy between revenue and expenditure in that department, they believe, from what has been already accomplished, that in the course of two or three years at the most, after having reduced the postage, an equilibrium will be established in that branch of the service between revenue and expenditure and that they will have the benefit of the lower rate. All these reforms have been accomplished by this Government, in power only for a little over two years. Contrast it with the Administration of those hon. gentlemen, who for eighteen years governed this country. We can say, and say with truth, that the foreign trade of this country has increased more in the two years that this Government has been in power than it did during the whole term of the late Government, and, in addition, the home or domestic trade never had the impetus that it has at the present time. Then, I think we can, one and all, rejoice in the grand and magnificent statement which was given to this House by the hon. Finance Minister,

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when he presented his Budget, a day or two ago. It gives us Canadians something to be proud of, and I venture to say, that even hon. gentlemen opposite, patriotic, as I believe they are, while they feel it to be their duty to criticise, whenever they think there is a possibility of doing it, must all rejoice, that under Liberal rule this country is prospering now as it never prospered before.

Mr. RUFUS H. POPE (Compton). Mr. Speaker, I have listened with great pleasure to the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat. If I had not seen the hon. gentleman himself, personally, I would not have recognized the speech as coming from him, in comparison with speeches that he has delivered on previous occasions, since I have had the honour to have a seat here. The hon. gentleman said, among many things, that this wonderful Government, of which he is a member, deserves special credit for its 2-cent postage, and he said, that, when it was first declared, there was a shock in Great Britain. Undoubtedly, that is a true statement. When the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) decided to declare, that the Postmaster General of Canada would make 2-cent postage for the British Empire, undoubtedly there was a shock in Great Britain. But, like other things which they have managed to accomplish, they simply stumbled into it in the most awkward manner possible. Such a lack of legislative or administrative ability, we have never seen in the past, and we may never see again, exhibited by any Government, no matter what party may form that Government. As to the reduced postage being a great benefit to the people of Canada, it is simply a transference of taxation, and I know of no more just way of taxing the people of Canada than by postage. It is all very well for business men, like myself and others, who have a large correspondence, to congratulate themselves, that we are able to save a dollar or two a day on postage, but every dollar that we save from our expenditure, must be made up by contributions from some other people, and the men who write but few letters, the farming community, the artisans, and people who have little correspondence, will have to contribute in another form of taxation every dollar that is supposed to be saved by the reduction made by the Postmaster General. I think that it is thoroughly well understood by the mass of the people, and that there will still be a difference of opinion between the great populace of Canada and the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat, in regard to the wisdom of the adoption of 2-cent postage in this country. This is a large country, sparsely populated, and it requires a great deal of service in order to carry the mails from one end of it to the other. I think, considering the revenue, and considering the requirements of this country, and to carry out all the schemes that hon. gentlemen opposite are

formulating, we will find before many years—I was going to say, long before hon. gentlemen are out of power, but I shall not say that, because that day may be very near—but before many years it will be discovered, that they have not too much money and they will have to resort to some other system of taxation. It will be discovered, that there is no more legitimate system than the postage stamp.

Reference was also made to the immigration policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. That was discussed in this House, a few days ago, by many speakers who took part in that long debate and it is not necessary that I should enter into details in regard to that question. There is a great difference of opinion in reference to it throughout the length and breadth of this country. The Government are subjected to criticism on the part of a large portion of the people, for bringing in a class of immigration which is not worthy of the Canadian people, and making large expenditures in that direction. It seems unjust and unfair to pay \$5 a head for immigrants. I care not whether it is \$5 a head, or \$10 a head, or 50 cents a head—I say, that any young Canadian who leaves this part of Canada and goes to the Northwest to hew out a home for himself, should not be discouraged by finding himself embargoed against because of the fact, that he was born in Canada, by having set down beside him people who are the refuse of some corner hole of Europe. This Government is paying \$5 a head for people born outside of this country. I think there is a good deal to be ashamed of, so far as the immigration policy of hon. gentlemen opposite is concerned. We noticed in the Speech from the Throne, and we have heard it from hon. gentlemen opposite in dozens of speeches delivered by them, that the exodus has ceased. I have taken special pains, in my section of the country, in the eastern townships, since that statement was made, to find out if it was true or not, because, living near the boundary line of the Eastern States, a large portion of this so-called exodus, from days gone by to the present moment, has come from this section and from the maritime provinces. I wish to state, and I speak within the truth, that there never were more people, and there never were so many people, leaving the province of Quebec and going over the Boston and Maine and Maine and Central railways, from the eastern part of the province of Quebec, as in the year 1899. The railway companies have had to put on special cars and to provide special accommodation for these people going to the United States. If these hon. gentlemen, who were claiming credit for having stopped the exodus would visit the stations of the Boston and Maine, the Maine Central or the Quebec Central, or any of these railway companies which are operating in the eastern part of the province of Quebec, they will discover, that, when they got His Ex-

cellency to make that remark in his Speech from the Throne, they had not verified all the facts.

I will not now deal with the question of the extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal, further than to say that I believe in the principle of that extension, but I will have an opportunity later on of dealing more fully with the management of the Intercolonial Railway under the system that is in vogue to-day, and if you like, the system that has been in vogue since the Intercolonial Railway was built. I am opposed to the system under which that road is managed, and judging from the speeches made by the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) all over the country that the road would be conducted on business principles, I was led to expect better things from his management. When he engaged Mr. Harris, a man of great business ability and a man whom I know for years, I thought we were to have better things on the Intercolonial Railway, but my hopes have been blasted, and the faith that caused me to give the Minister my support, has, I find, not been well merited. I will take the earliest possible occasion of discussing this whole question.

The Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) spent some time at the beginning of his speech in playing the funny man. It was a new role for the hon. gentleman, and I do not think he did himself a great deal of credit in it, although I have no doubt he did it as well as he could. The hon. gentleman is not built on those lines; he is something on the lines of the elephant, somewhat clumsy and very strong, and when he undertakes to treat of the comic side of political affairs, he is altogether out of his element. It is not for a young member like me to give the hon. gentleman advice, but in a friendly way I would suggest to him that the next time he tries to be comical, he should not try it in the House of Commons of Canada. He took the opportunity of dwelling at length upon the Canadian Pacific Railway, and he taunted us for claiming credit for the Conservatives, that we were the governing people. He told us that we boasted of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and that the present leader of the Opposition, then Minister of Railways or Finance, made the statement to this House, that the Government lands set apart would recoup to this country every dollar that was required to build that road. This statement of the leader of the Opposition he quoted from "Hansard." I did not bother myself to look over "Hansard" to verify that point, but I would ask him to read from the pages of "Hansard" the speeches made by the Liberals at that date, as to the possibility of that road paying, as to the possibility of settling up that country, and as to the fertility of soil in the great North-west. He can read the "Hansard" for a whole year, and he will find that his Liberal friends took every opportunity to decry the future of

Canada. These hon. gentlemen opposite, decried the Canadian Pacific Railway, decried the North-west, told the immigrants all over the world that they were going to a cold, barren country, rather than to fertile plains, and in the face of that, he wants to know why the North-west has not realized our expectations. These speeches came from the back benches and from the front benches of the Liberal Opposition, and when as a young man I read those speeches, nothing more than the disloyalty to Canada of these gentlemen tended to start me into the Conservative way of thinking. It was the contemptible action of the Liberals of that day in fouling their own nest, which induced many a young man like myself to decide on having nothing to do with their party. I trust the time will never be when Conservatives will so far forget their duty to themselves and to their country, as to belittle our resources and the great natural advantages which Canada possesses. Let me remind the hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) that the Conservatives were not the only people who undertook to build the Canadian Pacific Railway. The Liberals when in power before, had an opportunity of exhibiting their wonderful cleverness in that direction. They proposed to this Parliament to build pieces of railway connecting the water stretches, where you could float in the summer and go on snow shoes in winter. That was the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite then, and since they have got into power this time, I have seen no evidence, judging by their Yukon deal, that they have learned any more about constructing railways. And, Sir, why should not the Conservative party of this country be the governing body? Read the history of Canada and look at the legislation of Canada, and you will see that the Conservatives have the genus of government. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) recommended me to read the platform of the Liberal party as laid down in 1893. Well, I did read it, and it amazes me to think that an intelligent man like him should state in this House, that the planks in that platform had been carried out, with one or two exceptions, and these were announced in the Speech from the Throne. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) know that there is economy in that red bible of the Liberal convention? Does he know that there is retrenchment in that red bible? Does he know that there is prohibition in that red bible? You gave the people the plebiscite, but every temperance vote there was recorded for prohibition, and nothing short of prohibition, and you appealed to the people of this country in favour of prohibition and nothing else. You deluded the temperance people, and they know it. It is an amazing spectacle to see a member of the Government stand up in the presence of intelligent men in the year 1899, and say that the Liberal party has carried out the pledges to be found in that red bible of 1893. And, Sir, I

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again ask: Have not the Conservatives been the governing party in this country, and is it not the Conservatives who have made the history of Canada. Read our history. Mark every page that belongs to the Conservative Administration, note the prosperity and development of this country; give the Liberal party full credit for every page of history that is properly theirs, and if you take the Grit pages out of that history, the history of our country will remain perfect and complete without them. They say we are the governing power, and they speak of having opened up the Yukon district. Why, you cannot send a telegram there, there is no railway, and there is no mail unless you pay a price at the door. Imagine what the North-west of Canada would have been under similar circumstances. There is an illustration of an opened-up district, where you can get a letter only six weeks at a time. The hon. gentlemen have not risen above their position of 20 years ago. They are lying idle; they are simply trifling with the affections of the people of Canada. They are simply living on the fruits of the policy of the Conservative party. They remind me of a play I saw the other evening in a theatre. A gentleman got into a great deal of difficulty, and he turned to an old gentleman and asked him, "How am I going to get out of my difficulty?" "I can tell you how to get out of it," he said. "For Heaven's sake, do." "Then, stay right in it." That is the way these hon. gentlemen can get out of their difficulties, by staying right in them. They dare not put a finger on a single article of the National Policy. They can only get out of their difficulty by staying right with that policy. They are resting upon the fruits of our policy, and no matter how little their administrative ability or their experience might be, they could for that reason govern the country and govern it well. We have no fault to find with that, but we have a great deal of fault to find with the lack of administrative ability on the part of these hon. gentlemen. Sir, the hon. gentleman spoke of the population of the Yukon. He said that because they were nearly all Americans who had gone in there, they had no right to common British justice. The hon. gentleman shakes his head. If they had all been Canadians, I suppose the royalty would have been reduced. That was the position he occupied, to my mind, when he made his speech. Is not British justice to be granted to every man who comes to live under the British flag? We have in the Yukon district a violation of British justice, and how can you expect those people to become British citizens if they are treated in that way? Every letter that I have received from that opened-up Yukon district denounces the royalty as being too high, and as a drawback to the development of the country. The other evening an hon. gentleman on the other side of the House gloated over the fact that the population of Canada had been increased in the opened-up Yukon dis-

trict, and spoke of it as a great consuming population. That is true; and if it is a consuming population, what more do we want? If they will consume the manufactured goods of eastern Canada and buy our flour and meat, what more do we want of them? People who went up to that cold region under the circumstances under which these men went there should have every consideration. I do not agree with the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite that we should retard the development and prosperity of that country for the sake of having it pay for itself. Let us apply a business policy to it. Let us invest our capital there, as we would in any business, and be willing to wait for dividends in the future. I am prepared to vote in this House to grant a sum of money for opening up that district, and building a railway through it, not between two icebergs, but from the outside into the district. That is what we ought to do, instead of sitting here with our hands in our pockets, satisfied with the salaries we are drawing. What effort have the Government made to open up that district? They have sent up a few soldiers and mounted police to put down the difficulties that would naturally result from the maladministration of the district. There are no more peaceable body of men in the world than miners, no body of men more easy to govern. These men are used to governing themselves and making laws for themselves; and if they are treated properly, no set of men are more easy to govern. The 250 military men sent there are not sent to capture the United States. They must have been sent to keep the peace; and the letters I have received from there and those published in the newspapers state that when the populace got together and began to talk of the outrageous treatment they received at the hands of the officials in that district, it was with difficulty that the cool heads among them restrained them from tearing down the Government shanties. That statement has come from undoubted sources. And still the hon. gentleman says that is the opened-up Yukon district. Now, Sir, that these gentlemen should have a feeling against the American people in that district, that they should have doubt about the ability of that district to govern itself, that they should have doubt as to the wealth of that district to make a portion of Canada worthy of a large expenditure for its development, I can understand perfectly; because these hon. gentlemen have been decrying the country for 20 years. They have been calling everything black that ought to have been white; and during that period of 20 years they have talked themselves into a lack of confidence in the possibilities of Canada. For instance, in the debates of the legislative assembly of Nova Scotia, in 1886, I find that these words were used by the hon. Minister of Finance:

I have no doubt that in 1864, if those men who advocated confederation had proposed a railroad to the Pacific while there was no railroad in Prince Edward Island, they would have been

hooted from every platform in the country. Before confederation we had a low tariff and a prosperous revenue. To-day we have a high tariff, not for the benefit of the lower provinces, but largely for the benefit of the western provinces with which we have little common interest.

This was the training school in which the hon. Finance Minister was trained to come and take charge of the finances of Canada. This is the groove that he was trained in to. He took a narrow conception of things, and being ignorant absolutely himself of the great possibilities of that western country, you can well understand that he could not put confidence in any policy intended to develop it. Further, I find the hon. gentleman says:

But let it be remembered that these resolutions are not proposed with a view to our relations with either political party. While, so long as we remain in the union, I believe that to place Mr. Blake in power would remedy some of the evils of which we complain, nevertheless I feel that some of those evils are deeper down than can be removed by Mr. Blake or Sir John Macdonald.

Evidently he was Grit, though an annexationist.

For myself, it is my honest conviction that this union has not been satisfactory, that it will not make our people happy and prosperous,—

That was his honest conviction. He does not say what these other opinions which he expressed were his honest convictions, but this one he specially indicates as his honest conviction.

—and that it is our duty to place ourselves on record, and then to let the people decide, and to stand or fall on that issue.

When you consider that that is the opinion of the Finance Minister of this country, when you see that he has so little confidence even in the confederacy of Canada and in the future of the western part of Canada, which every man who has studied history cannot fail to see is destined to be the source of the future greatness of Canada, when you see the wide difference that existed in 1886 between the Liberal and the Conservative parties, you cannot look very hopefully to anything being accomplished by the present Administration in the interests of the whole country. I can well understand that the hon. gentleman should sympathize with his friends on the other side of the line. His sympathies run in that direction. During all the period of time when he reigned supreme in Nova Scotia he never permitted the Canadian flag to be hoisted over the public buildings of that province on Dominion Day, he even defeated a Bill which was introduced to give a national holiday on that day to the school children. And when you have as Finance Minister an hon. gentleman inoculated with those views, you may expect to see a lack of confidence in opening the purse-strings of the treasury in order to build a railway to de-

velop a country as yet little known. But that is one of the results of putting into power men who are not trained to govern. The hon. gentleman endeavoured to cast blame on us for being the governing people. Well, we assume responsibility of every result of the administration of the Liberal-Conservative party in the last twenty or thirty years. We are proud of the history which that party has made for itself. We do not shirk any responsibility. There may have been, no doubt there were faults, but there were great events, and all those great events recorded in history we claim as ours. We do not wish to rob hon. gentlemen opposite of their policy as they have endeavoured to rob us of ours. We do not steal anything from them, but we stand by the records of the Conservative Administration during all that period when we were in power.

Prosperity—there has been too much said about prosperity. I am not here to decry; nor is it my intention. Take the farming community, take any newspaper you like, take the "Eastern Farmer," and you will find butter quoted at 12 and 15 cents, pork 5 to 5½ cents, hay \$3 or \$4—go through the whole list, as it appears in the press, and hon. gentlemen will find in those quotations no safe resting-place for any great hopes of extended prosperity.

I took exception to the action of the right hon. First Minister with regard to preferential trade. I told him that in my opinion he had no right to say to England: We will give you a preference in our markets and ask nothing in return. I am with him in any settlement that brings Canada and England closer together, but I say that we will run that sentiment on business lines just the same, and I do not believe that is at all inconsistent or impossible. I think, on the contrary, that if we had given England a positive position in our markets in return for a positive position in hers, the result both for England and Canada would be better. England would have stood in Canada in a preferential position just as we would in England, and every article grown on Canadian soil would have had a preferred price to any other article grown elsewhere on this continent. I have stood up in this House before, and will stand up here over and over again to advocate this policy until I see the day when legislation to this effect will be put in force. The question of immigration will then, of course, solve itself. The British emigration would then all come to us. We would not have to scour all over the world for settlers and bring out the refuse of humanity—people who are not men and women in the sense of intelligent citizenship, but who have to be re-moulded and made fit for self-government, which takes a long time. If we had a preferential policy in both countries, ours would be preferred soil, and to that preferred soil would come the bone and sinew of the mother country—men and

women fitted for citizenship and not the raw material that the Government is at present attracting to our shores. I expect some day to see such legislation from which both England and ourselves will reap the benefit. Take free trade as it is in England, and every hon. gentleman who has visited the English country districts knows that it has a tendency to drive the farmers out of business and make it more difficult for Englishmen to live in England. History has shown the great governing power which Englishmen possess; it has shown that they are capable of forming armies that will stand against the whole world; it has shown that the position of England and her achievements are due to the courage and determination of her sons. The free trade policy of England, which is driving these people from the farm must drive them somewhere. Let them come here, and every one who leaves England to settle in this country will strengthen the mother land; and when the time comes when the Empire will require a greater strength than she has at home, she will fall back on her colonies, existing and thriving under preferential conditions, and the hour would then come when we would return to England, not only dollars and cents, but loyalty, patriotism, vigour—men capable of battling against any men formed into armies to attack her shores in any part of the world.

Money makers—you would imagine this Government were money-making people. One would imagine that they were running a mint. It is true they are running a Government mill, and rumour says that they take toll. I do not know how that is; I can only say they have not been partial toward me with any toll. But what do they mean when they stand up in this House and on the hustings and talk about making money as a Government? There is only one way for a Government to make money, and that is to take it from the people of the country. So that when they say they have a surplus of \$4,000,000 or \$10,000,000, it simply means that they have taken that much money from the pockets of the people. Surely that is no great credit to them. What effort have we seen to reduce taxation in this Budget? The hon. gentleman spent at least two hours in demonstrating to the House what a great boon it had been to the people of Canada to have half of one per cent, or whatever it may be, taken off the tariff. And he spent a good deal more time in extolling the Liberal party for their surplus. If it was a benefit to reduce the tariff, why does not the hon. gentleman go on and reduce it further? But instead of that he boasts of the fact that they have been able to take four or five millions of dollars from the people more than is required—they have taken ten millions. I fancy more than any Government took before. They ask the support of the Canadian people because they have been able to tax the people more than any other men that ever sat on those benches. But

that has been dealt with by the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster), in his exhaustive speech: one that is not second, I believe, to any delivered in this House.

It is not necessary for me to follow the hon. gentleman much further. He does not expect me to enter into these figures of customs receipts, and so on, in detail. That is not in my line, any more than it is in the line of the hon. gentleman to be a funny man. I should look as ridiculous handling these figures as the hon. gentleman looked playing the antelope as he did. There was one part of the policy of the Government that the hon. gentleman was remarkably proud of, and that was that they all agreed to stick together on the Treasury benches. He thought if there was one thing that should win the Government applause in this House it was that the occupants of the Treasury benches were united—and I expect that, as long as the salaries last, they will be united. They make it a point against us that on our side Ministers resigned. Well, Sir, that is true. And we are the only political party in Canada that ever had the credit of having a Minister resign his salary. It is different with the party of hon. gentlemen opposite. You may search through all the provinces and you will never find a Grit going away from his salary. These hon. gentlemen will never have any dissension in that matter. The hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) may retire. I do not suppose there is any gentleman on that side more genial or better liked or one who is more harmonious with the members of the Government. He may retire. But the moment he lets go of that chair, he will have his hand upon another bench or chair. If he has not, he will not let go of what he has. When you see any of these hon. gentlemen leaving these soft cushioned seats, it is because they know of some other soft seat upon which they are to be placed for life. They deserve a great deal of credit. The hon. Minister said so, and surely an hon. gentleman with the ability of the Minister of Customs would not stand up and devote time to proving it unless it was so. And evidently their followers think it a great point, because they applauded it to the echo, that there were twelve or fifteen men who were willing to sit on the front benches and draw their salaries to the day of judgment. I am delighted to know that harmony prevails among hon. gentlemen opposite. It cannot be that the troubles we hear of in the lobbies and on the streets, the statements we hear on occasions when a man becomes more mellow than he does on other occasions are true. It must be a great relief to the people of this country to have the assurance that they have a stable Government, a Government that will stand to their guns as long as the country will pay their salaries.

Now, in conclusion I would say that hon. gentlemen will find on this side of the House

a disposition at all times to discuss public questions fairly. But when a proposition is put forward that is not in accordance with the best interest of the country, they must expect the criticism that is given to men in their position. When these hon. gentlemen go before the people of Canada to receive the recognition of their services, I venture to think they will be astonished to find how the people fail to appreciate their self-sacrifice.

Mr. MCGREGOR. They have not shown that yet.

Mr. POPE. Sir, we have had two or three by-elections in Ontario, and I am bound to say that, so far as the information that has come to my ears is concerned, some of it absolute positive information, there is little credit to these hon. gentlemen in winning those elections. When the courts investigate, some strange facts will come to light. When you can get in a polling division affidavits of men who voted for the Conservative candidate, and when you have more affidavits than you have ballots in the box for that candidate, that reflects no credit upon the manipulation of the electoral machinery. Hon. gentlemen opposite are playing to the smallest prejudices of the people of Canada. They think more of their positions than they do of the welfare of the people. And it is beginning to be known, and as the history of the by-elections in the different provinces becomes public property, the people of Canada will begin to wake up to the fact that they are loaded down by a systematic process of corruption and bribery—even worse than that, because a bribe may be taken and the man who puts it in his pocket may not sell his conscience; but when a man goes up to exercise the highest act of citizenship by depositing his ballot and that ballot is not honestly counted, affairs are getting into a condition in this country that should cause the people to pause and consider very seriously the system that is manipulating the machinery by which their representatives are chosen. Of course the hon. gentleman who leads the Government says: I know nothing about that, and I do not believe it is possible. I would not have believed it possible had I not been told and told upon good authority, that there are many cases in which the affidavits taken show that there must have been some manipulation—as the courts will establish later on.

Mr. C. B. HEYD (South Brant). It is somewhat amusing to look into the faces of our friends opposite when they are about to close their speeches, and when they tell us what dire disaster is going to overtake us when we once more go back to the people. It strikes me that during the last two years we have had an experience of that during more than once or twice. It is also singular to notice how the memory of our hon.

friends opposite fail them on occasions like this. The hon. gentleman who just sat down says we have had two or three by-elections. It is true. He forgot that we have had over 30 by-elections, and that the Government have been sustained in all but two of them. He also says that corruption has taken place. Now, it is easy to find excuses for the defeats that have overtaken the Conservative party, once the victors in this country. But if corruption has taken place, why do they not prove it in the courts? They must find some sort of excuse, some reason why they have lost the confidence of this country, and they resort to the charge that constituencies have been bought up. Now, we have heard that story so often that we are getting tired of it. If there is any truth in their statements, why don't they go to the courts and punish these men who have corruptly gained their seats? But their declarations in this regard are on a par with others they are accustomed to make in this House until we have ceased to depend on the accuracy of their statements. The hon. gentleman who preceded me finds fault with the penny postage. Now it is easy to understand that an hon. gentleman who can extract consolation from the fact that the Liberal Government have been sustained by over 30 by-elections in this country and have lost only two—I say it is easy to understand that he would find fault with penny postage. I cannot see any consistency in a member of this House taking positions of that kind.

He also finds fault with the preferential tariff as it stands to-day, and says we should not have granted that to Great Britain without some compensating advantage. Well, we have heard that statement repeated time and again in this House until we are fairly tired of it. Now, Sir, one of the things that amuse me is to see the change of front on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite. You will have noticed during the speeches, especially of the leaders of the Opposition, what ardent admirers they have become of Providence. It is only recently that they have discovered that Providence has something to do with the welfare and prosperity of the country. We never heard them speak of Providence until within the last two years. I remember a time some 20 years ago when we used to hear a different story, a time when the lean years were upon us. There was then a Government in this country who were carrying on its affairs economically, and discharging their duties faithfully and well. But times were hard not only in Canada but all over the world, to such an extent, indeed, that we heard of whole trains being boarded by tramps in the Western States. But we did not hear Providence blamed for the want of prosperity. Oh, no. Then they only talked about flies on the wheel, we never heard of Providence. Providence is a new creation

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with them. They do not look to Providence generally for support in their schemes; they generally adopt something more effective to carry out their schemes than anything that Providence would supply. They talk a great deal about what the National Policy has done to bring about the prosperity of this country, they don't call in Providence at all. They shout: Great is the National Policy, great is Diana, and they worship gods of their own creation. They say that the prosperity which this country is enjoying is the consequence of the National Policy. But just now they have got a new device in order to explain the prosperity and comfort that people are enjoying in this country. They say they do not dispute the fact that this country is prosperous, but it is not owing to the policy of the Government at all, it is Providence that is doing the whole job. Now let us see what they really did say about the policy this Government has adopted. I read somewhere, I think it was in Victor Hugo's work, "Les Misérables," that only those should be justified in praising a scheme who have supported it when it was in adversity. The policy of the present Government was criticised by our friends opposite in a hostile manner. They predicted that evil would overtake this country, that the industries of this country would be wiped out. Now, they change front, they admit that the country is prosperous, but they forget what they said about this policy only two years ago. Now, lest some of our hon. friends have forgotten what they said, I will read from a speech delivered some two years ago.

Mr. LANDERKIN. By whom?

Mr. HEYD. I will tell you after I have read it.

Now, what is the result? The result is that this tariff goes into operation, and the hon. gentleman knows that the industries of this country are already paralyzed in consequence. While hon. members gloat, vindictively gloat, over the destruction of Canadian industries, I was reading the wall, the sorrowful wall, of those industries in the Montreal "Gazette," where one manufacturer after another declared that their industries were ruined, that their mills must close, and that they saw staring them in the face a return to the deplorable state of things that existed when the hon. gentleman who last addressed the House was in charge of the fiscal policy of this country. I say that a deeper wrong was never inflicted upon Canada. It would have been bad enough if the hon. gentleman had gone to the country with a frank avowal that they were in favour of what they have declared to be their policy for long years previously; it would have been bad enough if they had been able to get a majority pledged to sweep away those industries and to destroy the policy that had achieved so much for Canada; but to obtain power by the solemn declarations made publicly and privately all over this country that no harm would come to the manufacturing industries, that not a hair of their head should be touched, that in fact their rights would be pro-

ted, that their position would be improved, because they were going to have their raw material made free—coal was to be made free—I say that under these circumstances I can understand how indignant the people of this country will feel at the outrage that has been inflicted upon them, not by a fair, open, and manly declaration of policy, but by false pretenses under the guise of solemn declarations that no harm would be done to the industries of this country.

That is a statement made by the leader of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition in this House only two years ago.

Mr. TAYLOR. When attacking a preferential policy open to the world, as declared then, a 25 per cent rebate.

Mr. HEYD. Now, these hon. gentlemen have forgotten all that. They have forgotten that they predicted the ruin of this country when they see evidence of prosperity on every hand. They cannot convince the people that they are not prosperous; they may try to do it if they can possibly deceive them, but every man knows that his condition is better to-day than it has ever been in Canada before. Another hon. gentleman charges that the Government is extravagant. I listened to a speaker who said, the other night, "We do not blame you for spending this money in the way that you are doing; we do not criticise the manner of your spending it, but we object, because you objected to our having spent it." This is rather a weak kind of reasoning. If we have expended any money improperly, it is in the interest of the country that it should be objected to. Therefore, if our hon. friends on the other side of the House concur in the expenditures that the Government have made, and if they agree that they are necessary for the proper development of the country, there is not much to blame them for. But is it true that this Government is extravagant? I think that this matter has been dealt with before. I am well aware that the people throughout the country have not the same opportunity of hearing and of reading up these matters in the blue-books as we have ourselves. Therefore, I think I will be excused, if I say one or two words more, so that the people will have an opportunity of acquainting themselves with the real facts of the case. They cannot be sure that they have the facts of the case by reading the editorial articles in the Conservative newspapers of the country. What do we find the facts to be? I am not quoting from editorials; I am quoting from our blue-books. I do not want to go back to the time of the deluge for my facts; I will not go back more than five years to compare the expenditure of the present Government with that which took place during the last three years of the late Government. What has been the result? In 1894, the late Government spent on consolidated fund account \$37,585,000. Now, we all understand what consolidated fund account means. But I know that throughout

the country all the people do not know, and that they are confused by the words, and have not a thorough understanding of what they mean. I say, then, to the ordinary man, in speaking throughout the country, that by consolidated fund we mean the running expenses of the Government, the money that is necessary to carry on the Government from day to day. Now, in 1894, the late Government spent the sum I have named. In 1895, they spent \$38,132,000. In 1896, \$36,949,000. In 1897, we spent \$38,349,000, and in 1898, \$38,832,000. We have a right to look over the results and see whether the country is getting full value for the money we spend. You can compare this Government with a mercantile establishment that has its employees and agents going through the country. Have they succeeded in carrying on the business of the country successfully with these expenditures? In 1894, the late Government were \$1,210,000 behind in the running expenses of the Government; in 1895, they were \$4,153,000 behind; in 1896, they were \$330,000 behind, while the Liberal Government, in the first year it assumed office, was \$519,000 behind; in 1898, \$1,722,000 ahead, and, I understand, that during the year of which we have now passed ten months, the excess will be about \$4,600,000; or, in other words, that during the three years that the Liberal Government have been conducting the business of this country we have actually some \$6,000,000 to our credit, while during the last three years that the late Government carried on the affairs of the country they had \$5,694,000 to their debit. That shows whether they carried on the business of the country successfully or not. We have spent more money than they did, but we have done more business than they did, and in every well regulated establishment, you can hardly expect to do more business unless it cost a little more.

I shall now allude to another fact in connection with this matter, because it has been referred to very often. We have another account with which we are all familiar, namely, capital account. A great many people do not understand what we mean by capital account. It has the same reference to the affairs of the Dominion as when a man is building a barn, as when a man is stumping his land or clearing away some of his bush. It is the same as when a farmer increases the value of his farm. Capital account is money that is expended to add to the resources of the country. Have we been lukewarm in that matter? If we had expended money in this country, have we expended it corruptly? I do not find fault with this Government or the late Government for any sums of money that they have expended on capital account, and the country does not find fault; they do not care how much is spent as long as it is spent in the interest of the people of this country. It is a matter of great importance, not how much is spent, but how has it been spent. Is it being wasted; is it being corruptly spent, or is it

really not being spent but invested, because, I regard all that money that we expend on capital as money invested just as much as any farmer could do, to clear another ten acres of land or to build another barn. During the three years that I have spoken of, the late Government spent \$17,710,000 on capital account, while we have spent during these three years, or approximately will have at the end of this year, about \$20,000,000. We have not neglected the public works of this country. What has been the result of all this? We are accused of extravagance, and it is charged that we are piling up the debt rapidly. While the late Government spent \$5,000,000 and a little over per annum on capital account, we have spent \$6,000,000. They say that we have increased the expenditure both on consolidated fund account and on capital account, and that we have raised our national debt to an extraordinary degree. Let us briefly look at these three years again, and see whether that statement is true. In 1893, the national debt stood at \$241,681,000; after three years of Conservative administration it had increased to \$258,497,000, or a total increase of \$16,816,000 in these three years, or an average of \$5,605,000 a year. What took place during the administration of the present Government? We spent more money on capital account than they did, but we did not increase the national debt at all, the way our friends did. We found the national debt at \$258,497,000, and two years afterwards it was only \$263,956,000. They added \$5,605,000 a year for three years to the national debt, while we spent more money carrying on greater enterprises, and having obligations to meet for which they never had to provide, in this connection, and only increased the national debt by \$2,729,000. This is a matter that business men thoroughly understand, and no matter how much it may be said, in the columns of partisan newspapers, that this is an extravagant Government, that it is rapidly increasing the national debt, you have now got the facts of the case which show that this Government is an economical and progressive Government. There are other matters in connection with this which I am sure are exceedingly gratifying to the Government. You know that our Conservative friends opposite pride themselves upon the condition in which they have left the national credit of this country. Well, I do not think it has been impaired by the present Government, because I find that the following state of facts exist. In 1890, the average rate of interest on the gross debt was 3·52 per cent; in 1896, it had diminished to 3·23 per cent, and in 1898, it had diminished to 3·10 per cent.

Average rate of Interest on Gross Debt.

| Year.      | Per cent. |
|------------|-----------|
| 1890 ..... | 3·52      |
| 1896 ..... | 3·23      |
| 1898 ..... | 3·10      |

The interest per cent is smaller to-day upon our gross debt than it was when the Lib-

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eral party took office; and if you take the net debt, the interest in 1890 was 3·07, in 1896, 2·80, and in 1898 it had shrunk to 2·66.

Average rate of Interest on Net Debt.

| Year.      | Per cent. |
|------------|-----------|
| 1890 ..... | 3·07      |
| 1896 ..... | 2·80      |
| 1898 ..... | 2·66      |

The annual interest upon every dollar we owe is less to-day than it was when the Liberals took office. These are very gratifying figures, but there is another aspect of this question which has afforded me a great deal of pleasure. I refer to the trade of the country. The two things are so intimately associated the one with the other, they so react the one upon the other, that it is hard to separate them. It is exceedingly gratifying to me as a supporter of the present Government, not only to find that our financial administration has been good, but also that our trade conditions are better than they have ever seen before. We can congratulate ourselves that the preferential tariff, so maligned in its infancy by the Conservatives, and which has now proven to be such a blessing to Canada, has a great deal to do with the gratifying position of trade affairs now existing. You know, there used to be, in days gone by, "the balance of trade theory" held by our Conservative friends. They pointed with contempt to the condition of affairs as they existed in Canada during the Mackenzie Government of twenty years ago, and they pledged themselves to wipe out that great excess of imports over exports, and, as they said, they were going to keep Canada for the Canadians. We have heard the Conservatives state that on every platform of Canada, and they have almost carried elections on that very issue. Now, I do not need to go back twenty years for my authority; but I can look at the Trade and Navigation Returns for the last few years, and just see how we stand in that respect. I do not wish to weary the House with these figures, but I have some little theory of my own in the background which I wish to bring out. It is, however, of some interest to have these figures recorded in "Hansard," and I have taken them from the Trade and Navigation Returns. I find on page 2 of that blue-book, that in the year 1881 our exports, the produce of Canada, amounted to \$83,944,711. Let me remark here, that as a rule the statistical tables used in this House are not such that we can derive much instruction from them. They are generally prepared to include coin and bullion, the produce of other countries re-exported by us, so that we really do not know in looking at those figures, how much of the export Canada has contributed, but we also have in the Trade and Navigation Returns a column devoted exclusively to the export of the produce of our Canadian farms, fisheries and mines.

We had a very large export business as far back as 1881. Our friends on the other side tell us that they made this country prosperous, and that until they got hold of affairs Canada languished for the advent of these Heaven-born legislators who, for the past eighteen years have, in my opinion, been mismanaging the affairs of this country. Now, in 1881, our exports were \$83,944,711; in 1890 they were \$85,257,000; in 1894 they were \$103,851,764; and in 1896, \$109,707,349.

| Year.      | Amount of Exports. |
|------------|--------------------|
| 1881 ..... | \$ 83,944,711      |
| 1890 ..... | 85,257,586         |
| 1894 ..... | 103,851,764        |
| 1896 ..... | 109,707,349        |

During a period of fifteen years the exports of 1896 exceeded the exports of 1881 by \$25,762,638. Now, what has been the result during the past two years? In 1897, we exported \$123,632,540, the produce of Canada, and in 1898 we exported \$144,333,941, the produce of Canada.

| Year.      | Value of Exports. |
|------------|-------------------|
| 1897 ..... | \$123,632,540     |
| 1898 ..... | 144,333,941       |

In other words, during fifteen years of the reign of the National Policy we only increased our exports by an average of \$1,700,000 a year, while during the two years the present Government have been in power we have increased our exports at the rate of \$17,313,000 per annum. There is another little table which is just as interesting as the one I have read. I refer to our imports, and you will remember what I said a few moments ago with respect to that. Well, Sir, the trade of Canada was not very small some fifteen or twenty years ago. Our trade was not all created since the late Government assumed office; for some little portion of it existed even as far back as 1883, when our imports entered for consumption amounted to \$121,000,000. Here again we are slightly led astray by the phrasing used at the head of our blue-book, for while it says "imports entered for consumption," it does not always mean that these imports were consumed in this country, because you will find that while we imported some \$7,000,000 worth of corn and entered that for consumption, \$5,000,000 worth went out of the country again. We do not consume the majority of the corn imported, as was suggested here the other night. In 1883 our imports entered for consumption were \$121,861,496; in 1892 they were down to \$115,150,413; in 1894 they were down to \$109,070,911, and in 1896 they were down to \$105,361,161, or they had shrunk from \$121,000,000 to \$105,000,000—a shrinkage of \$16,000,000 in fifteen years.

## Imports entered for Consumption.

| Year.      | Value.        |
|------------|---------------|
| 1883 ..... | \$121,861,496 |
| 1892 ..... | 115,150,413   |
| 1894 ..... | 109,070,911   |
| 1896 ..... | 105,361,111   |

Let us look now at the imports entered for consumption during the past two years:

| Year.      | Value.        |
|------------|---------------|
| 1897 ..... | \$106,617,828 |
| 1898 ..... | 126,281,684   |

Our imports last year were \$5,000,000 greater than they were in 1883, or \$16,000,000 greater than when our Conservative friends left office. Now, let me ask did the Conservatives bring back the balance of trade to Canada? I have looked into the matter, and I find that for the eight years ending in 1896 our imports amounted to \$877,753,929, and our exports, the produce of Canada, to \$775,111,054, or an excess of imports over exports in eight years of \$102,642,875, being an average excess of \$12,832,859 a year. Now, what has been the result during the past two years—and this must be a matter of extreme gratification to our friends on the other side, holding the views which they profess to hold.

In 1897 and 1898 the imports were \$233,907,511 for the two years, and our exports \$267,966,286, or in other words, our exports exceeded our imports by \$17,029,387 a year. Therefore, while the Conservative Government allowed the imports to exceed the exports by \$12,000,000 a year, under the present Government the exports exceeded the imports by over \$17,000,000 a year, or a difference of \$30,000,000 a year in respect to that particular item. It is a matter of gratification to me to find that the equilibrium of trade is really establishing itself. I myself do not regard it as a matter of great importance whether the balance of trade is against us or for us, for that is a point which I believe will adjust itself in the long run. To me it is a matter of very little importance, and I do not take much stock in the idea that whether the balance of trade is against us or for us, it is a matter for congratulation or otherwise.

But the principal reason why I adduce this table is, to show the trend which trade has taken during the past few years, to see if we could not do something in order to change this current that has been slowly going in a direction that we ourselves do not appreciate. If we divide these exports which I have alluded to, into exports to Great Britain and exports to the United States, we will see how the trade of this country is gradually shifting; and I intend to show that the present Government, realizing that fact, adopted the only method that was within their reach, to make this trade go into different channels. In 1894, we exported the produce of Canada to Great Britain

to the value of \$60,000,000 ; in 1895, \$67,000,000 ; in 1897, \$69,000,000, and in 1898, \$93,000,000. Now, that is extremely satisfactory. We know, that our trade with Great Britain is growing. Whether it will keep up to the high standard reached last year or not, I am not able to say ; I wish I were sure of it, but I do not think it will. We cannot always have phenomenal crops, nor can we always get good prices. But that our export trade with Great Britain is assured, we can look forward to with a good deal of confidence. Let us look now to the United States. We find, that we exported of the produce of Canada to the United States, in 1894, \$32,000,000 ; in 1895, \$35,000,000 ; in 1897, \$37,000,000, and in 1898, \$40,000,000. Our trade in the produce of Canada going to the United States steadily increased, notwithstanding the walls that they have been raising up against us in the form of Dingley Bills and other methods of preventing our goods finding a market there, and it is \$8,000,000 higher to-day than it was six years ago. This is a matter of satisfaction. However much we may dislike the way we are being treated by our friends on the other side, we are glad to see that it is impossible for men to interfere entirely with trade. Our trade with Great Britain has steadily increased, while that with the United States has also increased.

But the figures to which I want specially to direct your attention, are the imports from Great Britain and the United States, to show the great change which has taken place during the last few years. As far back as 1875, we received from Great Britain \$49,239,000 worth of dutiable goods. These have been steadily shrinking, until we are almost ashamed to say, that we buy so little from the country that buys so much from us. In 1894, they shrank to \$27,493,000, a dead loss of \$22,000,000 in the purchase of British goods. The amount went steadily down until the year 1897, when we imported only \$20,217,000 worth of dutiable goods from Great Britain, or a shrinkage of \$29,000,000 since 1875. Now, as loyal Canadians, belonging, as it were, to Great Britain, we are not anxious that trade with the mother country should be entirely wiped out. We are anxious that the people who buy from us, should also sell to us. Can we do nothing to prevent this terrible loss of trade with the mother country ? For \$29,000,000 of shrinkage is a very large item to a country of 5,000,000 people.

Let us look at the free goods, and see how they stand. In 1873, we imported as high as \$20,553,000 worth of free goods from Great Britain ; in 1893, this was reduced to \$10,660,000 worth, and it kept going steadily down. In 1895, it amounted to \$7,747,000 worth, and in 1898, to \$9,486,000, a loss of \$12,000,000 in free goods. This is not gratifying to me, as a Canadian. Let us see how the matter stands with the United States. Hon. gentlemen say, that we have got this

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tariff so designed as to injure our trade with the people of Great Britain. Now, is that true ? Do the trade returns prove any statement of that kind ? They prove that, in 1884, we imported from the United States, of dutiable goods, \$38,652,000, and that, in 1898, we imported \$38,063,000. So our imports from the United States have not decreased, like those of Great Britain. But, in the importation of free goods, a most marvellous change has taken place. In 1880, we imported, of free goods from the United States, \$8,627,000 ; in 1890, \$20,790,000 ; in 1895, \$24,383,000, and in 1898, \$36,760,000, an actual increase in the importation of free goods from the United States of \$28,000,000, while there was a decrease in the importation of free goods from England of \$12,000,000. Now, these things are not satisfactory to us, as Canadians. Could we do nothing to restore the trade which Great Britain was losing, and to some extent—I do not say, injure—but lessen the trade which was daily being enlarged with the people of the United States ? I say, something could be done, and something was done, and was done effectually ; and I believe, that, through the means the Government have resorted to, much ultimate good will result.

Now, I know that our friends on the other side of the House find fault with the goods that come to this country from the United States. I can assure you, that they do not come here because we desire particularly to buy from the United States. They come because they are produced there cheaper than they can be anywhere else in the world. It would be impossible, however much we desired, to keep these goods out of the country. All we have to do, is to look at the quality of the goods that come to this country and the competition they are subjected to ; and, comparing our imports from England with those from the United States, we find that, out of \$74,000,000 worth which we got from the United States, \$64,000,000 worth came into competition with only \$9,000,000 worth of British goods. That is a peculiar state of affairs ; but we cannot help that, because the United States produce raw materials and certain semi-manufactured articles and sell them in this country cheaper than we can buy them for anywhere else in the world. Therefore, we cannot prevent this vast trade with the United States, no matter how much we try, and it might not be in our interest to try, however patriotic we may be, or however much we desire the prosperity of Great Britain. The greater product of the islands beyond the sea are of the utmost importance to us ; and, however much we may desire to advance Great Britain's interest, we must not forget to look at the interests of the people who live in this Canada of ours.

This trade has been tending steadily in favour of the United States, and against Great Britain. I have a table showing our

importations from Great Britain and from the United States in about 25 articles, with which I do not want to weary the House; but a certain few are interested in them. Of animals and their products, we got \$21,073 from Great Britain, and \$588,954 worth from the United States. You cannot help that, because in England they do not raise the kind of cattle we require. Of baking powder, we got from Great Britain only \$154 worth, while we got from the United States \$101,801 worth. Of breadstuffs, we got \$163,461 from Great Britain, and \$7,732,301 from the United States; and among these imports of breadstuffs is the corn that our friend the ex-Finance Minister alluded to the other night, when he tried, probably unwillingly, to make us believe, that we imported 19,000,000 bushels of the corn and consumed the major portion. Well, we did not; we only imported \$6,964,000 worth, and re-exported \$5,165,000 worth; or, in other words, \$1,800,000 worth of corn was used in this country as an import from the United States. Now, take coal and coke: we imported \$125,573 worth from the United States, and \$9,293,939 from Great Britain. Of cotton and the manufactures of, we imported \$3,284,324 from Great Britain, and \$5,481,140 from the United States, of which \$4,000,000 is raw material. Of electrical appliances, we imported \$8,274 from Great Britain, and \$424,644 from the United States. Of fruit, we imported \$195,140 from Great Britain, and \$1,802,366 from the United States. Of gutta percha and the manufactures thereof, we imported \$131,888 from Great Britain, and \$1,974,321 from the United States.

|  | From<br>England. | From<br>United States. |
|--|------------------|------------------------|
| Hides and skins ....   | \$ 508,805       | \$2,242,987            |
| Leather and its products .....                               | 146,494          | 1,447,396              |
| Agricultural imple-<br>ments .....                           | 9,151            | 1,062,279              |
| Iron and steel, and the<br>various products<br>thereof ..... | 5,004,853        | 17,011,376             |
| Oil .....  | 239,250          | 1,083,283              |
| Provisions .....   | 47,197           | 1,416,291              |
| Coin and bullion.....  | 457,456          | 3,880,667              |

The English imports into this country only represent \$9,948,047, while the American imports of that same class of goods represent \$63,442,547. If it be desirable, in the interests of the country, to prevent that condition of things, it strikes me that the Government acted wisely and patriotically—and the people of Great Britain at any rate appreciate their action—in establishing this preferential rate. Our friends opposite may say what they like about its being hostile to Great Britain and the people of this country. They are talking to intelligent men in this House, and I do not like to say that the men who make that statement are untruthful, but I am satisfied that no constituency in this country is so ignorant as to send a

man to this House who really believes that a preference of 25 per cent is not a benefit to the people of Great Britain. I am satisfied that these men do not believe what they say themselves. I know that the dutiable goods imported from Great Britain last year amounted to \$22,000,000, and that the duty paid was \$6,649,000, and I assume all of it but liquor and tobacco came in under preferential rate. Well, if we had not that preferential rate, the duty would have been just \$900,000 more. Now, if a gentleman in Great Britain could sell us \$22,000,000 worth of stuff, and if we were to give him a present of \$1,000,000 better than we gave to anybody else, he would naturally think that that was a certain benefit to him; and it is the sheerest folly for intelligent men to get up and make the statement that these hon. gentlemen opposite did to other men who can at least do a little thinking for themselves.

I have no intention, Mr. Speaker, of speaking at any length and shall not detain the House any longer. But I like to tackle any intricate problem of figures myself, and I thought this question of the tariff is rather interesting. But before concluding I might say a word regarding the great credit which our friends opposite take to themselves for their good character. They are exceedingly anxious to read extracts from political newspapers in order to throw some discredit upon the leaders and some of the members of this party. Well, if they could only see themselves as others see them—not people who are hostile to them politically—but just as the country sees them, a discredited and disorganized mob, they would realize really where they stand. As individuals, they are very nice men. I see some before me whom personally I am very glad to call my friends, but politically, since I have been in this House, I have found more trickery among my hon. friends opposite than I have seen anywhere else. But just as a parting shot, to show our friends on the other side, who are so exceedingly anxious to read comments reflecting on this Government, how other people view them, let me read an article that does not come from a hostile source either:

The constituency of Brockville, that for over twenty years was true to Conservative principles, has gone over to the Reform ranks by a handsome majority, and the Conservative who refuses to accept the true meaning of that loss is simply not worth arguing with.

It means that the great bulk of Conservatives outside the members of the Mutual Admiration Society, who are laying claim to be its leaders, would rather see the party out of power than that it should be officered by the same men who played the traitor act in the most crucial hours of its history.

It means that so long as it is officered by Foster, Haggart, Montague & Co., it will remain where it is now, and though I have the highest respect for the pluck and indefatigable energy

of Sir Charles Tupper, not even he, with all his ability, has a ghost of a chance to succeed so long as his lieutenants are the men who knifed their former leader, and whose base treachery had as much to do with the Conservative defeat at the general election as the Manitoba School Bill itself.

When Sir Charles journeys through the country he is surrounded at the places he stops at by those who have an object in making him believe that all is serene, but those who travel through the country know that there is an absolute lack of confidence in the very men who are pushing themselves forward to again lead the party. The late meeting of Conservatives in this city was a farce pure and simple, the resolutions were all cut and dried, and the men who moved and seconded them were told beforehand just what they had to do. An organization started in that manner will be about as efficient in arousing enthusiasm as a corpse at a wedding feast.

Mr. George E. Foster, the chief conspirator of the crew, showed himself in Centre Toronto, and hundreds of Conservatives refused to vote. He journeyed to Lambton County, and the majority against his party was much larger than before. He undertook to redeem his own province of New Brunswick, and he got wiped out so thoroughly that he hadn't enough Conservatives elected to fill a four-wheeled trap. Verily the way of the political traitor is a hard road to travel, men may admire ability, but when it is not allied to ordinary manliness and fair-play, it will not go down with the people. The Conservative party is out of power, and there it will remain through all the years that the traitors undertake to rule it.

This is written, I believe, by a Mr. King Dodd, the editor of the Canadian "Sportsman," a loyal Conservative, very clever, and I should judge from what he has written, very truthful. I am sure that on this side we entertain no such feelings for the men who lead the Government. We look forward to a long era of prosperity for this country, and it will be prosperous as long as the men who are controlling its affairs to-day continue to rule its destiny. Looking over what has taken place during the past two or three years, there is nothing to inspire our friends opposite with any degree of hope or to make us feel in the slightest degree discouraged. Throughout the length and breadth of the country there is a feeling of security, prosperity, confidence—a feeling of Canadianism, such as we never have had before, and as long as the people are happy and prosperous they will not want any change of Government. Our friends opposite, if they want to obtain office, will have to take another course. They will have to try and be truthful on the public platform, and not try to stab a man in his private life in order to advance their political fortunes. They will have to fall back on the old methods, for no matter how corrupt a man may be himself he likes to follow a man who is honest. They will have to be honest to their leaders. Until they change their methods, they will have no chance before the people, and need not hug themselves with the idea that

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when they go back to the country they will have the slightest chance of being elected to anywhere else than where they are now.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. As the motion I made has served its purpose, and the debate now ended, I beg to withdraw the motion.

Motion that the House do go into committee of Ways and Means withdrawn.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of Ways and Means at the next sitting of the House.

Motion agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 11.50 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 5th May, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 110) respecting the Hudson Bay and Yukon Railway and Navigation Company.—(Mr. Oliver.)

Bill (No. 111) to further amend the Criminal Code, 1892.—(Mr. McInnes.)

### INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). In reference to a return laid on the Table to-day by the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), relating to the enforcement of the coasting laws, I would call the attention of the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) to the fact that when the papers were moved for, it was mentioned that some of the correspondence was with the Department of the Interior. I would be very glad if the Minister would see whether there are some papers in his department in that connection which might be brought down.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I would like to ask the Government whether they have any further information with respect to the regulations of the Newfoundland Government prohibiting the purchase or taking of bait by Canadian fishermen?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). There is nothing further; but the Government have forwarded representations to the Government of Newfoundland asking for definite and ex-

pllicit information with respect to the complaints made, and we are in daily expectation of receiving an answer to our representations.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the leader of the House if it is intended to proceed with the Drummond County Railway resolutions to-morrow, because some papers have been moved for which are absolutely necessary to the discussion. Information has been asked as to the results of the working of the Drummond County Railway, the expenses and receipts, and it will be absolutely impossible to proceed intelligently with that subject unless the hon. Minister of Railways furnishes the House with full information with regard to the whole question.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I do not know what my hon. friend means by full information with regard to the whole question. I will furnish him with information, as I was asked to do the other day, with respect to the earnings and expenditures of the whole road, from the end of the late fiscal year down to the last moment at which the returns are available. If that covers the ground which the hon. gentleman has in his mind. I will do that, and I will do it before the debate is entered upon.

Mr. HAGGART. Do I understand the hon. gentleman to mean by the whole road, the road from Halifax to Montreal?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Quite so—the whole Intercolonial road.

#### PACIFIC CABLE.

Mr. MORRISON. I would beg to ask the right hon. First Minister if he has received any communication from the Government of British Columbia with respect to the Pacific Cable?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Communication has been received from the Government of British Columbia, of which the public has already had notice, to the effect that the British Columbia Government offered to contribute one-ninth towards the cable.

Mr. MORRISON. Has any communication of a similar nature been received from the Government of any of the other provinces?

The PRIME MINISTER. None.

#### IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 14) respecting the Quebec Steamship Company.—(Mr. Malouin.)

Bill (No. 21) respecting the Canadian Railway Accident Insurance Company.—(Mr. Belcourt.)

Bill (No. 13) respecting the Home Life Association of Canada.—(Mr. Macdonald, Huron.)

#### SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 65) to incorporate the Restigouche Boom Company.—(Mr. McAlister.)

Bill (No. 103) to incorporate the Klondike Mines Railway Company.—(Mr. Maxwell.)

Bill (No. 106) to incorporate the Canadian Birkbeck Investment and Savings Company.—(Mr. Bertram.)

Bill (No. 108) respecting the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Pontiac, and to change its name to "The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Pembroke."—(Mr. Poupore.)

Bill (No. 88, Letter A of the Senate) for the relief of David Stock.—(Mr. McCarthy.)

#### DEFAULT IN SENDING IN VOTERS' LISTS.

Mr. FOSTER asked :

What officers and for what electoral districts were in default in sending in the revised voters' lists to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery at the proper time as defined in the Franchise Act? Has the Government taken any action, and if so, what in regard to them?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). No voters' lists for the following named electoral districts were received by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, under section 10 of the Dominion Franchise Act, for the year 1898, viz: Province of Ontario, Cornwall and Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, Grenville, south riding, Leeds, south riding. Province of Quebec: Beauce, Bellechasse, Missisquoi, Montcalm, the five divisions of Montreal. Province of Nova Scotia: Cape Breton and Cumberland. Province of New Brunswick: Albert, Carleton, Charlotte, Gloucester, Kent, King's, Northumberland, Restigouche, Sunbury and Queen's, Victoria and Westmoreland. No action has yet been taken to have these lists sent in.

#### GABARUS—PIER OR BREAKWATER.

Mr. McDOUGALL asked :

1. Has the hon. the Minister of Public Works since last session of Parliament visited Gabarus, in the county of Cape Breton?

2. If so, has he examined into the necessity for a pier or breakwater at that place, as urged upon the Department of Public Works by petition and otherwise?

3. Is it the intention of the Minister to recommend a grant during the present session?

4. Will the same be provided for in the supplementary Estimates?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The Department of Public Works furnish the following answers: 1 and 2. No, but it is on record that under the former Administration requests have been made for the construction

of a breakwater at Gabarus, and were never acted upon by them. As the supplementary Estimates are not yet prepared, a definite answer to questions 3 and 4 cannot be given.

#### FREDERICTON MILITARY SCHOOL AND FRANCIS MCKENZIE.

Mr. McDougall asked :

Why was Francis McKenzie, of Christmas Island, refused instructions in the Military School at Fredericton, 1897 ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). I have sent the inquiry to Fredericton to get the information desired ; but I shall have to ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. McDougall) to allow the question to stand, as I have not yet received an answer.

#### CANADA SERVICE MEDAL.

Mr. CLARKE (by Mr. McDougall) asked :

Has the Canada service medal authorized by the Imperial authorities, and for the issue of which the Parliament of Canada has provided funds, been received by the Canadian Government ?

2. If the medals have been received, when will they be issued to those entitled to receive them ?

3. If the medals have not been received by the Canadian Government, what is the cause of the delay ?

4. Who compose the board of claims appointed by the Canadian Government to adjudicate upon applications for the Canada service medal ?

5. How many meetings of the board of claims have been held ?

6. What remuneration has been paid to each member of the board for each meeting he attended ?

7. How much money has been paid to date to members of the board ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. No. 2. No. 3. The cause of delay is unknown. The medals are being struck off at the Royal Mint. 4. President: The Adjutant General ; members, Lieut.-Col. Cotton, A.A.G.A., Lieut.-Col. Vidal, A.A.G., Major Rivers, Royal Canadian Artillery, Captain Wurtele, Reserve of Officers. 5. Daily (Sundays and holidays excepted) since the formation of the board. 6. No extra remuneration is paid to the board. 7. Captain Wurtele has received from 1st of October to 31st of March past, inclusive : 182 days' pay at \$2.82 per day, \$513.24 ; 182 days' subsistence, at \$2.50 per day, \$455 ; total, \$968.

#### U. S. BOATS REGISTERED AT DAWSON.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

Can the hon. Minister of Customs, without inconvenience, state the names and tonnage of United States boats built which have been given Canadian registry by the collector of customs at Dawson from July 1st, 1898, to latest date known at Ottawa, the duty paid, the amount of valuation of each vessel and by whom such valuation was made, and the names of British owners of

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

the same ; and will a complete return as above, down to date, be laid upon the Table at an early day ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Pater-son). I regret that I cannot give the hon. gentleman the information just now. I think it will be well if he will make a motion for a return. The information is now being collected ; but it will be some time before it can be ready.

#### STEAMER "JOHN C. BARR."

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

Has the Department of Customs any report as to the value of the S.S. "John C. Barr," recently admitted to Canadian registry at Dawson? If so, what was the valuation for customs purposes ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Pater-son). The steamer "John C. Barr" was entered for duty at Dawson, 6th October, 1898, on application for Canadian registry, upon a valuation of \$10,000.

#### RAMA INDIANS AND STATUTE LABOUR.

Mr. McCORMACK (by Mr. Hughes) asked :

1. Are the Indians of Rama Reserve, Ontario, exempt from statute labour taxes ?

2. Are they exempt from taxes on their land to the municipality of Rama ?

3. Is it the intention of the Government to contribute to the municipality of Rama a sum equal to a fair statute labour and land tax on the property of the Indians towards the maintenance of roads and bridges ?

4. If not, why not ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. Yes. 2. Yes. 3. There is no present intention of making any such contribution. 4. Because it has never been the policy of the department to make such contribution, and sufficient reasons for changing the policy have not been advanced.

#### TIMBER ON DUCEIS RESERVE.

Mr. McCORMACK (by Mr. Hughes) asked :

1. Has the Government sent an agent or commissioned any one to offer the Indians of Ducelis (Dukas) Reserve, viz., those on the big island or reserve in the French River, near Lake Nipissing, a sum of money per head per annum for life on condition that they relinquish their claims to the timber on the land, or to both ?

2. What sum per head per annum was offered the Indians each ?

3. With what person or persons has the Government been negotiating for the sale of such timber ?

4. Is it the intention of the Government to dispose of the timber on said island ?

5. Has the timber already been sold ? If so, to whom, and on what terms ?

6. Where are the Indians to be placed if removed from the reserve ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. No. 2. No sum. 3. No one. 4. Not at present. 5. No. 6. The question of

the removal of the Indians has not been considered.

**EDMONTON VOLUNTEER COMPANY.**

Mr. OLIVER asked :

1. Has the Government received an application from or on behalf of members of the Edmonton Volunteer Company for scrip and medals in recognition of services rendered in the North-west rebellion of 1885 ?

2. If so, what are the intentions of the Government in regard to this application ?

3. Has the Government received an application from or on behalf of James Mowat for recognition of services as special courier in the North-west rebellion of 1885 ?

4. If so, what are the intentions of the Government in regard to this application ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. Yes. 2. The department has answered the applicants that the volunteers in question were not raised by authority within the meaning of the statute of 1886, and therefore their request could not be entertained. 3. Yes. 4. The department replied that as Mr. Mowat's services were not those of a scout, his claim could not be entertained.

**PUBLIC BUILDING, ANNAPOLIS ROYAL**

Mr. MILLS asked :

1. Have tenders been asked for painting the public building at Annapolis Royal ? If so, who are the parties asked to tender ?

2. Is the Government aware that Mr. Allan Bishop, of Annapolis Royal, is by trade a painter with a long and successful experience ? That said Bishop is ready and willing to tender for the painting of said public building ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. No tenders have been asked for, but an estimate has been made and the amount thereof noted in the Estimates. 2. Mr. Allan Bishop is not known in this department, except by a letter written by the hon. member a few days ago.

**MILLER'S LANDING, FRASER RIVER.**

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. How much did it cost to make the canal or cut through the gravel bar at Miller's Landing, Fraser River, British Columbia, last year ?

(a) What has been the result of the expenditure to the country or locality ?

(b) Has the cut or canal been filled up by the high water so that the expenditure has been wasted or thrown away ?

(c) Were any Conservatives engaged in this work or was it a 'sine qua non' that all employees should be Liberals in Canadian politics ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). 1. The amount expended last year is \$7,420.71. (a.) The expenditure in question was undertaken in order to restore to its former position,

prior to 1876, the main channel of the Fraser River, considerable erosion having taken place during that period by which 150 acres of valuable improved land had been carried off. Previous to 1894 attempts had been made to stop this erosion by building a wing dam, but unsuccessfully, hence the work of excavation done last year. (b.) There is no report to that effect in the department. (c.) The department does not know anything of the kind and has given no orders to that effect ; but it is very natural that, all things being equal as regards ability, &c., friends should be employed in preference to opponents.

**EXPORTS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR.**

Mr. WALLACE (by Mr. McDougall) asked :

How many bushels of wheat and barrels of flour respectively, being the products of Canada, have been exported from the ports of Montreal, St. John, N.B., Fort William and Winnipeg ?

What are the quantities from each port : (1st) for the year ending 30th June, 1898 ; (2nd) for the six months to 1st January, 1899 ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Pater-son). Wheat exported during fiscal year ending 30th June, 1898 :

| From—              | Bushels.   |
|--------------------|------------|
| Montreal .....     | 4,316,277  |
| Fort William ..... | 8,356,289  |
| St. John, N.B..... | 828,964    |
| Winnipeg .....     | 1,916,942  |
| Total .....        | 15,418,472 |

Flour of wheat exported, fiscal year ending 30th June, 1898 :

| From—              | Barrels. |
|--------------------|----------|
| Montreal .....     | 379,308  |
| Fort William ..... | .....    |
| St. John, N.B..... | 91,083   |
| Winnipeg .....     | 94,355   |
| Total .....        | 564,746  |

Wheat exported, six months ending 31st December, 1898 :

| From—              | Bushels.  |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Montreal .....     | 1,207,341 |
| Fort William ..... | 3,116,186 |
| St. John, N.B..... | 182,170   |
| Winnipeg .....     | 31,665    |
| Total .....        | 4,537,362 |

Flour of wheat exported, six months ending 31st December, 1898 :

| From—              | Barrels. |
|--------------------|----------|
| Montreal .....     | 212,303  |
| Fort William ..... | .....    |
| St. John, N.B..... | 5,050    |
| Winnipeg .....     | 45,850   |
| Total .....        | 263,203  |

**POSTMASTER OF BERTHIER (EN HAUT).**

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

1. What is the salary of the postmaster of Berthier (en haut) ?

2. What is the salary of any and every other person attached to the office or occupying the said building ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). There is an allowance for forward duty of \$20, and also a percentage of the revenue of the post office to the postmaster, he supplying whatever assistance he requires for carrying on the office. Last year he received in all \$470. The caretaker employed by the Department of Public Works and occupying the building, receives no salary.

#### WORKS AT BERTHIER (EN HAUT).

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

1. Whether the Government caused certain works to be executed during the winter of 1896-1897, in the St. Lawrence River, in front of Berthier (en haut), under the supervision of one Victor Forneret ?

2. What was the nature and object of the said works ?

3. How many men worked with the said Forneret at the works in question ?

4. What prices were paid to the said V. Forneret ?

5. What prices were paid to the men working under the said V. Forneret ?

6. How long did the said V. Forneret and the said men work ?

7. Were the said works continued during the year following, and under what engineer ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). 1. No works were executed, but a survey under local charge of Mr. Victor Forneret, C.E., was made. 2. A survey of the Berthier (en haut) channel to determine the position and extent of dredging for eight-foot navigation. 3. Eight. 4. \$4 per day. 5. One assistant at \$3, one at \$1.25, and six at \$1 per day. 6. Mr. Forneret from January to May; one assistant from January to April; seven men from January to March, inclusive. 7. No.

#### ORDINANCES BY YUKON COMMISSIONER.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

How many copies of ordinances made by the Commissioner of the Yukon territory in Council have been received by the Governor in Council under the provisions of 61 Victoria, chapter 6, section 7 ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Twenty-three ordinances passed by the above-named council have been received.

#### KINSHIP OF MR. W. OGILVIE.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

Is Mr. W. Ogilvie, who was appointed to inquire into certain complaints preferred by the miners' committee in Dawson, a connection by marriage with the hon. the Minister of the Interior ?

Mr. CASGRAIN.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I have already stated in the House that Mr. Ogilvie is no relative of mine. If the hon. gentleman wishes to make any more extended or minute researches into my genealogy, he will have to rely upon his own efforts.

#### CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS, 1866.

Mr. ROSS ROBERTSON (by Mr. Beattie) asked :

Will the Canadian volunteers organized in Chicago in May, 1866, and who arrived in Toronto on 4th June, 1866, and volunteered for service at the front during the Fenian raid of that year, be entitled to medals similar to those to be presented to the volunteers of Canada in connection with the same service ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). Yes, if they come under the regulations promulgated with reference to the granting of the medal in question.

#### REPORT OF MAJOR WALSH.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

Is the printed report of Major Walsh, commissioner of the Yukon territory, in the form in which it was presented, or was it altered in certain paragraphs with the consent of Major Walsh ? (a) If it was altered, will the hon. the Minister of the Interior explain what the alterations were ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). The printed report of Major Walsh is in the form in which it was presented.

#### LIQUOR PERMITS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. When did the hon. the Minister of the Interior become aware that Major Walsh issued the liquor permits referred to in "Hansard" of 1899, page 2559 ?

2. Is there any report upon this subject, and if so, what is its date ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. The first intimation which the department had of the issue of the liquor permits referred to was given by a statement, which was dated, at Bennett, on the 1st of April, 1898, from Major Walsh, and which was received here upon the 15th of that month. 2. No report except the above-mentioned statement; a similar statement mailed by Major Walsh from Bennett upon the 25th April, 1898, and a reference to the same permits in the paragraph headed "Liquor" in Major Walsh's report of the 15th August, 1898.

#### WEIGHT MARKS ON FOOD PACKAGES.

Mr. ELLIS asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to introduce legislation at this session requiring

hermetically sealed packages of goods sold in Canada for food, to have their weight marked upon them in a legible manner?

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE** (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). It is not the intention of the Government to introduce such legislation this session. In 1884 an amendment was made to the Weights and Measures Act (47 Vic., chap. 36, sec. 4) enacting that all hermetically sealed packages should have marked upon them the weight of their contents. It was found unworkable, and that section was repealed in the following year by the Act 48-49 Vic., chap. 63, sec. 5.

#### MAIL SERVICE IN THE YUKON DISTRICT.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax) moved :

Copies of all reports, letters, telegrams and communications in writing from the post office inspector having jurisdiction over the Yukon district or territory, or from any other post office inspector, or from any other agent, officer or servant of the Post Office Department respecting the mail service in the Yukon district during the years 1898 and 1899, or respecting the carriage of the mails into or out of the said district during the said years or either of them, and respecting the inefficiency or efficiency of such service, or the failure of any contractor to perform his contract with respect to the carriage of the mails aforesaid, or respecting any other matter or thing connected with the administration of the Post Office Department or of the mail service in the said territory or district during the years aforesaid.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) would allow the words, in the fourth line, after "department"—"or other person" to be added, I have no objection to the order.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

#### YUKON TERRITORY—CONTRACTS FOR MAIL SERVICE.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** moved for :

Copies of all contracts or agreements entered into by or with the Postmaster General or the Post Office Department or Her Majesty or the Government of Canada for the carriage of the mails into or out of the Yukon territory or district or any part thereof; and also copies of all advertisements for tenders for the carriage as aforesaid of such mails, and all tenders received by the Postmaster General, the Post Office Department or the Government of Canada or Her Majesty the Queen, for the carriage of mails into or out of the Yukon territory or district, also copies of all reports, letters or communications in writing from the post office inspector at Victoria, or any other post office inspector, or any other officer of the Post Office Department with respect to such tenders or advertisements or with respect to the acceptance or rejection of any of the said tenders.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). I have no objection to this motion

passing, under the same conditions as the other. I do not know what may be in these reports of the inspectors, and I take it, that it is understood by the House, that, if there is anything confidential in the reports of the inspectors, they are privileged.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. According to the ordinary rule.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. I do not know what may be in them.

Mr. **SPEAKER**. I fancy that is in the discretion of the Minister.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. There is a rule in regard to that.

Motion agreed to.

#### SITTING ON FRIDAY.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. Before we take up the motions, I would like to ask my hon. friend the First Minister, whether it is intended, as there is a holiday on Thursday, that the House shall meet on Friday?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Yes.

#### A MILITARY PENSION SYSTEM.

Mr. **SAMUEL HUGHES** (North Victoria) moved :

That in the opinion of this House, a pension system should be established for officers and men of the Canadian permanent corps and of the headquarters and district staff who are not under the Civil Service Act.

He said : Mr. Speaker, in moving this motion, I feel that the task on the present occasion is rather an easy one. Some years ago, when a motion, that the officers of the permanent corps should receive a pension, was before this House, there was considerable antagonism to it among the members. I am very pleased to be able to state—and I think the debate will bear me out—that thus far I have not met one single member of the House of Commons who is not in favour of this motion. Many of the members of this House, when I have consulted them in regard to the motion, have expressed astonishment at the fact, that the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of our permanent corps were not already in a position to receive a pension on their retirement. Indeed, Sir, the astonishment of a number of the members of the House has been very great that Canada should for so long have failed in her duty to the men who give their time, and, in case of necessity, are prepared to offer up their lives in the service of their country. The motion which I have made does not go into the details of the subject at all. All I am desirous of doing here is to enunciate the principle, and to leave the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden), with his very excellent staff of officers, to work out the details of the scheme.

While I am discussing this subject, I may be permitted, in view of the circumstances that have transpired somewhat recently, to offer a word in behalf of the old soldier. There seems to be an opinion—which finds expression among very few people, I am happy to say—that the old soldier is not a desirable citizen; but I stand here to prove, by going into details, if necessary, that no finer class of citizen has ever found a home in the Dominion of Canada than the old soldier. The mere fact, that many of our most prominent men are either old soldiers themselves or the sons of old soldiers, is in itself sufficient to answer that. The late Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald was a son of an old soldier. The late Hon. Senator John Macdonald, noted as a business man, a statesman, a philanthropist and a merchant, was himself born and brought up in the ranks of one of Her Majesty's regiments. The late Colonel A. M. Smith, of Toronto, was also an old soldier. Sir David Macpherson was another old soldier; and, Sir, I could go on with a list of the prominent men of Canada, and I venture to say, that the great majority of them have been either old soldiers or the sons of old soldiers. There is no better type of man than the old soldier. The discipline he receives makes him a law-abiding citizen: and, wherever you find a colony of old soldiers, there you find law and order maintained to the very highest degree. Wherever you find the old soldier, you find a spirit of loyalty diffused, not only among themselves, but among those with whom they come in contact. Thrift and honesty predominate wherever the old soldier is found, and morality furnishes no higher example. On this subject, I may be permitted to quote an authority which, I am sure, will find ready acceptance in this House. Major-General Miles, in answering the question: "Does military service make a man better fitted for the duties of civil life than he would be without it?" says:

Beyond all question. It teaches him to concentrate his mind on what he is doing. He carries with him into business and professional life the idea that there is a right way to do a thing, and that it is always the best way to do it. It does not make the citizen less original, but it makes him quicker in his actions, more decisive in his speech. It polishes him as nothing else on earth possibly could do. The German government takes the raw citizen and makes of him a man with not only a military but a social training. It makes him bathe. It makes him comb and brush his hair. It teaches him to keep his clothing clean. It requires a certain amount of athletic exercise, and improves his physical condition. It requires him to walk erect. But, above all, it teaches him discipline. The German system makes men—it does more, it makes gentlemen. It makes good citizens, with respect for authority.

All that General Miles has said in reference to the German soldier, I am free to state, can be said, and with even greater force, with respect to the British soldier.

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Now, Sir, if we review the custom among the nations of the earth, we shall find, that Canada, alone of all the countries pretending to have a permanent corps, fails to recognize the services of her officers, non-commissioned officers and men by granting them a pension. The United States Government pay their officers and men on active service a much larger sum than does the Canadian Government. The British pay, while it is not as great per man in the home corps, yet abroad, in India, in China, or in Africa, is greater than the Canadian soldier receives. In any event, the pay of the British officer is infinitely greater than the pay of the Canadian officer. I shall not go into the figures; they have been presented to the House on former occasions, and they do not come within the scope of my motion. Suffice it to say, that the pay of the Canadian officer of senior rank is not one-third that of the American officer, and is only about one-half that of the British officer, under similar circumstances.

The pay of our soldiers is lower than that received by our labouring men, and the pay of our officers is lower than that of clerks in dry goods or grocery stores or any branch of the civil service. When one comes to make an analysis, he finds that the senior officer in a permanent corps ranks, as regards pay, about the same as a second-class clerk in one of the Government departments. I purpose in a very few words later on giving a little summary of what is required of one of these officers, and while I do not wish to make any comparison, yet there can be no doubt that the duties devolving upon these officers and the expenditure they have to incur exceed those imposed upon the officials of any other branch of the public service. I do not condemn this Government any more than its predecessors, but the whole matter is one that should bring a blush to members on both sides, especially those who have the honour to be privy councillors.

I shall ask permission to read a letter which I received from Fredericton, N.B., a few days ago, and which is merely one among scores of others:

Dear Sir,—In 1878 I was appointed caretaker of Red Head Battery, St. John. I was transferred to Fredericton in 1881 to look after the Government property there. In 1884 I joined the permanent corps, and filled the position of hospital sergeant for fifteen years. My time expired on the 7th of January last, and I could not be re-enlisted as I was over age. I am fifty-three years of age (but was still able to do my work). I was in the Government service the best of my life, and then they turned me out without a recompense of any kind. I think when the Government give commissioned officers something (when their time expired) they should have given the non-commissioned officers something also. I was out in the Fenian raid.

I am, yours respectfully,

ROBERT COCHRANE,  
Late Hospital Sergeant, R.R.C.I.

This is merely one of many letters of a similar nature. Turning to the officers, what

do we find? I might, but shall not do so, give the names of officers who have been in the service of the Dominion as district officers commanding, or, in former days, as deputy adjutant generals, who, when the age limit was attained, were turned out without a dollar and subjected to public charity. These facts are well known. We find to-day some of these officers filling some of the most menial positions in the public service in order to eke out a livelihood.

I shall take the opportunity of mentioning two officers, whose names are honoured wherever the name of Canada is known. The first is Col. Henry Smith, late District Officer Commanding at London, Ont., who has lately been retired on a gratuity. He is not finding any fault with the treatment accorded to him in pursuance of the custom that has prevailed, but what are the facts? Those who know Col. Smith know that from his youth, his life services have been at the service of his country. He, a barrister, gave the best years of his manhood to that service. He was out in the Fenian raid of 1866, and on every other occasion when the troops were called on. In 1885 he went at the head of the Royal Regiment Canadian Infantry from the city of Toronto and took an active part in the engagements in the North-west, risking his life for his country, and since then he has been constantly engaged in the military service of the Dominion. On attaining the age of 60—I regret to say that the limit was changed from 63 to 60—he was retired on a gratuity, though still in the prime of life and vigour, and I am satisfied that there is not a member of this House who will not admit that he is entitled to infinitely better treatment than he has received.

I would also take the liberty of mentioning another officer who is on the borderland of retirement. I refer to Col. Otter, of Toronto. Col. Otter's reputation is well known. As adjutant of the Queen's Own, he served at Ridgeway in 1866; was afterwards appointed its colonel, led his forces in the North-west in 1885, and later on was given the office of District Officer Commanding in Toronto. His influence and example to the young men of that city and the country are alone worth his weight in gold, but he is now verging on the age of 60, and in another year or so will be retired on a gratuity which will not be at all commensurate with his services or the dignity of the position he has filled.

I think I am correct in saying that it is a rule of the British House of Commons that once a member of that Parliament has occupied the position of Minister of the Crown, he may, on making the request, receive a large income annually for the rest of his life, the principle being that a person who has occupied the distinguished position of a Minister of the Crown should never be permitted to fall into want. I submit that the man who occupies a distinguished position

of district officer commanding or the head of one of our permanent corps should never be allowed by a proud and wealthy country such as this is to fall into a position of want. I know where the heart of the hon. Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden) is in these matters, and I am satisfied both sides of the House will give him the right support, if he will take the matter boldly up. I trust the hon. Minister will not only regard matters for the future but take the cases of deserving officers still alive and who have been superannuated or retired and deal fairly and squarely by them, and I am confident there is not a man of standing on either side of the House who will not endorse the Minister's action.

Once in a while, in dealing with military matters, one does come across some poor, bilious, carping, destructive critic. You will find that creature saying: Why cannot these fellows save up some of their money; look at the poor farmer and mechanic, how they have to work; let these fellows just save up their money.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. HUGHES. I am very sorry to hear any man in the House say "hear, hear" to any such sentiment. In the first place, the officers of the permanent corps in the Dominion have to spend large sums in acquiring the education necessary to fit them for the position of district officer commanding or like offices. This involves a large outlay in dollars and cents, if you look at it merely from that standpoint. Then they are required, and rightly, to spend large sums for their uniform and other necessary items in connection with the mess and keeping up the establishments of their regiments. The lowest estimate that is made or can be made of the annual outlay of an officer in such matters is 25 per cent of his total income. More than that, Sir, these officers have calls made upon them in connection with entertainments and public functions. There is not a public entertainment of any importance, no public function such as the opening and closing of this House, but the officers have to turn out. And the very men who say that these officers should save their money and not squander it would be the first to criticise them if they did not turn out in proper military costume and in proper order. Again, an officer from an outlying district, or a member of Parliament from some constituency from a distance, happens to visit London, Toronto, Ottawa, Kingston, or any of these centres where these permanent corps are stationed; let one of these members of Parliament, these gentlemen with defective livers, meet an officer occupying such a position as I refer to and not receive courteous treatment in the way of a lunch or some little notice that involves the expenditure of dollars and cents, and he will be prepared to say that the officer is niggardly in his treat-

ment of public men and not fit for his position.

However, Sir, I know that I am merely setting up men of straw and knocking them down, because I feel that in this House and in this country no serious objection is raised to the granting of a pension for the permanent officers, non-commissioned officers and men of our force. Municipalities pension their officers, school boards do the same; boards of police commissioners pension their policemen; banking institutions their clerks, and business houses their old and trusted servants. The Dominion of Canada makes an exception of her soldiers, and the Dominion of Canada is alone among the countries of the earth in refusing pensions to the officers and men of her permanent corps. It will be observed that I do not ask the House to declare that any particular method should be followed; I only propose that a pension should be granted. My opinion in drafting the motion was that, so far as the details of the scheme are concerned, the Minister of Militia is able to conceive them and the officers of his department to work them out.

However, I take the liberty of suggesting that, for the officers, a gratuity and insurance might meet the difficulty, a gratuity on retirement without a pension, or a smaller gratuity with a pension for life. And when I speak of insurance, I mean that the officer, non-commissioned officer or man should have insurance commensurate with his rank and period of service, to provide something for his family in case of his death. I do not suggest that only a straight pension should be given officers, non-commissioned officers and men. I believe that a straight pension would be found a most acceptable mode with the rank and file. I have consulted many of them, and the universal opinion among the rank and file of the permanent corps is in favour of a pension for them; while a gratuity, or gratuity and pension is favoured among the officers. Another suggestion I would make is, that if any officer, non-commissioned officer or man chooses to become a settler in the North-west, or anywhere else where we have public lands, he should be given enough land for a farm with a sufficient outfit to begin life as a settler. So I summarize my suggestions thus: A life insurance, so that the families of all soldiers, be they officers or men, should be provided for, payable at the death of the soldier; second, a gratuity or gratuity with pension, or grant of a farm and outfit, equivalent to a gratuity.

It is needless to say that were these inducements held out to the force, we should have a better force. Admit that the men in the permanent corps to-day are good men; there is a possibility that these men would be better or that better men might be brought into the force if better inducements were given. I am satisfied that good men would remain longer in the service. From 1892 to 1897, the average total of the force was 792; and on this average number in this time

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there were 847 desertions. Given something to look forward to whereby their wives and families might be supported, I am satisfied that these men would not have deserted, but would have remained longer in the service. Again, better qualified officers would be obtained. What is the fact? The young officer passes the Royal Military College. Under the laws of our country he is eligible for the permanent corps. But will he accept service in the permanent corps? No. These graduates prefer to go engineering, they prefer to go farming, to take service in the Imperial army, to go anywhere to gain a livelihood—even to go, I am sorry to say, to the United States—rather than to take service in our permanent corps, because of the beggarly salaries offered and the niggardly treatment meted out to the soldiers on retirement. I am satisfied that were the proposal I make carried out, there would be a better force all round. Besides, the example to the young men of the country would be better, if this change were made and the permanent corps would better fill the bill as schools of instruction.

My object in bringing the motion before the House is merely to declare the principle, not to go into details of rates of pay or to calculate the cost. These are matters of detail that can better be settled by officers of the department. I am pleased to find that members of this House, one and all, seem favourable to the proposal—in fact, I have yet to meet a member of this House who is opposed to the granting of pensions, while many of them have expressed surprise to me when they found that no pensions were given to members of the permanent corps.

Before resuming my seat, I may explain that, as the hon. member for Victoria, B.C. (Mr. Prior) had taken the matter up with the officers some years ago, I would have given the matter into his hands but that, as hon. members know, the hon. gentleman was not here at the opening of the session when I put the notice on the Order paper. Nor would I have taken the matter up had I known that the department had the case under consideration. I have been informed that for upwards of a year this matter has been engaging the attention of the officers of the department. However, no harm will be done by discussing it in the House and have the Minister's hands strengthened by the expressions of opinions by hon. members on both sides.

Mr. GEO. E. CASEY (West Elgin). Before the Minister is called on to say anything in regard to this motion, it would perhaps be interesting for him to hear from a few gentlemen on both sides of the House in regard to it. I am glad the hon. member (Mr. Hughes) has brought this matter before the House. It seems to me that too little attention has been paid to perfecting our necessarily small Canadian force of regulars. It is necessarily a small force, because we cannot afford to keep up a large one. But if they are few, that is all the

more reason why they should be fit; and I believe that some action in the line suggested by my hon. friend would add to the fitness of that force. There has been a strong disposition in this House to object to superannuation or pensions in the case of a public officer or servant: in the case of a civil servant, we have, in fact, decreed that from henceforth they shall not exist. But there are special circumstances in the case of a soldier which do not exist in that of a civil servant. He is not highly paid, as the hon. member has pointed out; he is unable, therefore, to carry any considerable insurance, even if it be carried by the Government on the basis of a reduction from his salary; his profession, besides, disqualifies him for obtaining insurance, as it is necessarily a risky one. Finally, of all persons in the world, a soldier who has served a considerable time in that capacity, is least fitted to take up any ordinary form of business. The reasons, then, I think are vastly stronger for urging a pension in the case of our permanent force than in the case of an ordinary official or civil servant.

To be sure, the case of officers differs somewhat from that of soldiers. The officers are, for the most part, reasonably permanent. Soldiers enter for short terms, and it is rather in the public interest that they should only engage for short terms, say two or three years, just about long enough to teach them the drill thoroughly, and to make them efficient soldiers. It should be one of the objects of the permanent force not only to act as instructors of the volunteer officers, but to train from year to year a certain number of men who would afterwards, though in civil life all the time, form the nucleus of an emergency force when called upon. So, I think it is rather desirable that the privates in our permanent corps should not be engaged for long terms, but that as many as possible should be run through in a given time, consistently with giving them a thorough knowledge of their duties, so that they might, in case of necessity, become good non-commissioned officers. The case of a man enlisted and drilled for two or three years, is very different from that of an officer who has given the best part of his life to the service. I do not say that the case for a pension to the private soldier is at all as strong as the case of the officer. For the former, undoubtedly the Minister could find some form of reward, in addition to the small pay which is given, to create an inducement for good young men to join the force.

Coming to the case of the officers, the arguments the hon. gentleman advanced seem to me to be almost sufficient to induce the House to agree to his proposal that they should have a pension. I shall not go into particular cases as my hon. friend has done; some of these are known to almost all of us. But I do urge that the position of an officer in our permanent force should be made, and recog-

nized as, a professional position, one to which a man could look as forming not only a means of livelihood while he is active and strong, but a means of provision for his old age after his active period of life is over. Although our army is small, and has not seen a great deal of service—and we hope won't see much service—the army should be a profession in this country if it is going to be of any use to us at all. My hon. friend has referred to the fact that if a pension were given, if the army were made a regular profession, a better class of men might join it. I do not wish to say better class, because I do not wish to cast any reflection on those who are now in the force; but looking to the future, the force could be made more attractive to a certain class of young men than it is now.

My hon. friend has referred to the cadets of the Royal Military College. I shall, perhaps, be within the scope of the motion in saying that I think it would be highly desirable to attract those young men to the permanent corps, and, in fact, to officer the permanent corps exclusively from the graduates of that college. We are paying out a very large annual sum for it; we are giving a considerable number of young men an excellent education, military and civil, and we hope to educate a larger number there in the immediate future. Where is the outlet for them? It is not to be found in the civil service, for they are given no preference there; it is not to be found in the permanent corps, for they have not been given any preference there, although that has been promised them by regulations of the department in years gone by. They must necessarily go into the civil walks of life, or into foreign countries to obtain a livelihood. Now, I look upon the money spent upon the Royal Military College as wasted unless we utilize these young men. The first and most proper opening I can see for them is to officer the permanent corps exclusively from these young men, for whose training we have paid so highly, and who have done so much credit to that institution when they have appeared elsewhere before the public eye. To look to the very latest instance, young Girouard, son of the judge, formerly a member of this House; he was one of the most noted personages in the late Soudan campaign, and was mentioned by all who have referred to that campaign as a notable example of British pluck combined with colonial smartness. He has taken charge of a large administrative department there, running the whole railway system of the campaign, and has done the highest credit not only to the British army, but to Canada, to the Military College, and to the race from which he has sprung. If we had inducements to keep such young men as that in the country, I am sure our small army would be vastly better officered in future than we can hope to see it if we neglect such opportunities.

In the case of both officers and soldiers, however, I should think that a man serving a long term, whether he be in the ranks or an officer, should have a pension. It is necessary to retain a certain number of those who have enlisted as privates, who have proven themselves, and who have become non-commissioned officers, in order to keep up the tone of the service. Those who remain long terms and the non-commissioned officers, should have a pension, in my opinion; and those who only serve a short term might receive some reward of a less lasting nature, something that would still be an inducement to them. I do not pretend to pronounce upon the different forms of pension or reward which the hon. member has referred to. I think, doubtless, the Minister, with his military advisers, could come to some correct decision on that point. But I have much pleasure in adding my voice to that of the hon. member in urging upon the House and upon the Minister and the Government, the absolute necessity of devising some plan such as that suggested, to make our permanent corps more attractive, more efficient and more worth what it costs us.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) Mr. Speaker, it was with the greatest pleasure that I noticed the motion that the hon. and gallant member for North Victoria (Mr. Hughes), had placed on the Order paper at the beginning of this session. It is a matter that I have taken a great deal of interest in. In 1893 I brought forward a motion upon the same lines as that of the hon. gentleman. I might say here that my hon. and gallant friend, the mover of this motion, was rather mistaken when he said that my motion only applied to officers. I think if you will read it, Mr. Speaker, you will find that it applies to all ranks. It was as follows:—

That in the opinion of this House it is expedient that a scheme should be devised by the Government whereby the permanent corps of the Canadian militia, the headquarters and district staffs, should, after a certain number of years' service, become entitled to receive from the Government pensions, so as to place them on a similar footing with similar organizations in other countries and with the civil service of Canada.

Now, Sir, I brought that matter before the House in 1893, and again I moved a similar motion in 1894, but I am sorry to say, that I did not find the support that I certainly was bound to expect in a matter of this kind. It seemed to me that a gross injustice was being done to a splendid body of men in this country. They are really the flower of the country, and why they should be treated any worse than other men of the same standing, in any other country, I cannot imagine. In the speeches that I made in those two years, I went very fully into the details, more than I need do to-day, and I

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did not then apologize to the House for bringing this matter to its attention; I do not do so now, but I will not repeat all the figures I gave then, because the hon. member for North Victoria (Mr. Hughes) has gone into it very fully. I would suggest that if any hon. gentleman who takes an interest in the matter now, greater than he did in the past, would look up those speeches he would find a great deal of information that he may not have at the present time. Canada is now better able to pay her soldiers than she was in the past. I do not think the Government of that day did the right thing in not supporting this matter any more than the Government of the present day will be right if they do not support it, but I believe they will, because the feeling is different in the country, as well as in the House, from what it was in those days. I think it will be well to show the House the difference in the pay received by our Canadian soldiers and that received in the British Islands and in the United States. Take a lieutenant-colonel, after twelve years of service in Great Britain, he receives \$133.25 per month and can retire with a pension of \$101.25 per month. In the United States service, after twelve years, a lieutenant-colonel gets \$225 a month, and can retire with \$120 a month. In Canada a lieutenant-colonel, after twelve years' service, gets \$120 a month, and no pension to retire on. After twenty years' service in Great Britain a lieutenant-colonel gets \$133.25 a month, and can retire on \$121.50. In the United States a lieutenant-colonel, after twenty years' service, gets \$333.33, and can retire on \$250 a month, whereas, a lieutenant-colonel who serves twenty years in Canada, gets no more than after he serves twelve years, namely, \$120 a month and no pension to look forward to. A major, after twelve years in the British service, gets \$117 a month, and has a retiring gratuity of \$5,832; an American major gets \$200 a month, and can retire on \$187.50 a month, while a Canadian major after twelve years' service, gets \$105 a month and has nothing to look forward to after he retires. It is the same in regard to captains. In the British service a captain gets \$84.60 a month; the American, \$180 a month, and the Canadian \$105 a month. These figures refer to infantry officers. Artillerymen and engineers get more in the English service and in the American service. I quite agree with the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey), that, to a certain extent, short service is a good thing. In the case of a man who goes into the permanent corps for three years, it does not do him much harm if he has to earn his livelihood afterwards. But a man who has put in twelve or fifteen years, and it takes all of that time to make a good non-commissioned officer nowadays, especially in the artillery and engineering branches, in which the requirements are different from what they were ten or fifteen years ago,

has nothing to retire upon, at the present time. I think there is an idea amongst certain people in this country that a soldier's life is an idle one. Let those who think so try it and see for themselves. It is early and late, and they have a great deal of hard work to do. They have a good time sometimes, it is true, but so have other people, but the pay that a soldier gets is lamentably small, in my opinion. In Canada, a soldier gets 40 cents a day with a certain amount of uniform, but there are a number of things that he must buy for himself if he is to be comfortable at all: shoes, underclothing and all sorts of things, and if he smokes and takes a glass of grog, which, I suppose, some hon. gentlemen in this House think he should not do, but which a great many of them do, I am glad to say, he has to pay for these things out of his 40 cents. If his name is not in the defaulters' book he may get 47 cents a day, so that from 40 cents to 47 cents a day is all that he has to live on year in and year out. A man cannot get into much mischief on that, and where is he going to save? I notice that there is now the same spirit as there previously was amongst certain hon. gentlemen who seem to think that soldiers are well paid and that they ought to save out of their pay. As the hon. member for West Elgin has said, it is harder on the officers than on the men because they certainly do not go out after putting in three years' of service; they stay there year in and year out and they have to continue studying hard to qualify themselves for promotion. It is scarcely necessary that I should reiterate the expense that an officer is put to. Anybody, who has gone around barracks or amongst soldiers, knows very well that the expenses of an officer are legion, and no one would have it altered to any great extent. Certainly, some regiments are more extravagant than others, although commanding officers are getting pretty strict in seeing that subalterns do not overstep the amount to which they might go. But the officers have a certain amount of entertaining to do, and a certain position to keep up, and I think Canada is strong enough financially to see that the men who serve her in that capacity are treated as well as men of similar standing in any other country. Take the staff officers, whose case, I think, presents a most glaring injustice. Take the Assistant Adjutant General stationed at Halifax or Esquimalt in the Imperial service. He gets \$3,500 a year, and he can look forward to a pension, according to the age at which he retires and the rank he holds on retiring. Men who are doing the same work for Canada, the deputy-adjutants general, now the district officers commanding, only get \$1,750 a year.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). They get about \$2,200, including allowances.

Mr. PRIOR. That is with allowances, and all?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes.

Mr. PRIOR. The English assistant adjutant general gets exactly the same allowance as our officer does; but our officer cannot look forward to any pension. It may be different now, but some of the Canadian officers are not even getting the allowance that they used to get. Brigade-majors in England receive \$3,000 a year, and they then look forward to a good pension, while our brigade-majors get only \$1,200 at present, with certain allowances, which, however, makes no difference in the comparison, as the English brigade-majors have an allowance also. As has been remarked, the uniforms, especially for some branches of the service, are very expensive, and the officer on such small pay has a difficult job to make both ends meet at the end of the year. When I brought this matter up on a previous occasion, I had the hearty support of Sir Adolphe Caron, who was for so many years Minister of Militia, and I have no fear at all, that my hon. friend (Mr. Hughes) the mover of the motion will have the hearty support of the present Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden), because the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) has a knowledge of these things, not from hearsay, but from having been through the mill himself; and he has been in every-day intercourse with the gentlemen holding these positions. I know that his heart must go out to them in this matter, and I feel that now, at any rate, they will get justice from that department—whether the Minister can get his colleagues to support him, is another question. It is sometimes said, that the soldier has not a hard life. But, Sir, what is to be said of those officers and men who have been sent to the Yukon, and who, I know, are having a pretty hard time of it. Any one of these men on the permanent corps may be sent on similar service to-morrow, and, surely, men who are ready to fight, and bleed, and die for their country, are worth while paying well for their services. It is a shame, that, after they have given the best years of their life and service to the country, they should be allowed to drift into pauperism, and, through no fault of their own, be a disgrace to the country. If both officers and men could look forward to the country showing a little thankfulness to them in a financial way, you could get the very best class of men to enter the service. The men you are getting now are good men, but every year makes it more imperative that first-class men should be obtained. It is getting harder and harder every year, for officers especially, to pass the qualifying examinations for the positions they hold. Our civil servants have been superannuated in the past, and I hope they will continue to be so. The Mounted Police are as fine a body of men as you will find the world over.

It was the general opinion expressed about the few Mounted Police who attended the Queen's Jubilee, that they were as fine a body of men as any military force in the world could supply. They have been under the Pension Act for some years past, and it is chiefly for that reason that you can get such a fine class of men to enter the service. The Mounted Police have hard work, and they have to undergo a good deal of privation in bad weather, but, if they get pensions, why not the men of the permanent corps? I know there is a feeling among certain people in Canada, that we should not have a standing army, and, if you like, we do not want a standing army, but we must have a permanent corps, to teach the officers and men who enter the active militia, and be a nucleus for that force. The permanent force are supposed to teach the forty or fifty thousand men of the active militia, who are ready to come to the aid of the country in times of trouble. You must have competent men in the permanent corps to do this teaching and training, or else the money you spend on them is simply thrown away. I do hope the gentlemen who, perhaps, are apathetic on this subject, would look into it thoroughly, and study the speeches that have been delivered in this House by former Ministers of Militia and by hon. members on both sides of politics. I do believe, that the mover of this resolution is asking nothing but what is just and fair for a very deserving class of the community, and I trust that the matter will not be shelved, as it has been in the past. I have great pleasure in seconding the motion.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). I have listened with a great deal of interest to the three speeches which have been made on this very interesting and important motion, and I am bound to say, that, from my point of view, I agree almost entirely with everything that has been said. It seems to me, that, if the state is to give pensions or superannuations at all, there are none who so richly deserve state aid of this kind as are the men who give their lives to the service of their country. My hon. friend from West Elgin (Mr. Casey), in considering this question, called attention to the fact, that the three years term of service in Canada is a very short one, and suggested, I think, very properly, that there should be a discrimination between men who serve only three years, or perhaps a little over, and those who really make soldiering their life work and remain in the service until they can stay no longer by reason of their age. A man may go to one of the depots and serve three years; he may retire a very much better man in every respect than he was when he entered, and be quite fit to engage in the ordinary duties of life. That I concede at once; but, if he remains in the service twenty or twenty-five years, or to

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the full age limit, I certainly think every one will agree, that he has become unfitted for business life, and unable, largely, to earn a living for himself. And how has he become unfitted for civil employment? He has become thus unfitted by reason of his services to the country and the sacrifices he has made in the interests of the state. Therefore, in my opinion, he has the strongest possible claim to the consideration of the state, when that period of his life has been attained. Another point made by my hon. friend (Mr. Hughes) has considerable force in it. I refer to his remarks as to the large number of desertions, and his statement, that, if the men who entered the permanent force knew there was to be some means provided for them later in life, it would be an inducement to them to serve more heartily, more honestly, to look forward for promotion, and to stick to the service, and give it the benefit of their best efforts. I believe there is no question whatever about that. The hon. gentleman from Victoria, B.C. (Mr. Prior) referred to the fact, that the North-west Mounted Police receive pensions. We have on the Statute-books a special Act by which the men of that force receive pensions, and we also have a provision by which the officers of the Mounted Police are taken care of under the Superannuation Act, they being put on the same footing as the members of the civil service. My hon. friend (Mr. Prior) asked, why a distinction should be drawn between the officers and men of the North-west Mounted Police and the officers and men of the permanent force. I am bound to admit, frankly, that I cannot tell him why any such distinction should be drawn, and I may add, that, in my opinion, I do not think there should be any distinction. My hon. friend (Mr. Prior) also referred to the fact, that some people said, we did not require a standing army in Canada. Well, we have no standing army in Canada. We have 800 men or so, who constitute a teaching body, the military schools of this country. These men are there as instructors and through them military instruction is conveyed to the militia of Canada, and without this organization our active militia would be of very little use indeed. It is absolutely necessary to have a corps of instructors, and to have a corps of instructors, we must have a permanent force.

My hon. friend who introduced the motion referred to the age limit, by which officers reaching the age of 60 years are compelled to leave the service. I did not understand him to find fault with our regulations. What he did find fault with was that there was no adequate provision, as he claimed, by which those men who had given their time and their lives to the service of the country for many years were enabled to have sufficient money to live upon decently and comfortably for the rest of their lives. The present system, which was not explained by the mover, is this. When an officer, say an officer com-

manding a district, is retired, he receives, not a pension, but a gratuity, equal to one-tenth of his annual salary for every year that he has served. For example, an officer who has served ten years will, at the time of his retirement, receive a gratuity equal to one full year's salary. If a man is in receipt of \$2,500 a year at the time he goes out of the service, and has served twenty years, he will receive a gratuity equal to \$5,000, which is, I think, the amount of gratuity on the average which has been paid to the different officers who have been retired. The question may be asked, why do you not allow men to go on indefinitely, to the age of 70, or even to a greater age? Well, it has been found that 60 is about the limit of age at which on the average a man is found to be useful in military life, and that is why that age limit has been fixed. It has been considered not to be in the public interest to keep a man in command of a district after he has reached the age of 60, and I think it is decidedly in the public interest that the age limit which we have prescribed should be adhered to. But I think that makes it all the more important that we should provide some adequate means by which these men should have something to depend upon after they retire from the service. My hon. friend the mover of the resolution has pointed out the necessary expenses which pertain to a man in military life. Men are apt to say that an officer receiving \$2,000 or \$2,500, or even more, with allowances, ought to be able to lay by something every year to provide for his living comfortably after his retirement from the service. But I can assure hon. members, from a pretty intimate knowledge of the facts, that the sum we pay is utterly inadequate to enable an officer living in accordance with the rules and in the way in which this country would desire its officers to live, to put away any portion of his salary to provide for his old age, and I think it is important that this matter should be carefully looked into. I may say that during the short time I have been in the Militia Department, I have met with some exceedingly sad cases. Over and over again, I have had applications from men who have been sergeants, or have held other positions in the militia, and have served the country faithfully, and by reason of age have been obliged to leave the service—men who have been able, owing to the small amount of money they received, to save little or nothing, and have been obliged to go out again to the cold world to seek a livelihood. These men have come to me to ask me to give them a position somewhere; and I may say that I have been very glad to be able on several occasions, in connection with the care of our rifle ranges and drill-sheds, to do something for these unfortunate men. But I can assure hon. members that many of these men are to-day in a condition of want, for whom it is impossible for us to provide; but I do think it is time the matter was seriously considered. I may say that I have already given the matter some consid-

eration, but I am not able to say that I have solved the problem. There might, perhaps, be found a way, by asking for a small contribution from each one of these officers, somewhat similar to the plan under the Superannuation Act, by which, with a very slight charge, indeed, upon the treasury of the country, the means would be provided of affording a pension to these men. I thank the mover for the hints he has given as to the means by which this end might be attained. I am not able, as I have said, to offer any opinion at this moment as to which one should be adopted. The matter is engaging my attention, however, and I hope before long to have matured some views on the subject to bring to the notice of my colleagues in the Government. Of course, what I have said here I have said simply speaking for myself as the head of the department, and not having proposed any scheme to my colleagues. But I shall endeavour to formulate some scheme to propose to them, and I hope to be able at the next session of Parliament to bring it to the notice of the House.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** Mr. Speaker, the discussion which has just taken place is a very interesting one, and I do not intend to detain the House after the very full manner in which both the mover and the seconder of this resolution have put the case before the House, which has also received the attention of the Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden). But I think the time has come when it is recognized by everybody in Canada that measures of a more determined character must be taken in order to put the defensive forces of the country upon a thoroughly efficient footing; and it appears to me that the Government have wisely in the past determined that one of the absolute essentials to the attainment of that object is to have a small permanent force, whose entire time and attention would be devoted to the work of forming a nucleus—you may call it a standing army or not, as you like; it practically is that—a small permanent force, whose training is constant and whose entire time is devoted to acquiring that knowledge of military duty which it is absolutely necessary that a military force shall have, and for the purpose of having that small force in such a position that you may make it the centre around which you may rally the entire military force of the country in case of any emergency, and impart to them the more quickly all the advantages of training which the smaller force has acquired. The position of Canada is a very exceptional one, entirely different from that of the great island continent of Australasia. That continent is entirely surrounded by the sea, whereas we are here, five and a half millions, or thereabouts, of Canadians, bordering on a foreign country with a very large population. I am inclined to think that the Imperial authorities have not considered sufficiently the different position in

which Canada stands as regards the question of defensive operations compared with that of almost any other portion of the Empire. Under the circumstances in which we are placed, it appears absolutely necessary, in order to inspire that confidence among our own people and that respect among our neighbours which it is desirable both should possess, to show that we are alive to the necessity of taking such means and measures as are necessary to provide for an efficient protective force in case of need.

After listening to the hon. gentlemen on this side who have so fully dealt with the subject and also to hon. gentlemen on the other side, especially the Minister of Militia, who says the subject has his careful attention, I am inclined to think we will all come to the conclusion that it will be found absolutely necessary to adopt some such means as all other countries which have a valuable defensive force have been compelled to adopt in order to induce men of good character and intelligence to enter the force and remain there. Whether that is to be done by a system of pensions or by other means, it certainly will have to be accomplished. The suggestion that we should utilize a portion of our great territorial domain for that purpose is, I think, a very valuable one. I do not see why a man who has spent a certain number of years in our military service—whether as an officer or in the ranks—should not be entitled to a grant of land of a valuable character, and thus be given the means of earning an honest livelihood after he has left the service. That would still give us the further advantage of spreading through our outlying territories and provinces men whose knowledge and training in the military service will make of them not only valuable settlers, but a nucleus from which military training and education may be disseminated through the great mass of our population. I do not intend to prolong the discussion, but shall conclude by saying that I am very glad the Government are giving this important question their attention.

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE**. Perhaps my hon. friend will now consider that he has done all he could accomplish at present, and will withdraw his motion.

Mr. **HUGHES**. I hope that I will accomplish more than was achieved by my hon. friend from Victoria (Mr. Prior), whose motion was adopted a few years ago by the House and then shelved, I presume.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). When was that?

Mr. **HUGHES**. In 1893. I was, unfortunately, absent when that motion was brought up or I would have given it my most hearty support and encouragement. I would venture to suggest to the hon. Minis-

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ter, in reply to his suggestion to assess each officer and man a small sum in order to constitute a pension fund, that that would still further reduce the very small income these men now receive. As has been pointed out by my hon. friend from Victoria, B.C. (Mr. Prior), the pay of our officers is infinitely less than that of similar men in any other nation on the face of the globe, and I would respectfully suggest the advisability of increasing the pay, especially of the rank above second lieutenant. The smallness of the pay is really a shame. No good man will enter the service unless he is an ardent, enthusiastic soldier, or has private means, and remain there, the pay is so small. With regard to the pension for men of only three years' service, of course in the British army no man receives a pension unless he has served twelve years, and I would suggest a like term. However, I do not propose to go into these details, because I know the officers of the department are thoroughly conversant with the matter; and inasmuch as the Minister of Militia has given my remarks his hearty endorsement as well as the hon. leader of the Opposition, and inasmuch as I can tell by the pleased expression of the right hon. First Minister that he is at heart in favour of this resolution, I accede to the wish of the hon. Minister and ask leave to withdraw my motion.

Motion withdrawn.

#### APPOINTMENTS BY A RETIRING GOVERNMENT.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER** (Cape Breton) moved for:

Copies of all cablegrams, papers, correspondence and despatches or other writing upon which the right hon. the Prime Minister of Canada based the statement in the House of Commons on the 10th June, 1898, as follows:—"I have the authority of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to state that he approves of the principles on which the Governor General acted, as based on the facts set forth in the letter of His Excellency to Sir Charles Tupper."

He said: I hope it will not be necessary for me to occupy very much of the time of the House on this resolution, although its subject is one that I consider very important. The House will remember that one of the fundamental principles of government in Canada, recognized from the commencement of confederation down to the present, is that we enjoy here the English parliamentary system, and it is perfectly understood that when a Canadian precedent is wanting, we fall back upon those of the mother country, and are guided and controlled by them in our administration. I may say that with regard to all matter connected with changes of government, from the establishment of confederation down to 1896, the practice of all Governors General and of all Governments were to recognize the thoroughly well understood British prece-

dent that a party called upon to form an Administration and which did form a Government was entitled to all the rights and immunities and privileges that have ever been attached to that responsible position, in Great Britain, at all events, ever since parliamentary government has been understood and carried out in that country; and I think the House will agree with me that there is no country in the world in which parliamentary government has been better understood than in that great country to which we owe our fealty. When the late Sir John Macdonald felt that he had not such a majority in this House as would warrant his continuance in power, he tendered, in 1873, the resignation of himself and his Government into the hands of the then Governor General.

The Marquis of Dufferin, who, I think, it will be admitted by every hon. gentleman in this House, was one of the most experienced and one of the ablest men who ever controlled the administration of public affairs in the Dominion of Canada, was then Governor General. On that occasion, following the practice invariably pursued in Great Britain, the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, from the time he tendered his resignation down to the time his successors were sworn into office and assumed the responsibilities of office, discharged all the duties of Government, just as they are discharged in England, filled the various offices that remained to be filled, and performed all the duties in as full and complete a manner as he would have done, if he had not tendered his resignation. And the position that the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald took on that occasion, and the sanction he received, was respected in the fullest manner by the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, who felt, that the leader of the previous Government had only exercised the rights to which the position he held entitled him. When, at a subsequent date, the Government of the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, of which my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) was a member, was defeated—and I think my right hon. friend will admit, defeated by one of the most overwhelming majorities in the representative branch of the legislature that every Government of power—and resigned, in the interim between the time the Government was defeated and the time Sir John A. Macdonald again acceded to power, they exercised all the functions of government, just as they are always exercised in England, and just as they had been exercised by Sir John Macdonald after resigning in 1873. Some 133 appointments and promotions that Mr. Mackenzie made after his defeat and before his successors assumed office, were allowed to stand. I think there were only three cases in which any exception was taken to them. Of course, there is no doubt, there is nothing to prevent the exercise by the incoming Government of their judgment in reference to any

particular case. But there were only two or three cases—only one of material importance—to which any exception was taken by the incoming Government. But, so far as the Governor General was concerned, my right hon. friend will remember, he accepted every appointment and approved of every act proposed to him by the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie after his defeat just as he had accepted the proposals and appointments made by Mr. Mackenzie's predecessor, when he had resigned after defeat on a previous occasion.

Now, I may be told, that the case was somewhat different, because Sir John Macdonald, not only was the actual Minister, but had been in power for some time, and that the same was true of the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie. But that contention will be found to have no bearing and no weight, when you take the British precedents into consideration. The fact of a party having been called upon to form an Administration, and having formed an Administration and undertaken the duties of Government has been taken, any time since parliamentary institutions were established in England, as giving all the authority and all the rights of Government. I may remind the House, that, when called upon to join the Administration of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, I was charged with the duty of leading the Government party in this House, and that I had the support, the constant, steady support, as leader of the House, throughout the session—a very extraordinary one—of a large majority of members. On the occasion of the great struggle that took place, as my right hon. friend will remember, he was deserted by a large portion of the rank and file of his supporters in this House, and on the issue particularly joined between us, I numbered among those who supported me a large number of the right hon. gentleman's own friends, as well as the actual Conservative majority on that occasion. The right hon. gentleman knows that the circumstances were very peculiar. The question was subsequently raised by the Governor General, that we were not able to obtain supplies. Well, my right hon. friend knows, that, had that been an ordinary session, we should not only have obtained supplies, but should have carried the measure we had in hand, and gone to the country with this question settled. But the fact, that the life of Parliament terminated on a certain day, prevented the Government, although it had an overwhelming majority at its back, from discharging any of the functions of Government, owing to the factious and extraordinary course taken by hon. gentlemen opposite. Under these circumstances, I think, that, when we failed to obtain a majority in the country, we were entitled to precisely the same consideration that Sir John Macdonald obtained when he resigned in 1873, and that Mr. Mackenzie obtained after his overwhelming defeat of 1878. Now, the House

is well aware of the fact, that, while we had a dissolution at the earliest possible moment in our power, and while we called Parliament together at the earliest possible period, so that only a comparatively few days elapsed between the resignation of my Government and the meeting of Parliament, the extraordinary course was taken by the Governor General of depriving the existing Government of its rights and privileges under the British constitutional system and the precedents established in Canada on two previous occasions, thus adopting a course directly in contravention of the British system, which prevails in the mother country. I will not go into the question of the character of the appointments that were proposed on one occasion or the other, further than to say, that there is not one appointment too high—even that of judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, or judge of the Superior Courts in various provinces, existing judges being superannuated to make way for the new appointments—to have been filled by a defeated Government. All these acts were performed by the late Alexander Mackenzie after his resignation, and accepted without challenge by the Governor General, and never disturbed by the Government that succeeded him. This is a matter so well known to hon. gentlemen on both sides of that House that I need not take up time in referring to it. The moment that His Excellency, the late Governor General, took the ground that he would not allow the Government to discharge their duties in the way in which Lord Dufferin had permitted Sir John A. Macdonald to do on a similar occasion, and the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie on a later occasion—the moment that His Excellency took that ground, we at once tendered our resignations and asked him to relieve us from office at the earliest possible moment. Now I do not rise on this occasion as feeling for a single moment the slightest personal interest in it. I may say that so far as recommendations are concerned, I think, if I remember correctly, that the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie had made 133 recommendations and promotions in the discharge of what he conceived to be his duty; and while they were all accepted by Lord Dufferin, the Governor General, as his right, and although Mr. Mackenzie's Government had sustained the most overwhelming defeat, a majority of between 80 and 90 having been elected to oppose him, he was able to carry out and discharge all those functions just as he had done at any other period of his administration.

Now, Sir, I draw attention to the fact that the late Governor General did not absolutely refuse to admit any of the appointments, but he undertook to say that appointments could only be made that came within a certain class, and a certain category. He undertook to do that which no Governor General, which the Queen of England has never undertaken to do in the history of her

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long and brilliant reign, which no British sovereign of later times has undertaken, which no Governor General of Canada ever undertook, and that was to dictate to his Government the restrictions that he himself was disposed to impose in regard to appointments and recommendations for appointments to office. There were 92 recommendations, and he signed an Order in Council which virtually conferred offices upon about 47 and rejected about 45. He imposed certain restrictions, and it remained for the hon. gentlemen opposite to decide as to the character of those restrictions; because we having retired from office and they having taken our places, the question was submitted to their consideration as to what class of those restrictions they should admit, restrictions improperly, as I hold, and unconstitutionally, as I hold, imposed by the then Governor General. What did these gentlemen do? Why, Sir, they decided that 45 of these nominations should be rejected, but they decided that the Governor General had absolutely appointed the other 47. My right hon. friend, if I am not very much mistaken in my recollection of the facts, stated on the floor of this House, when he laid the resolutions upon the Table, the conclusion at which his Government had arrived, after the selection had fallen upon them; he stated that these appointments were recognized as having been duly made by the Governor General and that they would stand. Now I am going, perhaps, a little outside of that question, but it is right that I should do so in view of the extraordinary course pursued by the right hon. gentleman and his colleagues. Of these 47 appointments that they themselves decided had been duly made and sanctioned by the Governor General by Order in Council, and which they declared to this House should stand, what does this House suppose became of them? Why, Sir, they brought down a return here which I hold in my hand, dated 13th April, 1898, showing that in respect to the whole of these 47 which they admitted to have been properly appointed, which the Governor General had sanctioned, and which they themselves had assured the House would be treated the same as officials appointed under any other circumstances, they reconsidered their judgment, they went back upon their decision. I draw the attention of the House to these things, because they show what a dangerous thing it is for any person charged with the high duties of a Governor General to place himself in a position in which he is deprived of the support of either one of the parties in the House or in the country. The hon. gentlemen confirmed 77 of these appointments, including promotions from one position to another, and they cancelled every one of the 47 other appointments, with the exception of two, refused to carry out the promise made by the right hon. gentleman, as is shown by the return which is brought down. It would be impossible to give a

more striking illustration of the misfortune that must follow when a Governor General takes a course that is calculated to deprive him of that complete support and co-operation which he ought to enjoy, of both the great parties in the House. Now, Sir, the object of this motion is stated in the motion itself, it is a demand from the right hon. gentleman that that despatch should be laid upon the Table. I say I am within my right when I make that demand; I say it is of the greatest importance to the people of this country that that demand should be complied with. I may tell the House that in that great authority which we all respect in this House, that of Sir John Bourinot, the following statement will be found:—

It has been laid down by the highest authorities that when a Minister of the Crown quotes a public document in the House and founds upon it an argument or assertion, the document, if called for, ought to be produced.

I say this ruling is completely sustained by the highest constitutional authorities in England, and I do not believe any person will be found in this House to deny that I am in a position to make an absolute demand that that despatch which has been referred to should be laid upon the Table of the House. I will refer for a moment to the opinion of a distinguished gentleman in the English House of Commons on the same subject, Mr. Bentinck, which will be found in the "Hansard," volume 203, page 1115 (1870). That gentleman moved:

That in the opinion of this House, it is not competent for a Minister to allege or read in debate in defence of his policy any document which is not upon the Table, and which he is not prepared to communicate to the House.

Mr. Bentinck said:

The matter he had to lay before the House involved a question of privilege, for it was clear that unless a distinct rule was laid down as to which documents, after having been used in debate, should be produced and which should be kept back by the Minister, a serious injury would be inflicted upon the rights of independent members, which had been encroached upon too much already by the present Government.

Sir Erskine May, in his text-book on this subject:

Laid it down that the proceedings of that House ought to be conducted similarly to the proceedings of a court of law, and that no person had a right to produce evidence without giving those affected by it a full opportunity of examining, and, if possible, disproving it. The precedents on this subject were also very numerous in 1857, and in the debate on the China war, Lord Halifax, then Sir Charles Wood, stated a certain position, and said that he had in his possession a letter from Sir Michael Seymour which bore out his view. Mr. Roebuck asked if Sir Charles Wood had any objection to produce the letter. Sir Charles Wood replied that it was a private letter, but that he was willing to bring it down to the House and show it to any hon. gentleman. Upon that the right hon. gentleman, the member for Buckinghamshire (Mr. Disraeli) said it was monstrous that a minister should rise

in his place and make a statement upon an important matter founded on a document which had not been produced, and he went on to say that neither a public nor a private letter ought to have been used that could not be laid on the Table. This was a principle that had ever been accepted in that House, and which he hoped would ever be their guide in such matters. The next case was in 1862, when the right hon. baronet, the member for Tamworth (Sir Robert Peel), then Chief Secretary for Ireland, stated that the Longford election was a mockery, and in proof of the assertion referred to a certain document in his possession. The Irish members demanded that the document should be laid on the Table, and Lord Palmerston expressed himself thus:

"It may, no doubt, be the true doctrine, that when a Minister of the Crown reads a document in the House and founds upon it an argument or an assertion, that document, if called for, ought to be produced."—(3 "Hansard," CLXVI., 2129.)

The last instance he would refer to occurred two years afterwards, when, in the Leeds bankruptcy case, the hon. and learned member for Richmond (Sir Roundell Palmer) read his answer from a written statement which he had before him, and Mr. Ferrard moved that the paper be laid upon the Table. The Speaker, being appealed to, said that public despatches, documents, and papers relating to public affairs, when read or quoted by a Minister, ought to be laid on the Table.

Mr. DISRAELI. One of the great securities for fair discussion in that House was that a Minister should not be permitted to refer to documents, public or private, if he was not prepared to communicate them to the House. He did not say that there might not be special reasons why the particular document now in question should not be placed in the usual category in that respect, but at the same time it was not in the interest of the House to encourage any laxity in regard to the rule on that subject. It was one of the guarantees for sufficient discussion that a debate should not be allowed to be unwarrantably influenced by speakers appealing, in order to sustain their views, to documents which were not in possession of the House. That was a principle of which the House should be most jealous.

Mr. GLADSTONE said he thought that it would be a pity if it should go forth to the world that there existed any serious difference of opinion with respect to the rule of the House on that subject, as might perhaps be inferred from what has just fallen from the right hon. gentleman. The rule was intended to prevent undue advantage being taken by official members in order to influence the judgment of the House.

The rule of the House would be made more safe by avoiding any attempt to stretch it. They should keep within the definition which the Speaker had given of it on a former occasion, and which made it apply to public despatches.

I will now quote the authority of the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The right hon. gentleman, in the House of Commons, "Hansard," page 1791, 28th April, 1892, said:

There can be no doubt that he violated the very principles upon which parliamentary government rests in all British countries. I quote from May, the edition of 1883, page 378:

"Another rule or principle of debate may be here added. A Minister of the Crown is not at liberty to read 'a quo' from a despatch or other state papers, not before the House, unless he be prepared to lay them on the Table. This is sim-

llar to that rule of evidence, in the courts of law, which prevents counsel stating documents which are not produced in evidence. The principle is so reasonable that it has not been contested; when the objection has been made, in time it has been thoroughly acquiesced in."

Now, Sir, it seems to me that the very authority which is here quoted comes very appropriately on the present occasion. The very authority which is here quoted is founded upon that rule of evidence and of common sense, I may say, that no man is at liberty to use a public document for the purpose of conveying an argument or stating a fact unless he is prepared to give to his opponents the substance of the authority which he urges. Otherwise there would be no safety in debate, there would be no safety in courts of justice, there would be no safety in public affairs.

I need not do any more to show, that according to every principle that is recognized as governing debate in this House, the Prime Minister is bound, without question, to lay upon the Table of this House the despatch to which he has referred. I do not believe—I will not believe—if the right hon. gentleman does not lay that despatch on the Table of the House, I will refuse to believe that so distinguished a man as the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, with a fair and full statement of the whole case before him, has given any definite declaration, any statement as to the propriety of the course that the then Governor General pursued. Although on that question and others of the kind, I have avoided the slightest communication, direct or indirect with him since the change of Government occurred, I know the difficulties that surround a Colonial Minister. I know how important it is that he should act, so far as possible, with the parliamentary majority of the day, and I would be the last person who would wish to embarrass a Colonial Minister or any person on this subject, but I cannot permit that the constitution of the country shall be changed without our knowing the authority for it. If it be true that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has given his approval to an entire change in parliamentary practice, in the Government of Canada, and that we are not to enjoy those rights and immunities in this country that are enjoyed by every person charged with the formation of a government in England, we should be informed of it. There are a score of cases in which the formation of a government in England has been entrusted to a gentleman in the House of Commons, or in the House of Lords, who had not a parliamentary majority at his back, at the time, who formed his government, who went to the country and was defeated at a general election, who came back and met the House and was again defeated by a majority of the House, yet, down to the hour of his defeat and the acceptance of that defeat in the House of Commons, and the succession to office of this party or the other, every function of government was discharged by him. The highest offices, as high as that of Gov-

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ernor General of India, the highest positions in the gift of the Crown, have been given by defeated governments after they had sustained their defeat in the House of Commons, and so on a number of other occasions, appointments of the very highest and most important description have been made without any challenge by the House of Commons subsequently as to the propriety of the act. I only refer to that in passing, and I say in all seriousness, that the Secretary of State for the Colonies is bound, in the high position he occupies, to lay that paper on the Table of the House, to lay before us a full statement of the reference made to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the decision which he gave, because, as we all know, the Governor General in Canada is responsible to the Imperial Government. If the statements be true, as to the action that has been taken by the Colonial Secretary, then the constitution of Canada is changed, and I say the time has come when we are bound to know whether such a course has been pursued in regard to this great and important question, a question that has been illustrated for ages, I may say, in the House of Commons, and in the Government of Great Britain. If the course pursued by the late Governor General is held to be a sound and proper course, then I accept it, until reversed, but I say it must not apply to the Conservative party when they go out of power; it must apply to the Liberal party as well, and they must be constrained to feel that they have lost, by their own action, lost by the course that they have sustained, and to which they have committed themselves, that position to which every government is entitled to, down to the period that its successors take office. They must be content to know, that from the first hour there is a verdict in the country against them, they are *functus officio*; and they are totally incapable of performing any act, except under the judgment of the Governor General of Canada, whoever he may be for the time being. I intended to have illustrated the manner in which I regard this question, and if the House will permit me to take two or three minutes in order to conclude my observations, I shall avail of it to show the great importance, in my judgment, of this step.

What is it that gives to England such a prominence among the nations of the world; what is it that enables British institutions to present such an overwhelmingly favourable contrast, when compared with republican institutions? Why, it is the fact that under the British constitutional parliamentary system—which has been handed down to us and recognized by men of all parties for many long years in the administration of the government of this great Empire—the sovereign on the Throne is the impartial umpire, the great executive head to which all parties and all classes alike can look with reverence. Thus, in the bitterest and keen-

est party struggles that take place, all British subjects can rally around their sovereign and support her. So, I say, under the British constitutional system as handed down to us, and which we enjoyed until 1896—and which Lord Dufferin with all his keen ability and knowledge of these questions consecrated by his own act on two important occasions—the Governor General of Canada, as representative of Her Majesty, stands in precisely the same position as Her Majesty does in Great Britain. It is the greatest misfortune that could happen to the people of this country, if in the time to come the Governor General of Canada will be regarded, not as an independent, impartial and unbiassed representative of Her Majesty, carrying out the administration of public affairs faithfully and fairly, and under the light of the constitutional example set by the mother country; but shall come to be regarded as the head of a political party, and not as an impartial arbitrator, as is the Crown in England. The Governor General of Canada must become the head of a political party in Canada, if he deprives those whom he has entrusted with the duty of forming a Government, of one jot or tittle of those constitutional rights which are conferred on Ministers of the Crown in England. It is because I believe that this is a matter of great moment in the interest of public affairs, that I venture at this period to say a single word on the subject. But, Sir, such examples as these are very dangerous. What have we seen in British Columbia? You saw the Attorney General of British Columbia justifying one of the greatest outrages upon responsible government that ever was perpetrated in any British country.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think there is a motion on the Order paper on this subject, and my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) should not discuss it in anticipation of that motion.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I was not aware of that, but there is no motion on the paper about the Newfoundland case, and what did you see done there? You saw a more flagrant outrage than has even occurred in British Columbia. You saw the Governor of that colony actually dismissing a Minister of the Crown, one of his Cabinet, by a note from his private secretary. Does my right hon. friend think that is a practice that should be pursued?

The PRIME MINISTER. I am not called upon to pass judgment upon them in Newfoundland.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Governor Murray, who perpetrated that monstrous invasion of responsible government in Newfoundland, has gone home, and his successor, after a full consideration of the subject, has reinstated the Hon. Mr. Morine in his position in the Ministry, and published a despatch exonerating him from the charges brought against him by Governor Murray. I refer to these things in Newfoundland—and if Mr.

Speaker had permitted me I would have referred to the British Columbia case—as the effects of the bad example set in Canada, and as the commencement of that faciliis decensus, because the moment you depart from a great constitutional precedent as illustrated in Great Britain, and as I am proud to say was followed in Canada down to the case to which I am referring, you do a thing the consequences of which may lead to a very serious state of affairs. I claim that that despatch must be laid upon the Table of this House, these authorities having been used by hon. gentlemen opposite to strengthen the position of the late Governor General. That despatch, I say, must be laid upon the Table of this House, and if it proves to support the statement which has been intimated to this House, then, Sir, I shall accept it. I shall feel that the right hon. the Colonial Secretary has done the deepest wrong to Canada; the deepest wrong to British institutions, that it is possible for him to have committed himself to; but I will accept it as we are bound to accept it, and shall hold hon. gentlemen opposite at no distant date to the same stern account that I was held by the late Governor General.

Mr. SPEAKER. I said to the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) that I thought a motion with reference to the British Columbia crisis was on the Order paper. It was, but it has been moved, and as it is now in the shape of a past debate, my ruling would be of course the same as if that motion were on the Order paper.

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

### After Recess.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, this motion of the hon. leader of the Opposition once more calls the attention of the House to a subject which has been debated several times already in previous sessions. The last time it was brought before the House was last session, when the hon. gentleman once more asserted that Lord Aberdeen, after the elections of 1896, in which the previous Government had been defeated, had acted unconstitutionally. I proceeded to show that the action of the Governor General had been submitted to the Colonial Office, and that the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Chamberlain, has expressed his entire approval of the conduct of Lord Aberdeen on that occasion. The object of the motion now before the House is to have the Government bring down the papers upon which I founded the assertion which I then made before the House. Of course, to this motion there can be no objection. It will be complied with, in so far as the well-understood rules of the Colonial Office will allow. But in stating frankly, as I do, that the papers will be brought down and the whole cor-

respondence laid on the Table, in so far as it can be laid down, I do not mean in any way to assent to many, and perhaps to none, of the doctrines which were laid down this afternoon by the hon. leader of the Opposition. The hon. gentleman claimed to have acted constitutionally on that occasion. He has asserted once more that Lord Aberdeen, the late Governor General, had trespassed beyond his powers, and had shocked the well-understood rules of constitutional and responsible government. My contention is the contrary—and I believe that in this contention I am supported by the public opinion of this country—that the conduct of the late Governor General on the occasion in question was absolutely constitutional; that the one who acted unconstitutionally was the hon. gentleman himself; and that if the advice which the hon. gentleman tendered to the Governor General of that day had been followed it would have been a clear and manifest and violent invasion of the will of the people which had just been expressed at the polls. The hon. gentleman chose to go as far back as the session of 1896; and, amongst other assertions, he stated that upon the main question which had engaged the attention of Parliament in the session of 1896, I had been deserted by a large number of my followers. I do not at all see how that question can have anything to do with the motion which is now before you, and it is not necessary for me to refer to it in any way. I simply call the attention of the House to the matter to show once more that the hon. gentleman is ever reckless in his assertions. It is true, on that occasion a certain number of my friends did not follow me—not a large number; five all told; whereas the hon. gentleman might have said, though he did not say, that on that question he had been deserted by about twelve of his own followers. But, Mr. Speaker, that is not germane to the issue, and can have no relation to the question now in hand. Upon the question which was the main question submitted to the electors in 1896, the people pronounced, and they pronounced against the hon. gentleman. The result of the election showed that the Government which had brought that policy before the people had lost the confidence of the people. The hon. gentleman was quite aware of that; no man could ignore it. Indeed, he unbosomed his sentiments two days afterwards to several reporters, stating in so many words that as soon as he had cleared away the purely routine business which was before the Government he would at once tender his resignation. Such was his intention two days after the polling; but, as time went on, evidently under pressure brought upon him by his followers, who were going to lose office, the hon. gentleman forgot the pledge which he had just given to the public, that he would refuse to act as the official head of the Govern-

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ment, and would simply discharge routine business, and he presumed not only to discharge the routine business which was before the Government at the time, but to attend to some of the most important duties which devolved on the Government, and even to advise His Excellency to fill certain vacancies which existed at that time in the Senate, two of which vacancies had been created by the resignation of two of the hon. gentleman's own colleagues, who had left that elevated sphere in order to contest constituencies, and who had been rejected by the people. The Governor General then laid down the rule that he would accept the advice of the hon. gentleman upon everything which pertained to the routine business of the Government, but that upon everything which went beyond that he would not accept his advice, but would leave the matter in abeyance for such action to be taken afterwards as the event and the justice of the case and the law and constitutional practice should require. The hon. gentleman, who at that time was still at the head of the Government, still presumed to act as the adviser of the Crown, though he had no right at all to do so, because, as is well known, as the hon. gentleman himself claimed this afterwards, no one has the right under our system to advise the Crown unless at the same time he possesses the confidence of the people. The hon. gentleman had lost the confidence of the people; therefore, he had no right to advise the Crown, and the Governor General would not take his advice. To the issue thus raised between the Governor General and the Prime Minister of that day, the attention of the Colonial Office was called, and the whole matter was referred to the Colonial Secretary, and I am in a position to say now, though I did not say it at the time, in the session of 1896, when the question was debated, that the conduct of His Excellency was fully approved by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Chamberlain. The question came up again several times. The hon. gentleman, with the persistency which characterizes him, and which is not abated even by evidences ever so numerous that he is in the wrong, brought it again and again before the House. The last time it came before the House was on the 10th of June, 1898, and on that occasion I used the following words, which are quoted in the motion now in your hands:

I have the authority of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to state that he approves of the principles on which the Governor General acted, as based on the facts set forth in the letter of His Excellency to Sir Charles Tupper.

As I stated a moment ago, the controversy between Sir Charles Tupper, the Prime Minister of that day, and the representative of the Crown in this country, was at that time naturally referred, as it was the duty of the Government to refer it, to the Colonial

Office. On the 18th of August, 1896, Mr. Chamberlain sent a despatch to Lord Aberdeen on the subject which had been laid before him. In the month of June, 1898, Lord Aberdeen asked permission from Mr. Chamberlain to have the despatch which had been sent to him by Mr. Chamberlain laid on the Table of the Canadian Parliament, and I will read the answer which was received by Lord Aberdeen from Mr. Chamberlain on the 9th of June, 1898, the day previous to the day I spoke in the House. Lord Aberdeen received from Mr. Chamberlain the following telegram:—

Your telegram of 8th June—

The word "received" I put on the copy placed in my hands; but on referring to the original I find that the word "received" is not there, owing probably to a misprint or an omission. At all events, I wish to give the despatch just in the words in which it was received and is among the records of the Governor General's office:

Your telegram of 8th June received; cannot agree to the publication of any part of my secret despatch of August, 1896;—

The hon. gentleman knows very well that secret despatches are not for the public, and Mr. Chamberlain would not depart from that rule, but went on to say:

—but, if necessary, your Minister may state purport of third paragraph.

Well, the purport of the third paragraph is as follows:—

In a despatch of the 18th August, 1896, Mr. Chamberlain expressed in the third paragraph his approval of the principles stated in Lord Aberdeen's memo. of the 8th July, as those upon which his action in the matter was based, but in expressing his approval of those principles, he observed that their application is a matter for the discretion of the Governor General, whose duty it should be to decline to act on any recommendations which, in his opinion, did not comply with the principles so laid down.

Nothing could be clearer. Lord Aberdeen stated the principles upon which he declined to receive the advice of my hon. friend when still Prime Minister. Mr. Chamberlain approved of those principles, and stated further that it was in the discretion of the Governor General to determine whether or not the advice tendered him was in compliance with or contrary to those principles. It seems to me, Sir, that controversy is at an end. The hon. gentleman stated this afternoon that he would be much surprised indeed to learn that such an authority as Mr. Chamberlain had sanctioned the action of the late Governor General. Why, I am surprised at the surprise of my hon. friend. If my hon. friend will reflect, he will know that upon the occasion on which he presumed to tender advice to the late Governor General, it was he who was altogether at variance with the well understood principles of responsible government. He knows as well as I do, it is a matter which runs in the street, that under the

British system no Minister of the Crown has the power to tender advice to the Crown unless that Minister has the confidence of the people. The hon. gentleman had lost the confidence of the people, and, therefore, had no right to tender any advice to His Excellency. But the hon. gentleman replied that the Governor General could not know that his advisers had been defeated until there was a vote of Parliament, and that he should wait until Parliament decided by its vote whether the hon. gentleman had lost or kept the confidence of the people. But that would have been supposing that the Governor General had not the information which the hon. gentleman himself possessed.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Will my hon. friend allow me to ask him a question, as I have not the right to reply?

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman has the right to reply.

The PRIME MINISTER. The hon. gentleman then had lost the confidence of the people. As he himself knows, two days after the elections, he stated to a reporter of the "Star" newspaper, that he acknowledged his defeat, and that as soon as he complied with certain routine business, he would tender his resignation to His Excellency. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, having acknowledged defeat, having acknowledged publicly that he had lost the confidence of the country, he had no right to tender advice to the Governor General; and the Governor General was even generous towards him when he afterwards accepted even a part of the advice he tendered to him.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). The hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) has evaded the entire argument. I ask him whether the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie and the Government of which he was a member had the confidence of the people and were in a position to advise the Governor General to appoint a judge to the Supreme Court. The hon. gentleman says that the Governor General had the information that I had lost the confidence of the people. Had not Lord Dufferin the information that Mr. Mackenzie had lost the confidence of the people, when Mr. Mackenzie, as the right hon. gentleman knows, had told His Excellency that the country had overwhelmingly defeated him. That Government was defeated by a majority of 85 in a House of 215 members, and yet they claimed the right to make an appointment to a judgeship of the Supreme Court, one of the highest positions in the gift of the Crown in Canada, and to appoint three or four judges to the Superior Courts in Quebec and the other provinces. Moreover, the hon. gentleman has lost sight of the fact that the true British constitutional principle is this: that when a person is called upon to form an Administration, whether he has a majority in the House of Commons or not, the moment he is charged with the duties of the Adminis-

tration, and has accepted the trust, from that moment he has all the powers and privileges of Government. Lord Derby formed an Administration in 1852, being then in a minority in the House of Commons. He dissolved the House and went to the country, but was defeated. Yet he remained in office and met Parliament, discharging, meantime, all the functions of Government, and continuing to do so down to the time his successors took office. For the right hon. gentleman to tell me that Lord Aberdeen acted in accordance with the constitutional precedent because he had learned I had lost the confidence of the country is to ignore the whole argument I made. Lord Beaconsfield has put on record the fact that he consulted two of the most eminent authorities in the Parliament of England, one upon the one side and one upon the other, upon that question; and they both told him that not only had he the right to exercise the functions of Minister as if he had the majority at his back, but it was his absolute duty to do so. Why, the hon. gentleman knows, that a British Minister, after his defeat, gave away three Garters, three of the highest gifts at the disposal of the Crown. The hon. gentleman speaks of the appointment of Senators. Why, Sir, the disparity between the parties in the Senate of Canada was not greater than was the disparity in the House of Lords; and yet, notwithstanding that, not merely did the outgoing Tory Ministry exercise the right of appointing their friends to peerages, but, where there was no time to complete the appointment, they left a memorandum which their successors, coming into power, carried out. I was not present when the right hon. gentleman rose, and would therefore ask: Does he intend to lay the despatch of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain on the Table of the House?

The PRIME MINISTER. So far as I can—yes.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Then, unless he does, the right hon. gentleman stands condemned in the presence of this House and of the country of having violated that which I have proved by the highest authorities, English and Canadian, to be one of the fundamental principles of debate. I refuse to accept what the hon. gentleman has offered, as a fulfilment of his duty in this matter. I want, not only that despatch, but what led to it. I want the communication from Lord Aberdeen which elicited that secret despatch and elicited subsequently the permission to refer to a passage in it. In refusing this the right hon. gentleman violates the precedent both in England and in this country that makes it imperative that a document quoted from shall be laid upon the Table. The right hon. Colonial Secretary cannot give the authority to violate the principles of parliamentary rule. I have given the authorities to prove that the right hon. Secretary of State for the

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Colonies would not be permitted to do on the floor of the British House of Commons what the leader of this House says the Secretary of State for the Colonies authorizes him to do here. He would not be permitted to quote from a despatch without laying that despatch on the Table. All the authorities agree in favour of that view and there is no authority on the other side. And yet the leader of the Government falls back on the absolutely senseless platitudes that because Lord Aberdeen knew that the elections had gone against us, we were not entitled to make any appointments. I would like to ask him why the Mackenzie Government, of which he was a member, approached Lord Dufferin when they were defeated and asked him to make over one hundred appointments? Why did they dare to approach Lord Dufferin under the circumstances? The ground upon which my right hon. friend ventures to take a stand in defence of Lord Aberdeen, that he knew that we were defeated; and yet after they had admitted defeat and said they would wind up the business as promptly as they could and tender their resignation, they asked him to assent to over one hundred appointments. And Lord Dufferin, not lowering himself to the position of a partisan, but maintaining the true dignity of his position as Governor General, as a representative of Her Majesty, maintained the precedents recognized by every statesman in England. How dare the right hon. gentleman, having previously enjoyed the benefit of a defeated Minister, of having over one hundred appointments accepted by the Governor General, lend his countenance to the refusal of a similar right to another. How dare he stand before the people of this intelligent country and say that that which was right and just on the part of Lord Dufferin to him was not right and just when demanded by me from Lord Aberdeen. The right hon. gentleman lost the idea of the true constitutional position, and that is that Canada enjoys—or, rather, I should have said that Canada enjoyed—the great distinction, the proud privilege of feeling that we had as exemplar and guide in all our conduct as parliamentarians, the precedents set in the most illustrious Empire the world has ever seen. All that we asked, all that I claimed at the hands of Lord Aberdeen, I was entitled to claim in virtue of the constitution that Canada enjoyed, under which she possessed all these rights and privileges just as completely under the representative of Her Majesty as a British Minister would claim them at the hands of the sovereign. I have shown to the House that the statesmen of England, Liberals and Conservatives, when defeated, have exercised invariably the very highest functions that a Minister of the Crown, backed by all the support of the largest majority in Parliament can possess; I have shown that the highest gifts in the possession of the Crown, peerages, Governor Generalships of India, all the highest gifts in the possession of the sovereign, were freely

accorded by Her Majesty in view of the fact that she knew no partisanship. In view of these facts we felt that the lustre of the British Crown depended upon maintaining that great principle of adopting the British parliamentary precedents established in England. When we asked to apply that principle, when we showed Lord Aberdeen that we had the precedents established by Lord Dufferin on two occasions, and notably on the occasion when the right hon. gentleman himself was a member of the defeated Government, and when that defeated Government was permitted to make 100 appointments, many of them most important, of a life-long character that no Government coming after could touch, the hon. gentleman then falls back upon the miserable and exploded story that we had lost the confidence of the country. Why, then, when the hon. gentleman and his colleagues had lost the confidence of the country, did they go to the Governor General and ask permission to make appointments by the score, to some of the most important positions in the Government? Sir, I tell the hon. gentleman that he is bound by every principle of honour, bound by every principle of constitutional precedence, to lay upon the Table of this House the despatch of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, sustaining Lord Aberdeen in his act; and he is also bound to lay upon the Table of the House along with it the communication that went from Lord Aberdeen as head of this Government at the time to Mr. Chamberlain upon which that despatch was based. If, as I said before, it proves that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has lent himself to deprive from this great Dominion that constitutional right, that parliamentary right, that we enjoyed down to that time; if it proves that such is the case, why, Sir, we must submit, until that improper act, that unconstitutional act, on the part of the Secretary of State for the Colonies is reversed. Sir, I have no hesitation in saying now, since this question has reached its present stage, that if Mr. Chamberlain, great and powerful Minister as he is, if he has, in view of all the facts, lent himself to trample down the constitution of Canada upon which we had a right to rest. I say if that be proved to be the case, I will not rest until this agitation shall reach a higher and a more potent assemblage than that I have now the honour to address, and we will then learn whether the Parliament of England will take away from this great Dominion that inestimable right that we have previously enjoyed, of being able to mould our parliamentary institutions and governmental institutions upon that great model which all parties, Liberals and Conservatives alike, have established and placed beyond any question.

Before sitting down I want to ask you, Mr. Speaker, to allow me to make another reference to what I cannot but believe was an inadvertence in a ruling you made just

before you left the Chair at six o'clock. It is a matter of great importance, it touches the very foundation of debate in this House, and I cannot believe that, after careful deliberation, you will rule that a motion put upon the Orders asking for papers, but eliciting no discussion, or even if it did elicit discussion, should be treated as a past debate. Why, Sir, the debate has not yet commenced on that question. The papers have only been moved for as a preliminary, as a foundation for debate; therefore, I cannot believe that you will maintain the position. I prefer to think that you made that ruling in a hasty moment, and that you will not maintain the position that a motion for papers would be treated as a past debate, and, therefore, would preclude discussion at a future stage. I do not believe, Mr. Speaker, that upon reflection you will take so unusual a position as that.

Mr. SPEAKER. In reference to the point just raised by the hon. member (Sir Charles Tupper), he will recollect that when I called his attention to what I thought was the fact, that this motion with reference to the British Columbia Government was on the paper, it was with reference to it that I suggested to him that he could not discuss the matter by anticipation.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am not referring to that; it was at a subsequent stage.

Mr. SPEAKER. Then a moment or two afterwards, just before six o'clock, I ascertained from the hon. member who made the motion that he had moved it. I did not stop the discussion, I only mentioned incidentally that there having been a previous debate, it would preclude a discussion. But I fancy the hon. member is quite right that there was no debate at all.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Hear, hear.

Mr. SPEAKER. Therefore, that was not ruled upon by me to any extent whatever. I am very glad the hon. member mentioned it.

Motion agreed to.

#### ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT OF THOS. MEAGHER.

Mr. MAHLON K. COWAN (South Essex) moved for:

Copies of all papers, including affidavits, and of all correspondence between the Government and the Government or public officials of the United States or other parties, concerning the case of Thomas Meagher, who was arrested by United States Customs officers in Canadian waters, in the River St. Clair, on 19th August, 1898; was held in custody and grossly ill-treated by said officials for some time and afterwards imprisoned, and who was finally discharged without trial by order of the United States Government.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I desire to draw your attention, and through you, the attention of the Government, to the arrest of Thomas

Meagher, of Chatham township, Kent County, who was arrested on the 19th August, 1898, by United States Deputy Collector of Customs, Henry Avery, within the precincts of the customs range of Port Huron. On the 19th of August, Thomas Meagher, a Canadian citizen, was navigating the St. Clair River in a small steam launch; his launch was boarded by Henry Avery, a customs officer of the United States, while in Canadian waters; he was eventually arrested on the Canadian shore, and was taken over to the American side of the river, handcuffed, locked up in the Riverside Hotel, where he was detained for twenty-four hours; was afterwards taken to Port Huron, where he was incarcerated in the jail there, remained in jail until the 26th of August, when he was bailed out, he appeared for a preliminary hearing, on the 7th of September was committed to stand trial at the approaching criminal court. Subsequently, on application by the hon. Minister of Justice of Canada to the United States authorities, he was released. I desire, Mr. Speaker, to draw your attention and the attention of the Government to the gross insult, to the wanton and uncalled-for conduct of the American customs-house officer, to the cruel and brutal treatment meted out to Meagher, in order that the Canadian Government may ask compensation from the American authorities for the wrongful arrest of Meagher. In that connection, I desire, without taking up the time of the House, to place upon record statements made by Meagher and eye-witnesses of the arrest and assault:

State of Michigan,  
County of Wayne.

Thomas Meagher (commonly spelled Maher), being duly sworn, deposes and says that he resides in the township of Chatham, county of Kent, Ontario, where he has resided for the past fourteen years, his residence being about three and one-half miles from the village of Port Lambton, Ontario. Deponent is twenty-five years of age, unmarried, and lives with his father and mother at the place aforesaid. Deponent and his father together constructed, about five years ago, a small steam launch, which deponent was navigating in the River St. Clair on the morning of August 19th, A.D. 1898. When deponent's boat was about three or four hundred feet below the Marshland club house, near the American shore, and was just turning his boat around to go up stream when he was approached by Mr. Henry Avery, who resides, as deponent understands it, a part of the year at Port Huron and part of the year at his summer residence on the north channel of the St. Clair River, so called. Avery was in a row-boat with a man by the name of Louis Benoir. Avery asked deponent if "he had any eggs." Deponent said: "None to sell." He then asked deponent if he would tow him up the stream as far as Joe Bedore's and deponent consented, took the line of the boat and started up stream and across the river. After going a short distance, Avery asked leave to get on the launch, and deponent gave him leave. He drew alongside and got into the launch. He stood near the engine for a time, and asked how it worked; then he went forward, and he observed a box of

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eggs, which lay in full view. He then exclaimed in substance to deponent, "You're a damned liar; you have got eggs." Deponent said: "I told you I had no eggs to sell." At this time deponent's boat was about in the middle of the channel, going up stream and towards the Canadian shore. Deponent was taking the Canadian side because there was less current than on the American side, and a shorter distance. Then Avery asked deponent to take the American side. Deponent said: "No, he was going up the Canadian side." Avery then demanded that he himself should steer, which deponent declined. Avery then grabbed one tiller rope, and in the struggle for possession of the same between deponent and Avery the steering apparatus was thrown out of gear. The boat had been headed partially towards the Canadian shore, and by the accident to the steering gear the boat headed full towards the Canadian side, and in a few moments ran aground on the Canadian shore nearly opposite the Marshland club. It was, as near as may be, directly opposite the summer residence of Samuel D. Craig, of Detroit, Michigan. Before striking ground, Avery pulled a revolver and pointing it at deponent shouted: "If you don't stop the engine while I am counting 'three' I will shoot you," accompanying it with other vile language. Deponent made no reply, and did not stop the engine. As the boat struck the shore, deponent jumped out on the land, where there was about six inches of water. Avery grabbed deponent as he jumped over the side, and he called to Benoir to hand-cuff deponent. Deponent struggled to free himself, and avoid being hand-cuffed, and Avery shouted to Benoir to "slug him with the hand-cuffs." Benoir struck at deponent with the hand-cuffs but did not hit him, and deponent freed one hand and struck Benoir in the face. Deponent did not hit nor injure Avery in any way. They finally overpowered deponent, dragged him into their boat, handcuffed him. They then rowed across to the Riverside hotel. Avery then took deponent upstairs in the hotel, into a small bedroom, and handcuffed him to the bed-post. One cuff was around deponent's left wrist, and the other around the bed-post, and all done in such a way that deponent could neither lie down nor stand up, but was obliged to sit on the side of the bed. All of the foregoing transpired between the hours of eleven and twelve o'clock, Detroit city time, August 19th, 1898. Within an hour after deponent was confined in the bed-room Avery brought from eight to ten different ladies, opened the bedroom door and showed deponent to them; some of them refused to step inside of the bedroom. Deponent hear Avery say on such occasions: "Come and have a look at him." About two hours after deponent was first put in the bedroom, Mr. Samuel D. Craig and Mr. Alexander Weber talked to deponent through the transom over the door of the bedroom. Deponent was given his dinner and supper by employees of the hotel. At bed-time Avery came to the room and changed the hand-cuffs in such a way that deponent could lie down, but he was still handcuffed all night. In the morning deponent was changed back to the original position, and he was kept hand-cuffed in that position until about eleven o'clock, when Avery and said Craig came together to the room and the hand-cuffs were removed and deponent was permitted to wash his hands and face. He was again hand-cuffed, and was taken down by Craig and Avery to the bar-room of the hotel, where the hand-cuffs were removed. Craig pleaded with Avery to remove the hand-cuffs, and finally prevailed upon Avery to do so. All three had a glass of wine together. Soon the regular steamer for Port Huron approached the dock, and Avery again started to

put the hand-cuffs on deponent, but on the intervention of Mr. Craig and assurances from this deponent that he would not seek to get away, Avery consented to leave off the hand-cuffs. He took deponent on the steamer to Port Huron, where deponent was put in the county jail, in the same ward with seven other prisoners, confined for different offences. Deponent was confined in the said county jail continuously from Saturday, August 20th, about five o'clock in the afternoon, until six o'clock in the evening of August 26th, 1898, when he was released on bail. In the meantime deponent had been twice before Commissioner E. H. Harris. Deponent further says that he was never before arrested in his life, nor charged with any offence. Deponent understands that he was charged before the commissioner with smuggling one box or crate of eggs and one half-bushel of red ripe cherries, and it is charged in the complaint that this smuggling took place on the 7th day of July, A.D. 1898. Deponent further says that at the time of his arrest, abduction and imprisonment aforesaid at the Riverside Hotel, Avery had no warrant for deponent, and he did not make known in any way to deponent why he was arrested, nor did he claim to have any authority to do so except that at the Riverside hotel he said he was a United States officer, but he did not claim that he had any warrant against deponent, or that any complaint had been made against him.

THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27th day of August, A.D. 1898.

DURBIN NEWTON,  
Notary Public,  
Wayne County, Michigan.

County of Wayne, } S.S.  
State of Michigan, }

Samuel D. Craig, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he resides at Detroit, Michigan, and he has a summer cottage near the Marshland Club, St. Clair Flats, Harsen's Island, St. Clair County, Michigan. That he is also a member of the said Marshland Club. That deponent is fifty-three years of age, that he has been a justice of the peace for the city of Detroit for four years, that he has been deputy county clerk of Wayne County, registrar of Probate Court for said county, under sheriff of Wayne county, clerk of the Police Court of the city of Detroit, and for five years and upwards he held the position of tally clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress. Deponent knows Henry Avery and Thomas Meagher, both of whom are referred to and mentioned in the affidavit of Thomas Meagher, hereunto annexed. Deponent has read the affidavit of Thomas Meagher, hereunto annexed, and knows its contents. Deponent was close to said parties when Avery first accosted Meagher and when Meagher took his boat in tow, and deponent saw the entire occurrence between the parties up to the time that Meagher was taken into the Riverside Hotel, and deponent knows of his own knowledge that the facts set out in said Meagher's affidavit, detailing said transaction, arrest, abduction and confinement in the Riverside Hotel are true. Deponent further says that the river is quite narrow opposite the Marshland Club, that he distinctly saw the entire transaction, including the pointing of the revolver at the head of Meagher, heard the shouts of Avery in which he threatened to shoot Meagher, saw the struggle between the parties and its precise location, and deponent swears that said struggle and arrest took place in Canada, on the Canadian shore of the St. Clair River,

almost directly opposite deponent's summer cottage aforesaid. Deponent saw that Meagher had control of his launch until nearly the time that it struck the ground, and that he had entire control of the engine until that time. After Meagher was confined in the Riverside Hotel, deponent requested Avery to permit deponent to see Meagher, which he absolutely refused. The proprietor of the hotel also refused a similar request made to him by the deponent after Avery had left the hotel and gone up the river. Deponent told Avery in conversation that he had gone outside of his jurisdiction and authority entirely in making the capture of Meagher in Canada. Avery said "that he knew his business." Deponent requested Avery to take Meagher to Port Huron and have him arraigned. Avery declared that "he knew his business, and that he would keep him there as long as he damned pleased." Deponent further says that Meagher was kept confined in the Riverside Hotel about twenty-four hours. Two regular passenger boats touched at Riverside after the arrest, on the same day he was arrested. Deponent further says that the arrest was made between the hours of eleven and twelve o'clock in the forenoon of said day. After the refusal of Avery and the hotel proprietor to allow deponent to see Meagher, and about two hours after he was first confined, deponent was permitted by the wife of the proprietor to talk through the transom above the bedroom door to Meagher. Mr. Alexander Weber was with deponent at this time. They both could see him through the transom by standing on chairs. Meagher was hand-cuffed to the bed-post in such a manner that he was compelled to sit on the side of the bed. He was in the same position on the next day between ten and eleven o'clock in the forenoon, when deponent went to the room with Avery, and then occurred what is described in Meagher's affidavit. Between August 26th and 26th, deponent saw Meagher twice in the county jail at Port Huron.

And further deponent says not.

SAMUEL D. CRAIG.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 27th day of August, A.D. 1898.

DURBIN NEWTON,  
Notary Public,  
Wayne County, Michigan.

State of Michigan, } S.S.  
County of Wayne, }

Alexander Weber, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a resident of Detroit, Michigan, and is forty-five years of age, that he owns a summer cottage on Harsen's Island, St. Clair County, Michigan, next door to that of Samuel D. Craig, and about one hundred feet distant. That in the forenoon of August 19th, A.D. 1898, deponent was on his own premises aforesaid, and he saw what transpired between Henry Avery, deputy collector of customs, and Thomas Meagher, as detailed in the affidavits of Thomas Meagher and Samuel D. Craig, hereunto attached, and which this deponent has read. When Avery approached Meagher deponent was near enough to hear the conversation between them, and the entire occurrence took place in plain view of deponent. Deponent says that the account of said transaction given by Thomas Meagher and Samuel D. Craig in said affidavits is accurate and correct. Deponent is thoroughly familiar with the neighbourhood in question, having dwelt there in summers for about fifteen years, and he says that said struggle and arrest took place on the Canadian shore of said St. Clair River. This deponent saw Meagher overpowered and taken

into the boat of Avery by Avery and Benoir, and carried across to and confined in the Riverside Hotel. Deponent saw Meagher in the bedroom hand-cuffed to the bed-post. This deponent saw by standing on a chair and looking through a transom. Deponent has known Meagher for three or four years past, from seeing him pass up and down in his steam launch. Deponent says that the arrest of Meagher took place, as near as he can fix the hour, between eleven and twelve o'clock in the forenoon of said day. Deponent says that he should think that in the neighbourhood of one hundred people saw the transaction.

And further deponent says not.

ALEXANDER WEBER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 27th day of August, A. D. 1898.

DURBIN NEWTON,

Notary Public,  
Wayne County, Michigan.

Although, Mr. Speaker, Meagher was arrested on the 19th day of August, presumably on a charge of smuggling on that particular date; yet, when he was arraigned, on the 7th September, the charge laid against him was, that on the 7th day of July previously—exactly two months before his arraignment and a month and a half prior to his arrest—the charge was, that on the 7th day of July previously he was guilty of smuggling cherries and eggs. In the evidence taken before the commissioner, E. H. Harris, in the city of Port Huron, it appears, that, although Avery was present on that day, although he was talking to Meagher upon the 7th of July, the day on which he alleges the offence was committed, on being cross-examined by Meagher's counsel, as to why he had not made the arrest on the 7th July, his answer was, that he had other business to attend to. In order that there may be no mistake about it, although no defence was put in on the preliminary hearing, and although Meagher, upon the request of the Canadian Department of Justice, was subsequently released, I desire to place upon the records of the House a short extract from the evidence of Avery himself, so that you, Mr. Speaker, and this Government may see just the position which Avery takes, and the manner in which he endeavoured to squirm out of the responsibility for the illegal arrest, when the matter was being forced to an issue. On page 7 of the evidence I read as follows:—

Q. Would the boy in the boat hear those words?—A. He ought to, he was right in the same boat.

Q. How long did it take you to get the handcuffs on him?—A. It took about fifteen minutes.

Q. Did you know at the time you rowed alongside of his boat that he was smuggling that particular day?—A. No, sir, I did not.

Q. Did you know that he had any goods in the boat that he had been smuggling that day?—A. No, sir.

Q. You do not know where he got those goods that day?—A. No, sir.

Q. Under whose authority were you acting when you got into the man's boat?—A. Deputy collector and clerk.

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Q. At what point are you stationed there?—A. Anywhere along St. Clair River.

Q. What are your duties?—A. Looking after smuggling.

Q. What authority did you have to arrest him at that time?—A. For smuggling on the 7th of July. I saw him on the 7th of July. He came out of the Sayacarte River. He had on a load of goods.

Q. What time did he deliver those goods?—A. At noon at Marshland.

Q. Do you know that those particular goods that your wife purchased from him that day were brought out of Canada?—A. Yes, I saw them in his boat.

Q. What did you see there?—A. Eggs and cherries.

Q. Did you know whether he got them in Canada or on the American side?—A. I saw him bring them out of Canada.

Q. How far were you away when he came out of the Sayacarte?—A. Fifteen or twenty rods.

Q. Do you say you could see what he had in the boat at that distance?—A. The only stop he made was at Maple Leaf, and he then had a basket with eggs.

Q. Who paid him for the eggs this day?—A. My wife.

Q. Did you swear positively that your wife paid him for eggs that day?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Why did you not arrest him that day?—A. I had other business to look after.

Q. Did you have a revolver in the struggle in the boat?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You threatened to shoot him?—A. No.

Q. Did you raise the revolver and say "One, two, three"?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Well, I suppose you don't call that a threat?—A. Well, if you want to call it that.

These are the facts of the case, and they need no argument from me. The facts briefly are: that Thomas Meagher, a Canadian citizen, who has made his living for the past number of years along the banks of the St. Clair River, in selling provisions to a large number of summer residents in the cottages there, while in Canadian waters, and while attempting no violation of either Canadian or American law, was brutally treated and arrested, dragged from his boat, taken from Canadian waters over to the American shore, that he was chained up to a bed for twenty-four hours; that two boats passed up and down the St. Clair River which could have taken him to the county jail, in which he was subsequently lodged; that he subsequently remained in that jail six days; that his boat has been in the possession of the American authorities until a short time ago; that it was not until the Minister of Justice made representations to the American Government for the release of Meagher that he was released on the admitted facts as they appear from the documents filed in the courts of record of the United States.

The best ground on which they can stand is that he was first under arrest in American waters, that the boat subsequently passed into Canadian waters, and that they laid violent hands on his person while in Canadian waters, and dragged him from Canada into the jurisdiction of the United

States. I say, to the credit of the Minister of Justice and the Department of Justice, when their attention was drawn to the matter they immediately demanded Meagher's release. My object in moving for the papers, if the papers justify it, is that the Department of Justice should go further than they have gone, and demand remuneration and reparation from the American authorities, who have had in their employment an officer who is such an inhuman hell-hound as to mete out the treatment meted out to Thomas Meagher, a Canadian citizen. While I have no desire to say anything against the American Government, at the same time I say that while they keep in their employ a drunken loafer, who in the performance of his duty metes out treatment of that description, they should be held responsible the same as any other common employer. I think I am quite within the purview of this House, and state a well known principle of international law when I say that a citizen of one country has no right to use compulsive force on a citizen of another country in the home or jurisdiction of the later citizen for the purpose of dragging him back into the country in which it is claimed the law has been violated, more especially customs law.

For instance, let me refer to the case of Peter Martin, whose case will be found reported in the volume on foreign relations between the United States and Great Britain for 1877 at pages 266 to 271. It there appeared that a man by the name of Peter Martin had been tried and found guilty of a charge at Laketon, Cassiar, in the province of British Columbia; that he had been sentenced for a term of fifteen months in the jail at Victoria; that on the way from Laketon to Victoria he had to pass through United States territory in the charge of three Canadian constables; that a struggle took place in the United States territory for his freedom; that he failed to get beyond the control of the constables who had him in charge; and that he was brought down to Victoria and placed on trial for assaulting an officer in the discharge of his duty. In the correspondence which arose for the release of Martin, the position which the American Government took was: that Martin could not be held liable while being conveyed from the scene of the crime and scene of the trial, to the jail in which he was to serve his term of imprisonment; that having made an assault upon the officers in American territory during the time he was being conveyed from the place of trial to the jail, no charge could be maintained in a Canadian court for such assault made on Canadian officers in American territory. In the discussion, the American authorities went one step further, and practically said that wherever a Canadian criminal was being conveyed from one point in Canada to a jail in Canada after he had been sentenced, and it became necessary to pass through Am-

erican territory, without the express consent of the American Government, the moment he entered American territory, even in the charge of Canadian officers, he was entitled to his freedom. The volume which I have previously mentioned, on page 266, sets out these facts. This document, No. 128, is from Mr. Hamilton Fish, who, I presume, was at that time Secretary of State of the United States, to Sir Edward Thornton, who was British Ambassador at Washington. It states:

It appears that one Peter Martin, who is said to be a naturalized citizen of the United States, and formerly a resident of Washington Territory, was on the 6th of September last tried before the Court of Assize, held at Laketon, Cassiar, province of British Columbia, upon true bills found by the grand jury, alleging assault upon an officer in the execution of his duty, prison breach, and escape from custody; he was found guilty and sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment in the jail at Victoria. The prisoner was in the custody of constables, and the route travelled through Alaska was by canoe, via the Stikine River.

On the 12th of September they made a landing at a point on that river, only a few miles from its mouth, within the territory of Alaska, for the purpose of cooking food. While thus engaged, the prisoner, although manacled, by some means obtained possession of a loaded shot-gun and made a deadly assault upon Francis Beegan, one of the constables, at whose hands, it is alleged, the prisoner had suffered indignities. He was, however, overpowered, and at once conveyed to Wrangel Harbour where he was placed on board the British steamer "Grappler," and taken to Victoria.

These are the facts of the arrest and trial and the assault on the road to the jail. Subsequently, when he arrived at Victoria, a further charge was made against him of assaulting an officer in the discharge of his duty. In that connection, document No. 131, from Hamilton Fish to Sir Edward Thornton says:

The facts were laid before you, and while no unnecessary prominence was given to the violation of the sovereignty of the United States which had taken place, it was confidently hoped that before Martin was placed on trial for the new charge, or before any proceedings had been taken to continue his imprisonment on the former one, the facts would have been carefully examined by the Colonial authorities and a conclusion reached as to what course should properly be taken in view of the rights of Martin and of the sovereignty of the United States.

On page 269, he says further:

I have the honour, therefore, to ask again your attention to the subject, and to remark that if, as appears admittedly to be the fact, the Colonial officers in transporting Martin from the place at which he was convicted to his place of imprisonment, via the Stikine River, did conduct him within and through what is the unquestioned territory of the United States, a violation of the sovereignty of the United States has been committed, and the recapture and removal of the prisoner from the jurisdiction of the United States to British soil, was an illegal, violent and forcible act, which cannot justify the subsequent

proceedings whereby he has been, is or may be restrained of his liberty.

I have, therefore, to express the hope that if Her Majesty's authorities find the fact to be as it is represented, that Martin was conducted by the officers having him in custody into and through the territory of Alaska, being part of and within the jurisdiction and sovereignty of the United States, he be set at liberty.

This document is dated January 10th, 1877. The conviction of Martin at Laketon, Cassiar, B.C., was on September 6th, and he was sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment. I find on page 271 the following document:—

(Received September 26.)

Washington, September 25, 1877.

Sir,—With reference to the note which Sir Edward Thornton addressed to Mr. Fish on the 11th of last January, I have the honour to inform you that I have just learned from the Deputy Governor of Canada that the Dominion Government has concluded the inquiry into the circumstances of the case, and has decided upon setting Peter Martin at liberty without further delay.

I have the honour, &c.,  
F. R. PLUNKETT.

I again desire to draw attention to the decision of the American Government at that time. It was not a question as to whether or not a crime had been committed within the jurisdiction of the United States. It was not a question even of a crime having been committed in Canada and the perpetrator being pursued in the United States and subsequently brought back to Canada, but it was the case simply of a man having been tried and convicted in Canada for a crime committed there, and having, on his way to jail, to pass through a portion of territory the ownership of which was disputed at that time. The claim was made, that he had passed into the United States, and that, once on American soil, the jurisdiction of the Canadian constable had absolutely ceased, and the American Government demanded his release, which was subsequently granted. I, therefore, ask that this Government should make a demand upon the American Government for atonement for what I consider the greatest outrage ever perpetrated by any officer of any government upon the citizens of a foreign land. I ask, not only that this Government should demand reparation of that injustice at the hands of the Americans, but that they should go further and draw the attention of the Attorney General of Ontario to the matter, in order that he may ask for his extradition, because it seems to me if ever there was a case which lies clearly within the section of our Criminal Code respecting kidnapping, it is this. I hope, therefore, that the matter will be taken up and justice done in the case.

Mr. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL (Kent). I am very glad my hon friend from South Essex (Mr. Cowan) has brought this matter to the attention of the Government and the House. He has stated the case so fairly and clearly

Mr. COWAN.

that nothing remains to be said regarding it, but I must insist, that it is one which calls for the most serious and careful attention of this Government. As my hon. friend has said, there was no possible justification for this arrest. This man was arrested in Canadian waters. The American officer who arrested him, knew that he was doing so in Canadian waters, and both the arrest and his subsequent conduct deserves the most severe punishment. This man was taken from his bed, conveyed to a hotel on the American side, brutally handcuffed to a bedpost, kept there for a number of days, and exhibited to the public, as a wild animal in a Barnum show. Such conduct ought not to be tolerated at all. He was arrested in Canadian waters, admittedly without cause, but, as subsequently stated, on a trumped up charge concerning something which occurred a considerable time previously. There can be no possible justification for such treatment, and it is the bounden duty of this Government to follow the example set by the mother country with respect to just such cases, for we all know, that, no matter in what clime a British subject may be, if he be arrested falsely or badly treated by any nation or people, the exercise of the whole power of England's army and navy is at once threatened and put forth in his defence. Are we, in Canada, to allow our citizens to be arrested in this bold, open and illegal manner and brutally treated, as this man was, without calling on the Government of the United States for reparation to this Government and compensation to the individual as well? If the Government demand, as they should, from the United States, that some recompense be made to this man, that would be a lesson to them for the future. I have no doubt, that the American Government could not have been fully informed on the whole course of this prosecution, and I am sure, that, if their attention be called to it, there is sufficient honour and justice in that nation to make them give a proper recompense to the man who has suffered so much by the illegal and brutal conduct of one of their officers. I earnestly hope, that our Government will press this matter upon the attention of the American authorities, and see that full reparation is made in every possible way. This matter has been so ably and clearly presented by my hon. friend from Essex that I need not say anything further, but will simply add, that, as the occurrence took place very close to my county, and as I am conversant with the facts and know that public opinion in that section has been deeply aroused and a great deal of discussion and ill-feeling excited. I must strongly urge the Government to see that justice is done.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). All the papers will be brought down, and I think that, when my hon. friends see the correspondence interchanged between the Home Government and the au-

thorities of the United States, they will be satisfied, that even the United States authorities have come to the conclusion that this arrest and all the attending circumstances were wholly unjustifiable.

Mr. CLANCY. I expected that the hon. Solicitor General would have had something more to say about this matter, because it is a very serious one. If, instead of being a poor man, Meagher had been a powerful and wealthy citizen of this country, his case would have been treated very differently. I regret, that, while the Solicitor General states there was no doubt about the illegality of the arrest and the cruel treatment to this Canadian citizen, he is not in a position to say, that no strong effort was made to obtain reparation.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. How can the hon. gentleman know what effort was made until the papers are brought down?

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman might have stated to the House what was done; he might have stated, certainly, what the purport of the papers was.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The papers will speak for themselves.

Mr. CLANCY. I repeat, that every Canadian citizen, every British subject, should stand upon the same ground, whether he be high or low, rich or poor. Every British subject has the same right to protection in this country. But, judging from what has fallen from the hon. gentleman's lips, this case was very lightly dealt with indeed. Let me suppose, that some other Canadian should be seized on in the same way to-morrow, what would be the position of Canadian citizens in this country, if we are to allow them to be treated as Meagher was treated? His treatment was simply an outrage. He is a poor man, who earns his livelihood in the manner stated by the hon. member for South Essex (Mr. Cowan), and is one of the most inoffensive men I know. I believe that the hon. member for South Essex took up his case. It is much to his credit, that he has taken up that case and that he has pressed it. But I repeat what I said a moment ago—that I fear the Government of Canada have been lax in this case, and that the necessary effort has not been made to have reparation made by the United States to a man who has been dragged illegally before courts, and has been ill-treated, treatment being meted out to him that would hardly be given one of the lower order of animals. If this is permitted, without proper steps being taken, we have no security for Canadian citizens. They may be dragged into the dungeon at any moment, and our people in Canada will sit idle and look on, without a protest against such conduct. I hope the hon. gentleman will not only bring down the papers, which is a bare, empty form, but will go further and demand reparation for

the arrest and ill-treatment of a Canadian citizen.

Mr. COWAN. I am satisfied that the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) desired to be absolutely fair, and I can only, therefore, assume that he is speaking without that knowledge of the facts which I should like to see him possess. Meagher was arrested, as I said, on the 19th August. As soon as he was released—

Mr. HUGHES. When was he released?

Mr. COWAN. On the 26th August. He was kept in jail some six days. Even before he was released, the facts were brought to my attention by his attorneys in Detroit. I immediately wired the Minister of Justice, and the Minister wired back that the matter would receive his immediate attention, and advised me to communicate with the Attorney General of Ontario. I telegraphed the Attorney General, but he replied that he thought it was the business of the Department of Justice to ask for Meagher's release. In fairness to the Department of Justice, I must say that there was no delay on their part. They took not only active steps but immediate steps to demand this man's release. The hon. member for Bothwell must know that in dealings between two nations, between two Governments, everything cannot be done in a day. But I must say I was agreeably surprised at the despatch shown by the Department of Justice in communicating, as they did, to the authorities in Washington. Meagher was bound over to stand his trial in the county of Wayne, city of Detroit, and before the court was reached, the district attorney of Wayne County was ordered to make a report of the facts. The facts were reported to the Department at Washington and were transmitted to the Department of Justice here. Meagher's attorneys had received a communication asking if there was anything they wanted to say in order to strengthen the hands of the Department of Justice and asking them to give any facts they might have to assist in demanding Meagher's release. And not only was Meagher released, but the custom-house officer was dismissed. My object in making this motion is to have the papers brought to this House in order that reparation may be asked from the American Government.

Mr. CLANCY. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him a question?

Mr. COWAN. Certainly.

Mr. CLANCY. What I wanted to find out was whether the Government had demanded reparation. We knew that Meagher had been released.

Mr. COWAN. Then the hon. gentleman must know that reparation could not very well be demanded by this Government until Meagher had made a demand for it. And this is why I want these papers brought

down, in order that the demand may be made upon the United States Government. But no demand should be made until the House and the country are in possession of all the facts. No demand has been made, because Meagher has not asked the Government to make a demand. Until a demand is made by the wronged individual, the Department of Justice or any other department would far exceed its jurisdiction, would go beyond the limits within which this country would support it, if they demanded reparation until the individual most affected claims damages for the wrong he has suffered.

Motion agreed to.

### LONG SPEECHES IN THE HOUSE.

Mr. J. CHARLTON (North Norfolk) moved :

1. That the prevailing practice of delivering in the Canadian House of Commons, speeches of great length, embracing voluminous and often irrelevant extracts, has introduced a discursive and diffuse, rather than a concise and incisive style of public speaking ; is destructive of pertinent debate upon public questions, is a waste of valuable time, unreasonably lengthens the sessions of Parliament ; is in marked contrast to the practice that prevails with regard to debate in the British House of Commons, and tends to repel the public from a careful and intelligent consideration of the proceedings of Parliament.

2. That it is expedient that rules be adopted limiting the length of speeches, and regulating the general conduct of debate in that regard.

3. That a special committee should be formed to consider the question of parliamentary debate, length of speeches, general conduct of debate, and proper methods for securing the greatest promptitude in the despatch of business consistent with the parliamentary rights of the minority, and the general interests of the public ; and report its recommendations to this House.

He said : Whatever pertains to the dignity of this House ; whatever is calculated to affect its efficiency as a legislative body or promote its good standing in the eyes of the country at large or to secure for it the respect of its constituents, is a matter that should be one of importance to every member of this House. The question that I wish to say a few words about to-night is one that cannot be very well treated as a party question ; it is one in which every member of the House is equally interested. We have fallen into a habit with regard to the proceedings of the House, which, I believe, almost every member of the House deplures. We have fallen into the habit of making speeches of inordinate length—and I will not say that the individual who is now addressing you has been, in times past, entirely free from blame in this regard. For this reason it is less invidious on my part to stand before you in discussing this matter than it might possibly be if I were entirely free from blame. So far as any blame may attach to myself, I freely and openly make confession, profess my intention to do better in future, and affirm that it is my desire

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to see that steps may be taken to increase the efficiency and respectability of this great body of the representatives of half the continent of North America. We have a great variety of duties to perform in this House ; we have jurisdiction over a vast extent of country ; we are the custodians of interests of great magnitude and great variety. Great as are these interests, vast as are our responsibilities, this country is still in its infancy, and these interests will be vastly augmented in importance in the near future. Therefore, if we waste time now, it behooves us to retrace our steps and place this Canadian House of Commons in a position, under amended rules, that shall increase its efficiency as a legislative body and put it more in accord with its duty and give it the ability to perform its work in the future, when the duties devolving upon us shall be greatly increased, when the interests we shall have to take charge of will be of greater magnitude and when, in place of having a vast unsettled country, we shall be a nation of scores of millions of people with economy of time. It is in this sense, Sir, that I approach the discussion of this question—in the sense of laying the foundations for the future, of correcting any errors into which we have fallen, errors which have had no serious consequences so far, but which may prove seriously detrimental in the interests of the country in the future.

The habit of making three, four, five hour speeches, I think I may safely venture to assert, Mr. Speaker, is not a commendable one. Long speeches are not necessarily, by virtue of their length, powerful speeches ; on the contrary, the length of a speech may very seriously detract from its power, may very seriously detract from its force ; and the man who spends time in concentrating his thoughts, in getting rid of superfluous language, in putting his speech in logical form, in saving the time of the hearer by giving him the substance of what he has to present without verbiage, that man, Mr. Speaker, will produce a greater effect than he who elaborates his ideas, and, going over a great amount of ground, pours upon his audience a great volume of sound, a great volume of words, when his ideas might be concentrated into a much smaller scope.

I remember that perhaps the most effective speech ever made in this hall which has resounded with eloquence in past years, was a speech made by the Hon. Edward Blake one Saturday night when he took the floor at ten minutes to twelve and spoke for ten minutes. It was at the close of the debate on the Franchise Bill that had continued from Thursday afternoon at three o'clock to Saturday at midnight ; and the closing speech of ten minutes made by the Hon. Edward Blake upon that occasion, without preparation, purely extempore, flashing with the force of his feelings, was the most effective speech, the most con-

vincing speech, of all the speeches made upon that memorable occasion. Now, Sir, the long speech, I am sure, does not command the attention of this House, does not convince the intellects of this House as readily and as thoroughly as a shorter speech, presenting the same facts in a more epigrammatic and concentrated form.

Mr. HUGHES. The hon. member has spoken twelve minutes already.

Mr. CHARLTON Well, I am entitled to an hour. The long speech not only fails to produce the effect upon this House which a carefully prepared, epigrammatic, thoroughly rounded, condensed speech will do, but it fails to command the attention of the country. The average reader cannot take time to wade through a five-hour speech, or a four-hour speech, or a three-hour speech. He wants his political pabulum given to him in a concentrated form, and while he might read a half-hour speech, possibly an hour's speech, he will shrink from the task of reading a speech filling column after column, that has occupied in its delivery in this House, hour after hour. And so we entomb in our "Hansard" speeches of great length that fall upon the ear of this House without effect, that elicit no response in the country, that command no attention in the country, and are as thoroughly buried in the "Hansard" as a mummy in the catacombs of Egypt. Perhaps at some future time some political student of public affairs may wade through the "Hansard." But what reader seeking for public information will take these ponderous volumes, and read these speeches carefully that fill column after column. They fail of their purpose, they are thrown away, they are not pertinent debate, they are not effective debate, they are useless in a general sense, useless in commanding the attention of the country or convincing the House of Commons.

I have marked a great contrast between the public speaking in this House to-day and that of the first and second Parliaments of this Dominion, from 1868 to 1872, and from 1873 down to 1878, and later down to 1874 we had no "Hansard." The speaker was reported in the press of the day, the ideas he presented were fairly reproduced, but no newspaper would attempt to give a five-hours speech. It was absolutely necessary for the speaker to present his views tersely, in a condensed form. And so we had in those days true parliamentary debating, we had speeches of a high order, not because of their length, but because of their quality.

Mr. HUGHES. Far-off hills look green.

Mr. CHARLTON Very true; still, a person who has mingled in the affairs of two periods may be able to draw a contrast tolerably correct between one and the other. I think my estimate in regard to this matter

is a fairly correct one, and that the style of parliamentary speaking in this House from 1868 down to at least 1878, and for some years later, was of a higher order, of a more thoroughly parliamentary order, than the style of speaking that is in vogue here at the present time. At that time the speaker addressed himself to the House, he addressed himself to the country, he sought to impress his views upon his fellow-members, upon his constituents and the country. Sometimes he does this still, sometimes he does not, sometimes he is talking to the "Hansard." His remarks will go into the "Hansard" faithfully, they will be reproduced there, and from the "Hansard" he can circulate his speech among his constituents. And so the member may talk to the "Hansard," and through the "Hansard" to his constituents through the edition of the speech that he will reproduce in the Printing Bureau. That may be the object he has in view, and not the purpose of impressing his fellow-members with the weight of his arguments, or attempting to produce an impression upon the public sentiment of the country.

Now, this is a feature of our parliamentary proceedings which cannot be justified, it is a method that wastes a great amount of time, and it is a species of public speaking which excites a good deal of criticism and a good deal of opposition on the part of, perhaps, a majority of the members of this House, who do not waste time, who do not make long speeches, who come here for business purposes, and desire to see the legitimate legislative work of this Parliament dispatched properly and speedily, and who look with ill-concealed disgust upon what they consider a waste of time which is prolonging the session beyond reasonable limits, and keeping them here against their will. The result may possibly be, Mr. Speaker, that some fine morning some member of this House will move to abolish the "Hansard," and the motion may carry. That is by no means beyond the limit of probability. It would be a great calamity, in some senses, to have the official record of our proceedings abolished, but if the privilege of having our speeches recorded is abused, that catastrophe may come, it is not at all unlikely that it will; and in our own interests and in the interests of this House, we ought to reform, so far as possible, our system of procedure.

Now, I am by no means in favour of closure, I am by no means in favour of curtailing debate, or curtailing the privilege of a member to express his views freely upon all occasions as he may desire; but I do say that it is quite possible to adopt rules that will lessen the length of our speeches, that will facilitate the progress of our business, that will elevate the tone of parliamentary speaking, and will increase the efficiency of parliamentary action in this House of Commons. This system of talking to "Hansard"

led, in the United States Congress, to the consideration of one or two alternatives—either the abolition of the “Congressional Record,” owing to the waste of time in talking to it, or the granting to each member the privilege of supplying his speech, in manuscript, to the “Record” editor to be inserted in the “Record” without being delivered in the House. The latter alternative was adopted, and if a member of the American House of Representatives desires to put his speech upon the “Record,” to be published and circulated among his constituents, as a speech delivered by him in the House of Representatives, it simply goes into the “Record” as if delivered. It is put into the Government printing office as delivered; it goes to his constituents as delivered, when it has never been heard in the House of Representatives. That is a remedy we might adopt. But I think it would hardly be consonant with the usage of this House or the principles prevailing in British Parliaments, to adopt that course. If we do not adopt this course, we must remedy this crying evil, in some way or other, by amending the rules applying to debate. The British conduct of debate is in marked contrast with our own. Long speeches, as a rule, are not delivered in the British House of Commons. Of course, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer presents his Budget, or when some Government measure is presented, speeches of two hours in length are sometimes made, and even of greater length, but, as a rule, speeches in the British House of Commons are brief, pertinent and to the point, and a speech of twenty or thirty minutes is thought to be a long speech there. It is pure, legitimate debate, and their proceedings command the attention of the country. Their proceedings are practical; they are not made up of long, beautiful essays, carefully prepared, delivered without commanding the attention of the House and going into “Hansard,” but of live debates on practical questions which create interest in the country, and it is debating of that kind that we should seek to secure in this House. Our own method of procedure would not be tolerated in the British House of Commons. It could not be tolerated in a House managing the affairs of the vast British Empire. It would be impossible to get through with their business, and, as I said a moment ago, our own territory is so vast, our own resources are so great, that when this country becomes more largely peopled, when its resources become more fully developed, when Canada becomes, what she is sure to become, in the near future, we will be unable to transact the business of this country by the method that we are pursuing.

Mr. CLANCY. Would that not be time enough?

Mr. CHARLTON. I think the best time to remedy an evil is when you perceive that it exists, because it is much easier to do it then. The United States House of Representatives have limited the length of speeches to one

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hour, at any time the previous question may be called and the debate closed, the House may at any time fix the hour when the vote shall be taken, or, at any time it may decide that from that moment only five-minute speeches shall be permitted. During the progress of the debate, if an amendment is offered, five minutes are allowed to the presenter of the amendment and five minutes to the member who opposes it, or ten minutes in all. If a motion is made to amend the rules, the rules of the House provide that the debate on that motion must be concluded in forty minutes. Expedients have been adopted in the matter of legislation by which two-thirds of the work that we dispose of in Committee of the Whole, is attended to by various committees of the House of Representatives, which are thirty or forty in number. These expedients have been rendered necessary in consequence of the great volume of business that devolves upon Congress. I have briefly presented these points for the purpose of presenting to the House not that any particular method shall be adopted. I propose that the question shall be referred to a committee in the language of the resolution to:

Consider of the question of parliamentary debate, length of speeches, general conduct of debates and proper methods for securing the greatest promptitude in the despatch of business consistent with the parliamentary rights of the minority and the general interests of the public; and report its recommendations to this House.

This committee, if it is struck, of course, can do no harm. It can take this matter into consideration, and, after mature consideration of the question, it may, if it choose, make recommendations to the House of Commons. These recommendations, after being duly presented, if considered by the House of Commons, will receive such consideration as the House of Commons may deem them to be entitled. The House may reject them entirely, or may accept them in whole or in part. I believe no harm can be done by a reference of this question to a committee to be struck, in the sense of the resolution, and I therefore move the resolution.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). Mr. Speaker, I heartily agree with the motion of the hon. member for North Oxford.

An hon. MEMBER. North Norfolk.

Mr. BRITTON. I was thinking so much of what I was going to say in reference to the question that I forgot the riding that the hon. gentleman represents. I think it would be parliamentary to address the hon. gentleman, or to speak of him, as, I think, he is entitled to be spoken of, because of the position he holds, as His Excellency. I think that is the proper title for a member of the Joint High Commission; that is the title that he is entitled to receive, and I suppose it would be parliamentary to speak of him in that capacity. I am in accord with the motion he has made. It is a fact that any man who has

come to this House, as recently as I did, must be fully aware that there are some—shall I say of us—hon. members who have an irrepressible desire to speak on every possible occasion and to speak on every possible subject. I must say, that in my opinion, speaking merely for the sake of having words embalmed in "Hansard," speaking to constituents and having "Hansard" distributed, at the expense of the Government, to constituents is in some cases, in many cases, an abuse of the privilege of Parliament. I would be glad if something could be done to prevent an extension of that abuse. It certainly has grown to very great proportions. So far as I have had conversations on the subject with members of the House, they seem to agree in the opinion that, while some hon. gentlemen cannot make an effective speech under any circumstances, if a man can make an effective speech on any subject which is entitled to the consideration of this House, in the great majority of cases, he can make it effective in, at least about half an hour. When necessity compels a longer time than that, I would be glad if this committee could see some way of permitting a speech to be dispensed with, and if it has to be recorded in "Hansard," it might, as is done in the United States Congress, be submitted to the House, taken as read, and printed for distribution. In expressing my approval of this committee, I have one word to say. It certainly is a useless expenditure to have a great majority of the speeches printed, and while the expense of printing is in itself a very considerable item, yet it is comparatively trifling compared with the other expense entailed, because it is on account of these long speeches, such as we have had this session and other sessions, that the session of Parliament is extended to such a length that attendance is burdensome to a great many members. It is because of that, and because I think the debates would be more interesting and more effective in every way if the speeches are limited, that I heartily approve of the motion.

Mr. T. DIXON CRAIG (East Durham). I have some right to speak on this question Mr. Speaker, as I only make short speeches, and I do not know that the hon. member (Mr. Charlton), who brought this matter before this House, can make the same claim that I can in this respect. I suppose he is going to repent now, but I certainly remember him making very long speeches in the old days.

Mr. CHARLTON. Not very long.

Mr. CRAIG. I remember that in the last session of the last Parliament, some hon. gentlemen opposite made very long speeches, and sometimes speeches not very much to the point. I approve heartily of something being done to make the speeches shorter if possible. I do not mean to say that there are not occasions on which long speeches

are not justifiable, but those cases are exceptional, and in the great majority of cases a member could say all that is necessary to be said from his side, and all that is profitable for any one else to know, in a very short time. One great trouble of long speeches is, that hon. members who hear them imagine that they must make long speeches too. In the last Parliament, one member on the other side of the House made a speech of seven hours duration, and another member thought he had to go him one better, and spoke for eight hours. These long speeches are perfectly absurd. I used to think it was a sign of great ability to make a long speech, but I have changed my mind on that point. I find it is the easiest thing in the world to make a long speech. All a man has to do—well, I will not explain it, because I fear somebody might take advantage of it; although I have learned it myself, I do not practice it, and I do not wish that any one else should. I made a little calculation some few years ago about this matter, and I figured out, that if each of the 213 members spoke for two hours during the session, and counting the sittings at six hours a day, it would take fourteen weeks to do nothing but talk all the time. If each member spoke for seven hours, and that does not seem very much for a member to speak during the whole session, then the session of Parliament would last all the year through. That shows the importance of limiting the speeches in some way or other. Now, I have something to say to the newspapers on this question, for I think they are very much to blame for these long speeches. I have come to the conclusion, from my own experience, that the newspapers are responsible. I find that members who make long speeches of three or four hours, get a long report, and often a good report; but sometimes when I have spoken—I do not know whether I said much of interest or not, but I think I was talking to the point for perhaps half an hour—I noticed in the newspapers the next day, that the report was "Mr. Craig made a few remarks," or something of that sort; and so I began to think, that if I wanted to be reported I had better talk for three hours. I give this hint to the newspapers. Let them encourage short speeches by giving a good report when a man speaks twenty minutes, or so, and a short report when a man speaks four hours. That, I think, would cure the evil. I admit that this is a difficult question to solve. I suppose that really the cure would be, in appealing to the good sense of members of the House. I do not know that there is any other cure. It is very difficult to make rules, and to say that a member shall not speak for more than an hour, but we live in a free country and we pride ourselves on our liberty, and some may not wish to be bound by any rule of the kind. I do think that the very fact of this matter being brought to the attention of the House, may to some extent result in the cure of this

evil of exceedingly long speeches. I am not finding fault that long speeches are sometimes made, but I think we have reason to find fault that so many long speeches are made, and often made on subjects that are not of very great importance.

Mr. PETER MACDONALD (East Huron).  
Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. MACDONALD. I suppose that I am one of the sinners who are said to speak too long when I address the House upon public questions, but I am certainly not a sinner as to the number of times I speak. I was rather amused when I heard the hon. member (Mr. Craig) wishing to curtail the length of speeches. Now, I would wager a fifty-pound note with him, that if he looks over the "Hansard" of last session, he will find that he has occupied three columns to every one that a good many of those who make long speeches occupy. I do not know that it makes much difference whether, when you are on your feet and in the humour, you may make a good, long speech, or, if you are jumping on your feet every hour of the day to make a speech.

Mr. CRAIG. This motion seems to encourage debate and prevent long speeches.

Mr. MACDONALD. I am under the impression that last session my hon. friend (Mr. Craig) spoke day in and day out for a number of days, and I have no doubt before this session is over, he will equal his record. I must say, too, that my hon. friend from Kingston (Mr. Britton) is rather guilty of speaking frequently. I have only been on my feet once before this, during this session of six weeks. I am sure that either of the two gentlemen (Mr. Britton and Mr. Craig) have been on their feet a dozen times. People hardly see their own errors and faults. I think it is better to make a good, long speech, embodying all important subjects at once, and then hold your tongue afterwards, than be jumping on your feet on almost every question that comes up. I think that if those gentlemen who are so very fond of short speeches would hold a meeting amongst themselves, they would conclude that a number of speeches are just as bad, if not worse, than one long speech. I would say, too, and I say with intent, that a large number of the members of this House speak too frequently altogether, and judging from their remarks they very often speak without consideration of the subject. Hardly a question comes up, whether on law, or physics, or political science, or any other subject, but they appear to be thoroughly posted upon it. They wish to give their constituents and the people in the country to understand, that they know everything, and they wish to have their names in "Hansard" and in the newspapers as having spoken on every conceivable question. Many of us are more modest, and feel, that

Mr. CRAIG.

we can only speak probably on one line of subjects, such as the trade question, or the expenditure, or the debt. By putting our ideas on all these together we make a tolerably long speech, and in the end we have given our constituents our opinions on the various questions passing in review. Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not of the opinion at all, that we are so full of vanity that there is a single hon. gentleman in this House speaks for the purpose of having his speech put in "Hansard." I do not think there is anything in that at all. I know it is not so. We are accused of spreading our speeches among our constituents at the expense of the Government. I do not know what my hon. friend from Kingston (Mr. Britton) does, but I do not know any other member of this House who does that at all. We do get copies of our speeches at the Printing Bureau; but we pay for them, and they become our own property; and we send these around to our own constituents to let them know our opinion on various questions, and they are necessary, because our speeches are reported to a very limited extent in the newspapers. I think, if we only exercise common sense, we can control ourselves, both in making less numerous speeches and in making shorter ones.

Mr. D. TISDALE (South Norfolk). I think this question is a practical one, and it presents serious practical difficulties. So far as the debate has gone, there seems to be a preponderance of opinion in favour of shorter speeches, but I notice, that none of the gentlemen who have addressed themselves to the subject so far, have cited any precedents to show any lines upon which it is practicable for us to agree to rectify the evil, if evil it is. The only two Houses that have been referred to—and they are the most distinguished, probably, beyond this one, in the world—are the House of Representatives in the United States and the Imperial House of Commons. In the Congress of the United States there is a very marked difference in the method of dealing with important subjects from what prevails in this House. There these subjects are not dealt with by the Government, as the Government are not responsible to Congress for them; but they are dealt with by committees of the House, which meet outside of the House and discuss these questions as long as they please. The British constitutional rule is, that the Government is responsible to the people, and that they must give their reasons in open debate, so that they shall be presented to the country; and the minority, that is, the Opposition, are not to be hampered in any way in presenting the grievances of the people, which they can only fully do by challenging and compelling discussion, when supplies are brought down. There is the great difficulty and the great danger. I do not care which party may be in power, it must be in a considerable majority to control the affairs of the country.

The only precedent we have, that of the Imperial Parliament, is against the hon. gentleman's motion. That Parliament is older, and more important, and abler, and more experienced than ours; and it has been in existence many centuries before ours was thought of. So, in the very inception of the question, it becomes almost hopeless to attempt, by restrictive and compulsory rules, to limit the necessity which may arise for the exercise of free speech, and which is more likely to arise when the minority is a small one. That is the great practical difficulty. If you attempt to lessen or to control too much discussion by the minority, there may be danger to our institutions. I would say this, and I say it candidly and frankly, to the hon. gentleman who has made this motion, that he never thought of making it when he was on this side of the House.

Mr. CHARLTON. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. I introduced a resolution of this kind, when I was in Opposition, in 1886, and on another occasion also.

Mr. FISDALE. The hon. gentleman goes back further than I do. I have only been here twelve years. But I have discussed this question at times with the late lamented leader of this House, and the greatest man, in my opinion, which this country ever produced, Sir John Macdonald, and he never could see any practical way of getting over the difficulty to which I have alluded. When I was younger in Parliament than I am, I thought many matters were easy which greater experience shows to be difficult. The discussion of the question may be useful. If both sides of the House took the matter up and talked it over among themselves, we might be able to reduce the evil, if it is an evil. I am quite willing to agree, that, in some cases and on both sides of the House, there are an unnecessary number of long speeches. I do not think I have been a great sinner in that regard myself, though, possibly it may be said that, if I had the ability, I might speak as long as some other gentlemen. It is difficult to adopt a uniform rule for men of different minds and different habits. The hon. member for East Huron (Mr. Macdonald), who seldom speaks more than a few words during the session, except upon some one special occasion, thinks that it is better to make one speech on general affairs. I do not agree with him. My idea of parliamentary discussion is, to have a debate consisting of short speeches, which may be numerous, but which are not tiresome. They are useful, as elucidating a subject, and they would not tire out gentlemen on either side of the House. Short, pertinent speeches on the different questions coming up would be instructive, and would tend, in my opinion, to raise the tone of Parliament and to increase its importance and capacity, irrespective of party questions. At the same time, I cannot see how it would be practicable to

get a consensus of opinion on both sides of the House in favour of a time limit. The British Parliament has adopted a different plan, which, under their system, seems to have worked fairly well. From my experience here of both parties, I do not think, that the system of cloture would be satisfactory. I think the pressure that might be brought upon the Government at times would be dangerous, even to the Government itself, and particularly to the effectiveness with which we desire to see Parliament carrying out the high duties with which it is charged. My own view is very strong, that we had better try and see if we cannot induce hon. members on both sides to be a little more forbearing, instead of attempting to exercise drastic measures.

Mr. CLANCY. I am sure that all those who have seen the motion on the Order paper for some time looked forward with some interest to hearing some strong reasons urged by the hon. member who moved that motion in its favour. But he took nearly half an hour to tell us a very short story, and still left us somewhat in the dark. He says that he drew the attention of the House to this matter in 1886. That only shows how little value we can attach to his sincerity, because from my experience in this House and my constant reading of the newspapers before I came here, that same hon. gentleman has ever since 1886 been one of the worst offenders.

Mr. CHARLTON. Has the hon. gentleman any instance to state of my having transgressed the rule I seek to lay down.

Mr. CLANCY. I think we not only had a long speech from the hon. gentleman in the session of 1896, but that on that occasion he polluted the Scriptures by reading them in the House of Commons. He was pumped out for matter, and had to lay hands on a book intended for better and other purposes. No doubt, there is, and always must be, in a deliberative body the abuse of long speeches, and I am sorry to say that the hon. gentleman, when looking for a model, went where he always goes for his models. He went to the other side of the line, where there is neither parliamentary nor responsible government. Why was he not able to point to the British House of Commons? True, the cloture has been introduced in that House, but not for the reasons pointed out by the hon. gentleman, but because of obstruction. The remedy for the evil lies, not in arbitrary rules, but in the sense of the fitness of things that prevails in the House itself. If any hon. member speaks too often and too long, he will soon find himself the worst sufferer, because the House will mark its disapproval by refusing to listen to his speeches, and in that I think we must seek the only corrective. While, no doubt, the infliction of long speeches is an abuse, at the same time I

am unable to see how you can find a remedy for that abuse in any cast-iron rule. The hon. gentleman himself has been a sinner on this very occasion, because he took, by the clock, nearly half an hour to say what could have been said in a very few minutes. Perhaps I have offended myself at times.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. CLANCY. My hon. friend says "hear, hear." There was a time when, I think, he himself was not an insignificant offender, but he sits now silent in a comfortable place behind his masters, and has no longer any incentive to err in this respect. I think it would be a reflection upon this House to appoint a committee to lay down a rule fixing a limit on the length of our speeches, and that we had better leave the good sense of this House to exert its beneficent influence on those who are inclined to take up too much of our time.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). There seems to be a pretty general consensus of opinion on both sides that long speeches are a great evil in this Canadian Parliament. I agree in that sentiment, but I doubt if the evil can be remedied by law, or, at any rate, by any other law than that of taste and good sense. I have been of the opinion for a long time—and the experience of this session has rather confirmed me in that opinion—that long speeches do more harm to those who make them than to those against whom they are delivered. There is generally more effect in a short, concise and pithy speech than in an hour of oratory. It is not for me to judge of the manner in which the Opposition should fight their battles, but I give them my own opinion that in this session they have many times thrown away their chances and failed to produce an effect on the country which they might have produced by shorter and more forcible speeches, instead of the long orations to which they have treated us. But at all events, they are within their right, and supposing they do abuse the patience of hon. members on this side, we had still better trust to the old sound rule of the British Parliament, and put no obstacle in the way of the liberty of any man on the floor of this House or elsewhere. That rule has been in existence from the origin of parliamentary government. True, the British House of Commons has departed from that rule, by introducing in recent years the cloture, but that, as my hon. friend who has just sat down (Mr. Clancy) has stated, was introduced on account of the obstruction which prevented public business being carried on. I hope the day will never come here when we will have to resort to the cloture and abridge the liberty of any man to express his views and even to make silly speeches. I would even go

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the length of saying that if a man wants to make a silly speech, he is within his rights, and should be let do as he pleases, though he certainly will not improve his own case. My hon. friend who introduced this motion (Mr. Charlton) cited to us the American example. I need hardly tell the House that I was in Washington some time during the past winter, and I must say that the more I saw of the working of the American system, the less I thought of it and the more of ours. I do not think at all that it has conduced to what ought to be the parliamentary system of government, that is to say, debate. You have essays on the floor of Congress and essays in the Senate, delivered one day and answered several days or the following week, by other essays, consigned to the Congressional Record, but that is not debate. Debate ought to be instantaneous—arguments advanced and answered on the moment, and, for my part, I think we should endeavour to get back to that, although we have, at times, departed widely from it. The long speeches we have heard tend to create what is undoubtedly an evil and at this moment a growing evil. Still, I do not, for my own part, favour the law my hon. friend (Mr. Charlton) proposes. I trust to the common sense of this House. These long speeches will not continue after an expression on both sides of this House that they are to be condemned and not to be tolerated. The courtesy we owe to each other has been no obstacle to long speeches; but, if they are persisted in, no doubt there will grow such expressions of impatience that speeches will hereafter be restrained as to length. There may be, perhaps, something to say with regard to "Hansard." I do not, for my part, wish to abolish "Hansard." We adopted it long ago. It is not, perhaps, an unmixed blessing, but, on the whole, it serves a good purpose. There is no doubt that if the Debates Committee would find a rule to shorten the reports of the long speeches which are delivered at certain hours of the night and by which, I think, the public is not at all instructed, a good deal of the discussion we have on the floor of this House could be very well omitted from the pages of "Hansard." I offer no definite suggestion as to that at this moment; but I would invite the consideration of the Debates Committee to this question, to see whether it is not a possible thing in some way to reduce the size of the volume which generally constitutes the largest part of the literature of the session. Perhaps, with some ingenuity, they might find a rule which would be acceptable to both sides of the House. But I desire to say to my hon. friend from North Norfolk that, while I occupy the position I do, I do not wish to put any restraints upon the privileges of the Opposition. There are not many of them now, so we can afford to be generous to them. Perhaps they hope to make up by speeches what they lack in numbers. They are free to do so, as far as I am

concerned, and I do not wish to curtail their liberty. So, I hope my hon. friend, having called the attention of the House to this subject, which, undoubtedly, is one requiring attention, will be satisfied with the advantage he has obtained and will not press his motion further.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Picou). The right hon. gentleman in his observations, with which, in large part, I agree, animadverted upon the time the Opposition have taken and the length of speeches made by hon. gentlemen on this side of the House. But, I suppose, in his desire to give an example of brevity in the debate, he had not time to even suggest the very reasonable excuse for many of these long speeches. I suppose no Opposition, either in this House or in the English House of Commons, was ever confronted with such a series of broken promises of the Government as this Opposition has to consider. I regret to say that, industrious as the Opposition has been, and long as the speeches have been on that subject of broken pledges, the subject has been by no means exhausted; and it will be necessary, I fear, if our privileges last a little longer, to go into these "Hansards"—which are awkward records at times—and in performing that duty on our side of the House, I am afraid we shall be obliged to err, if it is erring, by referring to these numerous and badly broken pledges. Even the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), who has charge of this resolution, I think, must have felt a little guilty and conscience-stricken in regard to the subject of by-gone speeches. Whether long or short, certainly he has no desire to have these speeches quoted to show what he said about unrestricted reciprocity, the terrible growth of the public debt and other subjects of that kind. Again, while the hon. gentleman who has charge of the resolution, seems now to think that debates should be shortened and speeches reduced, he did not touch another question in connection with which he has had a rather remarkable and really, apparently, successful career. If the hon. gentleman has not offended in the length of speeches he has made, he has certainly shown wonderful pertinacity in making the same old speech, session after session, on the subject, for instance, of the criminal law. And though he has seen his bantling Bills voted down session after session, when the Conservatives were in power, just as he has since the Liberals obtained office, strange to say, by his pertinacity, he has, I will not say smuggled, that would not be right, but put his Bill through so far that it now stands for third reading. I call that to the attention of the Government, by the way. I wish to add my feeble voice to the support of the position taken by the leader of the House in regard to this proposition. There is a suggestion in the motion under consideration that we could certainly not be expected to pronounce upon since the discussion has

taken place. The hon. gentleman himself has not given us ground to resolve "that it is exceeding expedient that rules be adopted limiting the length of speeches" and so on, because he is coming very dangerously near to one of the objections that, in the debates in the English House have proved fatal to any proposition like this. There is a speech made by Peel when a proposition such as the hon. gentleman now brings here was voted down by an overwhelming majority. In that speech, in addition to taking the ground the right hon. Prime Minister takes, he pointed out a practical difficulty in connection with such a rule in the carrying on of a Parliament such as the English Parliament or ours. Suppose you limit the speeches to an hour, and an hon. gentleman on the Treasury benches who is most noted for brevity and terseness, has to explain some great questions—say the result of the negotiations in Washington—he cannot explain the position and expound the policy of the Government completely and satisfactorily in an hour. Then, you are face to face with this difficulty—that if the Ministers cannot be bound down it would be absurd to bind down certain members in the Opposition or in the House generally. All must be bound or none. And Sir Robert Peel, while hoping that the good sense and judgment of the House would bring about a change, pointed out the practical difficulties of working out our system of Government and maintaining our free Parliament under such drastic rules. Then, I may mention that in Sir John Bourinot's work, where he refers to that debate in the British House when the subject was thrashed out and the proposition overwhelmingly voted down, he tells us also of similar attempts made in the old parliaments of Canada. Rules were passed in the direction here proposed, but they would not work and had to be repealed. It was found impossible to work free institutions like ours or a parliamentary system like ours under such rules. I trust that the hon. mover of the resolution will accept the advice of the Prime Minister, and leave the subject in the position in which it now stands, with the expression of opinions from members of the House that they would like hon. gentlemen to be as brief as possible in their remarks.

Mr. J. CHARLTON (North Norfolk). I suppose I may be permitted a word in reply to some of the remarks made. Of course, the expressed desire of the leader of the House will be my law in this matter. I shall not consider the debate entirely fruitless, although the object I had in view of having the matter referred to a committee is not obtained. I think the debate will have good results, and the expression of opinion from both sides of the House warrant me in that expectation.

There has been a treatment of this question, Mr. Speaker, that, in my opinion, is hardly justified by the character of the resolution. Hon. gentlemen who have spoken adversely

to this resolution have considered it as if they were combatting rules that were proposed. Now no rule was proposed. For instance, my hon. friend who spoke last, asserted that an hour was too short a time for the leader of the Government on any great question, for the Minister of Finance in making his Budget speech, or for the leader of the Government in discussing the negotiations at Washington. I have proposed no hour limitation, I proposed no limitation whatever. The resolution proposed that a committee shall consider this question and make recommendations. If I were consulted about this matter, I never would recommend a limitation to one hour, or even to two hours, in the presentation of a subject by a member of the Government or by the leader of the Opposition.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman failed to catch my point. I am afraid, in my desire to speak briefly, I did not put the subject as plainly as I should have done. The point was that it led to discrimination which the good sense and fairness of members would not stand for a long time. For instance, he proposed that a member of the Government should be allowed a long time, while other members of Parliament were to be cut short. That was the point of Sir Robert Peel's remark, that when you made discrimination, you were threatened with grave difficulty.

Mr. CHARLTON. The hon. gentleman makes a pure assumption. What does he know, or what do I know, what recommendation a committee might make under this resolution? He is assuming that discrimination would be made, that the limitations of debate would be oppressive, and so forth. No such assumption is warranted. All that this resolution asks for is that this question be referred to a special committee to consider the matter, and, if so disposed, to make a recommendation. If the committee had been struck and if that recommendation had been made, after deliberation, and if that recommendation were before this House for discussion, then the line of argument adopted by my hon. friend would have been pertinent to the case. But no such circumstances exist, no recommendations are before the House, but only the bald proposition that this matter with reference to the conduct of debate should be referred to a special committee who would be directed by the House to take the matter under consideration and report, if they choose, a recommendation to the House. They would not even be compelled to make a recommendation.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Clause 2 says: "That it is expedient that rules be adopted limiting the length of speeches."

Mr. CHARLTON. Very true, and when the committee is struck it may make such recommendations to the House. But the

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committee has no instructions from the House as to the character of the recommendations it shall make, it has no instructions to make any recommendations at all as to what the rules shall be. No doubt it would be an easy thing, even from the standpoint of my hon. friend, for the committee to make recommendations, for instance, with regard to the matter the Premier alluded to, about loading up the "Hansard" with irrelevant matter late at night, or at other times. That is a matter that would properly come under the special consideration of the House, more properly than under the consideration of the "Hansard" Committee, because this special committee would be specially delegated by the House to consider these questions, and would have referred to it the consideration of matters, this among others, which would properly come under its jurisdiction, and which do not properly come under the jurisdiction of the "Hansard" Committee. Of course I bow to the desire of the Premier without hesitation, and without regret, I may say, because I think the discussion has done good.

I have just one word, however, to say to my hon. friend who spoke last, about the ill-course I have pursued, the bad taste I have evinced in my persistence in advocating certain measures. Well, Sir, I would never call upon a committee of this House to forbid any member of this House from advocating from year to year, to the utmost of his ability, any measure that he believes essential to the welfare of his fellow-beings; and if I have advocated in this House an amendment to the Criminal Code, and have been guilty of the audacity of getting an amendment to that Code smuggled through so far as to have it stand for its third reading, I have no apology to make to the hon. gentleman, or to any member of this House.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, I complimented the hon. gentleman.

Mr. CHARLTON. A Bill was first introduced amid odium and obloquy, but by pursuing a persistent course from year to year, finally a law has been put upon the Statute-book, and if my hon. friend will pursue that same course persistently in Opposition, and will confine himself assiduously and conscientiously to the truth and to the dictates of his own conscience, as I did, he probably will make some progress. But he needs to be careful about the truth and the conscientious motives that actuate him, for I am afraid that sometimes they may not possibly occupy a paramount and uppermost place in his mind in his treatment of public questions.

Mr. HUGHES. He must cultivate self-righteousness.

Mr. CHARLTON. Well, self-righteousness is not a necessary quality; a strong sense of duty does not necessarily involve a charge that a man is self-righteous. We are all sinners, very great sinners on both sides of

this House. It is not necessary to claim that we are righteous above our fellow-men; but if a man has strong convictions, he is a coward if he does not press those convictions upon his fellow-citizens and his fellow-members of the House, whether he is self-righteous or not. If he has convictions, and believes that a certain line of legislation, or a certain line of conduct is in the interest of his fellow-men, and if he promotes them on that line in the face of obloquy, sneers and innuendos, such as my hon. friend throws across the floor of this House, he has the courage of his convictions, and is worthy of something better than innuendos and slurs, Mr. Speaker, in conformity with the desire of the Premier. I beg to withdraw the resolution that stands in my name.

Motion withdrawn.

### A CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMMISSION.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar) moved:

That it is conceded that the settlement and development of the region west of Lake Superior are essential to the prosperity and well-being of Canada, and

That the best facilities of communication and transportation, and more especially the lowest feasible scale of railway transportation charges are indispensable to the success of the western settlers, and

That, in recognition of these facts, the Parliament of Canada has provided aid in cash, land, constructed railway, and in other forms, to a very large amount, in order that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company might be able to furnish transportation to the western settlers at rates which need be calculated to produce little beyond the cost of operation and maintenance, and

That the following provision is embodied in the Act incorporating the Canadian Pacific Railway Company:—(20) The limit to the reduction of tolls by the Parliament of Canada provided for by the eleventh subsection of the seventeenth section of "The Consolidated Railway Act, 1879," respecting tolls, is hereby extended, so that such reduction may be to such an extent that such tolls when reduced shall not produce less than ten per cent per annum profit on the capital actually expended in the construction of the railway, instead of not less than fifteen per cent per annum profit, as provided by the said subsection: and so also, that such reduction shall not be made unless the net income of the company ascertained as described in said subsection shall have exceeded ten per cent per annum, instead of fifteen per cent per annum, as provided by the said subsection. And the exercise by the Governor in Council of the power of reducing the tolls of the company as provided by the tenth subsection of the said section seventeen is hereby limited to the same extent with relation to the profit of the company and to its net revenue, as that to which the power of Parliament to reduce tolls is limited by said subsection eleven as hereby amended, and

That there seems to be no well-defined understanding as to whether the gifts and grants aforementioned were not to be considered as a part of the "capital expended on the construction of the road," and

That there seems not to have been any method or process provided or indicated by the Charter Act for determining the actual amount of the "capital expended in the construction of the road," and

That there is reason to believe that the present tolls levied by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, on its western traffic at least are excessive, and

That there is reason to believe that the present revenues of the company from its main line traffic, and from that of its western branches in Canada, do now, after deducting all proper charges, pay much in excess of ten per cent on the amount of the "capital actually expended in the construction of the railway;"

That this House, for the reasons set forth in the foregoing paragraphs, do appoint a commission for the purpose of inquiring into and determining:

(a) The cost of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's main line and the equipment thereof;

(b) The cost of all branch lines constructed and at present owned and operated by the company in Canada;

(c) The cost of all lines acquired by purchase and at present owned and operated by the company in Canada;

(d) The cost of all lines at present owned and operated by the company in the United States of America;

(e) The rentals or other consideration paid for all lines leased and operated by the company in Canada;

(f) The rental or other consideration paid by the company for all lines operated by it or operated subject to its control in the United States of America;

(g) The revenues and expenditures of each of these railways as aforementioned, in separate form in so far as such separation of accounts is feasible; the percentage of the profit and net income of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in each year of its operation of the road, to the "capital actually expended in construction," as set forth in section 20 of Schedule A, in chap. 1, 44 Vict.

That this commission be given power to examine witnesses under oath, to demand production of books of account or correspondence, and of all documents relating to the subject matter of this resolution.

He said: After listening to the debate which has just concluded, I would not like to be guilty of the bad taste of detaining the House at any great length in connection with this motion. A few days ago when the question of the appointment of a railway commission was before the House, I took the ground that such a commission would fail very largely of its object because of the existence of a clause in the Act incorporating the Canadian Pacific Railway which would exclude such a commission from any control of the rates on that road. That clause, as you know, provides that until the company has earned 10 per cent upon the capital actually expended in the railway it will be impossible for the Government to attempt any control of the rates. You, Sir, probably are aware that the Government does exercise, or is supposed to exercise, or at least has power under the statute to exercise, control of the rates of all railway lines in the Dominion. I am not prepared to say that up to

the present time the Government has exercised to any extent that control; I am disposed to think that the railway companies charge pretty much what rates they choose. But until we get rid of that clause in the Canadian Pacific Railway charter, it seems to me that the appointment of a railway commission will be largely futile as without control of Canadian Pacific Railway rates there would be little public advantage in controlling the rates upon the other lines.

Now, it might be presumed, that, in presenting a motion of this kind, I may be actuated by malice or hostility towards the Canadian Pacific Railway. I wish to distinctly disclaim any such feeling. I have the warmest admiration for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and for the manner in which it is managed. I have the greatest admiration for the officers of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. They conduct that great trans-continental road in accordance with the very best methods, and in a manner which reflects credit both upon themselves and upon the Dominion of Canada. At the outset, I wish to make that statement, in order that the action which I am taking may not be misunderstood. It seems to me, that representatives of the country have a clear duty to perform to the people they represent regardless of the interests of railway companies. In connection with this matter I find it is necessary to make a statement as to the facts of the position that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company occupies, in order that hon. members may realize the importance of the movement which I propose.

The Canadian Pacific Syndicate was formed in 1880. It obtained from the Dominion Government a contract to build, equip and operate a railway westward from Callander on the east side of Lake Nipissing, about 350 miles west of Montreal. The route traversed by this line is 2,500 miles long, through a country presenting in many places stupendous engineering difficulties. The cost of the construction of this line was put, according to the company's own estimate, at \$83,500,000, and the equipment \$8,000,000; in all, \$91,500,000. This may seem a somewhat astonishing undertaking for a company with a nominal capital of \$5,000,000. But our astonishment is sensibly diminished, or rather, is turned in another direction, when we examine the provisions of the contract of the syndicate with the Government. The Government gave to the company: 1. Completed railway to the value of \$35,000,000; 2. \$25,000,000 in cash; 3. 25,000,000 acres of selected lands in Manitoba and the North-west; 4. The privilege of importing rails and other supplies free of duty; 5. Exemption from taxation for an indefinite period, but not less than twenty years; 6. A monopoly of the traffic of the North-west, the Government to bind itself not to permit the construction of railways from the Canadian Pacific Railway southward to the boundary.

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The Canadian Pacific Syndicate, therefore, received in hard cash and its equivalent \$60,000,000, besides the 25,000,000 acres of land. Now, the value of these lands may be gathered from the record of the actual proceeds of the sales thereof. When asking the Canadian Government for a loan of \$30,000,000 in January, 1884, Mr. Stephen—now Lord Mount Stephen—said: "The value of the land subsidy may be exemplified by the result of the realization of the portion already sold, which has produced a net return of \$2.36 per acre." At that time about 4,000,000 acres had been sold. This figure, \$2.36 per acre, was the lowest average price at which any of the lands were sold. The average price obtained kept steadily increasing. In his report of 1892, President Van Horne says, that the sales of Canadian Pacific Railway lands in 1891 realized an average price per acre of \$4.05, as against \$3.76 in 1890. It would be very reasonable to assume that the value of the land grant would be at least \$3 per acre. The total subsidy given by Canada for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway would, on this very moderate basis of calculation, therefore be:

|                                    |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Constructed railway .....          | \$35,000,000  |
| Cash .....                         | 25,000,000    |
| Land grant (25,000,000 acres)..... | 75,000,000    |
|                                    | \$135,000,000 |

This for a railway whose construction and equipment was estimated to cost \$91,500,000. But, besides these enormous direct gifts, the Government also gave the company power to raise further sums by the issue of stock and bonds. Let us see how this power was used, and how it resulted for the people. The first issue of stock was \$20,000,000. This was all allotted to, or taken up by, the promoters, at 25 per cent of its par value, and realized \$5,000,000. All of this first issue of stock was issued to members of the Canadian Pacific Syndicate, prominent among whom were Mr. George Stephen—now Lord Mount Stephen—and Mr. Donald Smith—now Lord Strathcona. This is on record in the Sessional Papers of the Canadian Parliament, No. 31, vol. 9, 1884. The proceeds of this issue of stock was used by the allottees mainly to pay themselves dividends at the rate of 6 per cent on the stock they already held. Whilst nearly all this money went back into the pockets of the patriotic promoters, and little or none of it into the railway, the road was saddled with an additional debt to these gentlemen of \$20,000,000. There was another issue of stock to the amount of \$30,000,000 in 1883, which realized \$15,281,754. Thus, out of \$50,000,000 worth of stock which stands as a liability against the railway, only \$20,281,754 actually was realized. This stock was held mainly by the promoters, and they paid themselves dividends at the rate of 6 per cent on its par value before the road was completed or was earning expenses. They paid these dividends

out of capital, and, as a matter of fact, within five years the holders of this stock had received in dividends, which the road had never earned, 20 per cent more than they had ever put into the undertaking. Besides this, the stock which they had bought at 25 cents on the dollar, was selling at 90 at the end of five years, and it has now passed the par mark, because of the high dividends that had been already paid out of capital, and the reservation of \$24,500,000 raised by the issue of guaranteed bonds, for the purpose of guaranteeing future dividends. This \$24,500,000, it is needless to say, should have gone into the road itself. Thus, the funds raised from the issue of stock were devoted principally to paying back dividends to the holders of that stock and not to building the railway, which, as a matter of fact, was all built out of the subsidies and largesse of the Canadian public. This system of financial manipulation served a double purpose for the syndicate. It enabled them to repay themselves all that they had put into the enterprise, with a handsome profit added, and it further increased the value of the stock which they thus held at a cost of nothing at all to them, to a figure

so high that it is not surprising that many of them are millionaires and some of them peers. Thus, it comes about that the proceeds of over \$60,000,000 of stock, which stands as a present liability of the railway, never went into its construction at all, but was manipulated for stock-jobbing purposes by the syndicate to enrich themselves before the road was completed.

Mr. HUGHES. Would the hon. gentleman tell us what that is taken from ?

Mr. RICHARDSON. In order to prove that statement, Mr Speaker, will you allow me to quote from a table which appears in the Sessional Papers, Returns, September 9th, 1884, showing what these people actually realized.

Mr. HUGHES. Would the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him—

Mr. RICHARDSON. This statement shows the number of shares allotted, the face value of these shares, the amount paid by the persons to whom these shares were allotted, and the amount realized by them as dividends in five years. The statement is as follows :—

| Name.                     | Number of Shares. | Face Value. | Amount paid for Stock. | Aggregate Dividends in Five Years. |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                           |                   | \$          | \$                     | \$                                 |
| Geo. Stephen.....         | 23,411            | 2,341,100   | 585,275                | 652,330                            |
| D. McIntyre.....          | 975               | 97,500      | 24,375                 | 29,200                             |
| D. McIntyre & Co.....     | 18,534            | 1,853,400   | 463,350                | 556,020                            |
| J. S. Kennedy & Co.....   | 17,558            | 1,755,800   | 438,950                | 526,740                            |
| J. J. Hill.....           | 19,509            | 1,950,900   | 487,725                | 585,270                            |
| R. B. Angus.....          | 19,509            | 1,950,900   | 487,725                | 585,270                            |
| H. S. Northcote.....      | 3,064             | 300,400     | 75,100                 | 90,120                             |
| D. A. Smith.....          | 19,509            | 1,950,900   | 487,725                | 585,270                            |
| Boissevin & Co.....       | 1,950             | 195,000     | 48,750                 | 58,500                             |
| Blake Bros. (Boston)..... | 975               | 97,500      | 24,375                 | 29,250                             |
| R. Donaldson.....         | 1,560             | 156,000     | 39,000                 | 46,800                             |
| J. S. Kennedy.....        | 975               | 97,500      | 26,375                 | 29,250                             |
| J. K. Todd.....           | 1,365             | 136,500     | 34,125                 | 40,950                             |
| D. W. James.....          | 1,950             | 195,000     | 48,750                 | 58,500                             |
| C. J. Osborn.....         | 1,950             | 195,000     | 48,750                 | 58,500                             |
| C. H. Northcote.....      | 390               | 39,000      | 9,750                  | 11,700                             |
| W. Trotter.....           | 780               | 78,000      | 19,500                 | 23,400                             |
| Morton, Rose & Co.....    | 29,364            | 2,936,400   | 731,600                | 880,920                            |
| F. Greininger.....        | 3,901             | 390,100     | 97,525                 | 117,030                            |
| L. Cohen & Son.....       | 3,901             | 390,000     | 97,525                 | 117,030                            |
| Sulzbach Bros.....        | 1,268             | 126,800     | 31,700                 | 38,040                             |
| S. Propper.....           | 585               | 58,500      | 14,625                 | 17,550                             |
| J. De Reinach.....        | 1,658             | 165,800     | 41,450                 | 50,240                             |
| E. Kohn.....              | 780               | 78,000      | 19,500                 | 23,400                             |
| O. De Reinach.....        | 877               | 87,700      | 21,925                 | 26,310                             |
| C. Kolt.....              | 97                | 9,700       | 2,425                  | 2,910                              |
| H. Finlay.....            | 390               | 39,000      | 9,750                  | 11,700                             |
| M. Springer.....          | 1,365             | 136,500     | 34,125                 | 40,950                             |
| Euphrussi & Co.....       | 1,950             | 195,000     | 48,740                 | 58,500                             |
| Banque Parisienne.....    | 5,579             | 557,900     | 139,475                | 172,360                            |
| C. Morawitz.....          | 390               | 39,000      | 9,750                  | 11,700                             |
| P. du P. Grenfell.....    | 975               | 97,500      | 24,375                 | 29,250                             |
| C. D. Rose.....           | 975               | 97,500      | 24,375                 | 29,250                             |
| E. Cassel.....            | 1,755             | 175,500     | 48,875                 | .....                              |
| Lord Elphinstone.....     | 1,950             | 195,000     | 48,750                 | 58,500                             |

| Name.                              | Number of Shares. | Face Value. | Amount paid for Stock. | Aggregate Dividends in Five Years. |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                    |                   | \$          | \$                     | \$                                 |
| Govet, Sons & Co.....              | 390               | 39,000      | 9,750                  | 11,700                             |
| A. S. Thompson.....                | 195               | 19,500      | 4,875                  | 5,850                              |
| J. Billitzer.....                  | 195               | 19,500      | 4,875                  | 5,850                              |
| H. Puffel.....                     | 195               | 19,500      | 4,875                  | 5,850                              |
| C. Rosenraad.....                  | 95                | 9,700       | 2,425                  | 2,910                              |
| G. Levy.....                       | 95                | 9,700       | 2,425                  | 2,910                              |
| A. S. Schaw.....                   | 1,950             | 195,000     | 48,750                 | 53,500                             |
| Morton, Rose & Co. (in trust)..... | 390               | 39,000      | 9,750                  | 11,700                             |
| W. C. Van Horne.....               | 3,905             | 390,500     | 97,625                 | 117,150                            |

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have read that table—

Mr. HUGHES. Would the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I have read the table—

Mr. HUGHES. I rise to a point of order

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. member (Mr. Hughes) rises to a point of order.

Mr. HUGHES. Have I the right to ask the hon. member (Mr. Richardson) a question. He has the right to deny it, but I have the right to ask the question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. That is not a point of order.

Mr. HUGHES. I wish to ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Richardson) what paper he was quoting from.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. HAGGART. He says it is from a return

Mr. HUGHES. I did not hear that.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I quoted that table from the sessional papers, being a return made to this House to show the House exactly the amount of money these people made out of this stock. The company, as you know, is stocked for \$65,000,000, and not more than probably one-fourth at the most of that money was actually raised, and most of it was retained for the purpose of paying these enormous dividends to the stockholders. The object I have in view is to have a commission of experts appointed who shall go into the cost of the Canadian Pacific Railway from the very outset, ascertain exactly the amount of money that was expended in the construction of this railway, and let the country know it, in order that it may be determined whether the Government can secure control of the rates on that road, for if the earnings can be shown to pay ten per cent upon the amount which the company actually expended on its own account, irrespective of public subsidies, and enhanced cost, then the

Mr. RICHARDSON.

Government has power to control the rates. As I have stated, there is a clause in the Canadian Pacific Railway charter which says that until this company has earned 10 per cent on the capital actually expended in construction, the Government shall not exercise any control over their tolls. As I have pointed out, the country has given the Canadian Pacific Railway, in cash, completed railway and lands, an amount aggregating some \$135,000,000, and I think it will be within the judgment of reasonable men that at least that amount should be deducted from the cost of the railway. The House probably knows that the cost was enormously enhanced by the adoption of methods very well known in the United States—the formation of a construction company. In the west, the syndicate formed what is known as the North American Construction Company, and they let to themselves contracts for the construction of that railroad, and in that manner the cost that is represented to the country is very much greater than we believe the actual cost should be. The object I have in view is that a commission of experts shall be appointed to ascertain the actual cost of that railway, not the nominal cost which is represented by the company to be \$41,000,000 approximately, so that we may know, dollar for dollar, what that road cost. When you take into consideration the fact that the net earnings of the Canadian Pacific Railway last year exceeded \$10,000,000, I believe that if we deduct the amount the country gave to the Canadian Pacific Railway in subsidies, and the amount over and above the actual cost, it will be found to pay infinitely more than 10 per cent on the actual cost, and then the Government would have control of these rates, and thus a railway commission might be of some real service to this country. In order that the House may not be asked to take my word for this matter, I want to read two or three brief extracts from a speech delivered by—probably after the right hon. leader of the House, one of the noblest Liberals that has existed in Canada since confederation; I refer to the Hon. Edward Blake. I do not think that any one in Canada, at least will deny his ability. When the company was applying to Parlia-

ment for a loan of some \$30,000,000, the Hon. Edward Blake made a speech to this House on June 17th, 1885, and I would commend a perusal of that speech to every member of this House. It is one of the most exhaustive, one of the ablest and clearest speeches ever delivered in the Canadian Parliament. It would be well worth the while of every member to read that speech, and to ascertain for himself exactly what favours we conferred upon the Canadian Pacific Railway. The Hon. Mr. Blake said :

With the great aids that we gave to the Canadian Pacific Railway, with the enormous advantages which we gave it, had prudence marked the course of hon. gentlemen opposite and the course of the company, its capital account ought to have been insignificant to-day, it ought to have been able to transact business at the lowest rates by far of any company at all similarly circumstanced geographically and climatically, and it ought to have transacted it more profitably, because, its capital account being so small, a very small margin of profit for handling would have realized a very large dividend. But, at present, you have an enormously inflated capital account, you have a road built so fast that even the centre is not developed so as to sustain itself, so fast that the ends must depend wholly on the weak centre—for it is weak to-day—for their sustenance, and thus the great prospects which, had prudence reigned in the management of this business, would have been assured to the company, have been marred, those bright skies have been obscured, and we are face to face with a condition of things very different indeed from what we might once have hoped.

A few pages further on Mr. Blake spoke as follows :—

No road in the United States, not one of the Pacific roads, was given a money gift ; not a single Pacific road was given a money subsidy. Two of these roads were loaned bonds ; the bonds were not given to them ; it was a loan of the credit of the country to the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific, and it aggregated somewhere about \$60,000,000 of bonds, for which a first mortgage was afterwards made a second mortgage to ease the financial operations of the company. So that I say no road was given a present of money. Our road has been given a present of money and of works, which were built by the Government, and are therefore equivalent to money, according to my calculation, amounting to something like \$58,500,000.

That, I think, is exclusive of the land grant. Later on Mr. Blake spoke as follows :—

The Government builds and hands over to them 641 miles of the main line, besides the Pembina branch, the probable cost of which I estimated, before the hon. acting Minister of Railways made his statement, at \$30,000,000. He says now \$29,500,000. I dare say we shall entirely agree by next session, but I will leave it now at \$30,000,000, because, I am sorry to say, half a million more or less in the figures I am about to deal with is of very little consequence. The Government surveys cost \$3,500,000 about, really, I believe, \$3,440,000. The Government subsidy in cash was \$25,000,000. The Government provision of lands and powers has already realized to the company about \$11,000,000 in cash, under the operation of the land grant bonds system, the sale of town sites, and so on. That makes a total of cash or its equivalent of \$69,-

500,000, besides which there are 20,000,000 acres of land, because I throw off acres, 1,400,000 of which, with the \$2,060,000 now due for land sales, to meet the outstanding \$3,600,000 of land grant bonds in the hands of the public. Throwing this off, the proceeds of land sales yet to be collected, and this fourteen hundred thousand acres of land to which I refer, give you a net 20,000,000 acres of free lands. So there were \$69,500,000 in cash aids, and 20,000,000 acres of land. If you value that at a dollar, you get the public aids, not loans, but gifts, of \$89,500,000. If you value that at two dollars, which hon. gentlemen opposite and the company in their report of the day before yesterday value it at, you get public aids of \$109,500,000. There is the condition of things. Remember these are not loans, these are gifts. Besides that, there were those monopolies, those exemptions, and those privileges to which I have referred more than once, which are of enormous value to the country are still of greater disadvantage to the country. The sternness with which they are clung to shows their value to the country, and shows their injury to the country. Throw them in at what you please, you find the aids in cash or its equivalent and in land, according as you value the latter at \$1 or \$2 an acre, amount to either \$89,500,000 or \$109,500,000 given by the company. Now, add the loan of 1884. They amount to \$29,810,000. Then you have gifts, as before, \$69,500,000 ; loans, \$29,810,000, or a total of cash aids of \$99,310,000. Then add the 20,000,000 of acres, and if you value the lands at \$1, you have \$119,310,000, or if you value them at \$2, it gives you a total of gifts and loans, a total of aids of \$139,310,000. And the cost of the whole line, the Government and the company's sections, according to their own estimate, was \$83,500,000, and the equipment \$3,000,000, making a total of \$91,500,000 ; and it is to be the property of the company, and the company and the Government both declare that it is going to pay from the day it is opened. \* \* \* So the prospects of the company as a paying road are of the brightest description, and, as I have shown, we have given them the means, and far more than the means, to build that paying road. Well, then, the hon. First Minister gave a reason for the faith that was in him the other day, for he told us the road could carry freight at one-fourth the cost of other roads, and a road that can do that will certainly be a highly paying road.

So you see, we had, according to Mr. Blake, the declaration of the First Minister, who, I presume was at that time Sir John Macdonald, that the road would be able to pay and charge tolls about one-fourth the rates charged by other railway companies. Now, let us see what kind of rates it has been charging. I have some quotations with regard to these rates, and, if you will permit me, I will just give you one brief extract. Such an agitation was raised in the west with regard to the excessive rates which the company charged, that the late Government felt bound to appoint a commission to inquire into the rates in order to allay the agitation. That was some years ago, and here is a brief epitome of the case that was presented to that commission by the Manitoba Government and the Winnipeg Board of Trade. The Winnipeg Board of Trade, of course, is a non-political body, and it merely presented the figures as it found them. This statement was issued by the Board of Trade and re-

produced by Mr. Willison, the editor of the "Globe," in a pamphlet on the transportation question. Of course, I may say that the rates have been considerably reduced since that time—it would not be fair for me to give the statement without making that explanation to the House, but it proves my case as to the utter fallacy of Sir John Macdonald's contention that the Canadian Pacific Railway should and would, owing to the enormous subsidies received, carry freights for one-fourth the tolls charged by other roads. The statement is as follows:—

Through grain rate, all rail, from Winnipeg to Toronto, per C.P.R., 1,288 miles, per 100 miles, in car lots, 45 cents, per bushel 27 cents; from Sarnia to Fredericton, N.B., per G.T.R., 1,218 miles, per 100 lbs., in car lots, 26½ cents, per bushel, 15 9-10 cents. By C.P.R. from Pilot Mound to Montreal, 1,548 miles, 47 cents per 100 lbs., and 28½ cents a bushel; Brandon to Montreal, 1,556 miles, and Minnedosa to Montreal, 1,557 miles, same rate; Chicago to Fredericton, by G.T.R., Intercolonial and Canada Eastern, 1,548 miles, 35 cents per 100 lbs., and 21 cents a bushel. By C.P.R., from Boissevain to Montreal, 1,605 miles, the rate was 48 cents per 100 lbs., and 28½ cents per bushel. From Melita to Montreal, 1,613 miles, 49 cents per 100 lbs., and 29½ cents per bushel. By the Sault line, C.P.R., and New York Central, from Minneapolis to New York, 1,600 miles, 35 cents per 100 lbs., and 21 cents per bushel. From Winnipeg to Halifax, by C.P.R., 62½ cents per 100 lbs., and 37½ cents per bushel; from St. Paul to Halifax, via Chicago, 45 cents per 100 lbs., and 27 cents a bushel. By C.P.R., from Calgary to Port Arthur, 1,264 miles, 29 cents per 100 lbs., and 17½ cents per bushel; from Winnipeg to Toronto, 1,288 miles, 45 cents per 100 lbs., and 27 cents per bushel. The low grain rate from Calgary was attributed to the fact that little or no grain is shipped from that point. From Virden to Fort William, less than half the distance, the charge was 21 cents per 100 lbs. Freight rates on "through" merchandise, all rail, from Fort William to Winnipeg, by C.P.R., 427 miles, on the five classes of freight, were 92, 79, 65, 65 and 47 cents per 100 lbs. From Chicago to Stratford, by Chicago and Grand Trunk, 416 miles, 42½, 37½, 27½, 20 and 17½ cents per 100 lbs. From Fort William to Carman or Portage la Prairie, by C.P.R., 481 and 480 miles, the rates were \$1.25, \$1.05, 85, 69 and 59 cents per 100 lbs.; from Chicago to Hamilton, by Chicago and Grand Trunk, 472 miles, 42½, 37½, 27½, 20 and 17½ cents per 100 lbs. From Fort William to Boissevain, Virden and Birtle, by C.P.R., 604 to 617 miles, the rates were \$1.51, \$1.27, \$1.02, 81 and 69 cents per 100 lbs.; from Chicago to Kingston, by Chicago and Grand Trunk, 668 miles, 72, 62½, 48, 33½ and 29 cents per 100 lbs. The rates from Fort William to Medicine Hat, by C.P.R., 1,084 miles, were \$2.42, \$2.01, \$1.61, \$1.21 and \$1.10; from Toronto to Halifax, by C.P.R. (Ontario Division), and G.T.R., 1,094 miles, 86, 75, 65, 54 and 43 cents per 100 lbs. Freight rates on "through" merchandise by lake and rail from Montreal to Fort William, 466 miles, by C.P.R. to Owen Sound, and 800 miles by lake, were 51, 44, 38, 31 and 25 cents per 100 lbs.; from Fort William to Winnipeg, 427 miles, by rail, 92, 79, 65, 56 and 47 cents per 100 lbs. The rate between New York and Fort William, by Brockville or Prescott, 758 miles by rail to Owen Sound, and 800 by water, was the same as that between Montreal and Fort William on classes 1 and 2, and lower on classes 3, 4 and 5.

Mr. RICHARDSON.

So that you will see we did not receive the inestimable boom of low freight rates, which was promised by the late Sir John Macdonald, when Prime Minister, when he told us the rates ought not to be more than one quarter the charges on other railways. I have explained to the House that those are the rates which prevailed some years ago when there was such an agitation going on. Let me now quote the rates that prevail at present, or at least that did two or three months ago, when I secured the respective tariffs from which I quote. The Canadian Pacific Railway, while bonused to a very large extent by the Dominion, has constructed a line south of Lake Superior through Michigan and Minnesota, known as the Soo route, and they carry freights for the American people at rates just one-half what they charge Canadians, notwithstanding the fact that the people of Canada gave them practically sufficient assistance to build the entire road. The distance from Montreal to Winnipeg is the same as that from New York to Minneapolis, and here is the latest Canadian Pacific Railway tariff for these respective hauls:

|                | Montreal to<br>Winnipeg<br>via C. P. R. | Minneapolis to<br>New York<br>via M., St.<br>P. & Ste. M.<br>and N. Y.<br>Central. |
|----------------|---|--|
| 1st class..... | \$1.98                                  | \$1.05   |
| 2nd class..... | 1.70                                    | .91  |
| 3rd class..... | 1.35                                    | .70  |
| 4th class..... | 1.05                                    | .49  |
| 5th class..... | .88                                     | .42  |

When the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) was passing through the North-west a few months ago, he made a speech in which he referred to the great debt of gratitude that the people of Canada owe the Canadian Pacific Railway. I think, Sir, that the figures I have quoted will abundantly satisfy this House and country as to the real nature of the "debt" we owe to this "national highway."

Let me speak for a moment with regard to the land gift to that company. According to its charter, that is exempt from taxation for twenty years, and how do you suppose they act? Although they select their lands, they do not ask the Government for a patent until they have made a sale of them to intending settlers, and in that way pay no taxes whatever on their land grant, which, of course, becomes enormously benefited by the industry of the settlers in the surrounding country. The exemption from taxation is therefore perpetual. As you know, vacant lands are greatly increased in value by the improvements made by settlers on the adjoining properties, and in that way these unsettled lands are a great burden on the municipalities of the west, and it is my belief that some action should be taken by the

Government to compel the Canadian Pacific Railway to pay taxes on its land grant.

I shall not detain the House any longer at this hour, but would urge, in conclusion, the appointment of this commission. In my belief, no more important question has been discussed during the present session. The transportation question is one which cannot fall to force itself upon the attention of the Government and the country. It is more important to the people to have cheap freight rates than a low tariff, and that is why I urge on the Government the appointment of a commission to ascertain the exact cost of this railway. Surely it is a reasonable proposition. If the country has presented such enormous gifts to this company, as it has, surely it is only fair that the company should deal fairly by the country. I am not here to say that any other set of men would have acted differently from those who control the Canadian Pacific Railway, but the responsibility rests with the Parliament and the Government, and the appointment of this commission would, I believe, lead to the amelioration of the position of the people of this country and especially the settlers of the west, and to a much better understanding between the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Government and the country generally.

Mr. F. OLIVER (Alberta). I would be very willing to see the scope of the proposed commission extended so as to authorize it to inquire into the working of all the railroads in the country. It is no longer believed to be the railway companies who pay the interest on the cost of their construction or on the bonds issued by them. It is known to be the producers of this country who do so by means of the freight rates imposed upon them. The country may have been a good while coming to that conclusion, but I think it has reached it now; and having reached that conclusion, there has arisen a general inquiry as to what the railways really did cost and what amount of tribute they are entitled to levy on the people. That question is now exciting the public mind, and it is that which has caused the agitation for the establishment of a railway commission to regulate the rates; but unless we empower that commission to take into consideration, in the first place, the question of the cost of each road, we will be beginning at the wrong end and will achieve no satisfactory result. The first thing to find out is how much of the alleged cost of the railways or how much of the capital represented by them is the country required, by either legal or moral obligation, to pay the interest on. When that is decided, then we shall have the ground clear for an effective railway commission and an effective control of railway rates, but until that is decided we shall be working in the dark and unable to come to any definite or successful conclusion. We want to know what the railroads did cost,

even though we cannot control the rates according to the actual cost; because if we cannot exercise this control in regard to railroads already constructed, we can exercise it in regard to railroads to be constructed. This country is not finished yet. There is a great deal of room in Canada for development and for railroad building; and if there has been any mistake or oversight in regard to railroad construction in this country in the past, it is our business, as representatives of the people, to do our part to prevent such mistakes in the future, to use the experience we have and all the information we can obtain to prevent like errors being made in the future. If we cannot save what is gone, at least we can provide for what is to come.

The motion rectifies its purpose very fully, and the idea applies, as I say, not only to the Canadian Pacific Railway but to every railway that is and that is to be. I cannot impress upon the House too strongly the importance of this railroad question in relation to the future development of Canada. I notice that it is held by many people in this part of the country to be a question that concerns only the west, or to be essentially a western question. I am ready to admit that the nearer you are to the seaboard the less the question of railway transportation interests you, and the further you get from the seaboard, the more it interests you. On the Atlantic coast, that which is hardly a matter of interesting conversation, becomes in the province of Ontario quite an important subject, and in the western territories a vital question. It is vital to the western part of the country in that, if they do not get a reasonable rate on their exports, that part of the country cannot flourish. But the eastern part of Canada is interested in western railroad rates in this way—if western Canada cannot flourish, eastern Canada cannot be built up as it would be built up by the growth of the western country. If western Canada cannot profitably export her products of grain and cattle, she cannot furnish a market for the commercial houses and manufactories of eastern Canada, which is the only hope of expansion in eastern Canada. At the present time, the railroad rates cripple western Canada in the exportation of her products, and also cripple eastern Canada in reaching western Canada with her manufactures and articles of merchandise. The distance between the manufacturing cities of eastern Canada and the western plains and British Columbia is greater than the distance from certain manufacturing centres in the United States. As was said a few moments ago by the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), the people of the United States get better rates into and out of and through Canada over our own railroad, as we might call it, than Canadians do. Therefore, the manufacturers of Chicago and St. Paul are in a position to reach the market of the Canadian North-west at a greater advantage than those of Toronto, Hamilton and Montreal; and to-day, as a matter of fact, not by any

means so much by the superiority of their manufactures as by advantage of freight rates, they are, in spite of the protective or revenue tariff duties that may be levied, taking trade in the North-west that would belong to eastern Canada if eastern Canada had a lower freight rate between the manufacturing centres here and the prairies there.

It will be said that the people of Canada are not entitled to as good rates on the railroads as the people of the United States, as they have not so much traffic over their roads. But to balance that, the people of Canada built these roads, whereas the people of the United States did not spend a dollar towards them, but are given better rates over them. We claim that our contributions towards the construction of these railroads were made for the very purpose of balancing lack of traffic so that we should get a cheap rate of freight necessary for the development of both eastern and western Canada.

It cannot be too strongly impressed on the great mass of the people of this country, who control the great bulk of the representation in this House, that this is not alone a western matter but an eastern matter. If our fields cannot be made productive by reason of the heavy railroad rates, neither can the volume of trade of the manufactories and wholesale houses of the east be increased, by reason of those rates. You are cut out by reason of the proximity of the manufacturing centres of the United States. This is a matter of vital importance to the manufacturers of eastern Canada as it is to the farmers and stock raisers of the western prairies.

Mr. HENDERSON. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that this is a matter of too much importance to be discussed in the absence of the Minister of Railways and Canals. I therefore, move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

#### RETURNS ORDERED.

Statement showing the weight of every issue of the daily and weekly publications issued in Toronto and Montreal since the introduction of the law requiring that all publications must be weighed and stamped before the acceptance of same at post office of issue of paper.—(Mr. Quinn, by Mr. Bergeron.)

Copies of all correspondence, telegrams, papers, &c., in connection with the seizure of traps and ropes belonging to Messrs. Benjamin Compton & Co., of Belle River, in the province of Prince Edward Island, on 30th July, 1898, by the Dominion cruiser "Acadia."—(Mr. Martin.)

Copies of all reports, letters and telegrams from Major Walsh, when Commissioner for the Yukon Territory, to any member of the Government, or any department of, and all replies thereto or instructions thereon.—(Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.)

Copies of all reports, letters and telegrams from any member of the Council for the Yukon Territory to any member of the Government, or any department thereof, and all replies thereto or instructions thereon.—(Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.)

Copies of all reports, letters and telegrams from Mr. Ogilvie, the Commissioner for the Yukon Territory, to any member of the Government or any department thereof, and all replies there-

Mr. OLIVER.

to or instructions thereon.—(Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.)

Copy of a memorial signed by the late Hon. John Norquay, President of the Executive Council of the province of Manitoba, on behalf of the said council, praying to be heard before Her Majesty in Council on the interference of the Governor General in Council in the practice of disallowing Acts clearly within the power of the local legislature and asking that the same be discontinued; which memorial was addressed to the hon. the Secretary of State of Canada, with request that the same be transmitted to Her Majesty in Council; also copies of all correspondence, reports to or from, and Orders in Council in connection therewith.—(Mr. LaRivière.)

Copies of all Orders in Council, and all papers and correspondence had with the Department of Railways and Canals or the Minister of Railways by the officers of the Central Railway Company of New Brunswick, or by any contractors or persons concerned in the construction of the said Central Railway Company of New Brunswick, or any one in their behalf, in connection with the payment of subsidy or grants made to the said company.—(Mr. Foster.)

Return showing: 1. The canals and river works therewith forming the connection between the Great Lakes and deep water navigation at Montreal which were completed on July 1st, 1896, the depth of water in each, and the cost of each to date.

2. The canals and connected river improvements which at that date were in course of construction or enlargement, showing the work which had been done on each, the cost to July 1st of such construction or enlargement, and the estimated cost to complete the contracts then existing and amount of each; the new contracts made since July 1st, 1896, covering work other than that completed or under contract at that date and the amount of each.

3. The estimated cost of completing these works to the proposed depth over and above the amounts involved in contracts existing on July 1st, 1896.—(Mr. Foster.)

Return showing—the number and names of all United States fishing vessels not possessing *modus vivendi* licenses to which concessions were granted in the Atlantic ports of Canada during the months of November and December, 1898, and January and February, 1899; together with all correspondence between the Government or any member thereof and officers of the Government showing under what circumstances privileges were granted to any of the said American vessels.—(Mr. McAlister.)

Copies of all reports, correspondence and other papers connected with the dismissal of Mr. Fairlie, principal of the Rupert's Land Industrial School, in the province of Manitoba.—(Mr. Bourassa.)

Copies of all correspondence between the Government and B. Haigh & Son, of British Columbia, or any person or persons acting on their behalf in the years 1880, or thereabouts, in regard to an application for the use of Deadman's Island. Also between the Dominion Government and the Attorney General of the province of British Columbia or other member of the provincial government in regard to the said application, or to the subject thereof.—(Mr. Prior.)

Copy of the commission issued to investigate into the charges made against W. A. Hogg, landing-watter at the port of Collingwood, the evidence taken by the said commission, the Order in Council made thereon, and all correspondence and papers in connection therewith.—(Mr. McCarthy.)

Return showing: 1. The total amount of expenditure on capital account in connection with the Intercolonial Railway and the extension thereof to Montreal from June 30th, 1898, exclusive, to the 1st day of May, 1899, exclusive.

2. The total revenue of the Intercolonial Railway and the Montreal extension thereof from June 30th, 1898, exclusive, to the 1st day of May, 1899, exclusive.

3. The total expenditure charged to revenue account in connection with the Intercolonial Railway and the Montreal extension thereof from June 30th, 1898, exclusive, to the 1st day of May, 1899, exclusive.—(Mr. Powell.)

Copies of all liquor permits issued by Major Walsh, and all reports and correspondence respecting his action in this respect.—(Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.)

1. Return showing the number of letter-carriers who were employed in the post office in Victoria, B.C., in the year 1895-96, 1896-97 and 1897-98 respectively, and the number employed at the present time.

2. The salary paid to each letter-carrier employed in 1895-96 and salaries paid in the present year.

3. The provisional allowance granted to said letter-carriers in 1895-96 and in 1896-97 and 1897-98.—(Mr. Prior.)

Report of the cost of the trip, including pay of crew and living expenses of the Minister of Public Works, his secretary or messenger or other servants or friends who accompanied him on his tour of inspection of wharfs, harbours, piers, &c., from Montreal eastward, including his trip to or around the Island of Anticosti, during the season of 1898.—(Mr. Bergeron.)

Return showing any settlements (if any) that have been made by the Department of Railways and Canals since and during the last session, with those parties who suffered from the construction of the Roche-Fendue and Calumet dams in 1883.

2. The names of the valuers who adjusted the said claims, and by whom their appointment was recommended.—(Mr. Poupore.)

Copies of all letters, documents, memoranda, agreements and correspondence containing, embodying, relating to or referring to the terms and conditions upon which tenders were asked for the Magdalen Island mail contract, and upon which the contract was subsequently let to R. J. Leslie, of Leslie, Hart & Co., Halifax, N.S.—(Mr. Pope.)

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

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 11.35 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, 9th May, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 112) respecting the Montreal Island Belt Line Railway Company.—(Mr. Lemieux.)

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Bill (No. 113) to incorporate the Canada Mining and Metallurgical Company, Limited.—(Mr. Copp.)

## JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Mr. BRITTON moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 114) to amend the Act respecting Joint Stock Companies. He said: The Bill shortly is this: The tendency of present legislation is to enlarge somewhat the power of incorporated companies to invest their money in the stock of other companies. During last session, a good many Acts were passed which very much enlarged the power of incorporated companies, and a good many Bills are now before the House having that object in view. But there is a large number of companies incorporated in the Dominion under the Joint Stock Companies Act, by letters patent. Hon. gentlemen are aware that by a clause in what is called the Companies Clauses Act, any company is prohibited from investing any money in the stock of any other company unless it is authorized by special Act to do so. Now, it is known that there is a very large extension in the growth of transportation companies. That is commanding the attention of the public at present, and nearly all the transportation companies are incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act. This Bill simply proposes to amend section 41 of that Act by allowing any transportation company or dock company to take stock in an elevator company, provided they do not issue bonds or go in debt for the purpose, and provided that the shareholders of the company that proposes to invest in that way, shall confirm the by-law the directors may pass for that purpose. They may confirm by a majority in number and two-thirds in value of the shareholders at any special general meeting of the shareholders called for the purpose. It will be seen that this is the only way that can be done unless the transportation company comes to this House and gets incorporation by special Act. I venture to say that if they were applying to this House for incorporation by special Act, the power now asked would not be refused, and it seems to me better to deal with the matter by an amendment of the general Act where it is so well safeguarded as it is by the section I wish to introduce. It is better to do it in that way than to go through the form of coming to this House and asking for special incorporation. It is confined to dock and transportation companies on the one side and to elevator companies on the other, many of which are at present doing business on the lakes and rivers.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

ADJOURNMENT FOR ASCENSION DAY.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved:

That when this House adjourns on Wednesday next, it stand adjourned till Friday next.

Mr. TISDALE. Why not adjourn until Monday, if I may be allowed to make the suggestion? There will be very few members here.

The PRIME MINISTER. There will be members enough, I hope, to advance the business of the session, and to move towards prorogation.

Motion agreed to.

### I. C. R. ACCOUNTS.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) whether he has furnished the House with a specific statement of the amount of receipts and expenditures on what is called the railway extension from Chaudière to Montreal? It appears to me that it would be quite impossible to discuss the question contained in the resolution of my hon. friend, unless we have that data.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I have not furnished the House with the statement that the hon. gentleman has referred to, for the very good reason that no such statement can be procured which will be of the slightest value to the House in the discussion. I have conferred with the general manager and with the Deputy Minister upon that subject. I wanted that information for my own purposes before there was an intimation that any hon. gentleman in the House desired it. But I have the assurance of both those officials that it is practically impossible to furnish any statement which will be of any value with respect to the running and operation of any section of the Intercolonial Railway. We do not keep our accounts in sections or divisions, we keep our accounts as a whole; and any statement which I might procure from the officers of the department would be largely a matter of conjecture and estimate, and that is of little value in a discussion of this description.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I draw my hon. friend's attention to the fact that this, though operated as part of the Intercolonial Railway, is, at present, a leased road, and, therefore, is in a position, as it appears to me, to make it absolutely necessary to keep the accounts in such a form as to enable one to tell, very closely, at all events, what the expenses are.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The distinction between this railway as a leased road and the rest of the Intercolonial Railway is, that we have to pay the rental when it comes due. Beyond that, there is no other.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would like to ask my hon. friend if the accounts of the  
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Baie des Chaleurs road, operated by the Intercolonial Railway, were not kept separately? Is it not the practice of the department to keep such accounts so as to be able to show exactly what the position is?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The Baie des Chaleurs Railway was not run in connection with the Intercolonial Railway, or as part of the Intercolonial Railway.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It was run by the Intercolonial Railway.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. But it was not run as part of it. It was purely an experimental project, and little business was done; and it was a very simple matter to keep accounts of what we received and what we paid out on account of it. But that has not been done in the other cases, and I am advised by the officers of the department, who, I suppose, ought to know, that it is not practicable to do it. It is for that reason that the information is not furnished.

### DRUMMOND COUNTY RAILWAY.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair) moved that the House resolve itself into Committee to consider a certain resolution declaring:

1st. That it is expedient to authorize the Governor in Council to purchase from the Drummond County Railway Company, and to authorize the said company to sell and convey to Her Majesty the whole of the railway and undertaking of the said company, including its main and branch lines of railway, and all buildings, fixtures and appurtenances appertaining thereto, and upon such purchase being effected the said railway and its branch lines shall become and form part of the Intercolonial Railway, and may be operated as such.

2nd. That the purchase is to include all running powers and other rights, privileges and concessions acquired by the said company from any other railway company or companies, and all its franchises and property of whatsoever kind, excepting only the rolling stock and station furniture of the company and the tools of the section men.

3rd. That the said railway and undertaking is to be conveyed to Her Majesty free and clear from all charges, liens or encumbrances affecting the same under or by virtue or in respect of any mortgage, bonds, debentures or preference stocks or other securities, or otherwise howsoever, and the said company shall release Her Majesty of and from all claims and demands under a certain lease and agreement bearing date the twenty-fifth day of February, 1898, and made between the said company of the first part and Her Majesty of the second part.

4th. That there may be paid for the said railway and undertaking and other property, as aforesaid, out of any unappropriated moneys forming part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund the sum of one million six hundred thousand dollars, less any sum paid the company as authorized by the Act, chapter 4, statutes of 1897,

to be granted to the said company as a subsidy for forty-two and a half miles from Moose Park to Chaudière River.—(Mr. Blair.)

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Before the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) starts his speech, will he lay on the Table of the House the new arrangement with the Drummond County road.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The new arrangement?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I had not any information from my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) that he desired that. But I will send for it. I cannot furnish it before I make my statement. However, it is in the possession of the hon. gentleman.

Mr. FOSTER. Where?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. If the hon. gentleman has a copy of the report of the Drummond County investigating committee, I fancy he will find it there. It was furnished to that committee.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I understand that it is there only in part. I think it is absolutely due to the House that, before the hon. Minister proceeds with the discussion, that agreement should be in our hands.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I will send for it at once, and before I shall have made much progress in the discussion, it will be here.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend will allow me. This is not at all the way to treat the House—even the members on his own side. We are to enter upon the discussion of a question involving a very large financial undertaking. This is to be done on the basis of an agreement which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) has made. But, though he asks us to discuss that matter, he has not laid the agreement on the Table of the House. It ought to be printed and in the hands of hon. members before the discussion begins.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I must confess that it appears to me that my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) is making pretense of a desire for information of which he is in full and complete possession already. I venture to say that there is not a gentleman in this House who has not seen the old agreement, and I think that hon. members have been assured over and over again, in the discussion that took place, that the only difference between the new agreement and the old is that the new contains an option clause entitling the Government to purchase for \$1,600,000, and the other does not. All that we are asking Parliament to authorize us to do is to buy that road at the price that is mentioned there, less certain exceptions.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It is a matter of vital importance.

Mr. SPEAKER. I appreciate that, but, at the same time, the discussion is growing very irregular. The motion before the House now is that I do now leave the Chair. I do not like hon. gentlemen on either side to feel that on that motion they can speak a number of times.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I do not intend to speak a number of times. but think that on a motion that you do leave the Chair for the purpose of considering a proposition involving an enormous amount of public money, it is absolutely due to the House that the documents should be before us. It is impossible that the House can enter on the discussion or that we can take this subject up at all until the agreement by which the hon. gentleman, by virtue of his position as Minister of Railways and Canals, has entered into on behalf of the Government and which he is going to ask this House to sanction, is before us. I do not think that in the history of this House such a thing has ever occurred as a Minister proposing to ask the approval of the House to an agreement which has not been in the hands of every hon. member. I would suggest to the leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) that, under the circumstances, the usual course should be pursued—that the matter should be postponed until a future day, and until the members of this House have that to which they are entitled, and that which they must have if they are to discuss the subject intelligently—the agreement which the hon. gentleman has made and which he is going to ask this House to sanction. We should have that agreement formally laid on the Table and copies placed in the hands of hon. members.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I think we can come to an understanding and agreement. My hon. friend (Mr. Blair) has a statement to make to the House on a resolution to which he has given notice. He may have a view of the question which is not shared by my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), and those who support him. But the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) can make the statement he has to make with the information which he wants to give to the House and which he thinks the House should be in possession of. If, after the statement has been made, my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper), and the hon. members who support him, think they are not in a position to debate that proposal, they will be afforded an opportunity to do so at a later stage. The hon. leader of the Opposition knows that the resolutions cannot be concurred in to-day; and, therefore, another opportunity for debate will be afforded. If the hon. gentleman has not the information that he wants in order to debate the question, he can reserve his remarks to a later stage. But, in the meantime, the House, I believe,

will be glad to have the views of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals on this subject. It will facilitate the debate which is to take place on this question, to proceed with the statement to-day, whether hon. gentlemen on the other side are ready to debate it to-day or prefer to wait for a later stage.

Mr. WALLACE. The proposition of the Prime Minister is simply that the Minister of Railways and Canals shall have an opportunity to present the case without any opportunity of reply for several days. I think the proposition is the most preposterous one I have ever heard in this House. Here we are in the fifty-fifth day of the session, face to face with the question that has engaged the attention of Ministers for years past. They have made a new arrangement, and they say: You can learn what the new arrangement is by taking the old arrangement and putting on it certain patches. We want the agreement, we want the papers brought down so that we can examine them intelligently before the discussion begins. Yet the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals and the Prime Minister tell us: It is not necessary; we will state our case, and it will be convenient then to leave the matter over. I protest against such an important matter, involving the expenditure of such an enormous amount of money, being proceeded with until the papers are before us. I presume that what we have here is a summary of the agreement with the Drummond County railroad. But there is another agreement that is necessary in order to make this one in any way effective, and that is the agreement with the Grand Trunk railroad. These two should be considered together. Now, we are entitled to have the whole case presented to us at once and to have an opportunity for consideration. When we have had the opportunity, let the hon. Minister bring forward his resolution for discussion in this House.

Mr. SPEAKER. I would suggest that the question before the House is that I do now leave the Chair. I have allowed this preliminary talk to go on somewhat irregularly; but any hon. member speaking now I must hold to have spoken on the resolution before the House.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It will be in order, I suppose, to move the adjournment at this stage.

Mr. SPEAKER. Yes. But that should have been done before, if at all, I think.

Mr. TAYLOR. I move the adjournment of the House.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Mr. Speaker, I rise with great reluctance to support this motion. It ought not, in my judgment, to have been necessary that it should have been made. The objection taken by the Opposition, in the House, is an objection that ought to receive the support of hon. members on the Government side of the House without exception, because it is a reasonable objection. With a question involving an enormous addition to the public debt of this country, a question involving the imposition of several millions to the public debt of Canada, a head of a department bringing forward a motion of such gravity is bound to furnish all the necessary information, when asking the House to accept the agreement which he has entered into on behalf of the Crown with certain parties entitled the Drummond County Railway Company, and with the Grand Trunk Railway Company. No invitation, no requisition, no statement by any hon. member of this House ought to have been required in order to have secured this information. Unless he was shrinking from that public investigation when he professed such great satisfaction with a public investigation, no suggestion ought to have been required by any hon. member of this House, for the purpose of inducing him to do that which every Minister of the Crown is bound to do, which every Minister of the Crown in the world does when submitting an important question for the consideration of the House. I say it is unheard of in this Parliament or any place where parliamentary institutions exist. When the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals has ceased his conversation with another hon. gentleman who, I see, is on his feet at the same time as I am, I will proceed with my remarks. I am not surprised that the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals wants to turn a deaf ear, that he wants to draw away attention from the remarks which I feel it to be my duty to make to this House. The hon. Minister of Railways and Canals stands in a very exceptional position. He evidently thinks that he can best secure the support of hon. gentlemen behind him by hiding, as long as possible, from them and from this House and from the people of this country, what he proposes to do. I may remind the hon. gentleman that this is not the first time that we have had to take him sharply to account in reference to this subject. It is not forgotten, Sir, that the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals presented a motion to this House, two years ago, in reference to this Drummond County deal, and those who will take the trouble to turn back to the debates that took place on that occasion will find that the hon. gentleman was obliged to admit his ignorance of everything connected with the subject, that he ought to have known when he brought that project forward. He brought forward a project which was to involve an addition of at least \$6,000,000 of public money to the debt of Canada; he brought forward a project of that tremendous nature, and for what purpose? For the purpose of promoting the interests and position, as he stated, of the Intercolonial Railway. Well, Sir, when he was asked what

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the distance was of the line that he proposed to fasten upon the shoulders of the taxpayers of Canada and how it would compare with other existing lines with which he proposed to compete, the hon. gentleman admitted his entire ignorance of the subject. He said that he had never looked at it from that standpoint at all, but that he had looked at it from the standpoint that he wanted to bring the Intercolonial into Montreal, and he found that a warm and devoted friend of the Government and of the party was willing to sell, for \$2,100,000, to the hon. gentleman that which he had been hawking about the country, and was willing to sell for \$500,000. He brought that project forward and asked this House to deal with it just in the same manner that he is trying to do now, hiding the facts and deliberately withholding from Parliament that knowledge which is absolutely essential to any fair consideration of the question at all. Did any business man in Canada, or in any country in the world, ever hear of such a thing as proposing to construct a competitive line of railway without taking into consideration the length of the line with which you are going to compete, or the length of your own line by which you propose to compete? The hon. gentleman exhibited a degree of ignorance that, in my opinion, ought to have taught him that he must not, in future, try to trifle with the intelligence of this House. Hon. gentleman behind him may be willing to accept the position of the Minister in reference to these matters, which on the face of them are, to say the least, of a most suspicious character. I do not hesitate to say that when a Minister of the Crown makes an arrangement with a great party friend to spend \$2,100,000 of public money to obtain possession of a property that that party has been trying to sell for \$500,000, is, to say the least of it, clouded with suspicion, and it is due to the House, to the hon. gentleman's own supporters, and to every intelligent man who is called upon to deal with public questions, that full and accurate information should be had upon this question. What else was disclosed on that occasion? The hon. Minister of Railways and Canals said he had submitted the question to his chief engineer, the Deputy Minister of Railways and Canals, and that he had his authority, and he referred to a portion of that authority, but he was obliged to admit that he had suppressed that important part of the report of the chief engineer and Deputy Minister of Railways and Canals in which it was recommended to him that before launching into this wild and monstrous proposition, he should have the road examined. The hon. Minister was compelled to admit that he had turned a deaf ear and a blind eye to the sensible advice of the Deputy Minister and chief engineer, and had plunged into this monstrous

bargain in the face of it and without getting any information whatever. He said that he had enough information, but it appeared that the information he had was obtained from an engineer sent out on a flying trip after the contract was made and signed. I tell the hon. gentleman that, after the manner in which he exhibited himself in this House, two years ago, when he first attempted to launch this monstrous proposition upon the House, he must not presume to ignore the rights of any hon. member sitting on this side of the House, however subservient he may find hon. gentlemen sitting behind him. Under these circumstances, I am astonished that the right hon. First Minister should lend, for a single moment, his countenance to that which he knows is unprecedented. Was ever such a spectacle exhibited? Before we are called upon to discuss a contract made by the Crown involving an expenditure of millions of public money, we are entitled, at all events, to have that contract laid upon the Table of the House.

When I had the honour of submitting the contract for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway to this House, suppose I had invited the House to go into the question without first laying on the Table this private contract made by the Crown with a certain number of individuals; suppose I had insulted the intelligence of the Liberal members, then in Opposition, by asking them to discuss the question without laying the contract before them; why, the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) knows, that every one of his friends would have risen in the strongest remonstrance against such a proposal. The right hon. gentleman and his friends would have done that which is within their right, that which is warranted by common sense, and business, and parliamentary precedent, they would have refused to entertain a discussion of the matter. This Drummond County Railway contract was made long ago; it should have been printed and placed in the hands of every hon. gentleman on both sides, and for the Government to hesitate one moment to postpone the discussion until the contract is brought down, seems to me to be an insult to the intelligence of the House. We ask, in the most respectful and business-like manner, that, before we are called upon to enter into this discussion, we should have the papers to show what we are going to discuss. The question is not a new one: last session, the proposal of the Government with reference to this railroad led to an indignant remonstrance, not only from the Conservative party in this House, but a remonstrance that was echoed and re-echoed all over the country, and which proved to the Government, that they could not for a moment get the people of Canada to assent to such a monstrous proposition. The Government was able to force their proposition through this

House by the power of their majority, and that proposition was rejected in another place. If hon. gentlemen opposite had felt that this was a matter of public importance, and that they had the confidence of the people of Canada in regard to it, they would at once have taught the gentlemen in another place, that they must not stand against the will of the people of Canada, as expressed by the Government of the day. But no: the Government knew, that the Senate of Canada represented the people, and that the majority in this House did not, and they knew, that they would sound their death knell, if, under the circumstances, they ventured to appeal to the people on that question. They could very soon have settled the question by an appeal. They could not only have settled it, but they could have settled a great many other questions, if, feeling they were right, and feeling that they, and not the Senate, represented the sentiment of the electorate, they made an appeal to the electorate. They knew, that, under British parliamentary precedent, which is as much recognized in Canada as in England, that, if on appeal a majority were sent back to this House to re-enact that legislation, the Senate would have accepted it without a word of qualification. That is the true responsible doctrine. But the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) did not do it, because the right hon. gentlemen knew right well, that, when the people of Canada learned what a monstrous proposition the Minister of Railways had forced through this House by the power of a mechanical majority, they would have terminated the existence of this Government, and would return men in their places who knew how to conduct the public business with some respect for the interests of the country. When this subject was brought up in the first instance, and when the Minister (Mr. Blair) was asked a number of questions of a most pertinent character, questions that every business man in Canada would say were absolutely necessary to be dealt with in the preliminary stage, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) showed, that he had plunged into this matter in wild haste. If I understand aright, there were some elections coming off in the province of Quebec, so that the matter would brook no delay, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) must rush into this, to say the least of it, most suspicious transaction with a great friend of the Government and a great friend of the Liberal party. The Minister of Railways must endeavour, 'coûte que coûte,' to force it through, while he confessed, on the floor of the House, that he had not taken the trouble to learn the first elementary principle that bore on the question. The proposition of the Government was, to take six or seven million dollars out of the treasury of Canada, to be fastened as a charge around the necks of the taxpayers of Canada for all time to come, and for the Minister of a

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responsible Government to undertake to do that, without first going to the trouble of mastering the initial elements of the proposition, was a spectacle never before witnessed in the history of the Canadian Parliament. Take also the contract made with the Grand Trunk Railway Company in this connection, and what did the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) do? Why, he made a contract with the Grand Trunk Railway Company that would practically enable that great corporation to make all its terminal improvements and all its additional tracks and sidings necessary to carry on its great business, at the expense of Canada, pure and simple. When that proposition was sent to the Upper Chamber, the ablest man the gentlemen opposite ever sent to the Senate no sooner saw the clause, than he said: It is impossible that we can adopt such a proposition; it must be amended. The proposition was so monstrous that that gentleman, as a business man, saw, that nothing so improvident was ever proposed in a civilized country. The proposition was, Sir, that this railway company should be allowed to spend whatever money they liked in the construction of certain works for their own benefit, and then that Canada should pay 5 per cent on half the cost of these works. That was the proposition that the ablest man the Liberals ever sent to the Senate objected to. If we pay five per cent on one-half the expenditure, whatever it was, it practically meant paying the entire expense. Well, Sir, that has all been changed, and greatly to the advantage of the country; because, instead of making the contract which assumed that the mileage that Canada would have would be equivalent to the whole mileage of the Grand Trunk Railway, the Senate, by its action, prevented this frightful bargain from being ratified. The hon. gentleman was compelled to change all that, and to bring in a contract under which Canada was to pay in proportion to her mileage, which would reduce the expense of that little transaction to one-tenth of what it was under the contract which the hon. gentleman undertook to force, and did force through this House. But, fortunately for Canada, there was another Chamber where the hon. gentleman had not a body of as pliant supporters as he was able to find in this House, and the result has been that an immense change has been made in this contract. I have got that changed contract under my hand, printed and circulated, as the hon. gentleman was bound to do—

The PRIME MINISTER. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am giving my hon. friend the First Minister the evidence from his own Minister that he knew what was right and what this House had a right to demand. If with regard to the minor part of this contract he thought it necessary to print it, bring it down and put it into

our hands, why did he not do the same with regard to the major part—the arrangement with Mr. Greenshields? What is there in this arrangement which the hon. gentleman is ashamed of? What is there in it that he wants to hide? I do not believe his own friends in this House have seen it. What possible justification can any Minister of the Crown have under such circumstances for treating this Parliament with the indignity—because it is nothing else—of asking a body of gentlemen elected by the independent electorate of this country to come here and do the public business—asking them to take up questions of such magnitude as this in the absence of any information whatever? To listen to the hon. gentleman's own story, and after that to adjourn the debate, is the proposal of the First Minister; then, he says, we can have this information furnished. Well, Sir, that information has been for months, I suppose for a year, in the hands of the hon. gentleman. Was not that long enough to have it printed and circulated and laid on the Table of this House? We shall get it, I suppose, some time next week, and then we shall find that it is a year old; and yet it has been hid away. Why hid? I ask the question. Is it because, as I said before, this transaction from its inception has been surrounded with a cloud of suspicion, which I tell the hon. gentleman and his colleagues it would be as well to have dissipated as soon as possible. Under these circumstances, the hon. gentleman is doing himself no credit by adopting a course which a czar of Russia might be expected to adopt, but which no Minister could be expected to pursue towards a responsible Parliament—to ask them to take up such a question and hear his elucidation and description of it, without having the document which he has had many long months in a pigeon-hole in his desk, brought out here in the light of day and placed where hon. members on both sides of this House can see it. I am not surprised at this action on the part of the Minister of Railways and Canals, a man who had the audacity to bring that measure as he brought it, and stand up and confess that he was ignorant of the whole subject from top to bottom—that he had taken no trouble to learn anything about it except that his friend Mr. Greenshields would kindly accept \$2,100,000 of our money for a road which it was afterwards proved they had been endeavouring to get \$500,000 for, and in vain. The parties in whose hands it was placed had thrown it up after examining it, concluding that it would not warrant any such expenditure as \$500,000. It was only two years ago when the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals presented the most helpless spectacle of want of information ever exhibited by a Minister, by standing in this House and confessing his absolute ignorance of the length of the two lines which were going to compete with each other, and when he got finally to the bottom of that

question, we found that it was a very curious bottom. I think that bottom will fall out—and the hon. gentleman must take care that some other bottom does not fall out. What did we find, Sir? Why, Sir, after then endeavouring to force through this House and hang about the neck of the people of Canada for all time that expenditure on such monstrous terms, he now admits that what he proposes to do is one of the most gigantic feats, I suppose, that any man who ever undertook railway management ventured to propose in the world; that is, to compete with a road 250 miles shorter and under the management of the ablest man who, I suppose, has ever handled a railway in Canada, and the ablest company that ever dealt with railway questions in Canada. And he proposes to compete with them, after subsidizing them with \$1,800,000 out of the treasury of Canada to enable them to carry the freight which he proposes to take away from them. After we have spent \$1,800,000 in inducing them to spend millions of capital to carry the freight to the west side of the harbour of St. John, he proposes to take that freight away from them and carry it 250 miles further around to the east side of the harbour of St. John. That may be a capital scheme to promote the influence and power of the Minister of Railways in the province of New Brunswick, and I am inclined to think this is only the opening of the ball. I am inclined to think that before we get through with this matter we shall find that the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals has got up his sleeve a number of similar transactions for the purpose of cooperating and misleading the electorate of the province of New Brunswick. I see an hon. member (Mr. Gibson) on the other side laughing, at all events, my old friend is exhibiting a very audible smile. He is a railway man; and I will ask him, as a railway contractor—and he is a great one, a man who has established a great reputation as such—whether if it had been proposed to him to put his hand into his own pocket and find the money to build a railway to compete with another which is 250 miles shorter, he would be likely to take his hard cash and his well-acquired earnings and spend them in a transaction of that kind. He would laugh more loudly in the face of the man who made such a proposition to him than he is laughing to-day, or else my hon. friend is not the astute railway contractor I take him for.

Everybody knows, that what has been the difficulty with the Intercolonial is the difficulty to get sufficient freight on the products carried to pay the expenses of operating the road. I have shown, that, while the late Mr. Mackenzie was endeavouring to perform that task, in the five years of his administration, between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 of public money disappeared to pay the deficit between the cost of carriage and the receipts, but that, under Conservative man-

agement, of course, that was greatly improved, and we were able, the next five years, to show, instead of a deficit of between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000, only about half a million dollars. But there was still a deficit, and, although during a few years when I was Minister of Railways, and a few when my hon. friend from Lanark (Mr. Haggart) was Minister of Railways, there was a small surplus, every one knows, that, if you put the Intercolonial under the ablest management possible, the people will have, year after year, to put their hands into their pockets to add to the amount of capital expenditure, and to take out of the revenues of the country a further sum to meet the deficit between the earnings and receipts. That is known to everybody, and how is it proposed to remedy that? Why, by the gigantic, wonderful scheme, the greatest stroke of genius that, I suppose, ever was attempted by a railway magnate in the world, namely, to carry that same freight, which we cannot carry now at a price which will pay the cost of carriage, 250 miles further for nothing. Does the hon. gentleman suppose, that there is such a lack of intelligence in this House as to enable him to convince any one, that he can make bricks without straw, or something out of nothing, and a great deal worse than nothing? There is not an intelligent man in this House who knows anything of railway undertakings—not even my hon. friend who is so amused at this gigantic stroke of genius—who does not know that the other portions of Canada will have to pay their share into the public treasury to meet the deficit which will be entailed by carrying that freight 250 miles further in order to compete with a road to which we have given \$1,800,000 in order to obtain a short line for the purpose of doing that work. That is an unanswerable position. Every man who has not some design in carrying out such a project, knows, that, when this subject is looked at in the light of day, its absurdity will be manifest. The hon. Minister of Railways rushed into it for purposes of his own that he has never disclosed to this House, because it is too monstrous a proposition, as a business one, to suppose it had any business basis at all. He will have to carry this freight 250 miles further for nothing, because otherwise he will not get it at all. The mode in which he proposes to shrivel up Sir William Van Horne and Mr. Shaughnessy, and all these Canadian Pacific magnates, who were induced to spend millions of their money in building this line to the west of the city of St. John, where these admirable facilities have all been provided for doing the business, is to take the traffic from them and carry it for nothing. That may enable the Minister of Railways to amuse this House with his wonderful stroke of genius, but it will not put money into the pockets of the people.

That is not all. When he gets round to the east side of the harbour of St. John,

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what then? There will then be a beautiful little opportunity of spending \$750,000 more of the people's money, taken out of the consolidated revenues of the country, and this money will be spent to do that on the east side of the harbour of St. John, which the Canadian Pacific Railway, with the aid of the munificent action of the people of that city, have already accomplished on the west side. I believe, however, that that stroke of genius did its work. I believe, that probably it largely realized the object which the hon. gentleman had in view. I believe, that he owes to that sort of manipulating of the public money of the people of Canada; the success that attended his efforts on a recent occasion in the province of New Brunswick. Any intelligent man who knows anything of the city of St. John, or any other place in the Dominion of Canada, knows, that there is no great aversion on the part of the outlying towns and cities throughout Canada to have a generous Government present them with a large expenditure of public money in their midst; and that people were found to succumb to the temptation, I was not very much surprised. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce on one occasion referred to the maritime provinces as "a nest of boodlers."

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I did not refer to New Brunswick particularly.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Not particularly to New Brunswick, but I think the illustration went a little beyond Nova Scotia. The hon. gentleman made the statement, which was then a slander, but to-day it is only a scandal, for a patent incubator, in the form of the Laurier Government, has been sitting on the eggs, and has managed to hatch out just about as splendid a nest of boodlers as ever disgraced any country in the world. The time has come when it will be absolutely necessary for this Parliament to address itself to the great question, whether corruption is to go unchecked and untrammelled, and be allowed to spread all over Canada, like a virus. Is province after province to be bought up by the most open corrupt appeals to the cupidity of the electors that ever disgraced any country in the world? I say, that that magnificent nest of boodlers which the Laurier incubator has brought into existence, bids fair to reduce this Canada of ours to that deplorable and unhappy condition.

If I were to go a little further afield. I would go down to the province to which the Minister of Trade and Commerce specially referred, and what did we see there? Why, we saw the Finance Minister of this Government do that which no Finance Minister in Canada ever did before. What did he do? Why, on the eve of a Budget speech, he disclosed to interested parties what sort of contract he was ready to make with them with regard to what the duty on coal should

be. And, when he had done that, we witnessed a wonderful change. The hon. gentleman knew, that the Prime Minister had declared, that, when he got into power, coal would be made free. That declaration has never been withdrawn. The Finance Minister, however, treated him just as he did the other night, when he threw over his views of reciprocity and advanced his own, as those which were to govern. He threw over the Prime Minister, and said to these people: If you will come to my terms, I think I can manage to protect coal in this country, and he did.

Mr. SPEAKER. While I do not wish to interrupt, I would just point out to the hon. gentleman that he is exceeding, certainly, the scope of the motion to adjourn. I just wish to point out that this is beyond the scope of a motion for adjournment. An hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) beside him says that on a motion to adjourn the House can do anything. That is an error. A motion to adjourn the House made in the middle of a debate gives an hon. member an opportunity to make another speech, if necessary, on the subject of the debate; and the subject the hon. member (Sir Charles Tupper) is discussing is, of course, the motion that I leave the Chair.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. You know, Mr. Speaker, with what pleasure I always obey your ruling, and never with more pleasure than on this occasion. But I may be permitted to call your attention to the fact that there is no debate—that the debate has not commenced.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) will understand that I put the question from the Chair. The hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), by moving it, has exhausted his right to speak on the main motion.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If you will allow me a single moment, Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that what has taken place, as I understand it—and you will correct me if I am wrong—is this: The Orders of the Day were called; you put the motion from the Chair, but the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) did not rise to speak and has not risen and has not said one word in that debate. All that he has said has been in reference to what should precede the debate.

Mr. SPEAKER. My explanation was not on that point.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Then I am in error.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) will allow me. Subsequent to that irregular conversation, which, perhaps, I should not have allowed to go so far, I said that we must confine the debate to the subject before the House, and then

I put the motion formally. The hon. Minister of Railways and Canals, of course, assented to my putting it, and by doing so, the hon. member has made his speech on this Order.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that you will rule that a single speech has been made in this House on that question. We have discussed what was necessary as a preliminary. Otherwise, the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals cannot say anything more on this subject.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not wish the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) to misunderstand me. On this motion to adjourn, the hon. member or any other hon. member of the House except the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor), who moved it, and the hon. member (Sir Charles Tupper), who is now speaking, can speak on the subject of the main motion. The hon. Minister of Railways and Canals, by assenting to this motion, is precluded from speaking on the main motion, just as the hon. member for Leeds is precluded, by having moved the adjournment of the House, from speaking on the main motion.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Then, I think we may come to a conclusion, because, if the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals is not going to be permitted to speak on the main motion, I think my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) will admit that the sooner we take up the Estimates or some business that we can deal with the better—and have these papers brought down before the debate goes on. In that case, I am prepared at once to bow to the decision. But I had only commenced my remarks, I may say. I desire to call your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the fact that I am not going afield in dealing with what was done in New Brunswick, nor shall I be in speaking, as I propose to do, of what was done in Nova Scotia—as these things are consequent upon these great schemes of using public money for purposes that may more pertain to electoral matters than public business. It is from that point of view that I use the illustration. As I was saying, the hon. gentleman found a Prime Minister—a very estimable, worthy man for whom I have great regard—who at once accepted his doctrine; and I had the pleasure of seeing the province of Nova Scotia carried on a policy that I had fought for for twenty-five years, and that the hon. gentleman had fought against. More than that—the House will remember that the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) was formerly Premier of Nova Scotia. As Premier, he put forward with vigour certain claims on the treasury of Canada. The Conservative Government in the Dominion, though always anxious to do everything in the most liberal manner consistent with justice, were obliged to refuse to entertain these claims.

That claim of \$1,200,000 put forward by the present Minister of Finance, was hawked about through the province of Nova Scotia—

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). Order. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) is not speaking to the question according to the ruling of the Chair.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** I use this as an illustration, and I have explained to you, Mr. Speaker, the ground on which I use it. This Drummond County proposition is of an astounding character. Of course, it may be changed under the new contract made by the hon. gentleman. But, until we get that, we have to look at it in the light of the facts as we know them. I am in order, then, in giving my reasons for feeling alarmed and for thinking that the time has come when these gigantic schemes for the use of public money should be looked at closely. The Premier of Nova Scotia put forward as his great claim to the confidence of the electorate this coal deal entered into by the present Finance Minister in defiance of all the rules that govern gentlemen in the position he occupied. But he put forward also the fact that when the present Finance Minister was Premier of Nova Scotia he had put forward a claim of \$1,200,000, and said that if the people wanted that money, now was their time to get it. If they would support his party they would show that they wanted it; and they had the man who had made the claim in a position to pay it. Therefore, the province of Nova Scotia shared the fate that, under similar influences, befell the province of New Brunswick. There was another illustration. An election occurred in the province of Ontario. And one fine morning the people were startled by finding that the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) had—it was merely a strange coincidence that it happened at the time of the election, of course—had made a contract of the most gigantic character that ever startled any Parliament in the world. It was to secure the construction of 150 miles of tramway at a cost of 3,750,000 acres of land, now held at an upset price of \$10 an acre, with all the gold that lies under it, subject to a royalty of 1 per cent, as against 10 per cent charged to every competitor of that company. If the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) had not prepared the public mind, and if the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) had followed it up by expenditures of public money in order to exercise a corrupt influence, the whole country would have been startled with amazement. I forget how many people it takes to save a city, but certainly in this case there were found five gentlemen on the other side of the House who could not swallow the action of the Government. Does any person want stronger evidence of a monstrous act of corruption than

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the fact that the proposal brought down by this Ministry was one that five men sitting behind them could not swallow? One other gentleman, I believe, walked out of the House rather than support anything so monstrous. Well, it so happened that this proposal to spend something like £10,000,000 sterling at the very least in building 150 miles of tramway by this Government, was made just on the eve of a general election in the province of Ontario. Now, I ask the members of this House whether I am right in saying that in view of the acts of this Government, committed one after the other, we are not entitled at all events to information to show what you propose to ask us to do, that we are not entitled to have it before us. Hon. gentlemen, I know, have great power in forcing measures through this House, a power which they have exercised to the extent of forcing a great number of gentlemen out of this House and upon the bench, and into many other high and important positions, before they could get these acts through. I am not surprised, in view of the record of this Government in connection with propositions of this kind, that they want a new franchise law, that they want a new distribution, that they want a great overhauling of the old constituencies before they will venture their precious necks in the hands of the electors of this country. That one transaction of the Drummond Railway struck a fatal blow at the confidence of the honest and independent electors of Canada in this Government. They know that down to this hour no proper and sufficient defence has ever been shown for that monstrous proposition, and that sentiment will be intensified when they find that the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) is now endeavouring to put a new contract through without allowing us to see it, and he is able to induce his followers behind him to give their support. I say that if ever there was a time when it became the absolute duty of an Opposition to withstand these attempts to override everything like parliamentary government and an honest discussion of public business, it is on the present occasion. I must say that I am not only surprised but I regret deeply to find that when a moderate and sensible proposition was made from this side of the House, the Government did not see fit to accept it. They could not have better evidence of our desire to promote the public business than when we terminated the debate on the remarkable Budget speech of the Minister of Finance in a couple of days. We gave them then the best possible evidence of our anxiety to facilitate the business of the House. I look to the right hon. gentleman, the leader of this House, to say at once to the Minister of Railways and Canals: It is impossible that you can move this resolution, which you have long had in your hands, and which ought to have been laid on the Table long ago. I am sorry to have had to say a single word upon this subject myself, because I

was in hopes that we would have accomplished a great deal of business to-day. I must say to my right hon. friend that this is not the way to secure that object. I tell him frankly that the Opposition are most anxious to do everything in their power to forward the public business of this House and to relieve ourselves from its duties and obligations as early as we can. But we would fail altogether in our duty if, in our anxiety to meet the wishes of the Government and to promote public business, we lost sight of everything like parliamentary practice and parliamentary precedents, and allow the Government to force down our throats, without information, measures of such an important character as that we are called upon to deal with.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I quite acknowledge, Mr. Speaker, that under the rules of Parliament it is not open to me to enter upon any full discussion of the subject-matter of the resolution which stands in my name to-day, until you have left the Chair and the House has resolved itself into committee. It is not my purpose to make any observations in explanation of the resolution until that stage is reached, and, therefore, I quite acquiesce in the ruling you have made. But, Sir, I have been entirely at a loss to appreciate the purpose which my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition has in view in presenting himself to this House in the sorry light in which, I regret to say, he appears to-day. I do not know what is the actual feeling of the hon. gentlemen who surround him; I think, if I can at all judge of their feelings, it ought to be a feeling of sorrow and pity to see a gentleman who has filled so large a place in public life, rise in this House and make an occasion for delivering a vituperative address such as he has delivered here to-day, without any rhyme or reason. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, the spectacle can only beget feelings of profound sorrow in the breasts of those gentlemen who are associated with him. I have no reason to have any such feeling towards the hon. gentleman. He never rises that he does not take occasion to assail me in the most violent and vituperative manner. And yet I have that feeling, and I do regret that at his time of life, and after his career in public affairs, he should have so degenerated as to become little better than a common scold in the Parliament of this Dominion. Now, what is the position? My hon. friend makes it the occasion of this address that the House has not been furnished with the requisite information in order to a proper discussion of the question. What basis is there for such a statement as that made by my hon. friend? No one knows better than the hon. gentleman that it was the desire of this Government that no time should be lost, that the earliest opportunity should be seized to advance the business of Parliament, this being one of the measures that

we were to take up and discuss weeks ago, and, at the request of the hon. gentleman himself, this debate was adjourned, not once, but several times. Sir, is there anything due to Parliament, by that hon. gentleman, I want to know? Are all the obligations resting upon my shoulders, and is there nothing due from him, not simply as the leader of the great party in this House, but as a member of Parliament filling the place of an honourable man, of an honest man, which he is supposed to be filling? Was there nothing due to me when the hon. gentleman desired that this debate should be adjourned on a previous occasion, instead of waiting until the last moment; when he finds that there is no other excuse that can be made, he jumps up and says that the debate should be adjourned in order to put before him documents that have been thrown broadcast about the country and which contain all the material facts in reference to this question, which is in the possession of almost every one who takes any interest in public affairs. It was due by the hon. gentleman, if he had any appreciation of his duty as a public man, or of his duty to this House, that he should have notified, either the leader of the Government or myself, before the moment that this debate came on, that he desired to have these papers in his hands. It is true that he could go to the Votes and Proceedings of two years ago, in which he would find the later agreement published; it is true he could go to the report of the committee of this House which sat last session, and before which these papers were presented. But, still, I would not have asked him to do that if he had asked me when I gave notice of this motion; if he had said that we should have all these old agreements before us, I would have brought them all down. It is simply childish; the hon. gentleman is simply making a burlesque of himself when he says that there is anything in this matter that either I, or the Government, desire to conceal. We have nothing to conceal in this question. The question occurred to me as to what might be the reason of all this indignation of the hon. gentleman. I think I have it; I think the hon. gentleman is holding a brief for the Canadian Pacific Railway. I think that he is fulfilling one of the directions which is sometimes given in other cases. He has nothing to say, and, therefore, he can only abuse counsel on the other side. We have never heard the hon. gentleman get up to refer to this question without becoming indignant at the treatment that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has received. We will discuss that question. If the hon. gentleman thinks that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has been used improperly in this transaction, in reference to any rights which Parliament has not regarded, or that the Government is disposed to disregard, we will deal with that question, but it is not necessary that the hon. gentleman should resort to fierce, violent and vituperative language, or that he should talk like a common

scold. The hon. gentleman has one half the information he asked for in his possession, and he admitted that. The hon. gentleman can get the other half by going to the office of the clerk of the Investigating Committee, where that committee has these papers on file; but I have sent, since this discussion commenced, for the papers that he wants.

Mr. WALLACE. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman if Parliament is not entitled to that information?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Unquestionably. Ask me something easier, my friend. I will furnish my hon. friend with these papers the moment he desires them, but the hon. gentleman does not require them because this present resolution has nothing to do with that agreement. He has repeated, over and over again, that it is for the confirmation of the agreement under which we are now running the Drummond County Railway. It has nothing to do with it. We are simply putting a plain proposition before Parliament, not to confirm an agreement, but to authorize the Government to purchase this road out and out. What has that to do with the terms of the agreement under which we are running the road now, except in so far as Parliament might think that this proposed purchase out and out might not be more favourable than the conditions under which we are now operating the road. I suppose that whatever has been the object of the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper), it has been fully satisfied by this hour and a half debate, and that we may proceed to the consideration of the resolution we have before us.

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N. B.) The question is not a difficult or abstruse one; it is a mere question of common sense and constitutional usage. My hon. friend (Mr. Blair) intimated that we should nose around and hunt up a bit here and a bit there, and get such information as we choose, and quite sufficient for us. He says: If you had only dropped a note to me, this information could have been brought down. So far as I am concerned, the Opposition is not on this side of the House to drop notes to Ministers to ask them to bring down the information that is necessary. We do not propose to do that; it has never been done in this Parliament before, and I do not think that it will be done. My hon. friend may just as well learn, first as last, that when he brings his measures down to this House, he brings them down to an intelligent set of men and that these men propose to have a basis upon which to discuss the proposition before the House.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Why did you not ask for the papers and I would have sent them to you; why did you not get up in your place and say you wanted them?

Mr. BLAIR.

Mr. FOSTER. Within the last ten days, over and over again, on this side of the House, the hon. Minister has been warned that before this discussion came on these papers and the fullest information would be expected to be on the Table of this House.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Does the hon. gentleman say that he intimated or suggested that he would like to be furnished with the facts of the previous agreements?

Mr. FOSTER. I will undertake to affirm that I have stated, I think twice, if not three times, to the hon. gentleman, that the fullest information was necessary before we commenced this question. Why should the hon. gentleman wait to be asked? Does he not know what a Minister's duty is in this Parliament? I was going on to say that I have had a seat in this House since 1882, and I never yet knew an instance, until my hon. friend came into this House, of a Minister coming down with an important measure like this, involving large sums of public money, and refusing to lay the papers upon the Table of the House before we discussed the matter. The hon. Minister of Railways and Canals knows that we cannot trust his memory, because he knows that his memory is defective. We had a signal instance of the defectiveness of his memory two years ago on this matter, when, in reference to the terms of the contract, being asked for information, he made a positive statement to this House, a statement which struck some members of this House as being not in accordance with the facts. When it was challenged, and several hours afterwards, the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals had to bring down the contract and to say to my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper), that he was mistaken in his statement. The hon. Minister should not trust his memory. He brought this very measure we are discussing to-day without giving us the contract, and, after we had discussed it for some hours, in this House, the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) had to rise in his place and say that we had a perfect right to have the actually signed contract. When it was brought down the memory of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals was proved to be defective. I do not propose to discuss this question on a statement of the papers which he has in his pockets, and on information which he may choose to give us. I think I have a right, as a member of Parliament, to have these papers before me, and that is a right that every hon. member of this Parliament has. Why has my hon. friend not brought these down? There is another important point. My hon. friend (Mr. Blair) says: If you look into this book you will find the contract. You will find where Mr. Blair was in evidence and where he was sworn; but we look at that book and we find that he gives us just three clauses of what he says is a new agreement. That is all with reference to it within the covers of this book. Are we to

be content with two or three extracts from that agreement, given in the evidence of Mr. Blair?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The agreement was produced.

Mr. FOSTER. But the agreement in full is not within the pages of this book.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I did not regulate the printing.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend (Mr. Blair) is guilty, from his own confession. He says: we can have the information we are asking for within the pages of this book; and now, when we show him the information is not there, he tries to slide out of it by saying: he is not responsible for the printing. I cannot tell who is responsible for the printing; it makes no difference; but I know my hon. friend (Mr. Blair) is responsible for laying on the Table of this House the full contracts he has entered into, and upon which he bases the action he proposes to take. Hon. gentlemen know, that this is an important matter. They know, that the Minister (Mr. Blair) got into a very considerable pitfall, in his freshness, in his desire to help his friends, in his desire to make a great name for himself; and he fell into such a pitfall as would have involved this country in a little over \$500,000 of useless expense, if friends in another part of this Parliament had not been kind enough to hang his project up to dry until this freshness had considerably worn off. And, after they had held this up, after this had had occasion to dry for some months, after the public got on to what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) was after, my hon. friend (Mr. Blair) makes another agreement, which, by his own confession, is some \$500,000 better financially for the Dominion than the first one. My hon. friend (Mr. Blair) knows that this is the case. Now, what is the reason, that, if we have seen the first of these contracts, we cannot see the second? I do not know what is in that contract. I find, in my hon. friend's evidence, that he says, the agreement is optional; that the Government may either pay the \$1,600,000, or it may make the payments in the shape in which they were to be made first. Is it optional in that new agreement or not? That is what the extract seems to lead me to suppose, such as I find it in his report. That makes a very great difference. First, we took exception to that bargain on account of the evidently unbusinesslike aspect which it presented to us. Here, for instance, the Minister of Railways, who has access to the public chest, and is able to pay cash for what he gets, with the Government having large surpluses; comes to the conclusion that that road is worth \$1,600,000, and then, for the sake of a friend, or for some other reason, he agrees to pay \$2,100,000 in hard cash. That is what my hon. friend (Mr. Blair) proposed to do at first. Now, in his evidence before

this committee, so far as I understand it, he says, that the new agreement is an optional one, and that the Government has the option of either paying the cash, \$1,600,000, or of going on with the old arrangement, which is tantamount to paying \$2,100,000. Is that so or not? We have the right to have the document before us, and to know whether it is so or not; not only on account of the hon. gentleman's poor memory, but on account of these differences which we find displayed here in the evidence given before this committee, and what seems to be the common rumour at the present time, that it is to be a payment of \$1,600,000 in cash, out and out. Everybody knows in this House, that, when this agreement was laid over for two years, the basis very largely being as to whether this is a good business arrangement or not, this House supposed it would have the benefit of about a year's experience to know how the traffic on that road would turn out. Have I not heard that argument in this House? Hon. gentlemen opposite have used it over and over again. The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) specially took it upon himself to declare, that he knew that the traffic would more than counterbalance and pay the increase of the expenses, and that a great future in traffic was before the road, when once it was opened to Montreal. And, after the running of about a year, Parliament supposed that it would get some data for making up its mind as to whether this was a good business transaction or not. What happened? This House comes up to the discussion of the question, and a final judgment upon the question, and my hon. friend (Mr. Blair) comes down here, and coolly tells us, that he has not kept the accounts so that you can tell the least thing about what has happened as a consequence of the addition of these miles of road from Lévis to Montreal. It was his duty to have done so. It was his duty to have so arranged that matter that this House and this Parliament, in the experience of the ten or twelve months during which this line has been operated, would have some business experience to go upon as to whether it was well to make an arrangement of that kind or not. It means money; it is really equivalent to between six million dollars and seven million dollars, as laid up against the national debt. There is no getting out of that. Are we to go into this at the whim of a Minister; are we not, as business men, to ask, what has been the experience of twelve months' running of that added piece of road; what are the financial results consequent upon the running of the Drummond branch and the lines in connection with the Grand Trunk Railway? I think so. I do not think there is any business man on that side of the House who would go into an arrangement of this kind without having an answer to that question; and, if he had had a chance to make an experiment of ten or twelve months upon it

before he had to decide whether or not he would go into it for ninety-nine years. I think he would have arranged his book-keeping so as to give him a pretty close idea as to whether that would be a profitable transaction or not.

There is information which, last year, my hon. friend (Mr. Blair) was ordered to give this House. It has not yet been placed before this House, and it has an important bearing upon this question. It was asked for by my hon. friend from Westmoreland (Mr. Powell). If I mistake not, my hon. friend (Mr. Blair) promised me, before the House prorogued last year, that he would bring down this very same supplementary contract, and lay it on the Table of this House. I have not had time to turn up "Hansard," but I have, at least, a fair recollection of asking him to do it, and of his having promised to do it. He has not done it. My hon. friend from Compton (Mr. Pope) has a most important motion designed to get information for the discussion of this very question. That notice of motion is on the Order paper, and, when my hon. friend (Mr. Pope) rose to put it, under the unopposed motions, the other day, the right hon. gentleman who leads the Government, said, "Stand." What did that mean? It meant that my right hon. friend interposed himself and the authority that he has in this House, between my hon. friend from Compton (Mr. Pope) and the information which that hon. gentleman thinks is vitally necessary to the discussion of this question. That did not show a desire to give information to this House. This information ought to be given to the House; my right hon. friend will not for a moment try to sustain the position, that the House has not the right to full information on important questions of this kind—on all questions it has the right; but on important questions of this kind most assuredly it has the right.

My hon. friend the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) is not in his element, when he attempts to read a lecture to my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper). He does not do it well, and I would advise him, as a friend—because I am a friend of my hon. friend the Minister of Railways and Canals—

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I appreciate it.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend (Mr. Blair) runs away with the idea that in some way I have some feelings of spite against him.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I know you are too big a man for that.

Mr. FOSTER. I beg my hon. friend (Mr. Blair) to put that impression away from his heart entirely. My hon. friend sometimes thinks, and his friends sometimes say, that I am disposed to be a little envious or jealous of the success of my hon. friend. Oh,

Mr. FOSTER.

no; may the sails always set to a full breeze for my hon. friend. May there be nothing too good to give to him in purse or in store. But all the same, so long as he pursues those devious and peculiar political methods in which my hon. friend is a past master, so long it will be my duty, so long as I have standing place in the country, to oppose him politically. As for any personal feeling, I beg my hon. friend to dismiss from his mind all such considerations. But he exhibits profound sorrow when he contemplates my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition. Now, the Minister of Railways in an attitude of profound sorrow or deep contrition is an interesting phase of his development; and I could not avoid philosophizing upon it. So far as we on this side of the House are concerned, we weep with and for each other, and my hon. friend may keep his tears and his sorrow for himself and his schemes, many of which are bound to come to grief, for my hon. friend must know that he is in a brighter and whiter light in this Parliament than he was when he was putting through his little devious schemes in the legislature of New Brunswick. He cannot bulldoze them through this Parliament. He must give the necessary information. The hon. gentleman must understand that the atmosphere is slightly changed, and he had better adapt himself to the atmosphere of the House of Commons and give us this information. Let him be honest and frank and open about it, and he will get along a great deal better than he otherwise would. The hon. leader of the Opposition has half the information, he says. He thinks that is certainly an act of grace, that somehow or other he has allowed the leader of the Opposition to pick around and get half the information, and with that he ought to be profoundly thankful and delighted. Now, Sir, joking aside, what we want, and all we want, is that my hon. friend will put this House in the position in which it demands, and has a right to demand, to be placed before he puts his measures before it; that is, to have a copy of the contract, so that we can have access to it, and just as full access to it as the hon. gentleman himself, and to have the information which we have been asking for last year and all this session, and which he has thus far failed to give us.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). Mr. Speaker, I desire to say a word in reply to the hon. ex-Finance Minister (Mr. Foster), who says he has sat in this House since 1882, and has never known a case in which a matter of this kind came before the House, and the papers necessary to enable the House to consider the question intelligently were not placed upon the Table. Now, I will give my hon. friend a case. In 1884, when the hon. leader of the Opposition was Minister of Railways, he brought down a number of propositions to grant subsidies to railways. Among these was a proposition

to grant to the Quebec Central Railway \$211,000. Mr. Blake asked for information with regard to the company, and the hon. leader of the Opposition got up and admitted that he had nothing to lay on the Table of the House, and he laid nothing on the Table of the House; but he pressed the vote, and the money was voted.

Mr. FOSTER. Was there a contract entered into?

Mr. McMULLEN. No, there was no contract. There was no information laid on the Table of the House at all. The present leader of the Opposition was asked whether he knew who the stockholders were, and he could not even give that information. If the hon. gentleman will turn up "Hansard" of the 10th of April, 1884, he can see it for himself. I will give him another case. A bonus was voted to the Kingston and Pembroke Railway, and in that case information was asked for in regard to the bona fides of the company. Mr. Blake said:

There is no paper before the House with reference to this subsidy.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No, there is no paper, but I believe there is no doubt that will accomplish the object.

Mr. BLAKE. Why is there not any paper? I am sure the Secretary of State could write a paper.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. He tells me that it was a very useful line to build.

That is the only information he had to give in regard to that matter. In that case there were no papers either. So that my hon. friend the ex-Finance Minister was mistaken when he stated that in all his experience from 1882 down to the present time there never had been a vote brought before Parliament until full information was given to the House on the subject. With regard to the action taken by the hon. leader of the Opposition, I must say that I have been rather surprised at his conduct of late. I cannot understand what has happened to him, because whenever he gets up to address the House he appears to boil over and get out of temper. I think it would be better to settle down and do business in a quiet manner. I cannot tell what the cause of it is, but the hon. leader of the Opposition constantly loses his temper and oversteps the mark of a man occupying the position of a leader in the House.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Mr. Speaker, the exhibition which the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) has made would be amusing if it were not so absolutely ridiculous. He tries to draw an analogy between a proposal to vote a bonus or a subsidy to build a railway in some portion of the country where the inhabitants require a railway and a proposal to buy a railway out and out. There is no analogy between them. In the one case there was no railway built, and the people had petitioned this House to vote a

subsidy to build a railway; in the other case the House is asked to buy a railway, part of which has been in operation for years, and we ask for important data which ought to be before this House to enable the representatives of the people to determine whether Parliament ought to buy that railway or not. It does seem to me that there is something about this whole transaction that is enshrined in mystery. When the first proposal was made to this House, there was no data placed before the House to enable the representatives of the people to judge whether it was wise or unwise to enter into the contract, though it was asked for again and again; and one excuse after another was given by the Minister of Railways for refusing to place that information before the House, and the proposal was forced through. We were asked to discuss it without the information; and we were told, while the discussion was going on, that although it was proposed only to rent the railway, it would be found that it would be a good paying investment for the people of this country. It was said that when we had the returns showing what the railway was earning, we would be convinced that the contract which the Minister of Railways was proposing to this House was a good one. Now, that contract was rejected by the other Chamber of this Parliament, and the Government for the time being entered into a temporary contract to rent the railway, and assured this House that they had no doubt whatever that Parliament would be satisfied, after the road was running for a short time, that it was a good contract, and that when they subsequently proposed a different contract, we would be in possession of the information that would lead us to accept the proposal. We now have the next proposal, and the Minister tells us that the information which he then intended to collect and submit to this House has not been collected. Why has it not been collected? Why are the representatives of the people denied that information which they ought to have to enable them to judge whether it is the part of wisdom or otherwise to saddle the country with this large expenditure? From all the information I can glean in regard to the running of the Intercolonial Railway, the earnings on this portion of the road are very small—so small that they will not pay for the cost of running the road up to the present time. To-day we are face to face with the same difficulty that we were at the time the former contract was before the House; we have no information or data to enable us to judge whether or not this would be a good contract. I say this House ought to know what the earnings have been on that road, which the Government rented temporarily, from the time they took it down to the present time. But we have not got that information. The earnings of that road are a sealed book to this House. They cannot be found in the report of the Minister

of Railways or in the report of the Auditor General. Then I thought I might find the contract, as the Minister of Railways said we could get it. I went and got the return, but I found that the contract was not there. Part of it was contained in the answers given by the Minister of Railways when he was being questioned; part of the contract was here and part of it elsewhere; but you could not get the information you required. Then I thought there was surely a return somewhere containing the information. I went to the party who was in charge of the returns, but the information I got there was that the contract was not printed. If it is not printed nor in this report, it is not available for the members of the House; and if they do not get it, how are they to judge of the wisdom of the expenditure proposed by the Minister of Railways? It seems to me the greatest absurdity ever presented to this House or country. It is trifling with the intelligence of the House to expect us to deal with this important matter upon the meagre information in our possession at present. Yet the hon. Minister says he will not give us any more.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. I have already sent a copy of the agreement to the hon. leader of the Opposition.

Mr. **SPROULE**. Is the leader of the Opposition 213 members of this House? Is he the only one entitled to the information? If this should come to a vote, every member who has to record his vote must have the information in his possession so as to enable him to judge and vote intelligently upon it. So far as I know—and I have endeavoured to get it—the information we require is not available to us at present. Ever since this motion has been on the Order paper, the Minister of Railways has been asked, from time to time, to give us all the information we ought to have, to enable us to deal intelligently with this question, but he has not brought down a single item of information. Is this treating the representatives of the people fairly? Is it treating Parliament fairly? One would suppose that we were sent here to vote blindly and ignorantly on any question submitted to us.

I was somewhat surprised at the position taken by Mr. Speaker, though I do not wish to criticise his action at all, but merely to refer to it in this particular. As I understand, when a motion of this character is presented, it is the duty of the mover to give such explanation as will justify the House in assenting to it, because, by our assent, we admit the principle involved. But the Minister gives no explanation which will enable us to judge whether or not we should assent to the principle involved in the motion.

Mr. **SPROULE**.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). You are not asked to do that, but to refer the matter to the committee.

Mr. **SPROULE**. We are asked by the Speaker to decide whether the House shall go into Committee of the Whole on the motion or not, and if we consent to go into committee we thereby give our assent to the principle of the motion. Why does the House go into committee? Simply to deal with details, and it should previously have an explanation from the Minister who makes the motion. I think myself the Speaker put his foot into it.

Mr. **DEPUTY SPEAKER**. The hon. gentleman has no right to discuss the ruling of the Speaker.

Mr. **SPROULE**. I did not understand the Speaker to give a ruling, but simply information to the House; and I believe I am quite in order in referring to this, because we are asked to assent to the principle of this motion without having the information on which we can judge whether we ought to give our assent to it or not. We are asked to assent to the principle without having a single word of explanation from the Minister. This is simply trifling with the House. The Minister of Railways said the conduct of the leader of the Opposition is childish. Well, I imagine the country will think it is a species of childishness which we are entitled to indulge in so long as we are treated in this manner. I think the people will regard it as something very serious and that the Government which denies us the information required will be held to be very remiss in their duty. They are not doing what the principles of responsible government require, in refusing to give us any information whatever when asking us to deal with this most important question. The hon. gentleman admits that Parliament is unquestionably entitled to the information. Then, why does he not give it?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I do give it.

Mr. **SPROULE**. He sent it to the leader of the Opposition, but that is not sending it to the 213 members of the House. Out of that number only one man has got it, and yet each of the others is expected to judge for himself and bring his own intelligence to bear on the question. How can he do that if he has not the information to which the Minister of Railways says the House is undoubtedly entitled. The hon. Minister cannot plead ignorance because he was warned several times that this information must be before the House before we can deal with the question. Surely he cannot say that it is at present. He says that if any member had dropped him a private note, he would have got the informa-

tion. But why should each member have to do this, and would not the hon. gentleman save himself the trouble involved in replying to these private notes by laying the information on the Table. This sort of fencing is merely trifling with the representatives of the people.

It is a great injustice to the representatives of the people and to the country to ask us to deal with such a question on the basis of the meagre information in our possession to-day. Why have we not the data we ought to have? Were there any earnings of that road during the time the Government held it under temporary arrangement? If we knew what its earnings were we should be better able to judge whether it is wise to incur this expenditure. Do we know what has been the outlay upon it? Not at all. We do know that there are two or three roads running through the same section sharing the earnings of the territory. But the important requirements of Parliament is to know whether this road is going to be a paying investment; and how can hon. members judge of that, unless they know what has been spent upon capital account, and what are the earnings and operating expenses. Yet, we have not a single line or figure to convey to us this information. From what I have been able to learn from the Auditor General's Report, it seemed to me that the earnings of the road were a few hundred dollars, and that the earnings did not begin to pay the expenses of working. If that is the case, how is it going to be a paying investment? But, of course, one may easily be in error in attempting to pick out such information as this from the other items of the Auditor General's Report. The hon. Minister should have given us these figures. He knew that the question was coming before the House, and should have fortified himself by laying the documents on the Table.

Mr. J. G. HAGGART (South Lanark). I do not intend to discuss the question of the resolution at present. But I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals to some information which we have not now before us. The hon. Minister states that this information is before the House, that if hon. gentlemen had looked at the report of the Drummond County Railway Committee they would have found the contracts they desired. If my memory serves me well—and I think I have a good memory—I heard the hon. Minister promise last session to lay these contracts on the Table of the House. The original contract should be on the Table, and we should have an opportunity to consider it. The hon. Minister deals with these contracts in a very off-hand manner. He tells us that the amendment to the Drummond County contract is simply one by which the Government is allowed to change the terms of the payment into a lump sum.

instead of a yearly payment. That is not correct. There is a condition in this contract by which, in addition to the sum they are to pay, the Government are required to spend \$100,000 on the road. There are other matters of information which we have not before us. What are the receipts from the Drummond County road? I see, according to the figures of the Intercolonial Railway, that there is over \$8,000 from the Drummond road. We want details. I do not know whether, in the account of the receipts and expenditure, the \$210,000 that we give the Drummond Railway Company and the amount we have to pay the Grand Trunk Railway are charged against the receipts. Perhaps the Minister will be able to tell us that. I would also draw the hon. Minister's attention to his report, and point out that it is almost impossible, with the details given in this work, to judge even approximately what the accounts of the road show. The hon. gentleman talks in a way that he may consider wise of the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper). It is so kind of the hon. Minister, who evidently thinks himself so superior to the rest of us as to be able to give lectures upon the proprieties, to say that he feels sorry that the hon. leader of the Opposition has degenerated. It is kind of the hon. gentleman.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I am glad you appreciate it.

Mr. HAGGART. We appreciate it very much indeed. But he goes further and says that the leader of the Opposition stands up every time as if he were the paid advocate of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Let us judge of men by their actions rather than by their words. Who could look more like a paid advocate of the Canadian Pacific Railway than the man who gave that company \$2,000,000 more to build the Crow's Nest Pass Railway than was necessary? But was that, after all, for the purpose of benefiting the Canadian Pacific Railway, or was it because an institution with which were identified some prominent supporters of the hon. gentleman in Toronto had been foisted upon the Canadian Pacific Railway, and that company was obliged to demand more than was originally promised for that reason, so that parties connected with a newspaper organ of the Government were enabled to draw large sums in connection with this affair. What has the hon. leader of the Opposition ever done in advocacy of the Canadian Pacific Railway interests that compared with this single act of the benevolence in connection with the Crow's Nest Pass Railway? We shall have an opportunity this evening to debate this Drummond Railway question in full. But what I wish to call to the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals' attention—and I intend to make some remarks on it this evening—is

the necessity of our having full information as to the contract of last session, as has been asked for again by my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition. Let me read from the "Hansard" of yesterday with reference to this subject :

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the leader of the House if it is intended to proceed with the Drummond County Railway resolutions to-morrow, because some papers have been moved for which are absolutely necessary to the discussion. Information has been asked as to the results of the working of the Drummond County Railway, the expenses and receipts, and it will be absolutely impossible to proceed intelligently with that subject unless the hon. Minister of Railways furnishes the House with full information with regard to the whole question.

The hon. gentleman states that it is impossible to divide the amounts so as to show what are the receipts and expenditures of this particular portion of the road. It may possibly be so. I have no doubt that the hon. Minister has been so informed by the officers of his department. But I would ask the hon. Minister: Has he not had an approximate estimate furnished by his department as to what the receipts and expenditures were?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. No.

Mr. HAGGART. Then, my information on that subject is incorrect. Of course, I take the hon. Minister's word. We have the original contract with the Grand Trunk, and the supplementary contract with the Grand Trunk Railway; and we have the original contract with the Drummond County Railway. We now want the supplementary contract with the Drummond County Railway laid on the Table. We desire also to know what are the receipts or what has been credited from the Drummond County Railway and also whether, in the accounts of receipts and expenditures of the Intercolonial Railway the sum of money we give in the form of payment to the Drummond County Railway and the \$140,000 we give to the Grand Trunk appears in the railway accounts or in any other accounts of the Dominion.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I have just a word to say to my hon. friends on the other side. For my part, I am quite unable to see what is the reason for this tempest in a teapot. Really there is nothing at all in this matter which should provoke this debate. My hon. friend from York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) said a moment ago that he is entitled to have all the information which is available for the purpose of discussing this important question. Nobody disputes that. The whole question turns upon whether the House at this moment is in possession of information which it should have in order to be in a position to enter

Mr. HAGGART.

upon the discussion. My hon. friend stated yesterday that he would bring down all the information that he could. I am within the judgment of the House in saying that during the present session the Opposition have asked repeatedly to have a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Drummond County Railway and of the Intercolonial Railway; my hon. friend has complied with that request in so far as he was able. But now, at the last moment, we are told that the House cannot proceed unless we have before us the contract, the second contract, the last contract with the Drummond County Railway. Sir, this is the first occasion that that contract has been asked for; we never heard it mentioned before to-day. We have repeatedly been requested to furnish a statement of the receipts and expenditures, but I am in the judgment of the House in saying that up to the present day no mention was ever made of the contract. And there was a very good reason for it, because that contract had been before the House for more than 12 months. This contract was referred to last year; it was before a committee of the House appointed to investigate this transaction. My hon. friend from Grey (Mr. Sproule) said a moment ago that every member of the House was entitled to all the information in respect to this contract. Why, Sir, his pretension is simply childish; he knows well what the terms of this contract are, it is public property. Every member has a right to know the data upon which he is asked to pass judgment. But at this moment the tenor of that contract is well known, it has been published in the press, it has been produced in this House, it was produced before the committee upstairs, it has been discussed both in the press and upon the floor of the House. The statement has been made four or five times by hon. gentlemen opposite that as a consequence of the action of the Senate this second contract was to effect a saving of some \$500,000. Therefore, everybody knows the tenor of that contract, and everybody is able to discuss that question, even though technically the contract is not laid upon the Table of the House. I have no objection at all that it should be technically laid upon the Table of the House. When my hon. friend proceeds with his statement he will have to allude to that contract, he will have to lay it on the Table of the House, and he is prepared to do so. My hon. friend is also prepared to give much of the information which is asked for by hon. gentlemen opposite.

The position was taken a moment ago by my hon. friend from Grey, and I think it has also been taken by the leader of the Opposition, that it was inconvenient to proceed with the discussion of this question in committee, that it ought to be discussed with the Speaker in the Chair. I need not tell my hon. friend that I take issue with him on this point completely. He is altogether in error when he says that if we allow this resolution to pass the House with the Speaker in the

Chair, we commit ourselves to it. Nothing of the kind. We know that if a Bill is allowed to go to a second reading the House is generally understood to accept the principle of the Bill. But that is not the case when a resolution is moved. My hon. friend knows, and every hon. gentleman knows, that upon a money question the House does not settle the principle until the resolution is carried, and concurred in, that is the time when the House adopts the principle. My hon. friend knows as well as I do that all these money resolutions are surrounded with restrictions. They have to go to a committee, the report has to be received, that has to be concurred in; so that the House has many opportunities of discussing the question and of obtaining all the information in committee and otherwise before it is called upon to commit itself finally to the measure.

Mr. SPROULE. Is it not the custom, before asking the House to go into Committee of the Whole on any resolution, that all the explanations should be made on that motion before the Speaker leaves the Chair?

The PRIME MINISTER. That has been done time and again. Sometimes that is the most convenient way to give all the information that is wanted upon a stated proposition. But if the Minister prefers to do so, if he can give the information better in committee than while the Speaker is in the Chair, he has always been allowed to do so; the hon. gentleman must have seen that done time and again. Now, my hon. friend is ready to proceed with his statement. In making his statement he will have to allude to these contracts, and in alluding to these contracts, he will have to lay them on the Table of the House. But surely my hon. friend cannot insist that the contracts should be laid at once upon the Table of the House when they have been common property for more than 12 months. I venture to say that when the contract has been laid before the House there is not a man in this House who will know more about it than he knows to-day. Now, Sir, I appeal to hon. gentlemen opposite to proceed with the business of the House, and not to fritter away the time which is so valuable to members on both sides of the House.

Mr. H. A. POWELL (Westmoreland). I wish to call the attention of the Minister of Railways and Canals to the fact that considerable of the information that has been asked for has not been furnished. On the 19th of April, a question was asked on behalf of myself, when I was absent through illness. It is found on page 1904 of the revised "Hansard," and is as follows:—

What is the total amount of revenue collected by the Government (a) from passenger traffic, (b) from freight traffic at the stations, freight agencies and passenger agencies along the extension of the Intercolonial Railway from Chaudière to Montreal, both included, (1) from the 30th day of June, 1898, exclusive, to the 1st day of March, 1899, exclusive; (2) from the 1st day of March,

1899, inclusive, to the 1st day of April, 1899, exclusive?

To that question the Minister of Railways and Canals made the following reply:—

A return will have to be moved for for this information.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I leave it to the judgment of this House to say if that was not a perfect evasion. I did not call for a tabulated statement, I did not call for any information that could not be given in two or three lines. I have no hesitation in saying that this answer is a simple evasion, shows a desire not to bring the information down. At a later stage, on the 24th day of April, in my absence, a return was moved for on my behalf by the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster), as appears on page 2085 of the "Hansard":

Return showing the total amount of revenue collected by the Government (a) from passenger traffic, (b) from freight traffic at the stations, freight agencies and passenger agencies along the extension of the Intercolonial Railway from Chaudière to Montreal, both included, (1) from the 30th day of June, 1898, exclusive, to the 1st day of March, 1899, exclusive; (2) from the 1st day of March, 1899, inclusive, to the 1st day of April, 1899, exclusive.

That return was ordered by this House on the 24th day of April, 1899, and it is not yet brought down. Now, the information is at hand. I have no hesitation in saying, that this information could have been furnished by the Minister of Railways and Canals within a few days. The information is furnished year after year in respect to every agency, passenger and freight, and every station along the whole line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. In proof of this, of the statement that is given every year, and to show the truth of my statement that the information can be easily got, in the last Report of the Auditor General, which has been laid on the Table of the House, under "R," page 33, we find a detailed statement of the revenue of the Intercolonial Railway, and in that statement we find: "Collected by station agents," "Collected by outside agents," and returns are given from every station agent over the whole course of the Intercolonial. All that was necessary for the hon. Minister to do was, to send down to the accountant at Moncton and ask him to give the returns from these stations over the line of the extension from Chaudière to Montreal. But it does not end there. The desire to conceal the facts from the House, or to withhold the information, is more fully illustrated by what appears at page 2317 of "Hansard," April 28th. On that day, the hon. member for South Lanark (Mr. Haggart) spoke as follows:—

I asked the hon. Minister of Railways to bring down, before the Drummond resolutions are considered, any report he has from the engineer in charge of the work as to the condition of the work, and all other information in the hands of the department. That will be very necessary for a proper consideration of the question.

To this request, or statement, the Minister of Railways and Canals replied as follows:—

If the hon. gentleman will give notice of a motion, I will have the return brought down as early as possible. Let him state specifically what he desires to be brought down. I understand that by some arrangement between the leaders, the Drummond County matter will not come up to-day, so that there will be ample time for him to have the return asked for.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Then I go on to say:

Mr. POWELL. Keep your coolness. Mr. Haggart replies:

It is simply impossible that I should give notice of a motion and reach it in time, and it is not necessary, as the hon. gentleman can bring down the information without a motion.

And the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals made this statement, which is hardly consistent with his statement to-day:

I shall bring down any information I can.

Then, also, on April 21, the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Pope) moved for:

Order of the House—(1) Copies of all local and other tariffs and of all supplements thereto in force on the first day of July, A.D. 1898, on the Intercolonial Railway and on all railways leased, used or operated by the Government in connection with the Intercolonial Railway; (2) Copies of all such local and other tariffs and supplements thereto in force on the said Intercolonial Railway and other railways on the first day of April, A.D. 1899; (3) a complete list, statement and return, giving full and complete particulars of all special rates or other concessions to any merchants, traders, manufacturers or other persons for or in respect of the carriage of freight on the said Intercolonial Railway and other railways aforesaid, which were in force or effect on the following dates respectively: (a) the first day of July, A.D. 1898; (b) the first day of April, A.D. 1899. (4) Copies of all letters, reports, telegrams and communications in writing during the year 1898 from Mr. A. H. Harris as general traffic manager of the Intercolonial Railway to the general manager of the said railway respecting or relating to or concerning the re-arrangement or revision of tariffs on the Intercolonial Railway, or of the rules and regulations governing the carriage of either passengers or freight on the said railway.

In respect to that motion, the right hon. First Minister replied, that he desired it to stand. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not think that more essential or more pertinent information could be moved for than has been moved for in this motion, and which has been asked for by the hon. member for Lanark. Take the motion of the hon. member for Compton. We all know, in the maritime provinces at least, that last year, in order to swell the revenues of the Intercolonial Railway, the local tariffs of rates on the Intercolonial Railway were raised. In some cases they were raised so high as to be absolutely prohibitive. There is a case in the county of Westmoreland which I have in mind, of a farmer who did, as he had done in previous years—get out some hardwood to be shipped on the Intercolonial Railway

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to Moncton. It was shipped to Moncton, and, after it was delivered there, and after the cordwood was sold, he found, that he got for the cordwood a dollar less than the railway had charged him, such an increase had been made in order to swell the revenue. These freight and passenger tariffs are in the hands of the Minister of Railways and Canals himself. He would not think of sending them to Moncton, because they have to be approved by the Minister and by the department before they go into force. In respect to the demand for the contract, I do not feel much interested in that, because it was brought down before the committee of investigation upon the Drummond County matter last year, and I took a copy of it at that time, and I have my copy yet. In respect to the resolution that is before the House, I beg to dissent entirely from the right hon. First Minister as respects the action of the House when it allowed itself to go into Committee of the Whole. That is an endorsement of the principle; there is no question about that. What the House does when the report comes back from the Committee of the Whole, in accepting or passing a motion of concurrence, is that it concurs in the principle of the Bill. After being in committee, it concurs in the resolution in the state in which it comes from the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). Mr. Speaker, before the motion is put, I wish to say a word further in reference to this proposition. The hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) states, that he will not discuss the matter until we go into committee, and, as was very properly pointed out by the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell), on the second reading of a Bill, the principle of the Bill is affirmed. But you affirm the principle of this resolution, when the Speaker leaves the Chair and when the House goes into committee to consider its details, not to discuss the principle. The Minister of Railways and Canals tells us, that he does not propose to discuss a word of the principle till the committee stage is reached. That really means, Mr. Speaker, that we are to accept now the principle of this Drummond County resolution. Mr. Speaker, on the face of it, I refuse to do so, and for several reasons. One of the reasons is, that our experience in the past of the course taken by the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals has not been such as to inspire us with the greatest measure of confidence in the administration of these matters. If we look at the history of the past three sessions, we will find, that these important matters are delayed during the part of the session that they should receive careful consideration, and that important railway resolutions have in past years been brought in at the close of the session, after most of the members of the House had gone away, and

when those who were left had not the opportunity of fully considering these measures, because the Minister would say to us: We have not got these papers. They have forced Bills through in the last days of the session, and then if a question comes up afterwards they say to us; Why did you not oppose this Bill in the House; when it was before the House there was practically no opposition to it. Under such circumstances there cannot be that vigorous criticism and active opposition which objectionable measures should receive. The Crow's Nest Pass Railway Bill is a conspicuous example of a measure being brought down during the dying hours of the session. The members had been notified by you, Mr. Speaker, that their pay was ready, and they could go to their homes, and after that, this railway Bill which was a direct loss to the country of at least \$2,000,000 was rushed through the House. We know that the Canadian Pacific Railway would have built that road without a subsidy from the Dominion Government, or probably from any other Government. Having acquired the British Columbia charter, which gave them enormous subsidies of timber lands and coal lands in unlimited quantities—they say the largest coal mines and most accessible in the world to-day; and being in the centre of a country where vast quantities of coal will be used for smelting ores; most valuable coal lands. They have there in close proximity to these Crow's Nest coal mines, the mines of the Kootenay district, the mines of the United States, mines that are only commencing to be developed, and with these coal lands—leaving out of consideration altogether the subsidies in timber lands, leaving out the subsidies in town sites which they received under that British Columbia charter—they could afford to have built that road twice over without a further subsidy. When the Dominion Government in the year 1896, had made a contract for 330 miles at \$5,000 a mile, or total of \$1,650,000 for the building of this road; at that time the Canadian Pacific Railway had no British Columbia charter giving them these immense subsidies, so that the Dominion Government of the day in giving them \$1,650,000, was giving them a subsidy which might be considered reasonable in its character. But, when it was disclosed in the committee, and in the House, too, that the Canadian Pacific Railway had a British Columbia charter with all these advantages, I say, in the face of that, the addition of \$6,000 per mile, making \$1,980,000, or, in round figures, \$2,000,000 additional bonus given by the present Government of Canada for the construction of that road, was unwarranted and unjustifiable.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I hope my hon. friend (Mr. Wallace) does not mean to insinuate, that the Minister of Railways and Canals had a retainer from the Canadian Pacific Railway, when he gave them \$2,000,

000 more than they had agreed to build the road for.

Mr. WALLACE. Well, I would like to hear some sensible reason given for that increase of subsidy of \$2,000,000. The Government told us as a reason, that they were going to control the rates on this line, but the Minister of Railways and Canals knows that the Railway Act gives the Government that control over the rates, without paying for it. That pretended reason, therefore, falls to the ground at once. But they made another statement in this connection. The Government told us that in the future they were going to have the freight rates on wheat from different parts of Manitoba to Fort William reduced by a fraction of a cent per bushel.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). How much?

Mr. WALLACE. One and one-half cents per hundred pounds, which is nine-tenths of a cent per bushel. Well, what occurred? We predicted that the Canadian Pacific Railway, from business considerations, because of competition, and out of regard for their own interests would reduce these freight rates, and as a matter of fact that has turned out to be true, and they have reduced the rate, not nine-tenths of a cent per bushel, but twice as much, and they have done it of their own accord and without compulsion. Therefore, that pretense of the Government also falls to the ground. The Government told us also, that they were going to get great advantages for the people of the Kootenay mining country, by regulating the freight rates on the Crow's Nest Railway. That pretense also vanished into thin air when it was investigated. Their pretension that they were going to reduce the freight rates to the farmers of Manitoba and the North-west, experience has proven to be as mythical as the other. Then, Sir, if you examine into the history of every transaction of this Government in connection with railways—

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) has not, I notice, connected the subject he has been recently discussing, with the motion.

Mr. WALLACE. I can easily make the connection, Mr. Speaker; there will be no difficulty about that. The connection is this: That the Minister proposes to-day that we go into committee to consider the Drummond County Railway resolutions, without the papers, without the contract, without the information that would enable us to give it a fair and impartial investigation. I say that we object to that, and we are justified in our objection by the history of the past to which I have alluded.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Six o'clock.

Mr. WALLACE. Is it six o'clock?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Yes.

Mr. WALLACE. I am sorry.

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

### After Recess.

Mr. WALLACE. Mr. Speaker, when the House rose at six o'clock, I was pointing out the injustice of expecting the House to deal with this question without having the information which was necessary in order to enable us to form a correct conclusion on the proposal of the Government. The same state of affairs existed with regard to the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, in which case the Government made an exceedingly bad bargain; and that is one reason why we should not proceed with the present business without a copy of the contract, and without those details of information which the Minister should have been ready and anxious that every member of the House should have in his hands before coming to a conclusion. But, Sir, there are other reasons why we should not proceed. A year ago, in regard to the Yukon Railway the Government, without any notice other than a preliminary announcement in the Toronto "Globe" a few days before Parliament met, launched a scheme which was open to the same objections as the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, and open to the same objections which we have to urge against this Drummond County deal. What are the facts with reference to the Yukon Railway? Why, Sir, ignoring every principle enunciated by the Reform party for forty years, ignoring the principles of responsible government, ignoring those true and just principles without which honest government cannot be carried on, these gentlemen entered into a secret contract with Mackenzie & Mann to construct a railway beginning at no definite point and ending at no definite point. There was no justification for the haste shown, because, as we all know, in March of the preceding year, nearly one year before, they had information as to the immense riches of the Yukon district. Even before that it was not an unknown land. Two years before that, when I was Controller of Customs, realizing the necessity of collecting revenues there, I appointed a customs officer, and he was then gathering in large amounts of money. The country was becoming better known and its richness was being discovered. In March, 1897, Mr. Ogilvie's report, dated, I think, in the previous August, disclosed to the Department of the Interior the enormous riches of the district, such richness as was not known in any other part of the world. So I say there was no necessity for the secrecy or the haste they manifested on that occasion to complete a contract without regarding the rules of Parliament. They asked for no

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tenders; they received no tenders. They did not let the world know that they contemplated building a railroad. They gave no opportunity to any of those enterprising contractors whom we have in Canada, men of ability and experience and sufficient capital, who would have been delighted to go in and make offers to the Government. In that regard they had wilfully violated every law and regulation that was calculated to ensure honest government and to give confidence to the people in the righteous administration of their affairs. What do we find? Not only that they made a secret bargain, ignoring the law of the land, but that they made a bargain the extravagance of which could scarcely be realized. They proposed to give these gentlemen 3,750,000 acres of lands, and I have no hesitation in saying that the extremely valuable gold belt could have been included in one-fourth of that area; and if they discovered those valuable areas, they could collar one-half, at any rate, of the whole wealth of the country. It was said that they had only the opportunity, and that they had to take their chances with others. Not so, Mr. Speaker. Any one else going to the Government would have to pay the Government 10 per cent of the gross receipts over and above \$2,500 at that time; but under the bargain made with Mackenzie & Mann they had only to pay 1 per cent. Suppose Mackenzie & Mann, astute men as they were, should say to a miner: If you go to the Government and make your entry with them, you must pay 10 per cent of your gross receipts, whereas if you come to us and disclose to us where your valuable riches are, we will only charge you 5 per cent. This would leave them 4 per cent clear profit, and they would have every alternate mineral claim in addition. No man would go to the Government and pay 10 per cent royalty if by disclosing the matter to Mackenzie & Mann he could get off with paying only 5 per cent, while Mackenzie & Mann would be getting 4 per cent of the proceeds of all the mines of the country; and the Government would only receive the 1 per cent royalty which Mackenzie & Mann would have to pay instead of the 10 per cent which the country supposed would be received from the mineral wealth of the district. So that scheme was frustrated. The Government did their best to carry it through, bulldozing the members who were not favourable to it to give their adhesion to it and vote for it. We remember one member getting up and speaking against the scheme, but not having the courage of his convictions when the vote came he bolted from the House. That indicated a desperate revolt, but it showed that the revoters had not the courage of their convictions. The party adhesion was too strong. I can conceive the righteous indignation of the hon. member sitting opposite me, the hon. member

for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen). I can well conceive the righteous indignation of the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), who spent every day of his public life, before he crossed over to that side of the House, denouncing imaginary evils, imaginary wrong-doings, having to get up to justify this wrong-doing that cannot be condoned. Yet I remember that the hon. gentleman was dragooned, not only into voting for this iniquitous scheme, but into getting up and telling this House that scarcely in the whole course of his political career had he seen such a splendid exhibition of statesmanship as the building of the Yukon railway, without tenders, without previously asking the advice of Parliament, and without informing the people of Canada beforehand that such a railway was to be built at all. What did they reply? Oh, they said, we are going to get this road built for nothing. They were going to hand over the half of Canada's enormous resources in that district, and a large percentage of the other half to those contractors. I have no hesitation in saying that these contractors could have sold that agreement, had they succeeded in securing its ratification by the Senate, for \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000 at once. That agreement, however, was, fortunately for the country, not ratified by the Senate, and what have we here to-day? We have this scheme of the Drummond County Railway. What does the hon. Minister tell us? When asked for the contract, he tells the hon. leader of the Opposition that if he chooses to go up into the committee room, where an investigation was held, and look through the pigeon-holes, he will find there some documents, and that somewhere else he may find some other documents, and that between them all he may get a pretty fair idea of what the present Drummond County scheme is. I am surprised at a Minister of the Crown, in submitting an important contract to Parliament, should ask us to accept it without giving us a particle of information. When asked to-day what were the receipts of this branch, he is unable to say. He made the most astonishing statement I ever heard in this House. He said: We do not keep separate accounts. Why? This road was under his control temporarily during the last year and a half or so, and he promised to justify this session of Parliament the contract that he had previously made and which he was not able to justify last year. But after a year has elapsed, during which the railway was under his control, he is still unable to give us the results of his twelve months' experience in running that road. He is unable to point to us any satisfactory results that would justify the contract he asked us to accept a year ago, but he tells us: We do not keep accounts that way. Not only that, but he told us also this afternoon that he did expect the officials in his department would have kept those accounts separate. He shakes his head in dissent, but I am quite sure he did say that he thought his officials were keep-

ing the accounts in that way. Yes, Mr. Speaker, and that he asked them to produce those accounts which the leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) called for, and he found to his surprise that he could not get them.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The hon. gentleman quite misunderstood me. I said nothing of the kind.

Mr. WALLACE. "Hansard" will show that he said that he expected separate accounts were kept and that he had asked for them. He cannot deny that.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. All right, we will see what "Hansard" will show. I am sure you are wrong.

Mr. WALLACE. I was listening to the hon. gentleman carefully, and I gathered from his statement that he had asked the officials of his department for those accounts, and they told him it was not usual to keep them in that way, so that evidently the Minister himself was disappointed. What are we to conclude from this? We can only conclude that the hon. Minister, at the end of the year, when he had to come to Parliament and justify the bargain of a year ago or the still better bargain he has made since, by the actual results, has no results to show us. So he told the ex-Minister of Finance. If he has any such results, we are entitled to have them placed on the Table, so that every member will have the opportunity of examining them before the question comes up in the House. But if there were no separate accounts kept, how are we to tell what the result is? Does the hon. gentleman intend to take advantage of that general prosperity which he and his colleagues tell us has prevailed in this country, and is increasing the earnings of the Grand Trunk Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway, and, presumably, in like or greater proportion, the earnings of the Intercolonial Railway, that he will say: We have increased our earnings 10 per cent or 20 per cent as the result of that Drummond connection between Montreal and Lévis or Quebec? No, Sir, he cannot do that. He asks us to ratify the bargain he has since made, and which is much better for the country than the one previously submitted, because the former one called for the payment of half a million dollars more money, and 5 per cent to the Grand Trunk Railway instead of 4 per cent and so on, so that probably \$1,000,000 is saved by the present contract over the previous one.

But I would like to ask the Minister of Railways to tell us what he has not yet told us, namely, where is the necessity for the purchase of this road? We have the Grand Trunk Railway running from Montreal to Quebec, because, I take it, Quebec and Lévis are the same points, being only a mile or less apart, and that distance traversed by a ferry, and we are told that the Government intend giving a large subsidy for the building of a bridge to connect these two points. There is

the Canadian Pacific Railway running from Montreal to Quebec, the Grand Trunk Railway running between the same points, and this Drummond County Railway also connecting the same points. We are told, and the statement has been repeated, that during this session—presumably when five-sixths of the members have gone home—a resolution will be sprung upon the House to grant a subsidy to the south shore line, or a fourth line between these two points. Can any one tell me, who has travelled over that part of the country, what necessity there is for a fourth line of railway between those points? Except for the purely local traffic, one of these railroads could easily do the business. This does away with the argument of the need of a through line. It is said that this line must reach the centre of business in Montreal. That is the slur upon the city of Quebec, which is our greatest natural harbour, having the greatest facilities for doing the business and having the most hospitable and generous people to be found in any city of Canada. This railroad has its practical terminus at the city of Quebec, which has had a business history in the past, and has great prospects for the future. Hon. gentlemen have not shown any reason why this road should be extended to Montreal any more than they have shown why it should be extended to Toronto or Winnipeg as a rival to existing lines. I contend that Government control of the existing railroads is better than building parallel lines. These lines will not compete with one another. Take the case of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway. They have points where they meet, competing points as they call them, but where there is no competition so far as cutting down the rates is concerned. They do the business more promptly, and in that way there is competition, but not in the way of lowering rates to the farmer or manufacturer. By having four railways, you have quadruple expense in every way, which the people have to pay. So, I contend, it is not good statesmanship or good business for these hon. gentlemen to quadruple these lines of railroads without any necessity for doing it.

And what are they paying? I remember hearing a gentleman who is a better authority than either the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) or myself make the statement that the sums that were proposed to be given to the Grand Trunk Railway for the maintenance of the bridge and to the Drummond County Railway were sufficient to build two railroads from Montreal to Quebec, give two million dollars to build a magnificent bridge across the St. Lawrence, and allow a million and a half to provide for right of way, stations and terminals, a sum amply sufficient for that purpose. This is the statement of an hon. gentleman who has built millions of dollars worth of railways, who has spent his lifetime in that occupation and knows what he is talking about—the

Mr. WALLACE.

hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. McLennan). The hon. Minister will have to furnish the House with the information upon which he proposes to justify such an enormous expenditure. The hon. Minister says that he will not discuss these matters until we get into committee—that is to say, he will not discuss the principle until we have adopted the principle. He is bound to give us all the information we can reasonably require. What I would recommend him to do is to propose the postponement of the consideration of this question until all the papers are brought down. This they must do before they can be permitted to railroad a scheme like this through this House—a scheme although, apparently, has not a single feature to recommend it, the real reason for urging it, I suspect, being that there is a crowd of robbers behind it who want to plunder the country. This railroad was offered for sale for \$500,000. But last year they come to the Government and ask \$2,100,000. It must not be forgotten that the Dominion Government and also the Government of the province of Quebec have subsidized this road very generously. The subsidies did not quite build the road, but very near it. Then they ask this Government, which contributed, we will assume \$700,000, to buy the road for \$2,100,000. If such a proposition were accepted there would be men constantly building railroads and selling them back to the Government. The Government would have to pay twice over for their construction. In that connection we hear of another scheme, which, no doubt, will come before this House in due season—the construction of the Rainy River Railroad. The Minister of Railways and Canals a year ago took power which was utterly unjustifiable in my opinion. In the early days of the settlement of the North-west a proposal was made that subsidies should be given amounting to \$3,200 a mile for the construction of railways. The Minister of Railways and Canals last year brought in a Bill to give him power to double that grant under certain conditions—and those conditions could easily be made to fit wherever the necessity arose. We are told that the Government are going to give \$6,400 a mile toward this road. They gave a portion of it last year. I say that the Government is not justified in giving a single dollar towards the construction of that road. The Government was bound to make a railroad across the continent, they completed that road with Government subsidies for branch lines of that road wherever the necessities of the case justified it. But this is the first instance we have had in that connection where one road practically parallels the other, and where it does not parallel the other, the only justification for its construction is the fact that it starts from Fort William and reaches to the city of Winnipeg. They propose to give an enormous subsidy to that road, \$6,400 a mile; the Government of Ontario is giving \$6,400

a mile; the province of Manitoba, I have no doubt, for their end of it, will give \$6,400 a mile.

Mr. HUGHES. The Ontario Government only gives \$4,000.

Mr. WALLACE. Very well; \$6,400 and \$4,000 make over \$10,000. I say, the Government is not justified in giving a subsidy to these roads, because the Government has performed its whole duty in the past by giving railroad connection between the great lakes and the city of Winnipeg, and on to the Pacific Ocean. They are not justified in giving a subsidy to a line especially which will not be a rival to the Canadian Pacific Railway. It will be, so far as we can see, a line placed in the hands of Mackenzie & Mann, who are contractors and in closest touch with the Canadian Pacific Railway. But whether in close touch with the Canadian Pacific Railway or not, it does not matter.

Mr. SPEAKER. Could the hon. gentleman tell me how this is connected with the question in dispute? I understand, he is speaking of something that is prospective, and that is not in the past.

Mr. WALLACE. Mr. Speaker, I shall have great pleasure in pointing that out to you. This is partly prospective and partly retrospective. We have given a subsidy to this road, and, if they intend to increase enormously the subsidies given to these gentlemen, perhaps one of the reasons is to recoup them for some supposed or actual expenditure made in connection with the Yukon railroad. Some say, that it is because Mackenzie & Mann are very liberal and generous.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not wish at all to judge of the method the hon. gentleman may please to adopt in his argument. It is not my affair to do that. But I must draw his attention to the fact, that it is not at all regular for the hon. member to go so far afield as he is going now. He must see that as well as I do.

Mr. WALLACE. Of course, I bow to your decision; but I want to point out, that this railroad is a very long affair, and once you have started on a railroad, you do not know where you are going to stop sometimes. You say we will have an opportunity on another occasion of discussing these matters fully.

Mr. SPEAKER. I did not; you misunderstand me. I hope the hon. gentleman will be serious.

Mr. WALLACE. I am always serious, and I know the Speaker himself will not treat the matter with levity. I say, I am pointing out these facts because they are intimately connected with the course the Minister of Railways and Canals is taking to-day with reference to the Drummond County matter. He is pursuing a certain course to-day, without giving us the information, trying to rail-

road this Drummond County matter through. I say, we should be warned by the history of the past, by the events that have happened within the last three years, by their course in reference to the railroads that I have mentioned, the Rainy River road, the Crow's Nest road, the Yukon road, are on all fours with this one. In various ways, the Minister has prevented the House from having that information which we should have before we consent to vote all these large subsidies for the construction of these roads. We are justified in referring to their course in regard to other roads in order to furnish an argument why we should not permit them to proceed with this one until they have given us the amplest information. They have no business to spend the money of the people of this country in subsidizing lines that are parallel to other lines. But that is only on a par with the proposition before the House about the Drummond County railroad, where, as I have pointed out, there are three parallel lines to-day, and a fourth one to be subsidized in the near future. So that, when you object to the Drummond County railroad, they again point to the fact, that in the Rainy River railroad there are two parallel lines, one built by the Government, and the other subsidized at about the cost of building it. Now, in my opinion, we have come to a time when we should call a halt in railroad building, in one direction at least. While there are portions of this country that require development, a development which can only be obtained by the construction of railroads, this indiscriminate building of railroads, this building of parallel lines, should be strictly a commercial transaction, justified by its merits from a commercial standpoint, built by private capital, and not at the expense of the Government. The Government in the past have done their duty very fairly by the citizens of this country. They have launched into the construction of railroads in every direction where they could be justified, and in some places, I am sorry to say, where experience has scarcely justified them. But let that go. We have come now to a period when, I think, careful economy of the resources of the country should be practised, when we should not build parallel lines of railroad at the expense of the Government. If a commercial necessity for them exists, then let enterprising men build those roads at their own expense. It is only justifiable to spend public money in building railroads where a new country is to be opened up, where it would not be justifiable for men to put their own money in, because there would not be returns for many years to come. In those cases the Government of the country had stepped in and generously provided railways to open up every portion of this country where the opening up would be at all justifiable, but I say, in this case, that we must be furnished with a copy of the contract with the conditions and with

the whole of the information that the Government had and which they must have. They must give us some information. This road has been running under their sole control and management, I presume, for fifteen or sixteen months; whatever time it may be, they should furnish us with ample information as to the cost of the running of the road, the number of passengers carried, the amount of local freight and through freight and all information which can be held to justify this contract. But, as I said before, I am afraid there are some men behind it, and we have heard it repeatedly said that there are these men behind it who are making a fortune out of it if it goes through in its present shape, and who would be making a still larger fortune if it went through in the shape it was presented last year. If that be the case, and, in my opinion, it is one of the great motive powers that are inducing the Minister, or compelling the Minister—I do not know whether it is with his consent or whether he is being forced into this position—but, in any event, I would ask him to give the most serious consideration to this matter, and not to attempt to push it through this House to the detriment of the best interests of the country merely because a few plunderers may be behind the Government, who wish to divide a certain amount of spoil, wrested from this Government.

Mr. ALEX. McNEILL (North Bruce). I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals whether he can tell us if this railway is being run at a profit or a loss?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I propose to make quite a full statement to the House, or to the committee, when the House resolves itself into committee, and when, I hope, to be able to satisfy my hon. friend.

Mr. McNEILL. In view of the fact that the hon. gentleman promised to give us some information on this subject before we went into committee and before the discussion came on, perhaps he would not mind informing the House whether the railway is being run at a profit or a loss. Of course, the hon. gentleman can withhold that information from us if he chooses. If he has information and refuses to give it to the House, he may do so, but I think, after what has occurred, he stands in a rather curious position. Of course, he must judge of that for himself. I think we have now surely found ourselves in this House in a very strange position. We are called upon to discuss this question with this information in the breast of the hon. Minister, which he locks up there, and refuses to give us until he chooses, of his own will, to condescend to give it. I had no intention of saying anything in regard to this matter, but, I venture to say, that

Mr. WALLACE.

the people of this country will look upon what has occurred in this House to-day with very considerable suspicion. I think the people of Canada have learned enough in regard to this Drummond Railway deal—I use the word deal because the term has become classic since the hon. Minister has used it himself—the country have had their attention called to this Drummond Railway deal sufficiently to watch carefully what is being done in reference to it. In view of the fact that the right hon. First Minister—at least, I so understood him this afternoon—said that the last time the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals asked us to accept his proposals in reference to this railway, he forced through this House a contract for \$500,000 more than he now proposes to ask for it, I think the people will consider his conduct in reference to this question in the past, at all events, as not being very creditable. I would like to know from the right hon. First Minister whether I correctly interpret what he said this afternoon when I understood him to say that on the present contract there would be a saving, as compared with the last one, of \$500,000.

The PRIME MINISTER. No, that is not what I said. What I said was that the existence of the terms of the second contract was perfectly known, because the argument had been largely upon it in which it was said that there would be a saving of \$500,000.

Mr. McNEILL. The hon. gentleman does not say that there has been a saving.

The PRIME MINISTER. I did not say that.

Mr. McNEILL. Well, it is all the more necessary that those of us who have not a copy of the contract should see it before we proceed to deal with this question.

The PRIME MINISTER. I am sorry to hear that my hon. friend has not seen the contract, yet it has been before the public for twelve months.

Mr. McNEILL. I think we are all entitled to have this contract before us.

The PRIME MINISTER. It will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as my hon. friend—

Mr. McNEILL. My right hon. friend knows perfectly well that, though it is laid on the Table of the House, all the members of the House cannot read it before this discussion comes on. We are entitled to have it in our own hands before the discussion comes on, so that we may carefully read it and study it. I think the people will hold us all responsible for what we do in reference to this matter. I think we are entitled to know everything connected with it to the smallest particular, especially because of what has already occurred, before we are

called upon to deal with a grave matter of this kind. I think it is a grave matter to be called upon to vote away millions of the people's money without the fullest information, and I shall refuse to be a consenting party to any such course.

Motion (Mr. Taylor) that the House adjourn, negatived.

House divided on motion of the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.

YEAS :

Messieurs

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Bain,                    | Laurier (Sir Wilfrid), |
| Bazinet,                 | Lemieux,               |
| Beith,                   | Lewis,                 |
| Bertram,                 | Livingston,            |
| Bethune,                 | Macdonald (Huron),     |
| Blair,                   | Mackie,                |
| Bourassa,                | McClure,               |
| Bourbonnais,             | McGregor,              |
| Brodeur,                 | McGugan,               |
| Brown,                   | McHugh,                |
| Burnett,                 | McInnes,               |
| Campbell,                | McIsaac,               |
| Carroll,                 | McLennan (Inverness),  |
| Cartwright (Sir Rich'd), | McMillan,              |
| Casey,                   | McMullen,              |
| Champagne,               | Madore,                |
| Costigan,                | Meigs,                 |
| Dechêne,                 | Mignault,              |
| Demers,                  | Morrison,              |
| Douglas,                 | Mu'lock,               |
| Dupré,                   | Oliver,                |
| Edwards,                 | Parmalee,              |
| Eillis,                  | Paterson,              |
| Erb,                     | Pellet,                |
| Ethier,                  | Préfontaine,           |
| Fielding,                | Ratz,                  |
| Fisher,                  | Rinfret,               |
| Fitzpatrick,             | Rogers,                |
| Flint,                   | Ross,                  |
| Frost,                   | Rutherford,            |
| Gauthier,                | Savard,                |
| Geoffrion,               | Scriven,               |
| Godbout,                 | Semple,                |
| Graham,                  | Snetsinger,            |
| Heyd,                    | Somerville,            |
| Hurley,                  | Stenson,               |
| Johnston,                | Tolmie,                |
| Joly de Lotbinière,      | Tucker,                |
| (Sir Henri),             | Turcot, and            |
| Landerkin,               | Wood.—80.              |
| Lang,                    |                        |

NAYS :

Messieurs

- |                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Bell (Addington), | Kendry,    |
| Blanchard,        | Kloepfer,  |
| Broder,           | LaRivière, |
| Carscallien,      | McCleary,  |
| Clancy,           | McDougall, |
| Clarke,           | McNeill,   |
| Cochrane,         | Marcotte,  |
| Craig,            | Martin,    |
| Dugas,            | Mills,     |
| Earle,            | Moore,     |
| Ferguson,         | Morin,     |
| Foster,           | Osler,     |
| Gillies,          | Pope,      |
| Gilmour,          | Robertson, |
| Gillet,           | Roche,     |
| Haggart,          | Sproule,   |

Hale,  
Ingram,  
Ives,

Tupper (Sir Charles),  
Tyrwhitt, and  
Wallace.—38.

PAIRS :

Ministerial.

Opposition.

Messieurs

- |                       |                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bell (East Prince),   | Bell (Pictou),                   |
| Marcell,              | Caron (Sir Adolphe),             |
| Fraser (Lambton),     | Macdonald (King's),              |
| Malouin,              | Maclean,                         |
| Talbot,               | Bergeron,                        |
| Sifton,               | McLennan (Glengarry),            |
| Fraser (Guysborough), | Davin,                           |
| Domville,             | Hodgins,                         |
| Holmes,               | Reid,                            |
| Snetsinger,           | Quinn,                           |
| Bostock,              | Monk,                            |
| MacPherson,           | Beattie,                         |
| Davis,                | Prior,                           |
| Haley,                | Tisdale,                         |
| Maxwell,              | Casgrain,                        |
| Copp,                 | Kaulbach,                        |
| Christie,             | Roddick,                         |
| Davies (Sir Louis),   | Tupper (Sir Charles<br>Hibbert), |
| Hutchison,            | Klock,                           |
| Featherston,          | Carscallen,                      |
| Cowan,                | Montague,                        |
| Britton,              | Cargill,                         |
| Gibson,               | Corby,                           |
| Sutherland,           | Taylor,                          |
| Dyment,               | McCormick,                       |
| Logan,                | MacLaren,                        |
| McLennan (Inverness), | Gillies,                         |
| Russell,              | Borden (Halifax),                |
| Calvert,              | Hughes,                          |

Motion agreed to.

Mr. DUGAS. I beg to call attention to the fact that the hon. member for Muskoka (Mr. McCormick) has not voted.

Mr. McCORMICK. I am paired with the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Dyment). I would have voted against the motion.

Mr. HUGHES. I am paired with the hon. member for West Middlesex (Mr. Calvert). Had I voted, I would have voted against the motion.

Mr. MacLAREN. I am paired with the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Logan). I would have voted against the motion.

Mr. BEATTIE. I am paired with the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. MacPherson). Had I voted, I would have voted against the motion.

Mr. BRITTON. I am paired with the hon. member for East Bruce (Mr. Cargill). Had I voted, I would have voted for the motion.

Mr. LAVERGNE. I am paired with the hon. member for Restigouche (Mr. McAlister). Had I voted, I would have voted for the motion.

Mr. CHRISTIE. I am paired with the hon. member for St. Antoine, Montreal (Mr. Roddick). I would have voted for the motion.

Mr. COWAN. I am paired with the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague): otherwise I would have voted for the motion.

The House resolved itself into committee on the resolution (Mr. Blair).

(In the Committee.)

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I do not imagine, Mr. Chairman, that I shall be able to say very much that is new in presenting this resolution for the consideration of the committee. The subject of the Drummond County Railway has almost, it appears to me, become a hackneyed subject in a parliamentary sense, and I think the same might well be said so far as discussions on it throughout the country are concerned. We have had the subject of the Drummond County Railway in all its bearings ventilated on every conceivable occasion in which it was possible to drag it in, since the proposal was first submitted to Parliament. We have had it threshed out to a greater or lesser degree in the newspaper press which is friendly to the Government, and we have had it threshed out to an inordinate extent in the press which is not friendly to the Government. We have had it discussed on every hustings, I venture to say, during the by-elections that have taken place since the subject first came before Parliament. He would, therefore, be a very bold man indeed, who would suggest the possibility of putting very much that is new before the House in submitting this resolution. I may, however, cherish the hope that I can furnish some information which is not now in the possession of hon. members, and I do trust that our friends opposite will depart from their usual custom, and that they will profit by the information which I shall be able to lay before them. I know my hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace) is in a very receptive frame of mind, for he looks it at the present moment; and, if he would only engage to give me the benefit of that more than ordinary intelligence which distinguishes him, I would not despair of making a convert of even my hon. friend. It looks like a large undertaking, but I would not despair; and if I fail, it will be because he shuts his eyes, closes his ears, and absolutely blocks his understanding to what will be a plain every-day matter of common sense. The resolutions which were first submitted do vary somewhat from those which I have now the honour of moving. They vary, not in principle; not as to the general policy which they were framed to carry into effect; but they do vary from those which were first introduced in matters of detail. Some hon. gentlemen who are very keen to make a point politically out of the transaction, will perhaps magnify and exaggerate the extent of this difference, and they will think it of immense importance. My hon. friend the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) will no doubt visibly stagger under the load of adjectives which he will employ in order

Mr. COWAN.

to indicate the enormity, and the monstrosity of the other proposition as distinguished from this. I will take occasion before I conclude my observations, to dwell a little more minutely and to present more fully for the consideration of the committee the precise features of this distinction, than at the present stage of this discussion.

Well, Sir, I say, that this resolution involves substantially the same principle, and that principle is the extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal. I am not going to assume that that feature of this resolution will be much antagonized, for the result of the extended and repeated discussions which have taken place upon this question is to enable me in some measure to form a tolerably accurate judgment as to what will be the objections, as to what are the grounds upon which this proposition will be attacked by the opposite side; and among all these grounds, I venture to say, that no one will seriously contend that it will not be in the interest of the Intercolonial Railway system itself, that it will not be in the interest of the country that the Intercolonial Railway should be extended to Montreal. Sir, the Intercolonial Railway must be extended to Montreal. If any mishap should occur, and if the present proposition which we are laying before you should miscarry, the time must come, and at no very distant date, when the policy would be taken up; for in my opinion no Government could exist in Canada which was not prepared to make a home and resting place as it were in the city of Montreal, for the Intercolonial Railway system. I shall not argue that point to-night; I shall wait until somebody undertakes to attack the wisdom of that policy before I occupy your time in spreading before you in detail the reasons why this policy ought be approved. I would venture now to appeal to my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart), that when he comes to speak his mind and to give his judgment upon this question, he will tell you that there are no arguments against the adoption of this policy, and that there are no reasons why this railway should not be extended to Montreal. Every consideration points to the importance and the necessity of that project being carried out. I know my hon. friend (Mr. Haggart) will say that. I know that if he is asked the question in the House, he will say it, because he has not hesitated to say it on a previous occasion. He was called upon to give evidence on an occasion when the whole subject was undergoing investigation upon oath, and my hon. friend (Mr. Haggart) did then state upon oath, that it had been and was his opinion, that there was nothing to justify any antagonism to that policy. I will, therefore, call upon my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Railways as a witness in support of the wisdom, and the supreme importance of adopting this policy.

I do not know, nor shall I assume, that the hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) is going to take any stand against these resolutions. It is, perhaps, a little difficult for one to judge as to what he may do from what he has done, or to judge what he will say from what he has said, and, therefore, I must only conjecture that we heard enough from him already on this question to convince us that he has given up entirely and absolutely all thought of opposition to the policy of extension. He has lately been searching around (and I think vainly) to discover some other means of accomplishing this object which will not be identical with the means the Government has adopted. If I might refer to what was said upon a former occasion—I know it may not be quite parliamentary to do so, because the occasion I have in mind was since the opening of the present session, and is, therefore, in the nature of a past debate—but if the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) will not interpose any objection, I will refer to the fact, that he, in looking around to discover how he could get into Montreal with the Intercolonial Railway, without travelling the route we have adopted, told us, as you will remember—and hon. members must have heard it with amazement and surprise—that he was going to take us over the St. Lawrence River from Lévis to Quebec; he was going to take us over by a new bridge to be built across that river, and then he was going to run us up over the rails of the Canadian Pacific Railway to Montreal. It was a mere matter of, just say so, and the thing was going to be accomplished. You were under no compulsion to appeal to anybody about it for assistance, for, according to him, the Government could give \$1,000,000, and, presto! the thing is done. These million dollars, of course, would not be sufficient to carry out the undertaking, but it is to be supplemented very largely and very substantially by the Grand Trunk Railway and by the Canadian Pacific Railway. These two companies are to pay out of their coffers something towards the building of this bridge; and then, after you got across the river, you are to take the Canadian Pacific Railway. And the way the hon. gentleman proposes to manage it is by exchanging the use of 300 miles of railway between St. John and Halifax for the use of 150 or 160 miles of railway between Quebec and Montreal. That is the hon. gentleman's proposition. He found himself in straits. He felt the weight and the pressure of public opinion supporting the wisdom of this policy, and with all his ingenuity searching in every possible direction to find some more inviting means for carrying it out, he has hit upon this expedient, which, I suppose, we are to take as evidence of that supreme knowledge which the hon. gentleman pos-

sesses of his much-vaunted science of political economy.

Now, you will observe that the hon. gentleman disposes very summarily in this connection of the Grand Trunk. All the hon. gentleman has to do, apparently, is to say to the Grand Trunk, "You must give us two millions or three millions"—I do not know how many millions he would require, but a very handsome contribution. He does not seem to think that the will or consent of the Grand Trunk Railway Company to make the contribution is an element that need enter into the calculation at all. I venture to say, however, that the hon. gentleman has not consulted with the Grand Trunk Company, and is not authorized to speak on their behalf, or to say that they have the idea of entertaining for a single moment such a ludicrous proposition as he put forward. Though the hon. gentleman also feels very kindly towards the Canadian Pacific Railway, I venture to say that, close as he may be towards that great corporation, he has not had from them any authority to speak for them or to say that they would give one dollar towards building a bridge across the River St. Lawrence. I have myself heard, not very recently, but since I have had the honour of filling the position I occupy, leading officials of that corporation express their minds on the question; and I know, from what they have said, what they thought upon it; and if the hon. gentleman did not succeed in convincing them that they were absolutely and entirely at fault in the judgment they have expressed to me, he would not get a five-cent piece from the Canadian Pacific Railway towards the building of this bridge. So, you see, he is not going to make very great progress after all under this plan of reaching the city of Montreal by the Intercolonial Railway.

But what are we going to say as a Government, owning the Intercolonial Railway, to the other part of the proposition? What do you think of the hon. gentleman undertaking to hand over to any railway corporation the most valuable portion of the Intercolonial Railway system—that between Halifax and St. John—the most productive portion, the part which runs through the most thickly-populated and wealthiest section? He is going to hand over to the Canadian Pacific Railway the whole of that territory for the purposes of their business, to earn what they can out of it, to take all the profits possible, and he is going to take in return for it 160 miles from Quebec to Montreal. Now, I know very little with regard to what may be the value of that section of country between Quebec and Montreal, from a railway point of view, on the north side of the St. Lawrence, though I have travelled over it. I have enough knowledge of it, however, to know that it does not at present and will not for many years to come compare at all favourably with the locality lying between St. John and Halifax, the two most populous

cities we have—a locality which is thickly populated by a prosperous and well-to-do people. I, therefore, say that the hon. gentleman has not brought that great knowledge of political economy which he frankly affirms he possesses to bear upon this question; and he surely does not think that he is justified in speaking for the party which he leads when he undertakes to present such an alternative scheme to the one which the Government submits to the House for their consideration at this time.

The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) has spoken upon this question more than once. I am speaking within bounds when I say that he has spoken more than a dozen times upon it. He spoke upon it almost before it was introduced, on the occasion when it first came before Parliament. I think you will remember the avidity with which the hon. gentleman seized on these resolutions. He reminded one of some hungry animal which had been seeking for something to devour, and when the opportunity arose, jumped on it and caught it and tore it apparently to pieces. So the hon. gentleman exhausted all his energies, physical and mental, to destroy the proposition when it first came before the House. He has not studied the question to any extent; but he had been coached by somebody whose name I could not extract from him at that time, but whom he put forward as a gentleman of large experience as a civil engineer, who knew what he was talking about; and the hon. gentleman did not scruple, simply on the information of someone whom he knew was full of bitterness against the project, to denounce it in unmeasured terms. He did not simply condemn the Government's proposition; he did not simply say, "You are giving too much." I could have excused him, as the leader of a party whose business it is to oppose, for taking that position. But he did not do that. He denounced and ridiculed and degraded the character of this railway from every point of view. He could not say enough in discredit of the whole structure. It was a tan-bark road and a worthless road; it was something the Government had picked up without consideration; they did not know what they were doing; it was utterly useless and wholly unfit for the purposes for which it was intended. That was the judgment the leader of the Opposition expressed on this question before he had an opportunity of giving it more than a moment's thought. From this you can judge what value to attach to the criticisms which the hon. gentleman pronounces on any proposition that may be made by the Government in connection with this matter. Well, we have had some opportunity since then of giving people a chance to judge of the quality of that road. There must be—there are—a good many gentlemen on the other side of the House who have travelled over this line, and, who, I venture to think, would be frank and honest enough to get up in their places and say there is not

Mr. BLAIR.

a word to be said against the quality of that road. I know that the hon. member for North Victoria (Mr. Hughes) is simply aching to have an opportunity—

Mr. HUGHES. In a private car.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. In any kind of a car. The hon. gentleman must not suppose that no car is good enough for him except an official car or a private car. We are putting upon the road some pretty good cars, and I think if he will only take the occasion—if he has not been over the road—to take a trip over the railway after we open for the summer season, he himself will not hesitate to give us the strongest possible testimony endorsing the quality of the road as a portion of the Intercolonial.

Mr. HUGHES. I will travel with the hon. Minister some time.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Very likely. Now, Mr. Chairman, I think I am justified in assuming, therefore, that there will be no complaint from the opposite side that the Drummond County Railway is a poor piece of road. If there shall be, I shall ask my hon. friend from the city of Halifax (Mr. Borden), who is an honest and fair-minded man, and who, I think, has travelled over that road, to say whether he thinks any reasonable fault can be found with it, or whether it does not compare favourably, so far as one can judge, with any other portion of the Intercolonial system.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I may say to the hon. gentleman, since he has appealed to me—

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I do not insist on my hon. friend giving his opinion now. I can make allowance for his anxiety to give his evidence.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I am not in a hurry, if the hon. gentleman does not want me to give it.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I am perfectly willing. I suggested that if the quality of the road were attacked, I should appeal to him. He quite misunderstood me. I did not invite him to make any statement now. Just at the present juncture I am not needing his testimony, and am rather assuming that no testimony will be needed on that question. Again, Mr. Chairman, I venture to think that whatever other point of view there may be in which this proposition will be condemned, hon. gentlemen opposite will not again take that point of view, from which the integrity of the transaction, the bona fides of the Minister and the Government have been assailed. I do not know whether hon. members of this committee recall to mind the language which was used, the mean insinuations that were thrown out, when this matter was first mooted, in which almost everything was said that

would reflect discreditably upon those connected with and concerned in the transaction—upon myself as Minister of the department—in which everything but a direct charge of personal corruption was put forward by the Opposition. I venture to think that that course will not be repeated to-day, and I tell you why I assume it will not. But before I do so, let me make good the statement that rather serious reflections were passed upon the Government. I do not know whether these gentlemen opposite really meant to be understood, when they used this language in a Pickwickian sense, or whether they really found it difficult to imagine that any Government could have a clean business transaction in connection with a railway matter, or what the difficulty is; but it is perfectly clear that at that time they did not hesitate to make very grave insinuations against those who were responsible in this transaction. They, of course, meant to refer to myself, and perhaps to my colleague the Minister of Public Works, because I think his name was dragged into the transaction, and they meant, no doubt, to make general reflections against the Government. The hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) was one of those. He is now in a different frame of mind, but then he did not hesitate to say this:

There are men who are not virtuous, who have not these pure and incorruptible ideas that the hon. member for Compton has.

The hon. gentleman was then, as you will see, having a little hit at the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Pope). The hon. member for Compton thought that the transaction was absolutely defensible in every particular, and voted accordingly, and that did not satisfy my hon. friend from West York, who said:

There are men who are not virtuous, and who have not these pure and incorruptible ideas that the hon. member for Compton has, and they are willing to go in and take the plunder, if there is plunder, and it looks as if there was, when a \$360,000 job has paid over \$2,200,000.

I pass that portion of the reference in which it is suggested that the value of the railway is \$360,000, and that we paid over \$2,000,000 for it, but shall deal with that in connection with other references of the same character at a later period. But that was what the hon. member for West York said.

Then we come to the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell), whom I do not see in his place at present. He said:

When it is proposed to pay \$1,150,000 over and above the expenditure upon the road, that is a transaction that cannot be justified, and concerning which the wholesome sentiment of this country will be very suspicious indeed as to the motives that prompted the Government to enter into it.

That is what the hon. member for Westmoreland said about it. I pass by also the suggestion, the utterly offensive and visionary suggestion, that we were to pay \$1,150,000 over and above the expenditure on the road, but before I conclude, I propose to show that that was entirely unfounded, whether he will acknowledge it or not.

I now come to the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster). He said:

My hon. friend may rest assured that if he has the mind to face an investigation with reference to this matter, it can be shown that he has paid over and above everything they have put into the railway, a sum pretty close to \$750,000, which will be divided among these gentlemen.

I will show how far the hon. gentleman's prediction has been verified, under oath, when the facts were elicited, and further that he was talking about something he had no knowledge of and simply casting this statement before the House upon the purest and most absolute imagination, without any ground at all on which to base it.

Then, we come to the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule). That hon. gentleman said:

I may say that if the Upper Chamber went into an inquiry into this matter, I think it would lay bare more of these things than we can do, as there are some transactions connected with it which, if I am well informed, will not bear the light of day, and are not to the credit of the gentlemen who are making that deal.

Mr. SPROULE. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I am surprised to hear the hon. gentleman say "hear, hear," at this late day. I think he is scarcely conscious of the effect and meaning of the words he used when he approves of this statement of his, made in 1897.

Mr. SPROULE. Perfectly.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The hon. gentleman says he is perfectly informed. Then, there is no testimony which could be adduced in the light of day, no matter how convincing it might be to every fair and impartial man, which would exercise the slightest influence upon the mind of the hon. gentleman. The hon. gentleman says further:

This Bill commits the country to a very large expenditure of money, and it commits it to the endorsement of a transaction which, so far as we can get information about it, appears to be shady in the extreme.

Mr. SPROULE. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Well, I simply stop at this moment to say to the hon. gentleman that the men who are responsible for this transaction have just as much respect for their characters as my hon. friend, and would be just as slow to tarnish their reputations and lives with a dishonourable and corrupt trans-

action as would the hon. member for East Grey.

Then I come to my hon. friend who preceded me in office, the hon. member for South Lanark (Mr. Haggart), and he delivered himself to this effect at that time :

What I complain of is not the extension of the Intercolonial to Montreal ;—

The hon. gentleman has always been frank enough to avow that.

—I complain of the manner in which the hon. Minister of Railways has entered into this monstrous bargain with the Drummond County Railway Company, which, to say the least of it, savors of wrong and corruption.

Mr. HAGGART. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Now, I do not think he meant what he said when he put that forward. I acquit him of any intention to say to us personally—the other member of the Government and myself—that we were guilty of corruption, because I find that later, when he had the opportunity of making good these charges, if they could be established, and when he was appealed to to bring witnesses before the committee who would have every opportunity and privilege to tell all they knew, he made haste to disavow any purpose or intention of reflecting upon the integrity of the Government in the transaction. Now, my hon. friend must not be too hasty in applauding the expressions which I have read, uttered by himself in 1897, because I believe he has some self-respect, some regard for appearances, and his own attitude before this House, and I say that he cannot reconcile the using and the endorsement of that language with what he stated publicly before the committee which had the investigation of this matter in its hands. Now, here is what occurred—and it will be found at page 158 of the report of the committee which had charge of the investigation. It may be well, perhaps, that I should tarry for a moment to remind the House of the circumstances under which that investigation took place. I need scarcely remind the House, that hon. gentlemen opposite, while they would create the impression that there had been corruption and wrong-doing in this transaction, were afraid to make their accusations before Parliament in such a form that they could be dealt with by a committee of this House. They gave to their newspaper press all over Canada the excuse—I will not say, the justification, because newspapers are not justified in publishing scandalous statements with regard to the conduct of public men merely on the strength of what may be said by gentlemen in Opposition to the Government, who have a political object to serve—of saying that the Minister of Railways and Canals and the Minister of Public Works and the Government generally

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had been guilty of corrupt transactions in connection with the acquisition of this road. And, when we failed to force the hon. gentlemen in Opposition into making any charges in such a form that they could be dealt with in a parliamentary way, it became necessary, if we were to vindicate ourselves against these aspersions, to ask for a committee to investigate. I felt it necessary, and so did my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works, to make a request to the Prime Minister to ask Parliament for this inquiry, in order that we might, at all events, be able to point to the result of the investigation in times to come as evidence that we had been grossly slandered by those opposed to us in this House, who attacked us in this manner, utterly without warrant and without being able to produce a tittle of evidence to support their accusations. The committee having been appointed, the investigation proceeded. Every opportunity was allowed to hon. gentlemen who had not hesitated to make these grave and serious reflections upon our conduct as Ministers of the Crown, to produce their evidence. They were called upon to summon witnesses and present testimony which they thought—to give them the utmost credit for fairness in the matter—might establish their accusations. There was not a particle of testimony adduced from beginning to end of the investigation, which gave colour or warrant to these slanderous charges. At the conclusion, when there were no other witnesses to be summoned, the chairman of the committee called the attention of the gentlemen present, among whom were the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell), the ex-Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart) and the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden),—

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I was not there.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. But the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) was a member of the committee.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Oh, yes.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. It does not appear by the record who were or who were not present. It says:

The committee met at 10.30. The Chairman spoke as follows :—

I am not reading all that he said, but all that is pertinent.

So far as I have been able to see, no evidence of corruption has been adduced, and if my friends on the opposite side of the committee, the Conservative members of the committee, have any evidence at all showing corruption, I ask them now to give the names of these witnesses, and we will have them brought here and examined. If, as Mr. Haggart says, it is a mere matter of policy with which he agrees, the policy of bringing the road into Montreal, then the only difference is as to the price paid, and of

course the question of corruption does not arise at all.

Mr. HAGGART. That is my point of view. We never made any charges of corruption.

Now, I ask this House, whether, in the face of what the hon. gentleman had said, as found in the "Hansard" of 1897, page 4062, and in view of what took place before this committee, it is becoming in my hon. friend to re-affirm, or endorse, or to in any way approve of the language which he used in 1897? If, when the opportunity was offered him of establishing his case and proving the charges, so far as they involved conduct of a wrongful or corrupt character on the part of the present Government, and he expressly avowed that he never intended to make any such charges—I understand the hon. gentleman (Mr. Haggart) to say, "No." But look at what I have read :

If, as Mr. Haggart says, it is a mere matter of policy with which he agrees, the policy of bringing the road into Montreal, then the only difference is as to the price paid, and of course the question of corruption does not arise at all.

Mr. HAGGART. That was my point of view. We never made any charges of corruption.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. I suppose you read what was said in the press.

What can the hon. gentleman (Mr. Haggart) say to justify himself before a fair Parliament, and, as I maintain, before a fair country, when he hesitates to repudiate immediately the interpretation that this language reflects on the integrity of the Government in this transaction? Well, Sir, I take it, that, under these circumstances, we shall not hear on this occasion, or on any future occasion, in connection with this matter, of any improper conduct on the part of the Government in this transaction. We come down, therefore, to what is a fair matter for discussion, and, perhaps, a fair matter, in some of the phases of it, for a difference of opinion. I am not going to say, that hon. gentlemen opposite are not free to criticise, in very strong terms, if they choose, any matter of policy that the Government proposes. I presume, there are here for that very purpose, and I feel that they are likely to act fully up to the measure of their privileges in this regard. If they find the Government doing one thing, they will most certainly affirm, that it would be in the interest of the country that they should do the other. If they find us going to the left, they will say that we should have gone to the right. I will not find fault with them for this. We are not worthy of the position we hold and of the almost unbounded confidence we enjoy of the country, if we are not able to defend our conduct in these regards. Therefore, this question is fully open for discussion. We are here to establish the fact, that we have made a good business transaction, that we have made an arrangement that cannot properly be attacked, no matter how critically it may

be examined. I am prepared now to justify and defend in every particular the method by which we have endeavoured to carry out the policy of the extension to Montreal.

Now, the hon. gentleman, the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), has not found fault with the policy generally, so far as I have been able to discover. He has not told us that we had no business to get into Montreal; what he has said is that this is a most monstrous transaction, that it is a transaction of an extravagant nature. That is what the hon. gentleman said with regard to the terms upon which we proposed to acquire the Drummond County Railway. Now, Sir, is this an outrageous and an extravagant bargain? I suppose the hon. gentleman means by extravagance that we have paid altogether too much for it, and more than we could have acquired it for, or more than it cost. If we have been guilty of an outrageous or extravagant transaction, then the proposition which we make to Parliament unquestionably ought to be condemned. But I propose to join issue with the hon. gentleman, and I propose to call upon him to show us in what particular it is outrageous, and in what particular it is extravagant. I know that the hon. gentleman who sits beside him, and who leads the Opposition, has stated, not once, but many times, that this railway could have been bought for \$500,000, and that we are paying \$2,000,000 for it. Now, I would like to pause here and ask the hon. gentleman to give us the basis for his statement. I presume he will admit that it is his duty to approach something like accuracy in the statements which he makes to Parliament; I presume that the hon. gentleman does not regard himself as outside of the pale to such a degree that he ought not to furnish some little evidence, some little argument, in support of any statement which he makes. Well, he has made the statement unqualifiedly that that railway could have been bought for \$500,000, and that we are now to pay \$2,000,000 for it. You have all heard him make that statement. I challenge the hon. gentleman to furnish, not abundant evidence, but a tittle of evidence in support of that statement. The hon. gentleman, you will observe, would convey to the public mind and to Parliament the impression that the railway we are paying, according to his calculation \$2,100,000 for, or, in round figures, \$2,000,000 for, could have been bought and was offered for \$500,000. Am I misinterpreting or misstating the hon. gentleman's statement? I think I am not. Well now, would it be believed, would anybody who had sat here in Parliament and is familiar with the facts, believe it possible that the leader of a great party, a party composed entirely of political economists, and he the greatest political economists of them all, would venture to make such a statement to Parliament, when the piece of railway about which the discussion took place on the basis of \$500,000, was not this railway, but only half of

it, or less than half of it? You would not infer that from the statement the hon. gentleman made. Well, do you imagine for an instant that the leader of the Opposition did not know when there was a discussion between members of the Government who had this subject in hand, and the owners of that railway in 1894, that there was not one-half of that railway built? Do you suppose that he did not know that? Do you suppose that he did not also know that there was expended in the completion of that road, according to sworn evidence, something near a million dollars after that date? Well, that is the fact. The hon. gentleman talks about audacity. What shall we say then of the supreme cheek—if I may use a milder term of a gentleman who applies the language which he applies to others—of an hon. gentleman who resorts to such attempts to mislead, not only Parliament but the country at large, upon these public questions? Sir, I ask that hon. gentleman again, when he takes occasion to speak on this question, to point to the evidence. Who is his authority? Did he hear any body offer this road for \$500,000, even away back in 1894? Does he know of anybody of repute or credit in the community who will say that they could have bought that railway as it is now, or completed as it was afterwards, for any such money? I defy the hon. gentleman to name an individual upon the strength of whose credit he would venture to make that statement in this House. I think that if it were possible for these gentlemen to have shown that this railway for which we are paying \$2,000,000 according to their way of calculating, but for which we are only paying \$1,600,000 according to my way of calculating—if they could have shown that, it would have been a very proper thing to do, and it would have been a most useful thing to do, from their point of view. They had an opportunity of doing so when this investigation took place. All the witnesses from all directions, who had any knowledge of the transaction, were summoned and gave evidence under oath, and there was not a man that gave the slightest colour—I think I can fairly say that, when the evidence is read—to any such statement as that. We had the evidence of Mr. Farwell, and you know Mr. Farwell is a very reliable man. I believe he is the chief organizer and head of the Conservative organization in the eastern townships. He gave his evidence under oath, and what did he say with regard to this? When he was asked by one of the gentlemen on the committee whether he had ever offered this property for \$500,000 to anybody, or the Government, he said he had never done anything of the kind. He absolutely and categorically denied having done it, but said that the proposition was that the Government should take the road at \$100,000 a year, and that out of the capitalization of that amount of money there would be enough made to complete the construction of the line, and when divided among certain gen-

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tleman who were named by him, a very respectable sum would pass into their hands. That was the evidence which Mr. Farwell gave.

The hon. the 'ex-Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Haggart) was a witness on that occasion, as I think I have already said, and it might be well that I should invite the attention of the committee to the evidence which he gave with regard to this question of the purchase at \$500,000. He will not say that he could have purchased the road as it is to-day, he will not say that he could have purchased 71 miles completed, for \$500,000. He will not say that for a moment. I will tell you why he will not say it, and if anybody wished it, he ought to know it. I will undertake to refer him to the report of the Drummond County Committee. The hon. leader of the Opposition has not got his information from the ex-Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart). I will venture to say that he has not asked the hon. ex-Minister of Railways whether he would bear him out in making any such statement as that, because, if he had, the hon. ex-Minister of Railways would have told him unhesitatingly, that he could not do so. Let us see what was said by the hon. ex-Minister of Railways when he gave his evidence upon this question. At page 151 of the report of the committee you will find this question asked and the answer given:

Q. Do you undertake to swear that he gave you to understand the road could be bought for \$500,000?—A. Oh, I do not think so. He told me the state of the finances of the road, and said that the Eastern Townships Bank was very anxious to realize; then, in the case of a sale to the Government, the road was to be put into the state it now is. He never went into details.

The hon. gentleman does not venture to say, on the contrary, he repels the idea, that an offer was made to him, or with his knowledge, of the sale of the road for \$500,000. He had anticipated, that, perhaps, he might have arranged to get the road, as it then was, at a lower price than had been mentioned to him, but he does not pretend to assert that there was any offer or proposition on the part of the company to complete the additional miles of railway for any such money. He says, later on, as you will see by referring to his evidence at page 153 of the report, that, after he had these negotiations, he made a calculation as to what this road would cost. Putting it at the lowest possible price he estimated to complete the mileage then required to be completed, and he says he went into it in his own mind carefully, that the railway could be completed for \$1,400,000. That was his calculation, made at that time.

Mr. HAGGART. Where is that?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. At page 153.

Mr. HAGGART. I do not think you will find anything of the kind at page 153.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. The hon. gentleman says :

I understood I had an option for that part which is complete as stated, for \$500,000—far less than his estimate,—

That is, Mr. Schreiber's estimate.

—and I inquired whether they had rolling stock on the Intercolonial to carry on traffic to Montreal, and I found that they had plenty ; and I made a calculation that for \$1,400,000 we could have got the road extended in connection with the Grand Trunk.

Mr. HAGGART. That is the Grand Trunk, and you know it.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. Does my hon. friend (Mr. Haggart) pretend to tell me, that that was what he meant, when he made that statement ?

Mr. HAGGART. Decidedly so.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. Then, how much did he say it was going to cost to extend the road from St. Leonard to Chaudière ? What was his calculation as to that ?

Mr. HAGGART. I will tell the hon. gentleman what it was. It was my deputy's calculation—\$11,000 per mile to finish it.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. But that does not explain his meaning, because it would cost \$770,000 to complete the road from St. Leonard to Chaudière, even at the figures that the hon. gentleman has stated. Add \$770,000 to \$500,000, and you have \$1,270,000 ; yet the hon. gentleman wishes us to understand, that, according to this calculation, it would cost only \$200,000 to get into Montreal.

Mr. COWAN. One hundred and thirty thousand dollars.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. Yes, \$130,000. Why, Sir, the hon. gentleman never went into any figures ; he never discussed the question with the Grand Trunk as to obtaining admission to Montreal. He never got down to figures at all. Does he pretend to tell us, that he could for \$130,000, for ten times that amount, or twenty times that amount, or forty times that amount, get into the city of Montreal, obtain terminal facilities and running rights from the Grand Trunk from Ste. Rosalie, or St. Hyacinthe, or wherever he made the connection ? If this is the class of calculation upon which the hon. gentleman is building his opposition to the price proposed to be paid, then I can only say, that he is not reflecting a great deal of credit upon his calculating capabilities. Well, Sir, there is the statement which the hon. ex-Minister of Railways made on oath at that time ; never a word in regard to the Grand Trunk, and, mark you, this estimate of his was in opposition to the estimate that his engineer had given him, speaking of the

probable cost of the Drummond County Railway. He says that his engineer had calculated, that it would cost \$1,535,000, or something in that neighbourhood, to build the road from Ste. Rosalie to Chaudière, but only \$11,000 a mile, according to the careful estimate that he had himself made. How is he going to cut down the cost below the \$1,500,000 that his engineer had estimated so as to reduce it to a figure which would enable him to pay even a mere nominal price to the Grand Trunk for the privileges and running rights over the 38 miles of their road, running rights over the bridge, and for the use of the terminal facilities in the city of Montreal ? I think I must leave the hon. gentleman where he has left himself in the testimony which he gave before this committee. And I take it that it would be difficult for the hon. gentleman to convince this committee that he has made any other calculation, though, for the moment, he dissents from the interpretation of the testimony I have offered to the committee.

The question is, whether we paid an outrageous price, or whether we paid a reasonable price for that railway.

Mr. HAGGART. Before the hon. gentleman departs from that point, he will do me the kindness to add to what he quoted, a portion. The question was asked :

Q. What would that amount to per year ?—A. I do not know, because I do not know the amount of traffic, but I can tell you this, that Mr. Schreiber estimated it would cost \$300,000 or \$400,000 to build the road. I understood I had an option for that part which is complete, as stated, for \$500,000.

Then the hon. gentleman goes on with the debate in connection with the Grand Trunk.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. Then, it was estimated, according to the hon. gentleman's statement, that it would cost \$11,000 a mile to complete the balance of the road, and where does that land you ? If my view of this evidence is not correct, the hon. gentleman must surely see, that he has placed himself in a rather awkward position.

What I was about to say was, that the question is : Is this a fair price that we propose to pay for this railway ? Who is to judge as to whether it is or not ? I doubt very much, whether it is to be expected that we are to be governed by the opinions of hon. gentlemen opposite upon a question of this kind. They may be very fair and very impartial ; they may be willing to give us their honest judgment ; but there has not been a great deal of evidence of that, so far as I have seen yet, in regard to this transaction. If we are to test in Parliament what would be a fair price to pay for this railway, I am, however, not unwilling to summon hon. gentlemen opposite to produce their own record and show us, when they had new railways to build, when they had to extend the Intercolonial in other

places, as they had from time to time, the price they paid to build railways in other portions of the country, as part of the Intercolonial Railway, and what those extensions cost. I think that, perhaps, may be a fair way for us to arrive at a conclusion as to whether or not our price is high, and as to whether or not these gentlemen opposite are at all candid, when they are criticising these figures as excessive. Well, Sir, we have had some evidence. My hon. friend the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) himself undertook to extend the Intercolonial Railway after he had entered the Railway Department in 1879. He thought it necessary to carry it still further west from Rivière du Loup to Lévis, a distance of 125 miles. He bought a railway from the Grand Trunk Railway Company. That company happened to have 125 miles of road they wished to sell; they had been operating this section for a time; it had run down somewhat; the road-bed was in a somewhat degraded condition, and the line apparently was not very profitable to the company; but the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper), contending that it was necessary, in the interest of the Intercolonial Railway, to extend it to Lévis, and, therefore, he made an arrangement with and purchased that piece of road from the Grand Trunk Railway Company. What price did he pay for it? That is an interesting question. If you compare these two roads, we have two sections of country very similar for railway building; we may perhaps be able to judge as to whether we are paying an exorbitant price. At all events, we can cite the hon. gentleman's own conduct as fairly good evidence, and we can produce himself as a witness on this question at issue between us. Well, Sir, the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) paid \$12,000 per mile to the Grand Trunk Railway Company for their 125 miles of road. And what did he buy? He bought a road-bed without sleepers and without rails. That is what he bought. He bought a railway, the road-bed of which was in a very incomplete and unsatisfactory condition, and he paid for that, exactly the same price which we are paying for the Drummond Railway, finished and completed in all respects, except the rolling stock. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) got no rails, he got no ties—we have ties, and we have rails, and we have stations, and we have a telegraph line. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) had none of these things at all; and yet, he would tell you that \$12,000 per mile was a fair and reasonable price to pay for a dismantled road-bed, but that \$12,000 per mile is not a fair price for us to pay for a completed railway as the Drummond County Railway is. I would like to see how that thing is going to be reasoned out, and I would want no better test than to put this transaction of the Drummond County Railway before the House, against and alongside the hon. gentleman's transaction of the pur-

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chase of the road between Lévis and Rivière du Loup. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) is, when it comes to a question of political economy, scientific to a fault, and I challenge him to see a possible ground for complaining of our purchase, when he puts it alongside his own purchase. He can see no reason, in making a comparison of the two, to entitle him to condemn this purchase of the Drummond County, and to make his purchase of the road between Lévis and Rivière du Loup worthy of approval.

I am not obliged to confine myself to a reference to the cost of only one addition to the Intercolonial Railway, for the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) or his party have effected several. As a matter of fact, they did extend the Intercolonial Railway from Rivière du Loup to Lévis, and after he got there it cost him, not \$12,000 a mile, but \$17,600 a mile. That is all! Only \$17,600 a mile; \$5,600 a mile more than we propose to pay for this present road. But the hon. gentleman and his party had other roads which he undertook to buy or to build in connection with the Intercolonial Railway, and I will just refer very hastily to some few of these. We will group them together, and you can see what the record of the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) is; we can see whether or not he is entitled to be a judge to sit in condemnation on this transaction of ours, and at the same time to justify his own.

He undertook to build what is called the St. Charles Branch of the Intercolonial Railway. This was fourteen miles of railway constructed for the purpose of making a short connection at Lévis with the main line. I do not know for a certainty whether this is a fact, although I am told by the general manager of the Intercolonial Railway that it is a fact; I am told that he understood it at the time; that the Government had an opportunity of building that fourteen miles of railway called the St. Charles Branch, and of making a contract for its construction, covering all cost, for \$500,000. But the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) or the Government of that day, would not accept that proposition. That is as I am informed by the General Manager of the Intercolonial Railway. Mark you, I do not know from any information outside of that whether the statement is entirely correct, or whether the gentleman's memory may be at fault, but that is the information which he furnished me. Well, the Government refused to take it, and they went on to build this piece of line themselves, and what do you suppose the 14 miles of the St. Charles Branch cost? It cost \$135,000 per mile. Now, there were no very great difficulties in the way of constructing that road; there was no very great cost necessarily involved in the construction of it; it does not compare unfavourably with the general run of our railroads, but no doubt a very large item in the cost consisted in the

land damages which had to be paid. I want to do the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) absolute justice. I am not going to say that he or his Government were responsible for the large amount of land damages which were incurred, because I believe that in almost all cases the question of the amount was referred to the tribunal of arbitration which was then constituted, and that they awarded these amounts against the Government. That accounted for nearly half of the actual cost, but if you take off half the cost, you have got nearly \$70,000 per mile remaining, as compared with the \$12,000 per mile which the Drummond County road cost us. So much for the St. Charles Branch of the Intercolonial Railway.

We have another similar transaction of the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) in connection with the Intercolonial Railway. We have the Oxford and New Glasgow road. I suppose there are gentlemen who are now in the House, who may remember my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper), the political economist, when he came down to Parliament with that scheme and dwelt upon the glorious advantages which would accrue to the Intercolonial Railway as a railway system by the construction of this line from Oxford to New Glasgow. He told Parliament that he was going to save 45 miles in the distance in getting to Cape Breton, and in the effort he spent \$26,700 per mile, and he did not save these 45 miles after all. How much do you suppose he saved? There is a difference of opinion as to whether it is five miles or six miles—nobody has ventured to say it was more than six miles, and there are some who limit it to five miles. Yet this hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper), who always sees with such supernatural clearness, whose judgment is unerring, whose perspicacity is without limit, who is absolutely so saturated with a knowledge of political economy that you can see it oozing out of his pores, visible almost to the naked eye; this gentleman who came down to Parliament and predicted a saving in mileage of 45 miles by the construction of this railway from Oxford to New Glasgow, at a cheap rate, ended by spending \$26,700 per mile and saved five or six miles. And after he has done that, how he howls out his indignation at the bare thought of the monstrous, the stupendous outrage of paying \$12,000 a mile for a railway. Well, that is not all. His genius in administration, especially in railway administration, did not stop at that. He must needs build a railway through Cape Breton—a very proper thing to do, no doubt; but it cost \$33,000 per mile to build it, not including the cost of the ferry at Canso or the bridge at the Narrows. This gentleman although he has been a Minister himself, when he is dealing with departmental matters, does not hesitate to talk about other Ministers as having their hand in the public chest—not a very worthy style of remark

from an ex-Minister of the Crown and an ex-Premier of this Dominion. But he cannot discuss the question with the moderation and the propriety you would expect to be observed by gentlemen who have had his experience in public life; but he talks about a Minister exercising the duties of his department and expending the public money, as having his hand in the public chest. Well, if that is simply his mode of expressing his idea that an officer is simply administering his department, then I may say that when the party with which he was connected—because he was not connected with it all through these transactions—expended \$33,000 per mile on the Cape Breton road—

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** The hon. gentleman will allow me to tell him that I was in England when that road was built, and had nothing to do with it.

**The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS.** The hon. gentleman always felt a keen interest in this Government, whether he was in England or here, and I wonder that he could allow himself to remain quietly and calmly in England when his former colleagues and those who afterwards became his colleagues, were carrying on the affairs of this country in such an outrageous, extravagant and monstrous way. Why, Sir, I would have imagined that the hon. gentleman would have taken the very first steamer, after he heard of these enormities being perpetrated, and, with that genius for political economy of his, would have simply wiped out all those people who were here in Canada playing ducks and drakes with the public finances, and violating those principles which he holds so sacred.

But, Sir, I am not going to ask this committee to draw a conclusion from these facts because I do draw a conclusion therefrom. I am not going to ask the committee to accept it as final, definite. I am going to ask the committee to draw the conclusion that these gentlemen, the late Conservative Government, never undertook the extension of the Intercolonial in any direction except at a cost of twice or three times or five times that involved in the present proposition. And yet these gentlemen have the temerity to condemn this transaction, and to feign indignation at our having put the matter through at the cost we propose. I will not, however, rest the case for the Department of Railways and the Government on the evidence of what these gentlemen have themselves done. I admit at once that it is very poor authority and very poor justification for us. I acknowledge unhesitatingly that I would feel that I had indeed a lame defence before this Parliament and this country if I had to rest it on ground furnished by the example of hon. gentlemen opposite. We have some better evidence than that. We have evidence which I think ought to ap-

peal to every person whose mind is fair and at all open to conviction by evidence; and I will tell you what that evidence is. First, we have an estimate of what this road would cost, made before I came into the department, by the engineer under the ex-Minister of Railways. After considering the question somewhat carefully, he formed the opinion that it would cost between \$1,500,000 and \$1,600,000 to build the line from Ste. Rosalie to Chaudière. Well, that is some evidence, is it not? At all events, you will say that we cannot go very far astray if we do not much exceed the estimate of the engineer; because general experience, I had almost said universal experience, is that the estimates of engineers are greatly exceeded in the actual construction of public works. I think it will be somewhat difficult for any hon. member of this House who has had any experience of the construction of works by Government, to point to an instance in which the estimates of engineers were not exceeded; and there is oftentimes good reason for that. They cannot get at many things that enter into the cost. They cannot tell for the life of them what the land damages are going to be in the case of a railway. I may say, in passing, that if we had as a Government to build this railway, and had to deal with the owners of the properties through which this railway passes, instead of its costing us \$1,600,000, I believe it would have cost us another million; and I will tell you why I think that. I think it for the reason that when the Government built the St. Charles branch, although I believe they made reasonable efforts to keep the cost of the land damages down, the small amount of land required for fourteen miles of railway cost within a few dollars of a million dollars. The Drummond County Railway is nearly ten times longer than the St. Charles branch and in proportion you would very soon run up to a much larger amount, perhaps, relatively, than the St. Charles land damages amounted to. As we are supposed to be discussing these matters from the standpoint of reasonable men, I ask, would a reasonable man say that we would have been wise to have started to build a railway anywhere, relying upon the supposition that the engineer's certificate of cost would be in excess of the actual amount that the work would cost the Government? I doubt very much whether we would. So that we may start with the estimate of the chief engineer as having evidential value. We have something more than that. At the investigation to which I have already referred, there were engineers present, and also officers of the Drummond County Railway, who were closely and critically questioned with regard to what this railway had actually cost. They did not produce their books with respect to all the cost, nor with respect to the construction of all the miles of railway.

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They produced them from a certain date down, but they had copies of or, at least, abstracts from them prior to that date. I think that they had built some forty or fifty miles—I am not now speaking with absolute confidence as to the correct mileage—and had entered the cost of the construction in a series of books, which the witness did not have under his control. But Mr. Newcomb, who appeared to be a very respectable gentleman, whose word, apparently, was not questioned by any member of the committee, and who spoke from actual knowledge, having copied the statements from the books the time they were in his possession, said that the amount expended down to a certain date was so much. He swore that the book contained every item of expenditure which had gone to make up the totals he gave to the committee, under oath, from the commencement of construction down to that period, and he produced the books themselves from that date down to the present moment. These books were in the possession of the committee, open to examination, and were examined. Well now, the evidence that was produced before that committee was to this effect:—Mr. Newcomb showed that down to the 28th of February, 1897, there had been expended by the owners of the Drummond County Railway, in the construction of that line, no less a sum than \$1,908,271. It is true that this amount included the subsidies which they had received from the two Governments and the municipalities, but with that question of subsidies I need not stop now to deal. I shall refer to it later. But that sum was shown by Mr. Newcomb to have been expended by the people who built the railway, upon its construction, and they had every interest in the world in keeping the cost of the construction down to the lowest possible notch. Is not that conclusive evidence? It was not doubted; there was no suspicion cast upon its correctness. Mr. Newcomb's veracity was not impeached, and the books were there covering a long period. The amount, I think, expended, and not shown by the books, was \$729,000.

Mr. HAGGART. The books were never brought.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. None of them were brought?

Mr. HAGGART. The construction books containing the construction accounts, were not brought at all.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Were none of them brought? My impression is that the books were all available from the date named by Mr. Newcomb.

Mr. McISAAC. They were all there.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. My impression corresponds with that of my hon. friend from Antigonish. There were \$729,000 expended by this company up to a certain date, in constructing a certain number of miles. They did not

have the books to that date, and could not give the items in detail, but they did have the books from that period down, and they had the railway to show, and there could be no doubt as to what the railway cost relatively to the rest of the line. But Mr. Newcomb made this statement, and it was accepted as accurate. In no sense was there any disposition on the part of any member of the committee to cast any doubt upon its accuracy; so that I start out fairly with the conclusive proof of the fact that up to the 28th of February, 1897, nearly \$2,000,000 of money were spent upon this railway, and there have been spent upon it quite an amount since, under the arrangement made with that company, by which we were entitled to have \$100,000 more spent upon it, to be taken either out of the rental or any purchase price we would have to pay. This made, therefore, according to the evidence—not supposition or conjecture at all—but according to the testimony, over \$2,000,000 expended in the construction of that line.

Now, we have further evidence. Mr. H. F. McLeod was called as a witness. I do not know whether many hon. members know Mr. McLeod, but I think if any do know him they must know him as an honourable, straight-forward, thoroughly reliable man. I found him, not exactly in the department, but found he was an engineer of repute and standing, who had been employed a great deal in special work by the department, under the former Minister, and perhaps under his predecessors. If my recollection serves me right, he worked upon the Intercolonial Railway during its construction, and he was admittedly a gentleman of the highest character, capacity and reliability. Now, Mr. McLeod was asked what this railway was worth, and I take it that the evidence which Mr. McLeod gave upon the question is worth a cartload of statements made by members on either side of the House. Mr. McLeod told us that the road, in his judgment, unquestionably would cost between \$16,000 and \$17,000 per mile. If any of you have the report of the committee in your hands and will turn to page 111, you will find that Mr. McLeod gives positive, distinct and explicit statements as to the value of the road. "How much," he was asked by the chairman, "is your valuation of the road when completed under contract with the Government?" He said: "It ought to be worth more than \$15,000 per mile for the portion to Moose Park." Then he was asked how much it is worth from Moose Park to the Chaudière. He replied: "It will cost about \$16,000 or \$17,000 per mile." Then he was asked: What is the value of the road from Moose Park to Ste. Rosalie? And he replied: "With the improvements it will cost probably \$16,000 per mile." So that you have Mr. McLeod, a responsible and competent engineer, and a man of undoubted integrity, swearing—not simply guessing—but absolutely pledging his oath, that the road would cost from Ste. Rosalie to Chaudière, throughout its whole

length, between \$15,000 and \$16,000 per mile. What will the road be worth, he was asked. And he said: "It will be worth about \$17,000 per mile." Now, there is a statement upon which I rely, and which I think ought to be accepted even by hon. gentlemen opposite, who know nothing at all themselves about the road, and who would not undertake to express any opinion with regard to the probable cost of any railway they might travel over. I think they ought to be willing to accept a statement made in that solemn manner by a gentleman of undoubted credit and respectability, and, I take it, a gentleman whom the ex-Minister of Railways will not say was incompetent and not able to give a good judgment on that question. I have, therefore, put before you, I think, the strongest possible evidence that could be offered as to what this road was worth, and it is idle for any hon. gentleman to tell us seriously in this Parliament that we are paying an excessive price, when we are only paying \$12,000 per mile. Mr. McLeod was asked: "Do you consider or not that this price paid for the railway was reasonable?" He replied: "It was a very low price indeed." And he has sworn to it. Now, do you not think, Mr. Chairman, that, in the face of these facts, hon. gentlemen opposite ought to be a little slow in expressing the opinion, that we have paid an excessive price for the railway, when we have only paid the sum covered by the resolutions? I refer you to the page on which appears that statement of Mr. McLeod—page 112. It appears to me, that, if there has been anything outrageous in connection with this transaction, it has been the language of the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) and the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), and in the conduct of the Opposition itself in dealing with this proposition. If there has been anything extravagant in connection with the proposition, that extravagance lies in the statements which these hon. gentlemen have been making.

It has been suggested, that bonuses were paid by the several governments in aid of the construction of the line. And I suppose the inference will be drawn, or the implication suggested, that we ought to have insisted upon having the amount of the subsidies deducted from the purchase price. I think that was seriously mentioned here two years ago. Well, I concede at once, that subsidies were paid to this railway. I have here a statement of those subsidies. The amount contributed by the Dominion by way of bonus was \$287,956, while the province of Quebec contributed \$347,430, and the municipalities gave \$15,000. Now, when it is claimed, that it would have been proper for this Government to deduct the amount of the subsidies from the purchase price, or to insist that they should be allowed in estimating the value and fixing the purchase price, I am really lost in conjecture as to the ground upon which such a contention can be based.

Mr. SPROULE. Is there not an additional subsidence, that for a portion of the road that the company has built ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. There has been, unquestionably, an additional subsidy, and it is not included in this sum. I did not include it, for the very sufficient reason that it was paid since we began negotiations with them, and we are taking that subsidy from the purchase price. But we have not proposed, and do not propose, and I think there is no responsible gentleman present who would say that he would propose, to take the amount of the subsidies that have been paid long since, from any purchase price that might be agreed upon. We deduct the present subsidy, because that was part of the condition on which the subsidy was given. Hon. gentlemen may recall the fact, that that was incorporated in the Act under which the subsidy was granted by Parliament. But I think it would be difficult for these gentlemen to point to any clause, condition or stipulation of a similar kind, when the subsidies were given to the Drummond County Road of the amount which I have mentioned here. It never was so stipulated, either in this case or in any other case of a bonus given by the Dominion to any railway, that, if the road was acquired by the Government at any time, the subsidy should be deducted. No such string has been attached to any subsidy given by this Parliament. Do these gentlemen seriously contend, that this Government ought to have imposed such a condition in this case? If so, it would be the first case of the kind that ever occurred, though this is not the first instance in which the Government of Canada became possessed of a railway which had received substantial subsidies from the Government. I do not think it would be right or fair, I do not think that it would be an honest business transaction, for the Dominion to impose any such condition, when it was not in the Act under which the subsidy was given. I think it would not have been an honest transaction, unless it was a stipulation made at the time the bonus was granted. If it had been a proper thing for us to do, it would have been a proper thing for the present leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) to do when he was Minister of Railways and bought the Rivière du Loup line from the Grand Trunk Railway. He would have been able to make a very respectable diminution of the price paid the Grand Trunk Railway, if he had insisted on that condition. He would have had an opportunity of deducting \$10,000 a mile, and would have had to pay only \$2,000 a mile to the Grand Trunk Railway for their dismantled railway. Now, I venture to think, that it will not be seriously contended by those who are opposing this proposition, that the Government were at fault in not taking that course. I presume, that the same

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gentlemen who contend this, are prepared to contend that we ought also to deduct the subsidies given by the provincial government of Quebec, and put the amount in the Treasury of Canada. I suppose we ought also to take the amount contributed by the municipalities. And I want to ask this committee, if we had deducted the Dominion subsidy from this railway, as these gentlemen have contended we ought to do, how long would it be before we would have the Government of Quebec knocking at our doors and claiming that their share of the subsidy ought to be paid over to them, that they ought to be protected in the same way as we have protected ourselves? What answer could we have made to the Government of Quebec, if such a claim were made?

I do not object to the hon. gentleman saying that we ought to have taken off the \$247,000, and then seeing where the result would land them, admitting that when the Government was buying the railway the company ought to be paid what the railway actually cost them. If you proceed upon that principle, take the cost as I have given it from the sworn evidence, \$2,008,271; deduct from that the price we are paying, \$1,600,000, and you have \$408,271 remaining as the sum expended more than the Government of Canada is paying for the railway. You can afford to deduct from that \$408,000 the amount of the Dominion subsidy, \$287,000, and you still have \$120,000 left. So you see the transaction is just as good a transaction as if we had actually deducted it, though I am not going to say we had it in our minds when we made the arrangement which we did. Now, Sir, from the facts I have presented to the committee, I think I have clearly shown that, as a business transaction, put it on the basis of value, put it on the basis of cost, put it on the basis of comparison with any similar transaction that has ever taken place in the history of Canada, and there are none of them that compare favourably with this transaction, from every point of view which this question may be presented consistently with the facts, the proposition is absolutely defensible.

Now, I come to the question that I said I would take up and discuss respecting the difference in the proposal which we now make and the one which was first made with respect to the acquisition of the road. We then proposed to lease the railway from the company for a term of years, and in arriving at the amount of rental which we were to pay, we first set ourselves to ascertain what would be a fair sum to pay for the railway if we were buying it, and then we came to a conclusion as to what would be a fair interest to allow upon the sum arrived at in that way. We proposed by the terms of that arrangement to lease this road for 99 years, and to allow to the company 4 per cent interest upon \$1,600,000. The company was to complete the line to the Chau-

dière, it was to build the balance of the road, laying 70-pound rails, it was to build it of a standard quality fully equal to the Intercolonial Railway, and out of the rental it was to set aside a sum which would be sufficient in 99 years absolutely to extinguish the principal amount, or the purchase money of the road. When the question first came before the Government, the only proposition which we had from the company was a proposition of rental. We had no reason to suppose at that time that the company would accede to an offer to purchase on the basis that we finally agreed upon with them. I do not say that the question of an out and out purchase for cash was not in our minds. I admit it was. We did consider whether it would be better for us, under all the circumstances, to pay 4 per cent to the company upon \$1,600,000, the value at which we placed the road, or whether we should purchase, paying the cash. We came to the conclusion that under all the circumstances the leasing transaction was just as favourable as the other. I am not going to deny that an element entered into our determination in that direction which, though not a strong element, still it had its influence. We felt quite sure in our own judgment that the result of the acquisition of this line and the extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal would be beneficial; we felt that we would be able out of the earnings of the road, in addition to what had been its previous earnings, to pay the rental so that there would be no permanent addition to the public debt, we would be proceeding upon the same principle as a man rents a house rather than buys one. Year by year he pays his rent, and he has no capital obligation imposed upon him. We concluded that 4 per cent was not an exorbitant sum to allow to the company, was not an excessive or an unreasonable amount to allow them as a basis of rental. The reason why we thought so was this: We knew well that the Government could borrow at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, or somewhere in that neighbourhood. We had never at that time, as a Government, borrowed below 3 per cent, which, with charges amounting to about one-eighth of one per cent in addition, represented what the money had cost us. We believed that the company could not realize upon their bonds upon any basis lower than 4 per cent, and have a sinking fund to extinguish the \$1,600,000 in 99 years. We knew that very well, and I think it only requires a moment's thought on the part of any gentleman to come to the same conclusion. The company could not float its bonds and get its money at as favourable a rate as the Government, that goes without saying. They would have, it is true, to support their bonds something in the nature of a Government guarantee, if we agreed to pay them so much a year as rental for this railway; but when they went into the

money markets to raise this money, there would always be the substantial difference between the rate they would have to pay in raising money on those bonds, and what the Government would have to pay in raising the money itself, perhaps, one-half per cent difference would be a moderate calculation. So we felt that in acquiring this railway, the company were entitled to be put in as good a position as if they were receiving at that very date the value of the road as we considered it, that is to say, in as good a position as if they received the \$1,600,000 in cash. But I am satisfied that no one could have had any assurance that that money could have been realized by them on their bonds, even with the Government rental as security, at any less rate than 4 per cent, allowing for the amount that would be required for a sinking fund. Now upon balancing the question as to whether we would do better to borrow the money ourselves and buy the road, or whether we should lease it, the balance of opinion inclined in favour of leasing instead of purchasing. That is the whole point of difference between the proposition as it was made a year or two ago and the proposition as it is made now. I venture to think that while there may be a difference of opinion as to whether it would have been better to lease the road or purchase it outright, it is not a difference in any point of view, it seems to me, which can justify any statement, much less the strong statements that have been put forward by the other side when they have discussed this question. I have tried to follow hon. gentlemen as to what the difference was when it came to be figured out in actual results. We heard one of them stating that the country lost a million of money or two by the last arrangement, and that it gained over one million by this arrangement. I think the hon. leader of the Opposition is the millionaire in that transaction. How he obtains that result I do not know; it is quite as unscrutable to me and as difficult of comprehension as a great many other results that the hon. gentleman arrives at. He says the difference is over one million. The hon. ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) does not agree with the hon. leader of the Opposition; he is not one of the million kind. Sometimes that hon. gentleman makes it three-quarters of a million, sometimes half a million, and sometimes a trifle less than half a million. I can very well see how he would vary in his judgment from time to time. It would depend upon the rate of interest the hon. gentleman could assume that the Government could borrow its money at. If he were to take a  $2\frac{1}{2}$  gait, that he has latterly been taking, he would place it at the second of these sums, but if he were to take a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 and a fraction gait, he would place it at \$450,000, whereas the leader of the Opposition has to get on a still stiffer gait than that in order to raise the

amount up to a full million and upwards. So it is a mere caprice with hon. gentlemen as to what they would say as to this rate of interest that the Government are able to borrow money at, and they are not slow to conclude, you will have remarked, that the Government ought to have had prescience to see sufficiently far into the future to realize that when they were next going into the money market to make a loan, that they could make that loan at a substantially less rate of interest than the last loan. Is anybody of the opinion that we were censurable because we had not sufficient foresight to know that when we went into the money market the market would be so favourable, and that we could have borrowed at a less rate than previously. It appears to me that this tremendously big problem that has justified the use of such extreme and violent adjectives on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite, all rests upon whether or not you are going to calculate that the rate of interest should be this figure or that figure or the other figure, whether you are going to calculate on a rate that the Government, up to that time, had not been able to borrow money at or whether we were able in a more favourable market to borrow at a lower rate subsequently to the transaction. I think it is fair to say that hon. gentlemen who are criticising this are taking a great deal for granted; they are criticising it for the sake of criticising it, and with very slim information upon which to calculate. When we are told that this transaction that we are now proposing is all the way from half a million to one million dollars better than the other transaction, it is a question as to whether one's mind will incline to the belief that we had better pay a rental yearly or add to the public debt by borrowing in the market and obtaining money at an even more favourable rate than we could previously obtain it at.

Mr. SPROULE. Would the hon. gentleman be kind enough to answer the question as to whether they have run the road at a profit or a loss during the time that they have been running it?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I am going to tell the hon. gentleman the conclusion that I have arrived at upon that question. I might mention a rate of 4 per cent as being a reasonable rate of interest, and for this reason. It is all very well for hon. gentlemen to look at this matter now in the light of recent events. During the time that we were negotiating for this railway I had occasion to look into the question as to the value of securities of this kind, and, in connection with the Grand Trunk Railway, I had the evidence before me as to what was the standing of the bonds upon that road in the English market. I had then a newspaper in my hands, and I think I have it in my office, containing

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the information that, at that very time, 4 per cent bonds floated by the Grand Trunk Railway Company, were only worth 85 in the London market.

Mr. POWELL. Were they guaranteed by the Government?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. No, they were not guaranteed by the Government. But I am not assuming that the bonds which this Drummond County Railway would have issued would have been worth better than 4 per cent. I am assuming that they would not have been worth, perhaps, by one-half per cent as much as Government bonds themselves would have been worth. I am pointing to the fact that Grand Trunk bonds that only brought 85 in the market and were carrying 4 per cent interest, in a few weeks or a few months afterwards had risen in excess of par. So you see the very material change that took place in the money market in regard to securities of this kind.

I have anticipated, Mr. Chairman, that the House will expect me to furnish all such information as I have in my possession, and may be able to furnish in respect to the operating of the Intercolonial Railway under the new and altered conditions resulting from the extension to Montreal. I cannot, as I affirmed this afternoon, and I say it again, give to the committee any statement of any value showing the receipts and expenditures from the Drummond County line, or the Montreal extension, as distinguished from the rest of the Intercolonial. I cannot do that because, in the first place, the accounts are not kept in that way, and it would not, as the officers of the road tell me, be practicable to keep the accounts in that way. It is utterly impracticable. I have consulted, as I stated to the hon. ex-Minister of Finance this afternoon, with both the Deputy Minister and the general manager of the road as to whether the accounts could be kept so that we would be able to show Parliament precisely the result of the operating of this portion of the railway, but they assured me that it was quite impossible. They have not been so kept, and I have not that information before me, but I have what I think is very nearly as good. I have the information as to the general operation of the whole line, and I will be able to show the committee that the conditions that have existed in respect to the Intercolonial Railway are such as that there is no reasonable doubt about the extension to Montreal holding its own, or that it will come, in the near future, a very profitable part of the Intercolonial Railway. Now, in reference to this very matter, I had my attention called yesterday, while I was at a meeting of the Privy Council, to an article which appeared in the "Star." It purports to have been sent from Ottawa; whether it was sent from Ottawa or not I do not know.

It states that a statement had been prepared at Ottawa showing what are the operating expenses of the Drummond County Railway extension separately. It is as follows:—

It is now known that at the time the statement was made in the Senate, Mr. Blair had actually had prepared for him this information.

And then it goes on to say—I will not weary the House by reading the whole of it—that there were \$300,000 lost. It says that, in effect, because it adds:

There were three hundred thousand good reasons why the Government did not furnish the statement that was called for.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. "Hear, hear," says the hon. gentleman. The hon. gentleman knows all about it. He can see right into the books, accounts and papers and transactions just as clearly as if he had them before him.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) consent to allow officials that I will indicate, to be brought before a committee of this House, and have their testimony taken on that question?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I will consent to this. I will consent to the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) instituting an inquiry into the persons who are furnishing false and unreliable information, and who are in the confidence and employ of the Government.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. You are threatening to seal people's mouths.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. That is what I will consent to. When my attention was called to this in the Council, I sent a note to Mr. Schreiber to the following effect:—

Will Mr. Schreiber please let me know if any statement of earnings and expenditure on the Drummond County Railway has been received, and if so, please let me see it.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes, "received."

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Having this statement put in my hand, I thought that possibly some statement had come, and if there was a statement, I wanted it, and I received immediately from the Deputy Minister this reply:

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Nobody said, "received" here.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The hon. gentleman may sneer, if he likes.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I believe the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) prevented its being sent here.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles

Tupper) may believe what he likes; I do not think he is responsible. I believe he is in an entirely irresponsible condition at the present moment. I would not like to take the hon. gentleman seriously in respect to any statement he may make and I believe the most charitable view is to assume that he is irresponsible.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. You would not dare to let the officials be brought here and to be put on oath as to what the condition of these accounts is.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I received at once the following note in answer to my inquiry of the Deputy Minister:—

The accounts of the Intercolonial Railway are kept as a whole, and the road is operated in like manner, and not in sections, so that it is not possible to give such information as you refer to regarding the Drummond County Railway.

Mr. WALLACE. When was that written?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. My note was written to the Deputy Minister on the 8th May and I sent it over from Council, and I received, as I tell you, this reply, which came back immediately.

Mr. WALLACE. Then, the Minister knew before yesterday how the accounts were kept.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I have stated to the hon. gentleman, and I have stated to the committee, that I conferred with both the general manager of the railway and the Deputy Minister long ago, as to whether the accounts could be kept in this way, and I desired to have it done, if it could be done—

Mr. WALLACE. Then, what did you write that note for?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Having seen the statement explicitly made in the "Star," I sent over the note, asking if any statement had been received.

Mr. WALLACE. How is it, that other railways can keep their accounts in that way?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The hon. gentleman had better inquire of other railways.

Mr. WALLACE. I am telling the Minister, that other railways do keep accounts for sections.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I will complete the reading of the memo. which the Deputy Minister sent to me:

Memo.—A statement has reached the department of the cash collections at the stations on the Drummond County line and agencies in Mont-

real, but that means little, certainly not the earnings.

Now, I have pointed out, that it is, therefore, not possible for us to procure this, which we would be only too glad to procure for our own information, and which, if we had procured, there would have been no objection on my part to furnish to the House. I am absolutely sure, from the amount of business which has been done upon this Montreal extension, that it would make a good showing, and I would not be afraid to have that road absolutely separated and distinguished, in respect to its earnings and expenditure, from the balance of the railway. We would have nothing to fear from any such information, but it has not been practicable to give it, and, therefore, it has not been procured.

It would be rather unreasonable to expect, that, in starting out on a new venture in operating a railway, a considerable portion of the mileage of which had never been running before, that it would instantly begin to show the best results, or satisfactory results. That would be unreasonable to expect. I assume, that the same expectations should be formed with regard to the operating of a new railway by the Government, as would be formed with regard to the operating of a new railway by a private company. They would expect, that it would have to be got under way, and be running some time, before it would begin to gather trade. It would be unreasonable and absurd to expect, that the very first moment we opened that Drummond County Railway, the business would jump at once into a very large and flourishing condition.

Mr. BERGERON. It was promised.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. My hon. friend (Mr. Bergeron) is a little astray, when he makes that statement. I never promised anything of the kind.

Mr. BERGERON. The Minister of Public Works did.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. BERGERON. What is the matter with gentlemen opposite?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. We are only beginning now to get this road into good working shape. Hon. gentlemen opposite have endeavoured, since this discussion commenced, and at other times during this session, to discount the information which I would be able to furnish to this House in regard to the operation of this road. In the first place the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) has asserted, that the rates have been put up on the rest of the railway, so that there would be an increase in receipts, and so that it might be claimed, that this increase was due to the acquisition of the Drummond County.

Mr. BLAIR.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. And to that statement the hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition, subscribes unhesitatingly.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Hear, hear.

Mr. POWELL. The Minister (Mr. Blair) does not deny that.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I do deny it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I do deny it. I will tell the committee the circumstances under which that occurred to which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell) has reference. After we had put Mr. Harris in charge of the traffic arrangements of the railway, almost the first thing he did was to abolish the system of carrying cordwood irrespective of the quantity or weight which was piled upon the cars. He insisted, that there should be a limit to the loads that were put upon the cars, and he made an alteration in the schedule, whereby the patrons of the road who were having cordwood hauled upon it, would pay according to weight, and that immediately created a great agitation in some sections of the country which was traversed by the Intercolonial Railway. As it was at no time intended by the management of the railway, that there should be any increase in the rates which, at all events, would be burdensome, or which would operate unfavourably upon the poorer people who were using the railway, we had a correction made to the schedule in that regard, and the charges that were made were abated. I think I am justified in saying, that the excessive charges that were made were returned to the people. I am not going to say that with absolute confidence at this moment, but I am strongly of opinion that they were.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman is quite correct. A large number of these little claims that have remained over for a year were paid off within a few days of the election.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Does my hon. friend know that, or is it only a suspicion haunting a guilty mind?

Mr. FOSTER. I absolutely know it, and so does my hon. friend.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Well, I can only say that it was long prior to the election that the subject was dealt with, and I think the amounts were paid back; so that the revenues have not been made up by any such increase in the rates. Now, Sir, the deficit of last year on the Intercolonial Railway is shown by the public accounts to be \$209,000, including rental.

Mr. POWELL. Will the hon. gentleman pardon me before he passes to another branch. I am informed by merchants in St. John, in Moncton, and in other portions of the province, that the local rates have been increased. I know of my own knowledge that the hay freights have been increased in the county of Westmoreland, and I ask if there has not been a general increase in freight rates ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I say unhesitatingly to the hon. gentleman there has been no such general increase. There has been some little change in the classification, some things being put in one classification and some in another, and the effect has been to revise the general scale, making it more fair and equitable ; in some cases reducing and in some cases increasing the rates, but my officers tell me that the general effect has been not to increase the rates. The hon. gentleman may, no doubt, pick out one or two items on which the rates have been increased ; but he could pick out a great many other items on which the rates have been reduced, with the general effect that I have stated. As a general result of last year's operation, the Intercolonial Railway does show a deficit of \$209,000, including the rental, and during four months of that year the Drummond County Railway, and the whole Montreal extension, were operated, that is, commencing with the 1st of March, 1898.

Mr. FOSTER. What rental does my hon. friend mean ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I mean the whole—one-third of \$210,000—\$70,000 were paid for the four months' rental, with all the other charges, whatever they may be, growing out of and incidental to the operating of the Montreal extension. Now, in 1895-96, the last year of the hon. gentlemen's Administration, the deficit on the Intercolonial was \$55,000 ; in the year 1896-97, the first year of my administration, the deficit was \$59,000 ; and, as I have said, the deficit for last year was \$209,000, or \$139,000 exclusive of rentals.

Mr. FOSTER. I would ask my hon. friend a question. Does the return which he brought down to-day, showing the earnings and working expenses for the ten months, include the rentals ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Everything. I will come to that return in a little while. I want to say this, and I think I am speaking within the recollection of a great many of the members of this committee, and if not, "Hansard" will verify what I say : When the general subject of the Intercolonial was under discussion in Supply last year, I stated that during the year then current the showing would not be, on the whole, so far as the deficit was concerned, favourable to the Intercolonial—that it would not be as favourable as it ought to

be under ordinary circumstances, even with the operation of the Montreal extension. I explained to the committee why I said that. I pointed out that during the year 1897-98 I would be practically paying within the fiscal year, from the 1st of July to the 1st of July, double the amount in the way of repairs and maintenance, that had been paid the year before. I stated that explicitly to the committee, and I explained how that came about. I pointed out that in the year 1891-92, those who were then managing the Intercolonial, for the purpose of making a good showing for that year—I know of no other reason in the world why it should have been done—in point of fact made little, if any, repairs and had very little, if any, maintenance charges.

Mr. HAGGART. Is that the year 1891-92 ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. It was either 1891-92 or 1892-93. Why it was done was this. Up to that time the largest part of the repairs had been made as soon as the snow went off the ground in the spring, and they were concluded before the 1st of July. So that after the 1st of July there would be nothing until the next spring, but when the next spring came around, instead of doing it, they postponed the work until after the 1st of July, so that they had a whole period of twelve months in which there was no substantial amount of repairs and no substantial maintenance charges paid. It was felt that it was not in the interest of the railway that these repairs should be deferred to so late a period in the season. It was felt that they should be made as soon as possible after the snow left the ground, when the ground was soft and when they could be done more cheaply and to more advantage for the railway. But last year, instead of waiting until the 1st of July, and then making the repairs and paying the maintenance charges, I did it before the 1st of July ; and, therefore, within that one year I crowded outlays which would ordinarily be covered by two years, and I stated to the committee last year that such would be the fact. Now, I am going to furnish this committee with evidence to support my statement in that regard. The expenditure for repairs and maintenance of way was as follows, from the 1st of March until the 30th of June in the four years stated :—Two of these years are the last two years of my predecessor in office ; the other two years are mine. In this statement I have included every item as classified in the public accounts, which can be said properly to belong to repairs or maintenance. I shall furnish, before I get through, the items which I have taken out of these accounts, and by which the committee can judge whether or not I have made a fair and accurate statement. In those two years, the amount expended for maintenance and repairs by the ex-Minister of Railways, when in office, was \$356,630.

Mr. POWELL. What months does this cover ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. From the 1st of March to the 30th June. In 1894-95 there was expended by him \$142,744; in 1895-96, \$213,936, making a total of \$356,680. In 1896-97, between those dates, I spent \$172,566, and in 1897-98, \$329,738, or in other words, taking the two years together, I spent in these months \$502,304 as compared with \$356,680 by my predecessor.

An hon. **MEMBER**. How much was spent on the Drummond County Railway?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. Did any one ask the question how much of that was spent on the Drummond County Railway, because if so I shall be very happy to answer it?

Mr. **FOSTER**. Well, answer it.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. Not a dollar of it. The excess in 1897-98 over 1896-97 was \$157,172. The excess in 1897-98 over 1895-96—the last year of my predecessors—was \$116,000.

Mr. **FOSTER**. That is awful extravagance.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. The hon. gentleman says that is awful extravagance. Well, if \$116,000 had been taken off the amount of deficit, it would have made a considerable hole in it, and I think that even the hon. gentleman would consider it, with his large ideas, to be a substantial sum.

Let me give you a further statement. I will now give you from 1st July to the 1st have given you from March to July, and I will now give you from 1st July to the 1st March, the other eight months. I expended in that year 1897-98, from the 1st July to the 1st March, \$509,928 as against \$451,888 in 1896-97, so that I spent \$58,040 during the first eight months of 1897-98 over the amount spent during these months in 1896-97, and I spent \$157,000 in excess in the last four months of the fiscal year, as I have shown you. So that altogether I spent \$215,212 in excess of the amount expended by my predecessor.

Now if I had deferred these repairs until after the 1st July in the year 1897-98, for which we have full accounts, and if I had followed the example of my predecessor and only laid out the usual and customary amount, I would have spent but \$178,000 or so, in round figures \$175,000 instead of \$329,000 which I did spend, and, therefore, would have had \$150,000 better showing. I would have had that much more in the Treasury to reduce the deficit which I actually had. I spent \$150,000 for the maintenance and repairs of the road in excess of what was spent by my predecessor, and I only would have had, if I had not made that outlay in that unusual and unprecedented way, a deficit of \$50,000 instead of a deficit of \$209,000. Those are the figures which, I think, establish entirely beyond controversy that

Mr. **BLAIR**.

while last year there was unquestionably on the showing—if any person just glances at the total results as they appear in the accounts—a running behind during the year to an unusually large amount, or at all events an amount larger than we had as deficits for a number of years past—that was owing to the circumstances I have stated. It was owing to the extraordinary expenditures I made, doubling up the outlays in the twelve months, and not owing to the fact that we were operating and maintaining the Montreal extension.

Now, Sir, I am going to call attention to a statement published in one of the leading Opposition newspapers.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Is my hon. friend leaving the point of expenditure?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. Not leaving it all, but for the moment I wish to refer to what appeared in one of the Opposition papers the 8th of April last. I refer to the Montreal "Star." I am going to treat this statement, which appeared in the "Star," as if it were a statement honestly made and made for an honest purpose. I do not think it was, but I am going to treat it as if it were, and intend calling attention to the details of this statement, because I suppose they have found credence in some quarters. I dare say that hon. gentlemen opposite believe in them, and will no doubt reproduce them for information later on, and, therefore, I propose to anticipate that reference. The Montreal "Star" starts out by professing to have been informed from Moncton. The information comes in a telegram, which they allege to have received from Moncton, dated 7th April, and in which they took up and published a report of the department, showing this deficit of \$209,000. They attack the accuracy of that statement. They charge that it is misleading, that it has been cooked, and that if the facts were actually disclosed, instead of their being a deficit of \$209,000, there would be a deficit nearer \$500,000, and they furnish what they probably choose to call some little evidence in support of that statement. Perhaps I had better read some of the preceding portions of the article just to show what it leads up to:

An examination of the report of the Minister of Railways and Canals shows how the accounts of the Intercolonial Railway have been manipulated by Mr. Blair for the purpose of making the large deficit of last year appear to be smaller than it really is. General Manager Pottinger places the deficit at \$139,978.66, which he acknowledges is arrived at by taking no account of the rental paid the Drummond Company and the Grand Trunk Railway for the Montreal extension. Chief Engineer Schreiber, on the other hand, included this rental, which, for the four months the extension was operated, would be \$70,000, bringing the deficit up to \$209,978.66, as compared with a deficit of \$59,940.65 in 1897 and \$55,187.52 in 1896, the last year under Conservative management, so that the deficit is approximately as stated in the "Star" six months ago. Last year's expenditure on capital account:

amounted to \$252,756.80, much of it for works which, under Conservative management, were charged to operating account. The Liberal contention, in Opposition, was that all expenditures on the completed part of the line should be charged to operating.

Let me address myself to this branch of the "Star's" statement. In the first place, you will observe it is put forward that these accounts have been manipulated; then it is put forward that the deficit would have been very much larger than it is, would amount to \$462,000, if it had not been that a large number of items of expenditure that usually have been charged or paid for as operating accounts by the Conservative Government have been charged to capital by me. I wish to state that, so far as this statement put forward by the "Star" is concerned, it is not a fact; it is absolutely misleading, entirely unauthorized and cannot be established. The amount of the whole capital expenditure of the Intercolonial Railway for last year was \$252,756, and this newspaper has actually had the fairness to add the whole of the capital expenditure to the deficit of \$209,000 in order to reach the sum total which it says was the real and actual deficit of the Intercolonial Railway. Now, let us examine a little into this question of capital expenditure. In 1897-98, the capital expenditure of the Intercolonial Railway was \$252,756, as I have stated. In 1896-97, it was \$149,112, or for the two years, \$401,868. Now, examine the capital expenditure under my hon. friend the member for South Lanark. In 1895-96, his capital expenditure was \$259,423, and in 1894-95 it was \$327,034, a total of \$586,457 during the last two years of the hon. gentleman's administration, or \$185,000 more during my predecessor's last two years than during the two years under my administration. Now, the gentlemen who are furnishing the material, and the "Star" people who are publishing it, are putting forward as a fact and as truth that it is proper to add the whole of the capital expenditure which I have made, notwithstanding that my capital expenditure is less than that of my predecessor's, to the deficit acknowledged, and to claim that it is all a deficit; but when you are dealing with a Conservative administration, it is not fair to do that, you must take the statement which they give and accept it as absolute verity. If you add these amounts which I have given to the deficits under my predecessor, though they would not exceed my deficit—because last year was an exceptional one as I have shown—they would be far away in advance of what the "Star" gives as the usual and customary amount. I am going to weary the committee, I fear, but I want to put this forward completely while I am about it. I am willing to have this matter critically examined; I do not wish to have any statement accepted without close investigation, and I invite the committee to look at the items.

Mr. HAGGART. This is purely an Intercolonial Railway matter. I think we might keep as closely as possible to the Drummond Railway question and the entrance into Montreal.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The hon. gentleman's (Mr. Haggart's) leader travelled to Winnipeg and all over the North-west Territories.

Mr. HUGHES. But hon. gentlemen opposite objected to that kind of thing.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I invite the committee to examine the items making up the capital expenditure last year and to compare the items with those that make up the capital expenditure under the ex-Minister's administration. I think it will appear that there is no material distinction between the classes of items. In 1897-98 there was added to the public debt for increased accommodation at Halifax \$56,000. In the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Haggart's) last year this item cost \$124,000. There was added for the same class of expenditure at Moncton during my last year, \$94,000, and only a small sum on the same account during the last year of the ex-Minister. There was charged, the small sum of \$2,099 on capital account for accommodation at St. John during my last year, and nothing in the last year of the hon. gentleman. For Lévis there was \$300 during my last year and nothing in the hon. gentleman's last year. But the main items were substantially the same. We added to the rolling stock last year to the amount of \$49,000. We expended at the deep-water wharf at North Sydney, \$19,820. There was charged for the extension at Sydney \$11,374 during 1895-96. So, you see, it is quite open to hon. gentlemen to compare the items of the two years. You will see on such comparison, there is no substantial difference which would justify the treating of capital expenditure any different in one calculation from the way in which it ought to be treated in the other. And yet this is one of the things that have been put forward by the opponents of this proposal. Now, the "Star" says that the figures do not show that the increased deficit is due to making repairs in the road-bed earlier in 1898 than usual, and they put that forward, I suppose, because they had seen it stated in the newspaper press friendly to the Government that that would account, at all events, for a portion of the excess.

Now, this statement, if true, ought to be established; if not true, it ought to be disproved, and it is capable of very easy proof if it is true, and very easy disproof if it is not true. There are certain items which go to constitute the class of expenditures on repairs and maintenance of way, such as track, rails, right of way, ties, repairs to engines and cars. These are substantially the classes which absorb the expenditure that is classified in the Public Accounts,

and always has been so classified, as repairs and maintenance of way. Now, you cannot juggle with these figures at all, they are right there, and they will trip you up if you attempt to juggle with them. I invite examination of the cost for outlay for tracks, rails, ties, repairs on engines and cars during the two years I have administered the road, and the last two years during which my predecessor administered it. I think that would be a fair way to ascertain whether there has been any attempt at misleading the public or manipulating the accounts. Now, the "Star" does not do that. It takes what has been expended one year, one of many years, perhaps, and compares it with what has been expended in two years of my predecessor, or two of my years, and compares them with one of his. Those of you who may have read that article remember that it says that in the last year I only rebuilt six locomotives, whereas during the last year of my predecessor he rebuilt nine. But it conceals the fact that in the year before I built or acquired nine out of the revenue account, and that in the year before my predecessor's last year he only built six. So that taking my two years and his two years together they make up fifteen. I had fifteen and he had fifteen. The "Star" does not do that; it picks out the items wherever they are going to serve its unworthy purpose, its dishonest purpose, I would almost say its disreputable purpose, for so important a newspaper—it picks out the items that are going to serve its purpose and puts them forward, and, I say, wilfully and deliberately deceives and misleads the public. I am happily in possession of information which will enable me to show to a demonstration that what they have said, the inferences they have drawn, are absolutely and entirely unfounded. Now, the maintenance of way, you will understand, means the outlay of work which is expended upon the roadbed and tracks. You will find items running all through of expenditures under different heads, such as repairs and rebuilding of engines and cars. A great point is made in one of these statements in the "Star" to the effect that I only laid down nineteen miles of rails in my first year, whereas my predecessor laid forty or forty-five miles. Well, that is true, but they did not tell the public that there were only nineteen miles of rails remaining to be laid upon the main line of the Intercolonial Railway during that year, that finished it up. Upon these they were undertaking to lay sixty-seven pound rails in place of fifty-six. The hon. gentleman left me nineteen miles which were still carrying fifty-six pound rails. When I got these replaced with sixty-seven pound rails, I did all that remained to be done in that direction.

**Mr. HAGGART.** Suppose the hon. gentleman had laid forty miles, would it not have increased the charge against him?

**Mr. BLAIR.**

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS.** Certainly it would. But I am saying that there was no manipulation, there was no withholding of a proper outlay upon the road, there was no disposition to degrade the road. The reason there was not more than nineteen miles laid, was because there was no more than nineteen miles to lay. I think that fact answers the suggestion that the road was being degraded in order merely to show a better result than would otherwise have been. Now, let us look at the amounts entered opposite these items, all through, year after year. I commence with car expenses, you will see them entered roughly, and I go down through repairs to passenger cars, repairs to postal cars, to freight cars, vans and snow ploughs, wages to train hands, oil and waste, small stores and fuel, miscellaneous, engineer's officers and assistants, wages, sleepers, rails and fastenings, timber for bridges, and there I stop. Now, those items I have carefully tabulated, and made up, with the result which I have stated to you. The difference in the amounts expended in the year 1897-98 will appear at a glance when I read some of the items to the hon. members. Take, for instance, the item expended upon passenger cars. I expended \$86,371 on passenger cars, as compared with \$65,534 expended by my predecessor in his last year, and \$68,610 in his year preceding. I expended \$232,118 on freight cars and vans, as against \$205,191 the hon. gentleman expended in his last year, and \$183,153 in the year before. But the Montreal "Star" says that I allowed the cars to run down, that I did not expend as much upon passenger and freight cars, and cars generally, as was expended by my predecessor during that year. I expended on wages of train hands \$265,557, as compared with \$255,412; \$71,712 for small stores as against \$62,477; \$31,806 as against \$30,501 under the head of miscellaneous; \$404,230 as compared with \$353,687 on wages of trackmen, which is labour performed directly upon the track. I expended \$67,139 in rails and fastenings—I am speaking now of 1897-98—as compared with \$54,041 in the year 1895-96. I expended \$143,932 for sleepers, as compared with \$87,920 by my predecessor during the last year of his tenure. I expended \$99,540 for timber for bridges, as compared with \$82,451 by my predecessor. You cannot go over these items and examine them closely without seeing that there is no foundation whatever for the statement that the road has been denuded or degraded or permitted to run down, or that its equipment in any respect suffered by the treatment it has received at my hands as compared with that of my predecessor. The last statement which I have read and which refers to the curves, will be a complete answer to the quotation which I take from the same reliable source:

It is quite evident that if Mr. Blair had done as much work on the road-bed and rebuilt as

much of the rolling stock as his predecessor, his deficits, instead of being \$59,000 and \$209,000 for his first and second years respectively, would have reached much larger amounts.

The answer that I make to that is already in your possession. Take four years of the Intercolonial Railway, my two, and my predecessors two, and compare them. For the two years of my predecessor there was laid out upon maintenance and repairs, \$2,428,105.87. During my two years there was laid out and expended, \$2,672,307.99, or a greater expenditure during my two years of \$244,202. Yet the statement is boldly put forward that, if my expenditure had been as much as that of my predecessor, my deficit would have been very much greater.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I think in regular and proper course, I would go on to make some reference to the results of the operation of the railway for the present year, or, at all events for that portion of the year which has so far elapsed, of which I am in possession of the returns. From the 1st of July, 1898, to the 1st of March, 1899, there were some months during which the expenditure exceeded the income, and there were other months during which the income exceeded the expenditure. I will give you the total of those months in which the expenditure exceeded the income, and the amounts. The total of those months was \$104,624.01. For the months in which the income exceeded the expenditure, the total amount of such excess of income was \$104,259.92, showing for eight months, during which we were operating the Drummond County Railway and the Montreal extension generally, paying rents and all charges of every kind and description, we happened to realize a result on the right side of the account of \$364.09. Last year, for these eight months there was a balance of loss against us, and the amount was quite considerable. During that period of last year, instead of having a little of something to the good, we were \$71,203 behind. Now, we are in an improved position during these eight months of this year. Whether or not this is to be attributed to the extension to Montreal, I shall deal with later on, but I affirm, it is due to that, because I wish to say, lest I lose sight of it later, that there has been no such marked improvement in the general outlook of business in the maritime provinces; there has been no such prosperity in the maritime provinces as has been experienced in these more western provinces. There has been no such improvement in business in the maritime provinces as would account for this difference in the result of the operation of the Intercolonial Railway between the present and the past year. I affirm that, Mr. Chairman, with some confidence. I know that the lumber business has been in nothing like the prosperous condition that it was in before, but our people are getting very hopeful as to the immediate future. Prices have been low, and the business has been a dragging one during this year, and, as respects our railway operations, the lumber business

has not been such as one would desire it to be. For the same period of eight months, from the 1st of July to the 1st of March, during some previous years, I am in a position to give a statement to the committee. For the eight months of the year 1894-95, from the 1st of July to the 1st of March, corresponding with the eight months' period I have given of the present year, there was a loss on the Intercolonial Railway of \$140,276. Mark you, for precisely the same period of the operation of the line in which I am showing \$364 to the good, there was \$140,276 of a deficit. Of course, that was not the final result for that year, because we get into the good months later, but down to that period the figures are as I have given them to you. For 1895-96, the loss on the Intercolonial Railway to the 1st of March, as shown by the receipts in the one hand and the expenditure on the other, was \$161,632. For the same period of 1896-97, the loss was \$139,885. For 1897-98, the loss which we had was \$71,000, and, as I have already told you, the gain for the corresponding period of this year is \$364. Now, what is the result for the whole year? In 1894-95, there was a surplus upon the whole year. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Haggart) had \$3,815 to the good on his year's operations, notwithstanding that he was \$140,276 behind on the 1st of March. You will see at once, from that, that when you are past the 1st of March you are approaching a better season for business and for bettering the results. The months of April, May and June are always good months on the Intercolonial Railway, and in those months the Minister of Railways was able to overtake his loss of \$140,276, that year, and to come out, not with a very large surplus, but still with a little surplus of \$3,815. Now, in the year 1895-96, in which he had a loss of \$161,632, up to the 1st of March, he came out with a deficit of \$55,000. In 1896-97, in which I came out with a loss of \$139,885, to the 1st of March, I came out at the end of the year with \$59,000 of a deficit. I came out with a deficit of \$59,000 in the year 1896-97, and in the year 1897-98, as you know, I increased my loss over the \$71,000 which it was on the 1st of March, up to \$209,000 on the 1st of July, including the Montreal extension rentals.

Now, how did that come about, largely? I have already stated it to you, but I will repeat it now in this connection. It came about, not because the business was materially less, not because the business was being carried on at any less profits, but because I spent \$150,000 more than the hon. gentleman (Mr. Haggart) did during that same four months of the year in which he had produced a surplus, or, in the years in which he had produced a smaller deficit. The actual figures of the result of the operations of the Intercolonial Railway for the present year will, of course, depend, in a very large measure, in the first place, upon the expenditure which is made during these four months on the one hand, and on the condition of business on the other.

I venture this prediction: That, without making any reduction in the expenditure for maintenance of way and repairs; without degrading the road or diminishing what is proper, and necessary, and usual, and customary, in the way of repairs, between now and the 1st of July—I venture to predict, that, as a result of the year's operations of the Intercolonial Railway between the 1st of July, 1898, and the 1st of July, 1899, there will be a larger surplus than there has ever been upon the Intercolonial Railway. I will almost venture to say, that there will be a larger surplus than all the surpluses put together that have ever been upon the Intercolonial Railway. I will ask the House to draw the inference, that this must be due to the fact, that we have given a very important piece of railway, a very productive piece of railway, to the Intercolonial, when we extended it to the city of Montreal. Any man who knows anything about the trains which pass over the Intercolonial now, carrying freight to Montreal, as compared with the trains that passed over the Intercolonial in times past, must see, that this extension has created business, that it has done what hon. gentlemen opposite said it would never do, namely, improved the business which that railway had been doing. I think, too, that we are by no means well advanced on the line of what we are capable of accomplishing. I think, that, when the Intercolonial goes into the business—as it has been doing, and as it intends to do to a still greater degree in the future—when it enters as an active competitor for business, not doing it for nothing, not carrying freight at less than cost, as the hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition said we would have to do, but carrying it at a fair and reasonable profit, not, perhaps, the same rates as are imposed by the ordinary railway companies, because we do not insist upon rates up to that figure, and never have, but carrying at a reasonable profit, with our improved facilities and with the opportunities which our location in the city of Montreal will give us—I think we are only on the threshold of the extension of the Intercolonial Railway business, not only in passengers, but in freight. It does not require one to be of a very sanguine disposition to see the time in the future when we will have a very substantial, a very important, and a very considerable addition to the surpluses which shall result from the operation of that line.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Haggart) had a surplus in 1892-93 of \$20,000. He got a very great deal of credit all over the country for that surplus. I know that some of his newspaper supporters almost felt like deifying him as a successful railway administrator. The year before he took the reins of office, there was something like within a few dollars of half a million dollars of a deficit.

Mr. HUGHES. That must have been near election times.

Mr. BLAIR.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Not by any means; it was not exceptional. The deficits had been large for quite a number of years prior to that. The deficit was \$493,000 the year I allude to, and the deficit was \$684,000 the year before that.

Mr. COWAN. That must have been the election year.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Perhaps so; it was the year 1891. The election did not seem to have added to the deficit more than \$90,000, because the year preceding the deficit was \$547,000. So, you will see, that, after a period of three years' deficits, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Haggart) perhaps felt that he had covered himself with glory, when he succeeded in wiping out the whole of that half million deficit and actually showing a balance on the other side of the account. It was no wonder that, when these facts appeared, a great many persons regarded my hon. friend (Mr. Haggart) as a Heaven-born railway administrator. He has been living—if I am doing him any injustice, I will willingly correct it—but I think he has ever since been living upon the glory and credit which he then achieved. I do not know, whether the hon. gentleman (Mr. Haggart) would claim the credit for himself—perhaps he allows other people to load him up with the glory. He would, I think, be too honest to claim it himself. I think he would be willing to acknowledge, that, in a very large measure, the glory of that achievement was due to two causes. In the first place, to Sir Mackenzie Bowell, because Sir Mackenzie Bowell was acting Minister of the Department of Railways during the year which preceded the year 1892-93, and, I think, for part of the latter year also. I understand, that Sir Mackenzie Bowell, when Minister, hid himself down to Moncton, and he simply told the officials there: You have got to cut off so much money on this branch; you have to cut down so much expenditure on this, and so much on the other; I want two or three hundred thousand dollars of actual expense in those different branches taken off. The officials had no alternative; they cut off the employees; they took off the trains; they refused the accommodation which the public had been enjoying, and there is no doubt they made a saving of the half million dollars which I give the hon. gentleman credit for.

Mr. HAGGART. Who told you all this?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I have had the assurance of gentlemen who have been in the confidence of my hon. friend for many years to this effect. In giving the hon. gentleman credit for \$514,000, the difference between the results of the two years, it must not be forgotten that whatever right of glory should attach to any person belongs to Sir Mackenzie Bowell for

having taken this forcible means of accomplishing the result ; but that did not cover it all. There were \$300,000 that went to make up the \$514,000, and this \$300,000 was made up in a way that did not contribute very much towards the improvement of the Intercolonial Railway. Besides the taking off of trains, besides the dismissing of employees, besides the cutting down of salaries, there was spent \$40,000 less on engines and tenders, \$70,000 less on repairs of the track, \$75,000 less on rails and fastenings, \$30,000 less on ties, \$46,000 less on bridges and buildings, and \$20,000 less on repairs of buildings, and \$20,000 saved by closing up stations along the line. My hon. friend succeeded in reducing the outlay on the Intercolonial that year by \$300,000 by making these substantial reductions in expenditures, which I venture to think were not particularly advantageous to the railway service or generally in the interest of the road.

Now, there is only one thing further which I will detain the committee by making any lengthened remarks upon. The operating of the Intercolonial Railway, I am free to confess has been carried on for some years past under rather unfavourable conditions, by reason of the contract which was entered into by the Government of Canada with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company away back in 1890. That contract was entered into for a term of practically eight years. You had to wait until the seventh year of that contract had expired before you could give any notice terminating it, and then it could only be terminated by a year's notice ; so that practically that contract had eight years to run. While I have no disposition to complain of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company succeeding in effecting that arrangement, I do feel that I have the amplest justification for complaining of the Government for having entered into it. I do not think it will be possible in the whole history of contracts between two different railway companies to point to one parallel to this. It seems to me it was entered into either without any knowledge of the effect which it would have on the interests of the Intercolonial, or in open and wilful disregard of those interests. I cannot say that the evidence is at all clear that the Government were ignorant of it, because I am assured by both the General Manager of the Intercolonial Railway and the Chief Engineer, the Deputy Minister, that they protested and advised the Minister of that day in the strongest manner against entering into that arrangement. The arrangement was made by no less a person than Sir John Macdonald. My hon. friend the late Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart) did not make that arrangement, and he has no responsibility for it further than that he assumed the usual and ordinary responsibility when he entered the Government which had made it, and took the responsibility of its acts ; but I think the hon. gentleman will not question my statement when I

say that he made reasonably strenuous efforts to carry that arrangement out on behalf of the Government. There were two or three things in that contract which I think were not favourable to the Government, and I maintain that the Government, as the owner of the Intercolonial Railway, and as having expended nearly \$60,000,000 in its construction, was entitled to some consideration in a matter of that kind. I am disposed to treat the Canadian Pacific Railway and the other railway systems in Canada with the utmost fairness ; but I am not disposed either to favour them or to be a party to giving any one of them practically the control of the best section of Intercolonial territory, or allowing them to do business which rightfully belongs to us. I do not know that I owe any apology to the committee, even at this late hour for referring to this subject, because I do not think it has ever been presented to Parliament before. I do not think any occasion has arisen when anybody has called for any statement on the subject, or the production of the agreement itself ; it may have been so, but I am not aware of it. There were two or three phases of that contract which I say ought never to have been agreed to by any Minister of the Crown or by any Government that had the interests of Canada in their keeping, or had any regard for those interests. There was one provision under which the Government of Canada or the Department of Railways solemnly and firmly bound itself to observe, through its officers and employees, absolute neutrality between the Canadian Pacific Railway and its own line. Under that contract the Canadian Pacific Railway had the right to go into Intercolonial territory anywhere from St. John to Halifax or along that branch of the line and its connections—to send its agents and employees to solicit business for that line.

Mr. HAGGART. Can you not do it to-day?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I will tell the hon. gentleman before I get through just what can be done to-day. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company had the right under that contract to send their agents to solicit that business for the Canadian Pacific Railway short line from St. John to Montreal in preference to its going by the Intercolonial Railway via Moncton and Lévis. And under this agreement the Government of Canada solemnly bound itself with the Canadian Pacific Railway, so that the employees of the Government could not solicit business.

Mr. HAGGART. I give the most emphatic denial to any such statement. There is nothing of the kind in the agreement.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The agreement is that the Intercolonial employees should not solicit as against the Canadian Pacific Railway or the Grand Trunk Railway. The hon. gentle-

man is willing apparently to take the responsibility of the agreement as entered into.

Mr. HAGGART. Bring it down.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I say that the agreement is in effect what I have just stated.

Mr. HAGGART. It is absurd to say that an employee of the Intercolonial could not ask for the traffic of passenger or freight along our own line. What it does provide is that they shall not tout for business as against the Grand Trunk Railway or the Canadian Pacific Railway but were to be neutral.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I say that the contract tied the hands and closed the mouths of every employee on the Intercolonial from St. John east. That is what I said. And I say further that the Canadian Pacific Railway had the right to put their agents along that line or any portion of it.

Mr. HAGGART. So they have to-day.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. One moment if the hon. gentleman will allow me. The employees of the Intercolonial could not enter into competition with the employees of the Canadian Pacific Railway for the purpose of securing business for the Intercolonial. Their mouths were absolutely shut.

Mr. HAGGART. Oh, pshaw!

Mr. HUGHES. Could they enter into competition with the Grand Trunk Railway agents, who were there also? They could take freight from the Grand Trunk Railway just the same as from the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The hon. gentleman must ask some question a little more pertinent. It was not endeavouring to take some business away from the Intercolonial.

Mr. HUGHES. They might want to get over the Grand Trunk Railway in preference to the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. My hon. friend does not understand the question, evidently.

Mr. HUGHES. The whole question was fought out in this House before the hon. gentleman came here.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I was not aware of it.

Mr. GIBSON. Nor anybody else. That was kept quiet.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I state unhesitatingly, and without fear of contradiction, that not only did this contract bind the officers and employees of the Intercolonial to strict neutrality, so

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that they might not solicit business, but the agents of the Canadian Pacific Railway might solicit business right under the noses of the employees of the Government road, and the latter could not open their mouths. And I say that that was not only the terms and tenor of the agreement in the letter, but the practical working out of the agreement in fact. The officers of the Intercolonial and the department have to-day communications on file, as I am informed by my deputy and the general manager, of complaints which were made by the Canadian Pacific Railway against our agents on our own line trying to hold a little of that business for ourselves, and charging them with violating the neutrality obligations. Not only were they charged with this offence, but they were threatened by my hon. friend and the Government with dismissal from office if they continued that work.

Mr. HAGGART. The hon. gentleman must have some evidence on which to found such a statement, and I challenge him to produce it.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I say that the chief engineer of my department and the Deputy Minister have told me that charges were made to the late Government by the Canadian Pacific Railway people against our officers, and the late Government threatened to dismiss these men if they continued further to violate that contract. I do not think it would be possible to imagine any more humiliating position for the Government or our railway to be in than that which I have depicted. Just imagine the employees, our paid agents, who would naturally have an interest in seeing us do the business, in seeing the business come over our own road—the long haul to Montreal, rather than leave it at Moncton and there take the Canadian Pacific Railway to the west—not being allowed to make an appeal to the patrons of our road to send their business over it, but being compelled to stand by and allow our road to be run down and all sorts of representations to be made derogatory to it without being allowed to open their mouths in dissent, under the penalty of being charged with violating the compact entered into.

Further, what did this arrangement provide for? It provided for the running of the Canadian Pacific Railway train after it had reached St. John on to Halifax in continuation of the maritime express, which is the name of the train from Montreal to Halifax and Halifax to Montreal. This agreement compelled the Government to draw their train. It is true that any passengers who might have taken local tickets from St. John to any point between St. John and Halifax or vice versa, would be paying into the Intercolonial revenue. In other words all the passengers who were carried between St. John and Halifax by that train

were carried as Intercolonial passengers, and the Dominion or railway revenue got the benefit of the receipts from these local passengers; but there was a consideration in that connection which was most injurious to the road, and which it is my intention to discontinue, and that is that we should be obliged to run that train for the convenience of the Canadian Pacific Railway, when it was also necessary that we should follow it up by another train, even a short time afterwards, for the accommodation of other passengers on our line who might not be able to go by Canadian Pacific Railway, or at whose stations the Canadian Pacific Railway train would not stop. In other words, under the operation of that contract, we were compelled to run two trains where one would suffice. That is what we have been doing all these years and that does not satisfy us. It is no answer to say that we are getting all the benefit from the passengers we carry between St. John and Halifax, because we could and would carry these same passengers by our other train, which we have to run empty, and we could, therefore, carry them at no greater expense. We would, in fact, save all the cost and expense of the running of the Canadian Pacific Railway train.

There is another point in that connection. As a result of our having to run that train to suit the convenience of the Canadian Pacific Railway, we have lost a very large number of passengers, who were led to go to Montreal via St. John rather than via Lévis and our long haul railway. We could haul these passengers to Montreal, just as comfortably, just as quickly, via Moncton and over our own road, now that the extension to Montreal is built, as they could be carried via St. John and then handed over to the Canadian Pacific Railway, to be carried by that road to Montreal. Our road is just as comfortable; our road makes just as good time; our road presents as many advantages; and I believe if we had not been obliged to haul this extra train for the Canadian Pacific Railway, a very large percentage of the passengers who have heretofore gone, or who are now going via St. John to Montreal, would go by the Intercolonial Railway; and if they did we should realize a very substantial additional sum upon such passengers. At present a through ticket from Halifax to Montreal, whether you go by the Intercolonial Railway or by the Canadian Pacific Railway, is \$16. If the passenger takes the Canadian Pacific route, leaving the Intercolonial Railway at St. John, he pays us for that ticket, and we receive as our share of the price of that ticket, \$6, while \$10 goes to the Canadian Pacific Railway. If we did not lose any of these passengers to the Canadian Pacific, but carried them, as we should be able to do—except for the few scattering passengers there might be who would wish to stop at St. John—to Montreal, we would get \$10 more for every passen-

ger that we brought to Montreal, which sum we now lose to the Canadian Pacific. I do not know how much that would amount to, but I think it would amount to quite a substantial sum. And, mind you, the carriage of these additional passengers to Montreal by the Intercolonial Railway would not add anything to the cost of running our train; and there is further the enormous advantage we should get out of it, in having large earnings on our sleeping cars and on our dining cars, which we do not get now. Why, the condition of things with regard to the Intercolonial Railway would, I believe, be incredible by the people if they were told of it, and did not know of the facts themselves. If you come into the city of Halifax by steamer, say, by one of the Allan liners, what will be your impression? Your impression will be that it is the Canadian Pacific that you are to take there, that it is the Canadian Pacific that runs out of Halifax and carries you to Montreal. It will be the Canadian Pacific when you get to St. John, if you go that way—as most of the passengers do—but most passengers will not have the faintest idea that there is such a thing as a Government railway running into the city of Halifax. I speak of those coming by steamer, because I assume that any person who goes there in any other way as local passenger will know that he has reached Halifax by the Intercolonial Railway. But, coming in by water he will have learnt that the Canadian Pacific terminus is at Halifax, while the Intercolonial Railway is not mentioned or known. On the steamers, no matter how full we may load them with our circulars calling attention to the fact that there is the Intercolonial Railway at Halifax, through some peculiarity of conditions, our circulars disappear and nothing remains but the Canadian Pacific Railway circulars, and people are led, as I have said, to imagine that it is the Canadian Pacific that runs from Halifax. That is what I complain of, and I say that a contract which would permit of that state of things is not one, at all events, that can be said to have been framed in the reasonable interests of the Intercolonial Railway; it is a contract which, I think ought not to be permitted to continue in operation. We have been in this position, that although, under all railway law and usage, we are entitled, when we carry passengers or freight originating in our territory—that is, in territory that is drained by the Intercolonial Railway—to haul those passengers or that freight by our longest haul and deliver them to the connecting road, getting out of the traffic the benefit of the long haul, yet, under this contract, although a very large portion of the freight originates on the Intercolonial Railway, it is brought by the short haul to St. John and carried west by the Canadian Pacific. Though we have the facilities, the cars and locomotives—or will have very soon—in ample abundance, we have been deprived of the benefit of this business through the operation of this contract. And, I suppose, this is

one of the best illustrations that could be furnished of the practical operation of Conservative political economy.

Now, I am disposed to treat the Canadian Pacific with the utmost fairness and have always so treated them. I only ask them to treat the Intercolonial Railway as they would be disposed to treat any other railway company they connect with. I believe in my heart and conscience that when they succeeded in getting the signature of Sir John Macdonald to that contract they were scarcely able to believe the evidences of their own senses. I think it must have taken these gentlemen some months to realize that they had actually got that contract finally executed, so monstrous is it—to borrow one of the favourite expressions of my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) opposite—so monstrous is it in its terms from a railway point of view. I gave notice, as soon as the time under the contract permitted, of the termination of this agreement—one year's notice. When the year came around—it was the 1st of July last—there were reasons which, I suppose, perhaps, my convenience and the convenience of the Canadian Pacific Railway people contributed to bring about, that made it impossible for the officers to get together and negotiate a new and improved agreement—improved from the standpoint of the Intercolonial Railway. They have been negotiating from that time down to the present, but no agreement has yet been arrived at, and it looks to me as though there was no probability of coming to any arrangement which would be satisfactory to the Government. The result, if we are unable to come to any arrangement, will be, I think, very much to the advantage of the Intercolonial Railway; and I shall look for very substantial results if a contract such as we have had in operation for these years past is not entered into—and I can assure the committee it will not be entered into, so far as I am concerned, as a result of the negotiations, which are still pending.

We think, that it will be eminently fair to make such an arrangement with the Canadian Pacific Railway as is made with the other railroads. Let them deliver to us any goods or passengers they may carry over their line, at the end of their long haul, and, therefore, at our shortest point of connection; let us deliver to them any goods, freight or passengers which originate on our line, at the end of our long haul. We are then treating each other fairly, and on the same principle, and I think I am rightly advised, when I say, that, in so treating with the Canadian Pacific Railway, we would be treating upon a basis on which these arrangements are always made between two railway corporations. Now, I have called attention to the existing condition of affairs in this respect, not out of any spirit of hostility at all to the Canadian Pacific Railway, for I have none. But I say to them, that they must agree to what is fair, from a railroad point of view, or else they can come to no agree-

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ment with us; and I think they have begun to realize and appreciate that that is the only point of view from which negotiations between us can come to any conclusion. Now, Mr. Chairman, I am afraid I have exhausted the patience of members of the committee in occupying so much time in presenting this subject. Before taking my seat, I have only this to say, that the committee may rely upon the correctness of the results that I have presented to them, and upon the statements generally.

Mr. HAGGART. Have you a report from your engineer as to the state of the road which is taken over?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. We have no report of that specific nature; our own engineer is looking after it.

Mr. HAGGART. Have you a report from him as to whether the conditions of the contract have been carried out as to the building of the road? Forty-three miles was to be up to the standard of the Intercolonial Railway and certain improvements were to be made on the rest of the road that is the 73 miles.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The hon. gentleman has forgotten what appeared before the committee of investigation last year. The conclusion that was arrived at between the Government and the company was that it would take \$100,000 to bring the road up to the condition that we required.

Mr. HAGGART. I am asking if that has been performed.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The hon. gentleman must remember, that we are spending that money ourselves, through our engineers; the company has no hand or part at all in the outlay.

Mr. HAGGART. That is what I am asking. Have you a report from the engineer, that that has been performed?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. No, why should we get a report from the engineer? He has not expended all that money yet. He is expending it as fast as he properly can. I do not know how much he has expended; perhaps, \$60,000 or \$70,000, out of the \$100,000. We are allowed, under the arrangement, to take the rental and spend it to make up the \$100,000; and, if it should transpire that we should buy the company out before the rental has accrued to the amount of \$100,000, we take the difference out of the principal money.

Mr. HAGGART. Has the contract under the Subsidy Act, the contract entered into with the Drummond County Railway, been performed yet?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Yes, long since, and the subsidy was paid. It could not be paid, otherwise.

Mr. HAGGART moved that the committee rise and report progress.

Motion agreed to, and committee rose and reported progress.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 1.10 a.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 10th May, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 115) to incorporate the Sudbury and Wahnapiatae Railway Company.—(Mr. Dymont.)

BILL WITHDRAWN.

Bill (No. 9) respecting the Calvin Company, Limited.—(Mr. Britton.)

### MEMBER INTRODUCED.

William Henry Comstock, member for the Electoral District of Brockville, introduced by the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), and Mr. Fraser (Guysborough).

Mr. SPEAKER. I would like to mention that no one is allowed in the galleries of this House except on sufferance, and no demonstrations whatever are permitted in the galleries.

### STORES OF THE 8TH HUSSARS.

Mr. DOMVILLE asked :

1. When were the stores of the 8th Hussars transferred from the custody of the officer commanding to Major and Brevet Lt.-Col. Markham ?
2. Was the commanding officer of the regiment notified at the time ? If not, why not ?
3. Was Major Wedderburn, regimental storekeeper, notified ? If not, why not ?
4. Who was entitled at that time to the custody of the stores of the regiment under the rules and orders of the militia of Canada ?
5. For what reason were the stores of the 8th Hussars taken away from the officer commanding and handed over to Major Wedderburn ?
6. What order was given at the time by the Militia Department of Canada ?
7. Was such order sent at the time to the officer commanding and then in charge of the stores, or a copy of the same sent to him subsequently ?

8. Has the officer in question ever applied for a copy of such order ? If so, has it been given to him, and if not, why not ?

9. Did the officer commanding the regiment give his receipt for the stores to the Militia Department ? If so, was he not responsible for any loss or damage to the stores under the rules and regulations of the militia of Canada ?

10. Is he still responsible for any loss or damage, and what steps have been taken to relieve him of any responsibility on that score ?

11. Is there any regulation that will permit the stores being taken away from the custody of the officer commanding ?

12. Has Major Wedderburn, the duly appointed regimental storekeeper, been paid by the Department of Militia the amount allowed for the care of arms for the year ending June, 1898, namely, \$480 ? If not, why not ?

13. When was Major Wedderburn relieved of his position of regimental storekeeper, and what order was issued at that time, and by whom ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. 30th November, 1898. 2. No. He was absent on leave. 3. Major Wedderburn was not notified. This is a regimental matter. 4. The officer then commanding the regiment. 5. I am unable to give this information. 6. The district officer commanding was ordered by the General Officer Commanding to make the transfer of the arms and stores of the 8th Hussars. 7. No ; he was absent. 8. There is no record at headquarters of any such application. 9. Yes. Yes. 10. He is no longer responsible. None. 11. The regulation referring to the transfer of stores is contained in the 39th paragraph of part IV. of the Regulations and Orders for 1898. 12. No. The allowance for care of arms has been paid to Major and Brevet Lieut.-Col. Markham. 13. I have no information.

### COMMAND OF THE 8TH HUSSARS.

Mr. MORRISON asked :

1. Has Lt.-Col. Domville been granted permanent leave of absence from his command of the 8th Hussars ?

2. If so, was such leave applied for by him ?

3. If Lt.-Col. Domville did not apply for leave, under what circumstances was he placed on permanent leave ?

4. Has the command of the regiment in question devolved upon Major Markham ?

5. Is it a fact that Major-Gen. Gascoigne, when commanding the militia of Canada, reported adversely to Major Markham ever succeeding to the command of the 8th Hussars ? If so, what is the date of such report ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. Yes. 2. No. 3. By the order of the General Officer Commanding. 4. Yes, while the order referred to remained in force. 5. Such reports are generally treated as confidential.

Mr. DOMVILLE asked :

Is the following item, which appears in the "Sun" newspaper, St. John, N.B., 2nd May, 1898, of which Major and Brevet Lt.-Col. Markham, 8th Hussars, is manager and part owner, correct?

**" MILITARY DISTRICT No. 8.**

**District Orders.**

Fredericton, 28th April, 1899.

**D.O. 10.—Leave of Absence.**

Leave of absence is granted to Lt.-Col. Domville, 8th Hussars, pending his retirement under regulations and orders governing the tenure of commanding officers (A.G.O. 77703).

By order,

(Sgd.) B. H. VIDAL, Lt.-Col.,  
District Officer Comdg. M. D. No. 8.

The above is promulgated for the benefit of those whom it may concern."

Did the department add to the order "the above is promulgated for the benefit of those whom it may concern" ? If not, why is it issued as part of district orders ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. No. 2. It was not issued as part of district order.

**FRANCIS MCKENZIE, OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND.**

**Mr. McDOUGALL asked :**

Why was Francis McKenzie, of Christmas Island, refused instructions in the military school at Fredericton, in 1897 ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). Want of intelligence and educational attainments, showing that he was not likely to become efficient.

**FRASERVILLE STATION, INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.**

**Mr. GAUVREAU (by Mr. Campbell) asked:**

Whether the hon. Minister of Railways received from the council of Fraserville, on 20th November, 1898, and on 20th April, 1899, copies of the following resolution:—

"Whereas acts of grave immorality and other disorderly conduct have recently been committed in the station of the Intercolonial Railway at Fraserville, in the ladies' waiting-room, and the said acts have been brought to the knowledge of this council;

"Resolved, that the attention of the Railway Department and of Mr. Abraham Ouellet, superintendent of this division, be called to the said facts, with a request for the appointment of a night constable, in order to secure the maintaining of good order, at night, in the station, and prevent a repetition of any such disorderly conduct."

If so, is the department going to appoint a night constable for the said station, in order to protect the travelling public and prevent the recurrence of any such disorderly conduct in the future ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The resolution referred to was received in the department, and immediately upon its receipt, directions were forwarded to the proper officer to make inquiry into the matters alleged. The report has not yet come to hand, nor has it been decided that it is now necessary to employ a policeman at that station.

Mr. DOMVILLE.

**MANITOBA AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.**

**Mr. DAVIS (by Mr. Richardson) asked :**

1. How many miles of the Manitoba and North-western Railway have been built ?
2. How many miles of the said road is built in the North-west Territories ?
3. What amount of lands given by the Government as subsidy has the company earned ?
4. Have the lands been located ? If so, has any of the said lands been taken in the North-west Territories ?
5. Have the patents been taken out for the lands earned ? If not, why not ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. 234.59 miles. 2. About fifty-five miles. 3. 1,501,376 acres. 4. A portion of the lands have been located and some of them are within the Territories. 5. Patents have issued for a portion of the lands selected. They have not been issued for all the lands, because they have not been asked for.

**CHARGES AGAINST F. F. CHAMBERLAND.**

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

1. Since giving his answer in the House on the 20th April to a question in relation to certain accusations made against one F. F. Chamberland, of Fraserville, by one Joseph Gagné, has the Minister of Public Works received a communication from one Achille Lebel, dated 28th April last, corroborating the said charges and asking that they be investigated ?

2. If so, is it the intention of the Minister to grant the investigation demanded ?

3. If it is not the intention of the Minister to grant such investigation, why not ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). A letter from one Achille Lebel has been received, and as soon as the Minister of Public Works returns to his office, he will consider whether there are sufficient grounds for the holding of the investigation asked for.

**PAYMENT OF STEAMSHIPS SUBSIDY.**

**Mr. ELLIS asked :**

In what year was a subsidy first paid to a line of steamships between St. John, Halifax and London ? How much money was paid for the service in that year and in each year since, and to what line or lines of steamships ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). In answer to the hon. gentleman's question, I have to say, that, apparently, the first amount paid was in the year ended 30th June, 1883, \$1,500 to Messrs. Troope & Son ; in the year ended 30th June, 1884, \$12,000 to Halifax Steam Navigation Company ; in the year ended 30th June, 1885, \$16,500 to the Furness line ; in the year ended 30th June, 1886, \$24,000 to the Furness line ; in the year ended 30th June, 1887, \$22,000 to the Furness line ; in the year ended 30th

June, 1888, \$28,000 to the Furness line; in the year ended 30th June, 1889, \$26,000 to the Furness line; in the year ended 30th June, 1890, \$22,000 to the Furness line; in the year ended 30th June, 1891, \$25,000 to the Furness line; in the year ended 30th June, 1892, \$23,000 to the Furness line; in the year ended 30th June, 1893, \$25,000 to the Furness line; in the year ended 30th June, 1894, \$25,000 to the Furness line; in the year ended 30th June, 1895, \$26,000 to the Furness line, including \$1,000 supplementary for arrears, January, 1892; in the year ended 30th June, 1896, \$25,000 to the Furness line; in the year ended 30th June, 1897, \$25,000 to the Furness line, and \$15,000 for a further direct winter service from St. John; in the year ended 30th June, 1898, \$25,000 to the Furness line, and \$15,000 for a direct winter service to Allan & Thomson line.

#### REPRODUCTION OF FACSIMILES OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

Mr. McGREGOR asked :

Whether the British American Bank Note Company, formerly contractors for supplying the Government with postage stamps, did whilst such contractors reproduce facsimiles of any postage stamps supplied by them, under their contract with the Government, for any other, and if so, what purposes, and whether or not such reproduction was with or without the knowledge of the then Government, and whether such reproduction is or is not contrary to law ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). The following answer has been furnished me by the department:—The only instance which has come within the knowledge of the Post Office Department of what might be considered a reproduction of facsimiles of any postage stamps on the part of the British American Bank Note Company, at one time contractors for the supply of postage stamps to the Government, was in connection with a "Perpetual Calendar" circulated by that company, and on which have been printed, together with other stamps and specimens of the work executed by the company, what very much resemble the major portions of the ½-cent and 2-cent Canada postage stamps, or facsimiles thereof. These two impressions look as if they had been produced from part of the dies used in the production of the ½-cent stamp which became current in 1882, and the 2-cent stamp of the 1868-69 issue. The Post Office Act contains provisions against the imitation of postage stamps.

#### REPRESENTATION OF THE YUKON TERRITORY.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

Is it the intention of the Government this session to ask Parliament to provide for the representation of the Yukon territory in the House of Commons of Canada ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. gentleman, I beg to say, that it is not the intention of the Government, this session, to ask Parliament to provide for representation of the Yukon territory in the House of Commons.

#### TRANSPORTATION OF GOVERNMENT FREIGHT TO YUKON.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. Was the hon. the Minister of Militia advised, prior to the departure of Government freight for Fort Selkirk from Seattle, that the Boston and Seattle Steamship Company were bankrupt and unable to perform their contract ?

2. Did the hon. the Minister satisfy himself that the company could perform the contract ? If so, how and on what information ?

3. Did the hon. the Minister obtain any security for the performance of the contract ? If so, what was it ?

4. Was any payment made on behalf of the Government of Canada to the said company on said account ? If so, how much was paid ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. No. 2. Yes; by careful inquiry. 3. None beyond a guarantee of delivery on or before a given date, and the retention of all payments until completion of contract and delivery of freight. 4. No.

#### OPERATION OF BRIDGE AND FERRY OVER KLONDIKE RIVER.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. What company owns or operates the bridge and ferry, respectively, over the Klondike River ?

2. What is the toll imposed upon foot-passengers over the bridge coming and going ?

3. What is the width of the river where the bridge crosses ?

4. What is the fare on the ferry ?

5. Did the commissioner, Major Walsh, assist the companies, or either of them, to maintain a monopoly by booming each side of the river to prevent private boats from landing ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). In reply to the hon. gentleman, I beg to say, that my department has no information upon the subject of the hon. gentleman's question. If there is any information upon the subject, it has been received by the hon. Minister of Public Works, and, during his illness, I am not able to ascertain what the facts are.

#### SETTLEMENT PRIVILEGES IN THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Mr. ROSAMOND asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to give to sons of farmers or others in Ontario who may wish to take up farms in the North-west, the same privileges and advantages as have been given to the Doukhobors, Galicians and other aliens ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). In reply to the hon. gentleman's question, the answer is, yes.

### CANCELLATION OF SEED-GRAIN LIENS.

Mr. DAVIN (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

Whether the attention of the hon. the Minister of the Interior has been called to the following resolution adopted by the legislative assembly of the North-west Territories, on 20th April, 1899 :—

"That whereas certain abandoned lands in the Territories are encumbered by liens executed by persons formerly holding such lands as homesteads in favour of the Government of Canada, to secure the payment of the cost of seed grain supplied to the said persons ;

"And whereas, without amendment to the Dominion Lands Act, such liens must be paid by parties subsequently making homestead entries for such lands ;

"And whereas the settlement of such lands is often thereby prevented ;

"And whereas the public lands of the North-west Territories should and of right do belong to the people of the North-west Territories, and are held and managed in trust for them by the Government of Canada pending the establishment of provinces in these territories ;

"Therefore, be it resolved that, in the opinion of this House, the Dominion Lands Act should be so amended as to provide for the cancellation of all liens encumbering lands, the homestead entries for which lands have been or may hereafter be cancelled."

Whether the Government has decided to introduce legislation this session dealing with the subject-matter of the above resolution ?

Whether the Government will legislate this session on the subject in such a manner as to embrace all the features of the seed-grain question in the west ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). In reply to the hon. gentleman's question, I beg to say, that the attention of the Minister of the Interior has been called to the resolution referred to, by a letter from the Territorial Secretary at Regina, under date 3rd May, 1899, the letter having been received by the department on the 8th instant. The Government has not yet been able to give the matter consideration, and is not, therefore, in a position to say, that legislation will be submitted to Parliament this session.

### ELEVATOR RESTRICTIONS.

Mr. DAVIN (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

Whether the attention of the Government has been called to the following resolution adopted by the legislative assembly of the North-west Territories on 21st April, 1899 :—

"That whereas the farmers in many parts of the Territories have suffered much inconvenience and loss by reason of the present elevator restrictions imposed by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and the combinations and monopolies which resulted from these restrictions, and an apparent discriminatory railway policy in favour of such combinations ;

Mr. BORDEN (Rosamond).

"Therefore, be it resolved that, in the opinion of this House, legislation should be passed by the Parliament of Canada compelling all railroad companies to permit the right to any one to build and operate elevators, warehouses or grain chutes, and to give all reasonable and fairly distributed facilities to any person to load grain direct on cars."

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). I have to say, in reply to the hon. gentleman, that there is no correspondence upon the subject, but the attention of the Government has been drawn to the subject in connection with legislation now before the House.

### PASS TO MR. EUGENE MICHAUD.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

1. Whether Mr. Eugène Michaud, merchant, of Rivière du Loup (en bas), was given, since May 1, 1898, a pass, whether yearly or half-yearly, or for any special time, or any particular trip, on the Intercolonial Railway, between Rivière du Loup, Quebec and Montreal, or on any other part of the said railway ?

2. If the said Michaud did receive, or holds, such pass, from whom did he obtain it and on what grounds ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). Upon inquiry, I find that Mr. Eugène Michaud, merchant, of Rivière du Loup, has not been given a pass since 1st May, 1898, but he was furnished with one on the 25th March, 1898, between Rivière du Loup and Montreal, good until 30th June, 1898. The pass was issued by the general manager of the Canadian Government Railways, as is usual, Mr. Michaud being contractor for the sale of newspapers, &c., on the trains.

### DREDGING ENTRANCE TO HARBOUR OF FOURCHIE.

Mr. GILLIES asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to send a dredge during the present season to complete the dredging of the entrance to the harbour of Fourchie, in the county of Richmond, Cape Breton ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). The answer furnished by the Department of Public Works is, that it is not probable that the engagements of the dredge will allow of her being sent to Fourchie this season.

### BREAKWATER AT CHAPEL COVE, L'ARDOISE.

Mr. GILLIES asked :

1. Is the Government aware that a breakwater at Chapel Cove, L'Ardoise, in the county of Richmond, Nova Scotia, is a work of the most urgent necessity for the protection of the fishermen of that locality ?

2. Is the Government aware that a survey, estimate and plan of this breakwater was made

by Mr. Bernasconi, C.E., in 1895, upon the instructions of the Minister of Public Works ?

3. Is the Government aware that the cost of this breakwater was estimated by Mr. Bernasconi at \$5,000 ?

4. Is it the intention of the Government to have the necessary amount provided during the present session, for the construction of this necessary work ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). The answer furnished by the Public Works Department is as follows :—1. It was represented to the late Administration, in 1895, that a breakwater at this point would be useful, but no action has been taken by them in reference thereto. 2. Yes. 3. So Mr. Bernasconi reported in 1895. 4. The supplementary Estimates for the next year not being yet presented, no answer can be given to this part of the question.

#### CLAIM AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. **MORRISON** asked :

1. Has a claim been made upon the Government by or on behalf of the British Yukon Mining, Trading and Transportation Company, for some \$400,000 or any amount, damages ?

2. If so, upon what grounds is such claim made ?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I have to tell my hon. friend, that no claim of any kind has been made upon the Government of Canada by the British Yukon Company.

#### I.C.R.—APPOINTMENT OF MR. A. H. HARRIS.

Mr. **McDOUGALL** (Cape Breton). Mr. Speaker, in the absence of Mr. Pope, I beg to move for :

Copies of all letters, documents, memoranda, agreements and correspondence containing, embodying, relating to or referring to the terms and conditions upon which Mr. A. H. Harris entered the service of the Government or of the Intercolonial Railway as general traffic manager of the Intercolonial Railway or otherwise.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Stand.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. The right hon. gentleman has asked these two motions by Mr. Pope to stand. I would like to ask my right hon. friend, whether it is not very desirable that the motion regarding Mr. Harris should be passed, as it has relation to a subject now before the House.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. The Minister of Railways is not in his seat at the present moment, and I cannot agree to the motion in his absence. I will speak to him later on.

#### TORONTO POST OFFICE—APPOINTMENTS SINCE JULY, 1896.

Mr. **E. F. CLARKE** (Toronto) moved for :

Return showing the names of persons appointed to positions in the Toronto post office since July

13th, 1896 ; the date of each such appointment ; the salary paid to each such person ; the office to which each such person was appointed, and by whom recommended for appointment.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). There is no objection to this motion passing if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clarke) will consent to strike out the last words, because the Government have not consented in any case to allow a resolution of that kind to be passed. The words I refer to are "and by whom recommended for appointment." The Postmaster General takes the responsibility for the appointment, and if the hon. gentleman consents to the omission of those words, the motion can pass, if not it will have to stand.

Mr. **CLARKE**. I have asked for information of this kind before, and this is the first time this session that exception has been taken.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Clarke) is mistaken. It is not the first time the objection has been raised ; it has been raised every time the attention of the Minister has been called to the matter.

Mr. **CLARKE**. With all due deference to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the objection has not been taken to motions of a similar nature. If there is any objection to these words, I beg to ask that they be struck from the motion.

Mr. **SPEAKER**. The motion is amended by striking out the words : "and by whom recommended for appointment."

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

#### THE PROHIBITION PLEBISCITE.

Mr. **MOORE** (by Mr. Taylor) moved :

That it be ordered that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery lay on the Table of the House the poll-books and voters' lists for the counties of Beauce, Lévis, Montmagny and Kamouraska.

Mr. **FOSTER**. The motion calls for the poll-books and voters' lists. I think all that is wanted are copies of these.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). I think so. It would never do to bring down the originals.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). This is very indefinite. I presume the hon. gentleman means the lists used in the plebiscite ?

Mr. **FOSTER**. Yes.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. Well, that should be stated, because the motion does not specify any year.

Motion amended accordingly, and as amended agreed to.

### THE ALIEN LABOUR LAW.

Mr. EDWARD F. CLARKE (West Toronto). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to draw the attention of the right hon. First Minister to an article which appears in the Toronto "Evening Star" of yesterday. I may say that the "Star" generally supports hon. gentlemen opposite, and its utterances on a matter which is of importance to the House and the country ought to receive immediate consideration. The article is as follows:—

#### NOT WANTED HERE.

Over 75 Italians, brought over from Buffalo by the padrones, who keep an eye on the construction work in Ontario each spring and summer, are lodged in the ward awaiting work.

The "Star's" comments in reference to this state of affairs, are as follows:—

Where is the Government's boasted alien labour law, which should be in force, to keep out these people, who are virtually white slaves, bound body and soul to the boss who brings them to Canada to secure the summer work, and will herd them away as soon as it is over?

That is not the sort of immigration which Canada wants, and the Government's tender solicitude for the feelings of the United States should give place to a common-sense regulation that would bar out birds of passage such as are being herded into Toronto.

I find in the news columns of the same paper of the same day, the following despatch from Buffalo:—

Buffalo, May 9.—Inspector DeBarry's attention was called to-day to an advertisement inserted in a Toronto paper yesterday for 100 labourers. These labourers, it is said, are wanted in Buffalo to take the places of the striking shovelers on the docks.

"All I have to say," said DeBarry, "is, that if Mr. Connors brings into this country those 100 men it will cost him \$100,000 in addition to costs. It is a violation of the United States alien labour law."

The inspector has written to Charlotte and Niagara Falls to look out for the coming of these men.

I draw the attention of the hon. Premier to these statements for the purpose of asking if it is the intention of the Government that our so-called alien labour law shall be put in force, and that immigrants of the character referred to in the "Star" editorial may be prohibited coming into this country to take the place of Canadians out of employment who are able to do all the work offering just now?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am not aware that our officer in Toronto has called the attention of the Government yet to the matter mentioned in the newspaper just quoted, and the Government will expect information from its officer before it takes any action.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

### THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the right hon. leader of the House if he has any information with regard to the rumour which appeared in the press this morning that owing to the action of the United States, the proposed conference, which was adjourned at Washington, will not meet in Quebec at the end of August, as then agreed to?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I have not yet heard anything of the rumour to which my hon. friend alludes, and, so far as my information goes, there is no foundation for it.

### THE ELECTORAL LISTS IN WINNIPEG.

Mr. WALLACE. I would like to ask the right hon. leader of the Government whether, as has been stated in a newspaper supporting the Government, it is the intention of the Government to use the old lists in the Winnipeg election?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I have not seen that statement in any newspaper. Where did it appear?

Mr. WALLACE. In the Montreal "Witness."

The PRIME MINISTER. I am sorry to say that the "Witness" is not as well informed as usual, because, as I have said already, the Government have appointed an officer to prepare the lists for the election in Winnipeg, and he is now going on with his work.

Mr. WALLACE. On the basis of the old list?

The PRIME MINISTER. According to the law of the province of Manitoba.

### LIQUOR LICENSES IN THE YUKON.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) I wish to ask the hon. Minister of the Interior a question, but as he is not in his place perhaps the right hon. First Minister will be able to give me the information. Mr. Ogilvie, it seems, has issued some liquor licenses which have been disallowed by the government, and the men who obtained these licenses and have invested large sums in the liquor, are very anxious to know whether they will be allowed to take this liquor in or not. I applied to the Minister of the Interior in his office, and he told me he would give an answer in two or three days. That was on the 24th April, and a week ago I wrote him a note across the House, and was informed by him in reply that the council had not adjudicated on the matter, but he expected they soon would. This is a matter of great moment to a number of men in British Columbia, and may simply mean ruin to some of them. If the licenses issued

by Mr. Ogilvie or the council of the Yukon have been disallowed and are to remain ineffective, it may mean thousands and thousands of dollars lost to these men, and perhaps their ruin. Can the hon. gentleman give us any information as to whether the men who have these permits of Mr. Ogilvie and have bought the liquor and started with it, or even if they have not started with it, will be allowed to bring it in?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am not in a position to give the information asked for, but now that I am in possession of the facts, I will give the information desired, probably at the next meeting of the House.

#### THE REPORT OF THE LOBSTER FISHERY COMMISSION.

Mr. G. V. **McINERNEY** (Kent, N.B.) Might I ask the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries what course he proposes to follow with regard to the recommendations of the Lobster Commission? It is now ten days since I asked him the same question, and he said he would refer the matter, which is one of considerable importance, to his colleagues in Council and give a reply at an early date. This is a question of great importance to a large number of people engaged in this very large industry, and I do not think its importance can be overlooked by the hon. Minister. I would, therefore, ask if he is now prepared to give a reply, as I would like to be in a position to send it down to my county and the maritime provinces generally.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). The recommendations of the Lobster Commission have been very carefully considered, and we have come to the conclusion that, so far as they withdraw from the fishermen any rights which they had under the old regulations, they will not be adopted this year. If, for instance, the right to begin fishing in the month of January is limited by any recommendation, we shall not adopt it this year; but where these recommendations enlarge existing rights, I propose, before the time expires in which that enlargement can be taken advantage of, to state to the House whether, in whole or part, such recommendation will be put in force this season. On some parts of the coast, the commission recommends an extension of time for ten days, and in others as much as twenty.

Mr. **McINERNEY**. A month.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I am not pledging myself now that we will adopt the whole month's extension, but in every case where an extension is recommended, the probabilities are some extension will be given, though I am not going quite so far as to say that they will be adopted to their full extent.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. That will soon be determined?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Yes.

Mr. **McINERNEY**. I think the fishing season, under the present regulations, terminates the 15th July, and it is recommended that it be extended to the 15th August.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. In some parts.

Mr. **McINERNEY**. The hon. gentleman will see the importance to these people of knowing the decision of the Government without delay, so that they may be able to get in their supplies for the enlarged time, if the Government should decide to enlarge the time.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. There are two months ahead before the old season expires.

Mr. **McINERNEY**. Yes, but they have to get in their tinned provisions.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. There will be no trouble about that.

#### INLAND WATER FISHERY LICENSES.

Mr. J. G. H. **BERGERON** (Beauharnois). Has my hon. friend still anything to do with the fisheries in inland waters, under the judgment of the Privy Council, or is there any arrangement between the local governments and his department to enforce, as soon as possible, the old regulations? I am informed that licenses are being granted by the score by the local government of Quebec.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). So far as the inland waters are concerned, if I understand the judgment of the Privy Council, we have no power to grant any licenses whatever, but have the exclusive power of making regulations.

Mr. **BERGERON**. I would draw my hon. friend's attention to the fact that local licenses are being granted in a way to destroy the fish altogether.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I dare say they are, but I have no control over the local authorities in that respect. I may entertain a strong opinion as to what will be the result of the transfer of the power to grant licenses to the local authorities.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. You can restrict them by way of regulations, and in that way restrict the number of licenses.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. There is a very nice question as to how far we have that power. I have had a good many consultations with my hon.

friend the Solicitor General in order to get at the exact meaning of the Privy Council's decision; but, speaking broadly, it may be taken for granted that while we have the exclusive right of making regulations, so far as the inland fisheries are concerned, we have no power to issue licenses whatever. Ontario is giving licenses entirely within the boundaries of that province, and the province of Quebec is doing the same. With Nova Scotia and New Brunswick an arrangement has been made under which, pending submission of a case to the court to determine the relative power of the provinces and the Dominion in the waters adjacent to the sea-coast—that is, below water mark—we should continue to administer the fisheries this year in those two provinces as we did last.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. My recollection is that the judgment resolves itself after all into a question of good faith between the Governments. For instance, the question raised whether the federal authorities could intervene and limit the number of licenses by regulation, and thus create a clash of jurisdiction and one of the Law Lords said the question simply resolved itself into one of good faith in that regard. But while the administration is in the local authorities, it is subject to regulation on the part of the federal authority; and it might become possible that the number of licenses would be limited by the federal power. I do not think that authority is gone from the hon. gentleman's department in that regard.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, I do not admit that it has.

#### PUNISHMENT OF SEDUCTION AND ABDUCTION.

Mr. JOHN CHARLTON (North Norfolk) moved the third reading of Bill No. 2:

To amend the Criminal Code, 1892, so as to make more effectual provision for the punishment of seduction and abduction.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). This Bill surely cannot pass its third reading without some explanations from the Government benches, because it is a measure that, hitherto, has been opposed by the Government—by this as well as by the preceding Government—and on grounds quite strong. If those grounds have been removed, that should be explained. I find that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton), who has charge of the Bill, apparently spoke to a thin House on April 20th, for his is the only speech on this very important measure. No one disputes its importance; nor do I deny that the hon. gentleman, on this very delicate subject, has behind him many people in this country, and representative people too. The churches have taken the matter up, and there is a very important, and, in some respects,

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

an overwhelming sentiment at the hon. gentleman's back on the subject with which the Bill seeks to deal. It is a delicate question to discuss and it is a delicate thing to resist that pressure which has been so continuous and so strong. But there have been men holding high positions in this House who have not hesitated to resist that pressure. You are aware, Mr. Speaker, that this question of the age of consent is one that has been discussed and considered very carefully by the ablest minds among the law reformers in the mother country. And in that country the law as it stands is similar to that now embodied in our Criminal Code. The English Parliament, after a great deal of discussion, fixed the age at sixteen years. This was about the year 1885 or 1886. With the experience of Great Britain and of all the provinces here, with their several Acts for administering criminal justice under different Attorneys General, we have decided to follow the example of Great Britain in this matter. The criminal law was considered, if I remember well, by a joint committee of both Houses, and afterwards in the usual stages in each House of Parliament. This question was up at that time, and was one of the important questions considered by the gentlemen interested in the structure of the Criminal law of Canada. After debating all the various views, they decided to adhere to the English law, and fixed the age, as it is under section 181 of the Criminal Code, at sixteen years. Without going very fully into the reasons pro and con, I may say I have never heard the objection which was raised by the late Sir John Macdonald answered—the difficulty, that this puts blackmail into the hands of abandoned and absolutely dissolute women, an extraordinary engine of blackmail. This is the great difficulty with which the legislature, in considering this sort of question, always has to grapple. When I occupied the position of Minister of Justice, I was able to tell the House, when this Bill came up, the important fact, known to me as head of the department, that of the various Attorneys General of the provinces, who watch the trend of crime, and have to deal with the grand juries in the different counties, none had made any representation whatever from a public point of view. The only pressure for this legislation came from very respectable quarters, it is true, but not from bodies composed of those trained in the legislature or the court or having to deal with crime according to the most approved methods, either for the purpose of detection or for the purpose of punishment. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) will recollect that he supported my view in the strongest manner, and with far greater weight than I could bring to bear, because he came then fresh from the active practice of his profession. He endorsed every word that I had said in objecting to going too fast with reforms of this character. And the hon. gentleman who has the Bill in hand was met, on that occasion, with such

opposition in the House that, if my memory serves me right, he did not press the Bill to a division.

Mr. CHARLTON. Upon what occasion was that?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. When I was Minister of Justice, in 1895. I refer to that time because the views which I expressed after consulting with the officers of the department were confirmed and endorsed by the present Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who was then in Opposition.

Mr. CHARLTON. I think the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is mistaken in the assumption that I did not press the Bill to a division.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I may or may not be wrong. I said that, according to my recollection, he did not press it to a division, and that is my opinion still. The hon. gentleman thinks differently, but he is not positive on that point. However, I recollect that hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House who had the advantage of experience in the courts and in watching the working of the criminal law brought to bear on this question, their experience, which was entirely against the necessity of taking a step that may be attended with some danger, which leading men in the profession and in Parliament have, in years gone by, certainly pointed out, would involve a very serious danger to the most respectable citizens of the land and put a weapon in the hands of a very dangerous class in every community.

That was no new argument here, and it is an argument that all this class of reformers are obliged to meet. The hon. gentleman himself has cited, on several occasions, precedents from the states of the Union. Well, those do not go for anything in comparison with our English precedents in regard to law reform. The hon. gentleman himself, I think, would admit that the legislation is very often ill-considered, hasty and ill-advised in some of the states of the Union; and there is sometimes a sentiment prevalent, in many respects praiseworthy, but in matters of this kind a sentiment that has to be very carefully considered here as to whether there are serious grounds for its justification. I venture to refer again to the language of the Minister of Justice in 1895. I only used that language because I was speaking with great care, and the force of my observations lay in the fact that I was making an official statement. I said:

This whole subject was very carefully considered by this Parliament in 1892, and it is my duty to call the attention of the House to the fact that I find further that from no Attorney General connected with the administration of criminal matters in the provinces, or any of the judges, who watch these matters and take interest in them, has there been any statement or representation which would warrant me in coming to the conclusion that there was a desire on the

part of those concerned with the administration of criminal law to secure the changes proposed. In England it was not till 1835 that the age was placed as it is in our code in 1892.

I submit that if a reform of this kind is considered necessary now, and we have no evidence whatever that it is, this class of legislation should be preceded by some procedure or form that would enable information to be obtained. If the Government have no information on the subject, and if the departmental record is, as I explained it in 1895, then certainly I think this Parliament should pause before putting such legislation as this on the statute-book. I therefore would urge that the Government, if they have not given this very careful consideration, and have no further information than was at my command in 1895, should press upon the hon. gentleman who is in charge of the Bill, whose motives are of the very best, I have not the slightest doubt, and who represents a very important and influential portion of public opinion in Canada, to let the matter stand until the Government make some sort of inquiry and have more light upon the subject.

Mr. T. D. CRAIG (East Durham). I consider that this is an important question, and one which should receive the careful attention of the members of this House. One reason why I second the motion for the third reading of this Bill, and why I think the Bill should receive the assent of this House, is that it has been asked for by a great many women in this country, especially by those connected with the Young Women's Christian Association of the country and the churches, who have come here in the past and waited upon the Premier asking for the passage of a Bill of this kind. A Bill was introduced two or three years ago which asked for more than this does, but the other parts of the Bill have been dropped. I think the Premier at one time expressed his approval of this part of the Bill, but he did not consent to another part of the Bill, and for that reason the former Bill did not go through. I think the opinion and desire of those ladies in the country who take a special interest in girls and young women coming to the cities from the country districts, ought to have great weight with the members of this House. They have a greater experience in looking after these girls, and they think that some legislation of this kind would be to their advantage. Another reason why I think the opinion of these women should have weight is that they have no vote in this House, and have no opportunity of expressing their views in this House except through the members of the House. The hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has urged the objection that there is danger of blackmail. I was a little surprised when he put the matter in the way he did and stated that there was dan-

ger that dissolute women would take advantage of this clause to levy blackmail. Now, I am satisfied that this is no real objection at all; I think if it is carefully looked at it will have no weight with this House. I hold that in these things men can look out for themselves. We are asked by this Bill to make a small provision for the protection of girls who have not arrived at the age of eighteen. It seems to me that the Bill is a very moderate one.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Would you make it twenty-one or thirty?

Mr. CRAIG. Well, I am perfectly satisfied with eighteen myself. Of course, Mr. Speaker, I would not want the country to have an idea that a Bill of this kind was treated by this House with levity and want of proper consideration. I do not say that to reflect on any members of the House. But I am afraid that sometimes, in dealing with Bills of this kind, there is a disposition to treat them in that way. Those of us who are in favour of this Bill think it is an important measure. It has received, as I say, the consideration of those women throughout this country, good Christian women, who are spending a great deal of time in work among girls, and who have come to the conclusion that this Bill is a good measure, and would result in good to those for whom it is intended. It is sometimes said that it is unwise to fix an arbitrary age. Well, the age has been fixed heretofore at sixteen, and it is thought that by fixing it at eighteen the Act will be a better one than it is to-day. That is the reason I advocate it, and I have much pleasure in giving my support to the Bill.

Mr. A. McNEILL (North Bruce). I just wish to say with regard to this measure, that I cordially agree with the views of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), who has spoken in reference to it. Certainly, I would be the last person in the House to desire in any way to reflect upon those who are anxious, and very properly anxious, to protect the persons whom it is intended to protect by this Bill. The sentiment which inspires them is a sentiment which, I am quite sure, will be respected by the hon. members of this House. I quite agree with my hon. friend who spoke last (Mr. Craig) when he said that the wishes of these ladies should have weight with us. I am satisfied that it ought to have, but, Mr. Speaker, I venture to think that there is something else that we should consider besides the wishes and opinions of these ladies. We respect their motives, and I am quite sure that we all, in every way, desire to give effect to their wishes. But the question is whether, what we are doing by this Bill, will give effect to their wishes or not. The question is whether these ladies are better judges of what is likely to produce a good result in this regard

Mr. CRAIG.

than those who have had practical experience in the courts of the country, and, for my part, if it should be a question as to whether we shall follow the example, in this matter, of the best opinion in the mother country, or the example which has been followed in the United States, by those who are, unfortunately, so often, driven by mob opinion, I would be prepared, always, to choose the opinion of those best capable of judging in the mother country. I entirely sympathize with the object, which, I am sure, the hon. gentleman has in view, who has introduced this Bill. I am sure we all sympathize with his object. It is not that any one in this House differs from him in respect to that; the only difference is as to what is the best way to give effect to that which he desires. I think the result which will inevitably follow from a measure of this kind will be, what my hon. friend has described, in other words, that we shall have a kind of blackmail which we have never before experienced in this country. For these reasons, however imperfectly given, I should be very glad indeed, if the Government would take this matter very seriously into their consideration before they commit themselves to legislation of this kind, which, I venture to say, will be regretted, if we place it on the statute-book.

Mr. J. A. GILLIES (Richmond, N.S.) Mr. Speaker, any Bill that comes before this House, having for its object the promotion of law and order, will always have my sympathy and support, if it is laid down upon regular lines, and if it be brought up in a manner that should enlist the sympathy of the House. The object of the hon. gentleman who has charge of this Bill is, no doubt, a commendable one, and, in that, he will have the sympathy of the House, but this is a subject that was well and clearly thought out and well thrashed out in 1892, when the Criminal Code was under consideration. That code was subjected to the fullest discussion in this House and in the Senate, and it was afterwards submitted to a joint committee of both Houses, comprised of the ablest lawyers of both Chambers. It seems to me, with all due deference to the ladies who are constantly beseeching this House for better legislation, in the interest of good morals, and that sort of thing, that the committee to which this Bill was referred, were better judges of the age that should be arbitrarily fixed for consent than they could possibly be. When this Bill was before the House and in the hands of the hon. gentleman who has charge of it now, I took the same stand that I am prepared to take to-day, that is, the age of consent having been fixed by the British Parliament at 16, after very full consideration, and having been fixed by this House at 16, after the consideration that was given to it, I took the stand, that, the matter having been then fixed, we should pause and think carefully before we further interfered with it. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) sympathized with that idea on that occasion.

Since then I have had no reason to change my mind; I am of the same opinion as I was then. I think the consideration given to it then, by the joint committee of both Houses, is entitled to the same consideration now as it was then, and if the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who was then as strongly of the same opinion as I was, has had any reason to change his mind since then, he is bound to give the House the reasons therefor. If he has not changed his mind, then, he is bound to be in line with me in opposing this Bill, for the reasons he gave in 1895, when he spoke immediately after my hon. friend, the member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), who then opposed the Bill as Minister of Justice. Let me read to the House the opinion of the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries on that occasion, and I will ask his kind attention to his own words then. As I have already said, if he is of the same opinion now, that he was of then, he is bound to support my side of the question. If he is not of the same opinion now as he was then, some reasons must have arisen in his mind for the change, and, if so, he is bound to give his reasons. Let me read to the House what he then said; his argument was a most cogent one, and it eminently befits the present occasion. He said:

For my part, I concur in the reasons which the Minister of Justice—

That is, the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) now.

—has given that this House should not assent to the Bill. When the hon. gentleman introduced his Bill some years ago, to make seduction a criminal offence, punishable by this Parliament, he had my sympathy and support. The question of the arbitrary age at which Parliament should make the offence a criminal one is one which aroused much discussion, and the matter was thoroughly threshed out at that time. The principle adopted at that time was that a child below a certain age ought not to be held, in the eyes of the law responsible, in the sense of giving consent, and Parliament fixed the age at sixteen years. We must fix some arbitrary age, although no one can say that it is absolutely correct; but the general consensus of opinion was that sixteen was about the age at which the line should be drawn. Nothing has occurred in the part of the Dominion from which I come to induce me to vote to alter the age. Government should not be tinkering with these laws every year. When we have a law which works fairly well, and the general consensus is that this law is working fairly well and requires no amendment, we would be taking a leap in the dark and moving in a wrong direction if we altered the age.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think the argument made by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries eminently fits him at the present time, and if he would move, now, to fix the age, it would be taking a leap in the dark, as he has said. Are the conditions, at the present time, the same as they were then? If so, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries ought to oppose this Bill; if not, the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries must give his reasons for changing his base.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). As the last speaker said a moment ago, the age of consent was fixed in 1885 in England at 16, and in 1892 it was fixed at that age in this country. Now, I think, myself that it would be material and important, before we are asked to change this section of the Criminal Code, to point out in what respect the code, as it has stood, up to the present time, since 1892, has failed to meet the difficulties. We have a law which was adopted after very serious and very careful consideration.

Now, in order to change that law, it seems to me some better reasons should be given than that some persons who, by their character, are known to have little or no experience in matters of this sort, come and ask us for this change. If I may venture to make an observation personal to myself, I have had some experience in criminal courts, and it is not to my knowledge, that any occasion for this change has occurred. I have taken some trouble to inquire in the Department of Justice, if some representations have been made by those who administer the law: by the judges of the courts, by the Crown prosecutors, by the clerks of the peace, and so forth, and it is not to my knowledge, that any complaints have been made which would justify any interference on our part. It is all very well to endeavour to make people moral by Act of Parliament; that is clearly a very good object for all legislatures to have in view; but it does occur to me, that this thing of making good morals by Act of Parliament may be overdone a little bit. There is another principle which, I think, is of some importance for us to observe, and that is, that legislation should have the character of permanency, and that we should only change the legislation that has been adopted in this House, after careful consideration, when the occasion arises which justifies and calls for the change. It is very much more important to have permanency of legislation than to have those spasmodic attempts which are being made now and again, to give the people the impression, that in this country we require to be hedged around at every step by an Act of Parliament.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. CHARLTON. Before this question is put to the vote—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Spoken.

Mr. CHARLTON. I have not spoken yet.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I understand, the hon. member (Mr. Charlton) has moved the third reading of the Bill.

Mr. CHARLTON. I have never known objection being taken to the mover of the Bill being permitted to say a few words at this stage.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I merely wish to point out, that the rule is, that the hon.

gentleman can only speak by the unanimous consent of the House.

Mr. BERGERON. Spoken.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I hope the House will give its unanimous consent, if it is required.

Mr. BERGERON. I merely called the attention of the Chair to the rule.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The motion was put by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton), and the rule is, that he has not the right to speak again, unless it be by the unanimous consent of the House.

Mr. BERGERON. Go ahead with your speech, and make it short.

Mr. CHARLTON. I thank the House for its courtesy in this respect. I said nothing, when I moved the Bill, except to merely move it and mention the name of Mr. Craig as seconder. My hon. friend the Solicitor General takes the ground, that no attempt has been made, no successful attempt at least, to point out any necessity for the change that is asked for in the Criminal Code with regard to the age of consent. He inquires, whether the law has not already fulfilled its purpose, whether there is any necessity for the change whatever, and whether there is any indication of such a necessity. Of course, the remarks of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) conveyed the impression to the House—which is a proper one—that the law did have a purpose; and the purpose of that law was to protect innocent young women. The action of this House in that regard was taken very deliberately indeed. The question was discussed here year after year, for, I think, six or seven successive sessions, before the law went upon the statute-book. Now, my hon. friend (Mr. Fitzpatrick) says, it is exceedingly desirable to have the characteristic of permanence in our legislation, and I am fully in accord with the hon. gentleman's opinion in that regard. It is not a commendable thing to be constantly tinkering legislation, and it should not be countenanced by this House; but that charge is not applicable in his case. The law has been upon the statute-book for thirteen years: it has had an ample trial. I believe, the law, as it exists to-day, fixing the age of consent at sixteen years, is generally acceptable, that the operation of the law has proved to be in the public interest, and, after thirteen years' experience of this law, there is a very large section of Canadian citizens who have arrived at the conclusion, that the extension of this limit to eighteen years would be in the interests of morality and in the general interests of the country.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I would like to ask my hon. friend (Mr. Charlton), if he has within his knowledge a single case which the law has failed to meet?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER.

Mr. CHARLTON. I have not, Mr. Speaker, knowledge of a single case, in my recollection, that the law has failed to meet fully and perfectly to the extent of its provisions; but it does not reach far enough, and there are a great many cases that are not reached, for the reason that the law did not cover them. It is for that reason that the friends of this measure applied to this House by petition to have the age of consent extended two years, so that the law may reach further than it does now reach, and give more complete satisfaction than it has heretofore given, although that satisfaction has been perfect, so far as the law extends. It is asked, what evidence have we that there is any manifest public sentiment that requires this change in the law. I am not a lawyer; I have not the experience in courts that my hon. friend the Solicitor General has, and I presume I am not as good an authority as he is in regard to that matter, and I do not pretend to be. I will not set out my opinion to this House, in discussing this question, against the opinion of my hon. friend the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) or the opinion of the Solicitor General of this Dominion; but we have this fact: we have had petitions asking for this change in the law from numerous bodies of ladies, such as the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Christian Endeavour Societies, the Epworth League Societies, the Council of Women; in fact, almost every female organization in Canada has taken an active interest in this matter, and has appeared before this House, by petition, asking for this change in the law. Then, we have the evidence on the part of the religious bodies: conventions of clergymen, the religious courts of this country, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, the General Conference of the Methodist Church, and other religious bodies, all manifesting their approval of this change in the law with reference to the age of consent. If we look the field over, we cannot fail to arrive at the conclusion, that there is an overwhelming pressure of public sentiment in favour of this Bill. That public sentiment may be ill-instructed, it may be asking for something that it is not prudent to grant; I do not say that, but I do say, that, in my opinion, we have no reason to decide that such is the case, because, as I have said, we are not dealing with an abstract question, we are not dealing with a matter in which we are moving in the dark, in total ignorance of the effect that this measure will have; but we are dealing with a measure which is merely a slight improvement or change, or modification, of the law already in force, and that has been in force for half a generation in this country. Therefore, I do not apprehend, that the objections raised by the Solicitor General of this Dominion have, in my opinion, as much force as to lead the House to the conclusion, that the evident desire of the religious and moral public of this coun-

try should not be granted. The Solicitor General has something to say about making people moral by Act of Parliament. Well, of course, that is an impossibility. I do not pretend, it is possible to make people moral by Act of Parliament; but it is possible, by law, to restrain immorality, to restrain vicious tendencies, and to do that, among other ways, by the punishment of those who transgress moral obligation. We punish thieves, we punish forgers, we punish murderers; we do not enact these laws primarily for the purpose of making these men moral by legislation, but we enact these laws for the purpose of punishing these men who transgress law, and for the purpose of holding them up as culprits, and as a deterrent in the case of others. It is exactly upon the same principle that the provisions contained in this Bill are pressed on this House.

My hon. friend from North Bruce (Mr. McNeill) says that the Bill, if passed, will lead to the evil of blackmailing. The same objection was urged against the Bill before, and the difficulty which the hon. gentleman imagines is just as likely to arise under a provision having the age of consent at 16 as having it at 18. That is one of the stock arguments used against this measure, that it places poor, innocent, defenceless men at the mercy of designing women who would play upon them and blackmail them. I do not think the practical operation of this legislation warrants any such conclusion. Certainly it has not warranted it in the past, and it will not, I believe, warrant such a conclusion against the operation of this Bill if it becomes law. The hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) informs us that the Bill involves serious consequences to certain classes. It certainly does. It is designed to involve serious consequences; if it did not do so, the measure would be useless. The Bill designs to punish the male who seduces an innocent girl under the age of 18 years. The object of that punishment is to have public virtue in the Dominion of Canada lifted higher, preserved, and guarded by legislative enactment. The hon. member for Pictou also refers to the examples of this class of legislation in the United States, and tells us in effect that these examples are worthy of very little consideration, because the legislation of those states is of a crude, sentimental, ill-considered character. Well, I hardly think the hon. gentleman is justified in making any such allegation. For instance, in the state of New York, with a population of over 6,000,000, a provision for the punishment of seduction has been a part of the Criminal Code for the last 60 or 70 years. The provision has had ample trial there, and has undergone various modifications, which in almost every instance have been in the direction of greater stringency, and so far from being crude, ill-considered and sentimental, that legislation has had the test of time and experience, and has been

retained and made more effective, because experience has shown it to be in the public interest to protect morality by legislation of this character. My hon. friend from Pictou ventured the assertion that there was no evidence that a reform in this direction was asked for. I have shown that it is asked for. It was asked for last session by petitions from the bodies which I have referred to. The Premier of this Dominion was interviewed on several occasions by delegations in favour of it. The seconder of this Bill and myself attended on one of those occasions, and the arguments presented by the delegation were so forcible that the Premier pledged to them his support of the legislation embodied in this Bill. The hon. member for Pictou suggests that the matter should stand for inquiry. It has stood for inquiry. We have had for 13 years the law fixing the age limit of consent at 16 years. We have had this question under discussion year after year. As the seconder of this Bill says, this provision was incorporated with others on the last occasion on which it was presented to the House, and for reason it failed; but now it stands naked and alone by itself. The organizations asking for this legislation ask for it because of their experience of the law on the statute-book for the last 13 years, and their observation of that law leads them to believe that the extension of the age of consent for two years more is desirable. Therefore, they unanimously press for the passage of this Bill. For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I think the House would be justified in accepting the Bill as it is presented to them to-day. I, of course, can quite well understand that there may be cases where the provisions of this Bill will be taken advantage of, as my hon. friend from North Bruce fears; but these cases will be very rare, compared with the number of cases where the Bill will be a protection and a shield of defence for that class of society who have otherwise no defence, where it will serve the purpose of securing morality and public virtue and protecting young females from the wiles of seducers. I repeat that in proposing this extension of the age of consent we are not dealing with a measure that is purely theoretical, but are governed by experience. We have all the experience necessary to enable us to found a fair conclusion as to what the probable results of the extension of the provision that has been in force for 13 years will be. For these reasons I feel it a public duty to press upon the House the acceptance of this measure.

Mr. A. H. MOORE (Stanstead). Mr. Speaker, what I am going to say will, I think, please the hon. gentleman who has last spoken on this question, in two particulars. One is that it is going to be very short, and he is in favour of short speeches. Another is that I am in favour of the Bill which he has proposed, for the reason that I believe the best moral and religious teach-

ers of this country and the best moral and religious institutions of this country are in favour of it; and, with such approval as that, I can do no other than vote for the Bill.

Mr. D. TISDALE (South Norfolk). Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), endeavouring to answer the point that was so well taken by the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), as to the necessity for a change, made a statement which was so wide of the mark as to be no answer at all. It is true, he said certain people had petitioned for and advocated this measure, such as ladies' societies, and so forth. In my opinion, that is no reason unless the hon. gentleman goes further; and we should not interfere lightly with a matter so serious as the Criminal Code, particularly a matter of so serious a nature as the legislation he proposes. The hon. gentleman admitted frankly that the Solicitor General and the hon. member for Pictou were both in a much better position, from their experience and their practical knowledge of this question, than he was to judge whether any cases had been demonstrated which showed any necessity for raising the age of consent. That is the whole question. There is no evidence to show that any circumstances exist which justify him in asking us to make a crime what is not now a crime. The hon. gentleman justified this legislation on the ground that it would punish crime, and he brought in as illustrations thieves, robbers, burglars, and so on. But he is asking us to make that a crime which is not one now, and therefore clearly begging the question. Nobody objects to criminals being punished, but the whole question is, shall we make that a crime which is not one now. This is a most serious proposition. Whatever may be the opinion of people who claim to be more pious or religious or to have higher moral principles than myself, I have the courage of my convictions, and will not hesitate to express them, though gatherings of ladies, for whom I have the greatest possible respect—I will go further and say that, in the strictest moral sense, for whom I have the greatest possible affection any man can have—agitate in this matter without knowing at all the consequence to which their agitation may lead. We want something more than gatherings of ladies and clergymen, presided over by my hon. friend or anybody else, to convince us that such legislation would not be mischievous. The hon. gentleman asks us to make that a crime which is not one now, and a crime which will subject the one who commits it to a very severe penalty. He admits himself that a man holding the responsible position of Solicitor General is a better judge than he whether there is any necessity for such a law, whether any cases have arisen which would justify its adoption. I agree with the hon.

Mr. MOORE.

Solicitor General and the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). My hon. friend has totally failed to convince me, and his argument was especially weak in his reply to the Solicitor General, whose opinion is entitled to greatest respect as an authoritative expression on law matters, so far as the Government is concerned, especially when that opinion comes from a gentleman of the undoubted ability of the present incumbent of the office.

I object to this measure on another ground, and that is, that it has been thoroughly discussed several times already, and the opinion of Parliament had upon it. I object to it also on behalf of the women of this country. In Great Britain they are satisfied with the age limit of sixteen years, and I am confident the sun does not shine upon any country whose women are more virtuous and more capable of taking care of their virtue than the women of Canada. They do not need the assistance of this proposed legislation. I know something of the opinion of many good women in this country, and I am confident that if you were to explain to them what this law means, so that they would understand it in the way we do, they would resent any proposal to give it a place in our statutes. If a woman who has reached sixteen years of age is not capable of taking care of her own virtue, she ought to suffer the consequences, because she has arrived at an age when she knows what consent means. My hon. friend beside me (Mr. Craig) says there is a lot of humbugging in what I am saying, but I think that if he discussed the matter with any of his friends among the ladies, he will find that they are of my opinion. This is not a matter to be laughed at or trifled with, and I am very much mistaken indeed if after a proper discussion of it with ladies as audience, they would not, on understanding what the passing of this law means, express themselves as opposed to it. It is, in fact, a reflection on them. It is taking for granted that they are not as capable, after they have passed the age of sixteen, of taking care of themselves as the women of Great Britain are.

The hon. gentleman relies altogether on petitions sent in favour of this measure. Well, I have had petitions sent to me from my own riding—who prepared them I do not know. I have had letters from young ladies who wrote as glibly about the matter as I could, asking me to support these petitions, without seriously considering what it was exactly they were asking. They have simply got some ideas about it from a certain number of people gathered together, but I am confident that not one of these people in these gatherings would have ventured to assert that in her neighbourhood she knew of any young girl, between sixteen and eighteen years of age, who had been ruined for want of any such law. They simply go on the pure assumption that

this law will do good, though no evil is shown to exist. I object to legislation merely on theory. There must be a necessity for it or otherwise we will make useless laws and bring our legislation into contempt. The first proposition which the hon. gentleman ought to have established is that girls between sixteen and eighteen years of age are not old enough to understand what is meant by consent or non-consent. That is where the hon. gentleman's difficulty is. We have the laws of England, we have the united wisdom of this House and of a large, capable and painstaking committee chosen from among the representatives of the country without respect to party, who, day after day, and week after week, went over all the questions of this measure, and agreed upon the law as it stands to-day, and it was so codified in our criminal laws only a few years ago. If the man and the woman are both willing, there is no offence under the law. But my hon. friend (Mr. Charlton) says that he wants to make it a crime if the woman is under 18 years of age. And why? Because he thinks that girls, before they reach the age of 18, are not old enough to distinguish between right and wrong. I go with him to this extent, that it was wise to change the law from what it used to be when the age of consent was fixed at 14 years. I supported amending the law so as to make it 16 years. The hon. gentleman admits that that has served its purpose. He fails to show that there is a case where anybody has suffered in justice because the law has not been changed as he now proposes. I do not wish to be tedious or to detain the House, though I feel strongly about this making of a new crime. I agree with my hon. friend from North Bruce (Mr. McNeill), that this change will have the effect of establishing a blackmailing system. In those states of the Union where such laws have been passed, they are found to be the weapons of blackmailers. A second objection is that you are tempting women to make use of their virtue to blackmail men—actually putting a premium upon it in that way. These are serious grounds of objection to the Bill. It is not a pleasant thing for me, as I am sure it is not pleasant for any hon. member, to express myself as strongly and as honestly as one ought to do on so important a question, when I know that many estimable people, including ladies, and societies composed of the best people in my own riding, have sent petitions in favour of this Bill. One does not like to rise and take the chance of being misunderstood. But there is a question of duty involved. Let us, like men, legislate upon principle. Let us hesitate before we declare that to be a crime which has not heretofore been a crime. Let us be certain, first, that this law is necessary, second, that it will do good, and third, that there is some ground of principle upon which to proceed, and not merely petitions of people who may or may not be better able to judge than we are our-

selves. However much I may respect the ladies—and I am sure I respect them as much as any man does—my vote shall be given according to my convictions, after having considered as fully as I can the question we have before us, in the light of the experience of those who have gone before and have carefully considered the whole matter.

Mr. McNEILL. With the indulgence of the House, I would like to say a word in explanation. My hon. friend (Mr. Charlton) said, when I spoke of the age of consent being raised to 18 as being "likely to lead to cases of blackmail, more than if the age of consent was left at 16," that I was entirely mistaken. I think I should explain what I meant. I think, Mr. Speaker, that there are comparatively few girls of the age of 16 who could be described as dissolute girls—comparatively few, even in the cities. But I think that if we come to our cities, you will find, unfortunately, that there are a considerable number of the age of 18 who can be so described. If my hon. friend had a son, a mere boy, who was brought up in the country and who came down to the city for the first time and fell into the hands of one of these designing young women, the hon. gentleman would not like, simply because his son was unable to prove the girl to be dissolute, that he should be committed for two years to prison for having been seduced by that young woman. That is what I mean.

Mr. D. C. FRASER (Guysborough). I think that the earnest appeal made by the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) is worthy of consideration. But I wish to call attention first to the remarks made by the hon. member who has just taken his seat. He has proved the case for raising the age of consent to 18 years. He shows that up to the age of 16, there are few girls who are dissolute. He will hardly deny that this is due in a large measure to the operation of the existing law. Let that law be extended as is here proposed and good results will follow. I know that this is a question on which we have to speak with bated breath; but the purity of home is a little too sacred for men not to express their opinion fairly. I want to say that in this country it will be found that up to the age of 18, girls are not taught—whether they ought to be or ought not to be—they are not so fully instructed in these matters as hon. gentlemen opposite seem to think. I do not speak of the city—I know nothing about that. All I know is that if you take an innocent rural population, I venture to make the statement that up to the time they marry, many of these young women have very little knowledge of the world. To these women this law will be a protection. I am not afraid of very many young women in the country blackmailing the young men. Where you find a case of that kind, you will find that it is because the girl has inherited very bad blood from her parents, and the majority of young women in this country are not of that kind.

I think there is not very much reason that we should protect the young men for fear that they are going to be blackmailed. If the hon. gentleman wants statistics he will find them in abundance to prove that in 99 cases out of 100, where wrong has been committed, the man has been to blame and not the woman. I refrain from talking about the city; but this is the experience, as given by the best statistics that can be obtained, concerning the rural population of this or any other country. An hon. gentleman near me says that that is worth nothing. All statistics are worth something. Those who carefully note individual cases in rural places, as has been done, agree that the facts are as I have stated them. Believing that in the immense majority of cases the blame of the wrong attaches to the man much more than to the woman, I am going to vote for this Bill. I believe that no harm will come of it. We shall have very few of these vagrant young men who are going to be blackmailed. The experience of every man in this House and out of it is that if he conducts himself properly, there are very few chances of his being blackmailed. A man has only to act right and there is no chance of a girl of eighteen looking around for a chance to blackmail him. It is in the lack of a like spirit that leads young men to engage in the like of that. I admit that there may be cases of that kind; but are we going to cease to legislate because exceptions of that kind exist? I think not. We raised the age from 14 to 16, and I think it was a good move. There is nothing in the proposition to change the criminal law in this respect, at which we should stand aghast, as the hon. member said. With progress and experience we must continually change the laws, and if the experience we have from raising the age of consent from 14 to 16 has been good, and there is no doubt about it, why not raise the age two years higher? The argument of the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat proves that we have very few violations, so far as that is concerned. It will be discovered, I think, that the addition of two years will do one thing and prevent another. It will, at least, make the young men a little more careful; assuming, as I do, that men are more to blame in this world than women, they will be a little more careful when they know that there is criminal legislation on the statute-book.

Mr. McNEILL. Why not raise it a few years more?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Because at the age of 18 the young woman has so matured, has thought about these things, as she comes in contact with others, that she is better able to judge than she is at the age of 16. A young girl of 16 who has scarcely gone away from her mother's apron-strings, needs to be protected. There are many who need more protection at 17 than some do at 16; but if you take the

Mr. FRASER (Guysboro').

age of 18, I think you will strike just about a right average. I am not afraid, in the second place, that there is going to be blackmail practised by these young women. I have had a fair experience in law, and I call to mind only one instance where a young man was blackmailed, and that was at the instance of a woman who was 24 or 25. Blackmailing is not so extensive as hon. gentlemen think. In the United States, if we are to believe the public press, there are women who do make a business of blackmailing. I know that, but I venture to make the statement that very few cases can be cited where any young woman under 18—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Does not the hon. gentleman see that that argument is altogether against him? The hon. gentleman says that there is no blackmailing now. The argument is that if you increase the age you are in danger of having blackmail introduced.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I did not, it appears, make myself plain. I said that up to 18 there is no such thing as blackmail thought of among young women.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Not now.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). But I do know that statistics prove that it is between 16 and 18 that young women in this country are chiefly led astray; therefore, I want to put some little preventive in the way to assist these young women as against the young men. Everybody knows, for we have all been young, that between the age of 16 and 18, when a young woman is in the flush of youth and beauty, and she meets with a young man, she needs protection, from the very fact that the force of body and of intellect of the young man is greater than that of the young woman, and among young men matters of this kind are more discussed than among young women.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). Hear, hear.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). The hon. gentleman says "hear, hear." I am serious but I am afraid the hon. gentleman is not serious. I venture to say that the homes of this country demand a little more seriousness in the discussion of this question. I say that in the interest of the mass of the people of this country, and in the interest of our young women, I am going to sustain the motion that this Bill be read the third time.

Mr. JOHN H. BELL (East Prince). At the risk of wearying the House I will venture to express briefly a reason for the vote I propose to give. Let me read section 181 of the Act as amended:

Every one is guilty of an indictable offence, and liable to two years' imprisonment, who seduces and has illicit connection with any girl of previously chaste character, of or above the age

of fourteen years and under the age of eighteen years.

Now, suppose a seduction has actually taken place. Suppose by wiles and promises and false pretenses, the young girl under 18 has been defrauded of her virtue. Suppose the matter clearly proved—the facts beyond doubt. Is there any hon. member of this House but would say that if this be not a crime it ought to be made so by the law. I appeal to the sense of justice—to the common conscience of us all. There is—there can be—but one answer. Then if in our judgment it should be considered a crime what prevents us from declaring it so by the statute?

There is one objection raised, and only one of any weight. It is that the criminal feature of the Act will be taken advantage of for purposes of blackmail. There is little danger of this. Whatever danger there is is provided against by section 684 of the Criminal Code:

(Sec. 181.) Shall be convicted upon the evidence of one witness unless such witness is corroborated in some material particular by evidence implicating the accused.

Under this provision the evidence of the girl alone would not be sufficient to convict the man of a crime. She might swear till she was black in the face. Her evidence must be corroborated in some material particular. Hence a threat of criminal proceedings from a girl of unchaste character would be ineffectual for the purpose of extorting money. Hence there is no danger of blackmail. Hence the main objection fails. But now, suppose there were a real danger. That may be a reason for providing against it. It certainly is no reason for refusing to enact the law.

I have every respect for the opinion of the Solicitor General and for that of the ex-Minister of Justice. I give due weight to the fact that the age of sixteen instead of eighteen is fixed by the English statutes.

At the same time this is a matter on which every man of observation and sense and possessing a sentiment of justice, can think and act for himself—without regard to the opinion of others, and without respect to precedent.

Personally, I am not a protectionist, but there is, nevertheless a species of protection of which I am always in favour—the protection so far as law can effectuate it—of innocence and virtue—of the purity of our homes.

The House divided on the motion of Mr. Charlton that the Bill be now read the third time:

YEAS :  
Messieurs

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Bain,                | Holmes,             |
| Belth.               | Hurley,             |
| Bell (Prince, East), | Joly de Lotbinière, |
| Bethune.             | (Sir Henri).        |

Blanchard,  
Bostock,  
Britton,  
Burnett,  
Campbell,  
Cargill,  
Casey,  
Charlton,  
Christie,  
Clancy,  
Clarke,  
Cochrane,  
Copp,  
Craig,  
Dechene,  
Desmarais,  
Douglas,  
Dyment,  
Earle,  
Ellis,  
Ferguson,  
Fielding,  
Fraser (Guysborough),  
Frost,  
Gibson,  
Godbout,  
Graham,  
Guillet,  
Hale,  
Henderson,  
Heyd,

Kaulbach,  
Kloepfer,  
Laurier (Sir Wilfrid),  
Lewis,  
Macdonald (Huron),  
Macdonell,  
MacLaren,  
McClure,  
McGregor,  
McGugan,  
McHugh,  
McInnes,  
McMillan,  
McMullen,  
Martin,  
Maxwell,  
Moore,  
McKin,  
Oliver,  
Pettet,  
Richardson,  
Robertson,  
Rogers,  
Rosamond,  
Snetsinger,  
Somerville,  
Sproule,  
Tolmie,  
Tyrwhitt, and  
Wallace.—63.

NAYS :  
Messieurs

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Angers,             | LaRivière,            |
| Bazinet,            | Lavergne,             |
| Beausoleil,         | Logan,                |
| Bell (Pictou),      | Macdonald (King's),   |
| Bergeron,           | Mackie,               |
| Bernier,            | McCarthy,             |
| Blair,              | McDougall,            |
| Bourassa,           | McIsaac,              |
| Carroll,            | McLennan (Inverness), |
| Champagne,          | McNeill,              |
| Davies (Sir Louis), | Prior,                |
| Ethier,             | Savard,               |
| Fitzpatrick,        | Tisdale, and          |
| Haggart,            | Tupper (Sir Charles   |
| Ives,               | Hibbert).—29.         |

Motion agreed to.

#### DRAINAGE ACROSS RAILWAY LANDS.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Casey: That the Order of the House for Committee of Whole on Bill (No. 24) an Act concerning drainage on and over the property of railway companies, be discharged, and that the Bill be referred to a special committee composed of Messrs. Bain, Campbell, Casey, Cowan, Chauvin, Fortin, McGregor, Monk and Tolmie, with power to send for persons and papers, and to report from time to time by Bill or otherwise, and with leave to employ a shorthand writer if the committee resolve that it is necessary.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Mr. Speaker, I think the understanding was, the other evening, that a committee would be suggested, to whom this Bill might be referred, and if it is in order, I would suggest the names for

that committee by moving in amendment to the motion :

That all the words after "discharged" be struck out and that the following be substituted in lieu thereof :—"And that the Bill be referred to a special committee composed of Messrs. Casey, Haggart, Tisdale, Russell and Bourassa, with power to send for persons and papers, and to report from time to time by Bill or otherwise, and with leave to employ a shorthand writer if the committee resolve that it is necessary."

Mr. GEO. E. CASEY (West Elgin). When I proposed this motion the other night, I was following the practice we adopted last year. This Bill, being practically but a rough draft of the measure, I considered that the House, in passing it to its second reading, had merely adopted the principle that a Bill should be passed for the purpose of regulating this question of drainage across railways. The reference to the committee was for the purpose of going over this rough draft and elaborating the measure so as to accomplish that purpose without doing any injury to the interests of the railway companies or the public. I chose the same committee that had been chosen last year, with the consent of the Government, and did not expect that there would be any opposition to that choice of the personnel of the committee. However, on this occasion, the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) has seen fit to intervene and take the selection of the personnel into his own hands. Of course, my responsibility for the Bill largely vanishes on account of this action of the hon. Minister of Railways, and the responsibility of the Government, to a large extent, commences. The House has declared in favour of the principle that there should be a railway drainage Bill, and the hon. Minister of Railways has selected a committee to perfect that Bill. I am glad that, at last, the Government has taken a share of the responsibility for this measure. I do not criticise the names submitted by that hon. gentleman. I take it for granted that any hon. gentleman who accepts a position on that committee will, in accordance with parliamentary precedent and practice, not declare himself against the principle of the Bill after the House has already affirmed it, but will give his best efforts and attention to perfecting a Bill for this purpose which the House has ordered to be perfected. Taking this view of the case, I submit, of necessity, to the amendment offered by the hon. Minister of Railways, and will not at all object to the passing of the amendment he proposes. I hope, after having gone thus far, the hon. Minister will see that it is his duty, as it is his duty, to look earnestly into this matter, to give some attention to the Bill, that he will recognize the fact that such a Bill is absolutely demanded by a very large portion of the country, and by a large number

Mr. BLAIR.

of his supporters, and that we will, this session, at last, have legislation on this subject, which, though it may not be exactly in the present shape of the Bill, will, at all events, be effective for the purpose desired.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). Mr. Speaker, I just want to call the attention of this committee, if it is named, to a case that has very recently been decided, and which seems to throw a great deal of new light upon this question of the responsibility of railways to what may be called municipal legislation. The other day the Privy Council, in the case of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company against the corporation of the parish of Notre-Dame de Bonsecours, decided that Dominion railways were liable to municipal law in so far as keeping their ditches and drains in repair is concerned. That goes a very long way in relieving the difficulty that is met by the Bill of the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey), but, of course, it does not go far enough. It does not go so far as to meet the case that I suggested when this Bill was before the House a few days ago. That was a case where there is a desire on the part of land-owners to drain a particular area, where they had put the law in motion for improving lands by draining it, and where, in order to get the water to an outlet they come to a Dominion railway. So far as I know, it has never been decided that there is any power to compel a railway company, when drainage work has commenced in that way, to put a drain through their road, or to allow it to be put through. The practice has obtained of carrying that water along the line of railway and outside the railway property so far as might be necessary to obtain a proper outlet. That seems to me to be the only point that it is necessary to consider in a matter of this kind. The case which I have given to the House is reported in the London "Times" of March 27th last, and if I have read that case correctly, it brings Dominion railways under the jurisdiction and subject to the municipal law as to keeping their drains in a proper state of repair. If that be the correct version a good deal of the difficulty is removed.

Mr. TISDALE. I do not think there is any question but what the Railway Committee of the Privy Council can compel a railway company to allow the drains to go under the line.

Mr. CASEY. Of course; that is not what I have reference to at all.

Mr. TISDALE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Britton) said, there was no power that could compel a railway company to allow a drain of that kind, and I was surprised at that.

Mr. BRITTON. Perhaps I did not make myself plain. I said, there were two difficulties with reference to that, and I say.

there is a doubt as to whether the Railway Committee of the Privy Council has jurisdiction where it would interfere with the structural condition of the road.

**Mr. TISDALE.** The power of the Railway Committee of the Privy Council is not limited at all.

**Mr. BRITTON.** If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Tisdale) will look at the Act, he will see, there is a doubt about that. The great difficulty is as to getting cases of this kind before the Privy Council. It is not the landowner, but the engineer, who has the obligation put upon him by statute, and he is not obliged to go before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, and there are no funds at his disposal to enable him to do it.

**Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey).** I need hardly say, that I am in favour of the principle of this Bill, because I have supported it, or a similar Bill, on several previous occasions. I rise to draw the attention of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Casey) to the fact, that the personnel of this committee is not what he should desire, if he intended the Bill to become law.

**Mr. IVES.** Hear, hear.

**Mr. SPROULE.** What is the levity of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ives) all about?

**Mr. IVES.** I was laughing at the wisdom and sagacity of the hon. member (Mr. Sproule) in coming to that conclusion.

**Mr. SPROULE.** When I give my reasons for coming to that conclusion, perhaps the sapient remarks of the hon. member (Mr. Ives) may be directed against another source than myself. Mr. Speaker, I call attention to the fact, that, under the rule, in selecting a committee, no members of the House who express themselves as opposed to the principle of a Bill, should be put on a committee to consider it. Rule 78 of this House says:

No member who declares or decides against the principle or substance of a Bill, resolution, or matter to be committed, can be nominated of such committee.

Let the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ives) laugh now. It may be, that it would sound commonplace to him, coming from my tongue; but, if he respects the authority under which the business of this House is conducted, he will not laugh, as he has done. I call attention to the fact, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale), who is named on the committee, is opposed to the principle of the Bill, and, if I am correct in my assumption, there is more than he on the committee who is in the same plight. I do not think it right, that such a committee should be selected to consider this Bill.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I do not dispute the correctness of the rule laid down by my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule), but I may remind him, that the

striking of this committee is largely a matter of compromise. There was objection to have the Bill referred to a special committee. I would not say, there was a unanimous consensus of opinion against it—but a large consensus of the opinion of the members was, that the Bill should go to the Railway Committee. I do not say, that a majority of the House was in favour of that proposition, but a certain number of hon. gentlemen have still very grave doubts as to whether or not that might be the best committee to send it to. However, my hon. friend (Mr. Casey) insisted on a special committee, and I thought, on this occasion, we might depart from the rigidity of the rule somewhat and appoint a committee, which I look upon as a compromise committee, to discuss the principle of the Bill.

**Mr. CASEY.** Speaking to the point of order, Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the hon. member for Grey (Mr. Sproule) is perfectly correct. I have privately urged the objection he has taken, but it was overruled, and, unless you, Mr. Speaker, rule that these gentlemen—I suppose I may name them—Mr. Haggart and Col. Tisdale, have not expressed themselves against the principle of the Bill, I do not see how they can go on the committee. If you rule to the contrary, of course, I must abide by your ruling. I am glad, however, that the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) has brought the point to your notice.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER.** The objection raised by the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) is worthy of consideration. If the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) declares, that he is against the principle of the Bill—

**Mr. CASEY.** He and Mr. Haggart have both so declared.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER.** If he does, he should not sit on the committee.

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

### After Recess.

#### COLUMBIA AND WESTERN RAILWAY

**Mr. JOHN COSTIGAN** (Victoria, N.B.) moved third reading of Bill (No. 26) respecting the Columbia and Western Railway Company.

**Mr. FRANK OLIVER** (Alberta). I beg to move, seconded by Mr. Bostock:

That Bill (No. 26) an Act respecting the Columbia and Western Railway Company, be not now read a third time, but be referred back to the Committee of the Whole for the purpose of making the following amendment:—"That all the words after the word 'Midway' in the fourteenth line of section 1 be struck out."

In support of this amendment, I wish to say that the proposition is to affirm the right

and duty of this House to take cognizance of the necessity of the bonding privileges asked by any railway company before those privileges are granted. That principle was acknowledged with reference to this Bill in the Railway Committee by the company interested, who furnished to the committee evidence which the committee accepted as to the cost of a certain portion of the road for which bonding privileges are asked, that is to say, the main part of the road from Robson to Midway. The company ask for the extraordinary bonding privilege of \$35,000 a mile. The committee having received evidence that the road would cost this amount plus the amount of the bonus to be received from British Columbia, unanimously agreed to the granting of this bonding privilege; but when the company was asked for evidence as to the necessity for bonding the branches contemplated under this Bill, they were not prepared to give any information whatever; either as to the location of the branches, their length or their cost. Therefore, in order to thoroughly affirm the principle, which was already conceded, it was felt to be necessary to move the amendment which I have now moved, the effect of which is to require the company to come before Parliament and the Railway Committee of Parliament and show cause why they should be granted bonding powers regarding the branches before those bonding powers are granted.

The reason why this stand is taken is that it is felt and known that in the excessive bonding of railways lies the greatest impediment to fair and reasonable railway rates. We have knowledge of this fact from experience in the North-west Territories. We have there a road called the Calgary and Edmonton Railway, which, according to the returns, is said to have cost \$3,717,882, upon which bonds have been issued to the amount of \$5,458,940, bearing 6 per cent interest. In other words, the people who furnish the traffic of that road are required to pay 6 per cent interest on \$1,741,058, for which neither they nor the country, nor any part of the country, have received any value whatever. The total earnings of the road during the past year have been \$327,536, and the interest on the part of the bonded debt for which no value is received, amounts to \$104,464, or about one-third of the total earnings of the road. Roughly speaking, the rates required to pay the company's fixed charges are one-third higher than they would be if the road was bonded at its actual cost. What is true in regard to the Calgary and Edmonton Railway is true in regard to the Qu'Appelle and Long Lake Railway. That road cost \$2,539,600, and it is bonded for \$3,809,140, an excess of \$1,269,540 over the cost. These bonds bear interest at 5 per cent and 6 per cent. The earnings of the road during 1898 were \$79,000. At 6 per cent the interest on excess of bonds over cost amounts to \$76,172, or within a fraction of as much as the total earnings of the road.

Mr. OLIVER.

In the face of these facts, we believe it is necessary to bring to the attention of the House, in connection with new railway projects in regard to which large bonding powers are asked, the effect of these bonding powers upon the people of the country. The idea that the amount of the bonds which a company issues is only a matter which concerns the company and the bondholders is, I think, exploded. It is the people who furnish the traffic for the road who are the interested parties. They are the people who furnish the money which pays the interest on those bonds. It is their section of country which is discredited if that interest is not paid. We are quite willing to agree that interest should be paid on bonds to the amount of the cost of any railroad; but it is a well-known fact that nowadays roads are bonded, not according to their cost, but according to their present or prospective earning power. This is where we consider the public interest requires to be protected. We are prepared to pay interest on the cost of the road, but we are not prepared to pay interest on the bonded indebtedness fixed according to the possible earnings of the road, or, in other words, on the basis of all the traffic will bear. It is because we wish to affirm that principle that we move this amendment to-night.

In regard to the particular road in question, it may be said that it is an exceptional case. It is an exceptional case in support of our argument. It is a case in which an important district of country is expected to be served by other railroads in the future; and it is with a view to preventing the overloading of the road now being built with bonded indebtedness, thereby bringing about a concentration of interest against the introduction of competing lines, that the great and imperative necessity of guarding against the overbonding of this particular road exists. As to competition in this part of the country, it may be held that last session this House affirmed that there should be no competition in the Kettle River country, and that it was contrary to the principle held by the House that railroads should be permitted to cross the boundary line into southern British Columbia; but I call the attention of the House to the fact that a few days ago we allowed a railway charter to pass its third reading, which permitted of the construction of a piece of road from the Crow's Nest Pass line to the United States boundary. I take it for granted, therefore, that that position of the House has been abandoned and that we are in full view of railway competition in that country, provided we use care in granting railway legislation at present.

Mr. JOHN ROSS ROBERTSON (East Toronto). I heartily concur in the remarks made by my hon. friend from Alberta (Mr. Oliver) in connection with the bonding of this Columbia and Western Railway. I think he has put the case as clearly as it is

possible to put it and has given the very best arguments why his resolution to postpone consideration of this Bill should be carried. When the question of bonding this Columbia and Western Railway was before the Railway Committee last week, I had my doubts as to the sufficiency of the affidavit made by Mr. Peterson, the Chief Engineer of the Canadian Pacific Railway. I know that Judge Clark, the counsel for the Canadian Pacific Railway, attached great importance to that affidavit, but being a layman I did not like to cross swords with him on that point. I have, however, made it my business to consult people who are not laymen, and they have confirmed me in my belief that the affidavit made by Mr. Peterson was nothing more or less than a mere guess. The maker of that affidavit takes no chances whatever, and he believes that the road can be built for \$35,000 per mile. Supposing that the road only cost \$15,000 or \$20,000 per mile, I would like Judge Clark to tell me whether Mr. Peterson could be prosecuted for perjury on account of the difference between his estimate and the actual cost of the road? This is an important matter. This House should not fix the bonding power in accordance with either the sham affidavit of any Canadian Pacific Railway official or the word of mouth declaration of any officer of the Department of Railways. I think that the hon. Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) should obtain a detailed statement from his chief engineer. Then he could fix the bonding power according to that statement, and if experience proved that the chief engineer overestimated the cost of the work, this House would be able to hold the Minister to a close account.

In fixing the bonding power, we are adjusting the rate of taxation that will have to be paid by the people who use this road. This House has already declared that no railway whatever will be allowed to compete with the Canadian Pacific Railway in this district, and if this House now declares that the Canadian Pacific Railway shall be allowed to overbond this road, the people of southern British Columbia will be impaled upon both horns of the dilemma. The Canadian Pacific Railway will come down here, headed by Sir Wm. Van Horne and Mr. Shaughnessy and other officials, and will use their influence with the Government to keep out all competition, and I have no doubt they will succeed, and then they will bond the road so as to increase the fixed charges and thus keep up the rates, no matter how many commissioners the Government may appoint.

Just a word as to a remark that fell from my hon. friend from South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale). I understood him to say that the people of Ontario were paying \$12,000 per mile for a railway in their mining region and were very glad to get it. I can tell the hon. gentleman that it has not been my good fortune to meet many people in Ontario

who are glad to get a railway at that price. On the contrary, I have heard the action of the Ontario Government in proposing an exorbitant grant to Mackenzie & Mann, condemned in the strongest terms, and the Ontario Opposition is just as loudly and generally condemned because they allowed that grant to go through without protest. I know that this is beside the question. I have no objection to the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) speaking for the people he represents. They are, however, not the only people in Ontario, and it is my duty to speak for the people who are not quite so well content with every scheme which plays ducks and drakes with the public revenues for the benefit of railway promoters and charter mongers.

Before I sit down I would like to get some more distinct assurance from the hon. Minister of Railways, who, I regret, is not in his place, as regards protecting the rights of the people of Grand Forks. His promise, the other day, of a general law is all right, as far as it goes, and his action on behalf of the people of this district was all right with regard to the Kettle River Valley Railway, but his words and actions availed nothing when the votes came to be counted. I think that this high court of Parliament should not be deaf to the appeals of these people of Grand Forks, and not only of Grand Forks but other parts of this immense line of railway. It is very hard indeed that these people should have gone in and built a thriving town before the Canadian Pacific Railway showed its nose in this district to find this great railway attempting first to bulldoze and then to ruin a handful of struggling men. So far as I have been able to learn, the Canadian Pacific Railway has disgraced itself in British Columbia in its attempt to grab the property of its victims. If the history of the town site operations of that railway could be written, as I presume it will be some day, this country will have reason to blush that so great a railway should stoop to the highway robbery of people who own land in genuine town sites and of people who bought lots in the fake town sites started under the auspices of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is high time that this Parliament showed Vice-President Shaughnessy that he will have to drop his game of bleeding Canadians in British Columbia of half their land under pain of being sidetracked by a road which is being built with the country's money. I would like to have some final assurance from some member of the Government—the First Minister perhaps—that the rights of these people of Grand Forks will be safeguarded before I vote for this Bill.

Mr. HEWITT BOSTOCK (Yale and Cariboo). In support of this motion, let me say that I think there are points we have to consider, which I do not think were properly considered when this Bill was before the

Railway Committee. I admit that we had a full discussion of this measure before that committee, but I find that a question which very materially affects this Bill was not settled—at least not to my satisfaction. Under this Bill we are granting the company the privilege of bonding this road for \$35,000 a mile, and under its provincial charter it has the privilege of bonding it for \$25,000. I am not satisfied in my own mind as to whether the effect of this Bill will not result in allowing this company to bond its road for \$60,000, if it so wishes. I do not see anything in this measure that restricts or affects in any way the privilege of the company under its provincial charter, and this is a very serious matter in view of the rates that may be charged, and the fact that if any question concerning these rates ever comes up before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, the Council will have to take into consideration the amount of bonds issued and the interest that has to be paid on those bonds.

Therefore, I think that this question is one that ought to be decided before this Bill is proceeded with. It would be much better to have it referred back to the committee for the purpose of considering that point. Another question arises in regard to the matter of freight rates. I find that under the Railway Act, clause 227, it is provided that no tolls shall be levied by any railway company without first obtaining the permission of the Governor in Council. I find that a schedule of tolls has been issued for that part of the line that has already been constructed. This runs from Rossland and to Trail and from Trail to Robson. The tariff for the part already constructed was issued on the 28th June, 1898, and went into force on the 1st July following. So far as I can learn, that tariff has never been approved by the Minister of Railways and Canals or by Order in Council, which, as I understand, is necessary under the Railway Act. This, I think, very seriously affects that question, and ought to be taken into consideration. The public have a right to know that the clauses of the Railway Act are properly carried out, and that rates charged by railways are such as are approved by Order in Council and published in the "Canada Gazette," in accordance with the Railway Act. The effect, as I understand it, is that the company have fixed their freight rates at very much higher rates than would, in all probability, have been passed by the Railway Committee if the matter was properly put before them. I presume that it is on that account that they have not thought it worth while to submit their rates to the Railway Committee of the Privy Council for their approval before putting them into effect. Of course, I understand that in all probability a railway company can set at defiance this House and the Railway Act, because where they are dealing with the gene-

Mr. BOSTOCK.

ral public, they can compel the people either to pay their rates in advance or to pay them before they get delivery of their goods. Consequently, every railway company practically has the public at their mercy and can set at defiance this clause 227 of the Railway Act. It is for that reason also that I wish to draw the attention of the House to this matter and to ask hon. members to take it into consideration. Inasmuch as we hope to see this question of freight rates dealt with in a proper way in the interest of the public, we should give these two points due weight before we proceed further with this Bill.

Mr. LEIGHTON McCARTHY (North Simcoe). I rise for the purpose of making plain the position I occupy on this Bill, and which I occupied in the Railway Committee. The issue involved is one of a very minute nature. It is an application really to increase the bonding powers of this railway. It is operated by virtue of a statute of British Columbia by which the company obtained its charter and by which it gets power to bond to the extent of \$25,000 per mile and an additional right to bond to the extent of \$25,000 per mile in regard to its land grant. With the land grant we are not concerned, if we are to take what the counsel of the railway said in the Railway Committee. He said that they intended to exercise an option they had and accept \$4,000 per mile by way of subsidy from the British Columbia Government, instead of a land grant. Therefore, we are dealing with this railway which has the authority to bond to the extent of \$25,000 a mile, and which is subsidized to the extent of \$4,000 a mile. They come to the Railway Committee and ask that that bonding privilege be increased to \$35,000 per mile. The information upon which that is granted seemed to me to be sufficient. It is only by reason of the insufficiency of the balance of the information that I take the stand I propose to take on this question. The chief engineer of railways told the committee that \$35,000 per mile for the main line was fair. With that, therefore, we need have no quarrel. But they go on and ask that they be given power to bond branches to a similar extent—branches regrading which we asked information and got none. I am within the judgment of every member of that committee when I say that we had not one tittle of evidence as to how many branches they were to build or the mileage of these branches. I ventured to ask the question of Judge Clark, and got answer only of the mileage of the main line. When I asked the estimate of the number of branches and their length, we were told: We can only build twenty miles. I venture to say that that was not a correct answer to give to the Railway Committee; it is incorrect if I read correctly the statute of British Co-

lumbia. I quote from 59 Vic., chap. 54, sec. 16, of those statutes :

And the company may build branches from each, all or any such section or sections, to any mine or mines situate not more than twenty miles from such main line in a direct line.

That is, if the line is twenty miles in a direct line from the railway, they can build a branch to it. But no railway, as a rule, builds straight—they take a circuitous route. It might be that, in order to reach a mine twenty miles away, they would build fifty miles of railway. If they did so they would be entitled, under this proposed Bill, to bond that branch for \$35,000 a mile. Suppose that line goes through valleys and plain country, they could build it for \$8,000 to \$10,000 a mile, and they could bond it for \$35,000 a mile. And I may tell you, Mr. Speaker, and tell this House frankly the reason I took the stand that I did in the Railway Committee. Judge Clark was asked to explain this. He said: It is going to cost more than \$35,000 a mile to build the main line, and we are going "to let ourselves out" on the branches. Well, it seems to me that the Railway Committee of this House had a right to know to what extent they were letting themselves out. What that means, I leave every hon. member to construe for himself. It seems to me that it can only mean that by building these branches—how many we do not know—they might so increase the indebtedness of that railway that when they come for approval of their freight rates they will be enabled to ask, by reason of the large indebtedness on their branches, to have the freight rates on a much higher scale than if we exercised the control we are entitled by the statute to exercise. We are giving them carte blanche to build as many branches as they like and to bond the branches for \$35,000 a mile, irrespective of what it cost to build them. If that is right, I misunderstand what the duties of this Parliament and of the Railway Committee are. If we had had Mr. Peterson's affidavit or Mr. Schreiber's estimate of the cost, we should have something to go upon. But we are not given that, we are not given one tittle of evidence, and all Judge Clark can say is that he did not intend to evade the question. It seems to me clear that we should refer this question back to the committee for the purpose of obtaining that information. If it is obtained, and if it is satisfactory, the House will be in a position to grant the rights. The branches cannot be built till the main line is built. I assume, and they will then have an opportunity of locating the branches, and of telling us what is likely to be the cost, by knowledge of the country through which they have to run. Parliament always treated the Canadian Pacific Railway with fairness, perhaps with more than fairness.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). With generosity.

Mr. McCARTHY. In that case they have nothing to fear from this Parliament. But they have an idea, if we are to take Judge Clark's own words for it, that by virtue of these branches which we have given them power to bond as soon as they are built, they are going to let themselves out, and we may be sure that they will not "let themselves in" in that respect. Why should Parliament grant to them that which we have a right to control, that which will give them no trouble to come back and ask for, if it is found, owing to the nature of the country, that it will cost more to build the road than they now anticipate? I would not be so strong upon the point if it were not that by virtue of this very statute that I have read, they have not a right to bond their branches to the extent of \$25,000 per mile. There is no evidence before this House, there was no evidence before the committee, that it would cost more than \$25,000 to build any one of these branches, when they do build them; nor was there any evidence, beyond a general statement as to the nature of the country through which these branches would likely be built. That being so, it remains for us to consider whether the Bill in its present form should be adopted, or whether it should be referred back to the committee for the purpose of striking out that portion giving them the power, which, I submit to the House, they should not have until they furnish the information we have asked for, and which would entitle them to that which they are now about to obtain. But we are asked: Why throttle an enterprise, or endeavour to stop a railway in developing this new country? Far be it from me to endeavour to stop its development. We look to the Canadian Pacific Railway to develop that country. They have been spoon-fed by the country, not unduly, but their stock stands at par. That being so, we have a right to criticise, and to ask that now they get no more than that which they are strictly entitled to. Then, as to the freight rates and stations, I did not intend to refer to them. But there is a certain degree of disquiet in that country which the committee cannot refuse to heed, and which neither party in Parliament, I venture to say, wishes to see increased. Therefore, it behooves us to be careful of the way in which we deal with the railways in that country in order that the country may be properly and fairly developed.

Mr. D. TISDALE (South Norfolk). The hon. gentleman has expressed his views with regard to this matter, and he forgets some things that passed in committee. While there was no sworn evidence, it was conceded on all hands that this was a mining country, and the Act of Parliament itself shows that. It was also conceded that the mining regions of British Columbia are

mountainous and render difficult the construction of a road. Therefore, it was not thought necessary by, I think, a large majority of the committee, that any further evidence was necessary. It was practically conceded, at all events the vote of the committee showed that they considered that answer to my hon. friend's contention as sufficient. You cannot find a charter on the statutes for a railway in a mountainous country, where we have not given willingly bonded powers of \$30,000 to \$35,000, not being particular as to two, or three, or four, or five thousand. We must not forget that it is against the interests of a railway company to bond too much, because they have got to pay the bonds first, and then they get their profit after that. This Columbia and Western charter was a myth. When I say a myth, I mean that there was no probable chance for it to go on. They were not speculators ready to take it up and build it, they had to get the Canadian Pacific Railway to do it, or it would stand on the statute-book like many other charters. The Canadian Pacific Railway says: Now, we will build it. We want two things; we want, for the main line, \$35,000 of the promised bonds; we want also to have the power referred to in the statute. I do not agree with my hon. friend's construction of that statute. If the English language can be plain, it says plainly that they are limited to 20 miles. My hon. friend makes an ingenious argument that they might go 50 miles to get 20 miles, and that, therefore, we would be giving them power to build a longer road. I do not think you ever saw a railway company that would go any further than they were compelled. The charter is express. It was never contended in the committee otherwise. Twenty miles to go to a mine means 20 miles, or else I do not understand the English language. Now, mention has been made of the proceedings of the Railway Committee. Like himself, I was one of those who raised a point; I objected to the power to construct branch lines being struck out. Why? Not in the interests of the railway. I can tell my hon. friend from East Toronto (Mr. Ross Robertson) that I have no more interest in any railway, and have not had since I have been in this House, than he has. The hon. gentleman says that I represent my own constituents. So I do. And if he represents his well, he will remember that the city of Toronto has spent money on enterprises that they believed in, giving railway schemes a chance to build if they would furnish the money. The city of Toronto is the great capital of Ontario. I live 100 miles from it, and though I represent a country constituency, I have a right to my opinions as well as the hon. gentleman, and I do not want him to preach to me what my duty is in regard to these questions. I am quite willing to listen to his arguments and prepared to answer them. I say it is a very small argument to make that because one gentleman

Mr. TISDALE.

takes a different view from him, or because he only represents his own constituents, that therefore, he cannot speak on any question that does not concern his own constituents. These gentlemen think they know so much more than the rest of us, that they alone have a right to speak for the whole country. I would not have referred to this matter if he had not referred to me in the same way. I feel very strongly about this question, in the interests of the people. I have not a dollar's worth of interest in British Columbia, and do not know much about the country. I regret that I have not been able to go out into that mining country. I am too busy with my own affairs in this province. But I leave it to the good judgment of all practical men in this committee whether a \$35,000 bonding power is too great to build a railway through a mountainous country. I objected to its being struck out, because I thought it was against the interests of the people that these gentlemen represent out there. It may be said that they who live out there know better than we do. They do in local matters, but on the question of the development of the mineral resources that are a part of this Dominion, I say that we want broad views. To tell me that it is a bad thing for this Parliament to give power to a great company like this to build these branch lines to mines with their own money, or the money they raise on the \$35,000 bonded power, I say is to support a narrow policy that does not do credit to these gentlemen from British Columbia, who, on these questions, are all the time trying to make it appear that other gentlemen who have different views from theirs are not representing the public, but that they have some personal interest in it. I do think that is some excuse for me saying so much on this question, and I am prepared to stand or fall by it, that it is injurious to the development of British Columbia not to allow this 20 mile power to build to mines. Before they can commence to build a branch they have to come back to the House and obtain power to do so. They are restricted to the 20 miles in going to a mine; they have no towns or villages to go to, but only mines in that country. I am only taking this time to emphasize that conclusion, and I want to say, that we have a larger Railway Committee than there are hon. members in the House to-night. This matter was thoroughly threshed out before that committee, and, therefore, I do not think we ought to interfere with it. There may be hon. gentlemen present who were not present at the committee, and so I have trespassed for a longer time than I otherwise would, but I would say, that a majority of the committee approved of these provisions and they were accepted.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Mr. Speaker, I do not rise to oppose the bonding privilege granted to this company, because I think the evidence produced justified us in giving the right to bond for \$35,000 a mile,

although I am in favour of the principle laid down by the hon. gentleman who moved the motion, because I believe, that it is not in the interest of the people, that railways should be bonded for more than they cost. In the case of this railway, I think it may fairly be assumed, that it will require \$35,000 a mile to build. I got up to say a word in reference to the conduct of this railway company in passing by one of the most important towns in that district, Grand Forks, and in reference to the conduct of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, when building its lines of railway through Manitoba, the North-west Territories and British Columbia. In visiting that country some years ago, I was struck with that very remarkable peculiarity of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. They have passed several important towns, one, or two, or three miles away, and the people who had these commercial centres built, and in which their money was invested, and for which the railway was to be built, were given the go-by, and many of them were obliged to move the whole of their buildings away across the country, perhaps two or three miles, to get near the railway station again. I think that conduct on the part of the railways was unfair to the people and unfair to the country, after giving the assistance which the country did, in the shape of money or lands, for the purpose of bringing to these pioneers throughout the western country conveniences in the shape of railway transportation. The question which naturally suggested itself to my mind was: What did we give this money to these railway companies for? It was these centres of settlement that induced us to give assistance to build railways in there for the benefit of the people who went in before there were any railways built. Yet the railway companies, to whom we give the money, do not give these people the conveniences which they require. If we, in older Canada, give a bonus to a railway company, we take good care to stipulate, that the railway company receiving that bonus shall build their railway and stations at certain specified places; but in the western country the people have no control over that; they are placed at the mercy of the railway companies, and the railway companies have not shown very much mercy for them. Take the town of Grand Forks. We had a great deal of discussion over that clause in the Railway Committee. I do not know that I am exactly in order in referring to it here, and I should not have referred to it but for the fact, that I would like to emphasize my feelings in regard to the conduct of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, or any other railway company, in giving these towns the go-by, the same applies to the town of Moyle. The hon. Minister of Railways and Canals said, that there were no engineering difficulties to prevent this company locating their station in the town of Moyle. The hon. Minister of Rail-

ways (Mr. Blair) stated, that he had been informed by his chief engineer, that he was satisfied, that the railway station could be built at Moyle without inflicting any injustice upon the railway company or without so cramping them in their operations as to make it difficult for them to carry on their business there. Whatever may have been their objections, in regard to putting the railway station at Moyle, there certainly could not have been the same objection put forward in regard to locating their station at Grand Forks, and it did appear, from the information which was given us by the hon. member from that district, that it was the clear intention of the railway company to give the place the go-by, unless it gave them far more than it could afford to give, and far more than any town ought to be obliged to pay, when a railway is being projected through the country. The sooner railway companies learn, that the country gives the money for the purpose of bringing these conveniences to the pioneers of the country, and that it is expected, that they will, as far as possible, give the people who have been the pioneers of the country, the railway facilities that they require, the better it will be for all concerned. I sincerely hope, that the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals will take note of this, because, I believe, he has the power in his own hands to provide the remedy. Before a railway company build a station in the west, they must submit the location to the approval of the Governor in Council or the Minister of Railways for his approval. If they place a railway station anywhere that it should not be, all he has to do is to say, that he does not approve of that, and that the location must be changed. Railway companies ought to be compelled to put their stations, especially where there are towns and villages built up before they came into the country, in the most suitable places for the convenience of the people who have gone into the country and developed it. Take the case of Moyle, which is three miles away from the station. It is a town of 600 people. Grand Forks is much larger; yet these towns are given the go-by. When Judge Clark was asked, in the committee, "What is the population of Moyle?" some one said, "Six hundred." When the question was asked, "What is the population of the place where you put the station?" the reply was, "One—the station-master." "But," he asked, "are we to change our location in the interest of Mr. Campbell, who bought a lot of property for the purpose of putting money into his pocket?" It was not in the interest of Mr. Campbell, but in the interest of the people who located there, and were operating three mines at that point, and who require a railway in close proximity to those mines to enable them to operate them profitably. And every man with a dollar invested in those mines was interested in seeing a station built in the most convenient locality. Not-

withstanding that these three mines were in close proximity to that station, the station was erected three miles away, because the town would not give the corporation more than they are disposed to give. I think we should come to an understanding, that there must be some control over railway corporations to compel them to consider the interests of the people in whose interests Canada is voting money.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Question, question.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar). Mr. Speaker, I presume it is still fifteen minutes yet before the hour expires, and I only intend to speak for one or two minutes; I have no desire to obstruct this Bill. I wish to say, that I think such a discussion as has occurred, both in the committee and in this House on this Bill is very important. I think, in the past, the Parliament of Canada has paid too little attention to the bonding powers that have been given to railways, and, because of this lack of care in granting these powers, railways throughout this country are loaded up with very heavy fixed charges. It will be unnecessary, perhaps, to reiterate the fact, that, when any railroad is heavily bonded, and when its fixed charges are extreme, the people pay for these fixed charges in freight rates, and it is in the interests of the people that Parliament should exercise the most stringent care in guarding the interests of the public in that regard. There would be some who, no doubt, think that \$35,000 a mile is an extreme amount to allow any railway to be bonded for. We have the declaration of Mr. Peterson, the chief engineer of the Canadian Pacific Railway, that that road will cost that amount of money. I am not prepared now, and I was not prepared in the committee, to dispute that testimony, although I felt that the Government itself should make inquiries on the matter and enlighten Parliament in regard to the facts. However, I think it was generally conceded in the committee, that Parliament would allow that main line to be bonded to the extent of \$35,000 a mile. But, Sir, I believe I speak the general conviction when I say, that they ought not to have the power to bond branch lines of an unlimited extent to the amount of \$35,000 a mile, because they may build twenty branch lines if they choose, as there are mines to connect with all through that country. I do not think we ought give them carte blanche to issue bonds to the extent of \$35,000 a mile on all the branches they may choose to build.

There is another matter I wish to refer to in this connection. I propose to play the role of a prophet, when I say, it is my conviction that within ten years, this country will see the necessity of taking over all the railroads that exist in Canada. I believe there is growing such a feeling throughout the country, that the force of public opinion will be such that the Government, through

Mr. SPROULE.

Parliament, will ultimately be compelled to take over the entire railroad interests of the country, as has been done in the Australasian colonies, and in Germany, and in Belgium, and as I am told, in Switzerland. That being the possibility, it is desirable that this Parliament should exercise the very greatest care in extending bonding privileges, because we may have to pay back the exact amount we allow these railway companies to bond for. We have also a duty to perform to those who purchase these bonds, because when the country takes over these railways, we may see the necessity of expropriating them at their exact value, and if they are loaded up with enormous fixed charges and large bonded indebtedness, these bond holders will be compelled to lose, and the country may suffer by virtue of what some might regard as repudiation, although I would not consider it in that light. The member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) took the position in the committee the other day, that he was actuated, not so much in the interests of the railway company as in the interests of those who live in that district. I do not know exactly how the hon. gentleman (Mr. Tisdale) voted on the Kettle River Valley Railway Bill, but I felt very strongly at the time that it was a peculiar position to take, when the Parliament of Canada last session deliberately refused to charter a railway company which offered to build a road throughout that entire Boundary Creek district without costing this country one penny; and coincident with that, this Parliament voted \$3,630,000 to build the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, which did not serve the country that needed a railway any more than this Kettle River Valley Railway would. I would not wish to take the position that I am not anxious to see the settlers receive every consideration in that respect, but I believe that the time has come when a protest ought be entered against allowing railway companies to receive all the bonding powers they like, and I, for one, am prepared to take that position.

Mr. ROBERTSON. With the permission of the House I would like to offer a word of explanation to the statement made by the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale). I did not state that he was interested in any railroad enterprise of any kind whatever. I am responsible to the people of East Toronto, for my actions in this House, and I can tell the hon. gentleman that the fear of not getting back here will not keep me from doing what I believe to be right while I am here.

House divided on amendment (Mr. Oliver).

YEAS :

Messieurs

Bostock,  
Burnett,  
Casey,  
Christie,

McCarthy,  
McMillan,  
Oliver,  
Richardson,

Clarke,  
Douglas,  
Fitzpatrick,

Robertson,  
Rogers, and  
Wood.—14.

NAYS :

Messieurs

Angers,  
Bain,  
Bazinet,  
Beattie,  
Belcourt,  
Bergeron,  
Bourassa,  
Britton,  
Calvert,  
Campbell,  
Carroll,  
Clancy,  
Costigan,  
Craig,  
Dechene,  
Desmarais,  
Dyment,  
Ferguson,  
Gauthier,  
Gibson,  
Gillies,  
Godbout,  
Guillet,  
Haggart,  
Hale,  
Haley,  
Holmes,  
Hughes,  
Hurley,  
Joly de Lotbinière  
(Sir Henri),  
LaRivière,

Laurier (Sir Wilfrid),  
Lavergne,  
Mackie,  
MacPherson,  
McCleary,  
McCormick,  
McInerney,  
McIsaac,  
McMullen,  
Marcotte,  
Martin,  
Moore,  
Morin,  
Pettet,  
Powell,  
Préfontaine,  
Proulx,  
Rcsamond,  
Ross,  
Savard,  
Sifton,  
Somerville,  
Sproule,  
Stenson,  
Sutherland,  
Taylor,  
Tisdale,  
Tupper (Sir Charles  
Hibbert),  
Tyrwhitt, and  
Wallace.—61.

Amendment negatived.

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

#### DRAINAGE ACROSS RAILWAYS.

House resumed the consideration of the proposed motion of Mr. Casey : That the Order of the House for Committee of Whole on Bill (No. 24) An Act concerning drainage on and over the property of railway companies, be discharged and the Bill be referred to a special committee ; and the amendment of the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) thereto.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). Mr. Speaker, before this Bill goes to the special committee to be dealt with, it seems proper that I should offer some few observations as to the character of the Bill.

Mr. GEO. E. CASEY (East Elgin). I think, Mr. Speaker, that the point of order that has been raised, and that was before you when you left the Chair at six o'clock, ought to be settled previous to any other discussion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The point of order which has been raised is this. By Rule 78 it is provided :

That no member who declares or decides against the principle or substance of a Bill, resolution, or matter to be committed, can be nominated of such committee.

It was declared this afternoon by the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) that the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) had committed himself against the principle of the Bill.

Mr. CASEY. The hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Haggart) was also mentioned.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I do not remember that the hon. member for Lanark was also mentioned.

Mr. SPROULE. I referred to the hon. member near me, but I could not think of the constituency at the time, and so I did not name it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I do not remember myself what the hon. member for South Norfolk declared. My impression is that he declared himself against the principle of the Bill ; but the discussion took place some days ago, and I have not the reference now before me. That is why I asked the hon. member for South Norfolk whether he was in favour of or against the principle of the Bill. Therefore, I am not in a position just now to declare whether he is in favour of or against the principle of the Bill.

Mr. CASEY. Speaking to the question of order, I suppose it would be in order for me to read what these hon. gentlemen did say, at the earlier stage of this debate, as regards the principle of the Bill. Although I did not raise this point of order myself, I think it is proper that it should be decided in a parliamentary manner. I therefore beg to quote what these hon. gentlemen said, and leave it to you to say whether they declared themselves as against the principle of the Bill or not. On April 20th, I find that Mr. Haggart said :

The legislation proposed is dangerous, and would lead to interminable litigation.

Mr. LARIVIERE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Has the hon. gentleman any right to quote a statement made by an hon. member in a previous debate ?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. It is not a previous debate, because it took place on the second reading of this Bill ; and it has been decided several times by the Speaker that on the different stages of a Bill members have a right to refer to debates which took place on the previous stages.

Mr. CASEY. It is all the same debate, of course, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member for Lanark said :

The legislation proposed is dangerous, and would lead to interminable litigation. You will find every railway company opposed to it, not because they are not perfectly willing to contribute to what is right and necessary in the way of building culverts or anything else, but because of the actions that they will be subjected to. \* \* \* What I object to is leaving the railway companies subject to any number of applications

and any amount of litigation. Parties who have control of municipalities are generally influenced by the citizens of those municipalities ; and it is in their interest to have as many culverts as possible, if they are made at the expense of the railway company. \* \* \* The cheapest and most effective tribunal that can be provided is already provided.

That is, the Railway Committee of the Privy Council. Now, as the principle of this Bill is to take away jurisdiction from the Railway Committee of the Privy Council in these cases and give it to a board of arbitration, I conclude that the hon. gentleman who objects to this Bill taking away that jurisdiction is opposed to the principle of the Bill. The hon. member for South Norfolk said :

Some years ago, as we all know, a Royal Commission suggested that the Railway Committee of the Privy Council should deal with questions of this kind ; and that tribunal has been, on the whole, satisfactory and cheap. When the Conservative party had the responsibility of dealing with these questions, I contended that it was, on the whole, the best tribunal we could have, and I am glad to see that it is keeping up its reputation under the control of the right hon. gentleman who leads this House at the present time. Therefore, I object to the time of this House being taken up by the same question, submitted again and again ; but, as we must deal with it in some way or other, I think it should be sent to the committee upon which is imposed the responsibility of dealing with all legislation affecting railways.

So that both of these hon. gentlemen on that occasion objected to the principle of the Bill. On the second occasion when it came up, I do not find that Mr. Haggart spoke ; but Mr. Tisdale repeated his opposition to the Bill, and said :

The principle of this Bill is one that strikes at the root of the whole jurisprudence governing Dominion railways.

He repeated his statement that the Railway Committee of the Privy Council was the only tribunal that should deal with such cases. He said :

It would be a great mistake in my judgment to send this Bill to a special committee.

I would have to quote the whole of the speeches of these hon. gentlemen to prove more fully than these quotations do that they are both opposed to the principle of this Bill. But I submit, as they were opposed to the principle of the Bill, and opposed to its going to a special committee, that it is rather irregular, to say the least of it, and I believe out of order, that they should be members of the committee to which this Bill is referred. I did not raise this point of order myself. I was prepared to see what I could do to convince these gentlemen after they were on the committee ; but, as the point of order has been raised, I feel it my duty to say what their position was, and to leave it to you to decide what the rules of the House demand.

Mr. CASEY.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, you have given your opinion already that if the hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Haggart) and the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) have expressed their opinions as adverse to the Bill, they should be disqualified from sitting on the committee. The point of order may be well taken ; but I submit to my hon. friend the mover of this Bill, and also to my hon. friend from East Grey, who raised the point, that in fairness the point ought not to be taken. It is very true that ordinarily—and there must be sound reason for it, for the rules of the House so provide—that if a member pronounces adversely to the principle of a Bill, he is debarred from sitting on a committee on the same. But it very often happens that a subject of a technical nature is not fully discussed on the second reading of the Bill, but is referred to one of the standing committees and on such occasions the House, by its second reading, does not confirm the principle of the Bill but refers that principle to one of the standing committees, in order that the committee may investigate the matter fully and report to the House.

Mr. WALLACE. Is that the case with private or public Bills ?

The PRIME MINISTER. It is the case with public Bills, and my hon. friend will agree with me that on several occasions Bills similar to this one—for instance, the Bill requiring the use by railway companies of certain mechanical appliances—were referred to the Railway Committee to look into the principle and take all the evidence necessary to arrive at a decision and then report to the House. In such cases, the House does not confirm the principle by its second reading, but refers the whole matter, both principle and details, to the committee. Not having confirmed the principle of this Bill by its second reading, I do not think the point raised by the hon. gentleman is well taken. For my part, although I suggested to the mover of the Bill to have it referred to a special rather than the General Railway Committee, I did not consider I was committing myself to its principle, though my views were in favour of the Bill, and a good many hon. members did not, by consenting to the second reading, pretend to affirm the principle of the measure but merely wanted to have the whole matter investigated by the committee. Under the circumstances, I do not think that the ex-Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart) and the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale), both of whom have great experience in the matter, should be debarred from sitting on the committee. If the point is persisted in and the Speaker maintains the point of order, I shall have to consider whether or not the Bill had not better be referred to the General Committee on Railways.

Mr. SPROULE. Though I was first in favour of sending the Bill to the Railway Committee when it was decided to send it to a selected committee which has been moved, I came to the conclusion that to do so would be to kill the measure. Therefore, I raised the point, which I think was well taken, and I find the authority of Dr. Bourinot in its support :

It shall be understood that no member who declares against the principle of a Bill or resolution or other matter to be submitted to a committee can be nominated on this committee.

That was the rule of the old Parliaments of Upper and Lower Canada and has been the rule followed in this House and in the Imperial Parliament. Therefore, I thought I was doing what was right in raising the point of order, especially when I believed it was for the salvation of the Bill which I desired to have become law.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I see that the principle of the Bill has been stated by its mover, Mr. Casey, and also by the hon. member for South Norfolk. On page 1963 of "Hansard" I find the hon. member for North Norfolk saying :

The important principle of the Bill is this, that it takes from the Railway Committee of the Privy Council the power of dealing with the railways under its jurisdiction in regard to drainage, the most important part of the cost and construction of railways, and that principle has been before this House for twelve years.

The mover of the Bill said it was the same measure that was introduced last year. It is the same Bill that was introduced last year, and it is modelled largely on the Railway Drainage Act of Ontario, an Act which is very carefully drawn, and which was passed under the auspices of Sir Oliver Mowat when he was Premier of that province. It is designed merely to avoid the necessity for reference to the Railway Committee of the Privy Council.

Thus the principle has been laid down by these two hon. gentlemen, and I notice that the hon. member for North Norfolk, at page 2221, declared that this was a radical departure, changing the general principle of control of our railways. He said :

That control is in this legislature, and I do not want to see that power and authority checked, that protection both to the railway and the public made less complete.

I may say that the hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Haggart) also declared himself in opposition to the Bill, if I understood him rightly, and if I did not the hon. gentleman can set me right.

In my opinion, therefore, these two gentlemen having declared themselves against the principle of the Bill, they have not the right to be on the committee.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). I have very little to say with reference to the merits of this Bill, because I

presume that is a matter that will be brought up and fully discussed in the committee. But with reference to the operation of that measure, so far as the province of Quebec is concerned, I will just say a word or two. Substantially under this Bill, every municipality and land owner throughout the Dominion would have the right to drain the property of a railway company just as freely as a land owner might his own private property. I need not do more than point out the object in order to show the danger of this proposed legislation. But let me further draw attention to section 307 of the Railway Act, which provides that every railway which is under the control of the Dominion and every branch line shall hereafter be subject to the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada. But it provides further that any Act passed by the legislature of any province of Canada, prior to the 25th May, 1883, relating to any such railway or branch line and in force at that date, shall remain in force. In the province of Quebec we have in our Municipal Code, article 876, which provides how the rural inspector in a municipality is to proceed in the case of defective drainage on the part of any railway company, and I may say that in the case referred to by Mr. Britton, which was decided in the Privy Council, it was held that this question was a matter of merely local concern, and that this special section of our Municipal Code was operative, in so far as the province of Quebec is concerned. And I apprehend that some such legislation must exist in the province of Ontario.

Mr. CASEY. As it was enforced before 1883 ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes. And so you find that in the provinces we have legislation now existing which meets the difficulties that may occur in those general provinces. Under these circumstances, I do not see why we should be called upon to pass the present Bill, which, if it goes through in its present form will be absolutely unworkable so far as the province of Quebec is concerned—even if it is *intra vires* of this House. As we have provision in the laws of the provinces which are satisfactory to the people of which I have heard no complaint, I cannot see why legislation of this sort, which is general in its operation, should be passed in this House—especially in view of the fact that I think it very doubtful whether we have the right to pass it at all.

Mr. JAMES CLANCY (Bothwell). I think the discussion has shown the great difficulty of dealing with a Bill of this kind. The objection pointed out by the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) may be very pertinent as affecting the operating of the Bill in the province of Quebec, but I think the object of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Casey), who introduced the Bill, was rather to meet such cases as we find arising in the province of Ontario.

I am very glad to hear the right hon. First Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) declare that he is in favour of a Bill of this nature—perhaps not just such a Bill as the hon. gentleman has introduced, but one that will meet the difficulties that have been pointed out. I confess that the Bill seems to me to be crude, and I can offer no better evidence of that than the fact that there are protests from the very municipalities that are more immediately concerned than any others in the Dominion of Canada. The hon. gentleman stated that he introduced a somewhat imperfect Bill. But to introduce a Bill which is imperfect and send it to a committee wholly uninformed, as I think I shall be able to show, upon such matters, means taking wide chances of the legislation that may result. A statement was made by the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton), and dissented from on this as to the powers of the Railway Committee of the Privy Council to deal with matters relating to the subject of this Bill. The hon. member for Kingston occupied a distinguished position in the province of Ontario, with great satisfaction, I am bound to say, as official drainage referee for some years, and no doubt, became possessed of a good deal of information that it would be impossible for any to become possessed of without a similar experience. I will only call the hon. gentleman's attention to this fact that this is a very much larger question, I think, than the House would be prepared to deal with just at this moment. In western Ontario, there are three townships alone that have spent more than a million dollars in these drainage works. That may seem a very extraordinary statement, but it is a fact. Many of those drains have to be constructed by dredges. In some instances, the railways have built their lines where the drains will need to cross them, and in other cases the drains have been constructed and the railways have spanned them afterwards. These drains have to be kept in repair by means of dredges, and the right of way for these dredges through the railway bridges must be secured. It will easily be seen that if these matters are to be dealt with by the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, it is most important that the powers of the committee should be known. There is another phase of the case. Western Ontario is probably more interested in this matter than any other part of the Dominion. In eastern Ontario, and probably in the province of Quebec and the eastern provinces, nature has provided channels to carry off the water. But in western Ontario there is a large section of completely level land from which the water can be taken off only by expensive drains. The railway companies take possession of the lands, either by building before there are any drains or when the drains are small. Let me explain that in a new country even where ultimately there is developed a large system of drains, the drains are smaller at first. This must be so, because, in the first place, in the

early days, the people are financially unable to build larger drains, and in the second place, the interests of the moment do not require larger drains. But, as settlement grows and wealth increases, other drains are run into those already constructed, and it becomes necessary that these should be enlarged and all must find one main outlet. Take a drain of that description made 15 years ago, and not crossed by any railways at that time. The railways have come in and taken possession of these lands, exercising their rights of appropriation and providing only small culverts for the drains already existing—in many cases very inadequate, or even no culverts. But the farmers are coming in with the representatives of the municipalities asking for outlets for these drains. The answer in many cases is: You can take the drains along the railways to an outlet. But see how unfair that is. In many cases it would be physically impossible, and in many other cases it would involve such a cost as to be ruinous to those who undertook it. It must be remembered that it is not the municipalities who pay for these drains, but the cost is assessed against a particular area, the municipalities being only responsible for the payment and for putting the machinery in operation. The people are seeking highways, if I may so use the term, for main drains. There will probably be an area of 15 miles square the drainage of which depends on one grand outlet, and it would be impossible to carry the water along the railway track to an outlet without great difficulty. I need only refer, as the Solicitor General has spoken of it, to the Act passed by the Ontario legislature. It was passed hurriedly, and it has been found to be absolutely a dead letter, as my hon. friend from Kent (Mr. Campbell) knows. It affords no substantial relief to those who are most concerned. I am not going to say just what kind of Bill should be passed, but I appeal to the right hon. the First Minister, as I am certain he is well disposed towards legislation of this kind, not to send this Bill to a large committee.

The right hon. gentleman will see, if he discusses this question with the hon. member behind him, that no committee could be possessed of that information which is necessary to enable them to deal with so complicated a question. There are the rights of the railway companies to be considered, and there are the rights of the people to be considered, and the committee is not possessed of sufficient information regarding those rights. I think we should have a commission to examine into the urgency and into the merits of the case; that is to say, that the question should not be dealt with at this session. I care not how diligently the committee may strive to frame a good Bill, it would be utterly impossible to deal with a subject of this magnitude at the present session. I am speaking now more particularly of the western part of Ontario, where we are more immediately concerned with this matter. If a commission were sent to

examine the facts of the case, then alone could it deal with a question of this kind. I am not objecting to the personnel of the committee, but I think my hon. friend from Kent (Mr. Campbell), who lives in the atmosphere of the difficulties, should have been upon that committee, because he would be able to suggest witnesses who would give information that no one else could give. But I hope it will not be dealt with by the small committee which is now proposed, against which I have no complaint to make. Although there are a number of lawyers on it, it may be necessary to have some lawyers in order to draw up a Bill in the best form. But even lawyers must be possessed of accurate information in regard to this question before they can frame a proper Bill. I hope the mover of the Bill will consent to its being postponed, in order that the question may be dealt with in a more intelligent manner than this special committee can deal with it.

Mr. JOHN McMILLAN (South Huron). I have been concerned considerably in municipal life. For fifteen or sixteen years I was reeve of the township, in which we had a large number of leading drains to construct. We have two drainage systems in the province of Ontario. We have what we call the Ditches and Watercourses Act, under which not more than six independent farmers or owners of land can combine to Act, and under which improvements can be made. If an individual wishes to get a drain constructed, he has to get a majority of his neighbours to sign a petition. That petition is sent into the township council, an engineer is sent on to examine the work, and, if all parties are agreeable, the work goes on. But, if it is a large work, it has to be done under what they call the Municipal Drainage Act. Under that Act, an engineer goes on and assesses the whole property, lays out all the work, and assesses each parcel of land, and then the work is let in contracts. People have great difficulty in getting drainage across our railways in the province of Ontario. I believe in the principle of this Bill, because it lays down a very simple principle, by which the owner of any lands can notify the clerk of the township, and each municipality in Ontario has a licensed engineer engaged to do the work in that township. The clerk of the municipality, under this Bill, would notify the engineer. The engineer goes and examines the work to be done, he draws up a plan and profile, and gives an estimate of the cost of the work. After that is done, either the engineer or the township clerk sends a copy of all this to the railway company. The railway company looks it over, and within a certain number of days, if they are agreeable, they notify the township clerk, and the work goes on. If they are not agreeable, they send down their engineer to meet the township engineer, where the work is to be done. The two engineers, in com-

pany, examine the locality, examine the plan and profile, and, if they can agree, that is the end of it. If the two engineers cannot agree, the matter is not taken entirely out of the hands of this Government, because it is left to the Minister of Railways and Canals to appoint a third engineer, who shall join their two engineers, and examine the locality with them, and try to effect a settlement. This is by far a cheaper and a more convenient system for the farmers, at least for the province of Ontario, than it would be for them to come before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council. I have been in the Railway Committee of the Privy Council a few times, and I know, that, unless parties are represented by lawyers there, they have no chance whatever against these experts who represent the railway companies. But this Bill provides for a licensed engineer for the municipality and a licensed engineer for the railway company to meet together, and, if necessary, a third licensed engineer is sent by the Minister of Railways and Canals, and together they settle the question. But I would object, for instance, to section 10, which is, I think, one of the objectionable clauses. It says :

Where any existing bridge or culvert in the road-bed of a railway has to be charged, under the provisions of this Act, by the deepening or widening thereof, such deepening or widening shall be done by the railway company, but at the cost of the municipality or land-owner.

Let me say, that, if the railway has gone to work and built a culvert that is not of sufficient size, I do not think the loss would fall upon the municipality. I think it would fall upon the farmers. Therefore, this clause should be struck out, and let the engineers, when they meet, determine what portion of the cost the railway company should pay, and what portion each land-owner should pay. I think that would be the most simple system of dealing with this question, and a system that would do justice to the farmers in Ontario. A small farmer can easily go to the expense of bringing on an engineer, and then there is no difficulty, under that system, of getting the work done satisfactorily, in a great measure. Let me say, that the day is fast approaching when something will have to be done, because we all know, that in an old country the longer you farm land, the greater the number of drains you have got to put into that land, and the greater the number of drains you have, the greater becomes the flood of high water in the spring. You have to have greater space, in both drains and culverts, to carry off the water. There is another difficulty arising all over the province of Ontario. Many cleared farms have bogs. These are all being drained, and this also increases the flow of water. These things must be provided for. I hold, that a farmer who took up his land in good faith, if a railway has been run through, preventing him from getting that system of drainage that

he would naturally have had but for the railway, should not suffer by being unable to get his land drained, or by having to go to a great amount of extra cost for that purpose. Some one has suggested, that in many instances the drain could be run along the side of the railway. Well, that is taking the water out of its natural course, and it is going to cut the farms up too much. Most of the railways do not put their drains deep enough on the side of the road to be of any benefit at all for the draining of farms. They only put their drains in to carry off the surface water, not to allow the farmers to drain, and they will not allow the farmers to go on their property and deepen these drains. I hold that the principle of the Bill is correct. There may be some clauses of it that require amendment, but I hope that the Government will give this matter their best consideration this session, and assist in perfecting some measure that will give relief to a great many farmers in Ontario—not only in Ontario, but also in other provinces. The Bill ought to be constructed, as far as it is possible, if it is to be a Dominion Bill, in such a way that it would meet the wants of all the different provinces, not of one province alone, so that the farmers in all the provinces would have the right that they ought to enjoy of draining their lands.

Mr. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL (Kent, Ont.) Mr. Speaker, I think the House will understand that this is, as I believe, one of the most important Bills that has engaged the attention of the House. I think the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) deserves a good deal of credit for bringing this matter before the attention of the Government and the House. I quite agree with what has been said by the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), that in the western part of the province of Ontario this matter is one that is engaging the attention of the people to a larger and greater extent, perhaps, than in any other part of the province. In that part of the province the land is unfortunately very flat, and the necessity of draining the land, under the rails, is very great indeed. There are some drains cut there now from 100 to 120 feet wide at the top—canals—and quite deep, some of them being ninety feet wide at the bottom. The land, as was said by the hon. member for Bothwell, is constantly being improved, and new drains are now being made. There is a greater flow of water down these streams and the outlet under the rails is altogether too small. It has been found to be almost impossible to get the necessary right for an outlet under the railways. Some of the townships there have spent an enormous amount of money, having been sued on all hands, as the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton), no doubt, will be aware. They have paid enormous sums in land

Mr. McMILLAN.

damages—damages by reason of the land being overflowed and the farmers' crops being destroyed. They have tried in vain to get access under the railways. I have, in my mind, an instance that occurred a short time ago, where it was necessary to have a dredge brought in to carry on the work on a drain that was required. It was necessary to cross one of the important lines of railway, but it was found almost impossible. They could not get the right to bring that dredge under or over that railway, and they were put to an enormous amount of expense before they could get their dredge across, so that they could continue dredging. I think in this Bill now before the House, there are a great many commendable features; I think it is a move in the right direction, but, as the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan) pointed out, I think there are some clauses that need a good deal of amendment, and, no doubt, when it comes before the committee it will be properly discussed. I must say to the Government that this is a question that is affecting the western part of Ontario particularly to the greatest extent. Every year the people are becoming more interested in it, and are feeling, more and more, the necessity of having some better legislation enacted so that they can procure the necessary right to drain their lands. Under the present machinery that we have on the statute-book, it will be found almost impossible to get the necessary permission to complete all these drains. I think in this Bill we have a modus operandi of providing what may meet the case, and if certain clauses are amended, as I think they will be, and if, perhaps, some other amendments are made in the Bill which will be suggested, I think we will have a Bill that will meet the wishes of the people and also meet the approval of the House. I therefore hope that the Government will give this matter their serious attention. I would say to the right hon. Prime Minister that it is worthy of the serious and earnest consideration of this Parliament, and that, if they cannot at the present time see their way to referring it to a proper committee, I would suggest to the hon. member for West Elgin that he should allow it to stand until a further day, so that the matter could receive the attention of the Government. But, at all events, whether it is referred to the Railway Committee or to a select committee, I trust that it will receive proper attention, and that it will be supported by this House.

The PRIME MINISTER. Mr. Speaker, I move that this debate be adjourned. I do this with the view that, in the interval between this and the next sitting upon which the matter comes up we may organize a committee which will be acceptable.

Motion to adjourn the debate agreed to.

### RETURNS ORDERED.

Copies of all unexpired leases and unexpired renewals and modifications of leases, and of all papers and plans relating thereto of all water lots, water power and hydraulic privileges in and along that portion of the River Ottawa and its various channels within the city of Ottawa, from the westerly boundary of the said city to the line of Kent Street, produced into the Ottawa River, and commonly known as the Chaudière, issued by the Government to any person, persons or company, and for plans showing the position of such water lots, water power and hydraulic privileges. Also, for a statement of the amount of power each lessee is entitled to use, and the date of the termination of the lease under which he is entitled to use it.—(Mr. Copp.)

Copies of all letters, documents, memoranda, agreements and correspondence containing, embodying, relating to or referring to the terms and conditions upon which Mr. A. H. Harris entered the service of the Government or of the Intercolonial Railway as general traffic manager of the Intercolonial Railway or otherwise.—(Mr. Pope, by Sir Charles Tupper.)

(1) Copies of all local and other tariffs and of all supplements thereto in force on the first day of July, A.D. 1898, on the Intercolonial Railway and on all railways leased, used or operated by the Government in connection with the Intercolonial Railway; (2) copies of all such local and other tariffs and supplements thereto in force on the said Intercolonial Railway and other railways on the first day of April, A.D., 1899; (3) a complete list, statement and return, giving full and complete particulars of special rates or other concessions to any merchants, traders, manufacturers or other persons for or in respect of the carriage of freight on the said Intercolonial Railway and other railways aforesaid, which were in force or effect on the following dates respectively: (a) the first day of July, A.D. 1898; (b) the first day of April, A.D. 1899. (4) Copies of all letters, reports, telegrams and communications in writing during the year 1898, from Mr. A. H. Harris, as general traffic manager of the Intercolonial Railway to the general manager of the said railway, respecting or relating to or concerning the re-arrangement or revision of tariffs on the Intercolonial Railway, or of the rules and regulations governing the carriage of either passengers or freight on the said railway.—(Mr. Pope, by Sir Charles Tupper.)

Return showing the dates upon which mails for Dawson were despatched from Vancouver or Victoria since July 1st, 1898, to the present, and the dates of arrival of them at Dawson respectively, and the routes by which they were despatched; also the dates on which mails were despatched from Dawson since July 1st, 1898, and when these reached Vancouver or Victoria, and by what routes.—(Mr. Foster.)

Copies of all leases, papers and documents of and concerning the lease of certain property on Isle aux Noix, in the province of Quebec, held by the Government, and under the control of the Department of Militia and Defence, showing the names of lessees since 1st January, 1895, to the present time, and the amount of rental paid by such lessees.—(Mr. Quinn, by Mr. Taylor.)

Copies of all petitions, correspondence, telegrams and instructions in reference to the granting of a bonded warehouse to John Gow Scrimgeour at Cardigan Bridge, Prince Edward Island.—(Mr. Macdonald, King's.)

Return showing the number of contracts entered into by the Government since the 30th

June, 1897, in which there is a clause prohibiting "sweating"; the total amount involved in such contracts; the name of the respective departments in which these contracts have been awarded; the names of the companies, or firms, or individuals to which such contracts have been given.—(Mr. Clarke.)

Copy of the report made by Mr. Frank Shanly, C.E., on sections Nos. 11 and 23 of the Intercolonial Railway, with his award respecting the same, including his award or finding on the claim of Messrs. Starr and De Wolfe, of Halifax, against the Government in respect to work done upon the said sections or either of them.—(Mr. Borden (Halifax), by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.)

Returns showing all sums expended to date upon the new wharf at Pointe Claire, P.Q. Also, how far the works have progressed; and a copy of the estimate of the cost of said wharf and statement showing how much it will cost to finish said wharf. Copies of all advertisements calling for tenders, as well as of all tenders and correspondence upon the subject.—(Mr. Monk, by Mr. Bergeron.)

Return giving the names of all the weirs now under license in the county of Charlotte, in the province of New Brunswick, with location of each, with date said licenses were issued, and with the name or names of the licensees of said weirs; also the names of all weirs licensed during 1898 that were not built and the names of licensees of said weirs, and the number of years said licenses have been granted without weirs having been built by such licensees.—(Mr. Ganong.)

Copies of the report of Mr. Hawkin, post office inspector, in reference to the inquiry or investigation held on the conduct of J. R. Leake, postmaster of Morton, in the county of Leeds, together with copies of all correspondence, complaints, affidavits or declarations and evidence taken at the investigation relating to said postmaster; together with a copy of the notice of his dismissal.—(Mr. Taylor.)

Copies of all particulars, applications, correspondence and grants respecting two and one-half miles of Hunker Creek, Klondike Mining Division, Yukon district, for the purpose of hydraulicing the same.—(Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.)

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

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 10.05 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 12th May, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS

### PROPOSED PACIFIC CABLE.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) laid on the Table of the House certain papers concerning a proposed Pacific Cable.

Mr. CASEY. With the permission of the House, I beg leave to move :

That all the papers laid on the Table of the House during this session relative to the proposed Pacific Cable, be printed forthwith, and that rule 96 be suspended in relation thereto.

He said : The reason for haste is that it is necessary to have these papers printed at an early day in order that they may catch the Australian mail. It is very important that they should reach there at the earliest possible date.

Motion agreed to.

#### CRUELTY TO ANIMALS .

Mr. PENNY moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 116) to amend the Criminal Code respecting cruelty to animals. He said : Mr. Speaker, the explanation in reference to this Bill is, that a great many horses are shipped from the city of Montreal on steamships leaving for Europe, and it has been found by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, that a great many of these animals are maltreated before leaving port ; while still in the stockyards. Their tails are docked by unqualified persons—persons who know nothing about veterinary surgery—and this Bill is introduced, more especially, for the prevention of cruelty to these horses that are being shipped to the other side. For instance, I am told that in one case a man was required to dock so many horses' tails in a given time, and he simply took up an axe and a board and went to work and chopped off the horses' tails, so many in a given time, and the horses, without being cauterised or otherwise medically treated, were put on board ship and left to bleed and suffer. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for that reason asked me to introduce this Bill. Last year when I introduced a similar Bill at the request of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, both of London and Hamilton, they promised to make a test of it. They have failed to comply with their promise, and I am re-introducing this Bill with the hope that it will pass.

#### MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY— ADDRESS IN REPLY TO SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) presented a Message from His Excellency the Governor General.

Mr. SPEAKER read the Message, as follows :—

MINTO.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

I thank you for the Address which you have adopted in reply to the Speech with which I opened the present session of Parliament. I rely with confidence upon your assurance that the important subjects commended to your attention will receive your serious consideration.

Government House,

Ottawa, 6th May, 1899.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

#### REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) when we may hope to have the redistribution Bill laid upon the Table of the House, or submitted for our consideration.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I think early next week.

#### MEETING OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I also want to ask my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) why it is that there seems to be an intention to postpone the meeting of a very important committee of this House, the Public Accounts Committee. We are now in a very advanced period of the session, and, at last, it was decided that there should be a meeting of the committee on Wednesday next, it having been asked for last Monday. It has now been postponed, I see, until Friday. There are some very important questions that committee will be asked to deal with, which are practically before it now, or will be the moment it meets, and it is very important that it should not be deferred until a very late period in the session.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). As my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) knows, this is a matter over which the Government has no control. The various committees are called by the chairman, but, my hon. friend knows, also, I presume, that the cause why some of the committees have not sat as often as might have been advisable, is that various committees have to sit at the same time, and there are, as my hon. friend is aware, some very important legislation before the Railway Committee, especially, and before the Banking and Commerce Committee, and it is not possible that two or three committees should sit at the same time. If that be not the reason, I do not know of any other.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would like to ask who had the power to postpone the meeting of this committee from Wednesday ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I may say that the committee was called, but the Bill fixed as the first order for special consideration, by the Banking and Commerce Committee, was considered by all the members present, representing both sides of the House, to be of such great importance to the country, and to involve such large interests, that it was unanimously agreed that the Committee on Banking and Commerce should meet on Wednesday next. The chairman of the Public Accounts Committee urged the desirability of having his committee meet upon that date. I do not think the hon. leader of the Opposition is mistaken in regard to the committee having been called and postponed. It

was suggested, I think, that it should be called on Wednesday, but it was the unanimous view of the members of the committee that the other Bill was so important that the Public Accounts Committee would have to give away, and that the meeting of the Banking and Commerce Committee should be held on that day. It is unfortunate that in these two weeks, some important committees should have to meet on the same day, owing to the congested state of the business, but it is necessary to facilitate the business, in the interest of the public and in that of parties concerned in this legislation, that the Banking and Commerce Committee should meet. However, I think that, in this week, probably some of the most important Bills will be got rid of, and that we will be enabled to hold numerous meetings.

Mr. FOSTER. I have not quite yet understood who it was that came to the unanimous decision to postpone the meeting of the committee which was called.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. If the hon. gentleman will allow me to explain, he will understand that when either room is occupied, another committee could not sit.

Mr. FOSTER. But the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee was called for Wednesday, and I would like to know by whom it was postponed.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Was an actual call issued? I did not get notice of it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. At page 251 of the Votes and Proceedings of the 9th of May, the Public Accounts Committee is called to meet on Wednesday, 17th of May, at 11 a.m. The next Order paper appears, and some one has taken upon himself to change it from Wednesday, 17th of May, to Friday, 19th of May.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Although it was agreed that the meeting should be called for Wednesday, the notices were not sent out. I went to the clerk and found out from him that, as the hon. member for North Oxford (Mr. Sutherland) has said, it was impossible, on account of other business, to get a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Have you frequently objected?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I trust that a meeting will be held next week, or as early as possible. I may say it was not my fault or that of the committee; it was on account of other business being so pressing, and it was thought that no time would be lost as other business would be got through with when there would be time for this committee.

Mr. SPROULE (East Grey). I think some of these committees might have been called together long ago. It did seem to me that at the early part of the session there was no reason in the world why the Agricultural

Committee could not have been called together. Week after week we had no committee work going on so that we could have got through considerable of the work of this committee. The Public Accounts Committee ought to have been called together as soon as the Auditor General's Report was laid before us. When we were doing no work in any of the other committees, we could then have got along with the work that committee had to do, and especially so in the case of the Agricultural Committee. There is no reason in the world why the Agricultural Committee could not have had half its work over by that time. I think we should bring the committees together so that we could go on with the work before we reach that stage of the session when there is a congestion of committee work, and when two important committees have to meet on the same day.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am not disposed to agree with the view of my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule), that the committees should sit while the Address was being debated. I do not think it is according to the general rule that the committees should be called to meet until the Address has been passed, and until we know whether or not the Government has the confidence of the House. Of course, we presume it had that confidence, but we were not sure, and my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) knows we had to listen to long speeches, and to recover from the effects of them.

Mr. SPROULE. The committees were not called together until a long time after the Address was adopted, and that is one of the complaints I make.

#### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 117) to incorporate the Ottawa Suburban Railway Company.—(Mr. Morrison.)

Bill (No. 118) respecting the Great Northern Railway Company and to change its name to the Great Northern Railway Company of Canada.—(Mr. Savard.)

Bill (No. 119) respecting the Red River Valley Railway and Coal Company.—(Mr. Somerville.)

#### SUPPLY—ORDERS OF THE HOUSE NOT COMPLIED WITH.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved that the House again resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). I wish to call the attention of the Government to the extraordinary delay in complying with Orders of this House for the production of public papers of great importance, which are absolutely necessary for the consideration of subjects before this

House. The papers I refer to involve very little work in their preparation, and some of them should have been ready, if not submitted to the House, without the form of an order at all. It seems unnecessary to argue that in regard to the administration of the Yukon territory, where extraordinary powers are vested in the Governor in Council, and where the local authorities have been given extraordinary powers by legislation from time to time, that there should be any necessity to press the Treasury benches to furnish that information when it reaches the hands of the Government or the Department of the Interior, which is particularly concerned. And yet, although requests have been made across the floor of the House for information in that regard, and although orders have been passed requiring the production of papers, I am unable to ascertain that there has been any compliance with these orders. Some days ago the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) was asked, for the sake of convenience to supply information that could be obtained by searching the official "Gazette" and the statutes with respect to the mining regulations in the Yukon, yet that simple request has not since been complied with. I call the attention of Parliament to the Orders that were adopted by this House concerning some of these papers; and, for my part, I do not see how it is possible to adequately discuss many items in the Supply Bill without these papers being before us. On the 19th of April, an Order of the House was adopted for:

Order for an itemized statement of the number of gallons of intoxicating liquors taken into the Klondike district since July, 1896, the number of permits granted therefor, with the names and post office addresses of those to whom said permits were granted and the amount paid therefor.

Now, the Minister of the Interior will remember that a large part of that work has already been done, but this return has not been brought down yet. The Minister will recollect that last session a somewhat similar return was made up to that date, and so the work of preparing the extended return cannot be exhausted, and might be easily accomplished. On the same day, the 19th of April, an Order of the House was passed for:

Statement of all persons appointed to office or assigned to duties of any kind in the Yukon district since August 1st, 1896, giving the names, post office addresses, rate of salary and allowances or expenses of each person, the duties assigned, the date of his appointment, the date of resignation or dismissal, and the reason therefor in the case of each resignation or dismissal. The above statement not to include the Mounted Police or Canadian Militiamen, but to include payments in each branch.

If during this year there has been any improvement in the postal communication between Dawson and Ottawa, it seems to me not an unreasonable supposition that that

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information is in the possession of the Department of the Interior, and that there cannot be any very great amount of work involved in the preparation of that return. On that same day, the 19th of April, there was an Address adopted to His Excellency the Governor General for:

Copies of any Orders in Council passed up to date respecting any officers of the Department of the Interior taking up mining claims; respecting any Government officers taking up mining claims, respecting officers of the Department of the Interior making homestead entries or buying lands.

This is a subject of some importance. It was referred to weeks ago in the debate in this House, and I should have thought that the Minister of the Interior would have been anxious to show some haste in bringing down that information. In general terms, I think the hon. Minister stated that there was such an Order passed, and stated about the time it was passed. So that the compliance with the Order of this House should consume no time. Then, on that same day, the 19th of April, an Order of the House was adopted for:

Copies of instructions given to Mr. F. C. Wade, whether before he left for Dawson to act in several official capacities or subsequently, more particularly a copy of the permission given him, if the permission was in writing, to stake claims in the Klondike.

That is a subject of information upon which, from the debate that has already taken place, there should be an official statement prepared without delay. I, perhaps, might infringe for a moment, not for the purpose of an argument at all, but in order that the Minister of the Interior might particularly understand what I mean. In the debate, the hon. Minister himself made a semi-official statement in regard to a conversation between himself and that officer. This return, however, would bring forth any official records, if such there be, in relation to that subject; and it seems to me, while that involves no trouble at all, the Minister, in all fairness, in dealing with the House, ought to show expedition and celerity in complying with a request of that character. On the same day, the 19th of April, an Order of the House was adopted for:

Copies of all communications, orders and instructions issued by the Department of the Interior to the administrator, or any of his officials, in the Yukon district, with the dates of their despatch.

There might be a question as to whether that return would involve labour; it depends on the number of the despatches which the Government are prepared to include in the return; and I shall not press upon the attention of the Minister any particular criticism in regard to that. But my point is that among these returns there are some that involve little or no trouble, and would yet afford considerable and exact official infor-

mation. Then there was another Order of the House adopted on the 19th of April for :

Return of all liquors taken into the Yukon since July 1, 1896, giving the names of the persons or companies taking them in, the quantity in each case, the date of issue of permit and the authority granting the permit ; also, all correspondence had with any parties in connection with the demand for, or granting of, permits for taking liquors into the Yukon.

This, I think, is practically covered by a return moved for by another hon. gentleman ; it might have one particular or another not covered by that. On the same day an Address was adopted for :

Copies of all correspondence which has taken place between the hon. Minister of the Interior, or any officer of his department, and the government of the North-west Territories respecting the issue, granting or withholding of permits for the conveyance of liquor into the Yukon territory.

The hon. member will understand how important that subject is. It has been discussed in the legislative council of the North-west Territories at Regina. Without pressure of any kind at the hands of the hon. gentleman, so far as my recollection goes, the official information was given to the House there, and the subject was in a position to be discussed, from their point of view, with the full and official information before them. It seems to me a case where the hon. Minister, in view of the discussions of last session on that question and in view of the point of jurisdiction that was raised by some hon. gentlemen here, might have been expected to furnish this House with information without any such formal step being adopted as the moving of an Address from the House. These are some of the returns particularly relating to that territory, which Parliament ought to have been put in possession of by the Department of the Interior before this period of the session, unless something extraordinary intervened. Otherwise, it is obvious that should any expedition occur in the passage of the Estimates, and the business of the House proceed in the ordinary course, no opportunity at all would arise to consider the wisdom of much of the legislation with which those various subjects are concerned. Then, on the motion of Mr. Borden, an Order of the House was adopted for :

Copies of all letters, telegrams and communications from Frederick Peters, Q.C., of Victoria, B.C., to the Minister of the Interior, or to any Minister of the Crown, or to any Deputy Minister, applying for or relating to the granting of any permit to take or import liquor into the Yukon district, and all replies to such letters, telegrams and communications.

The point of that is obvious. The Minister of the Interior made reference to a portion of some such communication, and attempted to make a point in debate by that reference : that was long ago. I think, in fairness to all concerned, there ought to have been a very

prompt compliance with that Order. According to the rules of debate, the hon. Minister was bound, as he himself is aware, to lay the whole of that document on the Table, when he took it from the files of his department, and made any allusion to it in the course of debate. Then, there was an Order of the House adopted on the 24th of April for :

A copy of all reports to the Minister of the Interior, or to the Department of the Interior, or to any officer of that department from William Ogilvie, or from the Council of the Yukon district, or from any member of such council, relating to the administration of the said Yukon district or relating to any matter connected with the administration of the said district.

That relates, too, to the point of my observations, that in connection with the necessities of that country, which is not represented directly in this House, there should be the greatest possible expedition observed, on the part of the Government in granting such information as is proper at any time to be put before Parliament. In this connection, it seems to me that information of that kind which existed at the time—and I am not aware what did exist on that point—should form a part of the report proper of the department. For instance, before the appointment of these officers in the Yukon territory, before the Act came into force there, there was information of such a general character given in regard to the territory as was in the hands of the department ; and the moment there became anything like an organization there, the report seems to have stopped dead short, where there was more necessity, in view of all that is alleged to have happened, to have put before the country such facts as could be officially stated, and that an Order of the House that should be complied with promptly. Then, there was another Order of the House adopted on the 24th of April, the importance of which the Minister himself will perhaps appreciate, as he has referred to it repeatedly in debate and endeavoured to make a point out of it :

An Order of the House for copies of all letters, telegrams and communications from Archer Martin, of Victoria, B.C., barrister-at-law, to the Minister of the Interior, or to the Deputy Minister, or to any officers of the Department of the Interior, relating to the granting or recognition of any permit or authority to take or import liquor into the Yukon district, or relating to the importation of liquor into that district, and all replies to such letters, telegrams and communications.

The hon. Minister will recollect reading part of a telegram, practically the whole of it, from Mr. Martin, but there was more of it from Mr. Martin, but there was nothing in his speech which indicated what a return to this Order would, namely, the whole of the correspondence was before the House. The hon. Minister may have referred to the only two communications between his department and Mr. Martin on

that subject, but before the House is officially aware of that, a return to this Order is necessary, and I fancy, from the statement made by the Minister, there was not lengthy correspondence. There was some, however, and to prepare that would take very little time.

Then, coming to a later date, and while I am on my feet, I will refer to some further information that is not forthcoming on other subjects. I shall not refer to all the information on the subjects I have mentioned, but I will stop at that date, because we are at the 12th May now, and I would prefer to make my request on the most reasonable grounds. There seems to be a necessity to dwell on these subjects, and I propose to take advantage of my opportunities, as they occur when going into Supply, until some satisfactory result is attained. There seems to be an indifference on the part of the departments to these returns. I will not to-day, but may on another occasion, run over the list of Orders and Addresses on important subjects last session that have not been complied with up to the present. That makes it additionally necessary to press formally on the attention of the Treasury benches and the department concerned the Orders now outstanding. In so far as my knowledge of them goes, I would like to refer to an Address adopted on the first May for copies of all correspondence between the Government of British Columbia and Canada, since July, 1898, to the present date, respecting the Supreme and county courts, or any of the judges for the province aforesaid, the appointments of said judges, or any of them, or other matters relating to the administration of justice in the said province. That cannot cover any considerable work, and that particular department has not been at all burdened with requests for papers this session. But there are interesting questions involved in these papers with regard to what is reported to have taken place, namely, that arrangements were made, or negotiations had, between gentlemen who now occupy positions on the Supreme bench of that province, in regard to whether they could get the appointments or not, and the papers would afford the information upon which a discussion should take place, no matter what the view ultimately might be as to whether there was a proper regard had for the independence of the judiciary, and whether it was right or regular for the Federal Government to impose any conditions, for instance as regards residence of these judges—whether the commission contained these conditions or whether these judges had to give a certain pledge before they got their appointment. But the fact is notorious, in that province, that some such conditions must have been made, as matters of honour or otherwise, because we have had one judge compelled to practically move from Victoria and reside, or spend most of his

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time, in Vancouver, though the chief justice of the court is living in New Westminster, quite close to Vancouver, and is daily in Vancouver. Those are interesting subjects, involving very important principles.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier.) I have that return, and will bring it down on Monday. It was an omission on my part not to have brought it down to-day.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am much obliged to the hon. gentleman, and shall say no more on that subject. Then, with regard to the papers moved for by the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Roche), the hon. gentleman will see, that, on the 1st May, the Minister of Inland Revenue professed a desire for this motion, said that he had asked some one to have these papers brought down, and they involve a question which affects the honour of an officer in the civil service in regard to whom serious charges were made, charges characterized as almost cruel ones. In deference to all the parties concerned, both those whose honour is concerned and the officer who was summarily ejected from the service, there ought to be, on the part of the Department of Inland Revenue, the greatest possible expedition and despatch in laying the papers on the Table. If the hon. Minister expected and hoped, that the motion would be made, I take it for granted, he had a large part of the papers ready, and, therefore, there should be no delay in bringing them down.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). There has been no desire on my part to keep back any information. The Orders were sent to the proper official of the department in the usual way, and, if the returns are not down, it is possibly because the matter was not specially brought to my attention, and I did not enjoin on the officer all possible haste; but I have taken note of the Orders which the hon. gentleman has mentioned, and I will draw the attention of the proper officials of the department to them, and I expect, that, on Monday or Tuesday, the returns will be laid on the Table.

#### DRUMMOND COUNTY RAILWAY.

Mr. FOSTER. There is one return which was asked for by my hon. friend from Westmoreland (Mr. Powell), with reference to which the Minister of Railways said, the other evening in his speech, that he had the information in hand. This return ought to be brought down before the Drummond County Railway resolutions are brought on again. I refer to the receipts in the different stations.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I did not say, I had it in hand, but that there would be no difficulty in getting it. Did I say, I had it in hand?

Mr. FOSTER. I think you said you had it; that it was in the department. But my hon. friend will easily see that the information is important to the discussion to the Drummond County Railway resolutions.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I am not aware that we have the information, but we can get it.

Mr. FOSTER. If my hon. friend will excuse me for writing him a note, perhaps he will allow me now to ask him to look up the matter of some returns granted by the House last session and not yet brought down from the Department of Railways.

Mr. HAGGART. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman who leads the Government, when it is the intention to go on with the Drummond County Railway resolutions?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). On Tuesday.

Mr. HAGGART. The first Order of the day?

The PRIME MINISTER. The first Order of the day.

#### SUPPLY—LIQUOR LICENSES IN THE YUKON.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) I would like to ask the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) whether he can give me an answer to a question I asked yesterday with regard to the liquor permits?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The answer is not as complete as I would like. My hon. friend (Mr. Prior) will have it on Monday.

Motion agreed to, and the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

#### The Department of Customs—

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Clerical and other assistance, including \$1,750 to be paid notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act ..... | \$4,260 |
| Printing and stationery .....   | 2,000   |
| Sundries .....  | 2,730   |
|   | <hr/>   |
|   | \$8,990 |

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). I desire to call attention to a clerical error in the first item. The figure for clerical assistance for last year is \$4,370. It should be \$4,070. So instead of a decrease this year of \$110, as it appears in the Estimates, there is really an increase of \$190.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the explanation of this "notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act"?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. During the last session of Parliament, one of the first-class clerks, who was drawing a salary of \$1,700 or \$1,750, died. The item had

been taken out, and when we came to concurrence, I reduced the general amount by the amount of his salary. Then I took a vote for an amount in the supplementary Estimates, using these words "notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act"—for this reason: I engaged two men giving them \$700 each, and, as I was not authorized to do that, I had to insert these words. These two men are still in the employ of the department, and I propose to give them an advance of \$50 each.

Mr. FOSTER. Who are they?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. They are Fred. Norris and W. G. Bishop. Their present salaries are \$700 each, and we propose to give them an increase of \$50 each.

Mr. WALLACE. Are they new men?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Mr. Norris is a new man. Mr. Bishop was in the service at the port of Montreal.

Mr. WALLACE. How long was Mr. Bishop in the service in Montreal?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I think about a year or so. Then we propose to give \$30 increase each to Miss Daws, Miss Young, Miss Gauthier, and an increase of \$100 to George Rathbone. He is an extra clerk. He has been working for \$300, and this increase only brings his salary up to the minimum.

Mr. WALLACE. Has he passed the examination as clerk?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I believe so. He could not be employed otherwise.

Mr. WALLACE. He was a messenger before.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) has merely mentioned that he has employed two gentlemen, and he proposes to override the law in order to pay them \$700 each. These belong to a class of clerical assistants provided for in the Civil Service Act, who are to come in at a certain minimum, who may get an increase of so much a year, and are to go to a certain maximum. How is it that my hon. friend has not complied with the law instead of employing two men at high salaries and overriding the law to do it? Why is he not paying \$300 or \$350 or \$400 to clerks to do this work instead of paying two men \$700 each? No explanation has been given of the necessity for this. Why is not the hon. gentleman paying \$300, or \$350, or \$400 to clerks to do this work instead of paying two men \$700?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The reason is that Parliament sanctioned it last year. This is continuing the services of those that I was authorized last year to employ.

Mr. FOSTER. May be my hon. friend will be kind enough to give us the benefit of the explanation. I cannot remember it from last year. The probabilities are that he slipped it through easily last year, and gave no explanation.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I think I gave explanations. Colonel Ince was a first-class clerk, drawing either \$1,700 or \$1,750. He took ill and was granted leave of absence. He started for British Columbia, and when he got to Manitoba or beyond, he died on the train. We had already voted his salary in the main Estimates of last year. When it came to concurrence in the main Estimates, I asked that the sum we had voted for him should be dropped, reducing the main Estimates by that amount. At the time I stated that the reason was that I proposed in the Supplementaries to take a vote for \$1,750 and use it in the employment of two men whom I could get for that same amount of money or less. On that understanding, and after a full explanation, as the hon. gentleman will find on looking up the records, Parliament gave me that permission, and under that permission, Mr. Norris and Mr. Bishop were engaged at \$700 each. They are performing the work of first-class clerks, and I thought I was managing very well. As you can readily understand, the work in that department has been increasing very much, especially in the statistical branch. Owing to the preferential tariff, there is a good deal more labour connected with it, and also the work has much increased in the accountant's branch.

Mr. FOSTER. What do these two men do?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. One is in the correspondence office, and the other, I think, is in the statistical branch, but of that I am not sure. They are good men, I think I could not do better. If Colonel Ince had been able to remain, I should still have been forced to ask for another man on account of the great increase of work through the preferential tariff. I gave these explanations last year.

Mr. FOSTER. You are giving them an increase of \$50 each?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes, and the extra clerks \$30, to such of them as may have it under the law, and this young Rathbone, who is only getting \$300, I propose to give him \$100 extra.

Mr. FOSTER. What are the increases given altogether for that clerical assistance?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Three were given the \$30, and Rathbone gets the \$100.

Mr. FOSTER. Are there any there who do not get their increase?

Mr. PATERSON.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes, Madame Jolivet it at the maximum of \$600. All who are eligible for increase have got it. This is all on the temporary staff. The reason we are able to give these increases is that one of the messengers, a very aged man, who had to have an extended leave of absence, has sent in his resignation. It was accepted, and a new messenger comes in at \$200 less than he had.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend will see that he is making ducks and drakes with the contingencies in several ways. I find, in looking at the Auditor General's Report, that the hon. gentleman has not, it appears, a legal adviser in his department, and so he has invested in a copy of that very valuable work, "Be Your Own Lawyer." I think, in fact, he has got three of them, for which he paid \$1.50 each. This item is found on page T-17. Then, my hon. friend is trying to improve himself as an orator, and to make himself au fait in the controversial world, he has invested in a book of "Practical Quotations," for which \$8 of the people's money has been paid, for the benefit of my hon. friend. But he has been more than ambitious. He not only wants this \$8 book of "Practical Quotations," but he has gone into the study of "English Synonyms and Antonyms."

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). Are you sure it is a book of "Practical Quotations"? I think it must be "poetical."

Mr. FOSTER. No, it is "Practical Quotations." The hon. gentleman has got the start of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. The Minister of Trade and Commerce bought one entitled "Poetical Quotations. My hon. friend does not incline so much to poetry as the Minister of Trade and Commerce; he has taken the one on the practical side of the question. Then, my hon. friend, anxious for the extension of his geographical knowledge, has bought "The History and Origin of the Streets of Montreal," for which he has paid \$5 of the people's money, carrying out the general amendment which is visible in the party and which commences rightfully at the heads of the party. My hon. friend has also bought "The Life and Times of Queen Victoria," for which he paid \$4.75. Then, "Men of the Times." One was not sufficient for my hon. friend, he had to buy two "Men of the Times," for which he paid with the people's money. Then, he has a "Merchant's Pocket Memorandum." Well, that is allowable, for he can use it in public business as well as in his own. But there is one thing that I think we have a perfect right to protest against as a party. If the hon. gentleman is anxious to have the portrait of his Premier, the right hon. leader of the Government, hung up in his bedroom or before his desk, he might very

well afford to take a little of his pocket-money and buy it. Why should he frame this right hon. gentleman and stick him up in his department, and pay for him with the people's money! That old gentleman out in the North-west who was going to bless the Lord for the election of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, when he comes to pay his proportion of the taxes for the portraits of their leader for these gentlemen, he will begin to do something else than bless, by-and-by. Well, there are a great many other small incidentals that we might mention, but we will not. I forbear to harrow up the feelings of the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen). But these are extravagances which the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) the other day condemned in round terms. He thought they ought not to be allowed, that it was a petty piece of business, and that the Minister should not be engaged in buying these "Antonyms and Synonyms," and "Practical Quotations," and paying for them out of the people's money.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Of course, I understand the hon. gentleman's tone in speaking of these things. But this likeness of the Prime Minister, if there be an item of that kind, is certainly not for my private use. If the hon. gentleman will call into my office, he will be pleased to see it there.

Mr. FOSTER. I have seen quite enough of the original.

Mr. McMULLEN. Mr. Chairman, I earnestly hope, that the press of the Reform party will not treat my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) to such abuse as the "Mail and Empire" and other Tory journals used to treat me, when I undertook to do that which he is undertaking to do now. I congratulate my hon. friend, and I think that what he is doing is perfectly right. Sometimes things of this kind are done by officers in the departments, and the Minister in charge is not aware of it until he turns up and finds items of this kind in the Auditor General's Report. It is perfectly right, that the attention of the hon. Minister should be called to these things, and in future, I think, they should be stopped. I congratulate my hon. friend upon his criticism; I think that it is quite right, and I hope the head of the department will see that matters of this kind are kept within proper limits.

Mr. WALLACE. I think the explanations made by the hon. Minister of Customs are not quite satisfactory. He tells us, that he brought two young men into the department, one from Montreal and one from some place else, and gave them \$700 during the current fiscal year, and that he proposes to make an increase of \$50 to their salaries. As was pointed out by the ex-Minister of Finance, he is, in that, violating the law and the spirit of the Act for which hon. gentlemen themselves are responsible.

The rule was, that a clerk coming into the department, having passed his examination, should receive a salary of \$400, and in that department there are other gentlemen who started at \$400. I do not see the names of these gentlemen in the Civil Service List. Is it proposed to put them on the permanent staff?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. They are the extra clerks.

Mr. WALLACE. I know; but is it proposed to give them \$50 of an increase and put them on the permanent staff?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I could not do that, except by paying them as second-class clerks, and giving them an advance of \$700.

Mr. WALLACE. Yes, the Minister could do that in the way that the law provides, and which is considered the proper way of appointment. The Minister proposes to violate the rule that has been laid down, and we were told that it was an excellent rule, by giving these men \$750 each. We have officers in the Customs Department to-day who have been many years in the service, who have passed their examination, who have been drilled and trained in the work of the Customs Department, and who are becoming, year by year, more efficient public officers; yet these two men are pitchforked in, who, the Minister says, are excellent, good men, though he does not know much about their qualifications, because he tells us, that he is not able to say what branch they are in. Therefore, when he said, that they were excellent, good men, he perhaps meant it in a general way. But he tells us, Col. Ince died last year, and that another officer was superannuated.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No, it was a messenger.

Mr. WALLACE. Was there not another superannuated?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I am not sure that it was during last year; I think it was during the year before.

Mr. WALLACE. Was Mr. Baker superannuated?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes, but I think it was the year before; I am not sure.

Mr. WALLACE. No; it was certainly since the last session of Parliament. Notwithstanding that these two highly salaried officers have been superannuated and that a messenger has been superannuated, whose salary had attained the maximum, we find the expenses of the department not decreased, but increasing. You have a man whose salary goes up year by year. His duties are the same, perhaps, as he performed when he was getting the salary of a young man. A new man comes in, young, active and vigor-

ous, let us say, in the statistical branch, who has good mental powers of calculation, and he does his work efficiently, but he only gets \$400 or \$500 a year. Then, there should be a great saving in that way, because, in the case of superannuation, it becomes a charge upon another branch of the service, and does not appear as a charge against that particular department. In this case these three officers in the inside service are no more. I would like to ask the Minister, who have disappeared from the inside service during the year, if he remembers.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. There were 31 in the inside service last year, as the hon. gentleman will see, if he turns to the civil service item, and 29 this year.

Mr. WALLACE. And the expenses are within \$300 of the same amount.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes, on contingent account.

Mr. WALLACE. No, but this is not contingencies; this is salaries.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. In the contingent account, under consideration now, there is an increase of \$190, but there is a decrease of \$300 in the item of civil government for that department, so that the expenses of the department have not increased, on the whole.

Mr. WALLACE. One hundred and ten dollars.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes.

Mr. WALLACE. But there are these two salaried officers who were getting \$1,800, and there is one messenger, who is getting \$500, making \$4,100 altogether, who are now out of the department, whose places are taken by others, three of whom, together, would not make a salary of one of these old officers, Col. Ince or Mr. Baker, and in that the messenger would come in also. An excellent clerk would be glad to commence at \$500, but the Minister has started these gentlemen at \$700 the first year, and is giving them an increase, because, as he tells us, they are most excellent officers. He has, however, no specific information. I presume, that these gentlemen have passed the civil service examination, though the Minister has not said so. Would the Minister tell us, whether they have passed the civil service examination?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I believe so.

Mr. WALLACE. Very well; they have passed the civil service examination, they have come in at a salary of \$700 the first year, and they are getting \$750 the next year. There are some excellent officers, whose names I see here, and who have been many years in the service, most efficient men—I need not read them, but I might mention: John Archibald Watson, Adélar Marie La-

Mr. WALLACE.

fontaine, and Herbert Victor Rorke, whom I know to be efficient and capable men.

Mr. COCHRANE. How much are they getting?

Mr. WALLACE. Their salaries, after eight or nine years' service, are \$700 a year. These two men are pitchforked in without experience, and they are getting \$700, which, I think, is a very great injustice. Mr. Rorke was an accomplished shorthand writer, a thorough business man. I do not see the names of these men that the Minister has appointed, because I do not know them, but they will have to be very good men before they equal the class of Messrs. Watson, Lafontaine or Rorke. Mr. Watson compiled the regulations, under the direction of the then commissioner, and he is a most efficient officer. This gentleman's name stands at \$700, while the new men coming in, and about whom the Minister knows nothing of their efficiency, get \$750. The Minister is acting contrary to the spirit and letter of the law in bringing these men to the department and increasing their salaries year after year. If these men are necessary, and I assume they are, the Minister should avail himself of the law, and put them on the permanent staff, and thus do justice to these efficient and competent men who already have been appointed.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE. Did I understand the Minister to say that there were sixty superannuations in his department during the last two years?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No.

Mr. CLARKE. How many superannuations were there?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Do you mean in the outside service?

Mr. CLARKE. Yes.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I have not the information now, but I will be ready to tell when we reach the vote for the outside service. What I said was that there were 31 clerks in the inside service last year, and there are 29 now, but there are these two extra ones that come under the head of contingencies, so that there are the same number of officers employed. But, as I explained, this is accomplished at a less expenditure than before. I quite agree with my predecessor (Mr. Wallace) in office, in reference to Mr. Rorke, and some of the gentlemen he has mentioned; they are very good men indeed, and I am giving them their increase of \$50, as I have done in the case of all the third-class clerks.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I call the attention of the Minister to the fact, that there does not seem to have been much care exercised in the purchase of books. Here is this "Encyclopedia of Practical Quotations," and I find it cost the Marine Department \$12, whereas the Min-

ister of Customs got it for \$8. The price seems pretty high, but leaving that question aside, there should be an explanation as to why the same book, apparently, should cost \$4 to one Minister more than to another.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). It is very hard to deal with the thousand and one applications constantly made to purchase books. It seems to me they are not purchased by the departments generally, but that each individual Minister may be persuaded to order a copy.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** I am not inclined to quarrel with a certain amount of freedom being allowed a Minister in the purchase of these books, although the purchase of such a book as this does seem to be travelling pretty far afield. I should like, however, to get some explanation in regard to the difference in price.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). I do not understand how the Minister of Customs was able to make such a good bargain, but I did the best I could at the time. I may tell my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) that I did not find the Marine Department library equipped as it ought to be when I went there. There were no books at all in the place.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** I did not take them.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** I did not charge that the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) did.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** This certainly does seem to indicate a certain degree of looseness in the purchase of these books.

**Mr. BORDEN** (Halifax). I think my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) was very remiss indeed in not supplying his department with this "Encyclopedia of Practical Quotations," I sent to the Library and got a copy of it.

**Mr. WALLACE.** Is it practical?

**Mr. BORDEN** (Halifax). I think it is very practical. Here is a sample of the quotations, which are extremely practical:

*Continuis voluptatibus vicina satietas.*

*Jam satis est.*

*Populus me sibilat, at mihi plaudo. Ipsi domi, simul ac nummos contempler in arca.*

*Arcanum neque tu scrutaveris ullius unquam commissumve teges et vino tortus et ira.*

I do not see how the Department of Marine and Fisheries ever got along during the regime of my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) without that. Here is a practical quotation which my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries no doubt studies:

*Mare quidem commune cert est omnibus.—The sea is certainly common to all.*

My hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) no doubt got that for the purpose of another Behring Sea arbitration. Here is another quotation: "Pari vantes in gurgite vasto." I do not think any criticism should be made on either of these departments for getting this book, for I certainly do not see how the Department of Marine and Fisheries ever got along without it, and if the Department of Trade and Commerce has a copy of the book, it must be equally beneficial.

**Mr. SPROULE.** The Department of Trade and Commerce will especially need it for use in the High Commission at Washington.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** It is taking a very unfair advantage of the ex-Ministers on this side of the House, for the Ministers to fortify themselves with this "Encyclopedia of Practical Quotations." How is it possible for us to hold our way in debate if this thing is allowed? I think, Mr. Chairman, it ought to be distinctly understood that ex-Ministers should be supplied with this book as well as Ministers.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** The other book, "Be Your Own Lawyeer," for \$3, raises a very interesting question. The purchase of this book involves a very great reflection on the present Minister of Justice. When Sir Oliver Mowat occupied that position, none of the departments apparently departed from the usual course of taking their law from him.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). This was in Sir Oliver Mowat's time.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** I venture to say that the Minister of Customs will not assert that he required any such book in Sir Oliver Mowat's time. But this circumstance suggests many things in connection with the popular rumour that the present Minister of Justice had great difficulty in reaching that position. First of all, he had some difficulty in reaching the Senate, but he forced his way in there, and finally, if the rumour be right, he forced his way into the Department of Justice; and forthwith the various departments purchased copies of this book, "Be Your Own Lawyer." Now, in addition to its involving a grave reflection on the Department of Justice generally, I would like to call the attention of the Government to the fact that that book is not required unless for the purpose of coming to some conclusion in regard to questions of law; and, without saying what every lawyer on the Treasury benches knows, how dangerous a book of that kind is in the hands of a layman, no matter how bright a layman he may be, it indicates what other things have seemed to indicate, that there has been under this régime a departure from a very wholesome practice. Last session, for instance, it was

clear that certain legal documents which had been presented to this House had never been revised by the Department of Justice. I speak in all seriousness in this connection, and I think I shall be able to make my point good. The Mackenzie & Mann contract was a document which was shown to be remarkable, by the admissions of members of the Government themselves, in not safeguarding the public interests in several particulars; and, after debate, the members of the Government were forced to promise amendments. The Solicitor General also practically admitted in debate that neither he, as Solicitor General, nor the Department of Justice had seen the document, which every one knows came from the hands of the solicitor of the contractors, nor was it revised by any officer of the legal department; nor had it been revised, so far as its technical features were concerned, by the chief engineer of the Department of Railways, as the Minister of Railways practically admitted. Consequently, in very important particulars, it was drawn without regard to the interests of the country. Now, there is a lease, which is evoking a great deal of discussion in the country, and apparently causing litigation in the city of Vancouver—a most disgraceful document, which does not pretend on its face to be complete; and yet it has the name of the Minister of Militia inscribed upon it. I venture to say that such a document was not drawn or revised or approved by the Department of Justice, for it is not possible that such a document ever came from the hands of a trained solicitor or from the regular legal department of the Government. And when we find such a book as this in the hands of the Department of Customs, it does indicate that each Minister is attending to his own particular business without reference to his colleagues in Council, and without reference to such matters to the department which is provided by the country with all the means for seeing that the legal work of the Government is properly done; and the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General, representing that department in this House, are supposed to take the responsibility for all work of a legal character. I can remember that when the ex-Controller of Customs (Mr. Wallace) occupied the office, in matters of a legal character, even in formal matters, reference was made to the Department of Justice, where the Controller himself had no doubt what the law was. He properly, as did all the other departments, put that responsibility on the Department of Justice. There was a discussion in this House, for instance, when we were asked that a law clerk should be provided for the Department of Railways and Canals, in connection with certain clerical work, as it was explained, and not involving responsibility for opinions in the way of guiding the department. Now, I mention two particular documents. The one

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou).

was not in itself or in its language a disgrace to any department, in not being drawn by a lawyer. It was drawn by a lawyer, and a very astute and able lawyer; but it was drawn by the lawyer of the parties who were dealing with the Government, and was not revised by the department which the country appoints to protect the interests of the public. In the other case, the document has all the ear-marks of not having been through the Department of Justice. I do not believe for a moment, unless the Minister of Militia will state differently, that that document was ever drawn in the Department of Justice.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The hon. gentleman will allow me to interrupt him for a moment. He characterizes the lease he has referred to as disgraceful. I can only say that that lease is a printed form of lease which has been used in the Department of Militia for many years. I did not inquire where the form was made, or whether the Department of Justice had sent it to the Department of Militia or not; but I assumed that it was, in the first instance, a form that was carefully prepared by the Department of Justice. So long as I have been in the department, and I believe for long before, every lease of lands made by the department has been drawn in that form; and my officers have not told me that it was necessary to refer it to the Department of Justice, and I say at once frankly that it was not referred to the Department of Justice.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Without going back or saying whether any other Ministers have been lax in this respect, the admissions of the hon. Minister of Militia do strengthen my position, which is one in the interests of the country, that is, that there should not only be uniformity in the position taken by the different departments in regard to any legal principle, but in the matter of conveyancing no such loose practice should prevail as the Minister of Militia says prevails in his department and prevailed under his predecessor.

As to the question of forms being used, a form may suit a certain thing and not another. In this particular case, care had not been taken to fill in all the blanks, and so there has been a jumble, in connection with which the Queen's name is used, and most extraordinary expressions occurred. I have seen what is no doubt an authentic copy, because it is the one communicated officially to the Vancouver corporation. I would suggest to the Government the advisability of reverting to the practice which formerly obtained. I can recollect many instances of lawyers of great ability filling positions of heads of departments, but no matter what their ability was, having regard to the principle of uniformity in law matters, all such matters were referred to the law department,

and there was a certain satisfactory result that might not be obtained if each department looked after these matters itself. The country would make a great deal more money in the long run if the Minister of Customs would burn that book and lose it and the three dollars paid for it.

Mr. CLARKE. Who is the author of this book ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I have a strong suspicion that it is some lawyer who has succeeded in selling it to the department, because I know of no other way in which a lawyer can better do business with the department.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Perhaps the hon. Minister of Marine would tell us where he got the book. I am surprised that any lawyer would buy this book : "Be Your Own Lawyer."

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It must have been a remnant left over by my predecessors.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, I deny that.

Mr. COCHRANE. It is all very well for gentlemen on the Treasury benches to laugh this off, and get out of it in the same way as they have all the holes they have got into, by saying the Tories did it. It looks rather serious that the Minister of Customs should have taken upon himself to bring in two gentlemen at salaries exceeding those of men who were appointed years ago. These two men were given salaries of \$700 each at the very start, when other men who have been years in the service had to start on salaries of \$400 and were now getting less than the two new men appointed. I doubt very much whether these two men ever passed the civil service examination, and it is an insult to the intelligence of this House to ask us to believe that they could be efficient as men who were appointed eight or ten years ago, and have passed all their examinations satisfactorily. And not only has he given these men these large salaries to start with, but he is now giving them the \$50 increase just the same as if they had been years in the service. Then, take that book, "Every Man His Own Lawyer." True, it cost only \$2, but why should the country be asked to pay for it? Why should the taxpayers who, the Minister of Trade and Commerce used to tell us, were being bled white by the extravagance of the Tory party, be saddled with all these useless expenses? Why should they have to pay for the smiles of the right hon. leader of the Government transferred to canvas and lighting up from their glittering frames the offices of the Cabinet Ministers? I do not care how many of these pictures a Minister may have in his office; but if he wants to have the likeness of any man smiling on him from the walls, he ought to be able to pay

for it out of his own salary, and not charge it to the country.

Mr. FOSTER. I see that the Postmaster General has been a sinner in this respect also. He has branched out a little on his own hook. He has bought two very compendious volumes of the "History of Canada." I do not know what history it is, but they cost \$9 each. Surely he is quite able to pay out of his own salary for any books he requires to make up his library. He has also bought the "Canadian Men of the Times," three volumes at \$6. What in the world does he want of these books in his departmental business? It may be all very well to be generous with those people who are hawking around these publications from one department to the other, but my hon. friend ought not to be generous with the people's money. He has also bought the "Encyclopedia of Practical Quotations," \$8. In those trying times when he was endeavouring, by proclamation and otherwise, to bring about a change in the postal rates, he seemed to have had an eye aloft, for I see he has paid with the people's money for a copy of "Debrett's Peerage." No doubt he wanted to learn what ribbons and insignia belonged to the different orders. No doubt, by the midnight lamp, he was looking over the arcana of the knighthood of St. Michael and St. George, and taking a note of all the possible honours that might come to him from this great public service he was endeavouring to give the Empire. Then, my hon. friend has been getting an English and French dictionary. Altogether he has a pretty large list of books which are of no use to the department in departmental work, but simply figures for the use of the Minister himself, or some favourite of the Minister. Now, I think we all ought to have common sense enough to see that this thing ought not to go on. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries was inveigled into making a statement of that kind the other day—whether in a moment of frankness or in a moment of weakness, I do not know. But he does not seem ready to—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. But you are not satisfied; you are bringing it up again.

Mr. FOSTER. But the hon. gentleman's colleagues do not seem to be of his way of thinking. I think he ought to have a word to say on the matter every time it is brought up. It is only by constant reiteration of these things that we can get a reform made. I think my hon. friend would qualify better as one of the Canadian men of the time if he would effect a reform.

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend (Mr. Foster) should have some sympathy with the occupants of the Treasury benches. We have great difficulty, I can assure him, in keeping the treasury from the men of the time, and the women of the time also. Not later than to-day I received a petition, signed by the members of the House and

the Senate, and I think my hon. friend's (Mr. Foster) name was upon it.

Mr. FOSTER. A petition, what for ?

The PRIME MINISTER. To acquire "The Men and Women of the Time." If the name of my hon. friend from York (Mr. Foster) was not on it, the name of his neighbour (Sir Charles Tupper) was.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend will not find my name on it.

Mr. ROGERS. I am entirely in sympathy with the criticism we have heard.

Mr. FOSTER. Where is the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell).

Mr. RUSSELL. Oh, I am in sympathy, too.

Mr. ROGERS. If such things have to be done, it is all the more aggravating when it reaches the ears of the public. It is not the sum of money paid—though that is bad enough—but it is the idea—I would not like to put it in as strong language as it deserves, but let us say the ridiculous idea—of these things being charged to the public. The people are getting tired of this sort of thing. The great taxpayers of the country, the farmers, think there is no need of such expenditures. If such expenditures were spoken of on the platform, they would be severely criticised. We should judge them here as we judge them there. Anything done in this House should be such as can be made known to the people in any part of the country. These expenditures, trifling in themselves, it is true, could not be endorsed. If I were in the position myself, I would rather a hundred times pay the amounts out of my own pocket than be required to defend them here or elsewhere.

Mr. WALLACE. I would like to call the attention of the Government to the high strain of morality of their supporter (Mr. Rogers) who has just sat down. He thinks that they should do these things, but should keep them from the knowledge of the people; that it is very embarrassing to him—and I am sure it must be a matter of very great embarrassment, after preaching against such "rascalities," as he used to call them—to get up and justify these acts on the part of the Government of which he is a supporter. So I think the Government might profit by the advice he has given them and keep these things hidden away and not let the world know that they have been indulging—

Mr. GIBSON. That is a Tory practice.

Mr. WALLACE. Well, the Tories, whatever they bought, published it to the world, and gave the member for Frontenac (Mr. Rogers) an opportunity to declaim against the transaction when on his political campaign. But now that he has to go out and defend these things, he very righteously

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and very properly, in his own interest—beseeches the Government that these things should be covered up so that he may not be placed in the difficult position of having to justify such purchases on the part of the Postmaster General as "Debrett's Peerage," and a large list of other books, which, no doubt, will adorn the library of the Postmaster General, but which he ought to be able and willing to pay for himself. For instance, we have here the "Army List Monthly," \$4.90; "Debrett's Peerage," \$7; a French and English dictionary, \$6; "Journal of the Canadian Banker's Association," \$7; "The Annual Register," \$3.70—perhaps that might be in some way useful to the department, but I do not know that it is. Then we have the United States Postal Guide. No doubt that is required, but we know that the departments of various Governments exchange their documents, so there is no necessity to make such a purchase. Then we have in the Department of Customs, as has already been pointed out, these books which have no possible connection with the work of the department and which, I am sure, the hon. member for Frontenac would be delighted to be assured by the Minister of Customs were charged by mistake and would be paid for out of his own pocket, as they ought to be.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I cannot agree with that yet. It may have been a book ordered by my predecessor the member for West York (Mr. Wallace) when he was in office and paid for last year. No doubt it is in the Library there. I will have to learn a little more about the matter before I can speak with certainty.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I find that the only department of the Government that has not bought that wretched little book "Be Your Own Lawyer" was the Department of Justice. But here is a book I would like to see produced and laid on the Table. It was purchased by the Minister of the Interior, and is entitled "Dictionary of Our Faults." If we could get that book, it would save any amount of time and trouble.

Mr. GIBSON. That ought to be a big volume.

Mr. CLANCY. I would like to know if the Minister of Customs is making provision for the library that seems to be rapidly growing in his department. Not only this year but last year and the year before some very expensive books have been bought, and, apparently, quite as useless as those that have been named. I find that last year a dictionary encyclopedia was bought. I do not know if it is the same character as the encyclopedia bought this year. The people will be curious to know what these books were bought for. In buying books the department should have some aim other than getting rid of a man who goes there to

sell them. I can quite understand the pressure that exists, but it should not be yielded to, no matter what Government is in power. I must say that I dissent from the morality preached by the hon. gentleman from Frontenac (Mr. Rogers). He said that it is a scandal to buy such books, but the wrong does not reach its climax until the fact of buying them is made public. My hon. friend (Mr. Rogers) will have to answer when he goes before his constituents. I am afraid that he will have to say that at least he winked at this kind of thing if he did not directly sanction it. I hope that when the proper time comes he will avail himself of the forms of the House and will move a resolution condemning the Government for such action. If he does, he will be able to go back to his constituency, at least, making some external show of sincerity.

Mr. CLARKE. This book, "Be Your Own Lawyer," seems to be a general favourite with the departments. I would suggest that one or two copies be placed in the Library of Parliament. I have been sending into the Library to make inquiries about it, to see what kind of a book it is, but there is no copy of that work there. Might I suggest to some of the Ministers who have purchased more than one copy, that they might supply the Library with it? It seems to be a valuable work, and I think the members of the House should have an opportunity of consulting it during the session of Parliament.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I want to show the House how thoroughly the Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) is going into the business of reform. We find, not only a "Dictionary of Our Faults"—that evidently refers to the present Administration—but we also find another one, "The Administration of the Old Régime." I think both these books ought to be laid on the Table of the House.

Ocean and river service—Maintenance and repairs to Government steamers \$145,000

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. What is the reason of the increase?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Previous to 1897-98, the appropriation for Dominion steamers was \$132,400, exclusive of the supplementary votes for extensive repairs. But in 1897-98 the "Aberdeen" was engaged in the fishery protection service, and the large sum which is required to maintain her, was not, therefore, paid out of this vote, and it was reduced to \$112,400. But the current fiscal year, the "Aberdeen" is employed in the lighthouse and coast service, and her maintenance will be paid out of this vote; therefore, it has been increased.

Mr. McINERNEY. I want to call attention to a mistake in the Estimates. The

increase, instead of being \$33,000, is \$43,000. The difference between \$102,000 and \$145,000 is \$43,000.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, the increase is \$33,000.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Will the Minister mention the names of the steamers now in the service?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The "Druid," the "Lansdowne," the "Newfield," the "Quadra," now in British Columbia, the "Aberdeen," the "Quebec" and the "Stanley."

Mr. COCHRANE. Which of these is at the disposal of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte)?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. None of them. The "Druid" is on buoy service below Quebec. The "Stanley," in the winter season, is engaged in the service of the winter crossing. The "Aberdeen" was, the previous year, engaged in the fisheries; she is now in the buoy and lighthouse service.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. But the hon. gentleman is constructing a new boat.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, but only for winter service.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Has the hon. gentleman the particulars of the new boat?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes; I gave them last year, but I can give them again.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Does the vote include the maintenance of the steamer that is building?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No; the steamer that is building will not be in the service this summer at all. She will take her place in the winter service next winter, and there will be a vote for her, in addition to this. I will give the hon. gentleman the particulars about this boat. The original contract was for £34,050. The addition for increased horsepower was £2,000. Some alterations were made in the stern of the boat, at the instance of the inspector, whose name I forget; but he was an engineer in Glasgow, a first-class man. Pistons and guides, and some other alterations run it up, altogether, to £37,403, or equal to \$182,027. I think the vote the House gave me was \$180,000. The vessel is being built at Dundee by the Gourlay Brothers. We had tenders from ten or twelve different firms, the Gourlay Brothers being the lowest. The style of the ship is the same as the "Stanley," only larger and heavier, with very little departure from the theory or the principle on which the "Stanley" was constructed. A

good many suggestions were received by the department, and weighed. We consulted with Captain Finlayson and Captain McElhinney, and all those who had been engaged originally in the construction of the "Stanley," and those who had experience since in her working. The general opinion was, that the "Stanley" does about as good work as could be given. Strong efforts were made to induce us to adopt the new principle introduced by Russian ice-breakers, that of a double screw; but, after consulting with the best men we could get information from, we thought it would be rather risky. These double screws are at the sides of the stern, instead of immediately behind it, as the single screw is, and we could not understand how it could be made to work as effectually in the ice as the single screw, submerged to the extent that her screw will be. The name of the steamer, I think, will be the "Minto." I may say, that His Excellency has given his consent to the use of his name. As we have a "Lansdowne," an "Aberdeen" and a "Stanley," I thought proper that we should have a "Minto".

Mr. CLARKE. Was any opportunity given to Canadian firms to tender for the construction of the steamer?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, not for that. It was not thought that we had shipyards sufficiently advanced, in the maritime section of the Dominion, at any rate. As to others, they could not get the vessel through the canals very well. I dare say, that there are in my hon. friend's city, as I understand, works perhaps capable of constructing a steamer of that kind. Certainly, if we were calling for the construction of a steamer for the lakes, we would have taken those works into consideration. But it was not done in this case, for these ice-steamers have to be specially constructed. I think this will be found, so far as I can learn, to be a first-class boat. She will be launched about the last of August, and will come across to this side under charge of Captain Finlayson, who will go home to bring her out. He has been for many years captain of the "Stanley," and we propose that he shall take charge of the new boat.

Mr. CLARKE. It seems to me, that the plans, specifications and drawings used for the model of this steamer might have been submitted to firms in the city of Toronto, so that they might have been given an opportunity to tender for this vessel. I believe it is a fact, that the class of work they are turning out now is of the very highest. I think, if the Minister had given them an opportunity of tendering for this boat, they would have been able to give him figures that would have been very satisfactory. I believe there is no insurmountable difficulty in the way of getting a vessel through the canal. It could have been brought through

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the canal in pieces, as is done frequently in bringing vessels from the upper to the lower lakes, and from the lower lakes to Montreal.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I did not get the hon. gentleman's explanation in regard to the increase of \$43,000, instead of \$33,000, in this vote. I do not understand him in his explanation about one of the votes, that it has been charged to this service, having been in some other service, and after being charged to some other vote, coming back. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will repeat it. All I want to know is as to why the vote is \$43,000 more.

Mr. ELLIS. If you will look at the first column you will find that it does not add.

Mr. McDUGALL. There is an error of \$10,000.

Mr. McINERNEY. There is a mistake of \$10,000 less in the first column, so that would make the difference all the greater.

Mr. ELLIS. The figure \$102,000 at the top of the first column should be \$112,000.

Mr. McINERNEY. The total is \$323,300, instead of \$332,300.

Mr. ELLIS. The figure \$102,000 should be \$112,000, and then it would be right.

Mr. McINERNEY. But I think that a \$10,000 mistake occurs at the top of the first column.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The vote was \$112,000, and it has been printed \$102,000 by mistake.

Mr. McDUGALL. There is a further mistake in the last column where the total decrease should be \$185,000 instead of \$180,000.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, that is only dropped from the old vote. Will the hon. gentleman explain the \$33,000 increase?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The explanation I have given is the only one I can give. There will be the same steamers, only the "Aberdeen," which was previously in the fishery service, will now be paid out of this vote.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Will the other vote be decreased?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Oh, there will be a decrease, proportionately, of course.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Has the hon. gentleman, in making up his estimates, taken out so much from the fishery service.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, a lump sum. The hon. gentleman will see that we have taken that much, but, in respect to this particular vote, we have found that this year we are very

largely behind, and will have to have a supplementary estimate to make up the vote for this year.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. How much are you behind?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. We will have to have a supplementary vote of \$20,000 for the present year to make up the amount that we require by which our vote is exceeded.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. What is the reason for this?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The reason simply is that the vote was made up on the assumption that the "Aberdeen" would be in the fishery service, as she had been in past years, but she was transferred to the Quebec lighthouse and buoy service, and she has been engaged in that service.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Do you have a surplus in the fishery vote?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Of course there will be so much left.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. As I understand the hon. Minister that simply means—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is no increase whatever.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. As I understand the Minister it is this: The "Aberdeen" was estimated for in the fisheries vote. She was, during the past fiscal year, transferred to his marine vote, which was not sufficient to provide for her, and there will be a supplementary amount asked for, but there will be a decrease in the expenditure in the fishery vote of a similar amount.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The fisheries protection service is not decreased, I see, because we have, of course, as you know, a new boat put on last year, the "Osprey," built in Shelburne—a sailing ship.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That would not be anything to compare with the "Aberdeen."

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. But we have found that we cannot do with less money.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Then there is an increase of \$33,000.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, there will not be an increase of \$33,000, but there will be some increase over last year. The hon. gentleman will see that the vote for the previous year was \$132,000. The vote was put down for one year, but when the "Aberdeen" was put

back on the service it was necessary to put it up again.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I understand that, and that would have explained it if there had been a decrease in the fisheries vote, but the explanation will not carry the hon. gentleman out in that regard. He has explained that his fisheries vote is to be the same, but it is increased because he had expected to provide out of the fisheries vote for the "Aberdeen." He has had to provide for it out of his other estimates, and in the place of the "Aberdeen" is a sailing yacht, the "Osprey." Of course, the expense of the "Osprey" would be a mere bagatelle in comparison with the expense of a big steamer like the "Aberdeen."

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. You see, a good many of these charges have been expenses connected with the "Stanley," which sometimes runs for a long time. Last year the expense was \$35,529, but it does not follow that it will require all that, because on the other side of the account, the revenues of the "Stanley" are enormous during the winter months. An attempt was made to cut down the cost of the service in the first year after I came in, and most strenuous efforts were made to keep the expenditures within the vote, but we found it could not be done, and it simply had to be increased to the amount necessary to maintain the service.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. In the Auditor General's Report, if it is any guide at all on this vote, there was only an excess in regard to 1896-97 of \$244.39, showing that it was a pretty carefully estimated vote, and a much more liberal vote than \$112,000 in 1898-99.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not think the "La Canadienne" was in that service at all; she was laid up.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It was \$117,400 in 1896-97, and the estimate was very close, because there was only an excess of \$244.39.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.). The Minister said that there was a difference in principle between the construction of the new boat and that of the "Stanley." I think it is the intention to use a forward screw in this boat.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, it is not.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It is in the Russian boat that there is to be a forward screw.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I will call the attention of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonald) to page 9 of the last report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, in which the dimensions of the new boat are given, as follows:—

The dimensions of the new steamer will be 225 feet in length between perpendiculars; breadth, moulded 32 feet 6 inches; depth, moulded 20 feet 6 inches. She will be heavily stiffened about the water line with heavy plating and intermediate angle iron framing. Similar plating will be placed on the bows and bottom, extending 70 feet towards midships.

We have followed out the same principle in our construction as was adopted in the construction of the "Stanley," which has been found to work admirably.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I would like to ask the Minister to give me the estimates he has made for each of the votes he mentions of each of the steamers chargeable to maintenance and repairs of Government steamers.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I cannot give that. I can give you the expenditure up to April 30th on each of the boats, and it is on the basis of the expenditure that the estimates are made. The expenditure to the 30th of April is as follows:—"Druid," \$14,370.69; "Lansdowne," \$21,669; "Newfield," \$21,756; "Quadra," \$22,972; "Aberdeen," \$390—she was engaged for a day or two doing some buoy work.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Is that all she cost up to this month. I thought the hon. gentleman said she had been eating up his vote, and that she had come suddenly from the Fisheries into the Marine branch, and created a great disturbance.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I was slightly in error there. The expenditure which I am reading to you now is not for the nine months, but for the twelve months of 1897-98. "Aberdeen," \$390; "Stanley," \$35,339—the repairs of the "Stanley" that year cost \$10,000, which is included in this sum of \$35,339. The general account for printing is also included and that makes \$117,644.39 for the year 1897-98, not including the "Aberdeen."

Mr. McDOUGALL. It appears to me that supplies for these steamers are bought in such a way as to make them unnecessarily expensive, and that must be the reason why the large increase appears in the cost of their maintenance. At page K-92, Auditor General's Report, I find very high charges made for goods supplied to the "Aberdeen," and I would like to ask the Minister if these supplies are furnished under contract, or if there is any kind of an agreement, or who has the authority for making these purchases.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Nearly everything is purchased by tender; there are some things no doubt which are not.

Mr. McDOUGALL. Is it not a fact that the commanders of these steamers have instructions from the department, or from

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some one on behalf of the Government, to call upon a certain person or a certain firm in the ports which they enter for their supplies, and that these persons who supply the ships are, as a rule, the friends of the Government? Is it not a fact that an order is given to a firm or a supplier of the necessaries for the steamer without any understanding as to the prices to be charged?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Oh, no; there is an understanding.

Mr. McDOUGALL. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. If there is not an understanding beforehand, I say the Government is responsible for a great deal of the looseness that occurs in the purchase of the supplies. Here is Alphonse Girouard & Co., of Quebec, who charged \$4.80 for two dozen of baking powder, and on the same page M. W. Coleman charges \$3.60 for one dozen. There are twenty-eight pounds of biscuits at 15 cents per pound; thirty pounds of biscuits at 12 cents, and seventy-eight pounds of biscuits at 10 cents. Can the Minister tell me what kind of biscuits for a steamer's supplies would cost 15 cents per pound. I know of no kind of biscuit to-day required for supplies to these steamers but what should be delivered at a lower price than 12 or 15 cents per pound. I find that molasses is charged at 45 cents and 50 cents a gallon; chocolate, 40 cents a pound; corn, \$2.40 a case; candles, 20 cents a pound, and one bucket, \$4.80. Can the Minister tell me what kind of a bucket required by the steamer would cost \$4.80? Then, again, I find 100 pounds of ship biscuits, ordinary hard tack, charged at \$5, and that is an extraordinary high price.

Mr. TAYLOR. Are these supplies purchased by tender?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. None of these are purchased by tender.

Mr. TAYLOR. There is something for the "boy" in that.

Mr. McDOUGALL. I find that in a great many cases the bills are made up for "sundries," without itemizing the articles.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Not in a great many cases. The Auditor General itemizes them all pretty nearly.

Mr. McDOUGALL. I find that throughout the whole list exceedingly high prices are charged the Government.

Mr. KAULBACH. It appears to me that my hon. friend the Minister (Sir Louis Davies) has made a mistake in not asking for tenders for the construction of this steamer in Canada, so that he might assist in encouraging our home industries. I am not quite sure but what a steamer of the description he speaks of could be construct-

ed, if not in Toronto—for the want of greater length in the canals—she could, at all events, be constructed in Nova Scotia. There is an industry in steel plate in New Glasgow.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. We consulted with them about it, and we found they were not able to take such a contract.

**Mr. KAULBACH**. I think I can safely say that a boat of that kind can be constructed in my own town. We build them of wood there, and for the winter service they would be very much stronger than all steel; if they were sheathed with steel plates they would do better service, and I think would last equally as long. If any accident happened, there would be no possible chance of their going immediately to the bottom. If there are any further contracts of this kind, I would ask they be submitted to tender, that we may have an opportunity of ascertaining whether such vessels could be constructed in our own province, particularly in my county, where ship-building is going on very successfully.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I am glad to hear that the ship-building industry is prospering in the hon. gentleman's county, but I hardly think such ships could cope with the steel steamer "Minto," which we are having constructed at Dundee. We should have to alter the wooden ship and have it incased in iron, and the opinion of the experts is not in favour of that, after the experiment made with the "Stanley." The hon. member for Cape Breton (Mr. McDougall), who refers to the prices, may rest assured that these goods are not bought without the greatest care. The agent has been there many years, and there has been no increase in the prices for the last eight or nine years. The practice has been, before any goods are bought, to obtain from the parties who are supposed to supply goods to the Government steamers, their list of prices for candles, molasses, and everything else.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. I want to ask the Minister if he approves of the principle, not the amount, of this expenditure on the "Druid":

Mrs. Lemieux, Quebec, floral decorations on occasion of Premier's arrival from England..... \$15

I could understand the master or captain of a ship putting up the ship's bunting on such an occasion, but I do not think the appropriation contemplates an expenditure of this kind. I do not see that the Auditor General has challenged it, though he has been exceedingly particular about other matters not a bit more important. The principle involved in this ought to be considered, whether the captains or masters of these

vessels are to be at liberty to exercise their discretion in buying anything to join in a political celebration for any gentleman, whether the Prime Minister of Canada or anybody else. I could understand a Government ship hoisting its flag and decorating itself on the occasion of a visit of the Prime Minister or the Minister of Marine and Fisheries or any other member of the Cabinet; but I think such an expenditure as this is the thin edge of a very dangerous wedge.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I am not at variance with the hon. gentleman on the point; but the bills for the celebration of the Premier's arrival were paid by the people who got up the demonstration and were not charged to the Government at all. I am not saying that some gentlemen did not consider that the Government should pay the bills; but I was very firm about it and refused to pay anything of the kind, with the thorough approval of the Premier himself. But this item of \$15 for flowers has slipped in, and the Auditor General seems to have allowed it.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. A jubilee decoration.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I admit that the principle is bad, though the amount is small. I did not know of it, in point of fact, until now. However, it is a venial offence.

**Mr. McDOUGALL**. The hon. Minister said a moment ago that he was sure no higher prices are being paid by the Government. I notice that flour was bought for the Government from a gentleman in my county at \$5 a barrel, and no flour was bought by anybody else at as high a price during that year.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE**. We were not so fortunate in our part of the country.

**Mr. McDOUGALL**. I buy it and sell it, and I know this man did not sell to other customers for more than \$4, or \$4.50, or \$4.75, the highest. I find the same difference in the prices of other articles.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I can only state that the instructions are very definite and severe, that the agents are bound to buy at the very lowest prices.

**Mr. CLARKE**. Do they ask for bids for these articles from different dealers?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Yes, from perhaps three, or four, or five different parties engaged in the sale of the articles required.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. The hon. gentleman does not mean that he asks for public bids?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No.

Mr. McDOUGALL. Does the hon. Minister say that when they go into Cape Breton, they are permitted to go to Conservatives and buy their supplies?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No. When I entered the department I adopted the very excellent rule which I found there, that, other things being equal, the friends of the Government should get the patronage.

Mr. CLARKE. Do I understand from the Minister that when these vessels enter port and need supplies, they go to the leading dealers and ask for prices, and then, other things being equal, they buy from political friends of the Government? Is that the practice?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Yes.

Mr. CLARKE. I do not think a great deal of fault can be found with that; but, so far as I can see, in most of these cases the top price has been paid. It seems to me that competition must be very limited.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The officers of the Department of Marine are engaged in a constant taxation of the accounts of these people, in the continuous effort to keep down the prices. The consequence is that the department becomes very obnoxious to its friends because it refuses to pay more than the lowest prices for which these articles can be obtained.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If the parties are asking exorbitant prices, and are compelling the officers of the department to spend their time fighting them to get their prices reduced, they ought to be struck off the list, and the patronage then given, according to the Minister's rule, to the enemy.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. Minister has disclosed a very important matter. First, we find these things charged for at the top prices. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman what the prices were before they were cut down—the prices at which they were bought by an officer acting under instructions. If there were a capable officer, with character and stamina enough to purchase these things at the proper prices, there would be no occasion for the officers of the department to cut them down, and fight their own friends. I am not going to complain of the system, which is pretty well understood, of buying supplies from the friends of the Government. I do not object to that at all. But I do object to the Government defending prices which are entirely too high. I would not like to charge that the officer who purchases the supplies is in league with the seller, but it has happened in other

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou).

cases, and the hon. gentleman had better inquire and see whether the officers comply with the instructions which he has given.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The accounts of all these people are critically examined by my officers. Of course, the hon. gentleman knows, I am neither able nor competent to do this myself, but I have officers who follow this up from year to year, and they are never interfered with by their political heads. They have the public interest at heart, and take good care that no imposition is allowed.

Mr. COCHRANE. How can they prevent it? You have an officer who buys his own supplies? Is there any official in the department, who, if these supplies are bought at too high a rate, can cut down the accounts? It appears to me, that, when these gentlemen go to buy supplies, the man with the strongest political pull, who has done the most party service, gets the contract.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. That is not likely to be the case in my department, because, unfortunately for me, I have not been able to appoint any agents from my political friends at all. The agents at Quebec, St. John, Charlottetown, Halifax and in British Columbia—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. All good men.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**—were all appointed by my political opponents, long before I came into office. They are instructed to see, that there is competition, to get prices from all those in the business. These agents have their instructions, and, if in league with anybody to defraud the department, I should be very much surprised.

Mr. COCHRANE. I do not want to criticise those agents, but I am of the opinion, that, if a captain goes into port, he does not call on your official, but goes and buys what he wants himself.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Wherever there is an agent, he goes to the agent; but, of course, if he goes into an outlying port and requires supplies, you will have to depend upon him.

Mr. CLARKE. The last explanation of the hon. Minister does not coincide exactly with the one he gave us a short time ago. We understood, that the rule adopted in his department was, that, other things being equal, political friends should secure the orders for supplies, and I am not quarrelling with that rule. But now he tells us, that the purchasing agents were directed to ask for bids for supplies only from the Government's own political friends. If the department wants best value for its money, it should ask for tenders from all those en-

gaged in the trade, without regard to politics, and then, if the bids of political friends are not higher than those of the other parties, no one could object to their getting the contract.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. We take care to ensure competition.

Mr. **CLARKE**. But you cannot, if you confine the officer to your political friends, and allow him to take prices only from those in the trade who are your political friends. If that is the rule—

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. That is the rule.

Mr. **CLARKE**. Then, that explains why we find such very high prices all through the Auditor General's accounts charged for supplies purchased for these vessels.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. The hon. Minister cannot take the position of irresponsibility, if his officers are instructed to only deal with certain parties. If he wants to shirk responsibility, he must ask for public competition and tender. But, if he does, what I do not deny was done in my time, give instruction with regard to certain supplies for these steamers, and direct that they be given to the friends of the Government, all things being equal, he cannot avoid responsibility, because his officers are not free agents. The hon. gentleman cannot give his officers such instructions, and then hold them responsible for not getting the lowest prices.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I hold them responsible to see, that no goods are bought at higher prices than they could be obtained for.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. The hon. gentleman cannot hold them responsible for conniving at high charges or for gross carelessness; but, as the hon. member for Cape Breton has pointed out, these prices seem exorbitant, and the Minister cannot fall back and shift his responsibility on to officers who are not as free as they should be. They are trammelled by being told to deal with certain individuals, and would hesitate to pass over these individuals, and incur the hostility of the friends of the Government.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. I am glad to see the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Ellis) in his seat, because he will be able to correct the statements I am about to make, if they should be in any way inaccurate. It is evident, from the prices I am about to quote, that political friends of the Government have the pull. On page 310 of the Auditor General's Report, I find that Mr. Cotter, who, I presume, is a supporter of my hon. friend opposite, supplied the steamer "Lansdowne" with 11 barrels of potatoes at \$2.50 per barrel. That was in the year 1898. I know,

that we imported potatoes from there last year, and sold them in our town at about 50 cents per barrel, and in the previous year you could hardly give them away.

Mr. **CLARKE**. They may have been sweet potatoes.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. Then we come to turnips, which are worth about 10 cents a wagon-load. Mr. David Rae sold them at 10 cents to 25 cents to our farmers to carry them away by the wagon-load.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. You mean, for a bushel.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. No, 10 cents to 25 cents per wagon-load. He had more than he knew what to do with.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. How many thousand of those loads would you deliver at the different places at that price?

Mr. **TAYLOR**. Never mind that part of it. The hon. member for St. John will not say that turnips were worth \$1.50 a barrel, or more than 50 cents a bushel. Then there is another friend of hon. gentlemen who figures for a bill of supplies amounting to \$243.87, and every item at proportionately high prices. Then, on the next page, we find the name of E. J. Kennedy, St. John—

Mr. **ELLIS**. A very good man.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. And a very good and enthusiastic supporter of my hon. friend (Mr. Ellis), no doubt. It is evident that there was a division of patronage. They did not ask the hon. gentleman's supporters in any line of business to compete, but gave the account to one man one month and to another man the next. Mr. Kennedy figures for a bill of supplies to the steamer "Lansdowne," amounting to \$700.94. Apples he charges at \$5.50 a barrel. We know what they can be bought for. There must be at least \$2 profit there "for the boy." The next item is fifty-nine pounds of baking powder at 50 cents a pound. Surely there was a commission of 25 or 30 per cent on that to Mr. Kennedy or to somebody else. Pease—we know what pease can be bought for—are charged here at \$2.40 a bushel, and beans at \$2 a bushel.

Mr. **CLARKE**. These must be French pease.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. No doubt—such as you can buy anywhere at 60 cents a bushel. You can buy white beans at from 60 cents to 80 cents a bushel. If this is the way this economical and honest Government are dealing with their political supporters in St. John and other places, this item must not pass until the matter is investigated, and a tabulated statement of items made up to show how two and three prices are paid for goods to friends of hon. gentlemen opposite. Can any gentleman rise in this House and

say that apples in St. John last year were \$5.50 a barrel?

Mr. ELLIS. How many barrels?

Mr. TAYLOR. One barrel.

Mr. ELLIS. A barrel of good apples was worth \$4 or \$5 last year.

Mr. TAYLOR. You could buy them in the city of Ottawa for far less.

Sir CHARLES HUBBERT TUPPER. But those are Ontario apples; the apples charged here are Nova Scotia apples.

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

### After Recess.

#### IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 45) to incorporate the St. Clair and Erie Ship Canal Company.—(Mr. Tisdale.)

Bill (No. 12) to confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of George L. Williams.—(Mr. McCarthy.)

Bill (No. 70) respecting the Bronsons and Weston Lumber Company, and to change the name to the Bronson Company.—(Mr. Belcourt.)

Bill (No. 67) respecting the Welland Power and Supply Canal Company (Limited).—(Mr. Gibson.)

Bill (No. 27) respecting the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company.—(Mr. Préfontaine.)

#### YALE AND KOOTENAY TELEGRAPH COMPANY (LIMITED).

Mr. BOSTOCK moved that Bill (No. 7) to incorporate the Northern Telegraph Company, be passed and that the title be entered on the Order paper as "An Act to incorporate the Yale and Kootenay Telegraph Company (Limited)."

Motion agreed to.

#### BILL RESPECTING BANQUE DU PEUPLE.

On the Order being called for the House to go into committee on Bill (No. 16) respecting La Banque du Peuple (Mr. Préfontaine),

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I would like this Bill to stand, as the Minister of Justice wants to examine into some points in connection with it.

Mr. SPEAKER. Stand.

#### SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 110) respecting the Hudson's Bay and Yukon Railways and Navigation Company.—(Mr. Oliver.)

Mr. TAYLOR.

Bill (No. 112) respecting the Montreal Island Belt Line Railway Company.—(Mr. Lemieux, by Mr. Ellis.)

Bill (No. 113) to incorporate the Canada Mining and Metallurgical Company (Limited).—(Mr. Haley, by Mr. Logan.)

Bill (No. 115) to incorporate the Sudbury and Wahnapiatae Railway Company.—(Mr. Dymont, by Mr. McHugh.)

#### SUPPLY.

The House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

Ocean and river service—Maintenance and repairs to Government steamers. \$145,000

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I understand we are still on the item in regard to steamers. On page 4 of the last report of the Marine Department, I observe that the "Newfield," as usual, has been engaged in cable work, and I would like to know from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries if the system that used to obtain, still obtains, and if the Department of Public Works pays for the running of that vessel while she is on cable work, and in that way the hon. gentleman reduces his estimate for the "Newfield."

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The same system prevails, but unfortunately I have not obtained from the Public Works Department the necessary sum which they owe to us. The vote of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) is exhausted, and he is applying for a supplementary to enable him to pay me. There is no change in the way of keeping the accounts.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. A question came up some years ago to which reference was made, I think, last session with regard to the fishery service. Does the Minister now retain as many as possible of the trained and drilled sailors of the fishery protection service, on the full payroll during the winter?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The same system prevails that did before. The officers are retained on half-pay, and we give to the seamen who have acquitted themselves creditably, the prior right to re-enter the next spring; we always re-engage them.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. This is a very important subject, and the reference the hon. gentleman makes to it, rather leaves me under the impression that he has not made much progress in the good direction in which the department started, and which I think would command the unanimous support of the House, even if it involved a little additional expense. When I had to do with that department, I learned that during the summer season we obtained from the very best possible recruiting class,

a body of sailors for the fishery protection service, who, as regards physique and intelligence, were all that was required to make first-class and well-disciplined sailors. At the end of the season they had a natural preference instilled into them for that life, as compared with the hard and rough coasting life to which they had been confined hitherto, or the rougher life of fishing on the banks. But a large proportion of those men, unable to be idle, and unwilling to go back to their old life, were tempted to go into the neighbouring country and enlist on the ships of war in that country. In the case, for instance, of the vessel that was sunk in the harbour of Havana, there were ten or eleven Nova Scotians, first-class seamen, on that vessel, and I think some gunners as well. And it is so throughout the American navy. Unless great care is taken, while protecting our fisheries on the Atlantic coast, we would be training in this way men to supply ships in a foreign service. That is in no sense desirable; the Minister, I am sure, is with me in that respect. Now that having been brought to my attention, I began very gingerly, having the fear of the Minister of Finance before my eyes, to transfer men from the fisheries service in the winter months, on to such ships as remained in commission, the "Newfield" particularly, if I remember aright, and the "Langdowne" as well. I transferred the first-class men recommended by the commander of the fisheries service, without regard to any other consideration except their fitness for the service. I could not put them on the pay-lists of the marine service, that is to say, the marine service proper did not require them, but of course it increased a little the expenditure on those boats. That is a system that I believe should recommend itself to all concerned. I mention the subject now in the hope that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries will go further than I did; for that was only a beginning, and secure an even more efficient service than he has now by reason of keeping them. Whether they go into a foreign service or not, they cannot be relied on by the Minister if they are not paid during the season when there is no necessity for their services in fishery protection. Although the service is most creditable at the present time, still by increasing the inducements to the men, the Minister would have a finer service than even now. From a national standpoint, I hope the hon. gentleman will very seriously consider the adoption of the system I have outlined.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am quite at one with my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) in his contention, but I have not heard from Commander Spain—who takes a good deal of interest in the matter—that there have been any losses whatever among the men we desire to retain in the fishery service, owing to the fact, that we pay them off

during the fishing season. If there had been any proportion of our men lost by reason of this cause, I should have been prepared to consider the matter in the sense indicated by the hon. gentleman, and to retain these men in the service, either by giving them pay in part, or by transferring them to some boats that are used during the winter. So far, the matter has not presented itself in a practical form, because, fortunately, we have retained all the men we desire to retain. I have in my mind a scheme for promoting much more than heretofore the efficiency of that service. I recognize the importance of making these men feel that they are a trained class, whose services will be retained as long as they discharge their duties faithfully. So far, I have been able to retain them all, quite irrespective of politics—there never has been the slightest sign of a dismissal among the men for any political reasons whatever, and I think they all understand that thoroughly. I am desirous of having, if possible, in the fishery protection service a class of men who are properly trained in the use of quick-firing guns and in the use of small arms. Special instructions were given to Captain Spain last year, and repeated this year, with a view to that. It may be possible for me to present to this House yet, during the session, some proposal for the training of these seamen under a scheme which I have more or less formulated, and which is under consideration, whereby these men can be fitted, not only to discharge the duties we ask of them, but to take their places on board a British man-of-war for four months of one or two years successively; and thus, having passed, in the first instance, our examination, and passed the four months' service on board a British man-of-war, and qualified themselves for the Canadian naval reserve—as I hope to see it established some day—to obtain the pensions which are paid by the British Government to the Royal Naval Reserve. That scheme I am not in a position to present to the House now, but I am not without hopes I may be able to do it at a day not far distant.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.  
This session?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I would not like to pledge myself to that.

Mr. CLARKE. Has there not been some correspondence between the Canadian authorities and the Imperial authorities, respecting the sending of men to train on the British warships?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There was some correspondence with respect to establishing a training ship, but when that had proceeded a certain length, we found a strong opposition to it, not by reason of any opposition to the

scheme itself, but from the fact, that those who had studied the question believed, that the end would be better attained by establishing training stations on shore. The question now under consideration—which I hope to submit to my colleagues at an early date—is the establishment at different places along our coast of training stations, where the men can get the same training as on board a man-of-war. What we are trying to do is to obtain from the British Government a consent, that the armament, which is the most expensive part of it, shall be provided by them, and, if they provide us with that, we will provide the men, and provide the expense necessary to train the men by bringing naval instructors from the mother country to train them every winter. Then, such of these men as are willing can go on board the British naval ships, and receive a four months' training, or a six months' training—four months we hope to make it. That would put them in a position to establish themselves on the naval reserve, and would entitle them to receive a pension. The scheme is not yet completed, and we have not received the official approval of the English authorities, but it is being carefully considered. I do not like to say more now than to express the hope, that I may be able to present the scheme to the House this session.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I, for one, would be very glad, if, in discussing this scheme with the Imperial authorities, the Canadian Government can see its way clear, not to insist on the Imperial Government supplying the armament at its cost. There has been, in connection with all this question, so much feeling in England—a great deal of it, I think, unreasonable—as to our niggardliness in matters of defence, that perhaps it would be just as well not to be cheese-paring about a scheme of that kind: a scheme which, I think, would commend itself to the patriotic spirit of the country. I would be sorry to see the scheme delayed because of the chaffering between one Government and the other with regard to that particular item, but I have no doubt the Minister is considering that very carefully. I have not, of course, had an opportunity of discussing with Captain Spain the internal condition of the ships—perhaps it would not be altogether proper for me to do so—but I would ask the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) to really pay more attention to the point I raise. I would be glad, if he is right, and possibly he is, that the danger I have pointed out has been averted, and that these men who are not on the permanent pay-list, are not in the habit of doing what they certainly used to do, namely, leaving the country because of enforced idleness during the winter season. Unless Commander Spain has been given authority to continue in the line I have mentioned, I know of no reason on earth why these men would not do the same thing as they have

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

done in other days. The prosperity of the country, or the reverse, has nothing to do with keeping them here, because these men, having been trained to nice clean duty on board our ships, are fond of continuing that life, and are anxious to go into a service where they can receive full pay all the year round. I would ask the Minister to make a mental note of that, and to inquire, whether he is right in saying, that the difficulty I refer to does not now exist.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I shall have a special report made on that particular point by Captain Spain.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I see a reference to two trips of the "Quadra" to Alaska during the greater part of the months of September and October, on business of the Department of the Interior. As in the case of the Public Works Department, is that made a charge on any vote under the supervision of the Department of the Interior, or are those trips charged to the maintenance and repairs of Government steamers?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There were some extra expenses incurred in fitting out the "Quadra" for that special trip, and, of course, these extra expenses are returned to the department; but the ordinary expenses were not charged. The reason was, because the "Quadra" had to do a lot of lighthouse work on the way up; it was not as if she was going specially for the Department of the Interior and nothing else. There was a great deal of expense incurred in fitting her out, all of which was, as a matter of course, returned.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It really does not matter, in one sense, whether one department pays it or the other, but if at any time we are contrasting the expenditure of these different departments, it does become important how the accounts are kept. I know the ordinary rule is, that when you do work for the Customs Department—unless it be some hap-hazard thing in the course of your ordinary duties—the Customs Department would pay for that. So the Inland Revenue Department pay and the Public Works Department pay. According to this report, the two trips to Alaska occupied the greater part of September and October for the Department of the Interior, and it seems to me that according to the ordinary rule the whole of that should be charged to that department. Otherwise, we have not an accurate statement of the expenditure of either department; the Marine Department is bearing more than its share, and the Department of the Interior is bearing less than its share.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.) I am very much pleased to find that it is the intention of the Minister to do what is pos-

sible to assist in building up a naval reserve in this country, and to use the present fishery and winter service in connection with it. I regret to say that up to this time he has rather lost sight of that, and has dismissed some of the very best men in the service, I fear, for political reasons.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. What, men dismissed from the fishery service?

Mr. **MACDONALD** (King's, P.E.I.) Yes, from the fishery protection service and the winter service.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The winter service is an entirely different thing. Do not mix them.

Mr. **MACDONALD** (King's, P.E.I.) The great objection which the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) had was to continue the service of the men during both winter and summer when possible, and in that way to keep the run of the men. I know that under the hon. the Minister's predecessor in office an effort was made in that direction, and the effort was backed up, so far as I was concerned, personally, to the extent that when a man was wanted for the fishery protection service I was always careful, as far as possible, to continue in the service men who were previously in it. This has given these men almost a claim on the department, and their efficiency, of course, is improved as their service is continued. Now, I have in mind the name of a man who was second officer in the good ship "Stanley," and who had been on the winter service from the time of the "Northern Light"—in fact, almost from the time the service commenced. He had the highest possible recommendation, he knew the service thoroughly, and he was trusted by his officers and the public; and yet, Sir, without any fault being found with him whatever, he was not re-engaged when the winter service came on. The same is true with regard to the general crew; and I am sorry to say, if my information is correct, that the work of the present crew, in taking on and discharging the cargo, is the laughing-stock of the public. Without blaming the Minister of Marine very much, I say there is too much politics in this matter. One party or the other is very apt to put on friends who are not suitable for the position. When I had anything to do with the furnishing of men for that service, I generally furnished two or three able-bodied men, and left the captain to decide which one to take. In that way you always get the best men; and when men are once in the service, I think they should be continued. There is no doubt that if a naval reserve were formed which would give employment to our hardy fishermen of the coast for four months in the year, it would be a great matter both for the

naval reserve and for these men. The fishermen, as we all know, are not occupied the year through, and they are, I believe, as hardy a class of men as are to be found in the world. They have to encounter the roughest and hardest weather that falls to the lot of fishermen anywhere. I can see that the Americans are now coming over to Nova Scotia to try to enlist men for their naval service, and I think it behooves both the Dominion Government and the British Government to find some means by which a naval reserve shall be established in Canada. It would certainly be a step in the right direction. It would show our interest in contributing our share to the navy of the Empire, which I think it is our bounden duty to do, and I do not know any part of the world where a better class of men could be found than in the maritime provinces.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). I thoroughly appreciate much of what my hon. friend has said; but I would be very sorry if the House were led to the impression, from anything that fell from him, that political influences were allowed to be introduced in the appointment of officers or crews for the fishery protection service or the marine service. I have no knowledge of any one single officer, be he first officer, second officer, boatswain or otherwise, who has been dismissed from any of the fishery protection service vessels or marine vessels on political grounds or on any other grounds than those given by the commodore in charge. The captains of the vessels are there to-day as I found them; the first officers are there as I found them, except that they resigned and went away. Our system has been a system of promotion, not in the particular vessel to which a man belongs, but in the service. So, that if to-day a man is boatswain of one of the ships, and the position of second officer becomes vacant in any vessel, the boatswain gets the promotion. You must offer some such inducement to the men to remain in the service. If they were kept in the same position, they would not remain. So I have resisted all pressure to induce me to depart from what I think an essential principle in building up a proper service, in the maintenance of discipline and in the spread of 'esprit de corps' in the service. The steamer "Stanley," to which reference has been made, is simply a passenger and freight boat for winter, and stands in an entirely different position. On that vessel mere labouring men are taken in winter to load and discharge cargoes. I do not mean to say that the same principle is applied to that vessel or ever was. But apart from that I make the statement broadly, that notwithstanding the extreme pressure which is being brought to bear upon me from all parts to remove men who are alleged to be more or less partisan, I

have resisted it absolutely in that service, and I venture to make the challenge to any one to prove that any man has been dismissed from that service on allegations of political partisanship. You must instil into the minds of these men that they belong to the service and that if they discharge their duties efficiently they have a chance of promotion. Otherwise you could not retain them. We have good officers now, and I do not believe they indulge in political partisanship, although perhaps they were not desirable appointments for the party with which I am associated. I believe most of them are Conservatives, but so long as they discharge their duties well and do not take any part in politics the policy of the department which has existed heretofore, will be maintained while I am here. I know of no better way of promoting the efficiency of the service, and that has been and will continue to be my policy.

Mr. TAYLOR. At six o'clock we were discussing an item of expenditure which has largely increased—the item of maintenance and repairs to Government steamers, page 58. This one item was increased \$32,000. According to the book it should be \$44,000, but the hon. Minister has explained that last year, while he asked for \$102,000 as printed, \$112,000 was the correct amount. In the late Government which my hon. friend used to call a corrupt Government, the service was run as efficiently for a smaller amount.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. You are quite mistaken.

Mr. TAYLOR. No ; my hon. friend thought he could run the department efficiently and save something, but we have the admission from him to-night that he is coming down with a supplementary Estimate for a very large amount, probably \$20,000, to pay the debts of last year, and what is the reason of this ? Simply because, according to his own statement, he gave instructions that the goods should be purchased from his political friends without tender, and you will find from the Auditor General's Report that the prices paid were excessive. I referred to my hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Ellis), and was listening patiently to hear him say that those prices were not exorbitant.

Mr. ELLIS. You did not give me the slightest chance.

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, I have been waiting since six o'clock, and the hon. gentleman will have his opportunity when I sit down. My hon. friend inquired how many barrels of apples had been paid for, and I said the number, and he retorted that \$4 was not a very large price for a barrel of good apples. But the price paid here is \$5.50, and was paid in the Annapolis valley, where you could have got them for \$1.50 per barrel last year at the time these apples were sold to the Government at \$5.50.

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

Mr. ELLIS. You are making the statement now that the apples were bought in the fall of the year. How do you know ?

Mr. TAYLOR. I know that the Auditor General's Report is made up to the 30th June, last year, so that it was the crops of the preceding year that was bought. Or if they were bought in the spring and kept from the fall to the spring, they were not worth \$5.50 per barrel.

Mr. ELLIS. The hon. gentleman is making a very positive statement that these apples were bought in the fall of the year when the apples came in, but the odds are ten to one they were purchased in the spring of the year after the apples had been stored up all season.

Mr. TAYLOR. If so, they were not worth \$5.50 per barrel.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. These apples were kept in cold storage.

Mr. ELLIS. That added to the price.

Mr. TAYLOR. We on this side have been asking for months passed for a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee. We will have these accounts before the committee, and will call the parties up that sold the goods and establish whether there was a commission given to the Government or the man who purchased them, because no man purchasing for his own household—and in purchasing for the Government he ought to be more particular—who will pay \$5.50 for a barrel of apples.

Mr. ELLIS. I would consider that a fair price for good apples.

Mr. TAYLOR. Would these hon. gentlemen have paid these high prices unless somebody got a slice out of it or some of it went into the corrupt fund. This accounts for the increase of \$33,000 which my hon. friend is asking for, and if that amount be allowed to pass my hon. friend will say: You approved of it. I propose that the amount be reduced to \$112,000, the same as last year.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I told the hon. gentleman that when the "Aberdeen" was not engaged in this service at all, but the fishery service, I cut the vote down. Now, the amount he speaks about as having been voted years past in Parliament was neither \$112,000 nor \$117,000. It was made \$112,000, when the "Aberdeen" was not in the service, and her expenses were charged to the fishery protection service. The vote taken in years gone by for this service was \$134,000, and in the supplementary Estimates a special vote was taken for these ordinary repairs of \$12,000, which made \$145,000.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. What year ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Previous to 1897-98.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Your own report makes it \$136,000 the last two years, 1896-97.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. \$132,400.

Mr. TAYLOR. That was not under Conservative administration.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, and the vote asked for was about \$132,000, but there was a supplementary vote of \$12,000. This vote purports to cover ordinary repairs as well as maintenance, and, therefore, is not an increase over the ordinary vote granted year by year. I did attempt at one time to cut it down, and succeeded because one of the vessels was paid out of the other branch of the service—fishery protection.

Mr. TAYLOR. My hon. friend accepted office on the understanding that the department would be conducted on business principles, and he now admits that a large amount of the supplies purchased was given out to his political supporters without tender. The ex-Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart) has often stated that while he was Minister a paint brush was not purchased for the Intercolonial unless a tender was called for. But here are thousands of dollars of goods purchased without any tender. I turn over to the steamer "Stanley," to the amount of purchases made from political supporters of my hon. friend in Charlotte-town, and I find the same prices prevailing there. I ask my hon. friend here what he could buy these goods for, and he says they can be bought for one-half the prices charged here. Surely there is a commission for somebody, there is a campaign fund being provided for. The Opposition in this House would not be discharging their duty to the country if they allowed this vote to be given to the Minister next year to be expended in the same manner as it has been expended this year. The increase is due—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is no increase.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Your estimate says there is.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Nominally only.

Mr. TAYLOR. But the hon. gentleman deceived us last year. He asked for \$112,000 to run the service, and now he tells us he is going to take \$20,000 extra. This is necessary because he has paid to his political friends extra prices for supplies. This is the broad fact we have to face. The Opposition, if it would do its duty, should move to reduce this amount to what the Conservative Government used to conduct the service for. They gave just as good a service and had just as many vessels. If you will turn to the figures of 1894-95 and 1895-96, you will find that the amount is not more than \$117,000 for any one year. My hon. friend from

Frontenac made the statement here this afternoon that these amounts, even though paid, should not be made known to the public.

Mr. ROGERS. I deny that. I never made any such statement.

Mr. TAYLOR. What did you say then?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I would remind the hon. gentleman that he must address the Chair.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. We want the hon. gentleman (Mr. Rogers) to tell us what he said.

Mr. TAYLOR. He said that these small items appearing in the Auditor General's Report, such as books and the pictures of the Premier, even though the articles were purchased, should not be published.

Mr. ROGERS. I did not say that.

Mr. TAYLOR. We shall see "Hansard" to-morrow, and I will quote what the hon. gentleman said on some future occasion. When my hon. friend (Mr. Rogers) and his friends appealed to the country, it was their whole stock in trade as members of the Patrons of Industry to hold up the Auditor General's Report and show what had been paid for jack-knives, sealing wax and little items of that kind. I do not object to that, but I object to this department asking \$33,000 more of the people's money in order to be able to pay their political supporters double prices for goods to be used on these steamships, no competition being allowed. Imagine paying \$2.50 a barrel for potatoes, and \$1.50 for turnips. Who ever heard of such a thing?

Mr. ELLIS. That is a fair price.

Mr. TAYLOR. You do not pay that much for such goods for your own household?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman should address the Chair.

Mr. TAYLOR. But when the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ellis) interrupted me he did not address the Chair. When the hon. Minister last year asked for \$112,000, we voted it because it was about the same sum that we had voted to the previous Conservative Government—a Government which the hon. gentleman claimed was a corrupt and extravagant Government. He said that he could run the service for a less amount. Now, he comes and tells us that he could not run it for that amount, that he has not money to pay the hands on the boats and will have to get a supplementary estimate of \$20,000. If so, it is due to the fact that he farmed out to his political supporters the business of furnishing supplies to these steamers at two for three prices, as shown by the Auditor General's Report. And now he asks for this amount to conduct the business on the same principles next year. The Opposition will not be doing their duty if they do not oppose

this demand of the Minister for this sum of money to be spent in the same extravagant way as last year. If I vote alone, I will vote to reduce this amount. If the service were conducted as it could be conducted, if there was competition in the furnishing of the supplies, as there should be, a great saving would be effected. I have no objection to the hon. gentleman favouring his political supporters, others things being equal. But some officers of the department go into a merchant in Halifax or St. John and says: We want \$700 worth of goods sent to the steamer; here is the list; send in the goods; charge your own prices and send in your bill and it will be paid. Of course, so long as the party making the purchases will "O.K." the bill the Auditor General is bound to pay it, no matter what the prices are. The only way for us would be to get the invoices of these parties in St. John and Halifax laid before us and then summon other parties from the same places and see whether the prices in the open market are what they charged. No man in Halifax will say that apples at any time last year were worth \$5.50 a barrel, or pease worth \$2.40 a bushel.

Mr. CLARKE. They were French canned pease.

Mr. TAYLOR. They are pease to make good pea soup, and worth from 75 cents to 80 cents a bushel, if well cleaned. And they charge \$2 a bushel for beans. Why, we have never, in this country, paid more than \$1 a bushel. At the price charged there must have been \$1 a bushel to some political heeler. No doubt, he will contribute to the campaign fund. We shall not be doing our duty if we thus allow the Minister to snatch more of the people's money to distribute among his political heelers.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I gave my hon. friend (Mr. Taylor) credit for more fairness than he has shown. Let me put the point to him again. In the year 1897-98, the "Aberdeen" was not on this branch of the service and we estimated to \$20,000 or \$30,000 less.

Mr. TAYLOR. Where was she?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. She was on the fisheries branch. The service cost \$117,000. We made the same estimate for this year, but the "Aberdeen" was put on the marine service, and, consequently, it will cost more by just the sum it costs to maintain her—about \$20,000—and I must ask the House to vote that.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.). How is it that she costs more in one service than in another?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. She does not cost any more. I take different votes, one for the ships in the Marine branch service and one for those in the Fisheries. If a ship belongs to the

Mr. TAYLOR.

fisheries branch, you must pay her out of the Fisheries vote. The Auditor General will not let you pay her out of the Marine vote.

Mr. CLARKE. It is as broad as it is long.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, over the whole expenditure; but the Auditor General will not allow you to take from the vote from one branch to pay for the services in another branch. In the year 1892, this service cost \$145,899; and in 1893, \$163,097.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. What are you reading from?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The Fisheries Report, page 55. I am reading the figures for the years when the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) was Minister himself. In 1894, the cost was \$178,183; in 1895, it cost \$169,661; and in 1896, \$145,315.

Mr. WOOD. Pease were worth \$4 a bushel then.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. In 1897, the cost was \$136,940, and in 1898, \$117,644, because, as I have explained, this steamer was employed in the other service. This year she is brought back in the marine and buoy service—

Mr. MACDONALD. Then you will take less for the other?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Of course. My hon. friend (Mr. Taylor) may want to make political capital out of the price of pease, and so on; I do not object to that, but he must not represent wrongly the salient and vital facts of the case. There is no increase in the ordinary service.

Mr. TAYLOR. My hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) is reading from his own report. But if he will send to the Library and get the Estimates submitted to this House for 1894-95 and 1895-96, he will find, that the statement I have made is correct. I do not know what he has written in his report, or what comparison he has drawn. But the member for Hamilton says, that pease were worth more than then. When my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Marine and Fisheries conducted these services, he did not say to the officers: Go and buy these supplies from the Conservatives of Halifax or St. John. Those supplies were got by competition. When the present Minister of Marine and Fisheries was on this side of the House, he attacked the then Minister, time and again, for the extravagant manner in which the steamer was run, crossing over to Prince Edward Island. My hon. friend ought to know something about hardware and oils. I can quote him prices that will astonish him, that were paid to political friends for these articles down there. He is not, perhaps, as well conversant with groceries as I am. I find one item here that I know

will surprise him : 59 pounds of baking powder at 50 cents a pound.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). That is not too high.

Mr. TAYLOR. Is there a merchant in the House that would say, that 50 cents a pound for baking powder is not too high ?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Not for the best class of baking powder.

Mr. TAYLOR. Why, you can buy cream of tartar for less than 50 cents a pound. Fifteen or 20 cents is a high price for the best quality of baking powder that can be purchased in this country, and I know what I am talking about. My hon. friend may know the price of pills, or something of that kind, but he does not know much about baking powder, if he says it is worth 50 cents a pound. Any merchant in this House knows that 15 or 20 cents is an outside price for baking powder. Yet this Government have money to throw to their political friends, and say to them : Put in 59 pounds and make it 50 cents. You will have \$15 clear profit, and you can give us \$10 to the campaign fund during the next election.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.). There is some baking powder for which they paid 25 cents.

Mr. TAYLOR. Well, probably, he was a Tory they paid it to ; but this fellow to whom they paid 50 cents, was a good Grit. Let the hon. Minister send to the Library and produce the Estimates of the last three or four years of the Conservative Government, and see what they asked for these services. He will find the figures never exceeded \$117,000, yet he is asking this year \$143,000, and another \$20,000, he says, in the supplementaries to make up for the deficit of last year, and, perhaps, another sum in the supplementaries for next year that may still come down. If he is going to give a slice to all his political friends in St. John, Halifax and Charlottetown, why, \$143,000 would not go round. I think this House would not be doing its duty, if it failed to oppose any such a vote.

Mr. ELLIS. My hon. friend makes strong assertions, but he does not know anything about prices in St. John ; he is simply fishing. He has found a great deal of fault with the price of potatoes. Last season, when these vessels were fitted up, potatoes were more expensive than they are now.

Mr. TAYLOR. What time in the year ?

Mr. ELLIS. I do not think my hon. friend is very well informed on the subject. These steamers fit out, to a considerable degree, the first of the season. Now, nearly all this class of goods : potatoes, turnips, vegetables and that kind—I refer to these because he referred to them—were quite expensive. I looked through a list published in a paper that my hon. friend will not dispute, the

St. John "Sun," and I found the market price of potatoes in St. John was 20 to 30 cents a peck. My hon. friend can calculate the price of a barrel from that.

Mr. TAYLOR. They ought to be new potatoes, the first of the season.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. What is the date ?

Mr. ELLIS. The 4th of May. Then, my hon. friend is very much shocked at the price of turnips. I find the price of turnips quoted in that paper at 18 to 20 cents a peck. My hon. friend can make his calculation on that basis. While, no doubt, the wholesale price might be something less, it is not likely that steamers can purchase at wholesale figures. Then, with regard to apples. The hon. gentleman selects one barrel of apples, which he finds charged at \$5.50. I know nothing about that, but, if I exercised my imagination, I could suppose the captain had, seeing an excellent barrel of apples in some place, concluded to buy it. I am satisfied, that such a good Conservative as he is would try to get the best supplies he can find, when starting out on his voyage. Then, with regard to the practice, it is precisely the same practice of purchasing that has been in vogue for quite a number of years. I would like to call my hon. friend's attention to another thing, and that is the expenses of these steamers. Take the steamer "Lansdowne" in the year 1896; the total cost of the outfit of the "Lansdowne" was \$26,000. In the year 1898 the cost was \$21,669; although peace should have cost a little more.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Is the hon. gentleman able to say, how many months' work she put in in the one year, compared with the other ?

Mr. ELLIS. I will not undertake to say that, but I am quoting from the reports, as they appear for the year's service, and I am endeavouring to argue the question as closely as my hon. friend did. Then, take the steamer "Newfield," which is another steamer engaged in the lower provinces. The "Newfield," last year, cost \$21,756; in the year 1896 she cost \$26,000.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Is that 1896-97 ?

Mr. ELLIS. It is 1895-96. The whole argument of the hon. gentleman, with regard to prices paid in St. John, is based upon what he does not know, upon his lack of knowledge of the facts, as they exist in the city of St. John. The hon. gentleman should remember, that food is not as cheap there as it is in this part of the country. If the hon. gentleman will visit me, I will furnish him at any time with the best turnips that can be found ; but I am sure, that, if I were to visit the hon. gentleman, he would be able to feed me on those articles at a much cheaper rate than I can feed him. It

is always to be remembered, that the prices mentioned in this report are not the prices at present, but when the vessel is outfitting.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.). I cannot imagine, that the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries is so lacking in business qualities as to buy potatoes by the peck for one of his ships, or turnips either.

Mr. ELLIS. I did not say he did.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.). It occurs to me, with respect to the whole business, that it is conducted in a loose way. I am not attributing motives, or anything of that kind, but I believe the whole business in connection with this service is conducted in a loose way. If there is not enough competition with respect to this service, then the public have got to suffer. From my little knowledge of the service under the late Administration, I can say, that, in connection with the summer service, and, I may add, the other service also at Georgetown, in Prince Edward Island, circulars were sent out to people who were in the habit of providing certain lines of articles of food, groceries and so forth.

In every case the lowest bid was taken, and the successful tenderer had to furnish meats and groceries as he was called upon from time to time, at the prices that he quoted. I remember that they, the contractors, often grumbled that they had to pay a larger price than the amount of their contract at certain seasons. But they had to abide by the prices that they had quoted. It is really necessary, in the interest of the public, that competition should take place in every case, and, while it is all very well for the Government of the day to put these matters in the hands of their friends, I think it would always be a safety-valve for the public if they got a bid from their opponents also, so that they could then pin their friends down to the lowest bid, and the public interest would be thus safeguarded. I have not gone over the Auditor General's Report to see what prices were paid, but, from what my hon. friends around me have been saying, it seems to me that the prices have been excessive to a tremendous degree, that potatoes at \$2.50 a barrel, beans at \$2.50 a bushel, and so on, are extreme prices. They are 100 per cent over regular prices; in fact, they are more than that in some instances. It is not right, in the interest of the public, and if steps have not been taken by the Government to guard against such a state of affairs, I think it would be well for the Minister, his attention having been called to the matter, to take steps to guard the public interest in such a way that the Government will not in the future be fleeced right and left in these matters. The Minister said, when on his feet a while ago, that he invariably continued the services of the officers, mates and second mates in the fishery and winter services.

Mr. ELLIS.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Not in the winter service.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.). I understood the hon. gentleman to say in the winter service also.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, I especially excepted that.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.). I understood the hon. gentleman to say that he referred especially to the winter service. The hon. gentleman ought to carry out the same policy in regard to the winter service, in fact, it is of greater importance that the policy of retaining the crews that are experienced in the winter service should be continued than in the summer service, because it is a service in which experience is very much an object as experience in the past has clearly proven.

Mr. TAYLOR. My hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Ellis) undertook to give a comparison of the expenditure between the steamers "Lansdowne" and the "Newfield," but he dropped it like a hot potato. He gave the figures for the "Lansdowne" as \$21,000, and turned over to the "Newfield," but he did not say how much the expenditure had been on that vessel. The figures for the "Newfield" are \$31,262.42. I just want to draw his attention to this fact.

Mr. ELLIS. You are not allowing for the deduction.

Mr. TAYLOR. There is a credit of \$9,000 against this amount, but the expenses were \$31,262, and I may tell the hon. gentleman how it is accounted for. The Halifax Grits were harder on the department than the St. John fellows, a good deal. I will ask my hon. friend to turn up page K-18 in the Auditor General's Report. Here is a firm named H. W. Wentzell & Co., of Halifax. They supplied beans; they did not sell them by the bushel; they sold them by the piece—two dozen at 95 cents; two dozen more at 90 cents. Who ever heard of such prices paid for beans as 95 cents and 90 cents a dozen? They consumed \$135 worth. Four hundred and thirty-three were purchased.

Mr. ELLIS. You mean cans.

Mr. TAYLOR. No, I mean cases. We find many other things in proportion. Such luxuries as lime juice, \$3; lunch tongue, 1 case, \$6.50; toilet soap, 1 dozen, \$3. This is 25 cents a cake for toilet soap, when you can buy, in any drug store down town, at from 10 cents to 15 cents a cake the best quality of toilet soap that you can get. But these sailors must have it at \$3 a dozen. Perhaps it was not more than 50 cents a dozen, but there was a commission for some person, and they can well afford to pay this price. I do not wonder that the hon.

gentleman dropped the "Newfield," and would not compare its expenditure with that of the "Lansdowne," when they buy beans at 90 cents.

Mr. ELLIS. I was quite fair, Mr. Chairman. I quoted in both cases the figures as they appear in the book, with deductions, but, if it makes any difference to the hon. gentleman, I will give them in that way. I quoted both alike, giving the deductions in both cases.

Mr. CLANCY. I think it would be conceded by the committee that it was a sound and wholesome principle that the hon. senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) laid down as to the responsibility of the Minister when he steps in between those who are the purchasing agents for the Government and directs them as to what they shall do, and that they shall go to the friends of the Government and purchase from them. I stated before, and I say so now, that I have no serious objection to offer to the practice of purchasing from the friends of the Government, but when the Minister steps in and directs that this departure from sound principle shall be made, he must take the consequences of the wrongdoing of those persons whom he engages and so directs. Neither the hon. gentleman nor his friends have attempted to reply to the charges that have been made that the most exorbitant prices have been paid. Even the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Ellis), who is always fair, and who consulted his paper very industriously since six o'clock, who came out and undertook to make a defence for the actions of the Government in his own city, was able to say that potatoes were being sold at from 15 cents to 20 cents a peck, as quoted in his newspaper.

Mr. ELLIS. No, I quoted from a good Conservative paper.

Mr. CLANCY. My hon. friend quoted from the St. John "Sun." Is that not his newspaper?

Mr. ELLIS. My hon. friend ought to know.

Mr. CLANCY. I am glad that my hon. friend goes to a good Conservative newspaper to get correct information. I will take the same authority that he does. He says that potatoes were sold in St. John at from 15 cents to 20 cents a peck. The hon. gentleman is quoting small retail prices when he should quote the prices of potatoes by the barrel. Let me quote the price of potatoes by the barrel on the same day. They were 75 cents to \$1.10 a barrel.

Mr. ELLIS. The hon. gentleman is entirely wrong. I have the figures here. Potatoes were selling at \$1.60 to \$1.90 by the barrel on that day.

Mr. CLANCY. I may tell my hon. friend I am not quoting the same day. This takes

in a later date, probably a later date in October—about the last day of September.

Mr. ELLIS. When the season is over.

Mr. CLANCY. Potatoes were being sold at 15 cents to 20 cents by retail, while they were being sold, at the same time, at from 75 cents to \$1.10 a barrel. The disparity between the prices I have quoted and those quoted by the hon. member for St. John is very great. Take cabbages—these are small things to talk about, but they are things that figure into large sums.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. CLANCY. An hon. gentleman says "hear, hear," but I venture to say that the hon. gentleman who says "hear, hear" will not go to his constituents and sneer at these things. While I do not think that you can profitably engage in discussion for the mere sake of discussing small affairs, I say that if you pick out such items as I have indicated, you will show the trend of expenditure. We are discussing these small items only for the purpose of showing the general trend of affairs and the general extravagance that characterizes the whole Government. When the Minister of Marine and Fisheries steps aside and directs the purchasing agents of the Government to purchase only from the friends of the Government, he must take the responsibility for these high prices. The Auditor General is an excellent officer, but he must be guided by the materials which come before him, and no doubt on small items like this he may not think it worth while to come into conflict with the Treasury Board. Can any one tell me what is the meaning of this item: "six bunches of carrots at 60 cents." That is wholly unintelligible, and neither the Auditor General nor any one else can explain it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is the Auditor General's compilation.

Mr. COCHRANE. He has to compile it from the figures he gets.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is his own compilation.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The Auditor General would not bunch the carrots.

Mr. CLANCY. The Minister stated before six o'clock, that these accounts were carefully looked into. Now, I want to ask him who looks into the accounts of the purchasing agents, before they get into the hands of the Auditor General?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The agents of the department who are the appointees of our opponents.

Mr. CLANCY. That has nothing at all to do with it.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. These agents hold their offices now as they did before the present Government came into power. When I took charge of the department, I looked into the system which was in vogue, and I found that the agents were required to certify to every bill that comes into the department, to certify that the prices were the fair market prices at the port and at the time the goods were bought. Every bill that comes up is certified by the agent in that way.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. But the agent does not buy for all these ships.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Nearly all these ships. The Halifax ships are supplied from Halifax, the St. John ships from St. John, and the Quebec ships from Quebec. If there are any casual supplies purchased, not at these ports, the prices have to be certified by the captains as being fair prices. Moreover, we have a general average of \$10.50 per man per month, and if the bill for supplies exceeds that it is criticised very closely. It is criticised, not by myself, but the officer who has charge of it for years in the department, and I can tell you, that if the captain or the agent spends more than the average allowance, he is called to pretty sharp account by the accountant of the department.

**Mr. CLANCY**. The hon. gentleman stated that they have cut these accounts down, and that they have made reductions in prices when larger ones were sent in. But how can that be done, if all these prices are sent up certified by the agent or by the captain?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The purchasing agents are Mr. Harding at St. John, Mr. Parsons at Halifax, Mr. Lord at Charlottetown, and Mr. Gregory at Quebec, and these gentlemen have had the responsibility for many years, and have to certify to the correctness of the charges.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. The ships' officers buy the provisions.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. There is an average of \$10.50 per month per man, which keeps it down.

**Mr. CLANCY**. But that average does not take into account the fluctuation in prices.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The agent has to certify that the prices are the fair market prices at the time they were bought.

**Mr. CLANCY**. The Minister has not stated whether the agent makes the purchases or whether the bills are presented to him.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. He certifies to the bill.

**Mr. CLANCY**.

**Mr. CLANCY**. And the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) tells us that the agents have absolutely nothing to do with the purchase of the provisions. Here you pay \$2.50 for a bushel of beans at St. John, and, when every one knows the price in Toronto is 70 or 80 cents a bushel, no sane business man will believe that is a proper charge. I hold the Minister responsible for these outrageous prices.

**Mr. COCHRANE**. I will not discuss the price of beans and pease, but there is a principle involved in this, altogether outside the prices, which every one knows are extravagant. Some hon. gentlemen opposite may laugh, but they did not laugh when they were in Opposition and playing the role of economists. We can remember when the Conservative Government was in power, and when the Minister of Marine (Sir Louis Davies) was in Opposition, how he would appeal to heaven, and putting on that innocent smile when he was playing to the galleries, how he would cry out against the Canadian taxpayers being burdened by the extravagance of a Tory Government. Now he is in power, and his friends behind him will bolster him up in his extravagance and justify the Government in anything they may do. Let them turn to the public accounts and see if they can justify the charges that are made there. When these gentlemen were in Opposition, they declaimed loudly that nothing should be purchased without tender, in fact they would hardly let you out to breathe without doing it under contract. Now, they are in power, and the Minister of Marine justifies his extravagance by saying that his officials are Tories. He knows as well as I know, and the Postmaster General knows as well as I know, that that has nothing at all to do with the question. The hon. member for Wellington (Mr. McMullen) is very jubilant, and he goes down beside the Minister to tell him that \$2.50 a bushel is a proper price to pay for beans. That is how the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) justifies extravagance nowadays. There is the Postmaster General alongside of him, who was such an economist on this side of the House when in Opposition, and he is also prepared to justify any extravagance of this Government. These gentlemen boast that this was done by Tory officials. Do not they know, as well as I know, that every Tory official in the Dominion of Canada is trembling in his boots. Do they know that the same human nature is in officials as in everybody else, and does not the Minister of Marine know that his officials will not, and dare not criticise his conduct. Because he has instructed his officials, the captains, to go to Grits and buy their supplies; and what check has he when that is done? He tells us that he has made no changes except in winter.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I did not say in winter. I

said in the steamship "Stanley," which runs as a passenger and freight boat.

Mr. COCHRANE. Why should you make any change in winter time? Why should you adopt a different rule when the straits are frozen over from what you have in the summer time when nature thaws out, and the fields are green and sunny? I would like to ask the hon. gentleman, does he think his official, although he may be a Tory, dares to criticise the figures, when he knows that if he did he would get his walking ticket, and I dare say the reason given would be that he was an offensive partisan. We were told that we were extravagant, and that hon. gentlemen opposite were going to manage things differently; and what do we find? They take the utmost pleasure in trying to justify themselves by saying that the Tories did the same. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries knows, that a man may make a mistake and be perfectly honest; but I say that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, as a public man, when he says that the Conservative party did something wrong and he denounced it to the country, and yet he does the same thing when he gets into power, is the biggest hypocrite it would be possible to find. A man with a grain of common sense in his head knows that \$2.50 a bushel is a corrupt price for pease; and men who sent their apples last fall to Great Britain, would be happy if after sending them there they could get \$5 a barrel for them. If the Minister had applied the wholesome rule which he applied when he ruled the destinies of Canada, he would have got pease and beans at half the prices he paid, and we would not have the scandal of buying beans by the dozen.

Mr. McDOUGALL. Mr. Chairman, before you left the Chair at six o'clock, I referred to the price paid for flour, and claimed that 25 cents and 50 cents a barrel more than the market price had been paid. Since then I have discovered that as high as \$7.50 was paid for flour for these steamers during that year. The prices paid were \$5, \$6.50 and \$7.50; and everybody who knows anything about the price of flour, knows that it scarcely went over \$5 a barrel in any part of this country during that period, and during the greater portion of the time it was as low as \$4 a barrel. At one period last winter we had flour as high as it had been for a number of years; but it must be remembered that the last of these supplies were supplied about 11 months ago; so that the flour would not be bought at a time when flour was higher than it is now. For butter, I find that there was paid 18½ cents, 19 cents, 22 cents and 25 cents, whereas the hon. Minister must know that in his own province the farmers received only 13 cents, 14 cents and 15 cents a pound for their butter, very rarely anything more.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I know nothing of the kind. You cannot go to the Charlottetown market and buy butter for any such price.

Mr. McDOUGALL. I want my hon. friend to understand that I saw butter brought from his own province and sold in my county for 14 cents a pound. Last year farmers in my county, as well as in the adjoining counties, only realized 12 cents, 13 cents, 14 cents, and in some cases 15 cents a pound for their butter. I find that by some accident the Minister's agent or captain strayed into the store of a Conservative in a town in my county and bought some butter, and what did he pay for it? Fourteen cents a pound; and yet he pays his friend in Charlottetown 25 cents a pound.

Mr. RUSSELL. Would you like to know what was paid for butter in 1895? Because I notice it was exactly twice that amount.

Mr. McDOUGALL. I know that the price of butter was a great deal higher than it was last year.

Mr. RUSSELL. Does the hon. gentleman not know that the price of butter fluctuates in different months of the year just as it does in different years?

Mr. McDOUGALL. I do know it. I have handled butter for 35 years. The hon. gentleman need not instruct me about the price of butter. Cheese, everybody knows, was low in price last year, the producers only getting 8 or 9 cents a pound. What then did the Minister pay in the city of Charlottetown? Fifteen cents a pound. Bacon and ham were purchased during that period at 11 and 12 cents a pound, and sometimes lower; yet the hon. gentleman sanctioned the payment of 15 and 16 cents a pound. A dollar a bushel was paid for turnips. Pilot bread, which ought to be purchased for about \$4 or \$4.50 a barrel, sometimes less, the hon. gentleman paid \$8 a barrel for. Raisins, which are worth 6 or 7 or 8 cents, he paid 10 and 12 cents for. Pork, which he ought to be able to buy in Prince Edward Island at \$14 and \$15 a barrel, he paid \$17 and \$18 for. Sugar, which almost everybody buys at 3½, 4 and 5 cents a pound, he paid 6 and 6½ cents for. Biscuits I find charged in one place at 7½ cents a pound. Coal he bought from the Dominion Coal Company in my county at \$1.90 a ton; while in another instance, he went and paid a Grit heeler in my county \$6 a ton.

Mr. GIBSON. Hard or soft?

Mr. McDOUGALL. If the hon. gentleman will assure me, that those steamers burn hard coal, I will allow him to take the benefit of the doubt. I am quite sure, that hard coal is not sold in my county in those quantities. I find, that as far away from the coal country as Port Hope, if I remember right, in Ontario, coal was purchased at as low as \$3 a ton. I find, that coal was purchased as low as \$3 a ton at Amherstburg.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Where did the hon. gentleman see the coal bought at \$6?

Mr. McDOUGALL. At Sydney, C. & W. Hackett, 29½ tons of coal at \$6, page K-99, and delivering coal and sundries, \$5.65. The hon. gentleman had to pay for the delivery of it in addition.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman is not talking about the vote before the House at all.

Mr. McDOUGALL. Is this not the expense of steamers on the fishery protection service?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, maintenance and repairs to Government steamers.

Mr. McDOUGALL. All the same I find, that at Gaspé \$6.25 was paid, or 25 cents only more than what was paid in my own county for 290 tons. Coal oil, 23 cents. There is worse than that. I find a great many cases—in fact most of them—where goods were purchased from people and entered as sundries. I find \$52.90, \$5.66, \$14.97, \$16.02, \$28.95, \$10, \$13.34, \$47.72, \$16.60, \$15.08, \$13.26, \$53.80, \$66.24, \$18.28, \$175.50, \$121.49, \$4.39, \$30.21, \$48.81, \$58.88, \$40.29, thus entered. Is the hon. gentleman in a position to justify the payment and entry of these large sums under the heading of "sundries," without giving the slightest information as to what they consist of? We find very small items in other cases particularized, but here we find large amounts, for instance, \$175.50, entered simply as sundries. The only explanation that can be given is, that the hon. gentleman instructed his agents to go to his political friends and buy from them regardless of price; and the difference between the current prices and the prices paid has to be made up in some way, and it is made up by increasing the vote for the maintenance of this service. When, instead of paying 14 cents per pound for butter, he pays his political supporters 25 cents, the difference has to be made up at the expense of the people. No doubt, he has had to go to the Minister of Finance, and say to him: Look here, Fielding, I have some friends down in my county whom I have to pay more for their goods than what they charge to the public; will you help me out of this? You know that Paterson took \$900,000 out of the people for the tobacco they smoked last year over and above what the former Government did; will you not share a part of that with me to give to our friends in Halifax, Charlottetown and St. John? The Minister of Finance is, of course, willing to provide the necessary to keep his political friends in Halifax and Charlottetown in good humour, and, therefore, we find these exorbitant prices paid. The people who live 5 or 6 miles away from Charlottetown, and have to bring their butter to market and sell it for 14 cents, find, that these parties to whom they have sold, dispose of it at 25 cents to the Government, and by this means the hon.

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gentleman compensates his friends for his violation of the promises he made to them, when seeking their support. He knows, that he is to-day standing by a policy he condemned to these people, and he has to satisfy them in some way, and does so indirectly out of the pockets of the people.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I wonder how it is, that my hon. friend from North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) has got into the chair of the Chairman during the discussion of these supplies. I think that must have been the result of a conspiracy on the other side to deprive us of the very valuable assistance of one who is a past-master in discussing these accounts. I wish to refer particularly to the reference of the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Ellis) to the past expenditure of the Marine Department in connection with the maintenance of these steamers for some years back. For the moment, I thought the hon. Minister was referring to the report. But he referred to a page in the appendix—page 55. There is a reference to the expenditure in each year for the Dominion steamers, and in handier form—and the same figures, of course,—at page 10. The following table is there given, showing these expenditures:—

| Year.   | Cost of Maintenance. |
|---------|----------------------|
| 1883-84 | \$122,816.25         |
| 1884-85 | 148,864.26           |
| 1885-86 | 130,759.83           |
| 1886-87 | 141,424.42           |
| 1887-88 | 150,659.19           |
| 1888-89 | 126,629.33           |
| 1889-90 | 114,959.20           |
| 1890-91 | 111,437.03           |
| 1891-92 | 127,406.28           |
| 1892-93 | 146,521.77           |
| 1893-94 | 142,487.42           |
| 1894-95 | 129,899.80           |
| 1895-96 | 150,519.41           |
| 1896-97 | 136,940.11           |
| 1897-98 | 117,644.39           |

But these figures really assist the House very little in understanding this subject, because in these different years we have to face the facts that you have different steamers and different circumstances in other respects. One year, for instance, the "Stanley" comes in, a large and expensive steamer. Then you have the "Aberdeen" coming in. For instance, the year the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Ellis) happened to refer to, he took the Auditor General's Report for 1895-96. In that list appeared the several vessels that have disappeared altogether from the list.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Their places being supplied by some that are there now.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, others took their places. But one cannot state how much more expensive one may be than the other. The hon. gentleman from St. John is not quite fair even in that comparison—I am not resting any-

thing on a comparison of that kind, I am merely showing how misleading it is—for he happened to pick out one or two vessels, but did not take the "Stanley." Now, the "Stanley" cost to run \$28,000 in the year the hon. gentleman referred to, whereas in the year just passed, the cost of the maintenance of the "Stanley" was \$35,000. I think that possibly large repairs are included in that item. She is a vessel that has to be repaired very heavily after the winter season and in one season she may be more crushed or pinched by the ice than another. So, it is misleading to read the bald statement. But what strikes me is the excessive vote, combined with the absence of explanation from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. As I understood him when he discussed this a little earlier, he explained, satisfactorily enough, that the "Aberdeen" was not on that list when he asked \$112,000, but she was going on now and he wanted \$33,000 more, but the hon. gentleman, in answer to my question, said that we were still running the "Aberdeen," and were running her under another vote, but that, notwithstanding the change, that vote was not reduced. So, while the ship is the same and was run last year involving somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$33,000, there is an actual increase to the country of that sum in the whole proposed expenditure, and there has been no reason given for that.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. My hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is conversant with the whole fisheries service. I did not quote those figures to show that there was extravagance in the past and economy now. But my hon. friend knows well the "La Canadienne" was for one year not in commission at all. Well, the "Aberdeen" was put in the protection service to take her place. And so we were enabled to show a reduced vote that year. But the "La Canadienne" is in the fisheries service this year, and the "Aberdeen" is in the marine service.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I know; but in the last year the "Aberdeen" appears on the list for only \$390, but both the "La Canadienne" and "Aberdeen" were charged in the fisheries vote—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Not in the year—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. In the year just passed. I have the list here, and I find that \$13,781 was spent on the "La Canadienne."

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. But in the year 1898 you will see the "La Canadienne" was put in—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. But in the year we are dealing with, where

the "Aberdeen" appears for \$390 in the marine account, having her expenses paid out of the fisheries.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think the hon. gentleman is wrong.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I have it under my hand. Take page K-92 of the Auditor General's account.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. But the hon. gentleman is referring to the Auditor General's Report.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. But these are the hon. gentleman's own figures.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. But take page 11 of the report of the Minister—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That bears me out. The "La Canadienne" does not come into the marine account. Unless the Minister explains, there is only one conclusion—that there is an increase in the two votes taken together. The hon. Minister says that he does not propose to reduce the fisheries vote by \$30,000, but the reason for increasing the marine vote is that he is transferring the "Aberdeen" from the fisheries to the marine account.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is an increase over last year, and not over previous years.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Last year she was not in it, but this year she has come in. But the hon. gentleman does not say that he intends to reduce the fisheries vote or that he is going to put a new ship on. So I think my hon. friend from Leeds (Mr. Taylor) has reason for the step he proposes, either to reduce the vote or to obtain some satisfactory explanation why the fishery vote is not to be reduced.

Mr. POWELL. I fail to see in the Estimates any reference to the expenses of this new steamer. Might not the explanation be in that?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That will be specially voted—that is for the winter service.

Mr. POWELL. Does that not appear in these Estimates?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). No, it will be brought down. My hon. friend from Cape Breton (Mr. McDougall) criticises the way the Auditor General makes up the accounts and says the items do not appear in sufficient detail. I venture to say that most of the House think that he has gone into too much detail. If the hon. gentleman will turn to the details of a few years ago, in 1894-95, when he was perfectly satisfied, he will find that coal was charged in that year at \$5.50. That

was delivered on board the "Aberdeen" down in Halifax. Butter was charged 20 and 22 cents on board the "Alert." Then for the "Druid," butter was charged at 20 and 22 cents; that was in 1894-95. I suppose she would then be at Quebec. Then for the "Newfield," at Halifax, butter was charged 25, 24, 22 and 28 cents.

Mr. McDOUGALL. Quite right.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Of course it was, the hon. gentleman's party was in power then. I even see a charge of 30 cents a pound. The hon. gentleman complains that the items are not put in here with sufficient detail, although they are elaborated ten times as much as they used to be. If he turns to the accounts of two or three years ago he will find, for the "Lansdowne," sundry provisions, groceries, &c., \$2,210;" that was for 1894. Did the hon. gentleman demand details then? He will see that all through the same plan was adopted. On board the "Quadra," sundry provisions, groceries, &c., \$1,767;" "Stanley," "provisions and groceries, \$1,449."

Mr. TAYLOR. Refer to the page of the details.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. These are the details. The hon. gentleman sees that nowadays the Auditor puts everything down in great detail. Up to the year 1895-96 the expenditure on this marine service was \$150,000, and in the year 1896-97, \$136,000, and we reduced it down in 1897-98 to \$117,000. I explained the reason why we reduced it.

Mr. COCHRANE. But you did not pay your way.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, we did in that year; that is all it cost. In the last year we took the same estimate of \$112,000, supposing that the "Aberdeen" would again be in the fishery service, but as she came into the marine service the vote this year must be supplemented by \$20,000, and when that is done, it will be nearer the expenditure of the previous years. The sum I am asking here to-day is a sum largely below the average expenditure of the last eight or ten years. The hon. gentleman may move to cut it down as much as he likes, but it simply means that one of our ships must go out of commission. Which will it be? Does the hon. gentleman want the "Newfield" out, and leave unprotected all the buoys in Halifax and around the south coast? Does he want to take the "Lansdowne" out of commission in St. John, and leave the buoys and lighthouses without attention on the Bay of Fundy? Does he want to take off the "Druid," and leave all the buoys and lighthouses below Quebec, and expose the shipping of this Dominion to great danger? What would the insur-

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

ance companies say about it? I am going to ask this House for a large sum of money to improve the buoy service and the lighthouse service, and to do everything possible short of extravagant expenditure, to put those services in such a condition that the Lloyds at home, and the insurance companies and everybody else will be satisfied that we are not only not behind our American friends, but that we are equal with them, or ahead of them. I shall have to ask my hon. friends to deal generously with my department in this respect. During the 18 years that I have been in this House this is the first time that I have ever heard charges of extravagance made against the Marine Department. The officials of that department are most economical, and they run every branch on the most economical lines. I will be delighted if any of my hon. friends will come down to the department and examine the accounts, along with the auditors and the accountants, and if they can suggest any possible system of improving them, I shall be glad to adopt it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. What are you going to do with the "Stanley" this year?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. She goes out of the winter service this year pretty well battered, she has lost three blades of her screw, and the plates on her side have been heavily dented. She was 18 days ripped in the ice at one time, and nine days at another time. I am having a complete report made upon her hull by the officers down there, and possibly we shall have to send the "Stanley" home to Glasgow to have the plates taken off, re-rolled and replaced, because the captain tells me that when she gets caught in the ice these dents in her plates stick, prevent her from backing out. She is to be supplemented by another boat, so that if one vessel is caught there will be another one ready for service.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.) My attention has been called to several of these little items, some of which could have been supplied much cheaper by a friend of his own. I find he has been paying 50 cents for baking powder, even 60 cents a pound in one case, while he can buy it from a friend of his own put up in Charlottetown, a first-class article, at 15 cents. In British Columbia they put it in at 15 cents a pound. I find that condensed milk at Charlottetown, near the seat of manufacture, is put on the "Druid" at \$9 per case, while out on the coast it costs \$5.60, after paying freight all the way from the maritime provinces. Cheese is put in at 14 or 15 cents in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and after sending it all the way to British Columbia, it is put in at 11½ cents.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman is mis-

taken. I am reading here from the Auditor General's Report, K-21: "Beer & Goff, Charlottetown, condensed milk, 4 dozen at \$2."

Mr. TAYLOR. Look on page 11, and you will find the charge in St. John is \$9.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.). Condensed milk is charged at \$8, four dozen at \$2, four dozen in the case, which is \$8. I think I saw in another place it is \$9. Out on the coast it is \$5 or \$6. There is something wrong about this. I would advise the Minister to look into it, because I do not think the people will submit to things of that kind being done. I see also that in another place down in Prince Edward Island they put in 175 pounds of beans at 4 cents, that is \$2.40 a bushel. This is paid to the gentleman at Souris who brought suit against me at my election. I suppose the Government wanted to compensate him for his trouble, and bought these beans of him. Then there is cheese, 14 cents.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Where is the hon. gentleman quoting from?

Mr. MACDONALD (King's). Auditor General's Report, K-104.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is not marine service at all.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's). Then there is flour, 4 barrels at \$7, and 4 barrels at \$6.50.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Does the hon. gentleman wish to discuss the fishery protection service?

Mr. MACDONALD (King's). Then there is molasses, 10 gallons at 40 cents, and other things in the same proportion, purchased from Archibald Currie. He is as well entitled to big prices, I suppose, as the other friends of the party, but I think there is something wrong in the whole of this kind of thing, and that we ought to look closely into it, especially when we find that we are paying two prices where these articles are manufactured as compared with the prices that we pay in British Columbia after carrying them three or four thousand miles and paying freight.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). There is one item here, at page K-17, that I would like to get some information about. It is the item, soup digester, \$3.55, paid Geo. Rent, Halifax. I do not know whether there is also such an article as a roast beef or an ice cream digester.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman has got beyond me.

Mr. TAYLOR. I just wanted to refer the Minister to the pages in the Auditor General's Report in reference to condensed milk.

At K-18 he will find that Fell & Co., who happen, I think, to be Tories, in Victoria, have supplied 24 dozen of condensed milk at \$1.40 a dozen, or \$5.60 a case, there being 4 dozens in each case. If he will turn to the account of the friend of my hon. friend from St. John, Mr. E. J. Kennedy, whom he describes as a fine man, he will find that the department got condensed milk, 4 cases at \$9, and 6 cases at \$8. That information is at K-11. These prices were paid in the town where condensed milk is manufactured, and after freighting it out to Victoria it was sold at \$5.60 a case.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. In connection with rather an important statement, made by the hon. Minister, that he did not interfere with the personnel in command of marine steamers and fishery vessels, I would like to say that I think a large part of the statement of the hon. gentleman is correct, and it is for that reason that he has to-day a first-rate service all around. Certainly, the fishery protection service is a credit to the country. Yet, that statement is not altogether accurate, when I remind the hon. gentleman of the case of Captain Hector Mackenzie, one of the first men who went into the service, against whom, for years, there never was a bad mark, who, although he was not dismissed, was not re-employed. He was left off without any charge against him, and he went away on half pay, and when I last inquired into the case and mentioned it to the hon. gentleman, he had not received his half pay for that winter. As I have not heard from him for a long time it is possible that this is looked into. His name has disappeared from the service, and I observe a considerable number of strange names. He was in the fishery protection service from very early days.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. His ship disappeared, if I recollect aright.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, that was one of the reasons given.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That was the reason.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. But while his ship disappeared, a new man appeared on a new ship. That was not keeping the spirit of the law as it was understood. The ship upon which this man happened to serve went out of commission, while a new ship came into commission, and a new man became the commanding officer.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, I do not think so.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, that is correct; and the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) will bear me out, because, it was a gentleman from Shelburne who came into the fishery protection service, if I remember aright.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). As commander ?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. As an officer.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There may have been a vacancy, and he may have gone in below.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I can only say that by looking over the list of names it will be seen new men have come in. Therefore, the answer given indicated a determination on the part of the Government not to recognize this gentleman in the spirit of the rule, a rule that had been adhered to, and a good rule for the service that any man who was a captain of good character, and had showed himself worthy of being retained in the service without regard to any other consideration, would be moved from ship to ship. If a ship disappeared, and if he was the senior in the list of officers, should a vacancy occur to which he was entitled, he would be in a position to claim that vacancy and go upon that ship. That was the case in regard to the officer of whom I am speaking. He was a Conservative, but he was a first-class officer, and he never had been reported against in my time. I have just gone over the list in the Auditor General's Report; and I have seen the names of the men who have come into the service, so that the statement should be qualified somewhat, although, I am perfectly willing to admit, and I say that in this fishery protection service there are a good many names of men who were appointed by the Conservative Government, and they have not been discharged. The service is first-class and most efficient, largely because for that reason, not because they were appointed by a Conservative Government, but because they were experienced men and went there after a registered test as to their qualification and fitness, without exception. We had some unfortunate accidents, that led to the rigid rule being adopted in regard to the commands of these vessels, and I would not like, under no circumstances, to see any different policy adopted. I think there should be, in regard to these ships, as well as to the management of trains in the railway service, particular regard paid to the safety of the ships, in the one case, and to that of the people who trust their lives in the trains in the other. In these accounts I would like to ask the hon. gentleman, having passed the ordinary supplies, in connection with these large orders, such, for instance, as McAvity's, of St. John, for some explanation. For instance, at K-11, there are a number of accounts aggregating \$582.85; at K-22, a further account in the hardware line, and other further amounts.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is only \$30 at K-22.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, but you will find running through quite a

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou).

number of items, and I mentioned one at K-11 of \$582.85. At K-22 there is one of \$30, and there are some others, which I have not taken the trouble to collect. Then, take the Halifax case of W. W. Howell & Co., at K-15, whose account amounts to \$146.48. David MacPherson, Halifax, \$2,833, besides items of \$489 and \$119. Now, these are all very heavy expenditures. For instance, we have Stewart, Bruce & Co., of Charlottetown, credited with the payment of \$2,362.49.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is for repairing the machinery of the "Stanley."

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. We are dealing with a service that costs us \$145,000 for maintenance. We are dealing with big firms, responsible enough, I have no doubt, but naturally anxious to take every possible opportunity to make profit for themselves. Is the Minister adopting the same policy with reference to these large accounts that he adopts with reference to the small accounts: does he give this work out as party patronage, or does he attempt to obtain competition by tender ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman knows, that, although these items may be termed heavy, in a sense, it is only in a sense. If you have a large steamboat, and at the end of the winter service she has to have her machinery repaired, it is absolutely and physically impossible to let the work out by tender. The different items of work that have to be done to the machinery cannot be enumerated, so as to have tenders called for. You have first to make sure, that you have a first-class engineer, and then you have to take the accounts certified by the chief engineer and by the agent. Take, in the case of the repairs to the "Newfield" by Mr. David McPherson. That bill was largely for workmanship and material. Mr. Parsons, the agent in Halifax, has to certify, that these men are employed at reasonable and proper rates, and that is all that can be done. If you have a specific piece of work, which a man can see and calculate as to its cost, well and good; you call for tenders. But, if you have numerous repairs to do on an old ship, you cannot call for tenders, because it cannot be told beforehand how much repairing has to be done. If you take care, that you pay a reasonable price for material, and a fair price for labour, and you have the account then certified by the agent of the department, I think you have taken every precaution the public interest requires.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. Minister is not well instructed, if he states, that you cannot get tenders for repairing an old ship. I happen to know, from actual experience within the last month, of very heavy repairs upon steamers

being done by contract, and I am certain the Minister is not properly advised.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I am properly advised, and I know exactly what I am talking about. Take the work done by Bruce, Stewart & Co. upon the "Stanley." The chief engineer reported as to the condition of that ship, but he said it was impossible to tell what repairs would be required to the engine until it was taken down, and he saw the supports underneath. All that could be done was to get the best machinist you could, take out the machinery, examine underneath it, and see what was necessary. The chief engineer, McMillan, one of the most experienced men in the service, did not know, and could not know, what was to be done beforehand.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. If the ship was stripped, the Minister could discover all that was to be done, just as well as private shipowners do, and he could call for tenders. I admit, that the chief engineer very often has to get considerable latitude in that regard, but there should be no trouble about calling for tenders. Take the firm of McAvity & Sons, of St. John, and they appear in the Auditor General's Report, page 51, for a payment of \$6,307, and I find, at R-141 of the Auditor General's Report, they are paid \$22,827 on the Intercolonial Railway.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. That has nothing to do with this.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. No, except that it proves, that this firm is dealing in very large figures with the Government. I have not the slightest information in my possession, nor have I heard a hint, that there is an improper charge in their account; but I do say, that it is in the public interest, as it would be in the interest of private parties, to have some wholesome check upon them. Every one knows, of course, that this is a friendly firm to the Government; it is a respectable firm enough in St. John, but there is where the interest of the public seems to require some check. Let me ask the Minister, what has become of the scheme formulated when I was in the department, under which Mr. Stevens, inspector of boilers, was appointed by Order in Council to have special charge and supervision of these huge expenditures in connection with all the vessels. The idea was, that this gentleman, who was peculiarly fitted for the work and most reliable in every way, should have charge of the Government steamers in regard to the machinery, so that he should specify, as he was perfectly competent to specify, exactly the repairs that were necessary. Formerly, we were in the hands of the engineer of the particular vessel, and the engineer, without being corrupt or anything of that kind, al-

ways wanted to have many things done, whether they were absolutely necessary or not. It was thought, that the appointment of Mr. Stevens would keep down that very large expenditure for maintenance. It was never represented to me, when I was in the department, that the Government could not call for contracts with reference to these heavy expenditures. Experience, since I have been connected with the department, confirms me in the statement, that in private business enterprises similar expenditures are made under contract and by tender, on specifications prepared beforehand. Mr. Stevens was intended to be an expert of that kind, a sort of technical supervisor of the various ships and their construction. Would the hon. Minister tell me, what Mr. Stevens' position is now, and whether he attends to any of this work?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The suggestion of the hon. gentleman has been carried out, and with marked success. For instance, in the case of this very work on the "Stanley," performed by Bruce, Stewart & Co., when she was laid up. I did not rely on Mr. McMillan's certificate of what was required, but I sent Mr. Stevens to examine the vessel, and I have in the department a very elaborate report of his of what he considered necessary. I myself went through the steamer in company with the captain and engineer, and I saw what was required as far as my unskilled eye could see it; but it was on Mr. Stevens' report that we proceeded with the repairs. "La Canadienne" was very badly damaged; her stern post sprung, and we had a report from Mr. Brunel and some of the officers at Quebec, who certified that a very large amount would be required for repairs. The amount startled me; and, instead of complying with their request, I sent for Mr. Stevens to come up, and I had Mr. Adams go down from this city and report what was necessary; and it was found that many of these repairs which the local men alleged to be necessary were not required. I acted on Mr. Stevens' report, and found the cost of the repairs to be infinitesimal compared with what the local engineers reported as necessary. As I shall have to make some repairs to the "Acadia" this year, I shall have a report from Mr. Stevens as to her. The same principle is applied all through. I would not rely on the reports of the local engineers except in regard to casual repairs. In all cases where larger repairs are required, I have the advantage of Mr. Stevens' report.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. As I understand, Mr. Stevens' work is not confined to the supervision of repairs of steamers, but he also acts as inspector of steamboats?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Yes.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That was not the idea, because we went further, and appointed Mr. Esdaile, of Charlottetown, in order to relieve Mr. Stevens of that work.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, but Mr. Stevens formerly was employed, if I understood my hon. friend aright, for inspection not only of Government steamers, but private steamers as well.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, and now he remains as inspector of ordinary steamers, and is taken as occasion requires to some particular Government steamer.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Not at all. I have told my hon. friend that whenever special repairs are required for Government steamers, he is called upon. I speak under correction, but I believe he is exclusively employed on Government steamers, fog alarms and things of that kind.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If the hon. gentleman refers to a man of Mr. Stevens' experience, I feel certain that he will say, as I am almost positive he told me at the time when that part of his work was suggested, that he himself can make a specification for those large repairs to Government steamers. Take, for instance, the repairs to the "Stanley," the heaviest of the lot, for which some \$10,000 have been spent.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. How could you put up to tender the rivetting of all the water tanks?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Easily enough. In the town of Pictou, for instance, the vessel is brought out of the water, and is open to inspection of the men who are competent for the work, and a man of technical knowledge like Mr. Stevens could supervise the work and make the specification.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I differ with my hon. friend as to that; but on his suggestion I shall be very glad to take Mr. Stevens' opinion on that very point.

Mr. TAYLOR. I move that the item for maintenance and repairs of Government steamers be reduced to \$33,000.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Surely the hon. gentleman does not intend to propose that. I thought he was indulging in a little badinage and chaff. I have assured the committee that I have to ask for \$20,000 in addition to what was voted last year in order to pay the men and the cost of maintaining the steamers. In one year, from the fact that the "Aberdeen" was not in the service, we ran it

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for \$117,000; but when she comes back, you cannot run the service for that amount, because you have to add her expenses. There is no use of talking of cutting down the cost of the service by \$33,000, and this is a dangerous motion, and I will tell you why. Not a month has gone by when Lloyds have not told the Canadian Government that they are increasing their rates, on the alleged ground that we are not keeping our lighthouse and buoy service as we ought to, and yet the fact is the very opposite. We have spent \$40,000 in building the best fog alarm on Belle Isle that can be built for money. We are building another lighthouse on Flower Ledge, opposite Point d'Amour, in Belle Isle Straits. On my return from England, I came by that special route, and took occasion to ask the captain of the ship if it was desirable to build another light on that route in the interest of the public service. He said the only place where it could be built was there, and we are taking a vote for that. At the Traverse, below Quebec, we are building, at an expenditure of \$60,000, a permanent fixed light to enable ships to come up the River St. Lawrence; and I shall be prepared to ask the House for an additional vote for a lightship for the Bay of Fundy. In the face of these increased grants, we are asked to tell the public at large that we shall cut down the vote by \$30,000 or \$40,000 in order that the Bay of Fundy and the straits opposite Nova Scotia shall be without lights and buoys during the coming year.

Mr. TAYLOR. Not at all.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If we have not the ships to maintain the service, how is it going to be kept up? Who is going to put out the buoys? Such a proposition is perfect nonsense. If the hon. gentleman sees any item that will bear cutting down, let him point it out; but to cut down things absolutely essential to our commercial existence in that way is not an economy, but recklessness.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. We are entitled to some better explanation why the hon. gentleman wants this increase of \$33,000. He says it is because he is taking the "Aberdeen" from the fishery service; but he is not reducing the cost of that service by \$33,000. The objection is not so much to voting the amount to the "Aberdeen," but to the estimate prepared, and no explanation given why, if the cost of the "Aberdeen" is taken from the fishery protection service, that service should not be reduced by that amount. We are face to face with an increase of \$33,000 for both services.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman is asking us to decrease this item because we are not decreasing another item which is not now

before us. Will it not be time to decrease the fishery and protection service, when we come to it. When we come to that item, I will show what the facts are, and then let him take the responsibility of cutting it down, if he chooses. To select this item, of all others, this item for supplying buoy service and lighthouses, and ask us to cut it down, is absolutely indefensible conduct. Does the hon. gentleman want to take away our buoy and light service from the coast of British Columbia, for instance? Does he want us to tie up the "Quadra" to the wharf in British Columbia?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. You have the "Douglas" tied up now.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Because she is not fit to use, and has not been used for years. If that \$33,000 be withdrawn, you must tie up the "Quadra," or the "Aberdeen," or the "Newfield," or the "Lansdowne," and do away with that part of the light and coast service attended to by any one of these vessels.

Mr. SPROULE. I do not think the hon. Minister should grumble so much because we protest against what we regard as an extravagance. No one can go through the items and come to any other conclusion, than that prices have been paid far beyond the market rates. Take beans, for which \$2.37 a bushel was paid. Let any man in western Ontario understand, that he can get \$2.30 a bushel for beans, and he will grow nothing else. Then, we find, in another place, that \$2.40 per bushel was paid for beans. Then, take coffee, and we find 40 cents per pound was paid for it in 15-pound lots. There is not a man in the grocery line who will not tell you, that this price is 10 cents per pound too high above what this article is even retailed at by the pound. Flour, \$6 a barrel. Why, we could send our flour down to Halifax, and sell it at \$4.50 per barrel. Take split pease, \$2.10 per bushel, and yet the farmers in my county think they are getting splendid prices, when they can get 65 cents per bushel.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. In the city of Toronto, by retail?

Mr. SPROULE. Yes, about 65 cents per bushel. Butter, 25 cents a pound, when last summer, the price was 13 cents. I do not pretend to say, that these prices were paid in all cases, because in some cases the prices were reasonable; but, when you find in one place a reasonable price paid and in another twice as much, you can only conclude, that one man got the fair market price and the other got considerably in excess of that. Take mushrooms, \$3 per dozen, or 25 cents each.

Mr. ELLIS. This price is per can.

Mr. SPROULE. No, by the dozen. You will find it says distinctly, by the dozen, in the report. Take pears, \$2.90 per dozen. They are sold both by the case and by the dozen. I take it that these are fresh tomatoes. Then we have baking powder at 50 cents a pound. I have been in the business where we have sold baking powder for fifteen years, and talking of 50 cents a pound is so absurd that one can hardly speak of it without growing angry. Why, 15 cents a pound is a high price. You can get it at that in any grocery store.

Mr. COWAN. That is poor baking powder.

Mr. SPROULE. In that case, it would be like the hon. gentleman's logic. Then we have \$60 worth of coffee, the rate being 40 cents a pound. And this is buying it wholesale. I would like to ask the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), and he has been in the same line for twenty or thirty years, if he ever heard of paying that price for coffee?

Mr. McMULLEN. I can tell my hon. friend that pure, brown coffee, unadulterated, is worth 40 cents a pound.

Mr. SPROULE. And I can tell the hon. member for North Wellington that we have sold thousands and thousands of pounds at 35 cents retail—the best Java coffee. And if he will look at the quotations to-day he will see that this 40 cents a pound is too high. He has been out of the business for some years, but it is hard to believe that his memory is so bad as not to remember the price of this class of goods. Another item is biscuits at 20 cents a pound. If he will ask the Minister of Customs (Mr. Pater-son), I think that hon. gentleman will tell him that if he could sell all he produced at 20 cents a pound, he would devote his whole establishment to that business.

Mr. McMULLEN. What kind of biscuits?

Mr. SPROULE. I can only give them as I find them in the Auditor General's Report. It says "biscuits at 20 cents a pound." Blankets are charged at \$4 a pair. Go into any store here or in Toronto and ask for the best blankets, and they will give you a fine class of blankets at \$3 a pair. Another item is shovels, \$1.75 apiece.

Mr. FLINT. These are a special kind of shovels.

Mr. SPROULE. Are they made of silver? They are special, no doubt, in that they are bought from a good Reformer. I would not say Grit as that would be offensive. But if they were bought from a good Conservative they would be worth 75 cents. Six bushels of turnips are charged at 65 cents a bushel. If we get 10 cents a bushel, we think we are doing well. These vegetables must be very hard to raise down there. Or, perhaps, these are some special kind of turnips. Cab-

bage appears at 29 cents per head; I can only say that the man who bought them must have been a cabbage-head to pay that price. You can buy them at 5 cents a head. When you tell the farmers of Ontario that their money is being paid to provide supplies at such prices for these steamers, they will not think we are doing wrong when we ask to reduce this vote by \$30,000.

Mr. TAYLOR. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries tried to make a point by saying that unless this money was voted, the buoy and lighthouse service would go to the dogs. I find by the Auditor General's Report, page K-6, that the whole amount expended for 1897-93 on Dominion steamers was \$117,644. This was on the steamers "Aberdeen," "Druid," "Lansdowne," "Newfield," "Quadra," "Sir James Douglas," and "Stanley," and steamers general account. This amount includes all these high-priced articles we have been enumerating. All that we ask him to save in that amount is \$5,000 he has given in extra prices in the purchase of supplies as shown by the Auditor General's Report. This year he wants to share a larger amount among his friends and he asks for \$145,000. And he says that unless he gets it he will have to call off one of these steamers, so seeks to blame the Opposition for destroying the lighthouse and buoy service. It is simply bosh for the hon. gentleman to try to bluff the Opposition in that way. What we ask is that he should advertise for tenders for these supplies, and there is no reason why he should not give a better service for \$117,000 if he would carry on the work on business principles than he can get for \$145,000 by spoon-feeding every Reformer who wants to make money out of furnishing these supplies. The late Government gave a better service for less money.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Your statement is not correct. The "Aberdeen" was not on the service then. You have been told that a dozen times. I have told the hon. gentleman that in the year to which he refers, when \$117,000 was expended, the "Aberdeen's" expenses were paid out of the fisheries protection vote, and this year it is being paid out of the marine steamers vote, and you must add to that \$117,000, \$21,000 for the "Aberdeen."

Mr. TAYLOR. Did the lighthouse and coast service suffer that year? Was the service not efficiently rendered with that vote?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). She was paid out of a different account.

Mr. TAYLOR. I say the money he is asking for can do the work, and has done it under the late Government. But if the hon. gentleman wants \$30,000 or \$40,000 to do as he is shown to have done by the Auditor General's Report, paying three or four prices for

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goods, he has got to ask his friend's behind him to vote it, because the Opposition are going to challenge every item in the expenditure where hon. gentlemen are violating their promises to the people, and asking for increases to do the same service that was done by the Conservatives.

Mr. McMULLEN. Nobody can blame the hon. gentleman for making a fair criticism on any expenditure. But if there is one thing to which the Government of this country should give special attention, it is the lighthouse service. Every man in this House knows that recently the Lloyds have largely increased marine insurance upon vessels sailing in those waters, owing to the supposed dangerous condition of Canadian coasts. This is greatly to be regretted, and if it is continued, the result will be a serious injury to the trade of our country, and will throw the shipping of produce into American ports. If the Minister of Marine and Fisheries asked for an increased sum to put in a first-class condition the lighthouse service on our eastern coast, I think it would be the duty of this Parliament to sustain him. We should protect our coasts so well that insurance companies will not militate against the trade of our country by charging higher rates of insurance, as they have recently done. I give the Minister of Marine and Fisheries credit for making every effort to put the lighthouse service on a most satisfactory and efficient condition, so as to remove all ground for the insurance companies levying rates that will militate against the trade of this country and drive it across the border.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The opposition to this vote is not based on a desire to cut down one dollar from the necessary amount required for putting the marine service and maintaining it on the best possible footing; but it is a protest against any Minister expecting that he can pass an estimate through this House on the unsatisfactory explanation that he has given. He says that he is going to maintain the "Aberdeen" out of the marine vote, and he, therefore, wants \$33,000 for that purpose. He has told us that he spent \$33,000 to maintain that vessel for a year out of the fisheries vote of last year. He says he is not going to supply the place of the "Aberdeen" in the fishery service; and when we ask him whether he intends to reduce the fishery vote by \$33,000, the cost of the "Aberdeen" last year, he frankly says, No. We say that is not a business statement, that it is not an explanation that should satisfy this committee. We are not here to take the ipse dixit of a Minister who says: If you do not give me this, the whole service will go to destruction. The answer is that he should be fortified by good business reasons, and show us that his estimates are based upon good grounds. He cannot separate the fisheries vote and the marine vote, for ships that are one season in the fishery service and another in the marine service. The amounts should go together.

You ask this year simply to transfer that vessel from the fisheries account to the marine, and still you intend to ask the amount on the fisheries account that was required for the "Aberdeen," and are going to increase the marine side by \$33,000, but there is no explanation forthcoming for requiring that \$33,000. While we vote this money for the marine service, he can take the "Quadra" and send her on special trips. He has sent her on an expedition about which I would like some explanation. Last year we voted a sum of money for the "Quadra" to do duty on a large and extensive coast. We find that early in April, 1898, she made a trip to the northern part of the province, and to Alaska, in connection with the Public Works Department, conveying Chief Engineer Coste and party. The hon. gentleman's attention has been called to work done in the Interior Department for which, according to the Auditor General's Report, the Interior Department has paid \$1,681.21.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I made the statement that they had paid me all the extra expenditure.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Can the hon. gentleman tell me whether the Department of Public Works paid for that trip of the "Quadra," conveying Engineer Coste?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. They have not repaid any portion of the account so rendered to them for the service of that vessel. They thought it was too high, and the matter is in treaty between the two departments.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am told that the trip of the Chief Engineer Coste was not wholly on official business. I am told that Mr. Coste, who is now engineer of a large company floated recently in London, went up on that occasion, using the Government steamer, his expenses being charged to Government work. Incidentally, he acquired some 40 odd mining claims, and then proceeded to London, England, on official business, connected with the company, of which Mr. Coste now appears as chief engineer. I would like to know whether the hon. gentleman permitted the ship "Quadra" to be used in connection with work on that understanding, that Mr. Coste was to be at liberty incidentally to do private business for himself in Alaska.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Certainly not.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I suppose, the hon. gentleman has no information on the subject I have mentioned.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, except that he has left the service.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman, I suppose, is aware, that he has left the service as an engineer, but that

he floated a company in London, while he was in London on public business.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I heard so, but I have no information.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That does not come directly within the purview of the hon. gentleman's department, but, I think, the fact, that the hon. gentleman was able to take the "Quadra," shows that he is equal to any emergency under an ordinary vote. When we know, that these vessels can be sent hither and thither on all these different services, we would not be doing our duty, if we accepted the mere statement that the hon. gentleman has given as a justification to increase the sum total of these two votes by \$33,000.

Mr. WALLACE. I think we are justified in asking the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries for a better justification than he has yet given for the extraordinary increase in this first item. In the first place, his figures are rather incorrect, and he says, that this is a matter of no consequence. He says, there is an increase of \$33,000, but the increase is \$43,000, as has already been pointed out to the House. Upon the item, "Maintenance and repairs to Government steamers," there is an increase of \$43,000.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is a misprint. The first column should be \$112,000, instead of \$102,000.

Mr. WALLACE. It is \$112,000. Well, the Minister might have informed the House of that.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I did, but the hon. gentleman did not happen to be in at the time.

Mr. WALLACE. More than that, he should have corrected the statement, because we read \$102,000 and \$145,000. He says now, it is \$112,000, but even then there is an undeniable increase of \$33,000. He has not given yet any good reason to the committee why there should be an increase of \$33,000.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have already explained—perhaps the hon. gentleman was not in at the time—that, in that estimate of \$112,000, the "Aberdeen" was not included. Now, the "Aberdeen," during the year that that vote was taken for, was put into the marine service, and I have to come down and ask for \$20,000 additional this year to pay for the balance.

Mr. WALLACE. Am I correct, in saying, that the "Aberdeen" was transferred from the fisheries service to this vote?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. She was paid out of this vote.

Mr. WALLACE. Does the Minister propose to decrease the other vote by that amount?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, I do not propose to decrease the other vote by that amount. I explained the reason why that could not be done. When we come to the fishery protection service, I will go into it fully; but I will repeat to the hon. gentleman, in two words, what I said. The "Aberdeen" is being paid out of the marine vote during the present year that we are running in. For the last year, \$20,000 was necessary to be taken out of that, and I will have to have a supplementary vote to meet it. Add the expenditure of \$117,000 and this \$20,000, and it will make an expenditure, this year, of \$137,000. I am asking for \$145,000, for extra repairs to the "Stanley" and other boats. As the hon. member for Pictou has pointed out, we cannot make an accurate estimate of expenditure of this kind, because some years you will spend as much as \$15,000 in repairing one of these steel steamers, whereas the next year you will not expend more than \$3,000. This year we know we have spent \$140,000, and I must have at least that amount for next year. We cannot do it for less.

Mr. WALLACE. The hon. Minister says: We are asking for a large amount; we want \$20,000 to make up for last year, and we want this year \$33,000 more. We want reasons for this extraordinary increase in expenditure, and the Minister has not given us these reasons. The Minister said, that he wanted it because we found we had that expenditure. Of course, if you look over the items in the Auditor General's Report, you will see the reasons why the Minister wants these extraordinary sums. When you see, on the average—and I can say it without exaggeration—double prices paid for a great many articles, and when you see the department buying at single pound prices, you will see, that the Minister has no defence in regard to these items. Take the farmers of Ontario; take Farmer Mulock there; let any farmer read the Auditor General's Report, and he will see the prices paid for agricultural products.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). Will you kindly read the Auditor General's Report to me?

Mr. WALLACE. I will read some items, and I am sure the Postmaster General will be glad to hear it.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. It is too good; I do not want to miss any of it.

Mr. WALLACE. The hon. gentleman will not miss any of it, if he consents to stay in the House, but he has such a habit of not being here, that he will not remain to hear it. I say, that, when the farmers of Ontario find such magnificent prices prevail-

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ing in the maritime provinces, they will be cultivating all these things and swamping that part of the country, when they can get \$5.50, and in some cases \$6.50, for a barrel of flour. I see, the quotations for "Straight Roller" in Toronto were \$2.80 a barrel, and that the price of wheat has not varied half a dozen cents a bushel during the last six months. But, when it goes down there, the price is \$5.50 and \$6.50 a barrel for flour. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), in his magnificent statement, says: We ought to put our coast on a thorough and efficient basis. I would like him to get up and explain, what putting our coast on a thorough and efficient basis means. I cannot tell; I suppose, it means, that the member for North Wellington is anxious that the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) should get out of the dilemma in which he has been placed by the publication of the statement in the Auditor General's Report and by the extraordinary amounts of money he asks this House to vote for this service. What are the services that these Government steamers, for which he is asking such large sums of money, are performing? In the first place, the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) takes a trip away up the coast in one of them. It was a pleasure trip; but let us assume, that he is going on Government business. If he is going on Government business, he is entitled to charge the expense of that trip to the Department of the Interior, and not to the Department of Marine at all. Again, when the Minister of Public Works makes a magnificent jaunt down the River St. Lawrence, to assist this Frenchman from France to drive the loyal Canadians off the Island of Anticosti, he takes a Government steamer on the excursion. Was that Government steamer charged to him?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes. It was charged to the Public Works Department?

Mr. WALLACE. He went around the Atlantic coast the previous year.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Not in the steamer of my department.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. He went in the Public Works steamer.

Mr. WALLACE. It is no wonder that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries requires this large sum of \$145,000, when he lets the steamers of his department out to the other Ministers to go on excursion trips. There is no necessity at all for this expenditure. Take the Trade and Navigation Returns and you find pork entered there at 4½ cents a pound, but the Government have to pay 12 and 14 cents for it. Sometimes the Marine Department pays 50 per cent in advance of retail prices and sometimes more. I am aware that the Minister (Sir

Louis Davies) has not been able to give that personal attention which he would desire to these matters, so that he could inform the House that these expenditures were under his own supervision. When he comes before us with measures of this extraordinary character, we have the right to ask him to spend a little time in his department and ascertain what is required for the service. We should give him further time to consider why he should ask a larger sum of money that was ever asked before.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I beg your pardon, you yourself voted \$150,000 for this service in 1895-96.

Mr. **WALLACE**. But there were extra services which had to be performed then, and which are not necessary to-day.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Not at all.

Mr. **GIBSON**. What were the extra services then?

Mr. **WALLACE**. There were a large number of services that were performed then that are not required now. If the Minister will strike off that \$33,000 we will let the item pass.

Mr. **SPROULE**. For the benefit of the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) and other gentlemen opposite who contradicted me in regard to the price of coffee, I take the "Canadian Grocer," which is, I suppose, the best authority we have, and I find that the very best coffee, Old Govt. Java, sells in Montreal and Quebec at 31 cents a pound.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. The Old Govt. is cheaper than that now.

Mr. **SPROULE**. The Old Govt. Java is 31 cents a pound, and the New Govt. Java is 40 cents a pound. The highest price of coffee in Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, Hamilton, London, St. John, Halifax, Manitoba, and British Columbia is 31 cents per pound, and the average price is somewhere about 27 cents a pound. Take that one item of 150 pounds of coffee for which you paid 40 cents a pound, and there is at least \$15 more paid for it than should be paid.

Mr. **DOMVILLE**. From the sublime to the ridiculous?

Mr. **SPROULE**. What is from the sublime to the ridiculous?

Mr. **DOMVILLE**. The coffee.

Mr. **SPROULE**. Yes, it is getting from the sublime to the ridiculous when you pay 40 cents a pound for coffee which can be bought anywhere for 31 cents at the highest. It is a ridiculous and an indefensible price for the Government to pay. No stronger evidence could be given to the country that this Government is indulging in all

kinds of extravagance, and paying more for the supplies than there is any justification for doing. Whether it is paid out to the friends of the Government, or whether it comes back to them, or what becomes of it we do not know. But we know that where you buy coffee by the wholesale and to the extent of 150 pounds, there is no justification for paying 40 cents a pound for it.

Mr. **FLINT**. I find on turning over the Auditor General's Report for 1893, that the Conservative Government paid 40 cents a pound for coffee. I refer the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) to that.

Amendment (Mr. Taylor) negatived.

Mr. **DEPUTY SPEAKER**. Shall this item be adopted?

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. Before this item is adopted, I have something to say. The Minister (Sir Louis Davies) has spoken of the threatened increase in insurance rates because of the impression that the waters in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and around our coasts are not safe. That is a very serious thing. I want to ask the Minister, whether he intends to use one of these steamers for the tidal survey service, and to continue the survey which was being vigorously carried on some years ago. There was formerly a vote of \$10,000 a year for this tidal survey, but the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has for some reason or other, starved out that service and rendered it of no use whatever. It is reduced to looking after a few tidal gauges. I read last session the strongest possible reports from the chief engineer of the Department of Marine, and from the technical officer in charge of that service, showing how essential it was to have the use of a steamer. In the old Estimates, the hon. gentleman knows, there was provision for the use of a steamer, representing, I suppose, \$8,000 or \$9,000 in cost and expense. That steamer was placed at the disposal of Mr. Dawson, and he was able to do a great deal of work. The absence of a proper tidal survey for the St. Lawrence and our coasts is a disgrace to this country. We are the neighbours of a country which has a magnificent survey long ago perfected and complete, and round the British Islands there has been a perfect survey for many years. Even in the waters of India, under the Government of India, all this work has been done. But here we are, with great aims and great hopes of trans-Atlantic travel, boasting of our ports, and without the proper surveys of these tides and currents. They are so serious that one of the finest ships that ever sailed out of our ports, the "Castilian," was lost last year: and while the investigation brought out the fact that there had not been that care that was necessary in her navigation. It also brought out the fact of a terrific current at the point where the ves-

sel came to grief. There is no survey of that current; there is nothing to guide except the mere local knowledge of the pilots and the officers. All the underwriters understand this. Among our reports there is one from Commander Gordon, a man who devoted himself to looking into everything connected with navigation around our coasts, giving his experience of a Government ship, which he steered by all the known methods in the vicinity of Anticosti, and yet he found himself in twelve hours from seventeen to twenty miles out of his course. That is a serious thing.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That could not have been due to the current, because they were setting out the other way.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That was Commander Gordon's opinion, and it is a matter easily verified by reference to the report. Reports of that kind, from Commander Gordon, from men connected with McGill University, notably Dr. Johnston, and from the underwriters, have been backed up to the very hilt by our own nautical adviser, Mr. Smith, at Halifax, who was the old commodore of the Allan line, and knew the St. Lawrence as well, I suppose, as any man. All these men are of the strongest opinion as to the increased danger to vessels in our waters through the absence of these guides and aids to navigators such as are found in all the waters which these ships visit in United States ports or in the ports of the United Kingdom. With these facts before us, I say it was more than a pity that the Minister, though pressed, as I pressed him last session, armed with his own report, would pay no heed to the matter, but starved and cut down the service, and would not supply a ship to carry out the recommendations of his engineers. A ship is needed for that work, and I want to know if the hon. Minister proposes to use any of these ships included in the vote of \$145,000?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Oh, no; we cannot spare any one of them.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Then the Minister is not so keen as he seemed a moment ago about meeting this feeling which is abroad in regard to our shores and coasts. There should be some evidence that he is taking reasonable measures to overtake that work and deal with it. He is spending some money on the service; and, while that admits the principle underlying what I am saying, it does not show any particular regard to its importance. Where we used to spend \$10,000 a year for that service and use a Government ship as well, all we spent last year was \$3,281.45.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Picton).

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is over \$4,000. It will be \$5,000 this year.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. When we spent \$10,000 for that service, and had a Government ship besides, these men who had looked into the question seriously—Prof. McLeod and Dr. Johnston, of McGill, and all these underwriters and their representatives, as well as my own officers—urged that the vote was too small to do expeditiously what was required. The calculation is in the reports of how many years, at \$10,000 a year, would be required to do that work. Under the circumstances, I very much regret that the Minister has not seen fit to grapple with the question, and now makes the announcement that he does not propose to place on that service one of these ships or even to continue the service on the modest basis on which it was begun.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. This is a question that has been in dispute, like many other questions, between the scientists on the one hand and the practical seamen on the other. The scientists contend that we should make a survey of the currents around the coast and try and describe them more accurately on the chart than they are described at present, but I have not been able to find a practical seaman who shares that opinion, or an expert who recommends me to incur that expense. I do not say that I have closed my mind in the matter, because I have the most profound respect for the scientists, but the hon. gentleman is wrong when he says our charts do not show either the direction or the course of currents now. They do.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. They cannot. If they do, they mislead.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have been examining within a week these charts along with Colonel Anderson and looking at the course of the currents in connection with the "Castilian's" loss. The currents had no more to do with the loss of the "Castilian" than the currents around the Skerrey lighthouse in England. According to the commission which investigated the matter, that loss was due to carelessness on the part of the captain in ignoring the fact that he had run into water so shallow that any prudent man should have known at once he was going off his course. I am taking every step to obtain all possible information. There are two reasons why I do not ask a vote for this purpose. One is I have not made up my mind that the expense would give sufficient result, and the other is that I have no steamer at my service. Then, Mr. Bell Dawson is ill, and has got three months' leave of absence, so that he would not be able to attend to the matter if I had a steamer. I am trying to come to a conclusion in the meantime, if I can, between the opinions I received from practical mariners on the one hand and scientists on the other.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** I am absolutely amazed at the statement of the hon. gentleman, and I venture to say it will cause equal amazement to the underwriters and shipping men. He has stated that this is a question of theorists on the one side and practical navigators on the other. With the experience of England, of the United States, and of other colonies of England, every one of which has grappled with this question and expended enormous sums on just such a survey as the hon. gentleman says is a mere idea of theorists and scientists—

**The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** They have made no more surveys than the one we have here.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** Why, in the hon. gentleman's own department, on the very file connected with this work, he will find the names of the most experienced seamen. Every man in the Allan service—

**The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** That is not so.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** I am making a statement that the hon. gentleman had better consider before he contradicts it.

**The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** I asked some of the Allan captains myself, and they said they attach no value whatever to this survey.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** I shall move for the papers and show how little the hon. gentleman knows about the papers in his own department. I am surprised he should tell me that these papers do not exist.

**The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** I did not tell you that.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** I myself, as Minister of Marine and Fisheries, had long ago hundreds of petitions sent in to me. One of the finest navigators the Government ever had, Commander Gordon, who took perfect marks in the royal navy on the subject, and whose memory is revered by navigators around our coast for the great benefits he has done them, was anxious that this survey should be made and pressed its importance in and out of season. Captain Smith, the commodore of the Allan Line, who went through every stage and spent his time as an officer in the service of the Allan liners, sailing up and down the St. Lawrence, and who is at this moment an officer of the hon. gentleman, pressed this subject on the department time and again.

**The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** Not since I have been there.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** I suppose that when an officer finds his Minister will not supply the money or even look

into the papers before him, he will hesitate before bothering him on that subject.

**The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** My nautical advisers have advised me the other way.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** What nautical officer?

**The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** Commander Spain of the fishery and protective service, advised me that he is not satisfied in his mind that this survey is required.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** Then Commander Spain has a pretty big contract on hand. I am responsible for his appointment and think a good deal of him, but I would not put his opinion against that of Commander Gordon on a matter of which Commander Gordon was master and in regard to which Commander Spain, who was a sub-lieutenant in the navy, could never have given anything like the attention that Commander Gordon gave it. It will be found that he has not studied the subject sufficiently to press upon his Minister the importance of this survey.

**Mr. TALBOT.** How do you account for his appointment?

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** I did not appoint him as tidal surveyor, but to the command of the fishery protection service on the recommendation of Commander Gordon, and I think the appointment was a good one. I think he discharges his duties well, but I do not think I am casting any reflection upon him when I say that he does not stand on the same footing as the men whose names I have given. I shall read with surprise any report from Commander Spain in which he makes light of the importance to navigators of a proper tidal survey of the coast waters and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. I should be amazed to see such a report. And as for the other point, I trust the Minister will not make it necessary for me to move to have the papers brought down, but that he himself will look at the papers—

**The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** I told the hon. gentleman that I was keeping an open mind on the subject.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** But the Minister makes the extraordinary statement that no practical navigators had declared in favour of the necessity of this service.

**The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** How can I help that? I have done all I could to inform myself, and I have yet to find a practical navigator who says it is necessary.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** But the point on which the hon. Minister contradicted me is that these documents were in his department.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am not contradicting you at all.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Then the hon. gentleman admits—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I neither admit nor deny.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That is fair. The hon. gentleman, then I will say, is not aware of most important information in his department on this subject, and I ask him, at the earliest possible moment, to look into it. He will find that practical navigators are on record on the subject, and have memorialized the department to push the service and make it as complete as possible. Finding that, he may change his mind, and induce his colleagues to grapple with this important question in connection with the navigation of Canadian waters. I do not see any argument on the other side. So far as the scientific view is concerned, the hon. gentleman has the fact that we are singularly backward in comparison with any other great shipping nation in the world. Others have this work done. They paid a great deal to do it, when work cost a great deal. We have begun it, and I hope we shall vigorously press it.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I would like to say to the Minister that, whatever may be the method, some steps should be taken with regard to this question of insurance, and that at an early day. The difficulty is that ports in this country that are not equalled by any ports in the world, are handicapped by this increase in insurance rates. I refer, for instance, to my own port of Halifax. There is no easier port on the Atlantic coast for shipping to enter or leave than Halifax. Within two hours after leaving the dock in the port of Halifax, a ship can be out on the Atlantic, away from shore, and with a clear course to Europe or other places. Yet this port is handicapped in competition with ports far inferior by the fact that insurance rates are higher for Canada than for the United States. Early and energetic steps should be taken, not only by the merchants—who are already moving, as, for instance, in Halifax—but by the Government of the country. For it is a scandalous thing that ports like Halifax and others in Canada be put at such a disadvantage, not only without cause, but when, as a matter of fact, they are superior to the ports of the United States, which are so much advanced in the race by the lower rates of insurance which they enjoy. Why insurance rates should be raised for all the ports of Canada I do not know. Perhaps the hon. Minister has more information on the subject than I have.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I appreciate fully the im-  
Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou).

portance of the question to which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden, Halifax) has referred, and I beg to assure him that my colleagues are fully alive to the gravity of the situation. Like the hon. gentleman, I am at a loss to understand on what ground the insurance agencies and the companies at home came to the conclusion that our ports, some of which are among the best in the world, should all be included in this resolution of theirs. I may tell the hon. gentleman that the Government had already taken steps, at the instance of Colonel Bond, who submitted the matter to us some time ago, as to the possible danger of this resolution being passed. My hon. colleague, Mr. Dobell, when he made his last visit to London, went charged to represent this matter fully to the Lloyds' Company in London. About the time he was making the representations, the unfortunate accidents happened, one to the "Castilian" on Gannet Rock, off the coast of Nova Scotia, and the other to the "Labrador" on the north coast of Scotland. Singularly enough the loss of the "Labrador" on Skerryvore Rocks on the north of Scotland is charged against Canadian ports, because her registry was Canadian. That is a most unaccountable thing. There is a letter from one of Mr. Dobell's chief correspondents advising him to delay sending the representations to Lloyds which he was about to forward, because the loss of the "Labrador" had aroused feelings which would interfere with representations being listened to—that it would be better to wait a few weeks and let the feeling die away. No one can be more alive to the gravity and importance of the point the hon. gentleman raises than myself, and I will not allow anything to stand in the way of making, through Government channels, every representation to make it clear to the insurance people that they have no ground for the conclusion they have reached.

Mr. McMULLEN. It must be satisfactory to every hon. member on both sides of the House to hear the emphatic statement of the Minister with regard to the course of the Government in this matter of insurance. It might have been considered, perhaps, that I was turning aside from the question before the committee when I brought up this question; but I hardly think that my doing so merited a rebuke at the hands of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). I am glad I did refer to the matter, and glad to hear what the hon. Minister has said. I hope that every effort will be made to remove this disadvantage under which the ports of Canada rest with regard to the insurance tariff, and that our ports will receive that recognition at the hands of those people to which they are justly entitled, and will be speedily relieved of this incumbrance.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. In regard to the wreck of the "Castilian," the tides and currents have no more to do with it than some conditions over on the other side of the ocean. This officer of his department reports as follows, in the report published by the Marine Department, of 1897:—

The currents on the south-western coast of Nova Scotia and at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy have also much importance, and to obtain the necessary tidal data for comparison a tide gauge should be established at Yarmouth without further delay. In the upper part of the Bay of Fundy and its arms, the currents are probably more nearly parallel with the coast line, as on the Lower St. Lawrence; but on the other hand, the navigation being entirely dependent on the tide, it comes to be of the first importance to determine the time and height of the tide itself correctly. An examination of these currents should be made while the principal tidal stations now established continue in good working order, as the currents are chiefly tidal, and their behaviour can only be ascertained by direct comparison with a tidal record.

I should say he was a bold man who would say, that a ship wrecked in those waters was in no way affected by the absence of that sort of information. I have also in my hand the report brought down to Parliament by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries in 1898. On the question as to whether practical authorities regard this as of any importance, this is what his officer, Mr. W. Bell Dawson, tells him:

The leading marine periodicals and geographical publications, which give reviews of the reports of this survey and summaries of the results obtained, were mentioned in my last report. In addition to these two further summaries have appeared in the Dutch periodical "De Ingenieur." These occupy five quarto pages and are accompanied by two maps reproduced from the reports. The Liverpool "Journal of Commerce," in a review of the last annual report of this department, continues to express its high appreciation of the work of this survey, and the importance of the results from a commercial point of view.

Then, after referring to the tide levels at St. John, this is given, which shows some practical importance:

The tidal record at the mouth of the Fraser River has also been of service in the construction of an important coaling wharf at Vancouver. The record was examined for this purpose by Mr. H. J. Cambie, resident engineer on the Pacific division of the Canadian Pacific Railway; the object being to ascertain the level of the loading stages which would secure the greatest number of hours of work. The irregular and unequal character of the Pacific tide makes this difficult to determine without a tidal record for reference, and the difference of a foot in the wharf level, one way or the other, would make a wide difference in the number of hours per week for which it could be used. The character of the tide at the Fraser River is so closely similar to the tide at Vancouver as to afford reliable data for the purpose.

These instances may serve as examples of the accessory ways in which this survey often proves of value, in addition to its direct service to the shipping interest.

That corroborates the statement that I have made.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have not interfered with the tidal part of the service, but I have given it all assistance, enlargement and improvement.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The two officers of his department, the chief engineer and Mr. Dawson, both urgently ask for the old vote, and the old vote was not given; the hon. gentleman stating, that he did not intend to provide for it. I say, until that is done, it is absurd to say, that we have done what we should to make the waters of the St. Lawrence, or of the various parts of our coast, as reasonably safe as they ought to be, and as England and the United States have made their coasts.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not pronounce any final opinion upon it: my mind is open.

Examination of masters and mates..... \$5,000

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Does the hon. gentleman find that men are not coming forward for these certificates?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, there is an enormous number of them. This vote, although being \$5,000 every year, is not spent. For this year we have spent, up to the 3rd of April, about \$2,800, with May and June yet to come. The expenditure is really about \$3,500 for the year. Last year the expenditure was \$3,335.40.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. This item of \$5,000 is a pretty liberal allowance.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. We have kept it at the same amount, \$5,000, although we never spend more than \$3,200 or \$3,500. It is well to get it; it does not cost anything to get it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. How long has Mr. Gilpin been a clerk in this office?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. He was there before my time, but I do not know how long before. He is now on leave of absence owing to sickness.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. He was a good officer in my time and that is a few years ago. \$500 is a pretty small salary, and as the hon. gentleman always has this surplus, and there is no likelihood of expending that \$5,000, I think the case of Mr. Gilpin might be favourably considered.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The matter was considered; it was allowed to stand over owing to the delicate state of Mr. Gilpin's health. He has to go away for the summer. He has

gone, and we are paying a man in his place. I frankly say that it was a case that might be considered.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I can bear personal testimony to the fact that he is a very efficient officer, because I have had dealings with him.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I would be glad to take the matter into consideration. It has been under my consideration, and Capt. Smith has reported upon it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Who is the examiner on the Pacific coast? There is one in Winnipeg, E. B. Tinling, but I do not see one for the coast in the Auditor General's Report, page K-24.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I apprehend his name is not in the Auditor General's Report. I sent out a man and he was appointed.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. He does not seem to have been paid.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It would not be in the Auditor General's Report. He was appointed last year.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. What I want to ask the hon. Minister particularly about is in regard to the arrangement he has made in these far-away waters, where, I am told, the laws are in many respects disregarded, and this is working most unfairly to the marine interests. On the Pacific coast there are many Nova Scotians whom I know, who are masters, holding certificates, and their complaint is that the law in regard to masters and mates of vessels navigating Canadian waters in the Yukon district is practically a dead letter. Has the hon. gentleman no system at all to protect their interests? We have our own laws. They are enforced here and have been enforced here, and has the hon. gentleman any answer to the question as to whose business it is to ascertain whether these Canadian vessels are officered by duly certificated Canadian seamen?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That matter was brought to my attention by the members for British Columbia some time ago, by Mr. Maitland Kersey and by Captain Irving, and, as far as I made inquiries I think their complaints were not based upon actual facts. So far as my department is concerned, we could not have done anything more than we have done. I fancy there may have been some irregularities at the inception of the mining rush into the Yukon, because our officials were not there, and the customs-house officials were not as careful as they are now in seeing that captains of vessels clearing from ports had the proper certificates. When the matter was called to my attention by

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

Mr. Kersey and Capt. Irving, and by hon. gentlemen representing British Columbia, I wrote to Mr. Russell, the inspector, calling his special attention to these complaints, and I also wrote to my colleague, the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) requesting that he would give instructions to his officers in the district to see that the same law which prevails in and is enforced in other parts of the country was enforced there, and I have no doubt that this will be done. Nothing has been left undone in the matter that I could do.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Now that Russell's name is mentioned, I am doubtful whether there is much enforcement of the law. Russell is an officer into whose conduct I had to cause an inquiry to be made, and he was dismissed from the service. I was rather surprised that he was taken back.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I sent out the chief engineer to examine the parties who might be competent to fill the position of inspector, and this man was reported as being the best man. Russell had discharged his duty for some months, when complaints were made to me that his habits were not what they ought to be. I made inquiry and found that there was a time when that was so, but that he had reformed, and that they were now all right. From the reports I received of his reformation, and from the work he is now doing, I took no action to remove him. I understand the hon. gentleman made an inquiry into the matter some years ago.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, and he was dismissed from the service for cause.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It was not a case which would necessarily prevent his re-appointment.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The cause was simply this, which the hon. gentleman seems to overlook, that this man, who was appointed as the inspector of individuals' property and to see whether it came up to a certain standard, was himself interested, contrary to the rules of the department, in a number of private matters. He was hired, employed and paid by the people, whose work he was doing instead of doing that of the Government. He was guilty of a breach of trust in the ordinary, fair sense of the term. Inquiry was made, and he was removed, not for any political reason at all, but because he had shown himself to be unfit for the position. I was surprised to hear of his re-appointment, under the circumstances, and, it may be, that for that cause the law was not observed.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. It is not fair for the hon. gentleman to charge the non-observance of the law upon him. It was rather due to the collector of customs. I do not want to say one word too much in favour of Russell. I do not know him, but I do not want to say one word against him, but, so far as his work is concerned, I have no complaint, that his inspection is not efficient.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. Did the hon. gentleman know that he had been dismissed for cause? Did he take the trouble to look at the record to see whether the facts of the case would warrant his reinstatement?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Yes, I did look at the record, but I did not suppose that the case was quite as grave as the hon. gentleman states it. I know that other officers on the coast had charges made against them in connection with property that they were surveying. In fact, an investigation was made under my own management, and, while a great deal of evidence was given against the man, on the whole case, I gave my judgment in his favour. I ordered the investigation and gave him the benefit of it.

Mr. **CLANCY**. I had in my mind Mr. Palmer, who was dismissed, and in whose case the hon. gentleman did not show as much leniency.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I do not think the case was as flagrant a violation of the rules as would prevent him ever being appointed to a public office again.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. If the hon. gentleman looks into the record he will find that it is exceedingly serious.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I will look into it again.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. I was going to observe, that I have called attention to this matter because I think my hon. friend had better make further inquiry into the case of that gentleman. Take the case of the vessel, the "John C. Barr," an American bottom, that was admitted to Canadian registry the other day, and she was valued at \$10,000 by the customs authorities at Dawson.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. What had my officers to do with this?

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. The masters and mates are making complaints, and the owners of vessels are making complaints, and here is the earliest opportunity that I have to speak of this vessel, which was valued at \$10,000, as the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) told us.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Would it not be fair to wait until the Minister of Customs is here?

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. This is my opportunity to speak, and why is not the Minister of Customs here? Complaints are made, that the law respecting these certificated officers has been practically a dead letter in the Yukon district, and the masters and mates have themselves protested to me. Mr. Maitland Kersey is my authority for the statement, that the "John C. Barr" is worth at least \$60,000, and he asked me to ask the Minister of Customs, what that vessel was valued at by his officers, and the reply of the Minister was, \$10,000. The complaint is not merely in connection with the "John C. Barr," but several times this season, while the competition is keen, vessels are having their flag changed, and are being grossly undervalued, in order to obtain the benefit of the low duty and get Canadian registry. Mr. Kersey does not expect anything but fair competition, but he wants to see that those laws are properly enforced. Now, as to the Canadian masters and mates: These men have passed the examination in good faith, paid their fees, complied with the Canadian laws, and they now find foreigners coming in, without certificates, and taking the work out of their hands. Some of those steamboat proprietors may take a cheap master or mate, and then take an American pilot, who would be practically master, and paid the master's wages. These are things that ought to be looked into. This practice is an evasion of the law, and I do not think the statute will allow it. There is a large amount of money involved in the one case to which I have directed attention, and, in the other case, there is the interest of quite a large number of Canadian masters and mates, who, on the decline of wooden shipping on the Atlantic, find themselves on the Pacific coast, and are being done out of their work, as they think, unfairly, by reason of the laws of their country not being enforced.

Mr. **AULAY MORRISON** (New Westminster). In reference to the matter of Canadian masters not being employed upon the Yukon, which is probably the river to which the hon. gentleman has referred—

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. I spoke of the Yukon district.

Mr. **MORRISON**. The Yukon is the only river to which the hon. gentleman could have referred.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. There are steamers plying on other rivers besides the Yukon.

Mr. **MORRISON**. I have heard of these complaints to which the hon. gentleman has referred, and they can only apply to the Yukon River. The Government could not very

well have prevented the employment of foreign captains on the Yukon last year because nearly all the boats upon which they were employed, were built at St. Michaels, or Dutch Harbour, at the mouth of the Yukon. It is needless for me to point out the condition of affairs that existed last year on the lower parts of the Yukon. These boats were built there; I think Mr. Kersey's boats and the boats of the Boston and Alaska Steamship Company, to which the "John C. Barr" belongs. Unless they took the precaution of taking captains with them before the boats were built, they would have to take whoever they could get upon the spot, be they Americans or Canadians, and in many instances these boats did not get into Canadian waters at all. They only made the one trip in any event, so that, at the time they finished their voyage and had got through with the work, there was no possible chance of the thing being remedied. The Government could not possibly have prevented that last year, but, if they prevent a recurrence of it this year, it is about all that can be asked of them. I think these steamboat people on the coast were not at all too precipitate in drawing the attention of myself, and the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), and the Government to the necessity of having a stringent enforcement of the regulations on the Canadian side of the line. I would go so far as to say, that, if the "John C. Barr," a boat which I have seen myself, and which I quite agree would be worth \$60,000 or more, if that boat was valued at \$10,000 by that custom official at Dawson, he should be dismissed at once. I am surprised to think that Mr. Davis, the incumbent of the customs office at Dawson, so far forgot himself, if such is the fact, as to value a boat like the "John C. Barr" at \$10,000. If such a thing has been done, the Government ought not to overlook it, but should take steps to prevent its recurrence. The necessity of protecting the interests of Canadian captains and seamen in that district cannot be too strongly urged on the Government. I am quite confident that, on account of the statements made by members of Parliament and by men like Mr. Kersey, that the Government will not neglect the matter, and I myself have been assured by the Minister, it will be attended to.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The Yukon River, to which the hon. gentleman refers, is, of course, outside the jurisdiction of the Canadian Government. I had reference to the fact, that these men are bringing these boats to run on Canadian waters between Canadian ports, and, to do that, they have to pursue a course which was not necessary last year at all.

Mr. MORRISON. That refers to this year, then?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Certainly, I am not making a point all the

Mr. MORRISON.

time against the Government. I am glad that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Morrison) has spoken on this subject, because he has knowledge of it, and he makes a very serious statement. Mr. Kersey might have been considered, and was an interested party; but naturally, he does not want this unfair competition that is being thrust upon him. Here is a foreign boat, the real value of which is \$60,000, allowed in to compete with British vessels which have complied with all the regulations, and that vessel is only valued at \$10,000. After the statement that has been made, I hope the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) will not stand on etiquette as to whose duty it is to look into this matter, but will communicate the statement without delay to the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson). The people who are Britishers and have British ships up there, should not be subjected to competition which is promoted by the fraud or gross carelessness of Canadian officials. I hope the Minister of Marine will advise his colleagues so that not a moment will be lost to prevent this kind of thing.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Steps have already been taken. I did advise my colleague of the matter. It is as well for all of us to recognize the fact that the undervaluation of a ship which is imported has the same penalties attached to it as the undervaluation of any other article—that confiscation can be levied on the article, and penalties on the person guilty of the offence. The Minister of Customs and myself have talked it over, and I have no doubt he has sent his instructions to his officer as I sent my instructions to my officer months ago.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I hope the hon. Minister will see to it that that vessel is tied up without delay and that proper proceedings are taken.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I will see that the matter is fairly represented to my colleague without delay.

Rewards for saving life..... \$7,000

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. How does that vote stand?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. We have spent \$6,750 out of the \$7,000 for this year.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Is this for saving life at sea only?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, and for the life-saving stations besides.

Investigations into wrecks..... \$1,000

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). May I direct the attention of the Minister to the necessity of moving with somewhat greater speed, if possible, than has been the case in the past?

I have in my mind the case of the wreck of "La Bourgogne." The hon. gentleman will remember that he has jurisdiction to order a preliminary investigation or a formal investigation, in case a wreck has happened elsewhere than in Canada or the waters of Canada, if any competent witnesses thereof are to be found in any place in Canada. What took place in regard to the wreck I have referred to? The "Cromartyshire," one of the ships in the collision, arrived at Halifax with her own crew on board and a number of the crew of "La Bourgogne." Owing to the delay in appointing the commission—I dare say it was unavoidable—the crew of "La Bourgogne" got out of the province before the investigation began, and, therefore, it was one-sided or incomplete. Such evidence should, therefore, be taken either before the formal commission is issued, or the commission should be appointed with greater speed. I know that was the opinion of the court; and, although the decision of the court was exactly that which the Admiralty Court and the Court of Appeal in England arrived at as to the cause of the wreck, nevertheless, it was felt by the court and by the community at large that if the evidence on the other side could have been taken, it would have been better.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That matter of delay has been brought to my attention several times, and in the last two investigations we acted with unusual promptness. I appreciate the hon. gentleman's view, and I will act wherever I can with promptness, because I know of the danger of sailors and officers leaving a port, and the benefit of their evidence thus being lost.

Registration of shipping..... \$500

Mr. McDOUGALL. May I ask the hon. Minister when that publication was last made?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. This year. It is now in course of preparation.

Mr. McDOUGALL. When is it likely to be ready?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. In a few weeks.

Removal of obstructions in navigable rivers \$1,000

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. On what principle is the hon. Minister dealing with this expenditure?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Wherever I can, I ask the owner, if he can be found, to remove the obstruction, if it is a wreck, and, if he does not remove it, I remove it at his expense, and then sue him for the amount. We removed a wreck at Charlottetown a year ago,

at a very large expense, and I am now suing the owner at St. John.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Has the hon. gentleman dealt with the case of floating trees or logs in the river at Chatham?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The present Minister of Justice, when in this House, was continually calling attention to floating trees, stumps and snags in the river there.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have never had my attention called to that.

Mr. CLANCY. I think the question was undecided at that time whether the duty fell on the Department of Marine and Fisheries or the Department of Public Works. Up to a very recent day it has not been decided where the responsibility rests. I do not know whether the hon. gentleman has been able to settle that point.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The matter has not been lately in controversy, nor have I been asked to use any portion of this money for the purpose the hon. gentleman refers to. I have simply been using it for the purpose of removing all wrecks which were left after the copper and iron had been taken away by the owners.

Mr. CLANCY. Has the hon. gentleman's attention been called to a sunken scow in the river opposite the town of Dresden?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, it has not.

Mr. CLANCY. Do I understand his procedure to be that when the owner of a wreck refuses to remove it, the department will take hold and remove it?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, and make him pay the amount or sue him if necessary.

The Committee rose and reported progress.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 12.55 a.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 15th May, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

## YUKON DISTRICT—PUBLIC DOCUMENTS ASKED FOR.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to call the attention of the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) to some pages of the "Hansard," and for convenience, I will give the numbers of the pages in the present "Hansard," in connection with public documents referred to by the hon. Minister, and which I should like him to lay on the Table of the House at as early a date as possible, since they have been referred to in debate and are public documents. At page 852 the hon. gentleman will see that reference is made to a communication with the chief executive officer of the Yukon, Major Walsh. The hon. gentleman there refers to a communication between himself and Major Walsh. If it is just as convenient to the hon. gentleman I will simply give the general reference and the page of the "Hansard." If the hon. gentleman would prefer it, as I go through the pages, I will at any time read the statement. On page 856 there is a reference to a recommendation of Mr. Ogilvie. I assume that recommendation was in writing, and, on that assumption, I would ask for the production of the document. Then the hon. gentleman, at page 857, refers to his own recommendation for the appointment of the Gold Commissioner. It was no doubt a report to Council, and I would like to have laid on the Table of the House, either the report or the Minute of Council. Also the hon. gentleman refers to his recommendation of the appointment of Mr. W. H. P. Clement, at page 857. Then at page 861 the hon. gentleman read a telegram, and that is in relation to a telegram he sent to Mr. Ogilvie, at Vancouver, in regard to which the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Prior) asked the date. The hon. Minister did not have the date, but he was going to look it up, and, if there is no objection, I would like to have a copy of the telegram which would include the date. On page 872 the hon. gentleman refers to negotiations between the North-west Government or to an understanding, and though he does not say that this understanding was in writing, still, I suppose that it was in writing. It was an understanding with Messrs. Ross and Haultain, and if there is any correspondence in regard to it I would like to have it laid on the Table of the House. A little farther down on that page the hon. gentleman refers to a communication in regard to this,

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

and a reply, and it reads as if that communication and reply were in writing. On page 873, on the same subject, the hon. gentleman refers to his having been informed that, no doubt, attempts would be made to get quantities of liquor into the Yukon district, and I should like to have any statement in regard to his information here, which apparently is a written report. If there be a written report I would like that it be laid on the Table of the House. Then the hon. gentleman read an official letter, date May 10, at page 873, which refers to an inclosed list of permits issued by the North-west Government. I would like the list to be laid on the Table of the House. At page 874, the hon. gentleman refers to advice in regard to that list from the Government of the North-west Territories, and said that this list comprised at that date all the permits. This is the same list, and I would like that communication laid on the Table of the House. Then the hon. gentleman referred to a reference to the hon. Minister of Justice of the question whether the permits were good and were in force, refers to the advice of the Minister of Justice and the advice put in another letter. I would like the advice of the Minister of Justice and his letters, to which reference is made, laid on the Table of the House. At page 875, the Minister (Mr. Sifton) refers to the amended list which came from the North-west Territories Government, and another letter was sent to the officer commanding the North-west Mounted Police. I would like the amended list, and the other letter, unless that letter be the one which he read later on, on the same page of "Hansard." Then, on page 876, the Minister of the Interior refers to Mr. Philp's written statement which he holds, in which the Minister says Mr. Philp is prepared to verify by statutory declaration, &c. I would like the written statement to which the hon. Minister refers laid on the Table of the House. On page 877, the Minister refers to a telegram from Mr. Philp, asking him to send him a certain letter and the Minister declining to send him such a letter. I would like the telegram and the reply. On page 877, the Minister says:

Well, Major Walsh came to me, in pursuance of a letter written me that he intended to come as soon as he possibly could.

I wish to have that letter. Then, at page 880, the Minister promised—and perhaps has complied with it, although I do not myself know—promised to lay on the Table of the House the report of the proceedings in connection with the staking of a claim, and which the Minister discussed at some length stating that it came before him and that he gave his decision.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Is that the case of Donnelly and Nelson?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, and the hon. gentleman said in the

middle of a long discussion, that he would lay it on the Table of the House—

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I did so the next day.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Very well; the Minister need not then refer to anything on page 880. At page 885, the hon. gentleman referred to certain records. I do not know whether the Minister is in a position to lay the actual records on the Table, but he spoke evidently from official information which must have been in writing. That has reference to the claims staked by Captain Charles Constantine. On that page, the Minister refers two or three times to the claims staked by Captain Constantine in January, 1898, and that he recorded something like 22 claims in the name of other men in the employ of the Government. Then the Minister refers to his recommendation, and the Order in Council, forbidding that practice, at pages 885 and 886; and on page 888, the Minister says, in referring to Mr. Wade, that when he went to Dawson, he consulted with Mr. Fawcett, and they came to the conclusion, according to the statement given to the Minister, that the occupation of a certain piece of water front was inadvisable for sanitary reasons. I assume the hon. gentleman was referring there to an official report, and, if so, I would like to have that. Also, on the same page, at the bottom, a reference is made to official documents from which the hon. gentleman quoted, and I wish to have them. Then, on page 889, the Minister refers to the confirmation of this transaction by Major Walsh, and if that was done officially, or by an official record, I would like to have a copy of that confirmation. On page 896, the Minister refers to other papers which he may have laid on the Table of the House since, but I have not found them. The hon. gentleman said, in regard to another case that came before Judge Maguire:

What are the facts? At three o'clock to-morrow I will lay the papers in this case upon the Table of the House.

That is in connection with Dominion Creek. I do not know whether the Minister has remembered that promise, but if he has not done so, I would like to have these papers. At page 904, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) refers to a preliminary note from Mr. Ogilvie touching the commission of inquiry. He said:

I have a preliminary note from Mr. Ogilvie saying the report will be forwarded in a short time, and then I will lay it on the Table of the House.

I would like a copy of that preliminary note. The Minister speaks of having referred my statement to Major Walsh. He says:

I sent word to Major Walsh at once that these statements had been made, &c.

If there was any correspondence other than the letter which the Minister wrote to Major Walsh, I think that should be laid on the

Table; that is to say: if there was an official communication to Major Walsh touching my statements, I would like to see that document. That is all with reference to the speech of the Minister of the Interior. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) also referred to certain documents, and I would like those produced and laid upon the Table of the House. At page 1642, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries said, that he had received personally a large number of letters from gentlemen who went there from the United States of America, congratulating him upon the fact that the difference was so marked between the Canadian Yukon and the American Yukon; and referring to the condition of the law prevailing there. I would like these letters laid on the Table of the House. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), "Hansard," page 1696, said:

The very next day the Minister of the Interior made his report to Council recommending an investigation.

I would like either the report or the Minute laid on the Table of the House in accordance with the rule. The last reference I have is on page 1879, when the Minister of the Interior, in answering a question put by Col. Prior, said:

The department has had information to the effect that Mr. Wade was accustomed to advise Mr. Fawcett respecting the recording of mining claims or duties of the office, &c.

I would like the report to which the hon. gentleman refers, giving him this information. I would feel personally a great deal obliged to the hon. Minister (Mr. Sifton) if he would expedite a compliance with the requests I have made.

#### NEWFOUNDLAND FRENCH SHORE— REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION.

M. J. A. GILLIES (Richmond). Before the Orders of the Day are called, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister if this Government has been put in possession of a copy of the report of the Royal Commission, comprised of Sir John Bramston and Admiral Sir James Erskine, appointed to inquire into the French rights on the coast of Newfoundland, under the treaties of Utrecht, Paris and Versailles. I am impelled to ask for this information because I intend at an early day to table a motion in reference to this matter, and I desire to be accurately informed. I desire to ask the Prime Minister if his Government has come into possession of a copy of that report; if so, will it be laid on the Table; and, if so, when?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). So far as my knowledge goes, we have not yet received that report.

#### REPORTS PRESENTED.

Report of the Experimental Farm for the year ending 30th June, 1898.—The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher).

Report of the Department of the Interior for the year ending 30th June, 1898.—The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton).

#### INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Adverting to the remarks made by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) a few days ago, I may say that I find on inquiry of the Under Secretary of State that all the Addresses and Orders coming from the House last session and presented to my department through the Secretary of State's office have been answered and the returns have been brought down. If any Address or Order has not been answered, it must be due to some mistake between the Secretary of State's office and the House; and if any hon. gentleman will call my attention to the particular case, I shall be happy to have it looked up.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I may say to the hon. gentleman that I did not refer to any Order of the House with regard to the Department of the Interior when I mentioned that Orders of this House passed last session had not been complied with.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. I may say that last session I moved for an Address in reference to the university land grant. About a month ago I asked the hon. the Premier if a return to that Address would be laid before the House. It was not brought down last session.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). It has been brought down this session.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I remember that it was sent to the Secretary of State's office some weeks ago, and the hon. gentleman will find that it was presented. While I am on my feet, I wish to make a statement with regard to a question that was asked by the hon. member for Victoria, B.C., (Mr. Prior) a few days ago with regard to the importation of liquor into the Yukon territory. The papers respecting the liquor ordinance passed by the Yukon council have just been laid on the Table of the House; and I wish to say, by way of particularizing, in answer to the hon. gentleman's request for information, that the ordinance was assented to on the 7th December, 1898; it was received by the Department of the Interior on the 21st March; it was disallowed on the 14th April, and on the 13th April notice was sent to the various collectors of customs and police officers forbidding the importation of liquors into the Yukon district except such liquor as had been shipped prior to that date. Copies of the orders which were sent to the collectors of customs and police officers will be laid on the Table of the House to-morrow.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. May I ask the hon. gentleman, in the absence of Colonel Prior, who, I think, mentioned the subject, whether this permission will apply to liquors that were bought and ready for shipment after the ordinance allowing them to come in had been published, and before it was disallowed?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Not according to its terms.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Only actual shipments?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Yes.

Mr. McMULLEN. I want to draw the attention of the Government to a return, moved for on the 18th April, 1898, with regard to the expenditure for salaries of customs, inland revenue and post office officials. I think that return has been prepared, and I would like to have it laid on the Table of the House.

#### THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 66) respecting the Lindsay, Bobcaygeon and Pontypool Railway Company.—(Mr. McHugh.)

Bill (No. 98) respecting the Cobourg, Northumberland and Pacific Railway Company.—(Mr. Guillet.)

Bill (No. 29) to incorporate "Le Chemin de fer de Colonisation du Nord."—(Mr. Bourassa.)

Bill (No. 35) to incorporate the Edmonton and Slave Lake Railway Company.—(Mr. Poupore.)

Bill (No. 46) to incorporate the Arthabaska Railway Company (as amended by Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines).—(Mr. Lavergne.)

Bill (No. 58) respecting the Central Counties Railway Company (as amended by Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines).—(Mr. Edwards.)

Bill (No. 59) to incorporate the Russell Dundas and Grenville Counties Railway Company (as amended by Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines).—(Mr. Edwards.)

#### PAYMENTS TO 8TH HUSSARS.

Mr. DOMVILLE asked:

1. Whether, under regulations and orders of the militia of Canada, an annual allowance of \$40 per troop is payable to cavalry regiments?
2. The 8th Hussars has eight troops for the year 1898—\$320 was due to the regiment.
3. Was this amount paid over, or what amount?
4. If so, to whom paid?
5. Did the officer receiving this allowance pay over to each officer commanding a troop or squadron such money received?

6. If so, when did he make the payment ?

7. If he did not pay over this allowance, what reason is assigned for the retention of such allowance paid him ?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). 1. If drill instruction allowance is meant, yes. 2. The 8th Hussars has four squadrons, not eight troops. 3. \$240 was paid, being at the rate of \$60 per squadron. 4. Major and Brevet Lieut.-Col. Markham. 5. Not known, the distribution being a matter of regimental detail. 6. Not known, the distribution being a matter of regimental detail. 7. Answered by Nos. 5 and 6.

#### TELEGRAPH LINE TO SKAGWAY AND DAWSON.

Mr. **PRIOR** (by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) asked :

1. Is it not a fact that the English representatives of the Northern Commercial Telegraph Company (Limited), now in Canada, have communicated to the Government the readiness of the company to commence forthwith the construction of the Dawson and Skagway telegraph line under their charter ?

2. Have the Government received information from the High Commissioner for Canada, in London, that the company which the gentlemen represent is quite capable of carrying out the work, and whether, under these circumstances, the Government proposes to undertake the work themselves, in opposition to an Act of Parliament granted last session to the above named company ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). 1. The company mentioned only communicated with the Department of Public Works—which is in charge of the construction of telegraphs—about three weeks ago, its readiness to construct the telegraph line from Skagway to Dawson. Active steps had been taken by the department some time before for the construction of the telegraph line in question. 2. On the 22nd April, Lord Strathcona telegraphed, at request of company, that their finances were ample. I may remark, with regard to question 2, that it is argumentative in its character, as many questions are that are now being put on the list.

#### BRIDGE OVER KLONDIKE RIVER.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** asked :

1. What company owns or operates the bridge and ferry, respectively, over the Klondike River ?

2. What is the toll imposed upon foot-passengers over the bridge coming or going ?

3. What is the width of the river where the bridge crosses ?

4. What is the fare on the ferry ?

5. Did the Commissioner, Major Walsh, assist the companies, or either of them, to maintain

a monopoly by booming each side of the river, to prevent private boats from landing ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). 1, 2, 3 and 4. The Government has no information in regard to said bridge or ferry, the toll imposed on the bridge, or the fare on the ferry. 5. The commissioner, Major Walsh, did not assist anybody to maintain a monopoly by booming each side of the river to prevent private boats from landing.

#### INTEREST ON DEBT OF ONTARIO.

Mr. **FOSTER** asked :

Has any Order in Council been passed reducing rate of interest paid on the debt owed by the province of Ontario to the Dominion ? If so, what was the date of order and what the reduction of rate ?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). No.

#### ABANDONED HOMESTEADS.

Mr. **DAVIN** (by Mr. Gillies) asked :

Whether the Minister of the Interior has received the petition from the Dewdney school district, North-west Territories, 380, pointing out the hindrance to settlement by reason of abandoned homesteads which the department has failed to cancel ? Whether the Minister intends to grant the prayer of the petition, and if so, whether action will be taken immediately ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). The Minister of the Interior has received the petition referred to, and action has already been taken by the department in order to meet the wishes of the petitioners, as far as it is in its power to do so.

#### BALLOT PAPERS IN BROCKVILLE ELECTION.

Mr. **TAYLOR** (by Mr. McDougall) asked :

1. At what printing office were the official ballot-papers used in the late Brockville election for the election of a member of the House of Commons for the electoral district of Brockville, printed ?

2. What is the name of the proprietor or manager of such printing office ?

3. How many of said ballot-papers were ordered to be printed ?

4. How many were delivered to the returning officer ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). 1. At the office of the "Recorder" Printing Company, of Brockville. 2. The owners of the establishment. 3. Number of ballots printed, 5,650. 4. In parliamentary elections, the ballots are invariably printed at the instance of the returning officer, who receives all the ballots and distributes them in his own judgment.

## CANADIAN AND FOREIGN TOBACCOS.

Mr. DUGAS asked :

1. How many pounds of Canadian tobacco have paid excise duty from 1st July, 1898, up to this date ?

2. What is the amount of said duties ?

3. How many pounds of foreign tobacco have paid excise duty from 1st July, 1898, to this date ?

4. What is the amount of the said duties ?

5. How many pounds of foreign tobacco have paid customs duty since the imposition of the customs duty of ten cents ?

6. How many thousand cigars, made from foreign tobacco, have paid duty from 1st July, 1898, up to date ?

7. What is the amount of the said duties ?

8. How many thousand cigars, made from Canadian tobacco, have paid duty from 1st July, 1898, up to date ?

9. What is the amount of the said duties ?

10. What is the amount paid to the employees of the Canadian tobacco department, from 1st July, 1898, up to date ?

11. What is the amount paid to the employees of the foreign tobacco department, from 1st July, 1898, up to date ?

12. Should no such division exist, what is the total amount paid to employees of the excise office for the tobacco department ?

13. What is the number of employees of the excise office in the tobacco department ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). 1. Canadian tobacco, 1,480,080 pounds ; Canada twist, 65,584 pounds. 2. Canadian tobacco, \$74,004 ; Canada twist, \$3,279.21 ; total, \$77,283.21. 3. Manufactured tobacco, 4,702,295½ pounds. 4. \$1,175,573.87. 5. 16,700,845 pounds on which duty was collected by excise ; 2,016,775 pounds on which duty was collected by customs ; total, 18,717,620 pounds. 6. 93,014,455. 7. \$558,086.73. 8. 553,240. 9. \$1,659.72. In respect to questions 10, 11, 12 and 13 a categorical answer cannot be given, as the work of supervision is divided amongst officers who also have charge of other surveys. It would be impossible to designate specifically the cost of supervision under each head.

## EXPORTS OF GRAIN.

Mr. BELL (Addington) (by Mr. Wallace) asked :

What was the number of bushels and kinds of grain the produce of Canada exported from Fort William, Duluth, Parry Harbour, Midland, Montreal, Winnipeg and St. John, N.B. ; giving the amounts from each port, the place of destination, also the number of bushels and kinds of grain from said ports, of goods not the produce of Canada : 1st, for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1898 ; 2nd, from the 30th June, 1898, to 31st December, 1898 ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). We are not ready with the answer. Only the first part of the question belongs to the Department of Inland Revenue, and we have written in order to get the answer. The remaining question belongs to the Department of Customs,

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

and the Minister of Customs is absent at this moment.

## PRINTING PLANT IN INDIAN SCHOOL.

Mr. ROCHE asked :

1. Did the Government lease the printing plant in Indian school, Elkhorn, to Mr. W. J. Thompson, of Elkhorn ?

2. If so, was lease cancelled, and for what reason ?

3. Who holds the plant now ? Has it been leased or purchased, and for what sum ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. Yes. 2. The lease to Mr. Thompson was cancelled by the Indian Commissioner, the reason for the action not being given. 3. E. H. Garrison. Negotiations for the sale to Mr. Garrison are now pending.

## PAYMENT OF OFFICERS AND CREW OF STEAMER "QUADRA."

Mr. PRIOR (by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) asked :

1. On what date or dates were the officers and crew of the Dominion steamer "Quadra," in British Columbia, paid their salaries and wages for the months of January, February, March and April last, respectively ?

2. Were they paid their salaries or wages when they were due, or even during the months succeeding the months in which they were earned ?

3. Have they been paid yet for the above four months ? If not, why not ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The answer to the first question is : Pay-list for January, paid 24th January, 1899 ; pay-list for February, paid 23rd February, 1899 ; pay-list for March and April, paid 29th April, 1899. 2. Salaries are due at the end of each month, and in January and February cheques were issued before payment was due to enable cheques to reach Victoria before the end of the month. March payment was unavoidably held over, but payment for that month and April was made on the 29th April. 3. Yes.

## INDUCEMENTS TO BRITISH IMMIGRANTS.

Mr. CLARKE (by Mr. Clancy) asked :

1. Is it the intention of the Government to offer similar inducements to English, Irish and Scotch immigrants as to building houses, seeding and making homes for themselves in the Northwest and providing for their most urgent needs, partially or wholly, until they are settled on their lands, or facilitating transport conditions as it has been doing to the Doukhobors and other foreign immigrants ? If not, why not ?

2. If any inducements have been offered to British immigrants of a character similar to those offered to immigrants from other countries, will the Government specify what they are, and at the same time state what inducements have been offered to Doukhobors and other immigrants from foreign countries.

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). In reply to the hon. gentleman, I beg to say: 1. The Government has not built houses or done any seeding for the Doukhobors or any other foreign immigrants. In cases where there was urgent necessity for assistance being given to provide for immediate want of newly-arrived immigrants, a small amount of assistance has been given. It is the policy of the Government to extend this assistance to all English, Irish and Scotch immigrants as well as others. 2. The only difference in inducements offered continental immigrants and British immigrants is that the arrangement made by the late Government respecting continental bonuses has been continued, and the continental bonuses to booking agents is under that arrangement larger than the bonus to British booking agents. The reason for the policy was and is that it is necessary to meet the bonuses paid by other countries to continental booking agents. In the case of the Doukhobors no bonus was paid to booking agents, but in lieu thereof, a special bonus of \$4.86 per head was agreed upon and paid to the English committee for the Doukhobors because their committee were prepared to give us a very large number of desirable agricultural immigrants with no expense whatever to the Government in so far as inducing the immigration was concerned, except the bonus. The Government is prepared at any time to make a similar arrangement with any persons who may be in a position to furnish a large body of desirable agricultural immigrants from Britain.

#### LIQUOR PERMITS IN YUKON.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** asked:

1. Has the Commissioner for the Yukon, Mr. Ogilvie, issued or granted any permits for the admission of spirituous liquors into the Yukon territory?

(a) If so, how many and to whom?

(b) If so, under what authority has Mr. Ogilvie acted?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). In reply to the hon. gentleman, I beg to say: 1. The department has been informed that such permits have been granted. In regard to 2 or section A. No report has been received from Mr. Ogilvie as to the number of permits issued, or to whom issued. 3 or section B. It is presumed that he has acted under the authority of section 9 of the Yukon Territory Act.

#### "BENCH" AND "CREEK" CLAIMS IN YUKON DISTRICT.

Mr. **HUGHES** asked:

1. What constitutes a "bench" claim in the Yukon?

2. What constitutes a "creek" claim in the Yukon?

3. Have any "creek" claims been granted to overlap "bench" claims, or vice versa?

4. Are there any disputes pending or appeals before the department, the Minister or the courts, relating to any such disputes?

5. Who are the persons interested in such?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). 1 and 2. The definition of "bench" claims and "creek" claims will be found in the Mining Regulations, a copy of which I will lay on the Table, with the clause marked to which I refer. 3. Not in so far as the department is aware. 4. Yes. 5. So far as known the names are Ashby, Leak, E. N. Keys, Stephen Wilkinson and Harry Vaughn.

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJOR WALSH.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** asked:

1. What instructions, if any, were given to Major Walsh, Commissioner for the Yukon district, when he went to that district, respecting (a) his powers and authority; (b) liquor traffic? (c) Is there any truth in the following report of an interview purporting to have taken place at Skagway when Major Walsh was returning from Yukon, when he is reported to have said: "I was given great latitude under the laws and was empowered to amend them as I saw fit, and in some instances I did change them somewhat"?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). In reply to the hon. gentleman, I beg to say: Major Walsh received no written instructions, except such as were contained in the commission which was laid upon the Table of the House last session. The Government has no knowledge of the alleged interview referred to in the question.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. I would like to call the attention of the hon. Minister of the Interior to the fact that he has not answered the question. I did not ask if any written instructions had been given to Major Walsh. I asked what instructions, if any, were given. The hon. Minister says there were no written instructions outside of the commission.

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR**. I misunderstood the hon. gentleman's question. If the hon. gentleman will allow the question to stand, I will answer it fully on the next question day.

Mr. **SPEAKER**. The question stands.

#### REPATRIATION OF CANADIANS.

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

1. What is the number of Canadians who have returned from the United States, and what is the amount per head allowed for their repatriation?

2. What salary is paid to the several immigration agents, and the number of such agents employed in the work of repatriation from the United States?

3. The number and salaries of the several immigration agents in England and in Europe ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). 1. It is impossible to state how many Canadians have returned from the United States—no separate record of such being kept. No amount per head is specifically allowed for their repatriation, but there are a large number of commission agents in the United States who are paid the usual commission on all settlers arriving in Canada, no distinction being made between repatriated Canadians and others. 2. The number of salaried agents employed in the United States to promote immigration, including repatriation, is fifteen, and their salaries amount to \$15,300 per annum. 3. The number of salaried agents employed in England and Europe is thirteen, and their salaries amount to \$20,825 per annum.

#### DREDGING LEASES IN YUKON AND N. W. T.

Mr. **FOSTER** asked :

1. What number of leases to dredge for minerals in the Yukon provincial district, Northwest Territories, have been granted in 1897 and 1898 respectively ?

2. What amount of rental has been paid in on account of them ?

3. What amount of rental is still due on these years ?

4. Has the department extended the time for payment in any cases, and if in any cases, what ones ?

5. What is the total rental received to date for dredging leases in above district on account of 1897 and 1898, respectively, and how many of these claims are being bona fide worked ?

6. How many of these claims have been abandoned and cancelled by the Government, in accordance with the regulations ?

7. How many of the lessees have complied with section 5 of the regulations for dredging leases ?

8. What amount of royalty has been received from these lessees ?

9. Has Mr. Robert Anderson complied with the terms of his lease, as set forth in Order in Council, 12th January, 1898, and in what respects ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). 1. None for 1897. Number of leases granted in 1898, 268. 2. Total amount of rent paid, \$131,505.50. 3. Amount of rental still due for 1897, none ; 1898, \$2,300. 4. A general extension of three months from the date the rental became due has been given to all lessees who have applied for it. 5. The total amount of rent received for 1897, nil ; 1898, \$131,505.50. 6. Six leases have been abandoned. None cancelled by Government. 7. None of the lessees have complied with section 5 of the regulations so far as known. 8. No royalty has been paid by lessees. 9. Mr. Robert Anderson has complied with the terms of his lease by paying the rental and filing in the Department of the Interior the returns of the survey of the location leased to him.

Mr. **MARCOTTE**.

#### HOMESTEAD LAW—INTEREST ON PRE-EMPTIONS.

Mr. **DAVIN** (by Mr. McDougall) asked :

1. Whether the hon. the Minister of the Interior, or the Dominion Government, or both, have been memorialized by the Moose Jaw Agricultural Society and town residents and settlers throughout the district, respecting interest on pre-emptions, and setting forth—

That the homestead law, as it applies and was in force in pioneer days, enacted that a settler could take up a homestead and pre-emption and have three years to complete his duties, and was then supposed, but not compelled, to apply for his patent ;

That immediately on applying for and getting his patent, interest at the rate of six per cent per annum began to accrue on his pre-emption ;

That many settlers fulfilled their settlement duties promptly and applied for their patents, thus fulfilling, in the letter and spirit, the homestead law requirements, while others, equally if not more numerous, took advantage of the law not being compulsory as to the time when they should apply for their patents and held their pre-emptions many years without being charged any interest, thus saving \$24 a year ;

That those who fulfilled their settlement duties in the letter and spirit of the law, felt and still feel aggrieved, that the Government thus favoured the law-breaker instead of the law-keeper, and accordingly stopped making payments on their pre-emptions, money being much needed for other necessary purposes ;

That they memorialized the late Government on the matter, asking that both parties should be placed on the same footing, not by retroactive legislation, compelling those to pay interest who were exempt by the letter of the law, but by cancelling the interest on the pre-emptions of those who fulfilled the law in the letter and spirit, and soliciting a decision on the matter.

2. Whether the Government have come to a decision on this question ?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). 1. Yes. 2. No decision yet arrived at.

#### NORTH SHORE RAILWAY—PAYMENT TO QUEBEC GOVERNMENT.

Mr. **FOSTER** asked :

1. Has the Dominion Government yet paid over the capital sum of \$2,394,000 to the province of Quebec in consideration of its interest in the North Shore Railway, according to the legislation of 1884 and subsequent years ? If so, what was the date of payment ?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). No.

#### YUKON—THE COMMISSION TO MR. OGILVIE.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** asked :

1. Has any communication respecting the commission of inquiry been received by the Government from Mr. Ogilvie ?

2. If so, what is the purport of such communication or communications ?

2. Has Mr. Ogilvie asked for an extension of his powers in the commission of inquiry ?

4. If so, what is the date of the request ?

5. Has any reply been sent to a communication of 27th February, 1899, from the Committee of Miners of the Yukon, referred to by the hon. the Minister of the Interior on the 1st day of May 1899 ("Hansard," page 2329) ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1 and 2. There has been no official communication on the subject. 3. Mr. Ogilvie has not asked for an extension of his powers, but in a private letter to the Minister suggested that it might be desirable to extend the period to be covered by his investigation. 5. No.

#### YUKON—APPOINTMENT OF A SECOND JUDGE.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to take steps to appoint a second judge for the Yukon district ?

(a) If so, will the Government consider the advisability of appointing a judge who is familiar with the principles of common law and the Judicature Act system in force in that district ?

(b) Is the Government aware of the condition of the docket of cases before the Hon. Mr. Justice Dugas ? If so, what is it ?

(c) If the Government is not advised as to the condition of the docket, will immediate inquiry be made ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). As to the first portion of the question the answer is "Yes." The answer to subsection (a) of the question is : The Government will appoint a judge who will be thoroughly qualified to administer the law which is to be administered in the Yukon district. The answer to subsection (b) is : The Government has no information in regard to the condition of the docket of cases before Mr. Justice Dugas. The answer to subsection (c) of the question is : In view of the statements contained in the question of the hon. gentleman, inquiry will be at once made as to the condition of the docket.

#### YUKON—APPOINTMENT OF MESSRS. WADE, MCGREGOR AND NORWOOD.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. What was the date of Mr. F. C. Wade's appointment to the following offices respectively (a) Crown prosecutor, (b) registrar for the district of Yukon, (c) clerk of the court ?

2. When did he first reach Dawson as an officer of the Government ?

3. When were J. D. McGregor and H. H. Norwood respectively appointed inspectors in the Yukon district ? (a) When did they respectively reach the scene of their duties ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. Mr. Wade was appointed Crown prosecutor and clerk of court and registrar

on August 26th, 1897. 2. He arrived at Dawson 26th of February, 1898. 3. Mr. McGregor and Capt. Norwood were appointed 4th July, 1897. Capt. Norwood reached Dawson 28th March, 1898. Mr. McGregor reached Dawson 26th February, 1898.

#### DISMISSAL OF MR. PIERRE SAMSON.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Has Mr. Pierre Samson, caretaker of Fort No. 1, at St. Joseph de Lévis, been dismissed by the Minister of Militia ?

2. Was he granted an inquiry ?

3. By whom has he been replaced ?

4. What is the calling of his successor ? Was he a carter ?

5. Is he competent ?

6. How long has he been so ?

7. Is he a relative of Mr. Demers, of Lévis, a member of the Dominion Parliament ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. Yes. 2. No ; none was asked. 3. Arthur Bilodeau. 4. No calling given. 5. Yes. 6. Always. 7. Nothing is known on this point.

#### LEASE TO MR. THOMAS POWERS, OF LEVIS.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Whether Mr. Thomas Powers, contractor, of Lévis, has leased from the Government the ground at Fort No. 3, for the purpose of getting out stone ?

2. What price does he give ?

3. Was he foreman of the work at Etchemin bridge, on the Intercolonial ?

4. At what price did he sell the stone he took from the Government ground ?

5. Is he the furnisher of stone for the bridge, paid as furnisher and at the same time foreman of the work ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. Mr. Thomas Powers holds a lease of sixteen acres of land at Lévis from the Government. No provision is made therein for removal or quarrying of stone upon the property by Mr. Powers or others. 2. \$6 a year. 3, 4 and 5. The Militia Department does not possess any more information about this matter, which is not under its control.

Mr. DUGAS. Then, questions 3, 4 and 5 in that question will stand ?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). They will have to be put again ; there is no sense in allowing them to stand without the name.

Mr. SPEAKER. I suppose the question so far unanswered can stand.

#### CORDWOOD SUPPLY TO LEVIS FORTS.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Does Mr. Alfred Blouin furnish cordwood to the Forts at Lévis, and did he tender for the service ?

2. At what price does he sell his wood ?

3. Did the Militia or the Public Works Department advertise for tenders ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. Yes. 2. The price paid for the present year is \$6 per cord, and the two previous years \$6.50 per cord, delivered at the forts. The price paid in 1895 was \$8.25 per cord. 3. No.

#### STORM SIGNAL AT McKEEN'S POINT—TENDERS.

Mr. McDUGALL asked :

How many tenders were received by the Government for the construction of a storm signal at McKeen's Point, Port Hastings, Inverness County ? Who were the tenderers, and what was the amount of the respective tenders ? Was the contract for the work let on the lowest tender ? If so, to whom ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The matter is being attended to by Mr. Stupart, director of the meteorological service. 'On the 28th ultimo he reported that he had given instructions to the agent at Port Hastings to obtain tenders ; that he had done so, but the lowest being for an amount much greater than was paid for a mast before, Mr. Stupart suggested to wait until an inspector from his office could visit Port Hastings, which was approved. We have no information as to the number of tenders received by Mr. Stupart or the agent, nor as to the names of the tenderers, nor the amount of the respective tenders, nor has any contract been let.

Mr. McDUGALL. Will the hon. Minister promise to get that information ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, nor if I had it would I give it. It is not customary to give the amount of the tenders or the names of the tenderers before the contract is let.

#### GENERAL SERVICE MEDALS.

Mr. CLARKE (by Mr. Kaulbach) asked :

1. Is it the case, as stated in the "Canadian Military Gazette" of 2nd instant, that the Canadian general service medal, 1866-70, is to be on the same ribbon as the North-west campaign medal of 1885 ?

2. And that those who served in repelling the raids and also in the North-west campaign will not receive the general service medal, but only clasps to attach to the North-west medal ?

3. If so, on whose recommendation was this done ?

4. And who is responsible for the course adopted ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. Yes. 2. Yes. 3 and 4. The Right Hon. the Secretary of State for War.

Mr. MARCOTTE.

#### THE ALIEN LABOUR LAW.

Mr. CLARKE (by Mr. Kaulbach) asked :

1. Has the agent or officer appointed to enforce the provisions of the Alien Labour Law in Toronto and vicinity, or anybody on his behalf, been instructed by the Government or by any member or officer thereof, to hold in abeyance or to abandon prosecutions under provisions of the said law ?

2. Have any prosecutions been made under the provisions of the Alien Labour Law in Toronto or district ? If so, have the prosecutions been concluded, and what has been the result ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The answer has been placed in my hands. There was only one prosecution begun—the Queen vs. McMurtry. The case was ready for trial in November last, but the agent, W. B. McMurrich, was instructed to take no further steps until instructed by the department.

#### THE REBELLION OF 1885—CLAIMS COMMISSION.

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

Return of all reports and recommendations of the commission appointed to investigate and settle claims for losses arising out of the Saskatchewan rebellion of 1885 ; also a statement of all claims presented, the amount paid in each case, also all claims presented and not entertained.

He said : Mr. Speaker, some hon. gentlemen may consider that, in bringing this question before the House this afternoon, I am dealing with what may be called ancient history ; but as it is a question which directly interests a large and important number of my constituents, I think I need not apologize to the House for bringing it before them. That question is the settlement of the rebellion claims in the district of Saskatchewan. I am going to confine myself to these, and leave the claims in other parts of the territories to be dealt with by my hon. friend from Alberta (Mr. Oliver). I am going to confine myself to the Saskatchewan district, and in doing so, it will be necessary for me to speak at some length of the causes which led to the rebellion—not to justify the rebellion, but to give the House an inside knowledge of how that rebellion came about. That question has been discussed a great many times, but I might say that a true knowledge of the facts has not come out if the Government had exercised proper judgment in dealing with the matter, so far as the half-breeds of the North-west Territories are concerned, the unfortunate rebellion of 1885 would never have taken place. It is well known that previous to the opening of the North-west Territories some twenty years ago, and down to fifteen years ago, the Government then in office showed no wisdom in the selection of the officials they sent out to deal with the people of the North-west Territories. In those

days there were very few people in that country of any nationality except the natives—those who had been born and brought up in the North-west Territories and Manitoba. It is well known that those people had never travelled outside of the country and knew no civilization except that of their own surroundings, and, therefore, could not be expected to use the same judgment that would be expected of those who had travelled and seen something of the great world beyond. It was on that account all the more necessary that in the selection of their officials, the Government should have chosen the best men possible to deal with those people. But I am sorry to say they did nothing of the kind. They did not select their officials because of their ability and efficiency, but on account, I suppose, of the good work they had done for the party in the east; and as the west was supposed to be a very good pasturage for men of that kind, we had all sorts and conditions of people, in the shape of officials, dumped on us in the North-west. I know something of the conditions out there, having lived in the North-west twenty years, having gone out there, in fact, when the country was first opened. A great many of the half-breeds on the Saskatchewan were born in the North-west Territories—especially most of those who had settled along the south of the Saskatchewan River. When the Government settled with the half-breeds in the province of Manitoba, they did so up to the year 1870, and gave them scrip to that date. The Government then sent their officials into the territories, who settled with the Indians by establishing them on reserves, furnishing them with agricultural implements and everything necessary to start in life as farmers, and also providing them with instructors. The Government further gave an annuity of \$5 a year to each Indian, besides \$25 per year to each chief, and \$15 a year and a good suit of clothes too. But the half-breeds in the North-west Territories had never been in the province of Manitoba when the settlement there was made, and it was the duty of the Government, when treating with the half-breeds and Indians of Manitoba, to have also treated with the half-breeds of the territories. But they did not do so. Consequently, year after year, these people were agitating for what was undoubtedly their just rights. They were agitating to get the scrip to which they were just as well entitled as their relatives and friends in the province of Manitoba, then known as the Red River. Nothing, however, came of their agitation, because the officials in the country at that time did not, in their wisdom, see fit to instruct the Government as to what should be done, but on the contrary, pooh-poohed the whole thing.

Another cause was the fact that these people who had settled on their lands in the south Saskatchewan had done so, as their forefathers and friends had done in the old province of Manitoba. They expected their lands to be surveyed in the same manner and expected to get the same amount of

lands as their friends had been given in Manitoba.

Now, there was not an official in the North-west who did not know that these people were agitating day in and day out to have these grievances redressed, but the Government did nothing; and this agitation went on from year to year, until at last those people turned to the only friend they had in the world. They had never travelled, they knew nothing of the outside world, and they turned at last to the only person they knew to get their grievances redressed, and sent for Mr. Riel. Mr. Riel came on the scene, and you would have thought that, after his arrival there, the Government would have had sense enough to send out a commission or to have done something to settle these people's claims. But in the place of sending up a commission to settle with these people, what did they do? They prepared for war. They started at once to put up barracks and that sort of thing, and sent a large police force into that part of the country. That would have been all right in itself, if the Government had used ordinary discretion, but instead we find that these officials gave wrong advice; and, instead of advising the Government to put up their barracks right in the heart of the country where the trouble existed, they advised the Government to select a place some twenty-seven miles away from the seat of trouble—an old Hudson Bay post called Fort Carlton, where there was a lot of old tumble-down buildings. This Fort Carlton had been built on a plateau, some thirty or forty acres in area on the river bank, surrounded by hills 200 or 300 feet high, and there they had the barracks erected. No doubt the reason was they wanted to stand in with the Hudson Bay Company. No doubt we had a sort of family compact at that time in the country in the shape of the Government officials. This family compact the chief factor of the Hudson Bay Company stood in with, and, therefore, the barracks were erected at this place. The question whether it was the proper place was not considered at all, but only the question that the Hudson Bay Company had a lot of old buildings there which they wanted to get rid of at a good price, and no doubt succeeded in doing so. Then, the other friends of the family compact came in and each of them wanted a little slice of what was going in the shape of contracts for lumber, stone and other things, and each one got his share. What was the result? The result was that the agitation continued growing and was taken no notice of, because the police were twenty-seven miles away from the seat of disturbance, and, therefore, not in a position to know what was going on in the centre of unrest, until at last one evening the rebellion broke out. It started with only eight men, headed by Mr. Riel, and if the police had been on the spot, where they ought to have been, that rebellion would have been nipped in the bud and never got beyond the little settlement of Batoche. Riel

went from house to house, also among the simple inhabitants of Batoche, and, at the point of the gun, said to them: I want you to come out and take up arms and join me. These men looked for protection, but the police were 27 miles away. What could they do? They could only do as they were told, for there was nobody to protect them. So they marched out and joined the ranks of the rebels. And then, it is well known, that, after he got them together, Riel played on their fears and their ignorance, telling them: You are in the rebellion now, and, if you try to get out of it, you will be hanged. They were poor, innocent people; they had never been outside of their own country, and knew nothing of the laws, and they believed what he told them. That is the way the rebellion was brought about, as was well known. Now, after that unfortunate rebellion had broken out, the Government, of course, had to send up men to suppress it. But the best judgment was not used by the Government of the day in the selection of men sent out at the head of the transport and other services. We find, that these men sent up there to assist in suppressing the rebellion, turned out to be a lot of harpies and sharks—I do not know what to call them, but, if they were called brigands, perhaps it would be the most appropriate name for them. They proceeded to take everything they could lay their hands on. They evidently thought they had a license to rob and steal everything in sight. It is well known, that, at a place called Gabriel's Crossing, above Batoche, they went so far as to steal—I cannot use any other expression, for no milder word will express it—as actually to steal a billiard table belonging to a poor half-breed who lived on the banks of the Saskatchewan. Did they inquire whether he was concerned in the rebellion? Not at all. The property was there, and they wanted it; so they loaded it on the steamboat, and carried it away. They also stole a lot of bands of horses belonging to the half-breeds, and drove them to Winnipeg. I myself met several of these bands while they were on their way down. I said to the men: "Where are you going with these horses?" Their reply was: "Oh, these belonged to the rebels, and we have been ordered to gather them up and take them to Manitoba for Mr. Bedson." Now, Mr. Bedson did not inquire, who these horses belonged to. How could he? Here was a band of horses running wild on the prairie. Admitting, for the sake of argument, that it was justifiable to take the property belonging to rebels—how was Mr. Bedson, or anybody else, to know that these horses belonged to rebels? They might have belonged to loyal men; no doubt, some of them did. But it made no difference to these gentlemen. The horses were there; they wanted the horses, and they took them. More than that; I venture to say, that nine-tenths of the stuff taken in that coun-

Mr. DAVIS.

try, whether stolen and carried away or stolen and destroyed, was taken after the unfortunate rebellion was suppressed and the half-breeds had laid down their arms. It must have been so. For instance, in Batoche—these gentlemen could not take anything until they got into Batoche, and, by the time they got there, the rebels had surrendered—we have a case in point in Mr. Champagne's horse. This was a beautiful grey horse, the property of Mr. Champagne. He said to these men, "Don't take the horse." But nobody inquired who owned it, and in a little while General Middleton was riding round in great state on this poor man's horse. This case was tried before Judge Burbidge, I believe, and he found that the horse belonged to Mr. Champagne, and had been wrongfully taken away, and ordered that \$200, the value of the horse, be paid to him. But up to this time, the poor man has never received a cent. That is only one case. They took everything in Mr. Champagne's house. Mr. Bedson was there with the rest of the gentlemanly brigands, and they gathered everything they could lay their hands on, and took it away. That was after the rebellion was over. I wish to show what took place in Battleford in one case which has become historical—the case of Bremner's furs. It is a well-known fact, that in Battleford, in another part of my constituency, the robbery of Bremner's furs—I do not feel justified in using a milder name than "robbery"—took place. This Bremner was a comparatively wealthy man. He had been all his life gathering this bit of money, and so, probably, his forefathers before him. Ten thousand dollars was quite a fortune to a man on the Saskatchewan in those days. The rebellion broke out just about the time he got these furs together. It was a time of the year when his traders—he had traders all over the northern country—sent in their furs to Bresaylor. What did Bremner do with his furs, when the rebellion broke out? He did what any law-abiding citizen would have done, what any man in this House would have done—he sent the furs to the representative of the Government: he put them in charge of the police, that is to say, in charge of the chief officer, General Middleton, and the rest of the Government officials. The rebellion being on, and his property being in danger, he wanted the guardians of the law to look after it. And they did look after it. They looked after it so well that the man never saw any of his property again. And then, to make the matter worse, in the hope of justifying themselves for stealing this property, they trumped up a charge against him, and tried to make out that he was a rebel. I must say, in justice to the Crown prosecutor, who was, no doubt, a friend of hon. gentlemen opposite, that, as soon as he investigated the case and saw there was nothing in it, that there was not a tittle of evidence against him, he dismissed Bremner. It is a

well-known fact, that the evidence showed, that Bremner had done all he could to stop the rebellion, and that, after it started, he had done a great deal to protect the lives and property of settlers in that country. But he had these furs—six or seven thousand dollars' worth—and these gentlemen wanted them, and they took them. And I say, it is a crying shame, that this poor old man, is now living in the constituency of my hon. friend from Alberta (Mr. Oliver) in poverty. Now, let us look at what follows. A short time after the rebellion was over, the Government, in their wisdom, thought fit to appoint a commission to go out to that country to settle up the half-breed claims. Strange to say, this commission was appointed shortly before the first election that took place for this House in the North-west Territories. The troops had hardly got out of Prince Albert before scrip commissioners came junketing in behind them. These scrip commissioners sat, and gave these men everything that they had asked for in the way of scrip. Everybody was invited to come and have his claim settled. Had this been done years before, there would have been no rebellion, and all the bloodshed and all the loss of property and treasure would have then been avoided. Another commission was appointed to settle rebellion claims. The Government felt, that it was necessary to give the people of the North-west Territories representation in this House: so they at once put a Bill through to divide the Territories into electoral districts, and called for the election of representatives. It became necessary then, that the Government of that day should carry Saskatchewan. This was the best means to justify their action before the rebellion. They wanted to show this House and the country, that the people of Saskatchewan, the bone and sinew of that district, had nothing to complain of. If the Government succeeded in the election, they would be able to say: Why, they have sent a Conservative to represent them in this House; and, if they had had any grievances, they would not have done that. So they appointed a rebellion claims commission, and on that commission they appointed a gentleman named McKay, who lives in my district. Mr. McKay was getting \$15 a day. We find that previously to the elections he was occupied electioneering in the district of Saskatchewan for three months, and during all that time he was getting \$15 a day. We find also that notwithstanding that that was in the good old prohibition days when there was not supposed to be any whisky in the North-west Territories for the rank and file, at least, still Mr. McKay came up with a great supply of whisky with which to educate the poor half-breeds in that district how they should vote, because it was the first opportunity they had of using the franchise. I asked the question of the Minister the other day, and received the answer

that during all this time Mr. McKay was getting \$15 a day, and was paid his travelling expenses from Ottawa to the district of Saskatchewan and return. Well, we find that after he got through with this beautiful work that he had been performing up there, he was swelling around with all the importance of a rebellion claims commissioner. He was the man for the half-breeds; of course he could exercise a great deal of influence about election time. This gentleman was rebellion claims commissioner, and he could promise this and that. Now what do we find among those who put in claims? We find that many of these half-breeds, although they might have been in the rebellion, although they might have been rebels, if you wish, some of them got paid to the extent of \$20,000, while other good honest settlers, men who had taken up arms to assist in suppressing the rebellion, could not get one cent. But then this gentleman had influence amongst the half-breeds, and the election was coming on. I have here, Sir, a list of claims that were paid, and it is easy to find out who fed at the trough and who did not. We find by looking at this list a gentleman who was, I think, speaking subject to correction, a councillor in Riel's government; if he was not, some of his relations were. He gets \$6,461.63. Now that fellow was the biggest worker in Saskatchewan in favour of the Conservative candidate in that election, and why should he not be paid for it? We find another man named Eugene C. Boucher, he gets \$373. That is a very fair price. I find his brother, John Baptiste Boucher, gets something like the same amount. Another brother gets 300 odd dollars. In all, this family gets about \$1,000. The fact is that these men's father was Riel's high priest. These men were paid, while hundreds of other good people who had suffered in the rebellion, could not get one cent. But it all depended upon whom they were voting for at the time, and it happened that these gentlemen that I have alluded to voted in favour of the Conservative candidate.

Now there is another side to this question. We find that this man McKay, rebellion claims commissioner, had a terrible lot of relations. There was never a family in the Dominion before who had so many relations. We find in going through that list that every McKay in the district of Saskatchewan, with the exception of one or two, was paid his claim nearly in full; some of them were paid near \$5,000, men, who, to my knowledge, were never known to be wealthy. Still, they were talking Conservative and working Conservative, and they got paid. If you go through this whole list you will find men being paid, one after the other, who had been connected with the rebellion. Take this man Batoche, he got \$20,000. Mr. Batoche was right there, and had his house and everything. If he did not take an active part in the rebellion, it was not that his intentions

were not good, but it was because he did not like cold lead. I have heard that Batoche was in the habit at that time of furnishing arms and ammunition to forward the rebellion. Where did all these new Winchester rifles come from? Mr. Batoche had something to do with it. Still he was a loyal man, and he got \$20,000. I do not know what he got \$20,000 for. I venture to say that everything he lost, if he lost anything, he gathered it up and sold it after the thing was all over. He knew what was taking place. I venture to say that he left very little for anybody to take in his house when the rebels came. Still, he got \$20,000. I know another gentleman that had a small store near Batoche, by the name of Baker. His store was not more than 20 by 20 feet square. He had a stock of goods that he had been selling out the whole winter long. The balance of his stock was taken by the rebels, and I am sure the whole of it could have been taken away in a couple of cartloads. But this gentleman gets \$13,000, or nearer \$14,000, and he is a good Conservative. Now, let us come to another man by the name of Clinkskill. Clinkskill was another good worker in election time—he claimed \$31,602.92., and he was paid \$24,378. Two McKays put in a claim for \$5,226.98, and they were allowed \$4,740.98, very nearly the whole claim. I venture to say that they never had that much stuff in their lives. Here is another man in Battleford, John G. Oliver, a man who was wealthy. He puts in a fair and legitimate claim for \$16,539.43. But he happened to be a Liberal, and he was allowed \$589, without any cents. They wanted it to look well, so left out the cents. Now let us go on a little further. Here we find a Mr. Parker. He puts in a claim for \$1,244, and gets \$730. I am sure that is a fortune for Mr. Parker. I never heard of him having that much property in his life. He has been a good, faithful supporter of the late Administration ever since that day. We might go on and find hundreds and hundreds of such cases. I will give a few more because I want to make comparisons. Here is a gentleman by the name of Robert Jefferson, of Battleford, a good, honest man, who put in a modest claim for \$309, and he gets nothing. He did not belong to the faithful. Then we go on and find another man named P. G. Laurier. He put in a modest claim for about \$55, and he got the whole amount. He belonged to the faithful. Here is another gentleman named Malcolm Macdonald, a very good man but he happened to belong to the wrong side of politics. He put in a bill for \$285, and got nothing. We find that H. McRae put in a claim for \$40, and got nothing, another Liberal. Here is a gentleman by the name of Joseph Nolan. Now, there is Joseph Nolin, who put in a claim for \$516, and got \$380.25. Then, there was Duncan Nolin, who put in a claim for \$667.25 and got \$332.25. So it went on that

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any man who happened to belong to the right side got his claim paid. Pierre O'Kenass, who happened to belong to the wrong side, in a claim for \$208, and got nothing at all. This is pock-marked all through; where there is a Liberal to be found he got nothing at all, while others were paid, if not in full, as much as they would be allowed to pay them. There is the case of Geo. Pichette, who put in for \$50, and got nothing at all. This is a very honest old man, whom I know very well, and I think, judging from the size of his claim, \$50, he probably did not put in a claim for what he had not lost. Here is a gentleman of the town of Prince Albert, a well known and respected man. I have gone over all these claims to show the men who were paid after the rebellion ended. Mr. J. C. Mackenzie, who came from Prince Edward Island, and who is a respectable man, sent his son to Duck Lake to fight in the ranks, when the rebellion broke out, to uphold law and order in the country, and who was killed in the fight. Mr. Mackenzie put in a small claim for \$25, and it was not allowed, but on the other hand it was thrown out. That is the way the settlement of these claims took place in the Saskatchewan district. This man McKay, of course, looked after his own relations. As I mentioned before in this House, there were two widows up there who put in claims—one McKay and the other Kennedy; but only the claim made by McKay got paid. Mr. McKay, after the claim was paid, tried to explain it by saying: "How could the rebels have got any of the Kennedy property when they never came near the Kennedy place?" My answer was: "How did the rebels come to jump over the Kennedy place to go about ten miles further on and take the property of the Widow McKay? They must have jumped over her property to get it." He did not answer that. This is the way a great many of these claims have been settled. Now, there are a great many Scotch half-breeds in that country. The whole of these people took up arms for the Government as soon as they were asked, and, I may say, that when they arrived in the town of Prince Albert they were not treated very well. The organization there was not the best in the world; in fact, I never saw such an organization. I know that a portion of the battalion was armed with clubs, and it is a good thing that there is lots of timber in Saskatchewan, for, otherwise, they would not have been able to arm themselves. A gentleman told me a story which goes to illustrate the class of officers that we had in the Saskatchewan at that time, members of the family compact, as I said on a previous occasion in this House. A certain important colonel was in charge. One of those citizens, who was armed with a stick, said to the colonel: "I have been assigned to keep guard in this

end of the town; what shall I do?" The colonel, in all his dignity, drew himself up, and said: "Sir, go out, and if you meet the enemy engage him, and fall back on your support." The Scotch half-breeds stood loyally by the Government, but when the question of the settlement of their claims came up, they were not treated with fairness or with justice. If a commission were appointed to look into that matter, a fair and honest commission, I think I would be able to prove that these parties have not been treated honestly and fairly as they should have been treated by the Government of that day. They all took up arms, and assisted in putting down the rebellion, and they all lost more or less. All of them have put in modest claims; except this family of McKays. I have heard a story that four of these McKays put in claims for the ox, and that when they got paid they ate the ox. I do not know whether that is true or not, but I give it as I have heard it. These half-breeds are honest people. I think, from my knowledge of them, that they have put in no claims but those which are just and honest, and they should receive some attention; at least, they should be informed as to why these claims were thrown out, although they did not see their way clear to support the Government of the day. This question has been brought forward time and time again in this House, and I hope the Government will see to it that something is done to investigate these claims. I do not wish that anybody who has not a just claim should be paid, but I think that, in justice, these claims should be looked into, and that all that are well-founded should be paid. Take the case of my friend Mr. Bremner. There is a case that the Government should have dealt with at once. This question was before this House, and a committee of this House, in both of which bodies it was discussed. A committee of this House found that \$4,374.66 worth of this man's property had been looted, or stolen, or whatever you may wish to call it, and, up to this time, he has not been paid a cent. We have the best evidence in the "Hansard" in regard to this claim. Sir Adolphe Caron, in replying to Mr. Blake, said:

Now, I wish to state in the most frank and open way possible, that I consider the action of General Middleton is the result of a most unfortunate error of judgment on his part. It is stated in the report, and I know that when the General himself, Sir Frederick Middleton, after obtaining the information which, unfortunately for himself, he did not possess at the time, discovered that, through his error of judgment, he had committed an act which he himself to-day admits to be an illegal one, no one more than himself regretted what had been done.

He says further:

I have admitted that it was due to an unfortunate error of judgment on the part of the General that that order was given.

But I have here better evidence than that, the evidence of Sir John Macdonald, who, in discussing this question, said:

However, in this case, the General was decidedly in the wrong. My hon. friend from West Durham (Mr. Blake) has proved, beyond a doubt, if proof were required, that Sir Frederick Middleton's conduct deserves the verdict which has been passed upon it, and passed upon it, I think, in as strong language as could well be used. It is quite clear that the General acted wrongly and illegally, and that the strong language of the committee was perfectly justified. Still, I would be charitable enough to believe that the confiscation of the goods was an error of judgment; but as to the appropriation of the goods, it seems to me, that was not an error of judgment.

That is what Sir John Macdonald says, and it is admitted on all hands, that this property was taken from Bremner. He has been trying, time and again, to get a settlement of the claim which has been brought before this House. I myself brought it up two sessions ago, but nothing has been done, and I desire to say, in this connection, that as long as I am a member of this House, I intend to bring this matter up until this man is honestly and fairly dealt with. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to take up any more of the time of the House than I have already taken up, but I do want to say that, in the interest of everybody in this country, I think the best thing that the Government can do is to take immediate steps to settle all these postponed grievances amongst these people in the Northwest Territories. We all know that we have spent large sums of money in getting immigrants into that country, and we are all anxious that the people of Canada should get some return from this expenditure which has been made in that country, but, as long as we keep all these old sores open, this agitation is going to go on in this House and in the press of the country and is going to keep immigrants from going into that country. There is no question about that. More than that, it is going to have the effect of preventing capital being invested in that country. There is a very small amount in dispute, for I do not suppose that if these claims were investigated it would take very much to satisfy these people and satisfy them once for all. In the interest of the country in general, it should be done and should be done promptly. I am glad to see that the Government are taking a step in the right direction by settling with the half-breeds of the Athabasca district. The present Government in power are not doing as the late Government did, but they are settling with half-breeds up to the year 1885. I believe that the action of the Government in this matter will commend itself to the House and to the country. I do hope that after they have got through with their labours in the Athabasca district, the Government will see fit to instruct the commissioners to go into the district of the Saskatchewan, and to gather evi-

dence which I know would prove that a large and important section of the people of that country have been wrongfully treated by the late Administration in the settlement of these claims. I believe it will not be hard to establish that. It is common talk; it has got to be a laughing-stock in Saskatchewan, the way some of these people have been treated. Up to the day the hon. gentlemen opposite ceased to be in power and went into Opposition, some of these men, supporters of the late Government, were coming forward with claims. I find my old friend Mr. Batoche was not satisfied with \$20,000, but that he got another nice little pull out of the public treasury in the shape of three or four thousand dollars for an old and dilapidated building that he sold to the Government just before the elections of 1896. That old building is not worth 25 cents to anybody. As was shown, in reply to my question the other day, Mr. Batoche got this money while the Government were contemplating the building of a barracks, and had some of the material for the building on the ground. Mr. Batoche had the influence with the late Government and he got the money. It is the duty of this Government to see that the people up there should be treated fairly and honestly. All we ask is for fair and square British justice, and nothing more. I may say, that although these half-breeds may have a bad reputation with some of our friends on the Opposition benches, it is undoubtedly true that they have rendered many and valuable services to Canada. If we have been able to take peaceable possession of that great territory, running from the Red River to the Rocky Mountains, without a drop of bloodshed, as far as the greater Indian tribes, the Bloods, the Blackfeet and others are concerned—if we have been able to do that, we may thank the half-breeds of the North-west Territories for it. They have been the pioneers of civilization there, they have used their good influence with the Indians of that country, and for that reason we have been able to take peaceable possession, as contrasted with the trouble which our friends of the American republic had in a similar mission. The Americans had that trouble and bloodshed, because they had not the same class of half-breeds as we had in Canada, to exercise their good influence in favour of the Government. The people of this country should, I hold, take into consideration the great services which these half-breeds and their fathers have rendered to Canada. The Government should at once take this matter up, investigate all the claims, and when they find that a man has an honest claim, he should be paid. I do not care whether the man be a Conservative, a Patron of Industry, or a Liberal; if he has a just claim, that claim should be paid irrespective of his political opinions. I move for these papers, and I hope that the Government will take the matter into their earnest consideration and deal justly and leniently with the

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people of the Saskatchewan, as these people deserve.

Mr. FRANK OLIVER (Alberta). Mr. Speaker, I wish to say a word on behalf of this claim of Mr. Bremner, and to emphasize the difference between that claim and a large number of those mentioned by the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis). Most of the claims mentioned by him have no direct connection with the district which I represent, but the claim of Mr. Bremner has now to some extent, inasmuch as Mr. Bremner is now a resident of my constituency. In regard to a large number of those claims, there may be a dispute as to the amount, as to their circumstances, and as to the justice of acknowledging them; but I wish to emphasize, that there is no question whatever in regard to the legality, the circumstances, or the amount of Mr. Bremner's claims. These points have all been settled, and the only point that has not been settled is, that Mr. Bremner has not been paid. I am at a loss to understand why the payment to him has not been made, and it would be interesting to know the reason why. Mr. Bremner was arrested on the charge of being a rebel, and his goods were taken in charge by the authorities pending his trial for treason. The trial was held, Bremner was acquitted, but the goods in the meantime had disappeared. Now, the claim of Bremner against the Government is simply this: He asks payment for goods taken out of his possession, and taken charge of by the Government, supposedly for him. Had it been proven that he was a rebel, then his goods would properly have become the property of the Crown; but as Bremner was not proven to be a rebel, the goods should have been returned to him. They were not returned, and he asks the value of them. It is no concern of Bremner's that employees of the Government stole these goods. He does not care what became of them; all he knows is, that they were taken in charge from him by the Government, and he asks payment for them. The matter has been tried out and settled in Bremner's favour before a committee of the House, and I repeat that I would like to know why Mr. Bremner has not been paid. I now press upon the Government the desirability and propriety of paying him. By reason of this occurrence, Mr. Bremner is to-day practically a pauper. He is past the age when he can help himself, and I say, it is—well, I do not want to use strong language, but you can all figure for yourselves. This old man has a just claim against the Government of the country; he is to-day a pauper because the money owing to him by the country has not been paid.

In regard to the matter of half-breed scrip, I will take just a minute to mention to the House the condition which prevails in the North-west Territories. The Government long ago decided that the half-breeds of the country were entitled to scrip in consideration of their relationship to the

Indians. That scrip was issued to them on the basis of the date at which the country was taken over by the Government from the Hudson Bay Company, that is to say, all half-breeds living in 1870 were held to be entitled to scrip. Had the scrip been issued to all the half-breeds in 1870, there would not have been any complications. The first scrip in Manitoba was not issued until several years after that, and, when it was issued, it was issued only to those living in 1870. As some of those who were living in 1870 had died before the scrip was issued, it was issued to their heirs. Scrip was not issued to the half-breeds of the North-west Territories until 1885, and then it was issued on the basis of those who were living in 1870. No scrip was issued to half-breeds who were born between 1870 and 1885. Now, the half-breeds of the Territories claim, it seems to me very reasonably, that they were entitled to payment up to date—that in view of the fact that they were not paid for their original right to the land in 1870, at the time at which they became entitled to payment, they were entitled to payment up to the date at which they received payment, that is, up to 1885; and upon that case they base a claim for an additional issue of scrip. They claim that they have not received their rights—that their title has not been extinguished unless they receive scrip up to the time of the settlement in 1885.

In regard to the Athabasca treaty now being made, I am not aware what arrangement the Government is making in that matter; but I consider that it is more than desirable that the issue of scrip should be on the basis of the half-breeds living at the time of the payment of the scrip, instead of at the time of the transfer of the land from the Hudson Bay Company. The purpose of the issue of scrip is to satisfy the minds of living half-breeds that they have been justly dealt with by the Government; and I submit that it is not a proposition which appeals to the half-breed to say that a man who died twenty years ago was entitled to scrip, whereas the man living to-day is not entitled to a settlement at all. I say the settlement should be on the basis of the living, and not the dead. It should not be on the basis of a date of which the half-breeds know little and care less. If it is a settlement with them, it should be a settlement in regard to them, and not with reference to the transfer made by the Hudson Bay Company to the Dominion of Canada, with which the half-breeds have nothing to do, and of which they know absolutely nothing. I again press upon the Government the desirability of making the issue of scrip to the half-breeds of the North-west Territories at least up to 1885, and the issue to the half-breeds of the Athabasca district up to date.

Mr. P. MACDONALD (East Huron). Mr. Speaker, before you put the motion, I wish

to express an opinion upon this question. It is a question to which I gave considerable attention when it first arose, and I have always deemed it one of the most scandalous transactions that every took place in this country. The half-breeds of the North-west were not properly and honestly dealt with. They put in their claims for years before 1885, when they were forced to rebel; and had I been a half-breed in that country and owned land, and had I been dealt with as the half-breeds were dealt with, I certainly would have been a rebel, and would have taken up arms to defend my own fireside and my own family and children, even against the militia of Canada. Time and again the half-breeds sent deputations to Ottawa for the purpose of representing to the then Government their claims to a proper settlement. Their petitions and other documents which were sent here year after year were simply pigeon-holed in the departments here, and were never considered at all; and the half-breeds were threatened to be deprived of the property to which they had a right. Ultimately their loyalty ceased to exist, and they broke out in rebellion, as we all would have done if our property had been seized in such a way. They knew not what to do. They had no leader, and they went to the United States and got Riel to take charge of their affairs, and a rebellion took place which cost this country six or seven million dollars. If it had been proven that the half-breeds had not just rights or claims, they would have certainly been to blame; but after the rebellion was over, after so much blood was shed, and so many of our volunteers had lost their lives on the prairies in the spring of 1885—after all that, and not before, the Government sent a commission to investigate this question; and what are the facts? That no less than 2,200 claims put in by the half-breeds were settled, which was an admission that they had claims to settle, and in my opinion justified the action taken by those men on that occasion. During that rebellion many friends of the Government, who would not rebel, though suffering as much as Mr. Bremner and others, lost their private property, which was taken from them by parties in high rank in the militia; and I hold that the Government should justly and equitably settle the claims of these men. In 1891, while it was proven in the committee which sat for the purpose of investigating this matter, that Mr. Bremner's property was actually taken from him, it was admitted by General Middleton that the property had been taken, and that it was an error of judgment on his part. But whether it was an error of judgment or an error of conscience on his part, it was all the same to Mr. Bremner; he lost his property, and, therefore, if the late Government did not perform its duty in discharging its obligation to Mr. Bremner, it is the duty of the present Government to pay him for that

property which was thus illegally taken from him. I hold that if there are any other claims made by the half-breeds in the country, it would pay the country well to appoint a commission to ascertain what those claims are. I am sure the present Government will settle those claims and establish peace and harmony among those people. If we settle their claims and thus remove every source of irritation, we shall find that those people will be more loyal and more attached to the country; while, on the other hand, if they find that the white people and the white Parliament will not listen to their proper claims, they certainly will not be in a frame of mind to abide by the laws and constitution of the country, as they otherwise would. Therefore, I feel confident the Government will take up these claims, deal with them justly and restore that harmony and peace among these people we all desire should prevail among them.

Mr. DOMVILLE. I do not know much about the question, but I know—and I speak as a friend of General Middleton, who is dead—that, although there was a good deal of blame attached to him in this country, when he went back to the old country, the highest honour was paid to him that the sovereign could well pay to one holding the position he did. I have no doubt that General Middleton never got any of those furs, but that the people around Ottawa got them and should pay for them. If there was any wrong done in taking these furs—and on that point, let us say, that, when you go into an enemy's country, these people whom you are sent to subdue, and who were not behaving as they should, have to take what they get—I would desire, that my hon. friend went further and asked for an investigation to find out what people got these furs, and I am sure, that he will find, that the people who did get them are perfectly able to pay for them, and perhaps are in Ottawa to-day.

Mr. D. C. FRASER (Guysborough). As I took part in the discussion in 1891 on that subject, I would like to say a few words with regard to it. If my recollection serves me right, General Middleton admitted that he got the furs; but whether he kept them or gave them to other people, the presumption is clear, that he took them, and somebody is responsible for his acts. This Parliament voted him for his services quite a large amount of money, and we have here a man whose property was taken, and who was a peaceable citizen, just as good a subject as any man in this House—

Mr. WALLACE. He was nothing of the kind.

Mr. FRASER. That was the evidence anyway. There was nothing of the rebel about this man whose property was taken, and I submit, that, even if it were shown, that he sympathized with the rebels or was one of them, that was no excuse for taking his

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron).

property. That is not civilized warfare, and there can be no argument as to the question, that he ought to be compensated for the loss he was made to suffer. No modern civilized army goes into a country for purposes of that kind, and no civilized army would be guilty of forcibly taking the property of the people, unless stress of circumstances compelled them to forcibly take food, when they could not get any otherwise. No British army will go into any country to-day and take food without paying for it, even from their enemies. That is a thing British soldiers would scorn to do. But this was the case of a peaceable man, who did not join the rebellion, though he may have sympathized with it. Every one has his own ideas on these questions, and to sympathize with a cause does not necessarily make a man a rebel. I have met at Prince Albert Englishmen, Scotchmen and Irishmen who told me, that at that time they were ready and willing to sacrifice their lives in favour of the half-breeds, so strongly were their sympathies with these people, and so indignant were they at the treatment to which they had been subjected. These half-breeds were not opposing the Canadian Government or British institutions, but were law-abiding and peaceable citizens, fighting for what they considered their rights. At Prince Albert I came across a very intelligent man, a countryman of my own, who said he had come out from Scotland to that country, and had lived there ten years, and he told me, that, from his experience with these half-breeds, they were quiet, law-abiding citizens until exasperated beyond bounds; and I venture to say, there is not a province or county in Canada in which, if you were to try and take the land from the people who were tilling it and who were depending on it for the livelihood of their families, you would not find them uprising to prevent their being despoiled of their lands; and they would not be true British subjects if they acted otherwise. There is not a man in this Parliament who is fit to be a member of it, if he would not rise and fight for his household goods and lands, if an attempt was unjustly made to deprive him of them. These half-breeds were cultivating their lands peaceably; and though, no doubt, their system of cultivation was not equal to that followed in the other provinces, still they were tilling the soil according to their own light, and, when the Government refused to acknowledge their rights, they took what they considered the most effective means of vindicating them. I do not propose to bring up again the wrongs which both parties admit were committed on these people, but the fact remains, that we gave them redress even after they failed in arms. Certainly, the man whose property was thus unjustly taken, should be compensated for his loss, and I maintain, that the Government which is at the back of the men who took his furs, are responsible. The hon. gentleman (Mr

Domville) talked about our having an investigation to find out who got the furs. Well, that is out of the question. We cannot issue a circulating commission to go round and examine every lady who happens to walk about the street with a fur sacque on, and make her prove that she did not get it from General Middleton: but we ought, none the less, to do justice to this man, by admitting our responsibility for the acts of General Middleton, as representative of the Government. Whether he kept these furs himself, or gave them away, does not affect the case at all, so far as indemnity to this poor man is concerned. When the Government failed to make General Middleton give back the articles taken, they condoned his act, and became responsible, and there is nothing left for us to do but to give redress.

Mr. DOMVILLE. The hon. gentleman is mistaken. General Middleton never took the furs.

Mr. FRASER. He confessed he did.

Mr. DOMVILLE. I never saw it.

Mr. FRASER. The hon. gentleman was not in the House at the time, and, if my memory serves me right, General Middleton confessed he had part of them.

Mr. DOMVILLE. Oh, no.

Mr. FRASER. If the hon. gentleman will look up the records, he will find that I am correct. I was a member of the committee that sat on the matter. I do not care who got the furs, General Middleton took them, and this Government is responsible. Is it to be argued, that, because General Middleton did not keep the furs himself, this man is not to be compensated? Why, the Government might as well send out a dozen of thieves to plunder, and then, because these thieves have parted with the plunder and somebody else got the goods, say that they should escape and that the Government were not responsible. This is a just and equitable claim, and this Government can better afford to pay such a claim a thousand times than to refuse to do so. The country is able to pay it, and ought to do so, and, by doing so, we will teach a lesson to any other pilferers in a new country, by showing them that the country will not stand such conduct. I trust that the Government will see their way clear to remedy the wrong done. It is nothing short of theft, when a man takes property that does not belong to him, and such conduct is not condoned even by the rules of savage warfare.

Mr. T. O. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). As regards the plea put forth by the hon. member for King's, N.B. (Mr. Domville), that we are not sure that these furs were appropriated by General Middleton, and that, if an investigation were held, it would be found some other people in the city had these furs, let me just read a short quotation from the

speech of Sir Adolphe Caron, who was then Minister of Militia, which he made during the debate on that subject, on the 12th May, 1890. This is what Sir Adolphe Caron said:

I repeat, from what the General has told me, that he is prepared, after a proper valuation of the furs is arrived at, to indemnify the persons who may be shown to be entitled to that portion of them which he is supposed to have received, or which is supposed to have been removed on his order.

That shows that General Middleton acknowledged himself that he got possession of the furs, and there can therefore be no question on that point at all. But up to the present this poor man has not been paid for those furs. And whatever may have been the intention of General Middleton or any other gentleman, the fact remains that here we are some nine years after the question was discussed in the House of Commons, and up to the present time, that man has not had restitution of a single penny. Yet, his has been recognized as a fair and justifiable claim and one that should be honoured. What could he have done, under the circumstances, other than what he did do? He had his furs and he saw that the rebellion was on and the Indians were there. He did what any man would have done, as I have said—he sent his property, for safe-keeping, to the Government officials.

Mr. A. McNEILL (North Bruce). If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis) will excuse me for interrupting him, I would like to say that he is mistaken. He misapprehends what occurred. The furs were confiscated, they were not handed over by the owner to the custody of the officers of the Government. It was believed that this man, Bremner, was actively assisting the rebels, and so his furs were confiscated. That is how they came into possession of General Middleton. The hon. gentleman is quite right in saying that some of these furs were afterwards taken from the police barracks—I think it was the police barracks—and a parcel or two parcels made up for General Middleton, and one for Mr. Hayter Reed, and one, I think, for some one else. In point of fact these furs never reached General Middleton's hands. Of course, that does not much matter. Still, General Middleton never got them.

Mr. DAVIS. It seems to me that the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill) has made Bremner's case a great deal stronger than it was before. If the agent of this Government confiscated the property of a man who is not a rebel and made away with that property, it seems to me that Government is in duty bound to see that the man is recompensed. I did not know that General Middleton or any other person who was in control of the furs had any right or power to confiscate them for themselves.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I would

like the hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) to tell the House who confiscated the furs, and by what power or authority?

Mr. McNEILL. My hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) will understand that I am simply endeavouring to give the facts. Whether it makes the case stronger or weaker, I only desire that the facts should be made clear. As I have stated, it is not the fact that this man handed the furs over to the charge of any one representing the Government. The furs were, rightly or wrongly, confiscated—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. By whom?

Mr. McNEILL. General Middleton ordered them to be confiscated, according to my recollection. I may say that I was chairman of the committee that inquired—

Mr. DAVIS. Where were the furs when they were confiscated?

Mr. McNEILL. My recollection is that the furs were confiscated by General Middleton's orders. Whether—and the question turned largely on that—whether he had the right to confiscate them or not, I am almost positive I am correct in saying it was done by his orders. But the record of the proceedings of the committee would establish the point. There was a good deal of discussion, I think, as to whether there was any power on the part of an officer employed, as General Middleton was employed, to confiscate, and I think the opinion was generally held that he had not such authority.

Mr. WOOD. In whose charge were the furs?

Mr. McNEILL. The furs were taken from this man Bremner. It was considered by General Middleton and those who were engaged at that time in putting down the uprising there, that this man was really a rebel. I do not know that that ever was fully investigated; but there is no doubt at all, I think, that that was their opinion and belief at the time. According to my recollection there was no proof that Bremner had taken an active part in any encounter with our troops. Still, the belief was that he was actually abetting the rebels, and his furs were confiscated in consequence.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) allow me to ask him a question?

Mr. McNEILL. Yes.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Did the Government of the day take the position the hon. gentleman does, that these furs were confiscated?

Mr. McNEILL. I do not know what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) means by "confiscated." I am not using the term in any technical sense. My recollection is, the furs were taken by the authority of General

Mr. McNEILL.

Middleton out of the hands of this man Bremner and put in the police barracks at Battleford. I do not know whether that is "confiscation" or not.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I was not in the House at the time, as the hon. gentleman knows. But I think that the Government of that day recommended to Parliament to vote compensation to Bremner to some extent.

Mr. McNEILL. I do not recollect.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. If the Government did recommend a vote to compensate him, the Government can hardly have held that the furs were confiscated.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I think I can explain, as I recollect the facts very well. This man Bremner had been trading in the north in the winter of 1885. He was arrested with the band of Poundmaker. But he gave an explanation to the effect that he was coming from the north and was not a rebel. At all events he was treated as a rebel at the time. The furs were taken from him and sent to Battleford. Then Mr. Hayter Reed, pretending to act on the authority of General Middleton, took away the furs from Battleford, under the plea of confiscation, as I understood. But, as my hon. friend said, it was a question whether, under such circumstances, the case having occurred in Canada and not in a foreign country, there could be such a thing as confiscation. But, however that might be, the pretense was confiscation. The confiscation was never reported to the authorities, and, for my part, I cannot see that there is any confiscation until there is a report to the authorities. The result was that Bremner lost his furs—there is no doubt about that. I think the result also was to show that Bremner was not a rebel.

Mr. McNEILL. When I used the word "confiscation" I did not make use of it in a technical legal sense. I meant that General Middleton had had the furs taken from the man and put into the police barracks.

The PRIME MINISTER. It was done in General Middleton's name, but I do not think he did it.

Mr. McNEILL. I think my hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) is thinking of something else. Later on the parcels of furs were taken away, and whether at the request or with the authority of General Middleton or otherwise was a question. The committee found that it was with General Middleton's authority that some of these furs were taken away. I think there were, as I have said, three or four parcels of furs made up and sent away. These furs never reached General Middleton or anybody else, so far as I remember. They must have been stolen on the way.

Mr. DOMVILLE. Has the hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) any idea where the furs went to? I am asking without prejudice and for information.

Mr. McNEILL. I have no idea where they went to. The evidence was that they were—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order. I would remind hon. gentlemen that the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) has the floor.

Mr. DAVIS. I may say in reply to the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill) that it does not make much difference whether these furs were confiscated or not. The fact remains that the man lost his furs. I believe, and I was in the country at that time, that the furs were sent by Bremner for safe-keeping to Battleford. When these officers got them in their possession, of course, it was an easy matter to confiscate them. But I do not believe that even if they had the right to confiscate the furs, that would give General Middleton the right to appropriate those furs for his own use. I was under the impression that if anything was confiscated it went to the Government, and I do not think any person has a right to put it into his own pocket. The hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver) said, in discussing this question, that if Mr. Bremner was a rebel, the Government could have confiscated his property, but he says that he was no rebel. I may say that I do not take that ground at all; I do not think the parties sent up there had any right to confiscate any man's goods, and if they took a man's property and used it for the purposes of the Government, or the troops in the service of the Government, the Government are in duty bound to pay for that property to the proper parties. If a man was a rebel, and the Government arrested him, and he was found guilty, he ought to be punished, but that does not give anybody the right to deprive his wife and children of the property that should belong to them. It did not give the troops the right to burn these people's houses over their own heads, as was done in Saskatchewan. I say that these men, being the agents of the Dominion Government, should be held accountable for their acts, and this Government should be prepared to settle any claims of that kind. It does not make any difference to me what hon. gentlemen opposite may say; call it confiscation or stealing, that is a matter of opinion. The fact still remains that Mr. Bremner lost his property, and it has been proved that that property was taken by Government officials, officials who were acting for the Government under those hon. gentlemen opposite, and Mr. Bremner has not been paid to this day. Now, I say this account should be paid, and I hope the present Government will take this question into their serious consideration and investigate

it. I hope they will see not only that Mr. Bremner is paid his just claim, but that they will investigate all the other claims and find out those that are just and pay them. It is time that this agitation was stopped. The previous Government had already had one rebellion in Manitoba, and one would think that it would have given them experience enough to settle this question once for all. If they had appointed their commissioners before they sent up their soldiers, there would have been no rebellion. That country is filling up rapidly, settlers are pouring into that country by the thousand. It is time this thing was settled. I hope that the Government will not only settle favourably the rebellion claims, but also the scrip claims, so that we may have done with these difficulties, and settle on a permanent basis all these half-breed questions in the North-west Territories.

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

#### After Recess.

#### A CANADIAN MINT.

Mr. W. W. B. McINNES (Vancouver) moved:

That in the opinion of this House it is desirable and expedient that the Government should, at the earliest possible date, establish a mint in Canada, for the purpose of coining all the gold, silver and copper currency necessary to meet the commercial requirements of the country.

He said: As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, the question of establishing a mint in Canada has been discussed off and on for a number of years. Of late years the question has received an increased interest and importance on account of the extensive gold discoveries in our country, and the generally satisfactory condition of our mining properties. In this discussion, it has been contended by those in favour of a mint, and the contention has been generally concurred in, that the establishment of such an institution would be a material step in advance in our national life, that it would to some extent stimulate a national sentiment in the country, that it would prove a splendid advertisement to our mineral wealth, and in such like ways prove of general advantage to the country. I think we will all agree that a mint, as an abstract institution, is a desirable, if not a necessary, part of a fully organized government, and that if it can be conclusively shown that the establishment of a mint in Canada would not involve any drain upon the public exchequer, and would not lead to any monetary difficulties, there would practically be no objection to its establishment. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, assuming that these points are admitted, I do not intend, in my discussion of this motion, to deal with what

you might call the semi-sentimental aspect of it. I think it will be more profitable to the House if I present a few practical facts which, I think, will show conclusively that a mint can be established in Canada, not only without loss to the exchequer, but that, as a matter of fact, from the date of its commencement it would be a very large revenue-producer; and more, that it would be of material assistance to the trade and commerce of the country.

The first proposition which I would like to make along this line is that the process of minting is an exceedingly profitable one. The profit is derived from the minting of what you might call the token coin, that is, coins in silver, copper and nickel. There is no profit in the minting of gold coin, because, as hon. members understand, gold is worth its weight, whether it has the currency stamp upon it or is bullion. But with regard to the other metals, there is a very large profit in minting them. You will readily understand that if you can buy a certain amount of silver for 60 cents, and by simply putting the Government stamp of currency upon it, increase its value immediately to 100 cents, there must be a very large profit in that kind of business. Now, to give you some idea of the very large profits which some countries have derived from minting, I will quote a few facts taken from the report of the Director of Mints for the United States for the year 1896. That report, which is the latest one to which I have had access, shows that the profit to the United States on minting silver in that year alone amounted to no less than \$2,503,056. Between the years 1878 and 1896, the profits derived by the United States from minting silver amounted to the enormous sum of \$78,145,603. So much for the profit which has been made in the United States. Coming to Canada, we find that our Government has also taken advantage of the process and has derived a very considerable revenue from having its currency manufactured. We have only silver and copper currency; we have no gold, and I think it is a very humiliating position for a country to be in that we have to depend upon a foreign country entirely for our gold coin. I know of no other country in the world of anything like the same importance as Canada which occupies the same position. Our silver coin is minted in the royal mint, and our copper coin is minted by a private firm in Birmingham in the old country. I have a statement, which has been furnished by the Finance Department, showing the amount of silver and copper coined for Canada from the years 1882 to 1896, inclusive, together with the profit which has accrued to the Government from the coining of the amounts which I shall give. I regret that I have to read it, but it is the only way to get it on "Hansard," and it contains some valuable information. It is as follows:—

Mr. McINNES.

Table showing amount of silver and copper coin minted for Canada from 1882 to 1896, and the profit thereon.

| Year.      | Silver.     | Copper.   | Profit.      |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1882 ..... | \$650,000   | \$20,000  | \$110,321 94 |
| 1883 ..... | 500,000     | 20,000    | 69,364 26    |
| 1884 ..... | 300,000     | 20,900    | 65,695 66    |
| 1885 ..... | 130,000     | 25,000    | 33,007 70    |
| 1886 ..... | 185,000     | 15,000    | 55,150 11    |
| 1887 ..... | 260,000     | 15,000    | 82,194 17    |
| 1888 ..... | 180,000     | 40,000    | 75,826 08    |
| 1889 ..... | 186,585     | Nil.      | 53,774 33    |
| 1890 ..... | 155,000     | 10,000    | 49,763 26    |
| 1891 ..... | 190,000     | 10,000    | 34,821 88    |
| 1892 ..... | 398,000     | 16,525    | 132,517 08   |
| 1893 ..... | 160,000     | 10,000    | 67,924 40    |
| 1894 ..... | 144,529     | 20,000    | 83,454 60    |
| 1895 ..... | Nil.        | 12,000    | 8,678 33     |
| 1896 ..... | 140,000     | 10,000    | 76,608 22    |
|            | \$3,462,114 | \$242,525 | \$998,101.92 |

Now, this sum of \$998,101.92 is the profit which has come to the Government from having that amount of coin, which I have just stated here, manufactured. It is not the income, because we paid the royal mint for minting \$3,462,114 in silver \$103,863, being a percentage of 3 per cent, and we paid the Birmingham firm for minting our copper coin 10 per cent, or \$24,252. Now, I arrive at the total income from minting the amount of money which I have just stated by adding \$998,101.92 profit, and the expense of coining silver, \$103,863, and the expense of coining copper, \$24,252, which makes a total of \$1,126,216.92. This is the total income from the minting of coin which we have manufactured between 1882 and 1896. Now, inasmuch as commerce is expanding in this country, and as population is increasing, there is every reason to believe that in the future even a larger amount of coin will have to be supplied to carry on the ordinary purposes of trade, and so by dividing the income from the money which has been coined for fifteen years, we find that, for the past, it would have amounted to an annual average income of \$75,081.06; but, as I said, on account of the growth of commerce and the increase in population, we can fairly depend upon it that in future the income from the minting of silver and copper coin which will be necessary for commercial purposes, would be even larger than this amount, but, for the purpose of my calculation, we can assume that if we had a mint in Canada, there would be an annual income from it of \$75,081.06. As against that let us make an estimate of what the cost of the mint would be. We had a mint in Canada once, in New Westminster, in the province of British Columbia. A mint was established there many years ago, and I remember, when a boy, playing among its ruins. On account of a certain jealousy between the old colony of British Columbia and the old colony of Vancouver, the mint was closed after a very few pieces were struck from it. Although it was considered

a very well equipped mint, in those days, the cost was only \$20,000. A modern mint, of course, would cost more, and I have received figures from a firm in New England to the effect that a thoroughly modern mint, equipped in every particular and detail, could be obtained for \$25,000. A suitable building, could, no doubt, be erected for \$50,000, so that would give a total outlay of some \$75,000 to be accounted for and to be made up in some way. The interest and sinking fund on such a sum, I estimate, would be in the vicinity of \$3,750. For salaries and maintenance, and such like incidental expenses, the annual outlay would be, at the outside, \$12,000, so that for sinking fund and interest on the capital expenditure in the establishment of a mint, and the cost of maintaining it, you have an annual total of only \$15,750. If, as I have shown, the income from the mint in Canada would certainly be at least \$75,081.06, and if we assume that the annual expenses connected with the institution would be \$15,750, you will see, as a result, that you would secure an annual profit from the mint of \$59,331. I, therefore, submit that the proposition is clear, that a mint can be established in this country, can be maintained without being any loss at all to the exchequer; but that, on the contrary, if a mint is put in operation here, it would, as a matter of fact, be a very large revenue producer.

There is another practical aspect to this question to which I wish to refer briefly. Canada has been in the past a very great gold-producing country, and at the present time she is increasing in that respect. We have, up to date, produced in Canada a little over \$90,000,000 worth of gold. Eastern Canada is credited with some \$15,000,000; British Columbia produced some \$66,000,000, and the balance is practically from the Yukon. With the output from the Yukon for the present year, the figures will run up to over \$100,000,000 worth of gold. Now, it is not a pleasing fact to know, that practically every ounce of that \$90,000,000 worth of gold has been shipped out of this country, has gone to the republic to the south, and there received the stamp of the American eagle. If a mint had been in operation for some years past in Canada—I do not say, that all that \$90,000,000 worth of gold would have been minted in Canada, nor would all that gold bullion have remained in the country; but I believe it is fair to assume that a very large proportion of it would. And Sir, the fact of it being exported out of the country means a very material loss to the miner, who is the producer of that gold. It has been variously estimated, that the miner loses from 3 to 10 per cent of the gold, on account of the high rates of exchange, the cost of transportation, and the fact that he has to deal with the middleman, who is, in this case, the banker; for the banker, as a matter of fact, in the present instance, is nothing but a middleman between the miner

who produces and the market which is the mint. If a mint were established in Canada, therefore, and within easy access of the great gold-producing centres, there is no doubt at all but what this very heavy percentage upon the produce of our gold mines would not be lost, but would be retained in our country. Furthermore, if a large proportion of this gold bullion had been minted in Canada and had received the impress of the Canadian coin, I submit, that it would have had a very salutary effect in giving confidence to trade. I am aware, that many of those who are associated with banks, are not of that way of thinking, but nevertheless, I contend, that there is nothing like the sight of the yellow metal throughout the country and in all commercial transactions so calculated to give confidence to trade and to give the appearance of prosperity. Sir, the advantages of having a mint in connection with the government of a country are so apparent, that they have been availed of by nearly every civilized nation. In the leading British colonies throughout the world mints have been established. In Australia there have been two mints established for several years, one at Sydney and one at Melbourne. In India there are two mints, one at Calcutta and one at Bombay. These mints in the colonies of Australia and India have been established under constitutional difficulties, because, while these colonies are to some extent self-governing, they have not the full power of self-government which the colony of Canada has, and the mints which are established in these colonies are established merely as branches of the Royal Mint of England. But, Sir, under section 91, subsection 14, of our British North America Act, the federal Parliament is given ample authority to deal with the question, not only of currency, but also of coinage, so that there can be no possible doubt whatever that there is no constitutional difficulty in the way of establishing a mint in the Dominion.

Now, I am fully persuaded, that the great mass of the Canadian people are in favour of having a mint established. When this question was agitated some two or three years ago, forty-two boards of trade throughout the country passed resolutions strongly favouring the establishment of a Canadian mint. The only class of the community that I know of who have any possible objection to the establishment of a mint, are the bankers. Their motives in the matter of opposition can be very easily traced to self-interest, and in all cases of this kind, if it can be clearly shown, that it would be a decided advantage to a great majority of our people to have a mint, I submit, that the self-interest of a class should not for a minute prevail against the general welfare. But, I am happy to say, that even the bankers are gradually coming to the conclusion, that they have nothing to fear by the establishment of a mint in Can-

ada, and, within the last few months, one very large and influential association of bankers, after thoroughly considering the matter, passed a resolution in favour of a Canadian mint. I do not intend to burden this discussion by suggestions as to where a mint should be located, provided it is agreed to establish one; but, Sir, there can be no doubt, that a mint, in order to serve the purpose which is sought to be served, should clearly be located near to the place of the production of the gold. If a mint were established in the east, for instance, it is very clear, that the bulk of the gold being produced in the west, it would not be transported all the way across the continent, because the cost of transportation would be almost prohibitive, and the high rates of exchange and the delay would also be against it. If a mint were, we will say, established in Ottawa, it could not possibly compete with the mint at present operated in San Francisco. It is clear, that a mint, if established at all, should be established near the centre of production, namely, the gold centres of the west. Not only should it be established in the west, but those who may have to deal with the matter of locating it, will, I believe, sooner or later come to the conclusion, that the city of Nanaimo presents some unparalleled advantages for the location of that mint. However, we will leave that for the future. For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I think the time has certainly come when Canada can no longer postpone the establishment of a mint, either with credit to the country or credit to the Government, and I would earnestly urge upon the Ministry, that they take this matter into their very serious consideration.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Mr. Speaker, I do not imagine, that my hon. friend from Nanaimo (Mr. McInnes) has moved this resolution with any expectation of pressing it to a vote, his object, I imagine, being rather to invite the attention of the House to a question which is, in one sense, a new one, as we have not heard of it for several years now, and the agitation of which, no doubt he thinks, may at some future time bear fruit in the direction he has suggested to-night. I can well imagine that hon. members who may not have had the opportunity of giving any attention to the question, and who have only heard of the matter through the eloquent words of my hon. friend (Mr. McInnes), may easily be persuaded, that the establishment of a Canadian mint would be a very good thing. There is, however, another side to the question, and we would do well to bear it in mind. I am not disposed to take the ground that, under no conditions, would it be well to establish a mint in Canada, but I think a little consideration will show that, whatever we may do in the future, at present it would not be expedient to take the step which my hon. friend advocates. In the first place, I may say, that the adoption

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of this plan would, of necessity, contemplate the enlargement of our metallic currency, and this could not possibly be done without disturbing our present financial system. It will, I think, be admitted by the House, that we have at the present time a very perfect system of currency in Canada, and it would require very grave reasons indeed to justify us in introducing any change which might have the effect of disturbing that system.

Our currency system, though known as a paper currency, is a very convenient currency, and has a gold basis. Practically, it is a gold currency, because it has a sufficient reserve of gold behind it to guarantee its redemption under all probable circumstances; and I am afraid that to change it to a metallic currency would create much disturbance, and would not be to the advantage of Canada. My hon. friend has pointed out that there is a profit on the minting of silver and copper. He has very properly called attention to the fact that there is no profit in the minting of gold, because gold in the shape of bullion is worth as much as gold in the shape of coin. The stamp of the mint does not add anything to its value. My hon. friend says we can make a great deal of profit in minting silver and copper. If we could absorb an unlimited quantity of silver and copper coin, we might make a great deal of money by establishing a mint and turning out silver and copper coins. But there is a limit, which would very soon be reached, to the quantity of silver and copper coins that could be taken by the people; and if we exceeded that limit, we should soon have on our hands a depreciated silver and copper currency, which would not be desirable. It is only because the quantity of silver and copper coinage in the country is kept within the limits of safety that it retains its value. It is true, we make a considerable profit on this coinage, but to do that it is not necessary to have a mint of our own. Indeed, were we to adopt the policy of my hon. friend, we should lose a considerable part of the profit which we are now enjoying. The difference between the value of the silver used and the face value of the coin would remain; but now we have that coinage made at a very small cost by employing the facilities of the royal mint, whereas, if we attempted to run a mint of our own, we should find it a very expensive institution, and we should have a less profit by reason of the increased cost in the minting of the money. According to my hon. friend's figures, the establishment of a mint would only involve us in an annual expenditure of \$15,000 or \$16,000. My impression is that my hon. friend's figures are somewhat low. But even accepting his figures as correct, the fact would remain that the cost of our copper and silver coinage under his plan would be much more than we are paying under the present system. The fact is, we cannot absorb a sufficient amount of these coins in Canada to make work for a mint. I am well within the mark when I say that a well-equipped mint

would turn out in one month all the copper and silver coins required in Canada in the whole year; so that we would have an establishment with one month's work and eleven months of idleness. Perhaps my hon. friend contemplates work for the mint from the increased volume of gold which he expects. But there again we are limited by our conditions. We do not need a gold coinage in Canada to any great extent. Were we to convert all our gold into coin, we would find that we had no use for it. It is not desirable, except from a sentimental point of view, that we should mint gold coins. As my hon. friend has pointed out himself, there is no profit in the minting of gold; but that is not the whole story. Not only is there no profit, but there would be an absolute loss; because, if we could keep gold in circulation, we should disturb our note currency, which is practically a loan by the people of Canada to the Government without interest; and if you were to displace this note currency and put gold currency in its place, you would deprive the people of Canada of the opportunity to make a free loan to the Government, which they are glad to do, because they know that it is safe. We would lose in the minting by adopting a more expensive system for the manufacture of the money; and if we put more gold into circulation, it would displace our present currency, and we would be obliged to go into the market to borrow money to take its place. There is now \$20,000,000 of gold in Canada, and you could not, if you would, by any process known to our business men, increase materially the circulation of that gold. Our people do not want gold. I venture to say that among all the members of this House now listening to me, there is not one with \$5 worth of gold in his pocket. It is not that he has not got \$5, or that he cannot get \$5 in gold if he wants it. That \$20,000,000 is in the vaults of the Government or of the banks, and if a man wants a \$5 gold piece, all he has to do is to go down to a bank and ask for it. We do not want the gold, however, because we would rather have the note currency, as it is much more convenient. If we adopted the currency which my hon. friend advocates, we would find, after the sentimental reason had passed away and the novelty had ceased, that these gold coins would flow back into the vaults of the Government and of the banks. Our people would not want them and would not use them, and we would continue to have the note currency which we have to-day. My hon. friend says that it is humiliating that we have not a gold coinage of our own. Even if we wanted it, we could have it at much less cost by having it minted in England instead of Canada. It would be a waste of money to have a Canadian mint and work it for one month, as I suggested a moment ago, and have it standing idle for the other eleven months. I know that the question has been discussed from another point of view. It has been represented that because we have not estab-

lished a mint, the gold passes out of our country. I do not think the disadvantage of that to the miner is as great as my hon. friend supposes it to be. At all events, our information is that the difference in the price paid to the miner at Seattle in the United States and the price paid on the coast by the banks is very small indeed, amounting only to a very small commission. The banks are competing sharply with each other, and, therefore, it is fair to suppose that they will purchase the gold from the miner at its fair value. I have not had any evidence which shows that there is any serious disadvantage to the miner in that respect. Another suggestion is that we should have an assay office on the coast; and perhaps there is something in that suggestion. I would not hastily commit myself against it, although even there it seems to me that the competition among the banks should bring about the favourable results we desire. It has been suggested that the miners look with suspicion on the valuation of their gold by the banks, and that if there were a Government assay office, where the stamp of the Government would be placed on the gold, that would secure to them a better price. I think that is a mistake. I think the banks in buying gold will not be influenced by the Government stamp at all. But there is something, perhaps, to be said for the assay office which could not be said for a mint. One circumstance might arise in which the establishment of a mint would be entitled to greater consideration than it is to-day. The Australian mints are branches of the Imperial mint. One reason why they are able to carry on such large operations is that the gold coins of Australia correspond with the gold coins of the mother country, and pass freely into the currency of Great Britain, and the currency of Great Britain is largely supplied from year to year by the coins sent from Australia.

Now, as our coins do not correspond with the currency of Great Britain, you will see at once that we could not expect them to be sent to England, and we are therefore not in so good a position as our Australian brethren for the minting of gold. But it is quite possible and well worthy of consideration that Her Majesty's Government might see their way to establishing a branch mint in Canada not merely for the purpose of making Canadian gold coins, desirable as that may be, but British gold coins, for which there would be a large market when made. If we had a mint for the manufacture of Canadian gold coins, for the reasons I have already pointed out I think the quantity of such coins which could be placed on the markets of the world would be small; but if we had a mint authorized to coin British sovereigns here, instead of sending the gold to the other side to coin—if the British Government could be induced to make British sovereigns on this side out of Canadian gold,—there would be a larger opportunity for a Canadian mint, and such a thing is not at

all beyond the bounds of possibility. I would suggest, therefore, to my hon. friend—while I know he is warmly interested in this matter, and while I know it is a question likely to appeal particularly to those who come from the west and largely identified with the gold interests of that country—that having served all purposes now by drawing the attention of the Government to the matter, in order that his motion may bear fruit at a future day, it would not be wise to press it to a division at present, and I would, therefore, move that the debate be now adjourned.

Mr. G. E. CASEY (West Elgin). Before this motion is decided, I would like to say that it seems to me this question is hardly as one-sided in either direction as it appears to the two gentlemen who have spoken. I do not think that the profits from the mint would be nearly as large as supposed by my hon. friend from Vancouver (Mr. McInnes), nor do I think, on the other hand, that there is such a complete absence of a field of usefulness for the mint as my hon. friend the Minister of Finance thinks there is. The matter may be looked at, first, as a simple question of encouraging our own manufacture in Canada, and secondly, as a matter of sentiment connected with our own national feeling and standing amongst surrounding colonies and nations.

Looking at it from the point of view of the manufacturer, no doubt the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) is perfectly correct in saying that it is cheaper for us to have our gold coins made in England, as they are required, than to mint them out here. That same argument, however, applies to some other articles, in the case of which we have not recognized it as of overruling force. For example, there is no doubt we can buy the ammunition which is required by our militia cheaper in England than we can make it in Canada, and probably have it better made also, but it seemed good to the late Government—and it has seemed good to this Government not to change the practice—to have that ammunition made in Canada by Canadian workmen, even at a greater expense. I would like to draw a sort of analogy between the two for the purpose of pointing out that the argument of cheapness is not a conclusive one against the course proposed.

Then as to the effect on the circulation of bank notes and Dominion notes, I do not think there is much in that argument, because I do not think that the amount of gold coin used in Canada would be sensibly increased by the establishment of a mint in this country.

The hon. Minister of Finance has pointed out that the use of Australian coins has arisen largely from the fact that the Australian mint makes British sovereigns instead of five-dollar pieces. I do not know why the Canadian mint might not be, although under Canadian management, au-

thorized by Imperial Government, under stipulations as to oversight and so on, to make sovereigns just as the mint in Australia does, and I do not see why a mint conducted by this Government and authorized by the British Government should not make coins which would go into the general circulation of the Empire. In that case, the Canadian mint would have the same advantage that the Australian has—but, even apart from that, supposing we did not have that authority, supposing the Canadian mint were not recognized as a branch of the Imperial mint, why should we not obtain the same reputation for Canadian coin, as a form of export bullion, as the British sovereign enjoys. It is not always because a country is large or rich that its coins possess great value or reputation. The Australian sovereign is known to be quite as good as the British—generally more full in weight—and the coinage of Mexico has impressed itself upon the coinage of this whole continent and a great many eastern countries, where the Mexican dollar was the standard in value in silver long before Mexico was a very important nation at all, in fact long before she was a nation, and while the mint in Mexico was only a branch of the Spanish mint.

That brings me to the question of the coinage of silver. Admittedly in the coinage of silver there is considerable profit. Why is there not a good prospect that Canadian coin silver should become a circulating medium abroad just as the United States or Mexican silver? The mint in India does not coin gold to any extent. The rupee goes in certain countries in the east, but in certain other countries the United States dollar is largely used. In China and Japan, for example, even the sadly depreciated—what I might call the fraudulent—dollar of the United States has become a circulating medium. Why should not the currency coined in Canada become a form of coin bullion for foreign trade, even where our currency is not in use, just in the same manner as the coined silver of the United States and Mexico? If we were successful in obtaining this currency for our coined gold and silver, as a means merely of export of bullion, I do not see that the mint need be idle eleven months out of the twelve. If it were feared that a large mint would be idle eleven months out of the twelve, I think we could meet the case by not setting up such an expensive plant, and, therefore, not keeping it idle part of the time, and let it grow as the currency of our coinage increases.

The hon. Finance Minister speaks of the assay mark as not being of any use to the miner who sells his gold. I do not know whether it would. A stamp put upon a bar of gold is not as good for the establishment of the purity of that bar of gold as the Government stamp put upon a piece of gold or silver, as the case may be. I do not think anything would give the miner such

an advantage for the disposal of his gold and silver as the establishment of a mint where he could sell it at its actual value and obtain in return coined pieces whose value was in evidence on their face. Between a lump of bullion and a gold coin, the difference is that the one has its ascertained value and fineness marked stamped upon it and the other has not. I am not in a position to say what the expense of minting will be. My hon. friend from Vancouver (Mr. McInnes), who is in much better position to estimate it, has put it at 3 to 10 per cent. I can easily understand, Sir, that notwithstanding all the competition between the bankers, all the bankers might agree to the value the gold or silver output brought to them at a little below what it would be worth at the Government mint. The Minister of Finance quotes Seattle prices. But there is no mint at Seattle; and the bankers there are quoting prices that will enable them to send to the mint and still leave them a profit.

Mr. McINNES. They send to San Francisco.

Mr. CASEY. The effect of this is that more people handle the product before it reaches the mint, and so there is a smaller amount received by the original seller. Gold and silver are like other commodities, and the nearer we can bring the final market to the producer, the better price he will receive. The exact percentages are beyond my power to estimate, but I can understand that where the product passes through many hands, there is a difference against the miner. I do not see that the banks should have any objection to the establishment of the mints, for the reasons I have pointed out—that I do not believe that the establishment of the mint would mean a sensible increase of the gold currency; its principal service would be to coin gold for export instead of having it exported in the shape of bullion blocks, as at present. Then, coming to the question of sentiment, I regard that as a question to which we must give a great deal of weight, even if it costs us a little money to carry out our ideas. If you meet five-dollar pieces or silver dollars in places at the ends of the earth, the coins bearing the mark of the Canadian mint, you feel proud of it. Moreover, the passage of that coin from end to end of the world draws attention to the fact that Canada is typically a gold-producing country. My own opinion is that this is going to be one of the great characteristics of Canada in the future, and anything that will emphasize it, I think, is worth paying something for. Australia was not known first as a gold-producing country—it was a grazing and wool-producing country. But early in the gold discoveries she established her own mint, and I think that has had a great deal to do with making Australia known as a gold-producing country. I do not urge the

hon. Minister to say more than he has said, but I would like him to consider whether there are not advantages of this kind to be derived that would justify us even in facing some slight loss in respect to our currency.

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). I do not enter into the discussion of the establishment of a mint in Canada. The hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) has given his opinions on the subject, and I have no doubt that they will prevail. I desire to draw the attention of the Minister of Finance to a change which would be a very important improvement in respect of our coinage at this time. We have one coin now in circulation that is a great inconvenience to business men—the twenty-cent piece. Only a few of them are in circulation, but still there are so many that every business man who receives twenty-five-cent pieces must examine each coin closely to see that it is not a twenty-cent piece. If the hon. Minister would, as speedily as possible, take some means to call in the twenty-cent pieces, he would confer a great benefit upon all business men.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). I have listened attentively to the statement made by the hon. Minister of Finance. I really do not think he has given a sufficient reason for not establishing a mint in this country. The statements and arguments used by the hon. member (Mr. McInnes), who introduced the resolution, I think, were pretty convincing that the establishment of a mint in this country would be of very great benefit indeed. Why, Sir, the United States, before they had more than about half the population that Canada has to-day and not one-tenth of its wealth, had established a mint. The Australian provinces, that even to-day have not as much wealth as Canada or as great a population, have established a mint, and they have found it profitable, and would not desire, I presume, to abolish that institution. These are strong reasons for considering the importance of this question. The sentimental question is an important one, too. We have here in Canada English sovereigns which are not suitable for this country, because the sovereign has a par value of \$1.86 $\frac{2}{3}$ , which is a very inconvenient figure. We have to import foreign coins from the United States for our purposes, which is not very satisfactory to us, and belittles us in the eyes of the people of the United States and other countries. I think that by this time it has become clear that the establishment of a mint is desirable. The hon. Minister of Finance has told us that it will interfere with the currency. He did not explain how it would interfere injuriously, and I think he is bound to do that before he condemns the proposal. I contend that if it would interfere at all, it would interfere beneficially. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) also tells us that we have a lot of Government notes representing a sort of forced

loan to the Government, for which no interest is paid, and says that if a gold coinage were established these notes would be displaced. I would like the hon. Minister to explain how. It would not displace the one-dollar bill, because a gold coin of the denomination of one dollar is too small for business uses. It has never been adopted much in the United States, nor has any such small coinage come into practical use in England. Such coins are more matters of curiosity than of actual use in business. Nor would the two dollar bill be displaced to any considerable extent, because a two-dollar gold coin would be too small also. The Dominion issue also the four-dollar bills. But we know that these bills are practically out of circulation—you seldom see them in circulation, that they are hardly worth considering in connection with a matter of this kind. Therefore, the fear that this would interfere with the circulation of the Government bills is entirely groundless, I think. The Finance Minister tells us further that there is a limit to the issue of copper and silver coins. That is quite true. The Government ascertain the limit that is required now. But if they had a mint of their own they would not lose the power to ascertain what coin is required for the business of the country and what for foreign exchange and foreign business. So that we would have a further extension of the business of silver coinage instead of a contraction of it. Then there is the practical fact that a large portion of the immense quantities of gold that come from the Klondike region go to the United States, notwithstanding that our Government have practically established a bank there. They have given the Bank of Commerce certain powers and privileges there which enable it to control business somewhat; but in spite of that fact the greater portion of the production of gold, I assume—I do not know particularly, but from what we read every day in the papers, that gold is going down to Seattle, and Tacoma, and various other places; so that most of the gold of the Klondike, from our own country, goes direct into the United States. The Minister says that the banks control this matter, that competition among them will keep the prices up to the highest limit that can be afforded to be paid for gold. But as a matter of fact that does not occur, because gold does not come to our Canadian banks but goes to the United States, where either the establishment of a mint, or correct assaying, or correct valuation, gives more confidence to the miners and owners of gold, and they carry it to that country. So that all the arguments that have been used are in favour of Canada establishing a mint in our own country for our own coins of gold, silver and copper.

Now, there is another point. This is about the only manufacturing industry that the Government can exclusively carry on. Now that they are committed to the principle of

encouraging manufactures, they should start the manufacture of coins in our own country. Private individuals cannot do it, it must be left to the Government, and, therefore, the Government should take this matter in hand and establish a mint in this country. The Minister says that there would be only one month's work in the year, and it would not pay to have a mint running one month and idle for eleven months in the year. But what is the history of the mints of other countries, of Australia, which has neither the population or the wealth of Canada? I think that is not the history of Australia. Is it the history of the United States in their earlier days when they had a mint established there? My hon. friend near me tells me that they have three mints in the United States to-day, and they are producing their coinage of gold, silver, nickel and copper as the necessities of the nation require. Here in Canada we have six millions of a population; we are in a growing time, which the Minister tells us about, and which we are all delighted to see; the production of gold, silver and all the precious metals is increasing marvellously year by year, and there is a desire that we should advertise our country as a great mining country. Taking British Columbia with its silver mines, with its gold mines—leaving out the Yukon altogether—with the Atlin Lake district, with British Columbia, with our own province of Ontario, with the production of gold in Nova Scotia more than doubling each year, I think the time has fully arrived for the Government to take up this matter and establish a mint. But, Sir, this Government, that is said to be the greatest business Government Canada has ever seen, when a business proposition is placed before it, always finds some excuse for backing out of it. I would like to see a little of that energy, of that progressive spirit, which should characterize and actuate a Government to take hold of questions like this, instead of shelving them, moving the adjournment of the debate, or giving it the six months' hoist, or taking some other way to dispose of the question. I would like to see the Government grapple with this question and make a proposal, because they must know that the people of this country are pronouncing themselves in favour of it. The president of the Toronto Board of Trade, at its annual meeting the other day, referred to this matter. He is a gentleman of large business experience and a leader among manufacturers; he has an excellent knowledge of the question, and I am told that he has come out strongly in favour of the establishment of a mint in this country. Those who have examined this question have all come to the conclusion in favour of the establishment of a mint. Then there is another point to consider, a very important one. The Minister is afraid we will have too much money. Well, I am not. We have not got quite enough. He said they had not got a \$5 gold piece over on that side of the House.

An hon. MEMBER. Neither have you.

Mr. WALLACE. I deny it. Here, I can show you one.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). Here, I can show you one.

Mr. WALLACE. Well, Sir, the Minister of Finance was slandering his own side of the House, he will have to retract that statement. We want our own coinage, and not have to take the coinage of other countries. We want in our pockets the coinage of Canada, not the coinage of the United States, or the coinage of Great Britain, which is not so valuable for business purposes in Canada.

Then, Mr. Speaker, this proposition raises the very important question of bi-metallism. In the United States that has become a very live question. In Canada we have not given it very much consideration. But this will raise the question whether we are afraid of having too much money in circulation among the people, whether we are going to have silver and gold in quantities that the people require, as well as the stamped pieces of paper that are circulated throughout the country. We want bills, we want silver, and we want gold, and the establishment of a mint in this country will furnish a silver and gold coinage, will promote the prosperity of the country, will raise the dignity of Canada among the nations of the world, and will be beneficial in every way. I have not yet heard from the Minister or any one else any valid objection against the establishment of the mint industry in this country, and the coinage of our own money and its dissemination, stamped by the Dominion Government, and its value recognized by the Canadian people.

Mr. E. B. OSLER (West Toronto). The question of a mint is one upon which bankers differ, many of them are strongly in favour of it, most of them, perhaps, strongly against it. The Government, perhaps, do not see their way, from a purely commercial or business standpoint, to establish a mint in this Dominion, because it would be a little expensive. But from a national point of view I hold it is one of the most important subjects that a Government can take hold of. I do not think that there is anything that will give us a national status, that will promote a spirit of nationality more quickly and more strongly than the establishment of a mint for the coinage of our own gold and silver in this country. I agree with the Minister of Finance when he suggests that it would be better to have a mint in Canada, like the mint of Australia, more or less in connection with the English mint. But that may be a long process, it may take a long time to accomplish that. But I think that not a day should be lost in establishing an assay office, and following that, a mint in British Columbia. When I was in Victoria last September I saw the miners coming in, bringing bags of gold with them, and taking it to the banks, to be sent out of

the country to be stamped with a foreign stamp before it could become of value as currency. Now, there is a great deal of sentiment in connection with this matter. From a purely business standpoint, there are a great many reasons in favour of it and a great many reasons against it, but from the point of view of Canadian nationality, I think that there can be no objection raised. In the interest of practical and self-sustaining government in Canada, and for the advancement of the mining industry, which is now becoming one of our greatest industries, I trust that the Government will take this matter into its serious consideration with as little delay as possible, and that this consideration will be followed by the establishment of a Canadian mint.

Mr. FRANK OLIVER (Alberta). Mr. Speaker, it seems to me, that new conditions existing in Canada within the last few years have put a different face upon the question of a mint for this country from what possibly could have existed in the years before. Recently, Canada was not a producer, to any large extent, of the precious metals; but to-day she is one of the greatest producers of those metals in the world, and is rapidly increasing the importance of her position. What was an argument against a Canadian mint a few years ago, may be an argument in favour of a Canadian mint to-day. In regard to the coinage of silver and copper, it appears, that there is a profit to the Government in that coining, but there is no profit to the Government in the coinage of gold. It has also been shown to be a fact, that there is a limit to the coinage of silver and copper, but it has also been shown, that there is no limit to the coinage of gold. While a profit on the coinage of gold does not go to the Government from the working of the mint, it seems to me, from what I have heard here to-night, that a profit does go to the producers of gold and to the trade and commerce of the country from the work of the mint, and that that profit is much more important to the country, and is a better reason for the establishment of a mint, than the mere profit on the working of the mint, or the toll that might be levied by the Government from its operations. If, then, there is a profit, be it large or be it small, on every dollar of native gold coined in the national mint that profit should be secured to the people of the country, to the miner on the one hand, and to the trader on the other. I say, whether it be large or whether it be small, it belongs to the public, it belongs to the people; it does not belong to any section of the people or any single business institution of the country. It is not by right any part of the profit of the banks of the country—of this or of any other country. Two years ago, this would not have been important, because the production of native gold was not sufficient; but, with a production from the Yukon alone this year esti-

mated at from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000, and with a probably increasing production for the next five or ten years, I submit, that the question of a mint, to secure their proper share of the profit on that gold to the people of Canada, is an important and pressing question, well worthy of the attention of this House and of this Government. As to whether the gold that is coined can be used, as I said, it is plain, that there is no limit to the quantity of coined gold that can be used, because we can pay for our imports to both Great Britain and the United States in our gold coinage, if we should, perchance have enough to do that with, which is not by any means likely. The coinage of Canada, although it is not identical with that of Great Britain, is identical with that of the United States; so that, if there is room for the expansion of the coinage of Australia in Great Britain by reason of the similarity of the coinage, there is room, for the same reason, for the expansion of Canadian coinage in the United States. It has been proven, by what has been said, that at the present time there is, not only a certain loss to the miner on the price which he receives for his gold from the banks, but there is a much greater loss to Canadian trade in the fact, that it does not find its best market in Canada. With a Canadian mint in British Columbia, gold from the Yukon would be marketed in British Columbia, and, possibly, the goods that were required to be purchased with that gold would be purchased in British Columbia. But, as I understand it, the gold of the Yukon is today marketed in Seattle, and everybody knows, that a large proportion of the goods required in the Yukon are also purchased in Seattle. So that it is not only a loss of a percentage on each dollar of gold, but it is, besides, a loss to Canadian trade of a large number of the dollars of gold which are taken out of the Yukon.

Mr. A. W. CARSCALLEN (North Hastings). Mr. Speaker, one of the points in connection with this matter which probably the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) is not aware of, is, that on every shipment of bullion made from Canada to the United States, of not less than \$100 and up to \$1,000, the miner contributes \$4.50 to the United States Government. He has to pay \$3.25 for consular charges, and he has to pay a war tax of \$1 on every shipment. The miners of this country are contributing, on every shipment of bullion made to the United States, towards the war tax of that country. Such a state of things, it seems to me, should in some way be changed. We are just commencing the development of our mining industry, and we have in operation two small mines, and these mines are making two shipments per month to the United States, and on each shipment these miners are paying \$4.50 of a direct tax to the United States treasury on every shipment of over \$100 in value. These ship-

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ments will increase, as mining develops. It seems to me, that something should be done to change that condition of affairs.

Mr. J. V. ELLIS (St. John). Mr. Speaker, I just want to make one observation, in regard to the coinage of silver. It seems to me, that the profit that is made on the coinage of silver is made at the expense of the people. It is done largely for their convenience, and I think, if the idea of the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) were carried out, and the silver were made available for the purposes of the world, that we could not make any profit at all, because, in order to export it, even in coin value, it must be made pure and fine. The reason the Mexican dollar went so largely into circulation was because of its real value. So, in that regard, we would be making nothing at all. It would be of no value for us to make silver into coin for the sake of sending it away. In regard to gold, it appears to me to come to the same thing in the end. We might export our gold in the shape of bullion or coin, as long as we get value for it. I do not see where there is any argument in favour of the establishment of a mint in the statement of the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver). He admits, that the gold must go out of the country for some purpose or another. If we send gold out in the shape of bullion or coin, and we get value for that, it is the same thing in the end. If we go to the expense of making coin of it, all that we get is what was referred to by the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler). Very well, it appears to me, that, if your coin carries upon its face the fact that it is the coin of this country, it makes no difference where it is made; the sentiment will just be the same.

Motion (Mr. Fielding) that the debate be adjourned, agreed to.

#### P. E. I.—WINTER MAIL SERVICE.

Mr. A. MARTIN (East Queen's, P.E.I.) moved for:

Copies of all correspondence, telegrams, reports, contracts, tenders and all other papers and documents in connection with the change in carrying the mails for Prince Edward Island between the Intercolonial Railway and Cape Tormentine during the past winter.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I may say that the mail service from Prince Edward Island to the mainland of Canada, has always been in a very unsatisfactory condition, and especially has it been unsatisfactory during the winter season. The terms of union between the Dominion and the Island province contained a clause which provided for efficient and continuous steam communication, winter and summer between Prince Edward Island and the mainland, thus placing Prince Edward Island in continuous communication with the Intercolonial Railway and the railway system of Canada. I need not tell the

House that that provision in the terms of union, has never been carried out with Prince Edward Island, and as a consequence incalculable loss has resulted to the province. I may say also, that very little improvement has been made in that service for the last 25 years, especially during the mid-winter season which lasts for a period of two or three months in each year. There has no doubt been some little improvement, and I shall detail to the House what that improvement consists of. You, Mr. Speaker, and hon. members may know that the mid-winter service is carried on by means of ice boats between Cape Traverse in Prince Edward Island and Cape Tormentine in New Brunswick, a distance of about nine miles. That ice-boat service was the service which the province had previous to confederation, and as it is the service which prevails to-day, you will see that the terms of union upon which Prince Edward Island entered confederation, which provided for continuous steam communication, have been largely unfulfilled in this respect. The only improvement that has been made in the service is, that boat-houses have been built in Prince Edward Island for the protection of the boats, and a short spur line of railway was built from Cape Traverse to the main line of the Prince Edward Island Railway, in order more expeditiously to carry the mails and passengers from the landing place at Cape Traverse. A few years later, at Cape Tormentine, there was a railway built known as the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Railway which runs from Cape Tormentine to Sackville. That railway was also an accommodation in carrying the mails from Cape Tormentine to the Intercolonial Railway, thus placing the province in that respect at least, in communication with the railway system of Canada. But there is this much to be said about it. While we had a special train service from Cape Traverse over the Prince Edward Island Railway, connecting with the mail boats as they arrived every day a crossing was made, there was never a special train service from Cape Tormentine to the Intercolonial Railway, and the lack of that special train service was and is still a source of great dissatisfaction to the people of Prince Edward Island. I have no hesitation in saying that since the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Railway was built, it has always been a cause of dissatisfaction that there was no special train service from Cape Tormentine to Sackville. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries, on different occasions, called the attention of the late Government to the want of a special train service from Cape Tormentine to the Intercolonial Railway. I know also that at the beginning of last winter, when the board of trade of Charlottetown wanted an improvement in the service, that hon. gentleman wrote down to the board of trade stating that the service as it then existed

was intolerable. But, Sir, a change was made in that service last winter by the Postmaster General. What is that change? Is it a change for the better or a change for the worse? When I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that in place of carrying passengers and mails from Cape Tormentine, the landing on the mainland, to Sackville on the Intercolonial Railway, a distance of thirty-eight miles on a special train, the Postmaster General substituted a stage service, I think the hon. members of this House will have some idea of the treatment that has been accorded to Prince Edward Island. What is the result of that change? It is this: As soon as the ice-boats reach Cape Tormentine, the mails have to travel by stage a distance of thirty-eight miles, and the passengers, after passing over nine miles of straits at a very cold and inclement part of the year, are supposed to travel thirty-eight miles in open sleds to Sackville or lay over at Cape Tormentine till the next day, if ice boats are late in crossing. What is the object in making that change? It is to save a few dollars to the Canadian treasury. And yet some years ago there was talk of an expenditure of from five to nine million dollars in order to give Prince Edward Island that continuous steam communication to which, under the terms of union, she was entitled. But that was thought to be too great an expenditure, and now the Postmaster General has gone back to the antiquated system of the stage coach instead of using a railway which had been almost built for the purpose. In the name of the people of Prince Edward Island, I protest against that treatment. A few days ago when I asked some questions in this House in regard to this matter, I was told by the Postmaster General that the result of this change which he has made from a railway system to a stage system, has proved so satisfactory that it is intended at an early date to invite tenders for a permanent stage service between those two points. Now, if the Postmaster General and the Government of this Dominion are going to impose a stage service on the people of Prince Edward Island, I think they are going to humiliate them and degrade the service. Instead of there being another forward step, which we were entitled to expect, this is a retrograde step. Though I can easily understand this action on the part of the Postmaster General, who has no knowledge of the state of affairs there, I cannot understand how the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who should know the situation, and who has often stood up in this House and pleaded the cause of Prince Edward Island for an improved mail and passenger service, can sit silently by and allow a stage service for thirty-eight miles to be imposed upon the people of Prince Edward Island in place of a railway service to which that province is clearly entitled. I am going to read some

extracts from statements of gentlemen who have passed over that route, and from the press of Prince Edward Island on both sides of politics. This is not a party question. The mail service of Prince Edward Island is not to be fought out as a party issue.

I have here an interview taken from the Charlottetown "Examiner" of February 18, 1899, with Mr. T. J. Dillon, a gentleman who is well known not only in Prince Edward Island, but all over the Dominion as a large exporter of cheese. The interview is headed:

#### OUR WINTER MAIL SERVICE.

The Delay between Tormentine and Aulac.—Monday's Mails turn up at Baie Verte; but Passengers by the Capes' Route go Right Through.

Mr. T. J. Dillon arrived here on Tuesday evening, and was visited by a representative of the "Examiner" on Friday. He hadn't anything in particular to say concerning the dairy industry, except that Prince Edward Island seems to be making as much progress in that regard as many localities, and more than some. But he had a great deal to say regarding our mails and passengers, and the service now afforded by the Government. "For instance," said Mr. Dillon, "the mails which left here on Sunday evening last, and which crossed at the Capes on Monday, were on the road between Baie Verte and Aulac on Thursday, and would probably be delivered at Aulac on Thursday evening, while the passengers who crossed at the same time went by train to Sackville, and on to St. John and Halifax on Monday night."

You see clearly the reason of that: the passengers went by the railway, the ice boats happening on that day to make a good crossing, but the mails went by the stage which the Postmaster General tells us so confidently has given satisfaction. Can any one defend this? To send the mails by a slow stage whilst the train is on the spot to carry them. The passengers went by train on the same night on which the mails crossed the straits, and here were the mails three days passing between these points only 38 miles apart. I hope the hon. Minister will pay some attention to that fact before he calls for tenders next year to make this a permanent service. I hope it will never be a permanent service, for if it be continued it will be a great injustice to Prince Edward Island. The writer goes on to say:

Again, the mails that left here Tuesday evening and crossed on Wednesday were seen kicking about John Tucker's hotel barn on Thursday morning,—

That is a nice state of affairs.

—while the passengers who crossed the same day were in St. John and Halifax on the previous evening.

Yet that is a good service in the eyes of the hon. Postmaster General. While the passengers who went on the train arrived days ahead, the mails which went by this antiquated stage service were two or three days behind.

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Further, the mails from the west that were landed at Aulac Monday night were delivered at Cape Tormentine three o'clock Thursday morning, and arrived here on Thursday afternoon.

That is great progress in these days of penny postage. Fancy taking that time to go over thirty-eight miles. It is all right for us to get penny postage, but I hope you are not going to saddle Prince Edward Island with a large share of the deficit which penny postage is going to entail on this Dominion, and at the same time furnish her with such an antiquated mail service. I am quite agreed that we should have penny postage, but I cannot agree that mail bags should take three days to travel thirty-eight miles. I believe it would pay the business people of Prince Edward Island better to meet the expense of that mail service out of their own pockets than submit to this injustice. I believe it would be more in their interest that they should pay that \$2,000 or \$3,000 themselves, if this Government cannot afford to have the special train service for the mails, which they ought to have had for the last ten or eleven years. And now if the Government are going to make a change at all, I hope they are not going to subject us to the retrograde change proposed by the Postmaster General, and I know the people will not submit to any such service.

Further, the mails from the west that were landed at Aulac on Monday night, were delivered at Cape Tormentine about three o'clock Thursday morning, and arrived here Thursday afternoon, and mails delivered at Aulac on Tuesday arrived here to-day (Friday). This is the kind of mail service which the business men of Prince Edward Island receive, and are almost persuaded to call good. More than that, Mr. Dillon said: "I have good authority for stating that a mail bag out of the Prince Edward Island mail was recently picked up on the road.

That would be very interesting to the hon. Postmaster General if he were in his seat.

Apart from all the accident and snow-storms, our mail service has been lamentably slow. I can show lots of complaints from consignees about bills of lading not arriving on time, and necessitating delay of goods and extra expenses in England, caused largely on account of the slowness of the mails. When the freight boats began carrying the mails gratis, consignees began to get their letters on time, and were saved quay rent, &c., and the Government woke up to the necessity of improved ocean mail accommodation and speed, and set about getting a better service.

Is there going to be any consideration to the business interests of Prince Edward Island? Are its merchants to be ruined to save a few thousand dollars to Canada? Now, here is something further:

Mr. Dillon himself came down to Cape Tormentine by train on Wednesday, arriving at 10.30, after the boats for Cape Traverse had gone. We were told in this House that there were good connections made. But here was a passenger who actually went over the route, and when he got to Cape Tormentine he was obliged to stay there until the next day.

He thinks that the forces of the Government in respect to the carriage of the mails and passengers ought in winter to be concentrated upon the capes route. If this were done, the public would obtain much better accommodation. Frequently it takes a passenger longer to come from Halifax to Charlottetown than it does to come from Vancouver to Halifax.

That is not a very nice state of affairs. Here follows a list of the names of ladies and gentlemen who went over that road :—

Mr. G. A. Toombs and Mrs. Toombs, Mrs. Perkins, Mrs. Loughram and others coming to the island a short time ago, were detained at Pictou several days; and then, after losing a lot of time and spending a deal of money, had to leave Pictou and come around by the capes.

That is the kind of service which is being lauded by the Postmaster General as the one he intends making permanent for Prince Edward Island. But it is one which, in the interests of Prince Edward Island and its business men, I hope will never become permanent.

I have also a letter from a merchant in Charlottetown who travelled over this road, and which I will read for the benefit of this House :

#### OUR MAIL SERVICE.

Cape Tormentine (on the Train), March 8, 1899.  
To the Editor of the "Examiner" :

Dear sir,—I trust you, as well as the readers of the "Examiner," will or would like some facts as to the movements of the mails even on this side, between Cape Tormentine and Aulac. On Sunday last I drove from Amherst to Cape Tormentine, and the party who drove me from Port Elgin to the cape (who, by the way, is a strong Grit, but a reliable man), informs me, as well as scores of others, that the mails have only about six times this winter made the connections from Tormentine to Aulac, thereby holding all island mails on the road and at Aulac twenty-four hours more than necessary.

Again, he says :

The contract was let to parties who have teams that are not capable of doing the work in any way or time.

You remember, Sir, the hon. Postmaster General boasted he had a very cheap service, but when he got a cheap service, he got a very bad one and he had no hesitation in forcing a bad service on that province despite the fact that one of his colleagues, the hon. Minister of Marine, represents it in the Cabinet. I should think that that gentleman ought to raise his voice in the interest of that province and show that he has some regard for its interest. I hope at least that he will not consent to such a service being enforced on that province the coming season.

The contract was let to parties who have teams that are not capable of doing the work in any way on time. They frequently, both ways, leave part of the mails around the barns, awaiting another trip.

Just fancy Her Majesty's mail being treated in that manner. Fancy sending the mails,

while a snowstorm was raging thirty-eight miles by a broken-down team of horses, and allowing the mail bags to be dropped on the way.

Yesterday all the mails did not arrive on time.

I ask the hon. Postmaster General if he had provided sufficient means to carry those mails, and he said he had, but here is a man who was on the spot, and what does he say :

Yesterday all the island mails did not arrive on time. Consequently the mail is twenty-four hours in Cape Tormentine. To-day all the mails are in the same condition, remaining at the boat-house—came in too late for the boats.

That is a nice state of affairs and something that will give you an idea of this cheap service of which the Postmaster General boasts and with which he has favoured Prince Edward Island.

If our Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals were here to see the old scrubs of horses, with sores wherever the harness touches them, I think that our Grit partisans would hide their faces in shame.

Not only are the mails delayed, but passengers are held until the trains move.

Here is a stage running parallel with the railway, and when the train arrives the mail has to wait until this stage comes along, perhaps nine or ten hours afterwards. Not only are mails delayed, but passengers have to wait. He continues :

I could go on and relate instances similar to those I have related, of which all residents on this side are familiar, that I think should induce the Government organs on the island for once to come out and ask for at least a mail service without stench of dirty patronage. I may add that if you ask any one in connection with the service about mails there, they are as dumb as an oyster. Every one seems to have a gag on him. That is the mail service foisted on the people of Prince Edward Island.

Now, I have also here an extract from a letter written in Charlottetown which I shall read. This appeared in the "Examiner" on March 13th last :

It has been openly charged and not contradicted, that mail bags and mail boxes have been lost on the road. It is against this service to and from Cape Tormentine that the public is up in arms, and not against the crossing at the capes.

I have extracts also from the press, the press of both sides. I have one or two from the "Guardian," a Liberal paper, which condemns this service. This is from the "Guardian" of March 8th :

It appears that the mail boats from Cape Tormentine yesterday left before the mail stage from Sackville had arrived.

Now, we are told by the Postmaster General that there is good connection. Here is somebody who knows all about it :

The question arises whether the blame for the failure to connect rests wholly with the team

service or partly with the boat service. The latter is governed in its movements by the condition of the wind, tide and ice. It may have been possible for the boats to have waited the arrival of the mails and crossed later in the day. At this distance we have not sufficient information to base an opinion as to that point. The team service is getting severe criticism these days, and it remains to be seen what defence can be made for it.

There was no attempt to make a defence for this service, only perhaps by blind, very blind, partisans. The only defence was: When your party was in, you did not give a good service. There is nobody in Prince Edward Island who defends it. You can travel from end to end of the island, and you will not find a man, nor can you find a representative of the people in this House from Prince Edward Island who will defend the service from Tormentine to the Intercolonial Railway. What we want is a special train, and not only a special train, but we want to have a mail clerk on the train who will assort the mails on the way from Tormentine to Sackville, so that when they reach Sackville they may be ready for distribution for the different parts to which they are going. We also want a mail clerk on the trip to Tormentine from Sackville, so that when the mails cross to Prince Edward Island they will be assorted and those for the west can be sent on to Summerside, and those on the east can be sent on the eastern trains to Charlottetown. Here is another extract from the "Guardian." This brings another phase of this question to light:

In regard to the work of the ice-boats, it has frequently happened that the mail boats at Cape Tormentine have been unable to bring all or nearly all the mail matter that was there awaiting transportation across the straits. This, apparently, shows that there has not always been a sufficient number of mail boats to do the work. But, at the same time, there were opposition boats close at hand, which might have been temporarily chartered to bring the surplus bags across. Why was not some arrangement of this kind made? The people who had to wait for their letters and papers care very little whether a Government or an opposition boat does the work, but they do care that the work should be promptly done. It looks as though sometimes too much red-tape had interfered with our getting the best service, and to which we are entitled, at all times.

The mail bags arrive at Cape Tormentine, and for fear of giving the opposition boats any work they allow the mail bags to accumulate, leaving them 24 hours until the Government boats get back, in place of paying the opposition boats to carry the mail bags over the day they reach Cape Tormentine. I think I have shown sufficient to establish my case. My reason for bringing the matter forward is this. Before next season comes on, this session of the House will be over. I desire before the session closes to warn the Postmaster General and his colleagues, particularly the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), who represents Prince Edward Island here, of the state of

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things in that province. But before I sit down, I would like to refer to an editorial in the "Examiner" of February 18th, 1899, entitled "The Mails":

The statement of Mr. T. J. Dillon, published in another column, justifies the worst fears of the "Examiner" regarding the carriage of the mails under the new arrangement, when the weather is stormy and the roads bad. From Sunday evening to Thursday evening, between Charlottetown and Aulac, while passengers leaving here at the same time went right along to Sackville and thence to St. John and the west, mail bags picked up on the road! Who can tell what has become of the their missing letters? Recollect that Mr. Dillon has just been over the route, and that what he reports he has himself seen or has heard from others who have been on the ground. He is not a politician.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Oh, oh.

Mr. MARTIN (reading):

He attends strictly to business. It is as a business man and an exporter of a large and valuable part of our products that he speaks.

Mr. Dillon is an exporter of cheese. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries questioned the statement that Mr. Dillon was not a politician. But the hon. Minister cannot question in this House the degradation that has been put upon Prince Edward Island in imposing upon her such a miserable service as we have had last winter. I do not think the Minister has the courage to stand up and defend it. There is not a representative of the province in this House who can rise in his place and say that Prince Edward Island is satisfied with a stage coach service from Tormentine to Sackville. I think I have said enough to show the nature of the service that has been foisted on Prince Edward Island. I do hope that next season the Postmaster General will reconsider the conclusion he has apparently arrived at in regard to these mails, and will give Prince Edward Island a service at least somewhat nearer to what she was promised in the terms of union. Why, Sir, it was one of the terms in which Prince Edward Island joined the union that mails as well as passengers should be carried over that route. I do not see how any hon. gentleman can justify the placing of the province in such a humiliating position as to give it the service I have described.

Mr. J. H. BELL (East Prince). There is some degree of truth in the remarks made by the hon. gentleman who proposed this motion, but, unfortunately, his political leanings have somewhat distorted his facts. Now, if any hon. gentleman in this House will accompany me—in fancy, of course—down to Prince Edward Island in the winter, he will see exactly how the matter stands.

An hon. MEMBER. Will you pay his expenses?

Mr. BELL. In fancy—I will pay all expenses. We will go down by the Intercolonial to Sackville. We get off, and inquire what time the train leaves for Cape Tormen-

tine. We arrive at four o'clock in the afternoon, and find, alas, that the train for Cape Tormentine had left, that it left that day at twelve o'clock noon. So, with no enjoyable feelings, we are obliged to stay over until the following day at twelve o'clock. In that way we lose some twenty hours of time, valuable time. Well, at twelve o'clock we start for Cape Tormentine, which we reach at about half-past two o'clock in the afternoon. There we inquire, what time the boats leave for Prince Edward Island, and we find they left that morning at eight o'clock. So, we are obliged to stay over until the next day at eight o'clock in the morning. In that way we lose eighteen hours more of valuable time. Then we cross over to Prince Edward Island. I am glad now your trip across the straits is only in fancy as the reality is very unpleasant at times. You have got to put a strap over your shoulder, and work your passage. The strap serves the double purpose of enabling you to pull the boat, and then, if you happen to get down through the lolly or broken ice, it serves as a means of pulling you out of the gulf. When you get over to Cape Traverse, you find that you have made a distance of 43 miles from Sackville, and in travelling that distance you have been exactly forty-three hours on the road—at the terrific rate of a mile an hour.

Well, that is how the matter stood under the administration of the late Government, and, so far as passengers are concerned that is how it stands to-day. It is possible, of course, that passengers can accompany the mails, hauled by team during the night from Sackville to Cape Tormentine, a distance of some 36 miles, through snow drifts. But it is as much as a man's life is worth to attempt it, and practically it is never done. Now, there was a representation made to this Government on the matter, and the Government attempted to remedy one of the grievances of which the people of Prince Edward Island complained. They arranged, that, as soon as the mails arrived at Sackville from the west, teams should be on hand to take the mails and convey them direct to Cape Tormentine during the night. In the morning they were ready to pass over the straits to Prince Edward Island. That is the change which this Government has made with respect to the mails. The result is, that Prince Edward Island now gets its mails twenty-four hours sooner than it did under the previous Administration. That is a change that we welcome; it is a change that the people of the Island duly appreciate. I know that some complaints are still made. Some of the newspapers have discussed the matter. Some have blamed, and others have praised the Government. My hon. friend quoted the "Guardian" as being the only independent newspaper on the Island. Allow me to quote also from the columns of that paper, to show how the matter fairly stood and what was the senti-

ment of the people after this change had been carried into effect. On the 21st of February, 1899, the "Guardian" contained these remarks about the latest we have upon this subject:

The "Guardian," in common with all other newspapers, has an especial interest in the promptness and regularity of the mails. We are independent of the Government or of parties to condemn or approve their course in regard to the carriage of the mails as the circumstances may require. If the winter mails from the mainland were more delayed or irregular than heretofore there would have been complaint of the fact in our columns. As a matter of fact, we are this winter receiving our mails from western Canada with regularity and usually twenty-four hours earlier than in previous winters. An independent newspaper ought to be both "a terror to evil-doers and a praise to them that do well." We therefore commend the Government for having, in response to the request of the island people, greatly improved the incoming mail service.

Now, with respect to Mr. Dillon, whom my hon. friend has referred to, I will only read a quotation from the "Patriot" newspaper:

In conclusion, we may state that Mr. Brecken (the postmaster) says the mail service was never as good as during the present season. And as the "Examiner" announces that the authorities at Ottawa are responsible for it, then we think they are entitled to commendation, not censure as indulged in by Mr. Dillon and the Tory organ. We are also of the opinion that the Board of Trade, composed of both sides of politics, will hardly relish such partisan fault-finding, with its suggestion, the carrying out of which gave us our mails twenty-four hours earlier than heretofore.

I produce these quotations for the purpose of showing the actual condition of affairs, not for the purpose of showing that we have no cause of complaint. They show, that, under the present Administration, the mail service is in a far more satisfactory condition than under the previous Administration. Now, with regard to the crossing at the capes, that service this winter has been operated under great difficulties; nevertheless, it has been absolutely satisfactory, much more mail matter had to be carried than in former years. But the men who have the management of the service sometimes made two trips a day, instead of one, to keep up with the work. The men exceeded what their duty required, and even crossed on Sunday to clean up the mail bags and make the service complete. In respect to the suggestion about an improved service between Cape Tormentine and Sackville, there is no doubt but that the proper thing for the Government to do under the circumstances is to do exactly what they have done in Prince Edward Island, viz.: To have a special train wait upon the boat service. When the boats arrive at Cape Tormentine there should be a train in waiting to take the passengers and the mails to the Intercolonial Railway. When the mails arrive at Sackville from the west, there ought to be a special train waiting their arrival to take them to Cape Tormentine. It

is a very easy matter, as has been suggested by my hon. friend, to have these mails assorted in transit so that when they reach Prince Edward Island, the western mails can go west and the eastern mails can go east, thus avoiding the delay of separating and assorting in Charlottetown. That, of course, will involve some little expense on the part of the Government. I do not know what additional expense, but the Government have control of trains and men upon the Intercolonial Railway, and it certainly will cost very little to send special trains in charge of Government employees over the road for three months of the year. Of course they will be obliged to pay something to Mr. Wood, the owner of the railway, for the use of the track. This special train will be necessary in the future for another reason. My hon. friend (Mr. Martin), who made this motion, ought to have referred to a matter to which I now propose to call attention. He said that the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis H. Davies), made promises that he would look specially after the interests of Prince Edward Island, but that he neglected to do so.

Mr. MARTIN. If the hon. gentleman will pardon me, I did not make a remark of that kind.

Mr. BELL (East Prince, P.E.I.) Well, that is how I interpreted his remarks—that the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries did not fulfil certain hopes and promises made in regard to the interests of Prince Edward Island.

Mr. MARTIN. What I did say was that the hon. gentleman's friends expected that when he came here, the interests of Prince Edward Island would be looked after and that they would not be sacrificed in the way, his friends said, they were under the late Government, and that, when he came here we expected that he would carry out and fulfil the expectations of his friends in that respect.

Mr. BELL (East Prince, P.E.I.) That is virtually the same thing. The statement now is, that the hon. gentleman was expected by his friends to look specially after Prince Edward Island, and that his friends have been disappointed. Under the previous Administration we had many causes of complaint in respect of our winter service. We had the "Stanley," a good boat of her kind, but in attempting to perform the winter service between Prince Edward Island and the mainland she was, unfortunately, very often stuck in the ice. She would be out in the gulf for days—sometimes for weeks—with ice jamming her under conditions that it was hard to tell whether she would ever get safely out of the ice floe. She would be away from harbour sometimes 50 to 100 miles going in a circuitous route to reach her destination, driven hither and thither by the currents and by the ice. The people of Prince Edward Island represented

Mr. BELL (East Prince).

to the late Government: What would happen to the passengers if anything happened to the steamboat? There is no way of communicating with them; there is no second boat provided to save them. If the "Stanley" broke her propellor or was crushed in the ice when 30 miles from port, the boat and passengers would inevitably be lost, the "Stanley" being out in the ice for days and weeks. The people of Prince Edward Island protested and said: This is not the continuous communication you promised us under the terms of union. For two weeks and more our passengers cannot get across: freight is accumulating at Pictou and at Georgetown. The merchants complained and represented that one vessel could not carry the freight. In the interest of commerce we asked for a second boat. That was the complaint made to the previous Government by the people and by the press. They heard that complaint, but they turned a deaf ear to the entreaties of our people. When this Government came into power, when my hon. friend the Minister of Marine took a prominent place in that Government, then it was that the expectations of the people of Prince Edward Island were realized and not disappointed. At this moment we have building in England a boat at a cost of \$180,000. That boat will be completed this fall, and will go on the service between Prince Edward Island and the mainland to supplement the efforts of the "Stanley." The Government that has done that—the Government that has listened to the representation and entreaties of our people—the Government that has rendered us this simple act of justice is certainly entitled to credit for the performance of its duty and the fulfilment of its promises. Where will that second boat operate? I understand it is the intention of the Government to place one of the boats upon the route between Summerside and Cape Tormentine, and if she cannot succeed in operating there during the whole of the winter, she is going on the route between Cape Traverse and Cape Tormentine. From the study I have been able to give to this subject and from an intimate knowledge of the locality, I have come to the conclusion that the natural and best mode of winter communication between Prince Edward Island and the mainland is from Summerside to Cape Tormentine, or between the capes. I look forward with great confidence to the effort that will be made to place one of these winter boats upon this route. Why, Sir, look at the matter of the saving of distance. Suppose a passenger wishes to go from Summerside to Ottawa or St. John, N.B., on the main line of travel, what is the difference in the distance by this route? From Summerside to Sackville, via Georgetown and Pictou, is 270 miles, whereas, by the new route, it is only seventy-two miles, or a saving in distance of 198 miles. Just fancy what that means in time and money.

These are important considerations in this fast age. Under the new conditions there will be a saving of 140 miles in travelling from Charlottetown to Sackville. Even from Georgetown there will be a saving of sixty-four miles. Hence it is manifest that the winter route between Summerside and Cape Tormentine, or between the capes, is the shortest and cheapest. It is also the safest. On the route from Georgetown to Pictou you are out on the "Stanley," sometimes for weeks, exposed to danger, not knowing when you will reach land; but, upon the other route, the short distance of eight miles between the capes, or fifteen miles from Summerside to Cape Tormentine, you are never out of sight of land, and never but a short distance from the board ice on either side. Again, on this latter route the difficulties in the way of winter navigation are more easily overcome. Off Georgetown and Pictou the ice is thick and heavy. It is northern ice that is driven south by the north-east winds and blocks these harbours. On the route between Summerside and Cape Tormentine the ice is only what is naturally formed in the Straits, and is never very thick, and hence never very difficult to overcome. Between the capes the tides meet, and in the ebb of the tide there are always leads of water between the floes of the ice. The steamer could always take advantage of these leads either going across the strait or up the strait. That is a condition of things which does not obtain on the Georgetown route. I have pointed out these facts to show the conditions existing on the proposed new route, and to indicate the reasons why we hope for a successful experiment with one of the winter steamers. I point to these facts for another reason. I said a moment ago that it was necessary for the Government to run a special mail train between Sackville and Cape Tormentine. Now, when we consider the conditions that will arise during the coming winter, when we consider that almost all the passenger travel and possibly a large portion of the freight, will pass between the capes or from Summerside to Cape Tormentine, then it becomes absolutely necessary that this special train service should be afforded between Sackville and Cape Tormentine. I bring this matter to the consideration of the hon. the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) and the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis H. Davies), believing, as I have reason to believe from my experience of them in the past, that they will do everything that is possible to make this service complete and satisfactory to Prince Edward Island. Some reference has been made to the terms of union. The terms of union do not mean that passengers are simply to be taken over to Cape Tormentine and dumped upon that shore. It means more. One of the strongest inducements that led the peo-

ple of Prince Edward Island into confederation was that we were to have proper and continuous communication with the Intercolonial Railway. We pay our full share of the cost of operating the Intercolonial Railway. We have paid our full share of the cost of its construction, and I say that the terms of union will never be fully or faithfully carried out until the people of Prince Edward Island are put into direct communication by rail with the Intercolonial.

Mr. B. D. McLELLAN (West Prince). Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that this matter has been brought to the attention of this House and to the consideration of the Government, for I expect that some good results will come from it. I cannot agree with my hon. friend from East Queen's (Mr. Martin) when he says that our mail service is not satisfactory. I think my hon. friend (Mr. Martin) will have to qualify that statement, because in my opinion our summer mail service has been very satisfactory since the present Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) has taken charge of it. I think my hon. friend (Mr. Martin) will agree with me in saying that during last summer and the summer before last, but particularly last summer, our mail service attained a standard which it had never attained before. We had a thoroughly good service. There was a thorough connection made all over the province, from Souris to Point du Chêne on the one hand, and from Tignish to Point du Chêne on the other, a service which we never had before. The Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) deserves great credit, and he deserves the gratitude of the people of our province for having brought the mail service in summer up to its present standard. But, Sir, with respect to the winter service it is a different thing. However, I believe it is only necessary to bring its defects to the attention of the Government, and the Postmaster General particularly, in order to have a satisfactory arrangement made. It is very true that the service last winter was in some cases better than the service given us by the late Government, but we are not satisfied with the service we had last winter, and that service was only better than the old service on certain days when the mail teams would succeed in getting down in time to catch the boats. What we do want, and what we are going to ask for, is: that a special train be run from Sackville to the capes. We are entitled to that much and we are entitled to it for the reason that it makes no difference how good the teams are, because no mail matter can be assorted between Sackville and Cape Tormentine when you convey the mails by horses. If we had a special train, we could have a mail clerk on that train from Sackville to the capes who would be able to assort the mail without any additional cost to the Government. As a matter of fact, we have now a mail clerk stationed at Cape Tormentine;

but when the mail arrives just in time to catch the boats, the clerk is unable to assort it. So that all the mails for the province go to Charlottetown; and those for the west have to wait there 24 hours in order to be assorted and sent west; whereas if the mail clerk at Tormentine were put on the train, he would be able to assort a great deal of the mail between the capes and Sackville. Even if he were able only to assort the letters, it would be a great boon to the people of Prince Edward Island. I do not think the matter of cost is worthy of consideration at all. We are entitled to have a mail service, and an efficient mail service, whatever it may cost; and when the matter is considered by the Postmaster General, I think he will agree with me that the question of cost should not count in the matter. It must be remembered that these ice-boats carry across the straits not only our mails, but passengers as well, and the interests of the travelling public should be taken into consideration. I might remind the House, because they do not, perhaps, understand our situation down there, that for six weeks in the year, at least, crossing at the capes is practically the only way of crossing from Prince Edward Island to the mainland. It is, therefore, of great consequence that all the accommodation the Government can afford to the public should be afforded to them; and I say that there is no other possible way of affording complete passenger accommodation and a complete mail service, than by putting on a special train, which would meet the boats at Cape Tormentine in the morning, and the train coming from the north bringing passengers down to the cape. Any person who would take the trouble during the winter months of going to the library and looking at the island papers, would understand the very great delay there is in the arrival of the mails there. I have often gone to the reading room and found that the papers which were printed at Charlottetown on the 6th of the month did not arrive here until the 12th. This is an unreasonable length of time, it seems to me, for the mails to come that short distance. With respect to the service of the new boat that is going on, I do not know what the intentions of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries are; but I have full confidence that he will make the best possible use of the two boats. I believe that the present boat, the "Stanley," has insufficient capacity for carrying all the freights that are passing between Prince Edward Island and the mainland at the present time. Every year we have an increase of the freights both going and coming. At the time I crossed, about the 12th of March, I was told that no less than 60 carloads of freight were waiting for transfer from Pictou to Georgetown. As the "Stanley" was stuck for some days in the ice, I have no doubt that 100 car-loads of freight were waiting for shipment from Pictou to Charlottetown. That shows that the capacity of the "Stanley" for the carrying

Mr. McLELLAN (West Prince).

trade between Prince Edward Island and the mainland is insufficient, and it will be necessary, perhaps, for the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to keep both boats running. If he decides to do that, I hope he will, as a matter of right to our end of the province, place one of the boats on the route between Summerside and Cape Tormentine. We cannot tell what this route may turn out to be, as it has never yet been tried, and the "Stanley," with some repairs, would be a very good boat to put on it. Some say there is not sufficient water in Summerside Harbour. Of my own knowledge, I do not know whether there is or not; but I was informed by the pilot of the "Northumberland" that there is better water in Summerside Harbour than there is in Pictou Harbour. So that, as a matter of right to our people, and also for the sake of trying the route and finding by practical experience whether it is feasible or not, it would be well for the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to give his earnest consideration to the proposal for putting a boat on that route; and I have confidence that if he has sufficient justification for putting one of the boats there, he will do so. I hope this discussion, which has been brought out by the motion of my hon. friend (Mr. Martin) to-night, will bear good fruits in the season to come, and that better mail and passenger arrangements will be made between Sackville and Cape Tormentine. In Prince Edward Island the conditions are good. We have an express train running from Charlottetown to Cape Traverse that makes connection both going and coming. We want equally good accommodation on this side, and I hope that when the next season comes around, we shall have it.

Mr. A. C. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.)  
Mr. Speaker, I think the people of Prince Edward Island will feel very thankful to the hon. member for East Queen's (Mr. Martin) for bringing this matter of our mail service directly before the Postmaster General, the hon. gentleman who represents the province in the Government, and the Government generally. I am, therefore, pleased indeed to see the hon. member for East Prince (Mr. Bell) and the hon. member for West Prince (Mr. McLellan) corroborating the statement of the hon. member for East Queen's, and protesting as strongly as possible against that very retrograde movement on the part of the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) of going back to a horse service, instead of spending a few paltry thousand dollars to put on a train service between Sackville and Cape Tormentine. I think it is one of the shabbiest things that has been done. I am not blaming this Government for more than they have done; but it is a shabby thing for the Government of Canada to think for a moment of the expenditure of a few thousand dollars towards carrying out the terms of union between Prince Edward Island and the mainland. There has been a fair mail service from the

Intercolonial Railway to Prince Edward Island during the last year from all accounts—at any rate, for the letters. The papers, I believe, were detained for unusually long periods; but the detention of the mails was not from Sackville or the mainland to Prince Edward Island, but from the island to other parts of Canada and other parts of the world. The service was never so bad, from the information I have received, as it has been during the past winter for the outgoing mails, and I trust that the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) will see that we shall never have during another season such poor accommodation in that respect as we had last winter.

Of course, we are all pleased to know, that a new boat is being provided for the winter mail service. This is a matter of necessity for this or any other Government. The present boat has been on the route many years, and the service is a very hard one for the best built boat in the world; and, as the present boat is getting up in years, it was a matter of necessity for the Government to procure a larger and more powerful one. This, I believe, the Government is doing, and I hope will succeed. The experience gained in the past will, no doubt, enable them to put on a boat that will be able to overcome the difficulties, possibly, which the present one was not able to surmount. The hon. gentlemen from the western section of the Island, naturally enough, want to get a mail service from Summerside to Cape Tormentine. I am sure, that, when the new boat is obtained, the opportunity will be afforded, possibly, of putting a boat on that route; but, from my own experience in crossing at the capes, I do not think a boat will work successfully on that route. The space is too confined, and there is not the same opportunity for the ice to spread in that portion of the strait as in the wider portion on the present route between Georgetown and Pictou. If my recollection is not at fault, I think that Captain Finlayson, of the "Stanley," has always said, that there was not sufficient water in the port at Summerside for a winter boat, when she is down to her proper depth in breaking the ice. My hon. friend from East Prince (Mr. Bell) has said, that the winter ice comes down from the north of Gulf St. Lawrence on the Pictou and Georgetown route, and that it is not nearly so heavy on the Summerside route; but my experience shows me, that there is far heavier ice on the Summerside route than on the Georgetown route, and for this reason there is an idea prevalent, that northern ice comes down to our coast. That is altogether a mistake. The ice on all sides of our coast, to a very large extent, forms on those coasts alone. People talk of the northern ice and the Labrador ice coming down, but that is all moonshine. The ice gradually accumulates in weight and thickness in the narrow spaces. In the straits, between Summerside and Cape Tor-

mentine, for instance, where there is a very strong current and great pressure, owing to the very narrow space, the ice piles up and becomes heavier than it does down in the eastern section, and for that reason, I think, the Georgetown and Pictou route will always be preferred to the western route. However, for my part, I will be very glad to see the people of Summerside accommodated, if there is any possibility of doing so. They endeavoured heretofore to get the "Stanley" to run, and I think there was an attempt made to get her up to the capes, but she found her own way back to Georgetown without much effort on their part. I think there was also an effort made to run her on the Charlottetown route, but on every occasion it was found that the Georgetown and Pictou route was the best for the winter service. When the late Government was in power, I was for years trying to persuade my hon. friend the senior member for Pictou, the late Minister of Marine, to put the "Stanley" on the Georgetown and Pictou route at the beginning of the winter season, as soon as the summer boats ceased to run at Charlottetown, and keep her there until these summer boats began to run again. It was a long time before he could see the matter just in that light, but finally he saw it was really the correct thing to do. I am glad to see, in connection with this new boat, that the hon. Minister is increasing its size and capacity, as compared with the present boat, which is insufficient for the increasing traffic. There was an accumulation of traffic, not only incoming traffic, but also on the Prince Edward Island side, at Georgetown, which it was impossible for the boats to accommodate. There were, I believe, fifty to one hundred carloads all the time there, waiting to be transported. The new boat will be larger, but not larger than necessary for the traffic of the province.

We have got a special train on the Island side. As soon as the mails land there, the Government have a special train to take those mails to Charlottetown. Why in the world cannot the Government have a special train on the other side to carry the mails from Cape Tormentine to Sackville? It is only a question of a very small expenditure for some three months in the year; and, as we are spending enormous sums in other parts of the country for railways and other public works, surely the people of other parts of Canada will not deny to the people of Prince Edward Island a part of what is necessary to carry out the terms of confederation. I do trust, that, when another season comes around, the Postmaster General will see, that we get a special train between Sackville and Cape Tormentine, and thus, to some extent, at least, carry out the terms of confederation.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). My hon. friends from East and West Prince and

from King's County, together with the mover of the resolution, have stated the facts in connection with this mail service so clearly, that very few words of comment are required from me. The whole difficulty arises from the fact, that, after the mails arrive at Sackville, the local arrangements on the local road between Sackville and Tormentine are such, that, if we depend on that road, the mails would not leave Sackville the day they arrived, at five o'clock, but only the next day at noon. They could not then reach the cape till next day in the afternoon, and would not reach the Island until the following day. That was the plan adopted by the late Government, and by that plan they succeeded in bringing the mails to the Island some twenty-four hours later than they reach there by the plan adopted by the hon. Postmaster General. He has made a move in the right direction, and I think the commercial community of the Island are grateful to him to that extent.

Looking at the contract made between the Dominion and Prince Edward Island for an efficient steam communication and the carriage of mails in winter, I am bound to say, that we are entitled to still better service than we are getting. I know that my hon. friend the Postmaster General endeavoured to come to terms with the New Brunswick road, which is a local road, not under the control of the Government, to so run its trains, in order to connect with the Intercolonial, that our mails might be carried from Sackville to Tormentine and proper connections made; but the local road standing upon its rights and in the hope of getting a round sum of money, did not see its way to do this for a sum which the Postmaster General thought was fair.

There is this to be said in connection with this road,—the Postmaster General pays a very large sum, in my humble opinion, to that road for conveying the local mail over that 36 miles. I, for one, fail to see, if the road will not change its timetable to connect with the Prince Edward Island mail service, the propriety of continuing that subvention. But I thoroughly agree with my hon. friends, that after passengers encounter the rigours and dangers of crossing by the capes—and there are very few gentlemen who have not been there, who have the slightest conception of what those rigours and dangers are—they should not be subjected to the further severe trial of a 36 mile drive in a cold sleigh before they can reach the Intercolonial Railway. I expect to press it with all the force I can upon my hon. colleagues that there is an imperative necessity for providing a special train so that passengers can go on until they reach Sackville and the Intercolonial Railway.

Mr. POWELL. What amount does the Cape Tormentine line get for the daily mail?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I believe it is \$1,600. Speak—  
Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

ing under correction, I would say also that they wanted \$4,000 for running a special to carry the Island mail to Sackville. I am sorry the Postmaster General was not here to hear the remarks made by my hon. friend, because I am sure that he would be impressed by them. I shall take good care to bring the report of this debate to his notice and to press upon him the great necessity there is for incurring a little more expense than he has yet incurred in order to make this service such a service as will reflect credit upon himself and will give greater comfort for passengers and greater speed in the transportation of mails to and from the Island boat. There is this to be said—and credit should be given where credit is due—that in the service last winter the Postmaster General saved 24 hours every day on the Island mail. That is on the incoming service. My hon. friend from King's (Mr. Macdonald) complains that the outgoing service is not so good. I am not prepared to agree that the service is as bad as he pictures it. The Postmaster General stated in answer to this question last month that only three times during the winter had the service he had prepared, failed to carry the mails from Cape Tormentine to Sackville and those three failures or omissions were caused by the failure of the boats to cross the nine miles between Cape Traverse and Cape Tormentine on time. I frankly say that I am not satisfied with the service by horse sleigh for these 36 miles. And I am sure that the Postmaster General, whose attention has been largely engaged in other important matters, when he has this question brought more clearly to his notice will do all that can be done to meet the just requirements of the people. When he considers the terrible rigours and hardships suffered by a passenger who has spent eight or ten hours battling with the ice and snow crossing the capes he will see that a man, and particularly ladies—for delicate ladies have to sometimes undertake this journey—should not be compelled to undergo a 36-mile journey in an open sleigh. When he considers this, I think he will be convinced that it is fair and reasonable, even if it does cost a few thousand dollars, that a special train, well warmed, should be run from Tormentine to carry the people forward. I remember that the Premier honoured the island with a visit, I believe in the month of January. I think he was accompanied on this trip across by the Minister of Agriculture. The terrible rigour of the journey almost proved too much for him. It was at the risk of his life that he crossed there.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's). He ought to have a soft side for us.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. So he has. I can bear testimony to the fact that he has the kindest feelings for the island, from his personal experience, he is prepared to back up our

argument to the Postmaster General to induce him to give every possible accommodation, both to mails and passengers, in this difficult journey. Now, one word before I close, with reference to the new boat that we are getting. Some hon. gentlemen are under the impression that this is a very costly service that is being provided for mails and passengers between Pictou and Georgetown. But, as my hon. friend said, this is a growing trade. The passenger and freight receipts aggregated \$12,000 this past winter; and if we had had the other boat there which would have been able to remove the freight accumulated at Pictou during a few months of the time, the receipts would have been nearer \$20,000. Now, my hon. friend from East Prince (Mr. Bell) naturally contends that one of the two boats should be placed on the route between Summerside and Cape Tormentine. That, of course, will be an experiment. The route between Georgetown and Pictou has long since passed beyond the experimental stage. We know what we can do there. The boats can run there all winter, except for one nip of two or three weeks. With this exception, we can run with great regularity during the whole year. I can tell my hon. friend from East Prince—and I am sure that he will be pleased to hear it—that I applied to the Hydrographer for the Admiralty in Great Britain for an order for Captain Tooker of the Survey to proceed to Summerside and survey the harbour, to ascertain whether there is enough water to place the "Stanley" on this route. The survey is being made, and after the report has been placed in my hands and with the advice I shall receive from the navigators who have been in command of the "Stanley," I shall know whether it is well to try the experiment of putting one of the boats on the route this year.

There is no objection to passing the motion which the hon. gentleman proposes or to bring down the papers he desires.

Mr. H. A. POWELL (Westmoreland). Just a word in reference to a remark that dropped from the lips of the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and that calls for a reply from myself. I may say, as respects the service, that I care not what the Postmaster General says—if he has made such a statement, as that there were only three days on which the mails were behind time when carried by horse and sled, all I can say is that the days of untruthfulness have not yet departed. I care not what the hon. gentleman's information may be. I know of my own knowledge that the mails remained in a barn or under some other roof at the village of Aulac for one or two days, and that on several occasions they failed to connect with the Intercolonial Railway trains.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Incoming or outgoing?

Mr. POWELL. Incoming. And I know further that for one fortnight there was not

more than one or two occasions on which these mails connected in time with the Canadian Pacific Railway or with the Montreal express at Sackville station. Now, so far as the handing over of mails to private individuals to carry is concerned, I may say that the change was made on the eve of the local elections in the province of New Brunswick. And, Sir, it was proclaimed, not by the rank and file, but by the leaders of the Liberal party, that that change was a political change. And, Sir, there was announced on that occasion the further change of which the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has given notice to-night. That is, that this daily mail service will be taken away from the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Railway for the simple reason that the constituent members of that corporation were all Liberal-Conservatives. And, Sir, a more disgraceful act never was perpetrated by any Government.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell) heard every member say that our mails were delivered 24 hours quicker.

Mr. POWELL. I will analyse that statement. The city of Charlottetown and points east of Charlottetown received their mails 24 hours sooner; but as the hon. member for Prince has said, points west did not receive their mails one hour earlier than under the previous arrangement.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Nonsense.

Mr. POWELL. Well, I will leave that matter to be settled by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and the hon. gentlemen who sits behind him. My hon. friend is speaking of a matter within his own knowledge, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is drawing upon his imagination for his facts.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Not at all; I am aware of the fact, for I correspond daily with the island, that the miserable service which that railroad offered brought the mails to the island 24 hours later than they were brought by the horse and sleigh that travels from Sackville to Cape Tormentine, and everybody knows it.

Mr. POWELL. No man has denied that. Under the old management the mails got from the island to this side 24 hours earlier than under the new arrangement. But I was proceeding to point out a disgraceful thing. On the eve of this election, in order to favour a strong supporter of the Liberal Government and a man whose brother-in-law ran in the interest of the Liberal ticket, in the county of Westmoreland, they did what? Instead of having the mails delivered at Aulac station, which was four miles nearer Cape Tormentine and the point of departure at the breakwater there, they let them to a man in Sackville who had to carry them four miles

to Aulac Station daily, and bring them four miles back from Aulac Station, before they left or took the train at Sackville. This state of affairs went on for three or four weeks. My hon. friend talks of it as if they met the railway every day. I make bold to assert that during those three or four weeks they did not, on one-third of the occasions, meet that railway to Sackville. Then the enormity of the transaction being disclosed, they had to back up and change the route from Aulac to Cape Tormentine. I may say that this route was the old route. For year after year and decade after decade, the mail service to the island terminated at Aulac. The hon. gentleman knows that, but I charge him that, in order merely to gratify a political friend in the parish of Sackville, he put the public to the inconvenience of missing the mails on 50 per cent of the occasions, the carrier having to carry them four miles extra to Aulac Station and bring them back again, while in his route he passed within 50 yards of Aulac Station. Now, a word in respect to the miserable service. The Cape Tormentine Railway is built to accommodate the local traffic, and to serve the interests of two or three parishes in the county of Westmoreland, as well as indirectly to serve, during the winter, the interests of Prince Edward Island. But owing to the fact that the Intercolonial Railway trains, the evening trains were generally behind time, sometimes from one to four or five hours, it was absolutely impossible to start the train at Sackville on the arrival of those trains. The local express from the city of St. John, and the local express from the city of Halifax, passing through Sackville, are always on time. They started the train then to connect with the express in the day time, ran down to Cape Tormentine and came up in the evening in time to catch the evening train. When the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries says he knows all about it, he knows no more than the man in the moon what he is talking about: He has been in Ottawa all the time. He talks about these delicate women last winter having to go on foot in making this excursion across from the island, and then drive in a sleigh to Sackville.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I said if they went by sleigh they would have an arduous journey.

Mr. **POWELL**. There never has been a lady or a gentleman passenger from Prince Edward Island during the last winter that ever dreamed of coming from Cape Tormentine to Sackville by sleigh. Fortunately, the train was always there in time, and waited for the boats to come over, for the accommodation of passengers. That exactly shows the amount of intimate knowledge the hon. gentleman has of the facts. Now, coming to the last phase of this matter. He insinuates that this railway company, whose solicitor I happen to be, and I know something about it—

Mr. **POWELL**.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. That is where the shoe pinches.

Mr. **POWELL**. That is why I am stating the fact. I make that statement to the House and am giving the members the full knowledge of the relations I hold with that company. I will say this, that so far from that company endeavouring to make profit out of it, I challenge hon. gentlemen to mention a solitary case in the whole Dominion of Canada where a special service is provided for Her Majesty's mails, that the rate is not greatly in excess of the offer that was made by the president of that company. On the other side what is done? The Prince Edward Island Railway runs a special train to Cape Traverse in the interest of the mails, and Mr. Wood, the president of the company, offered, on behalf of the company, to do the service to Cape Tormentine at a less rate than the postal department paid the Government railway on the other side of the Straits. Now, Sir, so far as this company are concerned, they are able to bear the hon. gentleman's displeasure. I have no doubt, if the hon. gentleman has any satisfaction in taking away from them the small pittance of \$1,800 that they have for running a daily mail and accommodating 39 miles of country, I am sure that those gentlemen can stand it. The hon. Minister can have whatever satisfaction there is in depriving the company of that subsidy. But there was one part of his speech that did flavour of some degree of liberality and some degree of statesmanship. He said that the Postmaster General could well afford to appropriate a few thousand dollars towards a service that looked to the improvement of the business relations of the people of Prince Edward Island with the mainland. It only requires two or three thousand dollars to run a special train, and I can assure the hon. gentleman that to-morrow, if it is necessary, or any time next winter that it becomes necessary, the directors of that company will give him a special train at a lower rate than any special train is provided in Canada for the accommodation of the mail service. The \$1,900 that they get is only about \$6 a day for every day in the year, for serving thirty-five miles of territory with a daily mail, including six post offices, and I think that when the bill is footed up and paid by the postal department of this country, you will find that there was not a remarkable degree of economy effected by substituting a carrier service for the special train.

Motion agreed to.

#### RETURNS ORDERED.

Return showing the actual expenditure on reconstruction of the pier at China Point, in the province of Prince Edward Island, the date of such payments, to whom the payments were made and the amount paid to each person; the

amount paid for actual labour performed; the amount paid for material not used, and when; the quantity and kind of material purchased, and the price; the present actual condition of the pier; the progress made towards reconstruction; and all papers, correspondence and documents relating to or giving any information or particulars respecting the matters aforesaid.—(Mr. Martin.)

Copies of all correspondence between the Minister or any officials of the Department of the Interior and Mr A. Soper, of Port Perry, or other persons in reference to the suppression of the sale of liquor to the Scugog Indians.—(Mr. Foster.)

Copy of lease or contract under which the Intercolonial Railway management permitted or authorized the building of a restaurant on the railway right-of-way at Grand Narrows. Also, copies of all correspondence in reference to the granting of the privilege of erecting such building on the railway property, and also in reference to running the same.—(Mr. McDougall.)

Return showing the names of persons to whom payments were made of allowance or drawback on freight charges on the New Brunswick portion of the Intercolonial Railway during the months of January and February, 1899, the amount and date of payment in each case, and the date at which the overcharge was made.—(Mr. Foster.)

Copies of all complaints referred to on page 3 of the Report of the Deputy Minister of the Interior (Annual Report of the Department of the Interior for the year 1897), minutes of Council, commission, instructions, and report of Mr. Archer Martin, the commissioner, respecting the New Westminster Crown timber office.—(Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.)

Copies of all Orders in Council, ordinances, commissions, appointments, bond certificates and oaths, relating to the appointment of the sheriff for Yukon territory; also, copies of the same papers respecting the appointment of the clerk of the court for the Yukon territory.—(Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.)

Copies of all correspondence between Mechanics' Assembly 10,061, Knights of Labour, and the Government or any member thereof.—(Mr. Ingram.)

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 11.15 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, 16th May, 1899.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 120) to incorporate the Rutland and Noyan Railway Company.—(Mr. Brodeur.)

Bill (No. 121) respecting the Ontario and Rainy River Railway Company.—(Mr. Dyment.)

### INQUIRY FOR RETURN.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. Before the Orders of the Day are called, and while the hon. the Postmaster General is in his seat, I would like to draw his attention to the fact that an Order of the House was passed some days ago calling for a return in regard to the dismissal of Mr. Lake, postmaster at Morton. I require the papers before the hon. Minister's estimates are discussed, and I give him timely notice to have them on the Table.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). I will have that matter attended to.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. It will only take a few minutes to make them out.

### THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** (Picton). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to ask the attention of the House to a matter of considerable importance, at any rate to those who are interested in following the traditions and practices in parliamentary government. I refer to the extraordinary delay in calling together one of the most important, if not the most important, of the committees of the House.

Mr. **SPEAKER**. Does the hon. member propose to conclude with a motion?

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. I propose, Mr. Speaker, to conclude with a motion. This Parliament was called together on the 16th of March. On the 18th of April the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne was carried. We have now reached the 16th of May, and the Notice paper advises us that on Friday next, being the 19th of May, the first meeting after organization of the Public Accounts Committee will be held. The practice of this House contemplated no such delay. I think I am safe in saying that no such delay ever occurred in the assembling of that committee. It is no good reason to suggest that the debate on the Address occupied a long time. There was no reason or rule of this House to prevent the organization of that committee before that subject had been dealt with or concluded. On the contrary, according to the invariable practice of the House up to this session, the Prime Minister, or some one acting for the Government, on the report of the Speech to this House, usually moved or gave notice that he would move for the striking of that committee. That committee can be, and I submit, according to the practice of Parliament, should be struck at any time after reasonable notice given to the members of this House. I admit that, as a matter of fact in past sessions, no active steps were taken to call the committee together for executive work until the

Address had been discussed, but when that debate was prolonged so many weeks, as it was this session, there was no reason—such as the meetings of other committees or the perplexities in connection with executive government—which could be urged in favour for delay in calling that committee together. If the Government had proper regard for the importance of the subjects that remained uncompleted by that committee last session, if they had examined, as they were bound to do, the reports laid upon the Table of this House, in which, by the evidence taken not only the honour of the Government was concerned, but also the honour of a member of this House directly challenged, this delay would not have occurred. Two investigations by that committee last session were held over, not concluded. The one, affecting the honour of a member of this House, was stopped in the middle, owing to the absence of that hon. gentleman, so as to give him an opportunity on his return to be present before the investigation was concluded, and the other was not concluded on my undertaking to be here at the earliest opportunity this session and ready to continue it to a proper conclusion. Those are unusual facts and incidents, but they are facts and circumstances which should have impelled the Government, without any urging from this side, to afford those parties I have mentioned the earliest opportunity of making good—the one his undertaking to be present this session and push the matter to a conclusion, and the other his character which was involved in the evidence taken. But, strange to say, this session we find no celerity on the part of the occupants of the Treasury benches in promoting the meetings of that committee. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) himself knows that his convenience and his wish is nearly always law to the chairman of the committee. In answering the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) this session, he practically admitted, what every one understands that he has control over the meetings and sittings of that committee; and yet we find the utmost indifference, to say the least, exhibited by that hon. gentleman and his colleagues in connection with the assembling of that committee. We cannot overrate the importance of that committee. In view of the action or want of action of the Government, perhaps it might be necessary for me to argue that question, but I shall content myself with simply referring to a very good exposition of the functions and importance of that committee given us by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) in 1891, in which the Right Hon. Sir John Thompson, then leading the Government, cordially agreed, and at the conclusion of which a motion was carried unanimously. Adopting then this language of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, I shall be relieved from arguing that the Government is bound to show a great deal more

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active co-operation in connection with its working than they have exhibited this session. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce on that occasion said, after introductory observations:

I desire to call the attention of the House to a matter of very considerable importance with respect to the safeguards which the practice of this House has provided for the purpose of seeing that the money placed in the hands of the Ministers of the Crown is judiciously and honestly expended. As the House knows, the main precautions which, up to this date and from the period of confederation, or nearly from the period of confederation, have been taken by the House for the purpose to which I have referred, are mainly these two: First of all, we created a special officer, our auditor general, who is placed by Act of Parliament in a position closely analogous to that of the judges of the various courts, to whom we are in the habit of looking for detailed information as to the expenditure of public funds, and also to see that the requisite formalities and vouchers which ought to surround such expenditure have been attended to and complied with.

I call particular attention to the words I have last quoted: "To see that the requisite formalities and vouchers which ought to surround such expenditure have been attended to and complied with."

The other measure of protection which the House has seen fit to take ever since confederation has consisted in this, that we have appointed an important committee of this House, containing at present rather more than one-quarter of all the members having seats in this Chamber, for the purpose of examining the accounts of the past year and such items of other years as the House may see fit to refer to the committee.

Later on in his speech, the hon. gentleman said:

Now, according to my understanding of the case, in the first place the Public Accounts Committee is strictly and in terms a committee of investigation, an inquisitorial committee, if you so choose to call it. This committee is bound, from the nature of the case, to ascertain whether the various sums of public money which this House places at the disposal of the Government of the day are properly and honestly expended.

I think, therefore, if hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House agree now, as they did then, in that exposition of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, they will not think I am putting it too strongly when I say there is not a committee with more important functions, if as important, as the Public Accounts Committee. Of these matters that stood over from last session, I have mentioned two. To show that I am speaking by the book in connection with the inquiry into the expenditure of a very large sum of money on the Manitoba prosecutions, I refer to the report of the committee of last year, which shows that when the evidence taken at that stage was furnished this House, it was reported in such a manner that the inquiry might be continued at the first available opportunity during the next session of Parliament.

And the first available opportunity, under the direction of the occupants of the Treasury benches, in a session of Parliament which began on the 16th of March, is to be the 19th of May. And the hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches will not deny that they hope to conclude this session at no distant day from the 19th of May, that they have very little in the way of legislation to propose, and that as soon as they can get one or two measures passed and their supplies voted, we shall be expected to wind up the business of this session. Old parliamentarians, at any rate, will understand that it is absolutely impossible, if ordinary time be afforded to that committee, working from the 19th of May, to conclude even one of these investigations, without any regard to the public accounts of moneys expended during the last fiscal year. So the result of the action of the Government, or their want of action, is to frustrate the work of this committee, a committee that, I venture to say, never in the history of this country could render more valuable service than at the present time, when not only the members of the Opposition, but the whole country are alarmed at the extravagances and the recklessness of the Government in regard to the promises of public expenditure. It is hardly to be wondered at that the country is alarmed, considering the declaration of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) that notwithstanding the extravagance of the last year or two, we are to wait until we see them next year to see still larger expenditures. It is of the utmost importance that before they launch extravagant schemes next year this committee should have an opportunity to understand exactly on what principles the public money has been expended during the past year. And, in connection with this question of the Manitoba prosecutions, not only is there material that ought to be put into the hands of this House in complete form, but there is a chapter in connection with our finances absolutely unparalleled in the history of Canada. The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), who is peculiarly involved in this matter, cannot point for justification to a single precedent in the history of any Administration since confederation for the extraordinary and illegal course that was pursued in connection with the expenditure of \$10,000 of the money of the people of Canada—money expended secretly, and, with two sessions of Parliament passing by, never a word of explanation or suggestion as to there being one dollar of that amount expended or warranted, money expended without the authority of Parliament, money expended in connection with a subject in respect of which Parliament never before expended a dollar. If it were a principle that was worthy of being adopted in this House, it should have been explained. But it is a principle that every

member of the Government shrank from expounding before the money was spent and the obligation incurred. If, therefore, there ever was a subject that should be probed to the bottom and all the facts in connection with it gathered at the earliest possible day, it is that subject. And it is in a case like this that we are face to face with the fact that the occupants of the Treasury benches are hampering proper celerity in the work of that very important committee.

Now, before I deal further with the importance of this question, I would call attention to how this side of the House has urged that a meeting of this committee be held. The result we know. Take, for instance, May 5th, when there was nothing in the way to prevent this committee getting to work. The ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) appealed to the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) to call a meeting of the committee on the following Monday. And the promise of the Finance Minister was, as I shall read—and his position evidently involved an acceptance of the supposition that heretofore obtained, that he had some control and influence in the matter :

I at once placed skilled detectives at work, and range for meeting as soon as possible, but it is a day upon which we rarely call a meeting of the committee.

And again on the 12th of May. And the result is that that committee has not yet held a session except the formal one for organization. I will give you some idea of the importance of calling the committee together by referring to the records of this House. I shall refer particularly to one case, but besides this there are the questions involving in the bulky volume that has come from the hand of the Auditor General, and that cannot, in the ordinary course of things, even if we sit here until August, be properly considered and properly dealt with. In connection with the administration of justice in the province of Manitoba, I say that which no lawyer in this House will contradict, when I say that the Dominion Government has nothing whatever to do with the prosecution of criminals—that devolves entirely and exclusively upon the Attorney General of the province. The Dominion Government may act as a quasi prosecutor, but where the Dominion Government asks to put into force the machinery for the punishment of crime in the province of Manitoba, the responsibility financially as well as in every other way, devolves upon the Attorney General for the province of Manitoba. If authority were necessary for that position, we have it over the hand of the present Minister of Justice. And yet the report to which I have referred shows this House that, at the request of a gentleman who then occupied no position in this House, who was not a member of the Canadian Government, this Government,

without any authority from Parliament, statutory or otherwise, without a single sixpence appropriated for the express purpose then or at any other time, even down to this day, by a secret correspondence—a secret and confidential and unofficial correspondence—arranged that the federal exchequer should be responsible, in the first place, for the detection of crime in the province, and, in the second place, for the prosecution of the criminals. The only excuse suggested is the one conjectured by the Minister of the Interior during the examination, that the province of Manitoba was not financially able to suppress crime within its limits; and the one afterwards given—not in the letter to the Prime Minister, if my memory serves me well, but I will read that letter—that the alleged crime was in connection with the holding of a Dominion election. But one of the most extraordinary facts in connection with this matter, showing a disregard from the start of anything like responsibility to Parliament, was independent and outside of that secrecy, that extraordinary secrecy, shame-faced at the very outset, according to these papers, a secrecy born of shame, and the knowledge on the part of those who were concerned in it, that the matter would not obtain the sanction of this Parliament, if the sanction of this Parliament was first asked—is that the present Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), when not connected with this Parliament in any shape or form, undertook to incur a bill which was ultimately saddled upon the federal exchequer, without authority from any one, and while the present leader of the Opposition was the Prime Minister of this country. Almost a month before the present Prime Minister accepted office and assumed responsibility for the Government of this country, his present colleague, his then coadjutor in the province of Manitoba, undertook to incur a huge bill of expense, undertook to employ detectives from the United States, undertook to employ counsel all over the city of Winnipeg, undertook to incur a huge bill that he says over his own signature, the province of Manitoba could not afford to pay; and then, if you please, he did, about the 17th of July, just after the present Prime Minister had settled down to his seat in his office in the Privy Council, conduct a secret, and private, and unofficial correspondence, which ends in a day or two, almost by the next post, if not the next post, in a secret and unofficial undertaking on the part of the Prime Minister of this country, that Canada will foot the bill; passing over all guards and checks of another character which this country has respecting the expenditure of public money, ignoring the Justice Department absolutely, the Prime Minister, or President of the Privy Council, gives his private and secret undertaking to Mr. Clifford Sifton, of the city of Winnipeg, that the funds of the Canadian exchequer will be at his disposal if he can fasten on the Tories in Manitoba

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the charge of a conspiracy to defraud the electorate; without any evidence in his hand beyond this secret and private letter written by the Minister of the Interior, vague and indefinite, containing no specific charges, mark you, Mr. Speaker, no names, no dates, no business information, even, but the undertaking of a Mr. Sifton that he would unearth one of the worst conspiracies to defraud the electorate that had ever occurred. Then, with no other material before him, the Prime Minister undertook that which he had no right to undertake, which he knew he had no right to undertake, as events subsequently showed—he undertook to foot the bill, that is to say, that the Canadian taxpayers would foot the bill. There was a session of Parliament in August, the next month, or in September, 1896. Did the Prime Minister tell this House of the undertaking that he had assumed? Did his Finance Minister tell this House of this extraordinary and unparalleled obligation that he had privately and unofficially assumed? Not a word of it. They came down and asked for the ordinary supplies, they asked for the supplies for the Department of Justice, to be expended according to the traditional principal of that department, giving no hint, nor suggestion of this, though at that very time he knew that this agent of his, Mr. Clifford Sifton, in the city of Winnipeg, was scouring the constituencies of Manitoba, by the aid of Pinkerton detectives, to collect, as they did collect, what other people, whether Reformers or Conservatives, had to collect at their own expense, information that would technically unseat their opponents in the courts, and which they used, but which they did not pay for, putting that on the taxpayer. Months rolled by, meetings were held, Mr. Howell, one of the attorneys, comes to the city of Ottawa, and has a secret meeting with the Ministers of the Crown. And more than that, Mr. Speaker, treating the Governor General with extraordinary contempt, these gentlemen of the Privy Council meet together—the Minister of Marine and Fisheries called it a meeting of the sub-committee of the Privy Council of Canada—knowing, however, that their proceedings would not bear the light of day. That meeting did not result in a report to His Excellency, but in instructions to Mr. Howell to go ahead, passing His Excellency by with the most supreme contempt, giving instructions as a sub-committee of the Privy Council behind his back, without any record being made of it. Another session of Parliament is convened, but there is not a word of explanation in the Supply Bill, not a word of explanation is vouchsafed to Parliament, and no man in the country at that time knew that there was on foot this conspiracy, but not the conspiracy that Mr. Clifford Sifton, of Winnipeg, referred to, or the private correspondence referred to, but this conspiracy against the people of Canada. Two sessions of Parliament transpired after this correspondence that I will read, took place, and practically

the first that we learn of what has occurred, is in the Auditor General's Report. For how did they manage to pay out money in the meanwhile? They had been passed by the Department of Justice; the matter was conducted, as I say, privately and unofficially, except when it came to pay out the money and officially to relieve private parties and private debts, as the evidence indicates. How was it, Mr. Speaker, that they managed this? Why, Mr. Clifford Sifton, the informant of July, had become the Minister of the Interior, and the Minister of the Interior, taking from the Department of Justice all conduct of this transaction, enters into it and becomes the leader "kiting" the transaction through the banks and drawing on the parties concerned, and he draws on them until this drafting business becomes a little intolerable to the banks, until the banks cannot stand it any longer; and down he comes one day with a report which puts at his disposal a large sum of the money of the people of Canada, to make advances, as the report says, but, as a matter of fact, to provide for the advances that had been made by Mr. Clifford Sifton, and which were charged to his account at a bank in the city of Ottawa. Every step in the transaction is secret, every step in the transaction is irregular, every step in the transaction in regard to the expenditure of that sum of money through these extraordinary channels, is in the wrong department and by the wrong officers. But the most ridiculous conclusion is reached, and the Department of Justice is asked, ultimately, the officials are asked ultimately, to tax, to adjust the accounts that Mr. Sifton paid to these various attorneys in the city of Winnipeg, to settle, as one of them explained, really how much the Minister of the Interior was to be recouped for the amounts that he had paid out for this local expenditure, which are ordinarily taxed and adjusted as accounts of a solicitor or counsel. In this case, as the evidence shows, these subordinates in the Government were called on to tax the accounts for the Minister of the Interior. He had at that time paid out, say, thousands of dollars, and the question was: Was he to be recouped to the extent that he had paid out, or would they, as his officers, or the officers of the Government of which he was so powerful a member as to be distinguished as the Napoleon among them—was he to refund anything to Her Majesty's exchequer? And, therefore, this ridiculous position confronts us, Mr. Speaker, from the sworn evidence that the Justice Department had practically to tax these accounts blindly when the ordinary, when the papers that, in ordinary cases, are under their control, were not forthcoming, when the correspondence had in regard to the transaction was garbled, when the letters relating to it were abstracted or taken from the files, and even the letters that they had received were not

procurable by this committee; the letters which should have gone before this committee had disappeared, and, that the Administration were ashamed of the whole thing is the only point in that transaction, from the beginning to the end, that is to their credit. That they were ashamed was apparent by this, that whereas, they asserted that this was a justifiable expenditure, and, whereas Mr. Sifton said that this was a justifiable expenditure, justifiable not on the ground upon which they undertook it, but justifiable in view of the results, and we will see the results, that, whereas they insisted that it was justifiable, even they did not have the courage to take the whole amount that was expended. They scared up \$10,000, but they had to pay \$19,000 in connection with this transaction. If it had been a transaction that was justifiable in every respect, if it had been an expenditure contemplated by any vote of this House, they would have spent every dollar they could have taken out of the public exchequer. But the mysterious thing is this, that, whereas in February, 1898, in speaking in the Yukon debate, the hon. Minister of the Interior told the House that he had not a dollar, yet, the hon. Minister of the Interior appears in that committee, by the evidence, to have paid the difference between \$19,000 and \$10,000. It did not come out of his pocket according to his own statement, and the Auditor General says it did not come out of the public exchequer. But in that little transaction there is a flood of light let in upon the whole business. It does not need argument to show that, if that had been an account properly chargeable to Government, they would have paid the whole of it from the public exchequer. The Manitoba Government say that they did not pay the \$9,000, but the Government of Manitoba did pay about \$100 or so, in connection with some subordinate prosecution. They assumed responsibility for that, and that was all they did in connection with it. I think there might have been a reason that would have made the Government anxious to follow this up and give some explanation, but, mark you, Mr. Speaker, so far as the attempt was made last session, we could only examine the interested parties. We could only examine the lawyer who was employed, first of all, by Mr. Sifton, of Winnipeg, and later on, paid by the Government, though he himself, according to his evidence, thought that he was being paid by Mr. Sifton. Out of the mouth of Mr. Howell and from the papers that were left to us, though some of them have been kept back to this day, these extraordinary facts are apparent, and the answer of the Government is that, whereas we were cognizant or believed that grave frauds had been practiced to prevent a fair expression of public opinion in the general elections on June 25, the Manitoba Government, or a member of

that Government, said that they could not afford to prosecute for that crime; we did prosecute and we convicted one man at an expenditure of \$19,000. But the man that they convicted went into the witness box and confessed that he had to go with the informer, a drunken, miserable wretch, according to universal testimony, who was the chief source of information that the hon. Minister of the Interior, then Mr. Sifton, had—and that he had conspired with that miserable wretch to rob and cheat the Conservative party and not being able to do that he was able to obtain for a price Mr. Freeborn to act under the influence of the Minister of the Interior. The jury, not regarding the exact terms of the indictment, not unnaturally came to the conclusion that he was guilty of whatever he was charged with, and I am told that the hon. member for Macdonald (Mr. Rutherford) had such little confidence in the real crime that had been charged that he gave bail to the prisoner during the trial, and that afterwards the Manitoba Government elevated him to the position of one of the magistracy of that province, making him a full-fledged justice of the peace. That was the result of these extraordinary proceedings. I have referred to the manner in which this thing was brought about. The hon. Minister of Justice, the hon. Solicitor General, and the Deputy Minister of Justice could tell us nothing in regard to this matter, that, from first to last, had no connection with the Department of Justice. They had given no instructions; they received no instructions, and towards the end of Mr. Howell's examination, the hon. Minister of the Interior produces a private letter book, and, with the permission of the committee, is allowed to take out of his private letter book a private and confidential letter of his own and to read the reply which was private and confidential, or an extract from a private and confidential letter from the Prime Minister, and so this was the kind of information upon which these proceedings were taken. I call your attention particularly to it, Mr. Speaker, in this connection. We have had the doctrine laid down from the Treasury benches that in all matters in which charges are made in regard to our own officers, for instance, officers of this country, if you believe them to be guilty of wrong-doing, you are to specify your charge, you are to name the man who is willing to take the responsibility for making the charge, and then you are to go out on the streets and housetops and make yourself liable for all kinds of prosecution. Here is the letter of Mr. Sifton, for he was Mr. Sifton then, and I refer to him in that way simply to distinguish him from the hon. Minister of the Interior, as he became later on in the history of this transaction. Here is a confidential letter that he addressed to the right hon. Prime Minister of this country:

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou).

(Confidential.) Winnipeg, July 17, 1896.  
Hon. Wilfrid Laurier,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. Laurier,—The result of the late elections in some of the constituencies of Manitoba—  
The result of the elections was they went Tory.

—indicated to me that a fraud of some kind had been perpetrated in the interest of the Government candidates.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. An hon. gentleman says "hear, hear," knowing that the very next thing that Mr. Clifford Sifton would do then would be to insist that before any one moved who had the responsibility of Government he should have laid before him the name of the man who committed the fraud on the public, if he committed it, and with the willingness of the charger to have his name published. But it is that what Mr. Clifford Sifton thought at that time would be the safest thing to do?

I at once placed skilled detectives at work, and have now in my possession conclusive evidence of an organized system of tampering with ballots, which constitutes the most colossal crime against honest electors which I have ever had any knowledge of.

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if I wrote a letter like that, or if some one more reliable, in the minds of the Treasury benches, in regard to the Brockville election, would they place skilled detectives at work and would they undertake, at the command and for the interest of some gentleman outside of the federal arena and exploit different sections of the Brockville constituency?

Mr. TAYLOR. Or West Huron.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Or West Huron.

I now know that two constituencies were secured by means of these practices. I think it can be proved eventually that others were secured in the same way. I am also in a position to say that there are strong indications that the same practices prevailed in Ontario.

Ontario is a long range from Winnipeg, where Mr. Sifton was writing this letter, and where he was busy during the whole election.

As I have said above, detectives are now at work.

Although he had conclusive evidence, as you will observe, yet he had detectives now at work, and for what purpose, I would like to ask the hon. gentleman.

My purpose is to promptly but secretly push the inquiry and secure evidence upon which to convict the guilty parties.

So far, not a name; so far, not a date; so far, not a direct charge against a single individual; yet on the 17th of July, you will

observe, he had employed detectives, he would secretly push the inquiry and secure evidence on which to convict the guilty parties :

It is also important that no means be left untried to unearth these frauds in the province of Ontario.

I hope the Prime Minister will remember that. It is advice given by a Liberal to a Liberal in 1896, and is it to fall on deaf ears, when coming from a Conservative to a Liberal in 1899? If there is a particle of justification for expenditure of this kind, if the right hon. gentleman believes to-day, that he did right in 1896, I hope he will listen to these words :

It is also important that no means be left untried to unearth these frauds in the province of Ontario, and punish every one guilty of complicity. The bearer will explain the matter somewhat in detail. The expense of such an investigation here—

This is the delicate part. Here was a gentleman who, as the accounts show, began this work and employed the detectives before the Conservatives were out of office at Ottawa. He goes on to say, on the 17th of July, just after Sir Wilfrid Laurier had become Prime Minister :

The expense of such an investigation here is altogether beyond the financial competency of my department, although I have assumed the responsibility of inaugurating the work,—

The accounts will show that we paid for them.

—although I have assumed the responsibility of inaugurating and carrying it on so far, from my conviction of its far-reaching importance. I now think, after careful consideration, that it is the plain duty of your Government to furnish the necessary funds for the service, in order to carry on this work here, and to take the matter in hand in Ontario yourselves. I therefore request that the expense of conducting these inquiries and prosecutions should be borne by the Federal Government. The money will be fully accounted for.

I would like the Minister of the Interior to remember this particularly, for this money was all spent and paid out in 1897, when he made this private pledge in regard to public money, and yet in 1899 that pledge has not been redeemed.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). That statement is absolutely untrue.

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I think this statement is untrue, but I would not like to have said it myself.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I say, the statement which the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is now making is absolutely untrue; for the money has been fully accounted for, and the public records so show it.

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I thought the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) was referring to the statement contained in his letter. I will not say, that his statement is untrue, because it would not be parliamentary to say so, but, after I have read for him a little of the evidence reported to this House, I will venture to say, that even he will not repeat the statement he has made. At least, I hope so for the hon. gentleman's own character and reputation; I hope he will refrain from making that statement.

The money will be fully accounted for in detail by me, as the officer having charge of the administration of justice in this province.

There is not, Mr. Speaker, in the whole of the papers brought down by the Auditor General's Department, a line accounting for the \$10,000 so paid. There is not a line of an account from Mr. Clifford Sifton, or from Mr. Clifford Sifton's successor as Attorney General of the province of Manitoba. He has yet to put in an account.

I have spent a considerable portion of my time since the elections in connection with this matter, and I cannot conceive of any more urgent public duty resting upon you as Premier of the Dominion than to leave no stone unturned to expose these frauds and punish the perpetrators. You must be aware that representative government and vote by ballot are simply a farce if such practices are permitted.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. And so do I say, "Hear, hear." An absolute farce would the ballot be, in view of the practices obtaining in the Ontario constituencies, West Huron and Brockville, where Grit boodle brigades moved in and camped in the constituencies from the start of the election until it was over—and, as I am told, even a Minister were connected with this extraordinary and new practice.

You must be aware that representative government and vote by ballot are simply a farce if such practices are permitted. In view of what I know, I am almost surprised that any Liberal was returned in a close constituency.

And, in view of what the Minister of the Interior knows now, I should think he would be surprised, if any Conservatives were this day returned in a close constituency.

I cannot impress upon you too strongly the necessity of an immediate and favourable reply.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) CLIFFORD SIFTON.

There is a statement, not an official statement, not a report from the Attorney General of Manitoba, but a secret letter from Mr. Sifton, who says the Manitoba Government cannot handle it; in a letter addressed to the Prime Minister of this country. The Department of the Interior had no record on this subject. The Minister of the Interior would not, apparently, trust even Mr.

Smart, and the Department of Justice was just as ignorant with respect to it. The Department of Justice could not assume responsibility for a matter in which they had received no instructions, and all that did happen was, that Sir Oliver Mowat was man enough to put his hand down and prevent exorbitant bills being paid, whether they were incurred under his instructions or not, and Sir Oliver practically cut these bills in two, and stood to his guns and his taxation of them. This was the letter written back to Mr. Sifton by the Prime Minister, also marked "private and confidential": It is dated the 24th July, 1896, and that would be, apparently, a very few days after the receipt of a letter sent on the 17th July from Winnipeg:

Hon. Clifford Sifton, Winnipeg, Man.

I feel confident that you will unearth the most odious conspiracy which has taken place for many long years, and we will most willingly furnish the necessary funds for the service in order to carry on the work in which you are engaged.

Now, if the Prime Minister thought that was a transaction in which the Dominion Government should be engaged, as a Government, and that public funds should be devoted to, why was it not put in the hands of Sir Oliver Mowat at the start? Why was the Department of Justice kept ignorant of that whole affair until there came to be a difficulty in obtaining the money to pay the bills? Why was it that Parliament, which met the very next month after the writing of that letter, was not advised as to the step the Government was taking for the first time in the history of the Federal Government? Why was it that, after all the expense had been incurred, and the money paid out, in the following year, while Parliament was in session, Parliament was not advised? And why was it, Mr. Speaker, that there appears, according to the report of that committee, a misleading and incorrect representation by the Government to His Excellency the Governor General, when they were endeavouring to pay these bills? Why was the misrepresentation made in the month of June, 1897, when the trials were over, when the expenditure was all incurred—an expenditure contemplated and authorized by that letter of 1896, that \$4,000 were required to meet unforeseen expenditures? Unforeseen in June, 1897, though the Prime Minister, in June, 1896, with two sessions of Parliament ahead of him, was advising Mr. Sifton to go ahead, and was giving him carte blanche in the whole matter. Now, Sir, in connection with this matter the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) was examined, and he seemed a little surprised, after having stated his impressions, to find that there was no more evidence placed in the hands of the Prime Minister in the month of July, 1897, when

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that letter was written, than the evidence to which I have referred. He also told us, what I think somewhat surprised parliamentarians knowing anything of constitutional government, that this matter had been considered by a sub-committee, and that a solemn conclusion had been reached, of which the Governor General was never advised, of which no report was made to him, and of which no approval was given by him. In the report to this House we were told by the Minister of Marine (Sir Louis Davies) that these were the facts. He is questioned as follows by the Minister of the Interior:

Q. I just want to ask Sir Louis to state what he knows about the authorization of the payment of the expenses of these prosecutions by the Government?—A. I cannot recall the exact dates, but I remember after the Government was formed, and many months before Mr. Sifton came down as Minister of the Interior, I was asked by the Premier to serve on a sub-committee of Council on this matter of the Manitoba election frauds, as they were termed. I cannot remember all who were present besides the Premier, myself and Sir Oliver Mowat; but I do remember that either one or more members of the Government than these three were present. We three were there at any rate, and the Premier submitted to us certain letters and information he had received in respect to these alleged frauds.

The Minister of Marine said he could not be positive as to dates; but it was obvious that neither he nor Sir Oliver Mowat was present when that letter was received, nor when the answer of the Prime Minister was written. They were away dealing with the Ministerial elections in the month of July, and were pretty well occupied with matters outside of a sub-committee of the Privy Council. But, as a matter of fact, the sub-committee met, and that is all that the Minister of Marine meant to say; and it is a most serious matter, because that sub-committee did not communicate in any way with His Excellency. The date is very important, because at this time nothing was known, if Mr. Howell is a credible witness; for notwithstanding the statement of the Minister of Marine, on July 17th, neither Mr. Sifton nor any one else had in their possession evidence that was worth a snap of the fingers. Mr. Howell testifies that having been called in by Mr. Sifton, he had to go on a fishing expedition—that he had to have not only detectives from the States, but lawyers and others to go about in assumed characters and under assumed names to catch people. In this way he was fishing for evidence for months; and he charged these men, before whom? Before a travelling magistrate, an officer appointed by the Government of Manitoba, who was picked up by Mr. Howell and carried around from place to place as the magistrate before whom parties should be haled when he thought he had fished successfully enough to obtain evidence to place them on trial. To make this sure, I asked Sir Louis Davies:

Q. Was this a sub-committee of the Privy Council?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you feel at liberty to state to this committee what a sub-committee of the Council said?—A. I did not say what it said. I only stated what took place before the committee, and what evidence was given. The result of it was that the Premier was authorized to write a letter to Mr. Sifton.

Again, I call the attention of the Minister of Marine to the evident conclusion in his mind before this letter had been written, that all this had occurred late in the fall, when Mr. Howell submitted to some members of the Government such information as he had fished out, at any rate, to Sir Oliver Mowat, and took his opinion as to whether he had better go on with the twenty or twenty-four cases, or pick out four or five as examples; and, as Mr. Howell says, there was only that one conversation with Sir Oliver Mowat. Mr. Sproule asked Sir Louis Davies:

Q. At what date was the sub-committee formed?—A. I cannot remember the date; it was a long time before Mr. Sifton came down here.

The Minister of the Interior did not come down, I think, until November or December, 1896. I asked Sir Louis:

Q. Just state the result of it.—A. The result of it was that the Premier was authorized to intimate to the Manitoba authorities that the Dominion Government would undertake the responsibility of prosecuting these parties.

Well, of course, the Dominion Government does not prosecute in the province of Manitoba; the Minister of Marine was a little careless there. Again, I asked him:

Q. You speak of this as a sub-committee of the Council. Was it appointed by Order in Council?—A. No.

Q. Did the sub-committee make a report to His Excellency?—A. No.

Q. No Order in Council was passed on the subject?—A. No; we were simply asked by the Premier to meet as a sub-committee of Council, and consider certain information he had received.

There have been Governors General in Canada who would not have passed lightly by that ignoring of him in connection with a matter of this kind, and the Prime Minister himself must be aware of that.

Q. In other words, it was an informal conference of the members of the Government?

That was a fair question, under the circumstances, to put to the Minister of Marine, but he did not wish to be relieved. He simply said:

You may describe it in that way—a meeting of the members of the Government called at the request of the Premier to act as a sub-committee.

Q. But no executive action was taken?—A. No; we simply requested the Premier that he would take the necessary action to carry out our decision.

If an ordinary Governor General had been asked to give his approval to an expenditure

of this kind, is it an extravagant proposition to make in this House at this day that the Governor General would have promptly declined? He would have asked for authority. There is no statutory authority. He would have asked for an item in the Supply Bill that would cover this, and there is no item in the Supply Bill. There is no practice to appeal to, and the object is, at any rate, suggested by this evidence for passing over the Governor General until the whole expenditure was incurred. Then, to conclude that part of the history of the transaction, the Minister of Marine says:

No Order in Council was passed until later on, when authority was given to make payments.

Then Mr. Wood asked:

Q. If the meeting was held a long time before Mr. Sifton was sworn in as Minister of the Interior, then I say there were some payments made before that meeting?

The answer then indicated how little the hon. Minister of Marine really knew of the dates:

I know nothing of it. I cannot think it is possible that at that time payments were made by the Dominion Government.

Now, we had some more information from the Minister of Marine. The letter of Sir Oliver Mowat, then Minister of Justice, was read to him, to show that there was not such a lot of information before him, if he meant to say that the meeting took place in July. He was asked: "Do you recognize this?" Then the hon. Minister, admitting that this letter gave no specific information, answered:

That is the substance of the information, but I thought it went more into detail to show the alleged frauds that were perpetrated in Manitoba.

Q. Did you have others than this before you?—A. I do not know if that is the letter.

Q. You cannot say this is the letter?—A. I cannot say positively; I cannot recognize it, except that the letter you read contains information of the same character as the Premier gave us.

Q. Had you affidavits before you at that meeting?—A. Sir Wilfrid Laurier gave me to understand that he had more information than he gave us, that he had letters. I do not know if he had affidavits.

Now, it is clear that if there were other letters, they have not been produced. There is not a line from any one, though all the papers were ordered by this House and the usual attempt to obtain information from Government sources was made by the committee itself. Then the hon. Minister of Marine had this idea about the prosecution:

We were to authorize them to go on with the prosecution, and we were to bear the expense.

Q. There was no question of sharing part of the expense, or anything of that kind?—A. No.

That transaction took place absolutely in the dark, and not in the ordinary formal manner which affords one of the safeguards in

connection with the expenditure of public money. There was an appropriation of \$7,000 in 1897 in the Supply Bill, not referring to this particularly, but an appropriation a little larger than usual in connection with the expenditure of the Justice Department, and although, as I have said, the expenditure was authorized long before, there was no specific authority for that.

There is an item later on appearing in the vote of \$6,964.41, and this is the reference to that item. On the 30th June, 1897, was the first time this matter came before His Excellency, after the whole thing was over, after all the expenditure was incurred and all the bills were paid. Through the Minister of the Interior and his banker, the accounts were all paid on this flying of kites, as the evidence discloses. Then on the 30th July, this is the representation that the Minister of Justice was induced to make to His Excellency by the gentleman who had all to do with the expenditure :

The undersigned have the honour to recommend that in connection with the recent prosecutions for election frauds in Manitoba, an advance of \$6,964.41 be made to the hon. Minister of the Interior.

For what purpose was His Excellency told that this money was wanted? To lift the drafts of Mr. Sifton in the bank, to meet the obligations he had assumed and to provide for the advances he had made? Not a word about that, but this is what His Excellency was told :

To enable him to make advances on account to the several agents, pending the taxation of their bills, which amount in the aggregate to a very much larger amount.

But there were no agents of the Department of Justice—the evidence is distinct and clear on that point. There were no agents of the Department of Justice in the ordinary sense of the word. There were no officers in connection with the Department of Justice. The officers of the Department of Justice are Mr. Newcombe and Mr. Hodgins of that department, who have to do with the taxation of the bills. That was done in December, 1897. There was the ordinary mechanical drawing up of this order and its submission to Sir Oliver Mowat, but no officer under him had anything to do, according to the evidence, with this matter. These agents were officers of Mr. Sifton and were not even instructed by Sir Oliver Mowat, and the correspondence is not by any means complete. If this House is to sanction, if the country is to tolerate public business being entered up in private letter books and public money being spent under the management of gentlemen who write private letters, then every reason can be urged why those letters should be made public and sent down with the papers asked for in connection with the expenditure of public money. They are withheld. The remonstrances of Sir Oliver Mowat

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against the amount of these bills is withheld, though it once happened to come before the eyes of the taxing officer. But this great committee, of which the Minister of Trade and Commerce seems to think so much, is not, forsooth, to have before it that which a subordinate of the Department of Justice had before him when considering whether this expenditure was authorized or not. And this report goes on :

Make advances on account to the several agents, pending the taxation of their bills, which amount in the aggregate to a very much larger amount, such advances to be charged to the vote for miscellaneous justice and to be accounted for.

Now, as a matter of fact, I have shown that to make up the \$6,964.61 there were bills of the agents of the Minister of the Interior, attorneys in Winnipeg, who had been paid at that time, mark you, their accounts in full. There was no advance, as stated here, to be made to any one on account of these bills which were larger in the aggregate. It was to pay the indebtedness which the Minister of the Interior had privately assumed and privately discharged, and the money was to go to the relief of the Minister of the Interior, and the actual accounts which he had paid were, six or seven months later on, disallowed to a large extent. The costs of Mr. Perdue were cut down nearly 50 per cent, yet the bill was paid by the Minister of the Interior at that time and the Minister of the Interior was repaid the whole of it. And this committee stands in this position, that from the start to the finish there is not a syllable to suggest that he ever recouped to the treasury one dollar of those overpayments and overcharges, which went, through him, from the public chest to those private parties, and a large amount of which the Minister of Justice said months later should never have been paid, and he went according to the law. The balance of the money, some \$4,000, was at another date taken from unforeseen expenditure.

Now, I want to dwell particularly and at considerable length—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, at considerable length on the evidence that is before this House now, extracted from men who were certainly not favourable to anything that would look like condemnation of the Government, from men who were peculiarly interested, notably from the chief counsel employed, Mr. Howell, examined in the most extraordinary manner, as he was, by the Minister of the Interior, who violated every rule of evidence known to the courts, who led this witness time and time again to give answers, whether they related to written documents or whether his questions were leading or in the nature of cross-examination or not, that would put this transaction

in as favourable a light as he could. And yet these facts must be regarded as important by any man who cares a brass farthing for the manner in which this country is governed by Parliament, and who thinks it should not be governed by Star Chamber, in regard to detail, and believes that details should be carried out by deputy heads, instead of by Ministers with private correspondence and letters they dare not put before Parliament and the committees of Parliament. The evidence there is sufficient to make one regard it as extraordinary that the Government should place any difficulty in the way of concluding that inquiry. And the fact, that the committee is put off, makes it necessary for me to take this opportunity to show the Government that it is necessary to expedite the meetings of these committees. They must call the meetings time and again, not once a week, or twice or three times a week merely, but they must, in every possible way, assist gentlemen who, like myself, have taken the responsibility first of pressing an inquiry. I was compelled, notably by the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis H. Davies) and the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) to give an undertaking, a personal undertaking, which they will remember, that I would press that inquiry at the first available opportunity this session, if they would abstain from doing what they purposed doing, and that was, reporting the conclusion of the investigation after I had examined their own counsel, and before I had time to test the statements made by their counsel, or other statements made before the committee. Well, referring to the facts that come even from these sources—and when I say, “even from these sources,” I refer particularly to Mr. Howell; and I am sorry I shall, whether in this speech or at a later date, after the conclusion of the whole investigation, have to criticise Mr. Howell as to the candour he exhibited in this matter. That is an unfortunate duty; but, of course, I will not shrink from it, and I shall make no statement in regard to Mr. Howell without giving to the House his own evidence, upon which my criticism is based. But there were other witnesses. I shall refer first—so as to have it in some order—to the evidence of the Deputy Minister of Justice, who was called in regard to this expenditure, which had to do with legal expenses:

Q. You are the Deputy Minister of Justice?—  
A. I am.

Q. What is the practice in connection with that item in the Supply Bill of “Miscellaneous Justice,” as regards expenditure? Which department supervises and is responsible for the expenditure of the item as a rule?—A. You mean the ordinary item?

Q. Yes.—A. That is expended by the Justice Department.

This is the ordinary rule. Speaking of items making up this amount to which I have referred:

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Q. You know that they were paid out of the Miscellaneous vote?—A. I believe they were partly paid out of that vote. There was a special vote taken in the supplementary Estimates of \$7,000, which I understand was applied to that purpose.

But that, as an inspection of the Estimates will show, was the ordinary “Miscellaneous Justice” vote.

Q. So it was put under the original and supplementary miscellaneous justice item?—A. I suppose so, but that item of \$7,000 was regarded as a special item, and it was not disbursed in the ordinary way, through the accountant of our department.

Q. Well, when do you recollect anything about this first coming up in the Department of Justice?—A. When the accounts were handed to me.

Q. You have no recollection of instructions preceding that?—A. No.

Q. Did you personally deal with the subject as Deputy Minister of Justice before the accounts were handed in?—A. No, sir, not at all.

And the accounts were handed in long after the payment of the order I have referred to, of December, 1897. I have already mentioned what Mr. Newcombe said, and I have already shown the same statement on the part of Mr. Smart, the Deputy Minister of the Interior, that he had nothing to do with the management or consideration of that subject. These are the two deputy heads of the two departments ordinarily concerned in all matters of this kind. Then, the Auditor General gives us some perhaps exact information, so far as the financial aspect of the case is concerned. I do not wish to go out of my way to criticise people, but, while on my feet and adverting to these matters, I may say, I cannot understand how the Auditor General gave such little attention and consideration to the question and the expenditure of this money, under the circumstances, as he did in that report. It may be, that, to some extent, it was a technical question, and he was not aware of the great importance of items connected with the subject of justice, or the administration of the laws of that time being managed by the departmental officers, or the expenditure being controlled by them and subject to their supervision. But he intervenes here, and says:

I may point out to the committee the statement at I-7 of the Public Accounts—Archibald & Howell, J. D. Cameron and W. E. Perdue, legal services and expenses in connection with the prosecutions for election frauds in Manitoba (including \$4,000 transferred from unforeseen expenses), \$10,964.41.—

That is the item in his report.

—This \$4,000 was made up of the \$1,000 which he handed to Mr. Cameron and the \$3,000 which was afterwards given to Mr. Howell and which was acknowledged by him in a telegram from him to me. The \$4,000 was paid at one time under an Order in Council from unforeseen expenses.—

That order has not been brought down to the committee even yet.

—but it formed part of this \$10,964 ; the whole of the Government money that was paid was \$10,964. If there was any other money it was not Government money, because that represents every cent paid by the Government.

And Mr. Howell says, there was more than \$19,000 paid, and he got the money from Mr. Sifton, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) told us in the House, that even then, in February, 1898, he had not any money. I suppose it was after paying out the \$9,000 that he got into that financial condition. Now, let me show how the promises of Mr. Clifford Sifton, as he was at that time, have been implemented. I am glad he has so pointedly called attention to the subject, and I will, in order that there may be no misunderstanding between us, again read the promise which, when I referred to it and suggested that it had not been kept, seemed to annoy him so much :

The money will be accounted for in detail by me as the officer having charge of the administration of justice in this province.

I think the examination of some of the statements in these accounts, the absence of vouchers, the absence of ordinary affidavits for witnesses' fees, the absence of books, the absence of statements, not to mention many other matters in regard to which I will give the exact evidence before the committee, will make even the Minister of the Interior sorry that he was so positive and exact in the statement to which I have referred.

Now, let us look at the account, the account that, in his lordly way, Mr. Howell told us was largely the result of the ingenuity of his clerk, a Mr. Shanks, and I am waiting to see Mr. Shanks before the committee, and to understand his ingenuity. But this is the manner in which this has been accounted for in detail : We have an account from Mr. Howell the responsibility for which Mr. Howell evades by saying it represents the ingenuity of his clerk. Let us see his own statement about the account, which is not in his ledger, the account produced before the committee. This witness was summoned in the usual way to bring his books, papers, correspondence, and all memoranda connected with this matter ; we did not wish to have merely his recollection in regard to a matter that had become so important, we did not wish to be dependent upon a gentleman who depended upon Mr. Shanks, we wished to know the very material he had in his possession, and to have it before us. But he came without his books, and without his Shanks ; he came before the committee in a happy-go-lucky fashion, and was examined with great license by the Minister of the Interior. None of those papers were produced, but he had a little bundle which was information that he had fished for for months while he was feed by this Government, while he was an official, practically, under the circumstances I have mentioned, of this Parliament. He had collected a lot of material,

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and when we wished to ascertain an important fact, that is, what did Mr. Clifford Sifton know about this matter when he wrote to the Prime Minister of Canada on July 17th, he was immediately surrounded by the majority of the committee, who thought that it would be a painful thing to force this gentleman to disclose the names, mark you, of the people who had made charges of offences against the criminal law of Canada. That was not the tune we heard sung from the Treasury benches this session, but it was the opinion of the Minister of the Interior and his friends, the majority of the Public Accounts Committee, that to compel Mr. Howell to give the names of the parties who had made the charges against Government officials in Manitoba, was to go against all precedents, and was really to obstruct the Department of Justice in ferreting out the crime. There was no demand for names, specific charges, and so on ; and so, the documentary information that Mr. Howell brought with him on that occasion, he was not permitted to give to a committee of this Parliament on the excuse that I have mentioned ; and so important a question was it, that a vote was taken, and the witness was protected by the majority from giving us that information. He was asked :

Q. Have you brought your books and papers with you relating to these accounts ?—A. Well, they are not mine any longer ; and I have not brought them because my firm is dissolved, and by the terms of our dissolution the books remain with my partner ; but the only entries I made in reference to this matter were in what I call just a little scrap-book, which I kept for that purpose alone—just the blotter.

Q. Then the other books you refer to would not relate to these accounts ?—A. Nothing except the ledger of the firm.

Q. And the ledger is where ?—A. It is in Winnipeg.

Q. In whose possession ?—A. In the possession of Archibald & Howell, in liquidation ; Mr. Archibald primarily has it ; I think I have copies of it.

Q. You have made copies of the ledger ?—A. I believe so ; I asked the book-keeper to do so, that I might bring them here.

Then, later on, I put the question :

Q. There never was a formal account made up ?—A. It was a formal memorandum of what I did, but it would not be in that language.

Q. Have you a copy of that memorandum ?—A. No, I have not.

Q. And this book, you say, is in Winnipeg ?—A. Oh, I do not suppose it would exist, because I would hand them over every month or two months. I had different blotters which I kept in my drawer, and they were handed over to the book-keeper.

Q. And the entries were made by him in the ledger ?—A. No, the accounts would be copied into what we call a statement-book.

Q. Where is that ?—A. It is in Winnipeg. The statement-book is an exact copy of what you have.

Further on, in regard to the accounts, after explaining that there was no memorandum kept of his work, he says :

Q. I put it the other way: Can you say that the whole of it was not made up after?

That is, the whole transaction covering the six months.

A. I cannot say that.

Q. So that it is possible the original statement in the statement-book was made after the whole of the work was done?—A. It is possible; the book-keeper would do whatever was done.

Now, as to the clerk, Mr. Shanks, Mr. Howell was asked:

Q. I understand, though, that these entries are taken from a blotter or memo. of your own?—A. But my own words would be something like: "Sifton, 2 hours re ballot boxes."

Well, I had some pity for Mr. Howell, and so I gave him an opportunity to explain what was meant by the words "re ballot boxes."

Q. So this represents the ingenuity of your clerk?—A. To a certain extent.

Q. What is the name of your clerk?—A. Mr. Shanks.

I need not argue, I hope, that so far there is not much evidence that there was an account in the language of the letter of Clifford Sifton of July 17th, of an account in detail, the large account that was before us was the account of Mr. Howell, which represented the ingenuity of his clerk. Now, then, the account sent to the Justice Department only shows \$1,000 of public money paid up to the 7th of December, 1897; while the actual facts were, as shown in the committee, that \$4,000 had been paid at that time. Whether it was Mr. Sifton or the Minister of the Interior who paid them, whether at the time he was acting personally or as the Minister of the Interior in this matter, is in itself a nice question. But even he did not take the trouble to keep the Department of Justice properly advised at the time of the taxing of the accounts, that is, when the accounts were in the Justice Department; and there had not been even a statement of these large figures accurately put before them. The counsel engaged, I have said, were not in any sense the counsel of the Department of Justice, the officer of that department repudiates them in the evidence:

Now, these—

Referring to the various accounts of Mr. Howell, and all those names, some of which are obtaining a celebrity in other respects.

—these were not agents of the Minister of Justice in the ordinary sense, Mr. Newcombe?—A. No.

Then, as to how Mr. Howell dealt with these departments, or whether he dealt with either of them, there is no evidence. Mr. Smart tells us:

Q. Mr. Smart, you are the Deputy Minister of the Interior?—A. Yes.

Q. Can you say whether this subject was dealt with by the department, the subject referred to in that file, namely, the Manitoba ballot-box prosecutions—was it dealt with by the depart-

ment or by the Minister personally?—A. Altogether by the Minister.

I have referred already to the disappearance of private correspondence, and of letters, not, perhaps, called private correspondence, simply because they were following the lines of the Prime Minister and of Mr. Sifton at the start. As to all this kiting on the part of Ministers of the Crown and those gentlemen who are connected with the expenditure of public money, there is evidence of this kind:

(Exhibit O.)

Ottawa, June 18, 1897.

Two months after date, pay to the order of the Bank of British North America the sum of two thousand and ninety-three 75-100 dollars and exchange, value received, and charge to account of  
CLIFFORD SIFTON.

That is addressed to H. M. Howell, Esquire, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Did you ever hear of such an expedient as that of a Minister of the Crown? No, of course not, the officers of the department had never heard of such a thing. There is evidence on file, there is a memorandum in this report, that there was the greatest haste in getting out the order for paying this money to relieve Mr. Sifton from his financial troubles which were upon him in the shape of these drafts given in Winnipeg in June.

Winnipeg, June 19, 1897.

Two months after date, pay to the order of the Imperial Bank of Canada at Winnipeg, one thousand and twenty-seven dollars (\$1,027), value received, and charge to the account of

J. D. CAMERON.

To Hon. Clifford Sifton, Ottawa, Ont.

That is the draft of Mr. Cameron on Mr. Sifton:

Q. Do you remember allowing him anything in this connection?—A. No, sir, I never heard of him.

(Exhibit Q.)

A telegram to the Auditor General of Canada on the 16th of December, 1897, as follows:—

"The firm of Archibald & Howell received from the Hon. Clifford Sifton the sum of \$3,000 on account of ballot-box prosecutions last autumn.

"H. M. HOWELL."

Then some more acceptances are referred to, and there are some drafts, though not all of them, to Mr. Howell, which appear in the appendix of this report, and some further testimony on the next page. But before I leave that, Mr. Howell, I think, is asked something on that subject:

Q. You rendered your bills to Mr. Sifton, do you remember?—A. Yes.

Q. Not to the Attorney General of Manitoba, Mr. Cameron?—A. No.

Q. Will you look at your books and see if you rendered accounts to the Manitoba Government also?—A. I have also a memo., I believe, but I sent a copy of the disbursements to Mr. Cameron. When the prosecutions were going on it necessitated the expenditure of a great deal of money, and my firm's bank account is not unlimited,

and when it became a question of \$7,000 or \$8,000 I got the treasurer to assist me, and we put in a joint note in the bank and discounted it, and took the money to Portage la Prairie, and I think I sent to him a statement of how we spent that money.

We have evidence that the Manitoba Government never paid a dollar, except some ninety odd dollars in connection with one small phase of this question. It was known that this would involve the country in a very large expenditure, and it appears in the evidence, where a reference to Sir Oliver Mowat is made, and this is the evidence that Mr. Howell gives on that point. He discussed the case with Sir Oliver Mowat in February, 1897, some six or seven months after the communication under the authority of the right hon. Prime Minister, in which he was given carte blanche to build up a case of the character that was described. In February he seems to have come in contact with Sir Oliver Mowat, and when the case is under discussion with him, he mentions to Sir Oliver Mowat the enormous expenditure that would be involved in going on :

Q. About what date—about what month, say ?  
—A. I would say in February, 1897.

Then he goes on to explain :

I saw Sir Oliver Mowat, Mr. Sifton and several Ministers here, and pointed out to them the large expenditure already incurred, and the question as to whether we had better drop it—

The question, I think, would have been very carefully considered had it been submitted in the ordinary way to Sir Oliver Mowat or to the Justice Department in July instead of being kept in the private books of the right hon. Prime Minister and of Mr. Sifton in Winnipeg. Then Mr. Howell says he got \$3,000 from Mr. Sifton in October, 1897. There was no record of that, so that the hon. Minister of the Interior had to wire, and this is the telegram that was then sent by Mr. Howell :

Rat Portage, Ont.

The firm of Archibald & Howell received from the Hon. Clifford Sifton the sum of three thousand dollars on account of ballot-box prosecutions last August.

H. M. HOWELL.

That was the way in which the accounts of public money were kept in connection with the matter, which began irregularly and was continued irregularly all through. Then we have the statement made by Mr. Howell that the first rendering from Archibald & Howell was for \$15,428.08.

Q. That was disbursements and counsel fees ?—  
A. Yes.

Q. \$5,000 for counsel fees ?—A. Yes.

Q. And the balance disbursements ?—A. Yes.

Q. How much of that was paid ?—A. The whole of it.

Q. And when was the last of it paid ; by what time was it all paid ?—A. The 27th March, 1897.

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We have an Order in Council asking for advances to the amount of \$6,941.41 in June.

Q. And the accounts, it appears, were taxed on the 27th of December, 1897, and you were paid your full account in March of that year ?—A. Yes.

Q. So all this deduction did not affect you ?—  
A. I did not know of it until a few days ago.

Then, again :

Q. Now, how much did you pay Freeborn out of all this money ?—A. That was entered into a general account among witnesses' fees.

Q. A "liberal allowance," you call it here ?—  
Well, we had to give him a pretty liberal allowance.

Q. Why had you to give him a pretty liberal allowance ?—A. Well, he was doing nothing, and he had to live, and it was an everlasting fight between Freeborn and I as to how much he could get from me and how little I could get him to take. He would go away, and run up bills, and then draw on me, and I had to meet his drafts.

An hon. MEMBER. He had to pay.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, the people of Canada had to pay. Then, coming back to this :

Q. How much did he get out of you ?—

Mr. Howell says that he was paid \$804.35, as he explains it on another page of the evidence.

Q. Was he drinking ?—A. Yes, I had to be careful of him.

There was Sir Oliver Mowat's opinion of this account after it had been paid. They went through the good old fashion of taxing the accounts half a year after they had been paid. Then he came before Sir Oliver Mowat and this is the letter that was on file. There was a letter on file before the taxing officer which will not be produced, and this is the reference to it. He had objected to it. It is included in the evidence before the House that Mr. Howell writes to Mr. Sifton on the 18th of May. The year is blank, but it is clearly May, 1897, or 1898. At any rate, after the taxing which was in December, 1897 :

My dear Mr. Sifton,—I was surprised to get your letter of the 12th, inclosing a letter from Sir Oliver Mowat, complaining of Richard and Bradshaw's bill, and also of ours.

There was a letter that would have been most important in connection with this examination into the justification for this expenditure. The evidence will show, that the other letter got to the Department of Justice, but, although the officers were asked to look for that letter and produce it, Mr. Hodgins' evidence will show, that he was unable to find that letter. Now then, we were to have, in connection with this grant to the Minister of the Interior, a statement in detail by him, as the officer in charge ; but we cannot even get the vouchers in connection with the moneys paid. Howell himself tells, in his evidence, that he could

not give the vouchers. He is examined, as follows :—

Q. In your letter of the 27th March, 1897, you say "the witness fees I cannot give vouchers for" ?—A. These were paid at Portage la Prairie by men, and a lot of other witness fees. The only man I took receipts from was Freeborn, because I did not want to have any trouble with him, and I said there were no other vouchers with reference to others.

Q. Yes ; but your books will show the amounts paid to Freeborn and others ?—A. Yes.

Then, there was a large amount for railway tickets, and so on, and some way or another, in his evidence Mr. Howell said, that he could give the usual affidavits as to witness fees. We did not have even that, the taxing officer did not have that before him. But how Mr. Howell could have given that, in view of his own evidence, that he was not the officer who disbursed some \$7,000 of witness fees, is more than I can very well make out. Again :

Q. Did you keep account of these bills as they came in ?—A. I rendered them to my book-keeper.

Q. Details ?—A. Only the gross sum. I checked all McDonald's figures each day.

Q. So that all the books show will be the bulk sum entered by the clerk ?—A. There is no memoranda made up ; the amount was \$3,533.20.

Now, when the Minister of the Interior told us there was to be an account in detail, it is quite clear, if Mr. Howell is a credible witness, that this account in detail could not be given, because there was no such account kept, and yet, Sir, as the evidence shows, this account had to pass the officers in that condition. The accounts were sent along without any information, and, as one of the officers says, he knew the Minister of the Interior had paid them. That was a nice opportunity for the proper officer to audit them, when he knew that every dollar he took off, he took off the account of the Minister of the Interior, practically. Do I exaggerate, when I say, that the taxing officer was embarrassed by that fact, and that he had it before his mind, that these accounts were practically those of the Minister ? The taxing officer was reading all these accounts—J. D. Cameron, first draft, \$1,000 ; draft of Mr. Cameron and myself, \$6,428 ; Mr. Wade, \$1,270.60 ; Mr. Perdue, \$541.15 ; Mr. Metcalfe, \$823 ; Mr. Clarke, \$1,660.85 ; our own, \$5,000 ; and the question was put to Mr. Hodgins, the taxing officer :

Q. So, when this bill was really taxed by you, you were really taxing what the Minister had allowed others to draw upon him to meet. The point is, if this statement is correct, that in March Mr. Sifton permitted drafts to the amount of \$16,000, possibly \$19,000, if the pencilling is correct, to be made on him, and the money had gone to these counsel who drew. When you taxed these accounts, were you aware of the fact that the Minister himself would have an interest in that if he paid out this money ?—A. Well, it occurs to me he would.

Q. That was present to your mind ?—A. Certainly.

Q. That he had paid out a large amount of money, and the question was, how much he should be reimbursed by the Government for his expenditure ? That is the way it stood in December, apparently ?—A. Yes.

And, notwithstanding that the amounts were of such a character, that the officer admits he did cut them down, if my memory serves me right, something like 50 per cent, and that brought about the correspondence, part of which only we have been permitted to see, but the part that would have been the most assistance to the committee was the letter of Sir Oliver Mowat, the Minister of Justice. You have heard, Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's statement as to how these payments were made, and Mr. Howell was examined, and there is considerable confusion in regard to his statement on this subject. He says, when examined about the \$1,000 for which there are no vouchers—he was examined by Mr. Sifton :

Q. Mr. Newcombe must have taken that from the entry in Mr. Howell's accounts, because he says there has been \$1,000 paid ?—A. We never got a \$1,000 ; all we got was \$3,000, on the 23rd of October, 1896.

Q. That is the \$3,000 that I handed to you ?—A. Yes. Then, when I was away at court somewhere, there was pressing need of \$1,000, and Mr. Cameron handed into my office a thousand in my absence, but I did not know that that was got from the Dominion Government.

Q. That was paid to you ?—A. Yes ; but I credited that in my account, of course.

Q. That probably is this \$1,000 ?—A. Yes, here it is.

After having stated, that he had never got a thousand dollars separate, which appeared, according to the accounts of the Deputy Minister, certified for, Mr. Sifton asked :

Q. What I wanted to get at was that \$1,000. You did not get the payment of the \$1,000 referred to in Mr. Newcombe's certificate ?—A. No.

There can be no reflection on the officers of the Justice Department here, because the whole thing was in a higglety-pigglety state, when it reached them. The accounts were never properly made out, because it is a mystery where the balance of the \$19,000 odd dollars came. Directly the balance came from the Minister of the Interior, and \$10,000 came from the public chest. But the accounts in regard to the whole \$19,000 made no distinction as regards the first or the second payment. So far from there being any account in detail, it is the most involved and mixed up, and confusing statement that was ever before the Public Accounts Committee since I have had anything to do with it. Again, Mr. Howell said there were no accounts kept :

Q. Did you render a statement of these disbursements ?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you got it there ?—A. The first rendering was \$3,000, you know.

Q. But I understand that was in a separate account?—A. Yes.

Q. That explains it.—(No answer.)

We have seen, that the \$10,964 did come from the public funds, and the statement of Mr. Howell that this gentleman referred to, is as to the transaction between Mr. Sifton and himself that ran up the account to over \$19,000. To show how reckless these expenditures were, I will take a sample one. Mr. F. C. Wade was one of the many lawyers employed; Mr. Howell was, apparently, given a discretion to employ a very large number of Winnipeg lawyers. One account was said to be for \$1,270, but, together with disbursements, it makes \$1,560.60 that was paid to Mr. Wade. What did Mr. Wade do? It will shorten a good deal of my statement to read an analysis that has been made of that public account that has been submitted. This money was paid out, every dollar, in full to Mr. Wade, and I think I will be able to show, from the evidence, that the Department of Justice put this account down some 50 per cent. This account, which was sent in at \$1,270, was cut down, with Sir Oliver Mowat's sanction, to \$690.60. Mr. Wade was paid \$1,500, or, with his disbursements included, \$1,560.60. It mattered not to him how much the Department of Justice allowed him in December, 1897, when he had three times the amount in his pocket in the spring of that year. The items are in the report, but the explanation is of this character—I read a criticism of his account in the press:

Mr. Wade charges the country \$40 per day for a total of thirty-two days, amounting in all to \$1,280; two of these he makes up for work done in Winnipeg, the balance for his time in country points in the province. On December 23rd he charges \$40 for the day, and on referring to the particulars of his disbursements it will be seen that he charges on that day for a return ticket to Glenboro'; I have no doubt he went to Glenboro' on that date, but the people of Canada pay Mr. Wade \$40 for December 23rd, not as counsel in a court of law, but for riding from Winnipeg to Glenboro' in a railway train. Arriving at Glenboro' about 4 in the afternoon, he leaves home about 9.30 the next morning and returns home, for which we pay him another \$40, and \$5 for expenses, also \$5.20 for a railway ticket, or a total of \$90.20 for this little jaunt from Winnipeg to Glenboro' on one train and back by the next. This trip seemed to suit Mr. Wade from a monetary point of view, for on the 30th of the same month he repeats the dose, and another \$5.20 for a railway ticket to Glenboro' and return, rides to Glenboro' in a railway train, for which we pay him \$40. Arrives there at 4 p.m., stays in Glenboro' over night, for which we allow him \$2.50 expenses, which, no doubt, included drinks and cigars, as his ordinary legitimate expenses would be only 75 cents; he drives from Glenboro' to Treherne on the 31st, for which we pay him another \$40; stops over night in Treherne and leaves for Winnipeg on January 1st, and again we pay him \$40 for this trip to Winnipeg on New Year's Day, and \$5 for one night's expenses in Treherne, and in a temperance town; making a total expense for spending one evening in Glenboro' and the next evening in Treherne of

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\$132.70, and one of these days was a statutory holiday. Mr. Wade seemed to enjoy his trips to Glenboro', as we see by his account that he goes up there again on January 6th, 1897, pays \$4 railway fare, stays there the 7th and 8th, and returns on the 9th of January, for which he charges \$120 for his time, \$8 for railway fare, and \$7.50 hotel expenses, or a total of \$135 for this trip. He takes another run up to Glenboro' on the 13th, and spends the night there, and comes back by the first train on the 14th, and we pay him \$80 for his time, \$8 for his railway fare and \$5 for expenses, or a total of \$93. On January 20th he makes another trip to Glenboro', leaves there by train the next morning, puts in two hotel bills for this trip, one for \$5 and the other "Paid Nevin's hotel expenses, \$6.80"; but the train is late in reaching Winnipeg, and according to Mr. Wade did not reach the city until 5 a. m. on the morning of the 22nd, but his rest had been disturbed, he could not sleep well on the train, so he puts in an extra \$40 for this trip, calling it three days, making it \$120 for loss of time, \$8 for railway fares, and \$11.80 for the two hotel bills, or a total of \$139.80 for this little jaunt to Glenboro'.

On January 27th he goes to Treherne and returns by first train on next day, and the country pays him \$80 for loss of time, \$6.20 railway fares, and \$5 hotel expenses for two days, in a temperance town, where the rates are \$1 per day, making a total of \$91.20 for the Treherne trip. On February 3rd he takes a run up to Holland, gets there in the afternoon, and returns home the next morning, for which trip he has been paid \$80 for loss of time, \$6.90 railway fare, and \$5 hotel expenses in a \$1 per day town. On February 8th he takes another trip to Holland, and returns next morning, and charges \$80 for loss of time and \$10.25 hotel expenses, &c., for the two days; but, strange to say, he does not charge his railway fare on this trip—no doubt this was due to an oversight rather than any question of conscience—making a total of \$90.25 for this two days' trip. On the 15th of February there is another trip to Treherne and back the next day, and, of course, a charge of \$80 for loss of time, \$6.20 railway fare and \$5 expenses in a temperance town, or a total of \$91.20 for this trip. He also charges for two days, February 24 and 25, at Treherne—\$80 and \$5 expenses at hotel where no whisky is sold, and where the rates are \$1 per day. He, however, does not charge for railway fare either way; is it not strange that he should have overlooked such an important item as the railway ticket, or did he travel on a pass? Mr. Wade charges in all for twenty-four days at \$40 per day in connection with the cases at Holland, Glenboro' and Treherne, making a total of \$960 for loss of time alone at these points, and yet his own account shows one of these days was occupied in travelling from Glenboro' to Treherne; twenty out of the twenty-three remaining days were spent in travelling to and from Winnipeg upon a railway train; and, as a matter of fact, only three days were wholly spent in conducting these cases, according to Mr. Wade's own statement; yet he received for this the modest little sum of \$960, besides his railway fares and excessive allowances for hotel expenses. Then he goes to the assizes at Portage la Prairie, and is engaged there four days, yet he charges for six days at \$40 per day, because you know he had to spend a couple or three hours travelling to and from Portage on the day preceding and the day following the days that were occupied in the court there, making a total for his four days in the court at Portage amount to \$240, besides his travelling expenses and \$10 for hotel bill.

What was accomplished by Mr. Wade in all these flying trips between Winnipeg, Treherne, Holland and Glenboro? The answer is a very simple one: Nothing—absolutely nothing. His bill was, however, paid in full to the odd cents, but six months afterwards his bill is taxed at \$690.60, and the Government then discovers that they have paid him \$870, or over 125 per cent more than he was entitled to, even had he spent his time conducting cases in a court of law instead of spending twenty out of the twenty-three days in the smoking-cars of a railway train, playing "pedro" for the cigars as a pleasant pastime, at the rate of \$40 per day and expenses, including the cigars when the fortunes of play were against him.

This is a criticism by no means unfair, and it supports Sir Oliver Mowat's opinion. While Sir Oliver Mowat cut that bill down, it left room for this criticism even in regard to the amount that was paid. But what did Sir Oliver Mowat's opinion amount to in 1897, or the criticism which I have read, when Mr. Wade had \$1,500 in his pocket in the spring of that year?

Mr. FOSTER. It is a model Government.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Now, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Howell tells us another extraordinary thing—that he never got a dollar from the Dominion Government.

Notwithstanding all this taxing and all this talking in the Justice Department about what the Government should pay him, here is a leading acute counsel, one of the foremost in Winnipeg, saying that from the first to last he never got a dollar from the Dominion Government. That is one of the mysteries we have to consider—the item which the Auditor General says represents the money paid. Mr. Howell did not recognize the Dominion Government as his client, but the present Minister of the Interior, then plain Mr. Sifton. Certainly the Attorney General of Manitoba did not employ him, for that province was too poor, and he certainly got no retainer from the Conservative Government. Mr. Howell admits that there was but one man personally liable to him until that man got relieved in some way, as he ultimately did, at the hands of the Prime Minister. This is the evidence of Mr. Howell:

Q. You said the Dominion was your client—we are all representing the Dominion here?—A. I was paid.

Q. Not by the Dominion Government?—A. No. I never got a dollar from the Dominion Government in my life.

There is the mystery and justification for the most rigid inquiry into this extraordinary transaction. The Auditor General is told that the public money is being so managed by the Ministers that Mr. Howell is being paid a certain sum, but Mr. Howell's relations and instructions are of such a character that he swore before the committee he had not got a dollar from the Dominion Government. The following is an interesting bit of evidence:—

Q. You rendered your bills to Mr. Sifton?—A. Yes.

Q. Not to the Attorney General of Manitoba, Mr. Cameron?—A. No.

Q. That does not change your statement?—A. I thought that I sent duplicates of these accounts to the Attorney General.

Q. You think you sent duplicates?—A. I think so; I remember seeing the book-keeper's entry.

Q. Will you look at your books, and see if you rendered accounts to the Manitoba Government also?—A. I have also a memo., I believe, but I sent a copy of the disbursements to Mr. Cameron. When the prosecutions were going on, it necessitated the expenditure of a great deal of money.

That explains that Mr. Cameron and himself kited a little, but the Manitoba Government did not ultimately pay for that kiting. There is a letter from Mr. Howell complaining of the manner in which his bills were cut down by the Justice Department here, and my hon. friend beside me (Mr. Wallace) suggests that that indicates a knowledge by Mr. Howell that he was dealing with the Dominion Government. But that would not assist Mr. Howell, because he was referring to the time when he was running up these bills and being paid the money. What he said was that he had Mr. Sifton to look to, that Mr. Sifton was the man to whom he rendered the bills, and that Mr. Sifton paid him the money and that he never got a dollar from the Dominion Government in his life. But from a letter put into my hands, wherever he got the money, the Dominion Government paid some of it, and it is clear the Dominion Government were relieving Mr. Sifton of the liability which he had then incurred and for which he could have been sued by Mr. Howell, if Mr. Howell's evidence is reliable.

I shall revert to that feature of the case in a little while, but I want to call attention to the justification that was given to this transaction. Remember that notwithstanding all the Pinkerton's detectives could do, notwithstanding the combined work of five or six attorneys of Winnipeg, under Mr. Howell's directions, and notwithstanding all that Mr. Sifton—and I refer to him by name because at that time he was not Minister of the Interior—could do to fasten these charges upon some one, and notwithstanding the co-operation of Mr. Sifton's colleagues, such as Mr. Watson and other leading Liberals, and the co-operation and support of those whose names Mr. Howell would not disclose to the committee—notwithstanding all this work on the part of two Governments and rabid political partisans, aided by the assistance of this creature Freeborn, only one conviction was the result, and that was the conviction of a man who, whether guilty or not of the charge in the indictment, confessed in the box that he and Freeborn had conspired to rob the Conservative candidate.

Let us see how this Government proceeded, for I have in my mind now particularly the

view expressed in this Parliament, during the present session, with regard to the course that must be taken when an official of this Government is attacked, namely, that some one must risk his position, either here or outside this Chamber, that he must put before the House at once the day and date of the alleged offence and the name of the witnesses who will prove it, or else take the responsibility of making a charge, and some hon. gentlemen may have noticed that though no particulars are given in Mr. Sifton's letter of July, he tells the Prime Minister in that letter, which the evidence reported by his own counsel contradicts, that he has collected conclusive evidence of an organized conspiracy, and so on, and leaves the Prime Minister to believe that he was about to unearth a conspiracy and fasten a conspiracy upon some people in Manitoba. The Prime Minister, if he has read this evidence, cannot fail to observe that after all the help I have referred to, there never was, from that day to this, one individual in connection with the Manitoba election indicted for conspiracy. The evidence secured never enabled them to frame an indictment on that score, and so far as Mr. Howell goes, I do not believe they ever arrested or took before their own travelling magistrate a single individual charged with having been a party to a conspiracy of any kind. They did get what they could get with the expenditure of half the money. In this province, evidence, not that men had conspired, but had been dishonest, and like Freeborn ready to do, either for Liberals or Conservatives, for money a foul wrong and commit a crime. They did get evidence of that character, but the whole evidence in this report discloses that the time Mr. Sifton wrote that letter of July 17th, he had not in his possession any evidence to which any importance could be attached. He started on the assumption that because his party had been beaten at the polls on the 23rd of June there must be something rotten in the state of Denmark, and, without waiting even for the advent of the present Prime Minister to power as a result of that election, he began what was continued for months, and for long after July 17th, a fishing, a hunting for evidence of this fact that he supposed to exist. He did not possess the information. Let us see what information he had, and judge whether there is a particle of justification for the statements in the letter of the 17th July to the Prime Minister that he had conclusive evidence, and see whether it is not correctly described as a fishing inquiry to secure evidence. My point is, though I have expressed it a little vaguely, perhaps, that at the time of his letter of the 17th of July he simply desired to confirm a suspicion that the ballot boxes had been tampered with and some officials were guilty of crime or wrong-doing. Let me turn to the evidence which is to show what information came to the hon. gentle-

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men or any of them and what time it reached them. Here, for instance, is an extraordinary statement by Mr. Howell that before he wrote to Pinkerton it was arranged that the Dominion Government was to foot the bill. This, be it remembered, is the counsel in whose hands this whole business was placed. I have read the evidence from him in another place where he says he never got a dollar from the Dominion Government; and yet when he is reminded that before he wrote to the Pinkertons it was arranged that the Dominion Government was to foot the bill, he said: "I may be wrong as to that, as to this being before the Pinkerton men were written to. I would not like to say." But let us see when they were written to. The Pinkerton men were the detectives in the United States and they were written to in June, before this Government had come into office. There is a charge in the account of Mr. Howell, as on the 27th of June, for a letter to Pinkerton & Co. for three men. So we have them engaged at that time. I refer to this part of the evidence that it will assist us to judge of the statement that the evidence was in possession of Mr. Sifton at that time. The first item in this account is dated June 26th, and is as follows:—

Attending Mr. Sifton, two hours, going fully into the irregularities of the deputy returning officers and others, as to the balloting in the last election, and received instructions from him to investigate the acts of the various deputy returning officers.

The ingenuity of Mr. Shanks is quite apparent in the putting of that charge into the account. But it is somewhat misleading, for it is evident that these gentlemen did not on that occasion, according to the evidence, go fully into the irregularities. They had not the detectives' support, they had not these results of the investigation of the men who went around under assumed names, they had not anything like the evidence as Mr. Howell explains to enable them to go into anything more than a scheme, a plan to ransack the province for evidence to justify the suspicion that they had formed. The last part is probably correct. "Received instructions from him to investigate the various accounts of the various deputy returning officers." And, as Mr. Howell explains later, he went through riding after riding at his own sweet will following out a mere suspicion, or as he says, again and again on a fishing expedition. He went out to fish, to hunt for evidence, and he was hunting for months after the letter of July 17th which says, according to one reading of it, that the evidence was then in hand. Now, Mr. Howell tells us in another place in regard to Burrows:

Q. Who gave you the information respecting the Dauphin poll?—A. Well, I think Mr. Burrows gave me some.

Q. Do you know, as a matter of fact, who gave you the information concerning the Dauphin

poll?—A. I think Mr. Burrows directed my attention to it.

Q. You are not able to say positively?—A. I think I am able to say he directed my attention to the poll, and I investigated it for myself.

Q. You are not able to give me any more positive answer?—A. No, he directed my attention to it, as something very crooked.

I think I am not unfair in commenting on that when I say that was the line on which he started, and not under instructions from Mr. Sifton. He would get a hint from Mr. Burrows or a hint or a whisper from Mr. Watson, and on that he would direct the attention of his agents and detectives, hired at the expense of this Exchequer to obtain the necessary information, and it is quite clear, if they had the information that one part of Mr. Sifton's letter suggests all that work and expense would have been wholly unnecessary. And just here I would like to call their attention to the odious conspiracy that the Prime Minister thought was going to be exposed and to the manner in which these two Governments or two combinations jumped upon this one individual who, apparently, was ready to confess that he was a scoundrel. After all this searching and hunting for this evidence, Mr. Howell is asked :

Mr. Howell, you did not charge any of these parties for a conspiracy of any kind, or if so, which?—A. I do not think so. I was just hesitating whether Waller was charged. No; Waller was charged for inciting, aiding and abetting.

Q. And this man, Saunders, who was convicted, he was bailed out by Mr. Rutherford during the trial.—A. For one night, I think.

So it is evident that there was mitigating circumstances even about that man.

Q. You are aware that Saunders, while denying the charges in connection with the ballot business, admitted that he had conspired with Freeborn to rob the Conservative committee—

That was an inaccuracy on my part in putting the question. There was no charge against Saunders for conspiracy, as Mr. Howell has explained—"I think he would have had a better chance if it had not been for that evidence." At another place in the evidence, Mr. Sifton puts his information in the form of a long and leading question in examining Mr. Howell, in which he says that in giving him instructions he had handed Mr. Powell some ballots, saying that his information was that they had been stolen. That was the charge, Mr. Speaker. What was the information he had—it was that there had been stolen ballots. Whether he was acquitted or not, he was never charged with that, because he tells us first of all in regard to this first conversation :

Q. Mr. Howell, in your evidence you stated, either to Mr. Sifton or to myself—I think it was to me—in referring to your first conversation with Mr. Sifton, in answer to the following question :—

"Q. That was anterior to your retainer?—A. Well, at the time. Then he produced ballots and admissions by deputy returning officers, and it was a staggering blow to me."

Q. Did he produce the admissions of the returning officers?—A. That surely must be wrong. He could not have done so.

Q. Is that correct?—A. Oh, no.

Q. He did not produce the admissions of the deputy returning officers?—A. No, there must be a mistake somewhere.

So, the only evidence that the Government or Mr. Sifton had anything like accurate information in detail, is destroyed when Mr. Howell is given time to reflect, and he qualified that first statement and says that no one in Manitoba, none of the officers of the law, had anything like the evidence in their possession for months after July, that Mr. Sifton pretended in that letter that he possessed—if you read his letter with that interpretation, though I say in his own behalf that it is capable of two interpretations. Then, as to what he was indicted for: Mr. Howell tells us that instead of being indicted for stealing, he was indicted for destroying a ballot, which would again show that such information as had reached Mr. Sifton was not definite when he was writing to the Prime Minister. He says :

One was for destroying the ballot, for we believed that taking a ballot from a voter and not putting it in the box was destroying it, and the other indictment was for putting a paper in the ballot-box which was not the voter's ballot.

Then, we are told in another place by this same gentleman that Saunders was found guilty of preventing voters' ballots going into the ballot box, and putting in other ballots in place of them. As indicating that Mr. Howell's memory was very bad indeed in regard to important phases of this transaction, he there shows, or else we must take Mr. Sifton's statement, that it was not what he told Mr. Howell, but he told him he had information that this man stole ballots. On that point there is a reference to the conviction of this one individual, the sole result of all this evidence. Mr. Howell is asked as to his report :

Your report reads: "Saunders went into the box and swore that he was never instructed by either Freeborn or Waller, and that he initialled those ballots merely for the purpose of assisting Freeborn in getting money from Boyd, in which he (Saunders) was to have a share," which is a conspiracy to rob Boyd. I ask you frankly, for the purpose of seeing how fair you were to all concerned in the evidence you have given here, whether that, in your opinion, would not have gone a very long way to secure the conviction of Saunders?—A. Certainly.

I have referred to the fact that Mr. Sifton entered into this inquiry on mere suspicion. Mr. Howell's account shows that he got instructions to investigate on or before June 26th, and that is an important date. He is asked how he was employed :

I was employed perhaps a little more than as counsel; I was employed as solicitor too.

Q. To take charge?—A. Yes.

Q. Who employed you?—A. The Attorney General's Department.

Then, he followed that up by saying :

Mr. Sifton employed me.

Q. But it was at that consultation that he told you of these gigantic frauds?—A. Possibly ; the interview of that date or the day before.

Mr. Speaker, I want to call your particular attention to these dates. They are of importance in connection with the information that was in possession of Mr. Sifton. He gave instructions on the 26th of June, the elections were on the 23rd, and Mr. Howell was then instructed to investigate. He goes to work and gets detectives, and at that time it is that he is told by Mr. Sifton of these alleged frauds. It was impossible for Mr. Sifton or any human being in Manitoba to be aware on the 26th of June of gigantic frauds at those polls in the province of Manitoba. The evidence clearly brings out that they started into this on mere suspicion, outside of the evidence of this worthless vagabond, who was undoubtedly receiving money paid by the country to be used in those prosecutions.

Q. Were you instructed by Mr. Sifton to employ Pinkerton?—A. Yes.

That, you see, according to the date, is also at that meeting of the 26th of June. Then, a letter is written to the Pinkertons on the 29th of June.

Q. Were you instructed at the start?—A. Oh, it would not be as early as that. Probably the employment of Pinkerton men would be at my suggestion, because I am a great believer in detectives in the elucidation of truth in crimes.

So it is clear that Mr. Howell, after his instructions from Mr. Sifton, was not in a position to arrest any one ; no one was arrested for a long time after that. But he did what, as he explained, is usually done, and no one cavils at that, under the charge of a proper department, he resorted to the employment of detectives for the elucidation of crime.

Q. The letter to Pinkerton & Co., on June 27th, was for three men ; you have not a copy of that here?—A. No, that is all it would be.

Q. Did you bring your office copies of these letters that are referred to here—for instance, the letter to Pinkerton & Co.?—A. No, that would simply be to send the man.

Speaking of the conversation with Mr. Sifton at this time :

Well, I think, Sir Charles, at that interview, or if not the first, very soon after that, we looked into the statutes as to what part the Minister of Justice should have in the proceedings.

The evidence I want to follow out just now is on another page, to which I will refer. But on this question that I refer to there was no proper and definite information in the possession of Mr. Sifton when he plunged into this expenditure at the cost of this country.

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Q. Coming back to the first matter, what was the substance of your first conversation with Mr. Sifton on this matter ?

There is a fair question on which it is quite evident that immediately after Mr. Sifton had not anything to say about that.

I would not like to say exactly what the first was, but amongst the very first at that time was a conversation in which Mr. Sifton told me there had been a gigantic fraud committed in the riding of Macdonald, and that ballots had been stolen.

No evidence was in his possession then. Mr. Howell did not discredit Mr. Sifton's statement, but he did not believe that Mr. Sifton's information was correct. That was the character of the information that was put before Mr. Howell at the start.

Then he produced to me ballots and admissions by returning officers, and it was a staggering blow to me.

I think I have already explained that that statement is incorrect. Mr. Howell took pains to correct it, because, as he said :

I had at no time admissions from the deputy returning officers.

But when he was employed and set to work with detectives, the only information he had was of such a character that the hon. gentleman's own counsel would not credit it. There is a great deal more to show the slim material upon which the machinery of the law was put in motion.

Q. Then Mr. Sifton knew nothing but what Freeborn told him ?

This is Howell, who is still being examined.

A. He only knew what Freeborn told him.

Q. Did he give you anything?—A. When I got information I laid it before him.

That is the way that they went to work. Mr. Howell has been very frank in this matter. We will see it coming out by-and-by. He is called in by Mr. Sifton, who had information that he could not credit at all. He gets carte blanche to proceed. Mr. Sifton gives him the information ; he puts it into the hands of detectives and follows it up, in what way ? As he explains—fishing for evidence :

Q. Then he did not give you full information on the 26th June?—A. As full as he had.

Q. You kept on getting information from time to time?—A. Yes.

Q. You cannot tell whether any conviction resulted from that information of the 26th of June?—A. I think all the Attorney General went into then was as to the method of the ballot-stuffing.

I have no doubt that he did instruct Mr. Howell very well, because Mr. Howell was exceedingly practiced in it, and gave us an exhibition, as hon. members will remember, using his hat for a ballot-box in the committee.

Q. Afterwards you got the detectives ? I suppose they were to get evidence?—A. Yes.

Q. And I suppose your instructions from Mr. Sifton on the 26th of June were to get these men and send them out over the country to look for evidence?—A. Yes.

So, I think, it was not an unreasonable statement that I made that there was a plunge made into this matter which was too reckless a plunge, and heaped up an obligation for which the local authority would not be responsible. This letter was written by Mr. Sifton to the right hon. Prime Minister, who was willing, regardless of expense, to foot the bill for that plunge that Mr. Sifton was to make.

Q. It was a sort of fishing inquiry?—A. Well, yes; all detective work is fishing.

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

### After Recess.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, continuing the examination of the kind of information which the Minister of the Interior, when Mr. Sifton, of Winnipeg, had before him, and upon which he plunged this country into such an expense and the Government into such a responsibility, I refer now to a statement in Mr. Howell's evidence, as follows:—

You see, at first I was retained not to prosecute, but I simply gathered the evidence, and I think it was in the latter part of December they said: "Cause informations to be laid and go on and prosecute."

To make this intelligible to the lay mind, it is necessary now and then to repeat what I said at an earlier stage of the debate. I wish to show now that there was no warrant for the statement in the letter of July to the Prime Minister, that any one, not alone Mr. Sifton, of Winnipeg, was in possession of conclusive evidence, because his own solicitor and counsel, Mr. Howell, after he had the assistance of a little band of favourite lawyers, including connections and relatives of the Minister of the Interior, was not able to lay the information and to justify the initial stages of this prosecution until December of that year. That is according to his own statement:

I think it was in the latter part of December they said: "Cause informations to be laid and go on and prosecute."

I have mentioned two names to-day in connection with the payments that were made on this private understanding between a gentleman who afterwards became Minister of the Interior, and the Prime Minister; and when I see how much of that public money was thrown away and what fees were paid previous to taxation, it is perhaps not unimportant to say that Mr. Burrows, whose name I have mentioned in the discussion, was a brother-in-law of the present Minister of the Interior, and Mr. Clark was a cousin. At any rate, these gentlemen were

intimate with the gentleman who induced, by this private correspondence, the initiation of this expenditure, and the cost to the Dominion treasury in the manner in which the evidence shows. I have shown that that preliminary information in possession of the Minister of the Interior, then Mr. Sifton, of Winnipeg, was not, in Mr. Howell's opinion, information that he would believe, and the Mr. Howell who arrived at this opinion had been prosecuting criminals all his life, both under the Norquay Government, when he was a Conservative, and under the Greenway Government, when he was a "good, solid Reformer," as he himself says. Thus we see how vague and general that information was. There is another reference which clears that up. Mr. Howell is questioned by Mr. Sifton and he says:

Q. Do you remember the general nature of the instructions I gave you at that time?

And the Minister's own solicitor, counsel and confidant, says:

I know you told me to hunt it out, and if it required a great deal of expense to find it, to find it, and bring the rascals to justice.

And one member of the committee said:

Called him a rascal, eh?

And Mr. Howell answered:

Well, I think it was I who called him a rascal. I think I can remind you, Mr. Sifton, that at the time I made that remark, that I did not believe a man could tear a leaf out of the Bible, and I did not believe he would steal a ballot.

Of course, Mr. Howell had left the province of Ontario before the advent of this Government to power, and before the election in Huron, and before the election in Brockville. I venture to say that after the recent election experience in these two ridings, Mr. Howell would not state on oath that he would not believe that a man could steal a ballot. That, however, is a matter subject to the light that further information will set on this subject, and set on it, not by aid of any public money of Canada, not by aid of a secret arrangement between the Minister of the Interior and the Prime Minister, which did not see the light of day until years had elapsed, but by the aid of private Canadian citizens who are anxious to have these nefarious Liberal election methods put down. There are other references in the evidence to show how these gentlemen proceeded on their fishing excursion, on vague rumours and suggestions, prying at the public expense into these rumours, and ignoring with absolute contempt, the opinion of Mr. Sifton, expressed in the July letter, when he said he was at that time in possession of conclusive evidence. For instance, we find that hearsay evidence was given by Mr. Watson, a member of the Manitoba Government. This occurred in regard to one of the lawyer's charges:

Q. There is an entry here, 11th July : "Attending the Attorney General, Watson and Burrows." Was not Watson a member of the Manitoba Government?—A. Yes.

Q. What was he doing there—what department was he in?—A. Public Works.

Q. Who was Mr. Burrows, a member of the local legislature?—A. Yes.

Q. A Liberal?—A. Yes.

Q. Holding any official position?—A. No.

Q. What assistance could these give you, were they witnesses?—A. Yes; Mr. Burrows gave me a detail of the alleged crookedness of a ballot in one division, I forget the name of it; but it was where the deputy returning officer, after the ballots were marked, each time before he put the ballot in the box opened up the ballot to the Conservative agent so that he could see which way it was marked, so that at the end of the day he said to the deputy returning officer: "You need not trouble to count up the votes, this is a statement of them," and that statement proved to be correct.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I ask your attention to the next question:

Q. Did Mr. Burrows tell you this of his own knowledge?—A. Yes.

Q. Was he used as a witness?—A. I found out the facts of this from him.

Q. Was it of his own knowledge, or what he had been informed?—A. What he had been informed.

Here, after Mr. Howell, a counsel learned in the law, had stated under oath that Mr. Burrows told him this of his own knowledge, after being pressed, he said: That it was not of his own knowledge, but what he had been informed. I propose to dwell at considerable length upon this, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, I propose to dwell on it in view of the situation we are face to face with to-day, and if anything encourages me to dwell upon it at length it is the jeers and derisive laughter from the benches behind the Government. If these hon. gentlemen had a particle of fairness in connection with these matters, we would find them active in coming to the aid of men who are now pursuing this same sort of injury in the province of Ontario. I have no sympathy with a Liberal or a Conservative who resorts to fraud or crime in connection with the ballot, nor has any other gentleman on this side of the House. The question is this: if you are going into this kind of work to purify the electorate, if the funds of this country are to be devoted to that purpose, there is not a fair-minded man inside of this House or outside of it, who will say that that work is to be confined to fastening these charges on men who have been Conservatives. It is not to be confined to a practice performed in the dark; but they are to come down in man-fashion, just in the opposite way to the way in which they have handled this matter from beginning to end, and ask boldly for a vote at the hands of the people's representatives to hunt down

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these rascals, regardless of their politics or of what party is in power. The contrast in this case is extraordinary. While in these particular districts in Ontario the attention of the public is drawn in a far more marked and open manner than was the case in Manitoba, there is not a Minister on the Treasury benches who has made an open or a secret offer to aid in hunting out the rascals; but, where the ox which was gored was the ox of the other party, they were ready to resort to secret and stealthy means for hunting down the rascals. We ask for even-handed justice. We say, before you go behind or in front of the Attorney General of the province, let us get the mandate of this Parliament, and let us put on the shoulders of the Government of the day, whether it is Grit or Tory, a responsibility, and hold them to it; but let us not follow the cowardly and secret practices indulged in by this third-class sort of Star Chamber to which I have been referring. Now, Mr. Speaker, I have given you this hearsay evidence that had come to Mr. Sifton first, to Mr. Watson, a colleague, and to Mr. Burrows, a relative or connection of the hon. gentleman; and the manner in which this hearsay and generally vague evidence, that could not be put into any specific charge or form, was used. Even at the late date when we examined Mr. Howell, I have shown you how they were able to tap the Dominion treasury and command its funds in working out this political scheme. Let us see the nature of the instructions, and whether Mr. Howell will corroborate a single line of the letter of Mr. Sifton, who said he had conclusive evidence. Mr. Sifton, examining Mr. Howell, says:

Q. I intimated to you that I had received information to the effect that there had been extensive frauds practiced in connection with the elections?—A. Yes.

Q. And instructed you to proceed in the investigation of them?—A. Yes.

Q. How did that compare with the action which would be taken in any other criminal case?—A. I think it was practically the same. I am usually brought into criminal cases at a very early stage, and evidence is gathered very often subject entirely to my direction.

Q. The Attorney General, as well as counsel and others, might have charge of the prosecution before the case is prepared for trial, and before the information is laid. It is usual to employ detectives, and work up the case, as detectives say?—A. Yes, quite so. I think I have done it under your instructions before.

Q. Yes, I think so, several times. The Crown does not wait, as a rule, according to your experience until there is evidence enough to convict a man before a jury before it starts to make inquiries?

Need I again call attention to the importance of this leading question? Need I say that it has become, in view of recent events, of more than ordinary importance, as to what the Minister of the Interior appreciates to be the duty of parties who have general information in regard to crime or wrong-doing on the part of public servants; and the an-

swer of Mr. Howell to that question is equally important :

A. No, that has not been my experience. When we get a suspicion—

I dwell on that word for the same reason that I mentioned before—

—When we get a suspicion we start, and I may say it is perhaps different in Manitoba from what it is in other places, certainly different from this province, because there are no county attorneys in Manitoba, as there are here, and the prosecuting counsel in Manitoba has to take a burden that is not taken in Ontario.

The applicability of that answer to the condition of affairs in the Yukon territory I need not expatiate upon. Those observations are particularly applicable to a case that has been under the consideration of Parliament. Then, said the Minister of the Interior :

Q. Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper seems to think that there was some discredit to be cast on the proceedings because it was, as he said, a fishing excursion, that you sent out detectives. Did the proceedings differ in any respect whatever from the ordinary proceedings in any criminal case ?  
—A. No, I have fished just the same in this case as I did in the Holland murder case under your direction.

And the Holland murder case, I believe, broke down ; but, nevertheless, no one quarrelled with that. That is not the question. I would not quarrel with any official, Dominion or provincial, for fishing or incurring expenditure under such circumstances ; on the contrary, I would commend the practice, where such officials are charged under the constitution of this country with the duty of ferreting out and punishing crime. But we have the unparalleled case in the history of this country, where the Dominion Government stepped in and assumed a burden and responsibility that lay on the shoulders of the local authority ; and we have another case, to which I need not now refer, where, having the direct responsibility, they declined to step in or employ detectives or counsel to ferret out crime ; where there is more than a suspicion, where the whole name of Canada has been affected by the extraordinary and unpleasant statements that have been cast widespread, not only over Canada, but throughout the world.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think I must draw the hon. member's attention to the fact, that he is obviously now entering into the discussion of a matter which has already been discussed, and is not the one to which he is drawing the attention of the House. I apprehend, that his reason for going into this evidence, as he has done, is to show the necessity of an early sitting of the Committee on Public Accounts, but to go into the question of the Yukon, does not, in my judgment, bear upon that point.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am perfectly willing, Mr. Speaker, to keep within the line of your ruling. I did not think, for the moment, that I was transgressing the spirit of the rule, which is a

wholesome one, when I animadverted, by way of contrast, to a previous debate. Therefore, submitting most willingly to your ruling, I will simply pass on and marshal the evidence and the facts, as shown by this report, in order to emphasize my point, that the occupants of the Treasury benches have taken just that course which will bring upon them the suspicion, that they have endeavoured to burk a proper inquiry into the Manitoba case. I cannot conceive of any other reason why, after having compelled me, by force of their majority, to make a solemn undertaking, that, at the first available opportunity this session, I would continue this inquiry, they should so delay calling the committee as to make it impossible for me to obtain the witnesses on the other side, who were not in the pay of the Government, who were not in the position in which Mr. Howell was, of their confidential adviser, and conclude this inquiry in the ordinary course of a parliamentary session.

I was referring to the flimsy evidence upon which this prosecution was started, and the absence, so far as the record shows, of any specific facts of any kind in July. Not a name came from the lips of Mr. Howell ; not a name of an informer outside of Freeborn came from the lips of a single witness up to the date of closing the evidence last session. Though we had the reports of Mr. Howell, though we had the leading examination by the Minister of the Interior, not the name of a single individual was disclosed, charged with crime, or against whom evidence had been collected which would justify the letter that the Minister of the Interior, then Mr. Sifton, of Winnipeg, wrote in July, 1896, to the First Minister.

Then I went on to show, from the evidence, that there was the strongest testimony from the lips of Mr. Howell, that, when he was called in, he could not obtain evidence that would warrant him laying information until months had elapsed—from July until December of that year. I had referred to the statement of his instructions which he made in answer to the Minister of Interior. These instructions were to investigate, to ferret out information upon which he could prosecute or arrest individuals in the different parts of Manitoba. Let us see how much information we got from Mr. Howell, when pressed, as I had the right to do, for the information that he actually had in his possession. He had notes, he had memos., which, according to his statement, would tell us just what he had collected, and when he had collected it. Then, to clinch this matter, I asked for their production. We were then treated to a little legal by-play, to some technical rules which were pushed further than they ever were in any court of law ; and it was ruled, that because in a court of law this gentleman would be privileged as having acted for the

Crown, therefore, he was not to be compelled to produce the memo. he had obtained, before the committee. That was a most extraordinary ruling. Mr. Speaker, as you can fully understand.

Mr. McMULLEN. Not at all extraordinary.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) knows nothing about this matter. He is not trained to it in the slightest particular. He surely does not pretend to know anything with regard to the practices of the courts of law. There was no privilege in that case in connection with the question upon which the Chairman ruled, and the majority supported him. Neither the hon. gentleman, nor anybody else, can produce a single authority from any court of law in support of this ruling, and does the hon. gentleman mean to say, that we are in such a miserable, incompetent position, that a committee of this House is not able to extract from witnesses evidence which an ordinary judge of the land can extract from him? That was the position taken by these hon. gentlemen. Had Mr. Howell been compelled to produce the memoranda he had in his possession, to show just what information he had on the 17th July, that would have exposed the whole business. But he was protected and shielded, although, before the Minister of Interior appreciated the importance of that evidence he himself suggested that Mr. Howell should give us that information. Nevertheless, when the importance of it was brought out by a vote in the committee, these letters and material and information were characterized as confidential. There was no insisting on the publicity of the names, and the men who would take the responsibility of having made reflections on their fellow-citizens, or by indirect means placing themselves in a position to be responsible in a court of law. There was protection afforded in that case not always afforded at Liberal hands, as this House may understand, without infringing on the rules of debate. For instance, this question was asked :

Will you explain now in detail what that information was, thus collected, upon which you subsequently laid the informations and instituted the prosecutions?—A. Well, to go into it fully would be very extensive. I have a detailed statement of all the cases here.

Q. What is this paper?—A. It is a sort of epitome I have among my papers of what I gathered during these investigations, and attached to it are some confidential letters written to me by people who might not want to have their names known.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I can remember when a man was considered a coward who would act upon information, when the informers were not willing to have their names known.

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I do not think it would be fair to them that those letters should be made public property.

Q. What is the nature of the particular letter you have under your hand now?—A. Well, it is a letter—I think a letter, from what I see, it is a confidential letter—written by a certain gentleman telling me what took place at one of the polls, which I have no objection to let you, Sir Charles, see. This document, I see now, is rather a compilation of my own from the material which came to hand from time to time, and I used it as a brief from which to make out indictments, and subsequently to subpoena witnesses. But I have far more than that. I have no objection to put it in.

Now, that was the introduction of a very interesting passage. I had Mr. Howell into such a condition that he was willing to make a frank confession. And I have referred—though I cannot now put my hand upon the particular question—to a question of the Minister of the Interior at one stage of the proceedings which indicated that he had a desire to get that same information. If the Minister of the Interior contradicts that, as I am not able to refer to the exact question in the evidence, I will not maintain that particular point. But that is my recollection. But, later, when we were within an ace of learning once and for all what the information was, a party majority in the committee voted that all this information was privileged, and one of the most important points to be found out in that inquisitorial committee, as the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) calls it, was left concealed. At another place, this question is asked by Mr. Sifton :

Q. That, briefly stated, was the information you procured?—A. More than that, I got from someone you sent me the written instructions given to one of the deputy returning officers how to do it. I employed detectives, and spent a great deal of money, and tried to find out whose handwriting it was, but I never found out

And then, later :

Q. Have you got that document?—A. I would not swear. It would be in my private safe at Winnipeg. I am inclined to think I have it. I did not think I would be called upon for it.

By Mr. Sifton :

Q. You have it in your possession at home?—A. I cannot say as to its possession. I may have left it with Shoemaker, the detective.

Q. You will send it if you can find it?—A. Yes. That document, I need hardly say to the House, has never been forthcoming. Then Mr. Foster asks :

Q. Was there anything to show the 'locus in quo' where the Grits purported to carry this election?—A. No, it was just headed : "How the Grits carry elections."

Again, he was asked :

Q. Who gave you this?—A. I do not think I should give you this information. It was confidential. I treat this committee and the Dominion Government as a private prosecutor.

By Mr. Sifton :

Q. Will you recollect the individual whom you got that from?—A. I did not get it from you,

but my memory is that you told me where I could get it. I got it, and I think I am safe in saying this, that when I got it I was told that if ever I divulged where it came from a man would lose an important position.

And the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) knows, and candour will compel him to admit, no matter what view he takes, as to the seriousness of this whole case, that Mr. Howell was protected by the majority of the committee from handing to the grand inquisition of this country the information that he said he possessed and that bore in so important a manner upon the inquiry that was then being pursued.

Now, as regards his retainer and the instructions to Mr. Howell. I never saw in my life, and I do not think there is any professional man on either side of the House who ever knew of a counsel who betrayed such bewilderment and confusion as to who was his client. I have given you the version of it from the sworn testimony of Mr. Howell. The Minister of the Interior, or any hon. gentleman who takes that report up, can contradict me flat by referring to another part of the evidence of Mr. Howell. There are four or five versions as to how he came into this case and who employed him, and with whom he was acting all through. But this might arise from the irregular and unprecedented and illegal manner in which he was employed, if employed, or, at any rate, in which he was paid from the federal exchequer. Had the proper course been followed, had the Government come down and asked an appropriation in a bona fide way at the hands of this House for the purpose of pursuing this course, a course never before taken in this country, the money would have been voted if the majority had approved, and the money would have been expended from the Department of Justice. And Sir Oliver Mowat, I venture to say, never in his history as Attorney General of the province of Ontario or as Attorney General of the Dominion of Canada, so disgraced himself as to arrange for the employment of lawyers or agents by means of private and secret confidential correspondence. I venture to say that in every case in which Sir Oliver Mowat, or the present Minister of Justice, or the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), who sits in this House has spent public money for legal business, there has been ordinary and proper correspondence through the Deputy Minister of Justice and the proper officers of the Government, and that vouchers can be found in all these cases, so that you could have, not only an intelligible but an honest history of the case from beginning to end. We have no secret service money in this country. Parliament entrusts no such fund to the Minister, as the Finance Minister knows. It is, therefore, all the more heinous that any Minister should indirectly or by secret methods attempt to spend money on the secret service principle; and to have these monetary transactions conducted by means of documents that they are ashamed to lay on the

Table of the House, by documents that they abstract or that some one abstracts from the public records. I make that statement by the book, for Sir Oliver Mowat's letter was before Mr. Hodgins in the Department of Justice and was taken from the file and not sent to the Public Accounts Committee.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Who took it?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I had no detectives employed at public expense to find out who took it. I state the bald fact, that the document was abstracted from the file. No Minister of the Crown has come down to explain to the Public Accounts Committee who took it. But I say this correspondence has been interfered with, that it has been mutilated, that a part of it has been abstracted. Who took it I do not know. If I knew that I should have some other motion to make in this House than the one I contemplate making on this occasion. But as the Minister of the Interior has asked me the question, I would like to ask him if he knows who took it.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I have not the slightest notion of such an occurrence having taken place.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. And yet we have the printed evidence before us here, the evidence of Mr. Howell, which, apparently, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) has never read and never cared to consider—

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I did not hear it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. Minister says he did not take it.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I did not say that. I did not think it was necessary to say that; I said I did not hear the evidence of Mr. Hodgins.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I have read the evidence of Mr. Hodgins; and the hon. member for North Wellington, who was the chairman of that committee, although he has extreme views on these questions, followed the evidence closely enough, I am sure, to know that what I am stating is by the book. He knows that I asked Mr. Newcombe and Mr. Hodgins to make a search for that letter and tried to produce it before the committee, and that on his second appearance before the committee Mr. Hodgins said he could not find it. He said that he had seen it; and I have read the letter in which Mr. Howell refers to a letter of Sir Oliver Mowat, which is not on file, complaining of these inordinate and exorbitant charges of the agents of the Minister of the Interior. There is the circumstance that causes the transaction to be surrounded with suspicion. Is there an intelligent man of the profession of the law on either side of the House who can understand, from Mr. Howell's difficulty and confusion as to the parties for whom

he was acting, whether it was for Mr. Sifton, or for the Minister of the Interior, or for the Attorney General of Manitoba, or whether it was for the Minister of Justice at Ottawa? I will give you a few statements from Mr. Howell that certainly place that gentleman in a very peculiar position. But that is not the only thing. It shows just the trouble that this Parliament will get into, and that the people's trustees will find themselves in, if they sanction this irregular and illegal conduct in connection with the expenditure of public funds. The Deputy Minister of Justice says, for instance, referring to the answer of the Attorney General of Manitoba in the House of Assembly at Manitoba :

Q. Was Mr. Howell retained by the Government as counsel in said cases, and if so, what fees have been paid him or promised to him for his services?—A. Mr. Howell was retained by the Government of Manitoba in said cases with the sanction of the Dominion Government. He has not been paid any fees in connection with said cases by the Government of Manitoba, nor has he been promised any fees.

Then we find that the report goes on to give this question :

Q. Was Mr. Howell retained by the Government as counsel in said cases, and if so, what fees have been paid him or promised to him for his services?—A. Mr. Howell was retained by the Government of Manitoba in said cases with the sanction of the Dominion Government.

He is asked :

Did you agree with that?—A. I should think so.

Further on, Mr. Howell is asked :

Q. Was anything said as to who should bear that expense ultimately, the Manitoba Government or the Dominion Government?—A. I am sure it was said in my presence that the Dominion Government would stand it.

Q. You are not aware that anterior to that, the Dominion Government had supplied some funds to meet these expenses?—A. I think the Dominion Government had prior to that. We had paid large sums of money out of our own pockets before we got any back, and I got \$3,000 some time.

Then we find another extraordinary thing. I have read you what Mr. Howell is stating so far, and what the Manitoba Government is stating so far, and here is a bewildering fact. While the Manitoba Government answers that Mr. Howell was retained with the sanction of the Dominion Government, by the Manitoba Government, mark you, while Mr. Howell says that he was retained by the Manitoba Government with the sanction of the Dominion Government, his account shows his retainer to have been on June 26, when the Conservative Administration was in office, and can any man believe that that is a satisfactory answer, either of the Manitoba Government or of Mr. Howell? Was it suggested that he had been retained by the Conservative Administration? Not a man in the committee.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictor).

not a line of any paper produced, suggested any such extravagance as that. Mr. Howell, after having said that he was retained by the Manitoba Government with the sanction of the Dominion Government, and being reminded that the Conservative Government did not leave office, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not take office until July 13, he is asked :

Assuming that, would you still say that the answer I have read, that Mr. Howell was retained with the sanction of the Dominion Government, is correct?—A. You see, at first I was retained not to prosecute, but I simply gathered the evidence, and I think in the latter part of December they said : "Cause informations to be laid and go on and prosecute."

So that comes back with tremendous force, when we consider the facts, to the responsibility of Mr. Sifton, of Winnipeg, who said the Manitoba Government could not undertake that, but who himself assumed a financial responsibility that was ultimately redeemed in part, at any rate, by the Dominion Government.

Then you got your instructions from the Attorney General of Manitoba?—A. He told me that, and even if the Dominion Government instructed me I would not proceed without instructions from the Attorney General of Manitoba.

So that we are brought face to face with another state of things, and another phase of this transaction. Although we were supplying the funds, employing detectives, and employing lawyers, the control of the case was still in the hands of Attorney General Cameron. Then further on there is another extraordinary piece of testimony from Mr. Howell involving the Dominion Government in this affair. Now we come to a subject always interesting to any counsel, and I suppose Mr. Howell was not an exception to the rule, that is as to who was to pay them in the matter. He is asked :

Q. You said yesterday, if my memory serves me, that notwithstanding that you thought the Dominion Act was not sufficient to cover the case, you to some extent relied on the Dominion purse?—A. I do not think I ever relied on the Dominion purse.

Q. But while this state of doubt and uncertainty existed you drew upon the Minister of the Interior?—A. No, I did not draw upon the Minister of the Interior until long after he had given me money that he said came from the Dominion Government.

Then on this same subject as to the vagueness of the information :

Q. You mean that Mr. Sifton said that he had heard there was such a conspiracy?—A. Yes.

Q. But that is not giving you evidence of it?—A. Mr. Sifton, or some one for him, gave me written instructions assumed to be given to one of the returning officers of how to cheat the voter out of his ballot.

Q. If Mr. Sifton gave you instructions or evidence, you could not have considered that sufficient, for you at once went on a fishing expedition by employing Pinkerton detectives and so on?—A. Yes.

Q. If you were going to have a protest, I suppose it is well to have detectives and make sure?—A. Yes, I wanted to find out who it was who gave these instructions. We had a great deal of trouble in comparing handwriting of persons of whom we were suspicious.

Then when Mr. Howell is asked from whom he got his instructions, he tells us that he got them from the Attorney General of Manitoba. I ask you to mark that. He says: "Well, I got my instructions from the Attorney General of Manitoba." Then in regard to his relations, he says:

The reason he drew on Mr. Sifton was that he did not expect that the Dominion Government would accept his draft.

This is his own statement:

We paid \$6,000 or \$7,000, and I wanted the money, and did not think the Government would accept my draft.

Here is Mr. Howell giving a reason for drawing on Mr. Sifton, an individual, and his reason, notwithstanding what he says he understood to be his instructions, was that he did not think the Dominion Government would pay his fee. To make it clearer he says at another place that he relied upon Mr. Sifton to get the Government to pay his bill:

Q. In your examination yesterday, in answer to the question: "Whom did you regard as your debtor, the person retaining you, the Attorney General of Manitoba, or Mr. Sifton?" your answer was: "I am inclined to think that I was looking to the purse at Ottawa, for I remember very clearly we discussed the question of the Minister of Justice paying it. If that was not at the first interview, then it was at the second or third. Before I wrote Pinkerton, it was arranged that the Dominion Government was to foot the bill"—A. Yes.

Now, I unhesitatingly say this is not the case, and he contradicts that statement point-blank. He first wrote to Pinkerton in June. Will the hon. Minister of the Interior say now that this statement was borne out by the evidence? Mr. Howell made a serious mistake. It is not pretended by the hon. Minister of the Interior that that statement was accurate. Yet, this is the gentleman who disbursed a large amount of public money and has confessed his inability to supply vouchers to the Public Accounts Committee for the money that he has expended.

Q. By whom was it arranged?

That is the matter that was referred to.

A. Mr. Sifton told me.

Q. Then do you not consider you were retained by the Manitoba Government?—A. I was retained by Mr. Sifton, and I knew he would see that somebody paid me.

That was the statement.

Q. While you say that Mr. Sifton retained you, he was the Attorney General, and you knew you would get your money either from Manitoba or from the Dominion—you say Mr. Sifton as-

sured you the Government would pay you?—A. Well, we discussed the question of the Dominion Government taking it up, and we looked over the provisions of the Dominion Controverted Elections Act, and I am sure he told me the Dominion Government would pay the bill.

Then he repeats that statement which is obviously absurd on the face of it.

Q. Then, if Mr. Sifton told you the Dominion Government would pay the bill, would you say that you could hold Mr. Sifton or Manitoba liable?—A. I always held Mr. Sifton liable.

And I wish you to note this, Mr. Speaker:

I always held Mr. Sifton liable, and the result bore out my confidence.

I have given you his statement on the record from this report of his evidence that he never got a dollar from the Dominion Government that he got his bills paid, and he got them paid in full. Though they were cut down and though they went through the form of taxing them in the Department of Justice he did not lose anything by the cutting down. So far as Mr. Sifton could get part of the bills out of the public treasury to pay the bills which he was held liable for and which he paid in full, that money was paid. In so far as the Department of Justice would not authorize the expenditure, some one—though the Committee on Public Accounts is left in the dark as to that—had to pay the balance, and, as Mr. Howell tells us, Mr. Sifton paid the balance. The Dominion Government, therefore, paid practically 50 per cent of the personal liability of Mr. Sifton, if Mr. Howell is a credible witness and that statement is correct, which is made on oath.—

I always held Mr. Sifton liable, and the result bore out my confidence.

When Mr. Howell is confronted with the fact that the Conservatives were in power before he wrote to Pinkerton, and that his statement could not be correct that the Dominion Government had arranged to indemnify Mr. Sifton, this is the statement he makes in regard to it, and it is fair that I should mention it as I have mentioned the other fact:

I may be wrong as to that, as to its being before the Pinkerton men were written to. I would not like to say.

Although, you will remember from what I have read of his evidence, it reads as if he were sure that it was at that time that this matter was arranged. At another part of his evidence he tells us that it was Mr. Sifton who retained him. Here he is coming before the Public Accounts Committee under these extraordinary circumstances. The Dominion Government, whether involved at that time he does not exactly know, the Attorney General of Manitoba technically involved all through, Mr. Sifton actually dealing with him and we are asking him to whom was his account made out—here is a business man asked to produce

his books for inspection by the committee who comes with a partial statement of his account, who has destroyed his blotters and memoranda and who will not produce them and does not produce them before the committee, is asked—to whom did you charge this account in your books, and he gives the answer that he charged this account to no one. Fifteen thousand odd dollars—I have already stated the amount from the evidence of a liability charged to no one by a man who is supposed to be fit to undertake a prosecution and an inquiry of this kind. Then he is asked a question as having dealt with all the different Governments of Manitoba. He was a Conservative, as I say, under the Conservative regime, and a Liberal under the Liberal regime; he was retained by the Liberal-Conservative Administration, and retained by the Liberal Administration, acting for the Attorney General under both of these Administrations. This man is asked a question that you would suppose he could have answered, if he had been one year at the bar, and it was as to how he was dealing with Mr. Sifton, whether dealing with him personally or as Attorney General. Here is an extraordinary statement; whether it reflects upon the hon. Minister of the Interior or Mr. Howell, I care not, but Mr. Howell makes this statement on oath:

Q. Did you attend him in his official capacity as Attorney General?—A. I do not know.

He did not know. He dealt with him, as the evidence shows, personally, he got his money from him, and Mr. Sifton was dealing secretly with the moneys of this country without any responsibility to this Parliament, without any responsibility to the Manitoba legislature, without putting a single sixpence of this business upon the shoulders of the people of whom at the time he was a representative, or on the local administration—this is the way the whole thing was carried on, this is the counsel he got to represent this string of other counsel who was unable to say, after the whole transaction was over, after his accounts had been passed, not charged to any one in his books, paid after being taxed, though the taxing did not affect him in the slightest degree, reduced, though the reduction did not affect him in the slightest, says I do not know whether I attended on Mr. Sifton in his official capacity. But he did know that he held Mr. Sifton liable, and the report shows that he felt safe enough all through, no matter where the money should come from. He says:

Q. And you looked to Mr. Sifton in the end?—A. I drew on him. I was not disposed to be banker for the Dominion Government, and I told Mr. Sifton so.

Q. Who paid you?—A. I drew on Mr. Sifton, and the bank honoured the draft.

Q. You say the Dominion was your client?—A. I was paid.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou).

Q. Not by the Dominion Government?—A. No, I never got a dollar from the Dominion Government.

Therefore, he held Mr. Sifton liable, and I read again from his evidence:

Q. Did you consider you were retained by the Manitoba Government?—A. I was retained by Mr. Sifton, and I knew that he would see that some one would pay me, and he was Attorney General of the province then.

I call your attention to this, Mr. Speaker:

Q. Then, if Mr. Sifton told you the Dominion Government would pay the bill, would you say that you would hold Mr. Sifton or the province of Manitoba liable?—A. Well, I always held Mr. Sifton liable, and the result bore out my confidence.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you will find that these detectives were employed, at great expense, earlier in the day, and were at work before the 17th July, when the letter of Mr. Sifton was written, and were at work for a long time afterwards. For instance, we have the following entry in the account:

July 8th.—All day going over the evidence with Shoemaker (one of the detectives) and his assistants, and laying down a plan of action and sifting the evidence already brought in.

We have the following entry in the account also:

One and a half hours with Shoemaker and Robertson, instructing the latter to proceed to Carberry as a picture-seller, and with full instructions and letters of introduction to gather evidence as to Clarke and Waller.

A wild goose chase as it turned out to be. It is monstrous to argue that Mr. Sifton, at that date, had any conclusive evidence against Waller and Clark. These men were cleared by a jury of their countrymen, and this fishing excursion in their case was a farce. We find from the lawyer's charges how correct it was for Mr. Howell to say he was fishing for months, and how incorrect it was for Mr. Sifton to state in his letter to the Prime Minister that he had conclusive evidence. Although that letter was dated the 17th July, the astute counsel tells us that he did not credit the information Mr. Sifton gave him at the start, and that he required detectives to fish for evidence. We have this evidence in his account:

July 31st.—Having heard about irregularities at the Rathwell poli—drawing up forms for 37 affidavits and long letter to Forbes for particulars.

They drew up the affidavits before they got the particulars, which showed that the ingenuity of Shanks was exceeded by the ingenuity of Mr. Howell:

August 3.—Having received the written instructions that were handed to certain deputy returning officers, searches of handwriting and interviews with many parties to get evidence as to who wrote it.

To tell me that on August 3rd, that charge

was a reasonable charge, that that inquiry was a reasonable inquiry by Mr. Howell, and yet on the 17th of July Mr. Sifton or any other man in Manitoba could state that he held in his hands conclusive evidence, is asking me to believe what no jury in Christendom would believe, and which no intelligent man on either side of the House would believe. Either Mr. Howell is conjuring up excuses for charges, is fabricating a bill for useless work, or that statement made by Mr. Sifton on July 17th was misleading, erroneous and incorrect. You will find that the sworn evidence of Mr. Howell is corroborated by this account. On August 15th—here Mr. Howell is at work :

August 15.—Having considered it proper to get a gambler to endeavour to gather the evidence in Treherne—letter to Pinkerton & Co. for a man who would assume the role of gambler and tough.

August 17.—Attending Ballantyne and Freeborn, instructing them to proceed by the Manitoba and North-western Railway, to find what had been done as to the ballot-boxes along that line, both in Macdonald and Marquette, and drawing letters of introduction to various parties to be used on the journey—3 hours.

Here was one of the men who were being used at the public expense to manufacture evidence, though Mr. Howell does not put it in that way, but a man who must have known would not hesitate to manufacture evidence, a man who was a self-confessed scoundrel, a man who first conspired to rob the Conservatives, and then, when they would not come down with cash, turned informer, a drunken wretch who had to be paid liberal allowances to be kept in hand by these gentlemen who were fishing for evidence to fasten horrible charges on the Conservative party; a fishing inquiry which resulted in the conviction of another wretch, who, although not guilty, acknowledged the charge made against him; that is the reckless and extraordinary business for which this country had to pay out in cash some \$10,000, and for which this country would have had to pay over \$19,000 if a sense of shame did not happily come to the Treasury benches. And, though they had given this carte blanche authority on July 17th, they never dared to ask Parliament for a single dollar openly, even of the \$10,000, not to speak of the balance of the \$19,000. I have referred frequently to Mr. Howell, showing how long he fished at the expense of the treasury for evidence of the kind to which I have been referring. The references to that evidence are as follows:—First of all, in regard to the magistrates who were peripatetic, who were carted around to hold the preliminary investigation, were appointed by the Government, or by Mr. Sifton, as he says. Then, having got their magistrates, they submitted to them, late in the season, all the evidence they had successfully fished for by the aid of Pinkerton detectives, and by the aid of this

informer to whom I have referred. There is a charge here :

July 13.—One and a half hours with Shoemaker and Robertson, instructing the latter to proceed to Carberry as a picture-seller, and with full instructions and letters of introduction to gather evidence as to Clarke and Waller.

Mr. Howell says : "That, I think, is what Mr. Watson told me"—another member of the Government of Manitoba who would not risk a brass farthing on this fishing excursion, but who induced the Prime Minister, together with Mr. Sifton, to saddle the expense on the Dominion. Then again :

They instructed you rather than you advised them?—A. Oh, they asked me to find if there was ground for prosecution. I gathered the evidence, and they told me to go on and prosecute.

Again, Mr. Howell says :

You see, at first I was retained not to prosecute, but I simply gathered the evidence, and I think it was in the latter part of December they said : "Cause informations to be laid and go on and prosecute."

Again, we have Mr. Howell telling us of the detectives gathering evidence, and we have the fact that Mr. Sifton was paying this man Freeborn to keep him off. Then, as to fishing, Mr. Howell makes this statement :

Q. You mean that Mr. Sifton said that he heard that there was such a conspiracy?—A. Yes.

Q. But that is not giving you evidence of it?—A. Mr. Sifton, or some one for him, gave me written instructions assumed to be given to one of the returning officers of how to cheat the voter out of his ballot.

Q. If Mr. Sifton gave you instructions or evidence, you could not have considered that sufficient, for you at once went on a fishing expedition of employing Pinkerton detectives, and so on?—A. Yes.

Then, there is a reference by Mr. Howell to an investigation of these charges, and he goes on to explain the result of his inquiries, and states how the detectives were used, and corroborates the evidence which I have already read. Then he says :

I employed detectives and spent a great deal of money trying to find out whose handwriting it was, but I never found out.

Then he tells how much he had to fish for evidence. He says :

I traced Scammell's movements on several days before the election, and found that he had paid two or three visits to Treherne and got a package of something on one of these visits, and I got the information from the man who went with him that he got a package of some kind, and seemed very well pleased with it.

He tells us how they followed him up. He testifies how he sent out canvassers to get cases to bring before the magistrates. I would call your attention to this statement by Mr. Howell :

Q. How long before January, 1897, did you get information touching him?—A. I got it all along during the autumn; I was gathering it from all sources, and some time in July.

Q. Was it in July or August?—A. It would, perhaps, not be long after August; it might be in August or September.

Again, he says, in answer to this question:

Q. Did you make any inquiries into the conduct of the balance of the deputy returning officers?—A. I did into some of them.

Q. Into how many?—A. It may have been some slight matters.

Q. It is important, because the money went there as well as to others?—A. I do not think it would be much.

Q. Did your investigations go into districts where others than Conservatives were returned?—A. There was Boyd's case, of course.

Q. I mean investigations as against deputy returning officers?—A. I looked carefully into the elections of Mr. Boyd, Mr. Hugh J. Macdonald and Mr. Roche. I looked into others, and into Mr. LaRivière's to a certain extent.

Showing that he went all over the field, with the result to which I have already referred to. There is this further testimony on this point:

Q. You gave the committee a description of what you called the night-school for schooling up officers in fraud?—A. I think Mr. Sifton told me he had gathered—

Q. I don't want to know what Mr. Sifton gathered; do you remember who gave you that information?—A. It would be a gradual collection of hints until I got the evidence.

So that we have undoubtedly, if Mr. Howell can be believed at all, the exact nature of his employment, and we have the flat contradiction of the statement of Mr. Sifton, so far as his letter of July 17th was concerned, that he was in possession of conclusive evidence. For, mark you, after all said and done, the reference to Sir Oliver Mowat, which is made later on, is that he would only sanction the following up of four or five cases; and if the statement in Mr. Sifton's letter had been accurate, there would not have been the necessity for the enormous expenditure between July and December of that year.

I think I have referred to sufficient of the evidence to show you how irregular the conduct of the Government has been from beginning to end. When the whole of this evidence is completed, it will be possible, I think, to argue with some force that there has not been irregularity merely, but extraordinary illegality, that there has been an absolute disregard of the ordinary safeguards in the expenditure of moneys, that there has been a misappropriation of the public funds, and that none of the ordinary checks or ordinary courses were taken usually followed in the expenditure of public money. The Auditor General's Report is absolutely unsatisfactory. In the department to which these accounts were sent, as a matter of form, the Justice Department, none of the ordinary means were taken to

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check the propriety of these expenditures, and undoubtedly—and I repeat it in the most emphatic manner—this promise of the Minister of the Interior that the money would be fully accounted for in detail by him has never been fulfilled. On the contrary, Mr. Sifton handed over the whole business to Mr. Howell, and Mr. Howell handed it over to a horde of political friends and supporters, including a connection of the Minister of the Interior—Mr. Wade, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Perdue, and all those gentlemen who disbursed money for which no vouchers were ever obtained. Witnesses were paid, and no affidavits produced, as in the ordinary course of payments to witnesses. In fact, the whole system of statement of accounts is so jumbled that neither Mr. Howell nor the Auditor General nor the department nor the Deputy Minister of Justice, could agree in the statements they made before the committee. That is why letters and papers have been withheld from the committee, even papers that already formed part of the history of the transaction, and which at one time were on the files of the department.

Now, I want to show how important it is that the Government should not pursue a policy of postponing the meeting of the committee, a policy that must result in jamming up all the time at the end of the session with the ordinary accounts, knowing, as they knew, because they forced the continuance of this inquiry to be undertaken, that that inquiry had to be gone on with this session, and how necessary it is to afford the greatest possible expedition and despatch by calling that committee together before Friday and enabling the various witnesses to be called whose evidence would be most material.

Sir Oliver Mowat undoubtedly will be a most important witness. He was shocked at the accounts sent in. His name has been traded upon and referred to time and again in connection with this matter, but it is significant that the only opinion he gave on it, so far as the records indicate, was adverse to the manner in which the money was being taken out of the public exchequer, and that letter, though referred to in the correspondence and referred to by Mr. Howell, has not been produced. Fortunately, Sir Oliver Mowat is in a position to give an intelligent statement upon this matter, but there has been no opportunity to examine him. We want also the first part of Mr. Howell's account that has not been yet forthcoming, and we want the order of His Excellency the Governor General, made on the report of the 30th June, 1897.

How that extraordinary liberty came to be taken with the Governor General, Sir Oliver Mowat must explain to the inquisitorial committee. He must explain how it was that he came to write to His Excellency that the purpose of this \$6,900 was to make advances, whereas it really went

to the credit of the account of the Minister of the Interior in the bank at Ottawa, and was used to pay for advances he had made before that date and to take up his acceptances and relieve him of his liabilities in the banks of this city. It is most important to ask Sir Oliver Mowat how much he knew about this question before he put his name to that report, representing a state of facts contradicted by the evidence from beginning to end.

Then, we want some explanation of his objections. For instance, the account paid by Mr. Sifton, on the authority of that Order in Council, of \$541.15 was only considered correct and regular by the Justice Department to the extent of \$330.15. We require an explanation as to what became of the balance, and if it is to be repaid, as well as the liability of Mr. Sifton in this connection, and the position of this Government. I ventured the opinion before in this House—and while I would not argue it seriously, nor did I argue it then, but ventured it merely for the purpose of consideration by the members of this House—I am open to argument myself on it.

Mr. MCGREGOR. I think you are.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If Mr. Howell is to be believed that he had the personal liability fixed on Mr. Sifton, and that Mr. Sifton treated it as a personal liability until the time he was recouped by the Dominion Government, I say that it was a private obligation of Mr. Sifton, and there is not a statute or authority of this Parliament that would warrant the Government in assuming that as a public charge. If they can assume that as a public charge, I ask the hon. member for Essex whether he, for instance, can distinguish it from the case of assuming any ordinary private debt in the community as a public charge. Suppose some gentlemen were exceedingly active in attending to matters that would assist the party—ordinary matters, not pursuing a man suspected of crime—does he think that, without a vote or any explanation to this House of the item, without a Governor General's warrant explaining the reasons and purposes of it, the Government would have the legal right to pay the charges.

Mr. MCGREGOR. I certainly do.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Then the hon. gentleman does not understand the responsibility of self-government. He does not understand the first principles of public expenditure, and has forgotten that not one dollar of even the Supply Bill can be appropriated by the Government of the day without the direct and express sanction of the Governor General. He has forgotten all the checks supposed to exist upon any practice of that kind, and if his view is right we are simply wasting time—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. As these hon. gentlemen evidently consider we are, in pretending to take part in the parliamentary government of this country.

Their's not to reason why,  
Their's but to vote and die.

Simply to do as they are told by their masters on the Treasury benches, follow blindly, shout, hoot and yell on all occasions when they are unable to justify their opinions by argument. That is their conception of their duty. I have a different conception of the duty of a member of Parliament. I propose, for instance, that no matter what the majority on the other side may be, when they attempt to take unfair advantage of this House and to treat the minority here with contempt, when they withhold returns and lock up the committees of Parliament, particularly this Public Accounts Committee, which is a body of inquisitors, according to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, to let them understand they can make very little progress in this House while they are in that mood. I propose, for one member of this House of Commons, to insist on the rights of the minority. I propose to see that there is ample opportunity before the supplies proposed in this House are voted, to inquire into the past expenditure of this Government; and that inquiry must be expedited very much better than it has been according to our experience of this session, when practically all inquiries have been stopped.

Now, in regard to the evidence that is required to be brought before that committee, which, in ordinary course, will take some time, there are several subjects to be investigated. There is the statement as to the imperfect vouchers so that the taxing of the officers of the Department of Justice were bewildered to know whether these items should be charged or not. That will be found referred to on pages 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23 and 67 of the report I hold in my hand, and that report is known as Appendix E, Sessional Papers, 1898. The reference to Sir Oliver Mowat's letters are also important.

Mr. MCGREGOR. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. As the hon. member for Essex (Mr. McGregor) seems to agree with me and is following this matter with some attention, I will give him the evidence on this point. I asked Mr. Hodgins, the taxing officer of the Department of Justice:

Q. Did you see a letter from Sir Oliver Mowat to Mr. Sifton, criticising the bills rendered?—A. I saw there was one on the file; yes.

Q. And I suppose the opinion of Sir Oliver Mowat in regard to the charges would have been a very material thing for you as taxing officer to consider?—A. Well, it did not affect my judgment in the least, Sir Charles, because I had

looked at the bills, and I had formed my own opinion before I saw that.

That is natural enough, because the information of the Minister of Justice turned out to be subsequent to Mr. Hodgins' taxation, in which he supported the reduction.

Then, referring to the letter :

Q. Did you see it on the file or on the copy-book?—A. On the file.

By Sir Louis Davies :

Q. Was it a private or public letter?—A. It was not marked "private," but I gathered that it was.

It was a letter sent to Mr. Howell, it was a letter adverted to by Mr. Howell, it was a letter that was on the public files and not even marked private, but it was a letter the Government were ashamed to produce, or, at any rate, did not produce, in the committee, though they were asked time and again. Referring again to the letter, Mr. Hodgins is asked :

Q. You have told that it was dealing with public accounts?—A. It certainly had to do with accounts placed in my hands for taxation.

And then, again :

Q. I will read from Exhibit "F" a letter from Mr. Howell to Mr. Sifton, in which he says : "I was surprised to get your letter of the 12th, inclosing a letter from Sir Oliver Mowat, complaining of Richards & Bradshaw's bill, and also of ours." Is that the letter of Sir Oliver Mowat to which you referred this morning?—A. I do not know.

Q. At any rate, you saw a letter of that character?—A. I did, unquestionably, on the file.

This witness is also asked, on the same page from which I am quoting :

Q. Can you remember what vouchers you had or the items, witnesses' fees, including railway fares, \$4,405.60, of which you allowed \$4,405.60, the whole sum?—A. No. The vouchers submitted were very imperfect, and I could not make them agree with Mr. Howell's account at all.

Does the hon. member for Essex think that is a satisfactory statement?

Mr. MCGREGOR. I think you are wasting a good deal of time.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McGregor) thinks I am wasting a good deal of time.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. And so you are.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. And other gentlemen sitting behind the Government agree with him. What do they think of the waste of over \$4,000 of public money and the paying out of money on unsatisfactory vouchers? What do they think of passing accounts in the Department of Justice or in the Public Accounts Committee where the accounts of the party sent in and the vouchers do not agree. They think, and they do not blush to affirm it, that the man who rises as a representative of the people to expose these irregularities is wasting time. I venture to say that the member

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for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) will not say that. If he did, he would damn himself forever, because all that he was distinguished for in the old Parliament was for denouncing the slightest irregularity in the payment of public money.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. member for North Wellington will be damned, for some time, but to make such a statement as that would involve eternal damnation. Now, let us see how the taxing master investigated the accounts that had been paid by one of the members of the Administration six months before :

Q. Did this sentence strike your eye in Exhibit "A" : "In case of the witnesses before the magistrate, I made it a point not to pay them except where they had to take railway journeys or where they had to drive long distances at great expense. In all these matters I used my own discretion. Where we could not get the witnesses without paying them I paid them. In some cases I had to pay for teams to bring them. At the assizes the Mawhinney case alone cost us over \$1,500 for witnesses' fees, and yet it was the very best I could do. The witness fees paid by me amount to \$4,105.60. This includes payment to Freeborn, and he had to be looked carefully after. Did the sentence strike your attention in taxing the account?

Sir Louis Davies—Who was Freeborn?

Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper—An informer.

The Witness—I remember that sentence, and it did influence me in coming to the conclusion that the amounts stated were correct.

Q. When Mr. Howell says that this included the payment to Freeborn, and he had to be looked carefully after, did you suppose it was for witness fees?

And with the information before him, deluded and deceived as he had been by these meagre statements and accounts as he had been, Mr. Hodgins says :

A. Yes ; I did not know who Freeborn was, and supposed he was a witness who had to be looked after. I did not know Freeborn was an informer.

Q. So, the information given to you was so scant that you had not the slightest information as to who Freeborn was, and the importance of looking after him and paying him generously?—A. I had not, sir.

Q. Did you attempt to get any further information than Mr. Howell's information of that outlay?—A. No.

Q. Did it not occur to you that you should, in the ordinary course, for the payment of \$4,405 for witness fees? In other words, are you satisfied, in taxing accounts in connection with the statement of an agent, that he has disbursed so many hundreds or thousands of dollars?—A. Not as a rule.

Then, at a subsequent page, referring again to the letter of Sir Oliver Mowat the witnesses have been asked to search the official books :

Q. Will you be good enough to do so? The impression you left on my mind was that you saw a letter from Sir Oliver Mowat in reference to this account, criticising it. The impression you left on my mind was that you saw that on the official file.—A. I saw a letter, certainly. I

think I saw it on a file of papers handed to me at the time when the accounts came up.

When he is asked to explain some other receipts, a receipt, for instance, from Sarah Jane Smith for \$50 in full of extra expenses, he says :

Q. Even if you had seen that voucher, you would not have dealt with the explanation of that charge?—A. Yes, I made up my mind that with the few vouchers before me it was impossible to make these things out.

Then, we have the inclosures from the Minister of the Interior referred to on page 25, but we have not the inclosures, which ought to be produced. On pages 27, 28, 42, 44 and 29 there are important documents, books and memoranda referred to by Mr. Howell in this matter, which have not been produced, notwithstanding the subpoena that was issued commanding him to bring them. Those are papers and documents, some of which he undertook to have forwarded, but they have never been forwarded. Then, there are the letters to the Pinkertons referred to on page 29, charged for in the accounts, that would show a good deal on the main question involved. Those letters are withheld, not a single copy of them was produced before the committee. Here the Public Accounts Committee are asked to consider these accounts mentioned on page 43, and the chief party concerned is unable to produce receipts, although Mr. Howell says he has the receipts. Those receipts are not in the possession of the committee, and they should be got. Then on pages 44, 45 and 49 are important letters asked for, but they have been withheld up to the present time. I need not argue how dangerous it is, where you have written documents, to be discussing the contents of those documents without producing the originals themselves, or certified copies of them, when that can be done without any great trouble or expense. So with the different accounts. There is a second account showing a statement of \$1,000 on page 65, and another one for \$6,428.08; but none of these documents are forthcoming. Then, other accounts for disbursements, which were in existence, according to page 66 of Mr. Howell's evidence, are withheld. Mr. Howell's accounts showing disbursements which he has not satisfactorily explained, are also withheld. So, a memorandum in regard to witnesses; also, on pages 75 and 109, a reference to affidavits that were given before the prosecutions were begun; these have been paid for by this country, yet they were not produced, notwithstanding that an order was passed commanding Mr. Howell to bring these things with him. So, a memorandum of expenses on page 87; so payments showed by the book referred to on page 99; so a statement of those who received moneys, on page 108; so the balliff's charge, on page 110 in connection with the huge disbursements. The Minister of the Interior had the audacity to make a most unparliamentary observation

to me, such as he is in the habit of indulging in; he stated that my statement was absolutely untrue, when, in discussion to-day, I said that a sentence of his letter had never been complied with, where, in July, he promised, in writing, that the money would be fully accounted for in detail by him as the officer having charge. The record shows that the only accounts ever passed in the Department of Justice in this transaction were so uncertain and irregular that the taxing officer himself could not make head or tail of them, and had to lump them together, had to do away with the ordinary checks and safeguards, and as an explanation of it, he states that he knew he was taxing an account and reducing an account that one of the Ministers of the Government had months before paid in full, and that what he was disallowing on the account of these gentlemen was being deducted from the amount paid by the Minister of the Interior. As I say, the Minister of the Interior had the audacity to get up in this House to-day, before I had examined this evidence, and pretended that he had sent an account in detail of the \$10,000 odd dollars. The Auditor General never got it, the Department of Justice never got it, the Public Accounts Committee has never seen it, and if there is such an account in existence, it is the duty of the Minister of the Interior to use his influence to hasten a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee, and there, for the first time, to display it. On page 115, the stenographic notes are mentioned. The hon. gentleman says that time is being wasted now. What about time being wasted day after day by the Minister of the Interior who examined Mr. Howell, as the records show, as to what was said by A, or B, or C, when there was a record that the Government should of themselves have produced, when there was a stenographic report of the evidence in these various trials? But they shelter themselves behind the report of Mr. Howell, and a report in regard to the various trials was all that was produced. Though the stenographic reports in existence could have been transcribed, not a member of the Government had ever cared to see a single line, not a member of the Government had afforded an opportunity this session for the committee to be placed in possession of that. Instead of that, they keep on day after day asking Mr. Howell to give his recollection of the charge of the judge, and his views and opinions as to what he thought he had established where the jury disagreed with him. On page 115, those stenographic notes are shown to be in existence, it is shown that they can be got if they are ordered, and they should be got. The magistrate's account and the large item referred to on page 128, where are they? The consolidated memorandum referred to on pages 120 and 121, referred to again by a reference to the bulk sum of \$3,315, where is that? Are we to have an explanation of that order in detail, or, at any rate, a reasonable explanation? Then, a record of the in-

structions referred to on page 79. They were asked to make a search to see what the record was, and not a particle of attention was shown to that request made at the beginning of the inquiry, as will be seen on page 9.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have gone over sufficient facts, I think. I have taken a great deal of time in doing so, for I know hon. gentlemen opposite are not inclined to accept my opinions as to what evidence amounts to, evidence that has been given in a matter of this kind which, to some extent, might be regarded as a political subject. I have taken extra time to show the members of this House that I am speaking by the book. I have not made a statement to-day where I have not, even at the risk of taking up a good deal of time, given them the page or given them the language on which I founded my own statement and my own conclusions. My conclusion may be wrong in some respects. I have given you, Mr. Speaker, the evidence upon which I based it, and what I do say is this, and I want to say it in all seriousness, that outside and apart from all this extraordinary and unparalleled prevention of the ordinary happening of events, of the delaying of the ordinary times for the meeting of this most important of all committees, outside and beyond that, the Government occupies a most extraordinary position when they themselves, represented by three or four or more of their own members, undertook last session to put me practically under bonds to go on with the inquiry and finish it. It was natural that I did not wish a report to be made on the evidence given by Mr. Howell. It was natural that I, at any rate, without being considered biased or partial, should not be satisfied with the statement of the man primarily responsible in connection with the expenditure of the money, who was the chief disbursing officer. I had not the opportunity, nor would time permit last session to call the rest of the evidence or to get the rest of the documents to which I refer. In every sense of fair-play, and that is putting it perhaps on the smallest ground, but having regard to the public interest and to parliamentary government, I say it was due to us that the Government should have expedited the meeting of this important committee this session, and I say it is doubly due now that I have pressed upon them the importance and necessity of a meeting of that committee before Friday. Friday is a late day; to-morrow will be a late day, but there is Thursday, and we should meet on Thursday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday, but at any rate the meeting on the first day ought to be Thursday, instead of Friday as there are witnesses who must be got from a distance and papers which must be copied. Take that stenographic report and you will see that it will take time to prepare the copy under ordinary practice as the notes of the report, when transcribed, will cover a considerable number of typewritten pages.

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I referred last session to them as documents that we would want. If the committee had been called together to order these reports, if the committee had gone on as far as that particular point is concerned, this work might have been performed by this time and long before this, yet a considerable period must elapse before the committee can get to work regularly upon this subject, which was left over from last session. Besides there are other items left over from last session, and we are face to face with the Auditor General's Report which has been laid on the Table of the House, and the delay due to the fault of the Government serves to prevent the necessary inquiry into the public accounts of this country which was dwelt upon with such emphasis, and with the entire support of this House in 1891 by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright). Mr. Speaker, I move the adjournment of the House.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure the hon. gentleman who has taken his seat does not expect an extended reply or an extended address from me. It is quite clear that he has been talking against time. Allow me to intimate to my hon. friend that if he intends to follow the course that he followed the last time that he addressed this House at length, that he has only 30 minutes to catch the train for the west.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I would like to tell the hon. gentleman that I can bear the charge that I was afraid of the hon. Minister of the Interior, but it is pretty hard to say that I am afraid of my hon. friend from North Wellington (Mr. McMullen). That is the hardest cut of all.

Mr. McMULLEN. My hon. friend commenced his speech by saying that in his extended parliamentary experience there had never been an occasion when the Public Accounts Committee was so long from being called together as during this session. Now, my hon. friend on that point is far from being correct. If he will go back to 1893 he will find that when he was in power himself the Public Accounts Committee was not called together for seven weeks after the opening of the session, and I myself was the first person to call the Government's attention to the fact of that long delay. So that in that year there was a delay almost within a few days equal to the delay of this year, but we have had an unusual length of time spent over the discussion upon the Address. Not in sixteen years has there been four weeks of the session taken up with the discussion of the Address. Hon. gentlemen opposite, one after the other, made extended speeches on the Address, and the result was that the first four weeks of the session were consumed by the discussion of that subject. Now, we know very well that the committees were

not struck immediately. On hon. gentlemen opposite offering an amendment to the Address the right hon. leader of the Government moved that the Address should be discussed from day to day and no other business be taken up, and I think it is the practice that the organization of the committees does not take place until the Address is closed. A short time after the committees were struck they were called together for the purpose of organization and a chairman elected. This is the present condition; eight weeks of the session have passed, but as I said before, in 1893, seven weeks had passed before we reached the same condition in which we stand now. I want to say a few words in reference to the investigation that took place in Macdonald, Manitoba. If ever there was an incident in the history of this country where we enjoy the privileges of responsible Government, and where every man is entitled to the free, untrammelled and sacred exercise of his franchise, if ever there was an incident that deserved the most exhaustive investigation, at the hands of the Government, in which every effort could be put forward to try to catch the individuals that were guilty of the offences which were perpetrated in that province, I say it was in connection with the election in Macdonald in Manitoba. My hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) says that there was no evidence before the Government and before Mr. Sifton to rest any charge, but that he started on a fishing expedition. It is a well known fact, it is on record in "Hansard," it was proved before the committee, that in 1897 and 1898, at least in one polling subdivision 34 men came forward and actually swore that they had voted for the hon. member for Macdonald (Mr. Rutherford), when there were only 23 ballots in the ballot box. There were other cases of a similar character under similar conditions. If these things came to the notice of the hon. Minister of the Interior he undoubtedly did what he ought to do, what any patriotic man would do, what was right for any man to do, and what the people of this country gave him credit for doing—he took immediate steps to try to catch and punish the men guilty of these transactions. I may say, and I say it in all honesty, to my hon. friend that if he thinks he is going to wake up this country to a feeling of indignation in opposition to the hon. Minister of the Interior or the Government, for the active steps that they took upon that occasion, I can tell him, and I believe I am telling him the finer sentiment and feelings of every honest man in Canada, that he is going to make no impression upon the people of this country by adopting such a course. More than that, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman in reviving this matter, is only reviving the shame of the party to which he belongs. It is merely retailing before the House and the country, the evidence of the crimes the Conservatives resorted to, to hold them-

selves in power prior to 1896. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has used a rather forcible expression with regard to me, and he prophesied, if I followed in a certain line of conduct, damnation would inevitably be the result in my case.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, no.

Mr. McMULLEN. Yes, and he added the word "eternal," too. I have sat for eighteen years in this House in opposition to my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), and I earnestly hope, that, after death, I will not be consigned to a place where I will everlastingly have to gaze upon the form of the hon. gentlemen (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper).

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I do not want you to come with me.

Mr. McMULLEN. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) exhibits a confirmed bitterness against the Minister of the Interior. He appears to have a particular delight in turning his guns on that hon. Minister. This is the second long and tiresome speech this session in which he has tried to discredit the Minister (Mr. Sifton); but let me tell him (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), that he, like the Prophet Balaam, who went one time to curse bitterly, but who remained to bless; and the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), instead of injuring the Minister of the Interior, is doing him excellent service, as may be seen in the result of the West Huron and Brockville elections, the latter a hive which the Tories expected to hold for ever.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Lost by ballot frauds.

Mr. McMULLEN. He said there was a Grit brigade—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. A hoodie brigade.

Mr. LANDERKIN. That brigade went from the Conservatives.

Mr. McMULLEN. He said there was a Grit brigade, and they were headed by a Minister. Let me tell the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), that we never had in our ranks a Freeborn who was guilty of such crimes as that man was proved to be guilty of. And allow me to tell the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), further, that, while he now calls Freeborn a scoundrel and a blackguard, there was a time when he thought Freeborn was an excellent character. Have we not a telegram from Robert Birmingham to Nat. Boyd, dated the 20th of May, and sent from Toronto, in which Robert Birmingham, Conservative organizer, tells Nat. Boyd, referring to this man Freeborn:

He was a first-class man in North Bruce.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. May I ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen)

to be candid. He knows there was no legal evidence of any such telegram being sent, and he knows that Mr. Birmingham denied sending the telegram.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Will the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) permit me to say, that I have the original telegram in my possession?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Although the hon. gentleman from Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) now says, that he has the original telegram in his possession, he sat in the committee of inquiry during the whole of last session, and he never volunteered to go under oath and prove he had the original telegram.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Permit me to explain, that I thought I had returned the telegram to Mr. Howell, who gave it to me, but, in looking over the papers in my vault a few months ago, I discovered the original telegram.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The original telegram cannot be proved by that statement of my hon. friend, as he will be advised by the Solicitor General, who sits beside him. The only proof in that statement is, that he had a telegram in his possession which somebody gave him.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I appeal for corroboration of my statement to the legal opinion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies).

Mr. McMULLEN. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) stated, that only one conviction had been secured out of the many prosecutions, but my hon. friend must know, that in almost every one of these cases, the judge charged pointedly against the prisoner.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No.

Mr. McMULLEN. I have the evidence here, that the judge charged against the prisoners, but the jury, as is the rule, was composed of Grits and Tories, and so they disagreed.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The Grits were for conviction every time.

Mr. McMULLEN. It is not a fact, as stated by the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), that these prisoners were exonerated. The jury disagreed, and they escaped the punishment they deserved, and the punishment which the judge held should be inflicted upon them. As to vouchers not being produced, I would ask the hon. gentleman, if he ever knew that money was spent by a Canadian Government previously without producing vouchers. My hon. friend remembers, as I do, that, when Sir John Macdonald was called upon to produce vouchers for the expenditure of secret service money, he refused to do so, and to this day

Mr. McMULLEN.

Parliament knows nothing about that expenditure.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. And there was a secret service vote at that time, as the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) knows.

Mr. McMULLEN. I have no doubt that, if Sir John Macdonald was justified in taking the course he did, just as I believe that, in this case, the Minister of the Interior and those associated with him were justified. The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) was fighting to protect the rights of the people of this country. He was fighting to protect the safety of the ballot, and, in doing so, he spent that money with good intent, and the people of the country will endorse his action. Now, this is the third session this matter has been brought up in the House, and, in bringing it up again, the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) shows that he has nothing else to charge this Government with, and so he tries to create a mountain out of a molehill. Why, after a five hours' speech, did he close his remarks simply with moving the adjournment of the House? Why had he not the manliness to formulate a motion condemning the Government? Why did he close his long and loud speech, characterized, as it was, by fire, and brimstone, and fume, by simply saying: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn? Why did he not formulate his charge, and challenge a vote of the House, and then he would have been able to say to the country, that he had tried to get a condemnation of the Government for the wrong, and had taken a vote of the whole House on the subject. But the hon. gentleman did not take that course. He simply wished to consume the time of the House, and he has done that very successfully.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I suppose the hon. gentleman knows very well that I could not move any other motion.

Mr. McMULLEN. My hon. friend must admit that he was allowed every opportunity before the Public Accounts Committee to have a thorough and exhaustive investigation of that whole matter. There was not a witness asked for whom the Government did not make every possible effort to obtain. One witness asked for could not be found; but every other witness the hon. gentleman wished was brought before the committee at very great expense. The Government and the Minister of the Interior were so anxious to meet the hon. gentleman's wishes that on his mentioning the name of any man he wanted to be summoned as a witness, a telegram was sent at once to get him and bring him before the committee with as little delay as possible.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. We nearly had to arrest Mr. Howell.

**Mr. McMULLEN.** The hon. gentleman was given every possible opportunity, and he said he intended to continue the investigation at the next session of Parliament. The reason he made that promise was simply this—and it was the opinion of every member of that committee—that he had so utterly and absolutely failed in proving any wrong-doing on the part of the Minister of the Interior that he wanted to let himself down easily. If he intended to carry out that promise, why did he not make this Chamber ring within the second or third day of the session, with his demands that the Public Accounts Committee should meet to continue that investigation? But he did not want that. He wants simply to use this old chestnut in order that he may speak five hours and take up the time of this House. He had it laid away, and he has trotted it out because he is not prepared to go on with any other business or to let the Government go on. Now, the hon. gentleman said that Mr. Howell did not bring his books with him and did not bring Mr. Shank. Well, the hon. gentleman did not ask Mr. Howell to bring his books or Mr. Shank; but after Mr. Howell came here, he found that it might be better to have his books and to have Mr. Shank.

**Mr. SPROULE.** The hon. gentleman must know that the order of the committee was that he should bring with him all books, papers, and documents; and that order he disobeyed.

**Mr. McMULLEN.** He was not ordered to bring his books.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** Oh, yes. The hon. gentleman who is speaking wrote the telegram. It is printed in this report.

**Mr. McMULLEN.** There is one thing certain—Mr. Boyd never appeared, and the hon. gentleman never asked that he should be subpoenaed. I wonder if he is going to have Mr. Boyd subpoenaed this time.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** Yes, we are going to have them all.

**Mr. McMULLEN.** The hon. gentleman never mentioned his name or said that he wanted him. In fact, I think he was ashamed to mention his name. Now, Sir, I would say to my hon. friend that this complaint is getting old. However, if he is disposed to go into a general housecleaning politically, we have no objection whatever. The Government have been in power three years, and this is the only thing on which they have been able to make anything like a charge, and the hon. gentleman claims that the Government have spent some \$20,000, of which \$10,000 has been paid by the country without the sanction of Parliament. He also charges that the hon. Minister of the Interior has been very kind to his friends in Manitoba, that this money was

handed out by him from a feeling of kindness and generosity towards his friends to enable them to fill their pockets.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** Hear, hear.

**Mr. McMULLEN.** My hon. friend says "hear, hear." Allow me to tell him what he did himself. My hon. friend was a member of a firm in Halifax before he became a member of the Government. He became a member of the Government as Minister of Justice on the 21st of December, 1894; but when he was sworn in he did not forget his friends. In 1894, the firm of Borden & Ritchie drew for legal services, \$4,856.70.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** Which they earned; but they had no detectives or fishing expeditions.

**Mr. McMULLEN.** That was in 1894. He was sworn into office on the 21st December, 1894.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** In 1888.

**Mr. McMULLEN.** Well, in 1894 he was sworn in as Minister of Justice.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** I was not a member of that firm after 1888.

**Mr. McMULLEN.** I am not saying that my hon. friend was; but he was sworn in as Minister of Justice in 1894.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** But I was Minister of Marine in 1888, and I left that firm then.

**Mr. McMULLEN.** Let us see what this firm of his drew.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** Not a firm of mine. I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman has no right, I submit, to misrepresent me or any other member of this House. He spoke of a firm of which I was a member in 1894, and I wish to state to this House that I was not a member of that firm any more than he was after 1888.

**Mr. McMULLEN.** I am not charging the hon. gentleman with having been a member of that firm in 1894. I am charging him, however, with not forgetting his friends after he was sworn in as Minister of Justice. In 1895, the firm of Borden & Ritchie drew from the Department of Justice \$10,602.86, and in 1896, \$10,944.48; or in two years it drew through the department where my hon. friend was Minister of Justice, \$21,547.51.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** That firm sent in vouchers for every dollar, and all the business was transacted on the open files of the Department of Justice, under the authority of the Department of Justice. Nothing was secret; there was no detectives, no brothers-in-law, no cousins or relatives of any other kind.

Mr. McMULLEN. My hon. friend feels a little irksome about it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Not a bit.

Mr. McMULLEN. My hon. friend must not forget that he has a record as well as some other members of this House. My hon. friend must not feel a little chafed when those things come up, because I am stating facts, as he will find if he turns up the Auditor General's Report. When he was Minister, he was favourable to his friends, as I think this item will show. I am not saying that his friends got the money for nothing, or did not produce vouchers, but am simply pointing out that there was a good deal of friendly feeling out of which that particular firm secured about \$5,000 a year more after the hon. gentleman became Minister of Justice than they did previously.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I wish to correct that statement.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I rise to a point of order. I say, that the hon. gentleman is bound to accept my statement on a personal matter, and not leave it, as he has put it. He insinuates, that, after I became Minister of Justice, a legal firm with which I had been connected in the year 1888, got in 1894 \$5,000 more per year than it was in the habit of receiving before I became Minister of Justice. I wish to deny that statement absolutely.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). A denial is not a point of order.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The statement was a reflection on myself.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I did not understand the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) to make any personal reflection.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Was there not an insinuation against my personal character in what he said?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. No.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am glad, Sir, that you did not see it; I was a little sensitive.

Mr. McMULLEN. In order to prove that I am right, let me read the figures, which I have taken from the public accounts. This firm was paid the following amounts in the following years:—

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 1890 ..... | \$2,178 46 |
| 1891 ..... | 7,121 28   |
| 1892 ..... | 6,602 60   |
| 1893 ..... | 6,722 62   |

In 1894, the year before my hon. friend became Minister of Justice, they got \$4,855.70.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That was the year I became Minister of Justice.

Mr. McMULLEN.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman knows well, that he has not the right to interrupt except with the permission of the hon. gentleman who has the floor.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I have the right to correct a statement which is absolutely incorrect.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. No hon. gentleman has the right to deny a statement made by the gentleman who has the floor, without his consent.

Mr. McMULLEN. My hon. friend is disposed to challenge the accuracy of my figures?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Not a bit.

Mr. McMULLEN. I can assure him, that they were taken from the Auditor General's Report, and, if he chooses to spend the time in the Library, he can in fifteen minutes supply himself with the same figures. In 1895 the amount was raised to \$10,602.76, and in 1896 it was increased to \$10,944.42.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I was not the Minister of Justice in 1896.

Mr. McMULLEN. During a part of 1896.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. You were in and out.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The expenditure was while I was out.

Mr. McMULLEN. I might add to what my hon. friend says, that he is now absolutely out. The entire sum drawn in those seven years by this firm was \$49,637.84.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

An hon. MEMBER. What Borden was that?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The Minister of Militia, I think.

Mr. McMULLEN. No; the hon. gentleman sits behind the hon. member for Pictou. Another question the hon. gentleman raised was with regard to the refusal to submit the names of those parties from whom Mr. Howell had got information of the irregularities. The hon. gentlemen urged persistently, that these men should be exposed, and their lives, and property, and safety jeopardized in the section where they lived, by exposing them to the vengeance of those villains who had stuffed the ballot-boxes and would stop at nothing to revenge themselves on those who had exposed their rascality. I held, and conscientiously held, on that occasion, as I do now, that it would be unjust and unfair to insist that these men should be subjected to the vengeance of these villains, whose rascality they had brought to light, and who would, no doubt, use every means to whet their desire for revenge. There are many instances

in our statutes where men who give information, are protected by not being compelled to disclose their names. In our license system in Ontario, the informer who tells the chief inspector the name of any one who breaks the license law, is not compelled to give evidence, and in such cases it is well that the law should protect these men. Otherwise, you would prevent exposures being made. If you were to publish the names of these men who had brought to light these scandalous transactions, you would prevent similar exposures being made in other constituencies.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Apply that to the Yukon.

Mr. McMULLEN. The hon. gentleman need not make another seven hours' speech on that subject. By the one he did make, I can tell my hon. friend, that he neither secured popularity for himself or strength for his party. The best answer to the long tirade of the hon. gentleman is to point to the way in which the administration of the Yukon has been conducted by the Minister of the Interior. That hon. Minister has done the very best he could in the interests of the people of this country by trying to secure a percentage of the wealth discovered, and by showing a balance on the right side of the ledger, as a result of his administration. If the hon. gentleman wants an answer to the charge he made against Mr. Walsh, let me tell him, that, in the history of this Parliament, since confederation down to the present day, there is not another instance of a member of Parliament rising in his place and making such a charge against the private character of any man as the hon. gentleman levied against Major Walsh. It was disgraceful on the part of the hon. gentleman to shield himself behind his privilege as a member of Parliament, instead of making his charges outside, where he could be called to account for them.

Mr. WALLACE. I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman is referring to a past debate.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman has not the right to refer to a previous debate, and besides must confine himself to the question of the calling together of the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. McMULLEN. I was endeavouring to do so, but wandered a little upon the subject, having been led astray by my hon. friend, whose line of argument I was following. I, however, have only been once called to order for digressing from the question before the Chair, and my hon. friend was called to order two or three times, so that I have two or three times yet to be called to order before I catch up with him.

Another thing he referred to was the letter of Sir Oliver Mowat, which, he says, was taken from the files of the Department of Justice. My hon. friend should have some

respect for the officers of the Department of Justice, who, I believe, are largely friends of his own, and decent, respectable men.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Hear, hear.

Mr. McMULLEN. And when the hon. gentleman charges that the letter has been virtually taken, or stolen, from the files of that department, he is making a serious reflection on these men. The Minister of the Interior has given his word of honour, that he knew nothing about it, and did not even see it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Oh, the hon. gentleman—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) knows perfectly well that he has the right to speak only with the permission of the hon. gentleman who has the floor.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Have I not the right, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am asking for the Speaker's ruling. Have I the right or have I not the right in my place in this House to ask an hon. gentleman who is speaking whether he will consent to my correcting him in a statement of facts?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I am not obliged to answer the question, but I may say this: That I understood by what the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) said that he wished to continue his speech.

Mr. McMULLEN. I think the Minister of the Interior stated that he knew nothing of it—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Not a syllable.

Mr. McMULLEN. I was led to understand that that was the statement made. I believe that is the fact. However, the hon. gentleman should not be so ready to cast reflections upon these men in the departments. I do not think they deserved that at his hands. Another question is as to having Sir Oliver Mowat as a witness. But my hon. friend said nothing about that last year. Sir Oliver Mowat could have been summoned before the committee last year without any trouble. He could have appeared before the committee and been examined. But the hon. gentleman did not choose then to subpoena him. In his speeches upon this and similar matters, the hon. gentleman makes no impression upon the country. I have watched with considerable interest the course of my hon. friend in this House, and I have watched the course of the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper). Both appear to be loaded up the same way—with a bitter, determined opposition to the Minister of the Interior, ready for a never-ending trade

against the Government with all sorts of expressions intended to belittle the Ministers. Well, my hon. friend will find, with the experience of the last two ridings in which elections have been held that the people of this country are not taking stock in these things. Some poetry has been indulged in by hon. gentlemen opposite, and I may be pardoned if I give them a line or two that I think states clearly the opinion of the people of this country with regard to the hon. gentleman who has just addressed the House and the hon. leader of the Opposition. The people of this country are prepared to say :

Of Tupper young and Tupper old,  
Two belted knights of the Tory fold ;  
Of Tupper schemes and Tupper bluff—  
Thank the Lord, we've had enough.

The best evidence of the fact that is the feeling of the country is the answer they have received in the by-election. I need not detain the House any longer. I think that in my rambling remarks I have answered all that my hon. friend has said, and I hope he will follow my good example and make his speech within proper limits instead of occupying five hours.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). If there is any hon. member of this House who ought to be slow to rise in defence of such transactions as are here called in question, it is the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen)—a man whose record for fourteen years is before this country as one of the greatest sticklers for economy and the correct administration of affairs, and the expenditure of public money under proper regulations and restrictions. When hon. gentlemen opposite were in Opposition, no man took up more of the valuable time of this House than he, and no man was louder in his condemnation of extravagance. But now that he is supporting those who have charge of public affairs, he is the first to come to the rescue when a transaction requires explanation. I asked myself, when he was giving the very delicate lecture he has given as to the reason for it, and I can only presume that it is due to the fact that he has failed to secure that which he thought his ability and standing in his party entitled him to, and, having failed, he is endeavouring to earn a seat in the Upper Chamber, which he was accustomed to speak of as a place for old women. What the hon. gentleman was pleased to call argument was no argument at all. It reminds me of an explanation given by a celebrated professor of chemistry when asked what he would define chemistry to be. He said: You take an effervescent and add a deliquescent; this causes a precipitation which is a conglomeration, and amounts to a demonstration. The hon. gentleman's logic is about as clear as that. As to his poetry, I can only say that there is no danger of his being chosen as poet laureate of this country. He started out with the statement that if there was a case that deserved the most searching scrutiny and in-

Mr. McMULLEN.

quiry it was this of the Manitoba election frauds. And all that was said with regard to the illegality of the expenditure in carrying out this searching inquiry, he set aside by saying that in his opinion the expenditure was justified, making no reference to the fact that it was irregular and illegal. He thought that such an expenditure was justified because this case of the Manitoba election frauds was the worst case he had ever heard of. What did he give as an illustration? The fact, that in one polling subdivision so many voters had voted for Mr. Rutherford, and, when the ballots were counted, there were found to be so many less. That was practically all. I wondered at the time, if the hon. member was aware of the fact, that only recently, in the West Huron election, in one polling subdivision, where 43 electors had made affidavit that they voted for Mr. McLean, when the ballots were counted in that subdivision, there were found to be only 30. What had become of the others? If there ever was a case that deserved a searching inquiry, it was that of the alleged election frauds in Manitoba; but here is a parallel case, a much worse case, and yet the hon. member has not a word to say in advocacy of a searching inquiry. Take another polling subdivision, where 50 electors made a solemn affidavit that they voted for Mr. McLean, and, if it could be proven that they had made a false affidavit, they could be prosecuted for perjury. But, when the ballots were counted in that polling subdivision, there were found to be only 40 votes for Mr. McLean. Is not the West Huron case as bad, if not worse, than the Manitoba case? Yet the hon. member for North Wellington says not one word in condemnation of the frauds in West Huron; he does not ask for any inquiry, he does not ask for any expenditure of public money to be made in conducting a searching investigation into those frauds. Yet he justifies the expenditure of public money for the purpose of going on a fishing inquiry in Manitoba. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman, what is the result of all that inquiry? Simply that there was one conviction. After the inquiry had extended over several months, after examining witnesses by the dozen, and spending nearly \$19,000, they only managed to secure one conviction, and that was scarcely worth the name. But here is a case that is far worse, and the hon. member for North Wellington says not a word about it. He made another statement. He tried to draw a red herring across the track and divert attention to something else. He asks: Did he (the hon. member for Picton) ever hear of money being spent without producing vouchers? He cites the case of some expenditure of secret service money that was voted by this House for that purpose, when no member in this House knows better than the hon. gentleman, that in such cases information and vouchers are never given to the House. He knows that, in the nature of things, it

would be unwise and fruitless to use money for that purpose, if the information concerning it was made public. Yet he cites that case as a parallel to the Manitoba case. There is no comparison whatever between the cases. Then, he asks: Why did not the hon. gentleman move a motion of want of confidence in the Government, instead of moving the adjournment of the House? The hon. gentleman knows well, that that is the only motion my hon. friend could make. He knows, that he could not move a motion of want of confidence in the Government at this stage. But he endeavours to deceive the country by that statement, and assumes that, if my hon. friend did not avail himself of the right to move a motion of want of confidence, it was because he was not able to make good his contention. If the hon. gentleman did not mean that, what did he mean? I say, it is unworthy of an hon. gentleman of this House to advance such an argument, in face of the fact that he knows better, or, as an old parliamentarian, he ought to know better. But he said, that to let his friends down easy. Now, the next statement he made was, that Mr. Howell was not ordered to bring papers, books and vouchers with him. That is the statement of a man who was chairman of that committee, and he deliberately falsified the records before this House; at least, he either makes his statement in absolute ignorance of what he ought to know, or without taking the trouble to look up the records. I drew his attention to the fact, that the order to Mr. Howell was to bring these along with him, and he emphatically denied it. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) was himself the chairman of the committee, and I have here the order, which he sent himself:

H. M. Howell, Q.C., Winnipeg.

Take notice that you are hereby summoned and required to appear at Ottawa forthwith, and give evidence before the Public Accounts Committee, House of Commons, respecting accounts relating to ballot-box prosecutions, and to bring with you all letters, books, papers, documents relating to said prosecutions and accounts in your possession or under your control.

What does the hon. member for North Wellington say to that? I think he has a right to get up and apologize to this House for a statement so unworthy, made, as I say, either in ignorance, or else designedly to mislead the House. I am charitable enough to believe, that he made it in absolute ignorance, because it is said, that some people will step in where angels fear to tread. That order was signed by the chairman of the committee, at least it was his duty to sign it. He went on to speak of the amount of money spent by the Justice Department, and the amount of money received by a firm of which the ex-Minister of Justice was at one time a member. Now, if he did not intend to lead the country to believe that the ex-Minister of Justice was a member of the

firm at the time they received this money, what impression did he intend to convey? He was called to task for it, but still he went on talking, and did not withdraw his statement. He went on to say, that so much public money was received by that firm, but was it alleged that a dollar of this money was not spent properly, or was not authorized to be spent, or that the accounts were not taxed? Not a word of it. But what are the allegations in this case? That this money was spent improperly, that there were no vouchers, that there was no proper explanation forthcoming, and no legal authority for the expenditure. That is the reason why it was challenged in the Public Accounts Committee, as we had a proper right to challenge it. Now, what is the Public Accounts Committee for? It is for the purpose of inquiring into the expenditure of public money. The Auditor General may check the expenditures and block them, but he is frequently overruled by the Treasury Board. But, though they may overrule him, they have always before their eyes the knowledge that the expenditures may be inquired into by the Public Accounts Committee, and it is the duty of that committee to make such inquiries, where they think expenditures have been improperly made. They make inquiries in order to lay the facts bare before the country, so that the country may judge who is at fault. The Auditor General did not check this expenditure, therefore, it was the duty of the Public Accounts Committee to do so. It is said that this committee is not called together at the proper time. When you consider that the Auditor General's Report is a volume of about some 2,000 pages, and when you consider that the Public Accounts Committee has got to scrutinize every item of expenditure in that large volume, you will understand what an enormous work they have before them, and how long a time it will take them to do it properly. And then when we remember the fact that two months of this session have gone by, and that the Public Accounts Committee has not been called together to enable us to inquire into a single item, I say the country will see how impossible it is for us to exercise that check that we ought to have over the expenditures of this Government by doing our duty in that committee. The committee has not been called together, though the House has been in session for two months. Now, there is another reason, in my judgment, why this committee should have been called together at an earlier date than it has been. This question engaged the attention of this committee last session, and it was decided that we should continue the inquiry at the earliest opportunity this session; therefore, we ought to have been given the earliest opportunity of continuing this inquiry. I remember very well when the committee made its last report, signed by J. McMullen, chairman,

by the hon. member for North Wellington. That report says :

The committee have had under consideration an item of \$10,964.41 to Archibald & Howell, J. D. Cameron and W. E. Perdue for legal services and expenses in connection with prosecutions for election frauds in Manitoba (including \$4,000 transferred from unforeseen expenses), as set forth under the heading "Miscellaneous Justice—North-west Territories," on page 1—7 of the Report of the Auditor General for the year ended 30th June, 1897; and in connection therewith have examined witnesses under oath, and for the information of the House report herewith the evidence given by such witnesses and the exhibits filed during the said examination, so that the inquiry may be dealt with and continued at the first available opportunity at the next session of Parliament.

That was the purpose for which that report was made. The committee refused to report findings upon the evidence, notwithstanding the fact that it was supported by the hon. gentleman's friends very strongly and very excitedly, but the committee refused to report findings in the case; they agreed only to report the evidence until such time as the inquiry was brought to an end. What was the purpose for which this report was put in?

So that the inquiry may be dealt with and continued at the first available opportunity at the next session of Parliament.

Now, we are asking why we are not allowed the right to continue that investigation at the first available opportunity. Though we have been here for two months we have not yet had an opportunity to continue that inquiry. I very distinctly remember the contention was made before the committee that my hon. friends did not intend to continue that inquiry. The hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) pledged his word as a man and pledged his honour as a member of Parliament that he would continue this inquiry at the first available opportunity this session. But the contention was that it was not the intention to go on with the inquiry at the succeeding session. We have been hoping for that opportunity up to the present time. This House has been in session for two months, and in the ordinary course of events we should finish the business in a few weeks more. How can we bring witnesses from Manitoba and continue the investigation as we should do. If this session ends in a short time there is no time to continue that inquiry or go into other items of expenditure with which this committee should deal. There is no time, and the hon. member for North Wellington and the hon. Minister of the Interior, who is not in his place, and their friends, will be held accountable for the delay which has taken place in connection with calling the committee together. They will be held accountable for the fact that this inquiry has not been gone on with, although they professed to be desirous that it would go on, into this unwise and illegal

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expenditure. This is only one item amongst hundreds and thousands within the two lids of the Auditor General's Report that we ought to deal with if we are doing our duty to the people of this country, and as we have a right to do with which we are not able to do because this committee is not called together. We have hundreds and thousands of items to examine into, but before we can get a hundredth part of the papers we require, this House will, in all probability, be prorogued, and it will be impossible for us to do our duty in that regard. Then, we are justified in claiming that this committee should have been brought together earlier, and we are justified in coming to the conclusion that there is a determined effort on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite to prevent this inquiry, in taking the stand which they do to-day. It was said, in reference to another question in this House, that we do not want any fishing inquiries. The whole tenor of the information we gained in this matter was that it was a fishing inquiry from first to last. There were no direct allegations, no specific charges made; we only had it stated that so-and-so happened, and "I believe I can prove it." There is another thing which I think is not only discreditable to the Government, but is entirely out of keeping with what one would expect from a responsible Minister in this House. Here are charges laid especially against one Minister on that side of the House, and yet most of the time he is not here to listen to them. He does not deign to attend to his duties in this House so much as to remain in his seat and listen to the information that is being given. He seems to be perfectly oblivious to the rights of the House and of the country in regard to the fair discharge of his duty. This is also the case with most of the hon. Ministers on that side of the House. When the most serious allegations are made against their management of public affairs, they are away attending to their business elsewhere, entirely indifferent to what is going on in this House, and in this respect treating the House and the country with disrespect. It is their business, surely, to be present when discussion is proceeding relative to the various departments of government. It is humiliating to the country, and not creditable to the Government of the day to find that so many hon. Ministers are absent when these important questions are being discussed. They will not listen to the discussion; they do not hear what is being said, and so far as we know, they do not take the trouble to read up "Hansard" afterwards to keep themselves informed as to what is going on in this House. This is not what the country or what the House expects from Ministers, and it is not what they are entitled to. I can only say, as I said before, that in my humble judgment, these hon. gentlemen will be held responsible by the country for the delay

in bringing the Public Accounts Committee together. Hon. gentlemen have created the impression that they have something to keep in the dark, otherwise they would have been more prompt in calling this committee together and giving us an opportunity of inquiring into all these expenditures, but so long as they maintain the position that they are taking to-day, they are occupying a most discreditable and a most disgraceful position as the party of Government. But I am not surprised, because their whole record has been one of inconsistency from the first to the last. No better example of that fact could be had than the illustration we have had given by the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen). It is on a par with many incidents that have occurred in this House during the last session or two, but the sooner hon. gentlemen opposite learn that they are the servants of the people and not the masters of the people, the better it will be for them. The sooner they learn that it is the right and duty of hon. members of this House and especially of the Opposition to inquire into the expenditure of every item within the two lids of the Auditor General's Report, the better it will be for this country.

Mr. A. McNEILL (North Bruce). As there seems to be some doubt on the minds of hon. gentlemen opposite; at all events, on the mind of the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), as to the character of this Mr. Freeborn, I should like to explain what I know about him. A telegram has been quoted from Mr. Robert Birmingham, saying that Freeborn was a good man in North Bruce. I do not know on what authority Mr. Birmingham made that statement, but he could not have been very well informed when he sent that telegram, because the character of Freeborn in North Bruce at that time was simply this: That he had defrauded a number of his best friends and the best friends of his family. He was dealing in farm produce, and he had gone to some of his friends and had borrowed \$50, from one, and \$100 from another, and \$150 from another—I know some of the people quite well from whom he borrowed the money—telling them he wanted it only for a few hours to pay for a load of oats; and then, he went across the line with the money and disappeared. That was the character of Mr. Freeborn in North Bruce at that time. So far as politics were concerned, he was not a man in whom I personally had ever placed the slightest reliance; at least, had not had for a long time. I do not think there can be any doubt as to what sort of a man Mr. Freeborn was.

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Before the House votes on this question, I think it is nothing less than my duty that I should call the attention of the House and the country to rather an odd state of affairs. We have had an address given this afternoon by

my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), an address of a good deal of length, going over a large amount of material, most of which was evidence sworn to by witnesses before the Public Accounts Committee. I have listened to the presentation of the case by my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). I was also a member of that committee during the investigation, and I have not the least hesitation in saying from my place in the House, that a more outrageous, a more unauthorized, and a less defensible piece of business I have never heard canvassed in this House since I have been a member of it. Mr. Speaker, I say that in all calmness and in all coolness, and yet, after this presentation of the question, there is not a single member of the Government that ventures to interpose either an apology or a defence with reference to it. Is that creditable to parliamentary government in this country? My hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has been a member of a Government, he is a man of character; he is a man of knowledge, and he has made his statement as a member of the House, and what he stated cannot be denied, so far, at least, as I have been able to follow it, as regards its main allegations. The Government sits and listens and turns away before the country and before Parliament. It takes no notice. Why? The Government may think it is so strong in this House that it does not need to take notice of these things. The Government may run away with the idea, that the member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) evidently runs away with: That the Liberal members are the people of Canada, and that when the hon. member for North Wellington says that any thing is right, the people will believe it is so, and the people will condone every lapse. He thinks he is speaking for the whole Dominion of Canada. There never was a greater mistake. Has any Minister or member on that side of the House risen to deny one thing? Can they deny, and dare they now get up and deny this proposition: That as far as the prosecution of the law in that case is concerned, it was the duty, the whole duty, and the duty only of the provincial Government of Manitoba, and of none other. Not one of them will deny that. Will a single member of the Government get up and state, that their proceeding was regular; that even if it had been the duty of this Government to have prosecuted, that it was regular, that a private party should commence it, a man who was not a member of this House nor a member of this Government should undertake to hire his lawyers, set the modus operandi going, without a vote of Parliament, and without the authorization of an Order in Council or anything of the kind, spend thousands and tens of thousands of dollars, and after it was all done, ask for an Order in Council "for the payment of advances," which was a lie upon its very face. They were not advances. These men had been paid. They had been paid out of private funds; they had been paid in pur-

suance of private orders to conduct the case given by a man of the name of Sifton, not the Attorney General of the province of Manitoba, and not a member of this Government. They had drawn on him, and kited notes to carry this thing through, and the Department of Justice knew no more about the prosecutions than the man in the moon. Is there a single member of the Government sitting before me, who will rise and say, that this was right or proper? Sir, there is not one of them who would have the hardihood to defend it. They had no more right to take that money out of the treasury, than they have to take it out of the public moneys of Canada for the prosecution of a criminal in Siberia. The Premier who promised that private gentleman in Manitoba, that he could go ahead and incur tens of thousands of dollars of expense, and that he would see it was paid out of the Dominion treasury, had no more right to make that promise than he would have the right to make a promise, that he would take Dominion money to bail Siberian exiles out of their exile in the wilds of Asiatic Russia; not a bit more. Every principle of responsible government was outraged by the right hon. gentleman when he made that promise. These prosecutions if they had gone on at all, under the Dominion Government, should have been carried on by the Department of Justice and by no other department, but the Premier put them secretly in the hands, first, of a private individual in the province of Manitoba, and afterwards reimbursed him for what he alone was responsible for, and the Premier did it under cover, and behind the back of Council, and behind the back of the Governor General. Will any gentleman say that such is a proper way for Liberals to administer the Government of this country? Why, Sir, that individual wrote to the Prime Minister that he had indisputable evidence that one of the greatest crimes of the century had just been perpetrated in the province of Manitoba, and then, after Pinkerton inquiries in the province of Manitoba under one of the ablest lawyers in that province, it was found out that he had not a particle of evidence. That individual is the man who is now the Minister of the Interior. That is the man who is now Minister of the Interior, and to whom the right hon. gentleman promised, on a statement like that, unlimited credit on the funds of this Dominion and the taxes of the people of this Dominion; and yet not one of the Ministers thinks that it is at all incumbent upon him to defend the Government or themselves from an act of that kind. The member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) is put up for a defence, and it was pitiful to see the defence that hon. member put up in this case. The hon. member for North Wellington, when he was in Opposition, was a strong man, because he consistently pursued a certain line. Being a critic and in Opposition, he stood for what was right

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and regular through and through, and he gained a certain amount of strength by being consistent. He had to rise to-night and go against every principle that for years on this side of the House he had advocated and stood for, and he had to make the lamest kind of defence for the Government—not by presenting arguments, but by certain quotations of bad rhyme and certain statements, which, when they came to be answered by my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule), who sits at my right, were found to be exactly the opposite of what he declared they were. That is no defence of the Government, and the Government have made no defence. Have the Government heard the hon. member for North Wellington make any defence of that statement of expenses incurred by Mr. Wade, which was read this afternoon by my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), amounting to some \$1,500, which he was paid for almost no services at all—paid by whom? Paid by the private individual Mr. Sifton; paid before the Minister of Justice knew that this thing was going on at all; paid before there was any Order in Council authorizing it; paid before there was any vote in Parliament authorizing any expenditure of that kind; paid on the hope that it could be all filched afterwards from the funds of this Dominion. But the self-respect of one old man stood in the way, and Sir Oliver Mowat said: "No, not for \$1,500; if anything is to be paid, let it be \$600, which is a decent taxing of the bill." That is the extent to which this gentleman who is now called Minister of the Interior would put his hand into the public chest to pay his favourites for work they never did, for services they never performed, on the statement of Sir Oliver Mowat, the Minister of Justice. But that hon. gentleman, who skulks away from this House when his department and himself are attacked, who seldom has the courtesy to answer a charge that is brought against him, or an indictment of his own personal work or that of his department, unless he is shamed into it by his colleagues—that hon. gentleman's idea of honour, of public honour, was to pay Mr. Wade, a favourite of his, \$1,500 for \$600 worth of work. And he hoped he would be able to filch the whole \$1,500 out of the treasury of the Dominion, and he would have done it if all the members of the Government had been like the gentlemen sitting before me, not one of whom would raise his voice against it. It was a decent, honest, honourable man from the province of Ontario, who, when at last it was brought to his notice, said: "\$1,500 is thieving; \$600 pays all Mr. Wade ought to have." But he got the \$1,500; who paid the rest of it? I know who did not intend to pay it. I know who intended to pay it on a certain promissory letter written by the Premier of Canada. Somebody must have paid it. Mr. Wade got it. Mr. Wade never earned it.

And yet these hon. gentlemen think that is a right method of administration. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), who used to pose as a man of honour and strictness in the administration of public affairs, thinks that is a proper method of administering public affairs. Does he think so? Let him rise in his place in this House and honestly make that statement. He cannot do it, Sir; he dare not do it. He knows too well what is right; and it is the veriest subterfuge to talk of this being authorized by a sub-committee which never reported to Council, or, if it reported to Council, never had the thing authorized by an Order in Council signed by the Governor General. My hon. friend put that forth to the Committee on Public Accounts as a justification why it should be done. Who is a sub-committee of Council? What right have they to authorize anything in the way of any expenditure of public money, especially without a vote, and against all precedent and all right? They are no more than three men on this side of the House would be. The executive of this country is the Council of the country, and the Governor General, and their decision and their signature is necessary to the authorization of an expenditure. Yet, Sir, the right hon. gentleman who now sits before me, is the gentleman who promised a private individual, against right, without a vote, without the authority of Parliament, without consulting his colleagues, that he would put his hand into the public till to an unlimited amount to oblige a certain gentleman of the name of Sifton in the province of Manitoba, who wanted to follow up a party advantage against his opponents. The right hon. gentleman says that he is a Liberal of the old Liberal school. Great heavens! has there been a Liberal standing in the English Parliament since they had constitutional government in Great Britain, who would promise a thing like that or do a thing like that? They would consider themselves eternally and everlastingly disgraced if they ever made such a promise or aided in carrying out such a promise as that. But this bland gentleman sits and smiles, and thinks he has done a cute and wonderful thing when he promised Mr. Clifford Sifton, not the Attorney General of Manitoba, and said: "Go ahead; take a party advantage of the Tories, and I will stand at your back, no matter how much you want." And Mr. Clifford Sifton does what? He hires Mr. Wade, and tells him he may travel in the smoking car at \$40 a day, stay at hotels and charge for it, and that he may put in a bill of \$1,500 for \$600 worth of work. Mr. Clifford Sifton, not a private individual, but a member of the Government, keeps this entirely away from the Department of Justice, where it belongs, keeps it entirely away from Parliament, though Parliament sits, keeps it entirely away from the Governor

General in Council, though it is there for him, and pays these enormous bills, relying on the promise of the complacent Premier that he shall have the money; and he pays Mr. Wade \$1,500 for what Sir Oliver Mowat declares, as Minister of Justice, is not worth more than \$600. And yet they consider that they have no answer to make to the country. In one sense they have no answer they can make conscientiously to the country, but in another sense they have an answer they ought to make to their own consciences and self-respect and this House which faces them and the country they will have to face by and by.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). We have heard a great deal of sound, and fume and fury during the last few minutes, and witnessed a great deal of simulated passion, and to one inexperienced in parliamentary life, it might appear as if there were some truth or sincerity in the passionate statement which the hon. gentleman has just made, but those who have experience in parliamentary life know that the hon. gentleman's assumption of earnestness, his simulated passion during the last quarter of an hour, is only a miserable attempt to escape from the very awkward position in which he and his friends stand. Why, last session they invited an inquiry into the conduct of the Government, and charged the Government, or some member of it, with improper conduct by the improper appropriation of certain public funds. The ex-Minister of Justice (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) took charge of the prosecution, and spent the whole of last session dragging in witnesses from every part of the Dominion to the Public Accounts Committee. As the ex-chairman (Mr. McMullen) has stated, he was given every scope to draw on the public treasury as he liked and bring what witnesses he liked and whenever he liked. And after having exhausted his witnesses and his evidence, he found himself at the close of the sitting of that Public Accounts Committee in the pitiable position that he had not a man behind him of his own party. He had failed and failed miserably, and what did he do? In order to cover his miserable failure, he asked that the investigation should not be closed. He said: Do not close the report now, but give me another chance, and at the next session, I will bring forward more evidence and prove my case. I have failed now, it is true, but give me another chance next session, and I will do it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That is not correct.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is quite correct.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I deny it absolutely.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is the position the hon.

gentleman stood in when told by the Postmaster General that he must prove his case. Then he undertook to do it, and his undertaking is in writing.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman cannot put words into my mouth which I did not utter. He says that I told the committee that I had failed. I deny that I ever said anything of the kind.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I say that the hon. gentleman failed. He is not going to escape that way. The hon. gentleman failed and then gave an undertaking that he would try and overcome that failure this session. But what a spectacle have we seen to-day. An ex-Minister of Justice, sitting as a member of the Public Accounts Committee, almost sworn to give a judgment upon the case he is trying, getting up in this House, while the case is still sub-judice, to protest that, if given another week, he will bring some evidence, and then proceeding to make an argument on the evidence printed and seek to obtain from this House a judgment on the case before that case is closed. He is trying to escape from the pitiable position in which he stands to-day. And then he gets his associate, the first lieutenant (Mr. Foster) to stand up and storm and rave about deception and dishonesty and want of decency on the part of the Government. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that we are taking the dignified, the honourable, the decent course. I appeal to the independent members of the House on that side, if there are any, whether it is not the case that while the hon. gentleman stands pledged to bring more evidence, we are willing to withhold judgment until that evidence is all in. Is not that fair? We say it would be unfair on our part to ask the House to pronounce on a case which is sub-judice. Every man who has any experience in legal matters, or in ordinary business, will admit that the position we take is the proper one. The hon. gentleman tried to argue the case. He appeared very much concerned about a \$1,500 bill which was sent in by a lawyer and was not paid in full. But if he will turn around, he will see behind him gentlemen of the legal profession who have time and again rendered bills for amounts which were not paid. There is probably not a lawyer in the Dominion, who has had business with the Department of Justice, who has not had his bills taxed. In fact, thousands of dollars have been taxed off such bills because the Department of Justice considered them too high.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. But this bill was paid.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The position which the Government takes is this, that it would only be decent and proper and fair to give the hon. gentleman the chance he is trying now to escape from. He thinks that if he could get a decision of the House now upon the case, it

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would be closed and the fulfilment of his undertaking would not be exacted. But he cannot escape. He has given his pledge and is now trying to escape from it. He finds that he has to go before the Public Accounts Committee and that he has either to acknowledge that he has no case and come down to the House and say so or withdraw his charges. In the meantime he said to himself: I will get up and make a five-hours speech, I will try and draw forth a reply from the other side, I will try and get a decision of the House, and then the House will say there is no occasion for any more investigation before the committee, because we have pronounced on the matter.

The hon. gentleman, without giving the slightest notice to the Minister of the Interior or anybody else, without putting a notice on the Order paper or even giving verbal notice, stood up, on a motion to go into committee on the Drummond Railway question, and interposed with a motion to adjourn the House. Then, for five hours he quoted extracts from the evidence taken before the Public Accounts Committee, to a large extent irrelevant, and then got his coadjutor and colleague to stand up and denounce the Government because the Government did not make a reply. But is there any motion? Is there anything before the House? Not a single thing. The only motion the hon. gentleman has dared to make is that the House adjourn—a truly pitiable conclusion to his five hours' speech and attack. The evidence which was reported here bears upon its face that it is not complete, we have the undertaking by the hon. gentleman to complete it, and the House has already appointed a day to go on with the work—Friday, at eleven o'clock. But when the hon. gentleman saw the notice on the Order paper, when he saw that his time was approaching, and he had to do something, he got up in this House and made this long tirade to which we have just listened.

Just a word more in conclusion. I notice the concern which actuates the ex-Minister of Justice and the ex-Minister of Finance, owing to the fact that the Deputy Minister and the subordinates in the Justice Department were not consulted by my hon. friend (Mr. Sifton) on all the details of his policy. It was not sufficient that he took the head of the Department of Justice (Sir Oliver Mowat) into his confidence and was guided by his advice. Sir Oliver Mowat gets a certificate of character from the ex-Minister of Finance—save the mark. Sir Oliver has had certificates from different sources, even from the Queen, but proud will he be to-morrow when he knows that one so distinguished, so pure, so politically decent, so honourable in his career, as Sir Mackenzie Bowell can certify any day, has given the veteran statesman of Ontario a certificate of character. He has declared that Sir Oliver Mowat is a decent, and honest and honourable man. Well, it may comfort the hon. gentleman to

know that that decent, honest and honourable man was consulted at every step which the First Minister took in this matter and gave it his consent.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. He cut the bills down 50 per cent.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. And he cut the bills down, and it was his duty to, when he thought they were too high. But it appears that there are some gentlemen in that department whom they would prefer to have consulted rather than Sir Oliver Mowat. Why? I do not know. But I respectfully and humbly submit, that the proper person for the Premier to consult, in a judicial question of this kind, was the Minister of Justice himself. And the Minister of Justice, a decent, honest man, speaking with all the responsibility of the head of that department, and with a knowledge of constitutional law which I will venture, with humility, to say, is almost equal to the universal knowledge possessed by that marvel of judicial erudition, the ex-Minister of Finance—that experienced statesman advised the Premier in the course he should take, and the course the Premier took was taken with Sir Oliver Mowat's sanction. Sir, on what did he advise him? He found there had been committed one of the greatest crimes of the century.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. One of the greatest crimes of the century—a conspiracy having for its object to defeat the will of the people in the elections of 1896; a conspiracy which, if it had succeeded, might well have defeated the will of the people throughout Canada; a conspiracy so vile that hon. gentlemen opposite might, by means of it, have been returned to power; a conspiracy to stuff the ballot-boxes of every constituency in the province and to return the minority candidate, where necessary. The hon. gentleman boasts, that the prosecution were unable to succeed in convicting the parties who were charged. Sir, it is true, that in many cases they were unable to succeed.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. There was not a man indicted.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not think that proves very much. One man, at any rate, was convicted and was sentenced to his term. But, whether they succeeded or not it is beyond controversy that if such a conspiracy could be carried out, it would render popular government unnecessary. It would place a dictator in the Premier's chair, and leave him there as long as he pleased to remain, irrespective of the will of the people. If an hon. gentleman, standing in the position of my hon. friend the Premier, and having the prima facie evidence before him of this con-

spiracy, refused to expose the conspiracy, he would be derelict in his duty. There is no use in arguing it now; there will be a time when it can be argued.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. And not in a surreptitious manner, but after due notice and with some definite object in view. And the committee will meet on Saturday—

Mr. FOSTER. Not Friday? Are you going to take another day?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Very clever. That is an evidence of the hon. gentleman's wonderful ability. He caught me in a slip of the tongue, using the word "Saturday" instead of "Friday." Sir, I apologize to him. The Votes and Proceedings show, that the Public Accounts Committee is to be called for Friday at eleven o'clock. I hope the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) will be ready with his evidence.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. How can that be?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Well, ready to take the initial steps towards securing the evidence. At any rate, the committee will be there for him. And now, having had this debate, I hope we may proceed with the Orders of the Day.

Mr. BERGERON. I do not want to interrupt the hon. gentleman, but I would like to ask one question. When Mr. Wade put in the account for \$1,500, and that was cut down by that honest man, Sir Oliver Mowat, how does he explain the fact, that the whole sum was afterwards paid?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It had been paid before.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The payment of the bill will be explained in the committee, the proper place.

Mr. N. C. WALLACE (West York). The Minister of Marine and Fisheries had stated, that the course hon. gentlemen opposite were taking was the dignified, honourable and decent course. I suppose he refers to the fact, that, sixty-five days after the opening of Parliament, they propose to permit this investigation to commence. And this is the time chosen, notwithstanding the fact, that, before adjourning last session, they pledged themselves, as the chairman has declared over his own signature—"so that the inquiry may be dealt with and continued at the first available opportunity at the next session of Parliament." Is sixty-five days after the opening of Parliament the "first available opportunity"? To my mind, this is

a plain indication, that these gentlemen are not taking the decent, honourable and dignified course, but are evidently determined to shirk the investigation. They say, there was a failure in the investigation. Look at the record in that book; look at the record that the late Minister of Justice (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has presented to this House, which hon. gentlemen opposite have not answered, I presume, because they were not able to answer it, notwithstanding that many members of the Government are present. And I must say, that it is a wonder to see so many of them here. For we have noticed, that, when important charges were made against the administration of any particular department, the habit has been for the Minister charged with dereliction of duty to absent himself from the House. We see the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) putting in an appearance at this moment, after he supposed that the debate was to be concluded. Usually, when he is charged with serious dereliction of duty, violating the law, disregarding the constitution of the country, he does not come, like a man, to face the charges; he shirks the duty, and absents himself from the House. Nor is he alone in this course of conduct.

I was a member of the Committee of Public Accounts, and watched the proceedings, and noted the attempt of these hon. gentlemen opposite, including the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the late member for Lambton and others, aided by the chairman himself, to block the investigation and prevent the full exposure of the iniquities of this case. They say: Why did not you prove the case? How could the case be proven as fully as could be desired? We wanted Freeborn as a witness. He was a man in their pay, and under their control and direction.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.  
And very liberally treated.

Mr. WALLACE. And very liberally treated. He was wanted to appear before the committee. Was he brought before the committee? Not at all. Good care was taken that he should not be permitted to appear to give his evidence. And, when Mr. Howell and these other witnesses were called, what did we find? As has been pointed out by the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), they were ordered to bring with them books, papers and other records relating to the investigation. And I was surprised—no, I was not surprised; but I would have been surprised, if anybody had told me, years before, such a thing could happen—to see the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), who posed here as an honest man and one who wanted business conducted regularly and honestly, deliberately misrepresent the case, for he knows the duties of his office as chairman of the Public Accounts Committee too well not to

Mr. WALLACE.

know, that when a witness is summoned, he is summoned to bring papers. This particular summons which we have here says: "You are to bring with you all letters, books, papers and documents relating to said prosecutions, and accounts in your possession or under your control." Yet he had the hardihood to say that this man did not bring the papers because he was never asked to bring them. The member for North Wellington, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, knowing his duty, knowing that every witness summoned in cases of that kind is summoned exactly in those terms, yet in the face of that, he has the hardihood to get up in this House and say that he was merely summoned to come here, but was not asked to bring any papers or documents. I will give the hon. member an opportunity of getting up and apologizing to this House for attempting to mislead it, because he had the record before him. I am willing to give him an opportunity of retrieving himself, of putting himself right before the country, and either to say that he wilfully stated what was not true, or that he had forgotten himself, or he may make any other excuse that he pleases. Now what is the meaning of all this? As has been pointed out by the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), member after member on that side of the House have got up and solemnly denied that they were looking for positions, that they were looking for offices, yet almost the next day we find them accepting positions. We find the late member for West Lambton (Mr. Lister), to whom I have referred, getting up at the last hour in this House and solemnly denying that he was looking for an office, or would accept an office; yet prorogation had scarcely taken place when he was appointed to an office. Those members on that side of the House who get up and vehemently defend the Government, defend them where their course is indefensible—I say look out for those men. They are looking out for themselves. I was thinking of those members from the province of Ontario, men who have a reputation, men who have self-respect, men who have a regard for their past, and for their present, and for their future, too. Where are the Somervilles, the Macdonalds, the Bains? Where are the Landerkins, and all those men? We do not find them defending the course of the Government to-night, because they are ashamed to defend a course of conduct that the Government themselves are ashamed to defend. I am sure these men to-night are holding their heads with shame when they think of the great party who, in the past, has talked so loudly and, as we supposed, so sincerely in favour of honest government, in favour of regard for the laws of the land, in favour of economy. But now we see them disregarding every principle they had preached for 20 years, and violating the law, from the Premier down. They say they are doing it under

the direction of the Minister of Justice. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries said to this House that all these proceedings were gone on under his charge, and the Premier was guided and directed by the Minister of Justice in these affairs. I would like to ask the Minister of Marine and Fisheries where is the evidence of that? Did that evidence come before the Public Accounts Committee? I deny it, there was no such evidence. The evidence was to the contrary, because the officers of the Department of Justice came before that committee and asserted that they were entirely innocent of any knowledge of these transactions. Then where is the evidence that the late Minister of Justice, Sir Oliver Mowat, was directing the course of affairs? There has been no evidence but the unconfirmed statement of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and that I refuse to believe. But, Sir, still further. They say that the attempt to prove this investigation has failed. I say that it has not only failed but it has succeeded—far more than anybody could have expected, if you consider the obstacles that are placed in the way of an honest and fair investigation. I have been in this Parliament for 20 years, and nearly the whole of that time I have been a member of the Public Accounts Committee. I had the honour of being chairman of that committee during, perhaps, the stormiest period of its existence, in 1891; and, Sir, I never saw an attempt to block justice, to prevent an investigation, until I saw it in this case, and during the past two years. There has been in the past every effort made to have a fair investigation of the public accounts, to have a thorough review of all business matters; but in this case an attempt was made by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and those other gentlemen to whom I have alluded, to prevent an investigation being made, to prevent the facts from coming out, and to shield something because something dishonest had been done all through this transaction. So I say that the member for Pictou has performed a duty for which I am sure the public will thank him. There was no other course to take when we found that the member for North Wellington, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, disregarding the solemn injunction of that committee last year, has failed to call a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee together.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. He is not chairman this year.

Mr. FOSTER. They have deposed him.

Mr. WALLACE. Well, I am sorry for that, if it is on account of ill-health. But I think they could easily have got a judicial and disinterested man to occupy that position. I say that the thanks of this House and of this country are due to the hon. member for Pictou for having brought this matter before the House, and I think the effect

will be to spur these gentlemen on to permit an investigation to be held. The country is watching them, and will be watching the proceedings of that committee when they meet, and will condemn a Government or a party that will dare to prevent a full and thorough investigation being made into these matters.

Mr. D. C. FRASER (Guysborough). I only rise to make a remark in connection with the meeting of the committee. I am much obliged to the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat. Praise from such a source is high praise, and I am sure that no member of this House can appreciate it more than I do. I was appointed on that committee, and only 11 days ago was the first word heard from the Opposition about the committee being called. There was a hint thrown out that the committee was under the guidance of the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance never spoke to me about it, and did not require to.

Mr. FOSTER. He knew that it was right.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). If the hon. gentleman who has just volunteered a statement, and says he knows that it is all right, means that the hon. Minister of Finance knew that I could be trusted, in that sinister way in which he speaks, all I have to say is that I put my character for doing fair things on a par with his, and will allow members amongst his followers to be the judges. It will be decided in my favour. If the hon. gentleman meant that he knew it is all right because the proper course would be taken, he is correct; but he did not. It does not comport with that hon. gentleman's dignity to think that these remarks made by him, will enhance his reputation or lead the people of this country, or the members of this House, to think any the more of him. The hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) spoke about calling the committee. I at once saw the clerk, and I found out that there was very important business before two committees, and it was said that we would call the committee just as soon as these important matters were disposed of. There was no special reason why this particular case should be inquired into. I got four days ago the history of the calling of committees, and I find that the date of the calling of committees together is, this session, just about the same as on two other occasions. In 1896, I find that the House met on the 2nd day of January; the Address was passed on the 23rd of January, after a length of debate of twenty-one days. The Public Accounts Committee gave in its first report February 25th, or fifty-four days after the session opened. We met this year on the 18th of March. The Address was passed on the 18th of April, after a length of debate of thirty-three days. The Public Accounts Committee will meet on Friday

and can present their first report, which is within sixty-four days after the meeting of the House, and, if you make the calculation according to the number of days spent on the Address, you will find that we have yet thirty days to bring in the first report of the Committee on Public Accounts over and above the time it took in the session of 1896. That is the way the thing has been, and that is the only question now before the House. Yet the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) rose in his place and told us that the reason for calling attention to this was that the Public Accounts Committee would only meet on Thursday.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Friday.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Friday. Does the hon. gentleman think that either this House or this country will credit the statement that a whole day should be spent within three days of the meeting of that committee, to say that we should meet one day sooner? Does the hon. gentleman think that any man, in his reason, believes that the purpose the hon. gentleman had in view was to call the committee on Thursday, demanding that it should meet one day sooner than Friday, and that it would justify him in spending a whole day to say that we should call the committee one day sooner? If the hon. gentleman will be honest, that is not his reason. The reason has been as plain as can be. Here he knew, he must have known, that when the committee met in three days from the time he was making his speech there would be the fullest opportunity on that day, and on all days, for him to call witnesses. Was there any need for discussing the evidence?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman knows that I could not call witnesses on Friday. I would have to get an order to subpoena witnesses.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Decidedly, but does the hon. gentleman think that one day is absolutely essential?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. We asked to have the committee called on Monday last.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). The hon. gentleman lately, when he gets speaking, cannot stop. He spoke for five hours, and afterwards during the whole discussion this evening he has been getting up and speaking again. He is like the man with a spring in his wooden leg, who, when he got going kept walking on for ever. Seriously, however, has the hon. gentleman any thought that one day sooner in the meeting of the committee is going to make any difference about getting his witnesses there?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, I want to know if, when the hon. gentleman asks his questions, he desires to have them answered, or if he desires that

Mr. FRASER (Guysboro').

I should not answer them. When I attempted to answer the last question he put to me, he charged me with having a wooden leg, or something of that kind.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). No, no. The paralysis I would like to see in the hon. gentleman would be in his tongue, not in his leg. I did compare him to an apocryphal man that was for ever going with a cork leg with a spring in it. But, seriously, is one day going to make all that difference? Is the fact that the committee should meet on Thursday, instead of on Friday, going to make the country ring? The main reason, and everything in this whole question before the House to-night has been, that a motion was made to adjourn the House because the committee was not to meet before Friday, and the motion can have no point at all unless that is the point. The hon. gentleman surely would be content if his purpose was to read the evidence and make his own comments on it. He distinctly stated that he might put himself right, but his chief purpose was that this committee should be called sooner, and that he did it for the purpose of having this meeting of the committee sooner than the time appointed. I think it is hardly worth while, speaking most modestly, for the hon. gentleman to take up a whole day with a debate to get the committee to meet one day sooner. Does not the hon. gentleman and his friends see that all the discussion that took place to-day must take place again. If the hon. gentleman produces any other evidence it must take place again, and, if the hon. gentleman produces no evidence, he knows very well it must take place again, and is Parliament going to go over again and again the same evidence? I do not think the hon. gentleman himself could for a moment have considered the effect of what he is doing under the guise of wanting the committee to meet on Thursday. The committee will meet on Friday, which is the first possible time at which it can meet, when he will have the opportunity he wants, which is only twenty-four hours after the time that he asks. I could not for a moment understand why the hon. gentleman should have spoken upon the evidence at the last moment, as he has done to-day. It has been suggested to me that he was trying to beat his own record, and yet the spectacle of a five-hour speech on evidence that is not yet completed is something that is very extraordinary. The hon. gentleman, in delivering a five-hour speech on a partial statement of the evidence, has done the same thing as a lawyer who says that he has other evidence to go in, and calls upon the judge to give judgment. He knows himself how very ridiculous a position that is to take.

Mr. SPROULE. That is what the hon. gentleman wanted to do last year to give judgment before the evidence was all in.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Another hon. gentleman has spoken; I think he spoke too, but he wants to keep it up. That is a remark that shows us the way that wisdom will come out. The hon. gentleman could best impress the House by silence and looking wise. The hon. gentleman said that this was unparalleled in the history of the country. But was it not done in the session of 1896 and in the session of 1893, and you will see when we take into consideration the number of days we spent on the debate on the Address, the committee is meeting earlier in proportion to the number of days than it did in these two years. I trust the hon. gentlemen opposite will understand that there was no idea of an attempt at delay, and that when the committee meets we will at once proceed to business.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). As to the suggestion which has been made by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), and the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), that the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is desirous of avoiding going on with this investigation, I happened to have been present at the last meeting of the Public Accounts Committee last year, and I remember very distinctly what took place. There was an attempt by the Liberal members to present a final report, although the evidence had not all been taken, and although the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) stated distinctly that he desired to subpoena Sir Oliver Mowat and other witnesses. There was an attempt made on the part of the majority of that committee to force matters to a conclusion, and that attempt was only defeated by members on this side of the House, stating that they were prepared to stay there all summer rather than submit to a course of that kind. After it had been pretty plainly demonstrated to members supporting the Government that there would be that result, the report now before the House was made upon the undertaking of my hon. friend from Pictou that he would proceed during this session. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries cast out the sneer, that the only object of my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) to-day is to go over evidence partially taken, and to make an argument before the evidence is closed. As has been remarked already, that was exactly the course which the Liberal members desired to take last year. So far from there being anything in that taunt cast at my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), I may tell you, Mr. Speaker, that when the hon. gentleman went to the west on the 31st of March, he left in my hands a full memorandum of the witnesses who were to be subpoenaed, if the committee were called together. I was in expectation, from day to day, that the committee would be asked to meet, and I was in possession of a written memorandum, given me by the hon. member for Pictou, of the motions that

should be made and of the witnesses that should be called. But, Sir, day after day passed, and the committee was not convened, and, as I understand it, the speech made by the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is in protest against the action of the Government in failing to call the committee together, under the special circumstances of the case. And, the circumstances are special. The members of the Government knew, and the chairman of the committee knew, that witnesses had to be summoned from a distance. They knew that two months of this session had passed, and they knew that unless promptness were used we would be exactly in the same position at the end of this session that we were in at the end of last session, namely, that the evidence would be incomplete, and that there would be no possibility of the committee making a final report, and thus that no discussion could take place, although properly speaking the motions before that committee should have been fully discussed last session. It does not lie in the mouth of the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), nor in the mouth of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to cast such a groundless taunt at my hon. friend from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). The Minister of Marine spoke of the miserable failure which had attended the attempt of my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) to prove certain charges before that committee. Sir, the best evidence that the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has made no failure, is to be found in the fact that although the evidence already given calls for some explanation from the Government, not one member of the Ministry, has been able to stand up to explain or to defend it. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) did not, and could not, offer a single explanation of the payments that had been made to these men, in excess of the amounts which were afterwards taxed by the officials of the Department of Justice. He (Sir Louis Davies) speaks about the young men in the Department of Justice, but he forgets that the taxation which was made by these young men was fully approved by Sir Oliver Mowat. I give as a single instance that one, Mr. Perdue, has been paid \$500 and upwards out of the moneys of the consolidated revenue of Canada, and his account has been taxed down a little over \$300. Although that charge has been cast across the floor of this House, in this debate and in the previous debate, not one word of explanation has been given by a member of the Government in regard to it. Sir, the Government owe it to their own self-respect, they owe it to the country, that they should give some explanation on matters of that kind, which do not need to wait further evidence. Instead of that, my hon. friend from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) receives from the Government only the groundless taunt that he is not willing to go on with the investigation before this committee.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries told us that there was prima facie evidence before the Prime Minister of Canada upon which it was proper to go on with this investigation into the so-called election frauds in Manitoba. It has been pointed out over and over again by my hon. friend from Pictou, and by others, that there was not the slightest evidence then before the Prime Minister, except the word of the Minister of the Interior—who at that time was not a member of this House, and was not a member of the Government—that he had a belief that a certain conspiracy existed in Manitoba. Now, was the belief of Mr. Sifton—as he was at that time—a sufficient justification for the Prime Minister of this country to give that gentleman carte blanche to spend the public moneys of Canada on a matter in which the Government of Canada were not interested, and as to which it was the duty of the Government of Manitoba to act. Will the Prime Minister of Canada say now, that if I produced in this House similar evidence with regard to the late election in West Huron, and with regard to the late election in Brockville, that he will give me, or any other member of this House, or any man outside of this House unlimited credit at the expense of Canada, to investigate these irregularities, and to prosecute the people who are guilty of that wrong-doing? What distinction does the Prime Minister, or does any hon. member on the other side of the House make, between these election frauds, so-called, in the province of Manitoba, and the election frauds in the province of Ontario. Mr. Speaker, I can tell the right hon. gentleman that evidence much more distinct, much more explicit, founded, not on belief but on solemn declaration, can be brought—

Mr. TAYLOR. And certainly will be brought.

Mr. BORDEN—showing frauds in connection with these two elections as to which there is no parallel in the Manitoba elections; and if the Prime Minister of Canada and the members of the Government hold that the defence put forward in this matter is a good defence, the Prime Minister would be bound to deal with these election frauds in Ontario exactly as he did with those in the province of Manitoba. Is any distinction to be drawn between the province of Ontario and the province of Manitoba with respect to a matter of that kind? If we bring 30 or 40 declarations of men who say that they cast their ballots for the Liberal-Conservative candidate in these elections at a certain polling booth, and if we show by the records now in the hands of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery that only about two-thirds or one-half of the number of ballots were discovered for that candidate, will he say, standing in his place, that the credit of the Dominion of Canada to an unlimited extent will be used for the purpose of hunting down the men who did that wrong, and bringing them to justice? Perhaps the right

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

hon. gentleman will give me an answer with regard to that now, because it is rather important that we should know whether there is to be one rule with regard to Liberals in the province of Manitoba and another rule with regard to Liberal-Conservatives in the province of Ontario. I do not know whether the right hon. gentleman cares to make any answer, but I venture to say that he will find it difficult to persuade the people of this country or even members on his own side of the House that it is proper to pledge the revenues of this country to punish wrong-doing in the one case, while he stands by and supports the wrong-doing in the other, simply because in the one case he can make political capital against his opponents and in the other case the wrong-doing happens to result to the advantage of his party. Under circumstances of that kind, I think here is something for the right hon. gentleman to consider, and something for the country to consider. Matters of that kind cannot be answered by a taunt such as has been the answer of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) and to a more limited extent the answer of the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser). I venture to say, in conclusion, that I think my hon. friend from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) would have been wanting in his duty as a member of this Parliament if he had not seen fit to rise in his place and bring this matter to the attention of the House, and, by going over this evidence and showing the seriousness of what has been done, protest against the course of the Government in delaying, as they have delayed, the convening of this committee for the purpose of dealing with this matter.

Motion for the adjournment of the House, negatived.

Motion for the House to go into committee, agreed to.

Committee rose and reported progress.

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

#### INSOLVENCY LEGISLATION.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE (West Toronto). Before the House adjourns, I would like to draw the attention of the right hon. First Minister to a statement which appeared in the evening papers of yesterday, and which is repeated in to-day's papers, respecting an arrangement or agreement which it is alleged has been reached by the right hon. the Premier and the hon. member of this House who has a Bill on the Order paper respecting insolvency. The statement which appears in the papers is that the right hon. First Minister has had a conference with Mr. Fortin, the result of which will be that the Insolvency Bill will not be brought up at this session of Parliament. The matter is creating a great deal of interest in the mer-

cantile community of Toronto and elsewhere: and I would like to know if such an arrangement has been reached, and if it is the intention that the Bill shall be dropped this session?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I have been in communication with Mr. Fortin, who has a Bill on the Order paper respecting insolvency. I understood that legislation had been introduced in several of the provinces which up to this time have had no law respecting insolvency, or respecting the disposal of the assets of insolvent estates. I am in conference with Mr. Fortin, and if, as I understand, such legislation has been passed in the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the Government will not favour any legislation on the subject of insolvency this session.

#### INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture when we may expect a return to an Order of the House for the correspondence which has recently taken place between his department and the Imperial authorities with regard to the cattle embargo. I want the information for use in the House, and I would be very glad if the hon. gentleman would expedite it.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. Fisher). I will inquire in the department, and have it sent down immediately.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. While I am on my feet, I may say that I gave notice to-night of a motion with regard to the superannuations which have taken place in the hon. gentleman's department in the last year and a half. May I press upon him the desirability of having the return prepared as soon as possible?

Mr. **HAGGART**. May I ask the right hon. leader of the Government what will be the first Government measure on the next Government day?

The **PRIME MINISTER**. The intention of the Government is to proceed with the Drummond County Railway on Thursday, and we will proceed unless we are obstructed then as we have been to-day.

Mr. **CASGRAIN**. I wish to call the attention of the right hon. leader of the House to the fact that several papers that were ordered last session have not yet been brought down. I gave a list of those papers to the right hon. gentleman, and I would ask that they be brought down as soon as possible. I would add to the list already given an order of the 30th of March, 1898, in relation to tenders asked for by the Intercolonial Railway for ties for the division in the province of Quebec. The right hon. gentleman alluded a little while ago to obstruction. I would not like to make a

threat; but if these papers are not brought down on Thursday, we may probably not be able to proceed with the Drummond County Railway.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am very sorry.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 12.25 (midnight).

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 17th May, 1899.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

#### SALE OF EGGS BY WEIGHT.

Mr. **McMILLAN** moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 122) in further amendment of the Weights and Measures Act. He said: In selling eggs in this country a good deal of difficulty and disagreement is experienced in regard to standard eggs. The Bill does not affect the sale of eggs in this country. It is intended to affect only the sale of eggs between buyers in the old country and sellers in this country, and between buyers and sellers in this country at a distance from each other; and it provides that a dozen eggs shall weigh a pound and a half.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

#### MAIL SERVICE ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** asked:

1. By what steamship route and by what company (United States or British) are Canadian mails forwarded on Pacific coast waters en route to Dawson?

2. What service as shown by sailings is now given on this route and to Atlin, B.C., weekly or fortnightly?

3. Is any effort being made by the Post Office Department to forward such mails to Vancouver direct?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). 1. By steamers of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company, carrying United States mails. 2. The frequency of the service to Skagway is from five to six trips per month; to Atlin, B.C., weekly trips. 3. The department does not control the arrangements for forwarding mails from Skagway, which is in the possession of the United States. Application has been made to the United States Post Office Department to arrange or to authorize the Canadian Post Office Department to arrange for mails from

the Yukon for Vancouver being despatched direct from Skagway to Vancouver, but no conclusion has been arrived at.

#### RAILWAY FACILITIES IN THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN VALLEY.

Mr. DAVIN (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

Whether the attention of the Government has been called to the following resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly of the North-west Territories, on April 28th, 1899 :—

"That whereas there are certain settlements in the valleys of the North Saskatchewan and its tributaries that have been in existence for a number of years without railroad communication or facilities for transportation of surplus produce ;

"And whereas these settlements have been maintained by the people in the hopes raised by the granting of numerous charters by the Dominion Parliament for the construction of railways since the first surveys for the Canadian Pacific ;

"And whereas the lack of such railway communication is seriously felt by the people residing in and near to the Saskatchewan Valley ;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that this House urges upon the Dominion Government the necessity for taking any steps needed to ensure the opening up of the North Saskatchewan Valley by providing for railway communication with outlets east and west, at an early date."

Whether the Government intends to take, and if so, what steps to meet the need for railway communication set forth in the above resolutions ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The resolution referred to in the question has been received, and the matters therein referred to are receiving consideration.

#### EXPENDITURE ON ST. PETER'S CANAL.

Mr. GILLIES asked :

1. What amount was expended upon the St. Peter's Canal from the 1st day of May, 1891, up to the 23rd June, 1896 ?

2. What amount has been expended upon this canal since the 23rd June, 1896, up to the present date ?

3. Is it the intention of the Government to make a sufficient appropriation during the present session to provide for the much required repairs to the east side of the canal ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). 1. The amount expended upon the St. Peter's Canal from 1st May, 1891, up to 23rd June, 1896, is as follows :—

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| On Capital account..... | \$18,722 78         |
| Income account .....    | 87,535 09           |
| Revenue account .....   | 20,229 52           |
| Total .....             | <u>\$126,487 39</u> |

2. The amount expended upon this canal since 23rd June, 1896, up to the present date, is as follows :—

Mr. MULOCK.

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| On Capital account..... | Nil.              |
| Income account.....     | \$ 319 52         |
| Revenue account .....   | 8,774 81          |
| Total.....              | <u>\$9,094 33</u> |

3. The subject will receive due consideration.

#### MR. ABNER SMITH, POSTMASTER AT RUSAGORNIS.

Mr. FOSTER asked :

Has Mr. Abner Smith, the postmaster at Rusagornis, Sunbury County, N.B., been removed from office, and if so, when ? How long has he been postmaster at the place ? Were there any complaints urged against the manner in which he performed the duties of his office ? Was there any investigation made in his case, and if so, by whom ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). Mr. Abner Smith was on the 1st of May removed from his position as postmaster at Rusagornis, because of his taking an active part in party politics, which is regarded as inconsistent with the proper discharge of his official duties. There has been no other complaint against him. He was in office since 1874. The action complained of having been established beyond any reasonable doubt, an investigation would have been quite unnecessary to determine the facts, and, therefore, no such unnecessary procedure was held.

#### GRAIN EXPORTS.

Mr. BELL (Addington), (by Mr. Taylor), asked :

What was the number of bushels and kinds of grain the produce of Canada exported from Fort William, Duluth, Parry Harbour, Midland, Montreal, Winnipeg and St. John, N.B. ; giving the amounts from each port, the place of destination, also the number of bushels and kinds of grain from said ports, of goods not the produce of Canada ; 1st, for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1898 ; 2nd, from the 30th June, 1898, to 31st December, 1898 ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Pater-son). I am not in a position to give the answer at present, and as it will be so lengthy, it will be necessary to move for a return. If the hon. gentleman will move for a return, I will get the information as soon as possible.

#### MISS HUBERT.

Mr. McDUGALL asked :

What was the nature of the examination made by the Government and referred to by the Prime Minister on the 4th inst., into the subject-matter of petition of Miss Hubert, and will the Prime Minister give the facts in writing to Miss Hubert ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The nature of the examination was to satisfy the Government as to the cor-

rectness of the conclusion we arrived at. It is not the intention of the Prime Minister to give any more attention to this claim.

#### INTERCOLONIAL FREIGHT.

Mr. McDOUGALL asked :

1. What was the total number of tons of freight carried by the Intercolonial from March 1st, 1897, to March 1st, 1898, and from March 1st, 1898, to March 1st, 1899 ?

2. What were the total receipts on such freight for each period respectively ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The total number of tons of freight, carried by the Intercolonial Railway from the 1st of March, 1897, to the 1st of March, 1898, was 1,345,548 tons. The total number of tons of freight carried from the 1st of March, 1898, to the 1st of March, 1899, was 1,653,381 tons, being an increase of 309,000 tons. Total freight receipts from 1st of March, 1897, to 1st of March, 1898, was \$1,743,385.61. Total freight receipts from 1st of March, 1898, to 1st of March, 1899, was \$2,198,040.72, or an increase of \$455,000.

#### ROADWAY ACROSS McLAREN'S CREEK.

Mr. HUGHES (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

1. Is it the intention of the Government this year to utilize or grant a sum of money towards opening the roadway across the mouth of McLaren's Creek, near where it enters Sturgeon Lake ?

2. If not, why not ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). This question has not yet been considered.

#### COASTING LAWS OF CANADA.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

Has there been any further correspondence in relation to the enforcement of the coasting laws of Canada on the Pacific or Atlantic coasts subsequent to the Address of this House, dated 30th March, 1898, or to the 20th January, 1898, the date of the last paper mentioned in said return ?

(a) If so, will the subsequent papers be laid on the Table of this House at an early date as a supplementary return ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Pater-son). Further correspondence has taken place since 20th January, 1898, in relation to the enforcement of the coasting laws of Canada on the Atlantic or Pacific coasts. The papers will be laid on the Table as soon as practicable after a supplementary return is ordered.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Does the hon. gentleman want a formal motion made for a supplementary return ? It is not usual when the terms of the original order are not limited.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Pater-son). I shall not insist, but will have to put it in under preparation, and it will pass as an unopposed motion.

#### MAJOR WALSH.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

What instructions, if any, were given to Major Walsh, Commissioner for the Yukon district, when he went to that district, respecting (a) his powers and authority ; (b) liquor traffic. (c) Is there any truth in the following report of an interview purporting to have taken place at Skagway, when Major Walsh was returning from Yukon, when he is reported to have said : " I was given great latitude under the laws and was empowered to amend them as I saw fit, and in some instances I did change them somewhat " ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). No instructions were given to Major Walsh, Commissioner for the Yukon district, when he went there, except what are contained in his commission.

#### CAPTAIN JOHN IRVING.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

What action, if any, has been taken on the communication of Captain John Irving, dated 30th December, 1897, included in the return to an Address of the House of Commons, dated 30th March, 1898, respecting the enforcement of Canadian coasting laws.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Pater-son). No further action has been taken.

#### ALLAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

Mr. FOSTER asked :

What vessels sailed, and on what dates, from St. John, N.B., in the season of 1897-98, in pursuance of the contract entered by the Government with the Allan Steamship Company for the winter service ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). In reply I beg to say :

| Name of Steamship. | Cleared from St. John. |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| " Mantinea ".....  | Dec. 20, 1897          |
| " Cheronea ".....  | Jan. 3, 1898           |
| " Livonian ".....  | Jan. 17, 1898          |
| " Mantinea ".....  | Feb. 7, 1898           |
| " Platea ".....    | Feb. 14, 1898          |
| " Cheronea ".....  | Feb. 21, 1898          |
| " Livonian ".....  | March 7, 1898          |
| " Mantinea ".....  | March 25, 1898         |
| " Platea ".....    | April 9, 1898          |
| " Cheronea ".....  | April 16, 1898         |

#### HON MR. JUSTICE MAGUIRE.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

When did Hon. Mr. Justice Maguire first reach Dawson after his appointment as judge there ?

(a) When did he leave that judicial district ?

(b) When did his successor reach Dawson ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Hon Mr. Justice Maguire reached Dawson, so far as the information of the Government goes, on the 26th of February.

1897. It is not known when he left the judicial district and when his successor reached Dawson.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER  
Might I ask the hon. gentleman if he could find out the answers to questions A and B. I suppose it is possible?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I shall give instructions to have a telegram sent to Judge Maguire.

MR. THOMAS POWERS.

Mr. MARCOTTE asked :

1. Whether Mr. Thomas Powers, contractor, of Lévis, has leased from the Government the ground at Fort No. 3, for the purpose of getting out stone?

2. What price does he give?

3. Was he foreman of the work at Etchemin bridge on the Intercolonial?

4. At what price did he sell the stone he took from the Government ground?

5. Is he the furnisher of stone for the bridge, paid as furnisher, and at the same time foreman of the work?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The subject of the two first questions of your inquiry does not come under my department. They have already been answered, I think, by the Minister of Militia and Defence. 3. As to the third question, I may say, Thomas Powers was foreman of the work at Etchemin bridge on the Intercolonial Railway. 4. I am not aware that he sold any stone taken from the Government ground. 5. No stone was purchased from Mr. Powers for the bridge, and, therefore, he was not paid as furnisher of stone for the bridge at the same time he was foreman of the work.

MR. AGAPIT OUELLET.

Mr. MARCOTTE asked :

1. Whether the Agapit Ouellet as to whom "Le Soleil," of Quebec, of 28th, 29th and 30th March, said: "To the electors of Lévis: Mr. Agapit Ouellet will be present at the town hall of Lévis, and take all necessary steps for entering or striking out the names of Conservatives, in behalf of the Liberal party," is an employee of the Post Office Department at Lévis?

2. Whether the same Mr. Ouellet, in order to get a position, caused Mr. L. J. Thibault to be discharged, alleging that he meddled in politics?

3. Is it true that the said Mr. Ouellet has caused the dismissal of several Conservatives under the pretext that they had taken part in politics?

4. Is it true that Ouellet himself furnished the evidence for the dismissal of the said Conservatives?

5. Is it true that he was engaged in providing the said evidence during the time when he should have been occupied delivering the mails on the train?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock.) In reply I beg to say: 1. A person named Agapit Ouellet is employed to transfer mails at Lévis station, but the

Mr. SIFTON.

department has nothing to establish his identity with that of Agapit Ouellet named in this question. 2. No. 3. No. 4. The department is not aware of his having furnished any such evidence. 5. This question is answered by the answer to No. 4.

#### EMPLOYEES ON THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Mr. MARCOTTE asked :

1. Who issued orders to change the employees on the train, during the provincial elections in December last, in the county of Lévis?

2. Is it true that the Conservative employees were sent to Montreal by the Drummond Railway, and others to Rivière du Loup?

3. Did Mr. Desjardins, the despatcher, at first refuse to make the said changes?

4. Did the Liberals at Lévis telegraph to Mr. Blair on the subject? Did the Minister of Railways himself give the orders to Mr. Pottinger?

5. Did Mr. Pottinger send orders to Mr. Desjardins to accept the Conservative employees and to send them to Montreal and Rivière du Loup?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). 1. I have inquired but cannot learn that any person issued orders to change the employees on the trains during the provincial elections in December last in the county of Lévis. 2. I cannot learn that Conservative employees were sent to Montreal by the Drummond County Railway and others to Rivière du Loup. Mr. Desjardins says they were not. 3. Mr. Desjardins wires that to his knowledge no orders were issued to change the employees on the trains during the provincial elections in December last in the county of Lévis, and he says he could not have refused as he received no such orders. 4. The Minister received no telegram from the Liberals at Lévis on the subject, nor did the Minister give orders to Mr. Pottinger on the subject. 5. Mr. Pottinger did not send orders to Mr. Desjardins to accept the Conservative employees and to send them to Montreal or Rivière du Loup.

#### REVENUE OF GUAY POST OFFICE.

Mr. MARCOTTE asked :

1. What is the revenue of the Guay post office, kept by Joseph Verrault at Lévis?

2. What amount does the Post Office Department pay him?

3. What contract has he for the mail, and what is the price specified?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1 and 2. The legitimate revenue of Guay post office is about \$304 a year. By certain irregular methods it was increased fictitiously, but the postmaster is not entitled to be paid upon a revenue other than the legitimate revenue of the office for postal purposes, and he has been paid upon that basis the sum of \$144 a year. 3. Joseph Verrault holds a temporary agreement for carrying the mails between Guay and Lévis at the contract rate of \$75 a year.

## MAILS BETWEEN ORANGEDALE AND MARGAREE.

Mr. McDOUGALL asked :

What changes have taken place in the contract for the carrying of mails between Orangedale and Margaree, in the county of Inverness, since the 1st of July, 1896? Is the service at present performed by the contractor who performed the service under the first contract entered into after the 1st July, 1896? If not, why not?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). The service for the conveyance of mails over the route between Margaree harbour and Orangedale railway station did not come into operation until the 9th July, 1897. Prior to that time the offices on this route were served under arrangements made before the 1st July, 1896, and it having been represented to the present Postmaster General that the services then in existence were both expensive and inefficient, an inquiry was made, and it was ascertained that by a re-arrangement of the services in the northern and western part of Cape Breton, the services might be improved and a large saving effected. Among the changes involved in this re-arrangement was the establishment of a daily mail route between Margaree harbour and Orangedale station. The contract was let to Mr. John Fraser, the lowest tenderer, after public competition for the period between the 9th July, 1897, and the 30th June, 1901, at the rate of \$1,594 a year. On the 1st February, 1898, this amount was reduced from \$1,594 to \$1,577 a year, owing to a decrease in the distance to be travelled. On the 1st February, 1899, the contract was, on the application of Mr. Fraser, transferred to Mr. D. M. McFarlane on the same terms and conditions, the post office inspector at Halifax having reported that Mr. McFarlane was a fit and proper person to undertake the service, and that the proposed transfer would be in the interest of the service.

MAJOR D. C. F. BLISS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. What is the position, or what are the positions held by Mr. D. C. F. Bliss in the public service, and when was he appointed to it or them?

2. What positions has he held, if any, in the Yukon district? (a) What, if any, positions does he now hold there? (b) What salary has been paid him and at what rate in connection therewith?

3. What travelling expenses, if any, have been allowed him in connection with such positions in the Yukon district, if any? (a) Has he been allowed a personal attendant, secretary, orderly or valet at any time, and if so, when, for what time and at what cost to the exchequer?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). Major D. C. F. Bliss was appointed, on the 18th June, 1894, sec-

ond-class clerk at \$1,400. On the 4th April, 1896, a new position called Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, was created, and Major Bliss was appointed to this with pay and staff allowances of \$2,000 a year. On the 15th December, 1897, the office of Deputy Assistant Adjutant General was abolished and Major Bliss was restored to his position as second-class clerk at \$1,400. On the 18th of May, 1898, he was appointed transport and supply officer to the Yukon field force. 2. Transport and supply officer to the Yukon field force. (a) Still fills that position. (b) Draws the same rate as other officers on the Yukon force, viz., double rates. His rank being that of major, he draws twice \$3.90, or \$7.80, per diem. 3. The same as allowed to other officers, viz., his actual travelling expenses. (a) No.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. May I call the attention of the hon. Minister to an omission, which may be the result in the form of a question. The intention in No. 3 was to ascertain the amount of travelling expenses, not the rate. Under these circumstances, that part of the question might stand.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Very well.

## THE TIDAL SURVEY.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

Referring to the following statement of the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, in Supply, May 12th, 1899 ("Hansard," page 3152), on the subject of a "Tidal Survey":—"I asked some of the Allan captains myself and they said they attach no value whatsoever to this survey." (a) What are the names of the Allan captains referred to? (b) Will the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries lay upon the Table of this House Captain Spain's report referred to on page 3153, "Hansard," 12th May, 1899?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The name of the Allan captain I had in mind at the time of the debate was Capt. Moore, of the "California." There is no report in writing from Capt. Spain, nor is it referred to in "Hansard." The advice was verbal.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

Referring to the following statement of the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries ("Hansard," 1899, page 3151):—"The scientists pretend that we should make a survey of the currents around the coast and try and describe them more accurately on the chart than they are described at present, but I have not been able to find a practical seaman who shares that opinion, or an expert who recommends me to incur that expense," made on May 12, 1899. (a) Does the hon. Minister adhere to this statement? (b) Are there on file in the Department of Marine and Fisheries petitions signed by practical seamen asking for a survey of the tides and currents in Canadian waters? (c) Will the hon. the

Minister bring down and lay upon the Table of the House at an early date all such petitions, if any?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). I have to submit to the hon. gentleman that it is rather an abuse of the rights of an hon. member in asking information on public questions, to cross-examine Ministers as to whether or not they adhere to statements made in past debates. The extract the hon. gentleman gives was only a partial statement. I adhere to my statements made during that debate. If there are on file any petitions signed by practical seamen, as referred to in the question, I shall be happy to bring them down, or any other papers that may be called for.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. I desire to call the Prime Minister's attention, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. **MEMBERS**. Order.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. I think I am strictly in order. I do not rise to discuss the matter at all. I call the hon. Minister's attention to the fact that I have asked a specific question that has not been answered—"Are there on file in the Department of Marine and Fisheries petitions signed by practical seamen asking for a survey of the tides and currents in Canadian waters?" The hon. gentleman says that if there are such petitions he will bring them down. I do not need to ask that. But what I have asked is whether there are such petitions?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I am quite unaware whether there are petitions signed by practical seamen or not. I will bring down any petitions that are there.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. That is not an answer to my question.

Mr. **SPEAKER**. I think the point raised by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) with regard to the reference to a past debate in question is one which should not be lost sight of. I wish to call attention to the fact that such a course seems to be out of order. There are two decisions or more by Mr. Speaker Brand, in which he decides that questions referring to a preceding debate or of an argumentative character cannot be put. He also says in another place: "There can be no doubt that it is not in order for an hon. member of the House, in putting a question or making an answer, to refer to a former debate." Exception was allowed in the case where an hon. Minister was almost forced to refer to a former debate to give an answer demanded of him, but there does not appear to be any exception to the rule that reference to a past debate should not be made in asking a question. Of course, motions for papers, referred to by Minis-

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** (Pictou).

ters, are made in the ordinary way and the sense of the House is taken as to whether they should be produced or not.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. May I be allowed to make an observation, Mr. Speaker? I venture to think that neither of the references mentioned by Your Honour covers the case involved in this question. While these rulings refer to the ordinary member of the House of Commons making reference to a past debate, they do not cover the case of a ministerial statement, which is founded on departmental documents. It surely cannot be that a Minister, having at his command the files of the department, is at liberty to make statements as to what the files contain or do not contain, if he is not prepared to answer such questions as this. Otherwise, we should be at the mercy of a Minister who might make such statements and then shield himself behind a rule or supposed rule forbidding reference to what he had said. We should not be able to question the accuracy of his questions or the extent to which they are based on public documents. I do not think your decision has covered that point at all.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Permit me to say, Mr. Speaker, that I made no reference to any public document or any document on file in the department. I made a statement in general argument. My hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) asks me if I adhere to one single sentence which he extracts from my speech. I say that this sort of thing is calculated, if indulged in, to become an abuse of the right to question Ministers on public matters.

Mr. **SPEAKER**. It seems to me, that the question as to the production of public documents which is referred to by Ministers, is an entirely different question, and I would not attempt to give a decision thereon today, because there are a great many difficult points arising out of it. I think, however, it must be clear that, in asking an ordinary question across the House, past debates must not be referred to.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. Then, I ask the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), does he seriously ask me to put a formal motion on the paper in connection with sub-question "c"?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Yes.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. "Will the Minister bring down and lay upon the Table of the House at an early date all such petitions, if any?" I call your attention to this fact, Mr. Speaker, that I am entitled to the production of these documents under the circumstances, these documents having been referred to in debate.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. They were discussed, I think, and under these circumstances it is carrying the matter pretty far for the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to ask me to give notice and wait in the ordinary course to get an answer.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Permit me to make an observation, because my hon. friend is not stating the facts. I made no reference to these public documents, directly or indirectly.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. You denied their existence.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not even deny their existence; I say I know nothing of them.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Well, you should.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Perhaps I should, but I say I know nothing of them. But I tell my hon. friend, in all courtesy, that if he moves for any papers whatever that are in my department, they will be brought down without any delay, and I will facilitate bringing them down, instead of obstructing.

Mr. SPEAKER. The discussion which has arisen seems to justify the wisdom of the ruling I gave, that no reference to past debates should be permitted on such an occasion. It strikes me that the last two paragraphs of this question might be put without referring in any way to a past debate. The questions might be: Are there on file any petitions, signed by so and so? If so, will the hon. member bring those down? That would be a proper question.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman has not answered my question. He says, if I make a motion, he will answer it.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order. As I understand it, the Minister has answered the question. At any rate, it is not the Speaker's function to decide how far an answer is satisfactory. That is a matter in the discretion of the Minister, and cannot be discussed at this time.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I shall take an early opportunity of discussing it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I hope I may be allowed to make this statement, that I can see no distinction between these particular papers he asks for and any other papers; and, if the hon. gentleman, after a question, can ask for any papers and have them brought down, he claims more rights than any member on either side of the House. I tell him I will facilitate the bringing down of any papers he desires, if they are in my department.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman will save a great deal of time, if he brings those down without a motion; I give notice of that.

Mr. SPEAKER. This discussion is evidently another illustration of the unwisdom of referring to past debates.

#### UNITED STATES VESSELS ON CANADIAN REGISTRY.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked:

What instructions, if any, have been sent to Government officials in the Yukon district respecting the alleged fraudulent valuations in the rates and registration of United States vessels on the Canadian registry (see "Hansard," May 12, 1899, page 3163)?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). Mr. Oglvie, Commissioner of the Yukon district, who is also an inspector of customs, has been requested to ascertain, by the best means in his power, the fair market value of the steamer "John C. Barr" at the time of application for Canadian register and report the facts.

#### GENERAL SERVICE WAR MEDAL.

Mr. CLARKE asked:

1. Has any design for the Canada general service war medal been yet approved of by the Canadian authorities; and, if so, what is the design, and on what date was it approved?
2. Has such design been forwarded to the Imperial authorities; and, if so, on what date?
3. Has any approval of such design been received from the Imperial authorities; and, if so, on what date?
4. Has any order been given to the Royal Mint for the execution of such design; and, if so, on what date?
5. Have funds been remitted by the Canadian Government to the Royal Mint to defray the expense of executing the medal, and, if so, on what date?
6. Has any demand been made by the Imperial authorities, or by the authorities of the Royal Mint, for the funds necessary to defray the expense of striking the medal; and, if so, on what date?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). 1. Yes. The obverse will bear the effigy of the Queen and will be similar to that now borne on the India (1895) medal. The reverse will consist of a wreath of Canadian maple, with the Canadian flag and a ribbon or scroll, bearing on it the word "Canada." Approved on the 22nd November, 1898. 2. Yes. 22nd November, 1898. 3. Yes. The approval is contained in War Office letter of the 25th February, 1899. 4. Yes, by the Imperial authorities, as intimated in War Office letter of the 22nd February, 1899. 5. No. 6. No.

## RAILWAY SUBSIDIES, 1896.

Mr. FOSTER asked :

1. What are the items that go to make up the sum of \$3,228,745 represented as paid out in the year 1896, under the heading of "Railway Subsidies" in Public Accounts, 1898, page XVa ?

2. Did the item of \$2,394,000, North Shore Railway interest of the province of Quebec, represented as paid out, form a part of the \$44,096,383 total disbursements of the year 1896, and of the \$7,477,793, the difference between receipts and expenditures of the same year ?

3. Was the sum of \$2,394,000, or any part of it, actually paid out in 1896, to the Government of Quebec as a railway subsidy ?

4. If not, was the interest paid thereon, and to what item was it debited ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding. 1. :

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Atlantic and North-western Railway.               | \$186,600 00 |
| Beauharnois Junction Railway .....                | 3,500 00     |
| Cominlon Coal Company.....                        | 55,808 00    |
| Great Northern Railway.....                       | 32,000 00    |
| Lake Témiscamingue Railway.....                   | 17,900 75    |
| New Glasgow Iron, Coal and Ry. Co.                | 1,440 00     |
| Oshawa Railway and Navigation Co..                | 22,400 00    |
| Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound<br>Railway ..... | 80,000 00    |
| Parry Sound Colonization Railway...               | 24,800 00    |
| Quebec Central Railway.....                       | 288,000 00   |
| Quebec and Lake St. John Railway..                | 3,744 00     |
| St. Stephen and Milltown Railway..                | 9,635 89     |
| Tilsonburg, Lake Erie and Pacific Ry.             | 51,200 00    |
| Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Ry..                | 4,790 00     |
| United Counties Railway.....                      | 52,926 85    |

\$ 834,745 49

Amount placed to credit of Quebec  
Government—

Railway subsidy account..... 2,394,000 00

\$3,228,745 49

2. The \$2,394,000 carried to the credit of the Quebec railway subsidy account forms part of the \$44,096,383.92, total disbursements of the year 1896, and of \$7,477,793.20, the difference between the receipts and expenditures of the same year, as shown in the Public Accounts of 1898, page XVa and XVb.

3. The sum of \$2,394,000 was not paid to the province of Quebec in cash, but was placed at the credit of that province by being charged to consolidated fund and credited to Quebec railway subsidy account, in accordance with the Act 57-58 Vic., chapter 5. 4. The amount, \$2,394,000, having been placed to the credit of the province, interest was paid thereon and charged to interest on public debt each year.

### LOCK LABOURERS, BEAUHARNOIS CANAL.

Mr. BERGERON asked :

1. When were Joseph Lefebvre, Edmond Emond, Marcellin Bourque, Damien Cardinal, Damase Hainault, Joseph Julien, André Hébert, Hyacinthe Dandurand, appointed as lock labourers on the Beauharnois Canal ?

2. At what lock were they named ?

3. Are they still employed ?

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

4. By whom have they been dismissed, and on whose recommendation ?

5. Why have they been discharged ?

6. Had they been notified of their dismissal, by whom, and when ?

7. What are the names of the men who have replaced those above named ?

8. By whom were they recommended ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). 1 and 2. Joseph Lefebvre was appointed lockmaster at lock No. 10 in May, 1886; Edmond Emond was appointed assistant lockmaster at lock No. 7 in June, 1889; Marcellin Bourque, appointed assistant lockmaster at lock No. 8, May, 1894; Damien Cardinal, appointed assistant lockmaster at lock No. 9, April, 1896; Damase Henault, appointed assistant lockmaster at lock No. 10, June, 1871; Joseph Julien, appointed assistant lockmaster at lock No. 12, September, 1880; André Hébert, appointed assistant lockmaster at lock No. 12, August, 1886; Hyacinthe Dandurand, appointed assistant lockmaster at lock No. 13, June, 1889. 3. No, they are not. 4. By the order of the Minister. 5. They were discharged because their services were not acceptable. 6. Instructions were given to Mr. Marceau, to notify them, on the 5th of May. 7. C. Trepanier, appointed in place of E. Emond; A. Boyer, appointed in place of M. Bourque; Joseph Lynch, appointed in place of D. Cardinal; E. Lebeuf, appointed in place of Jos. Lefebvre; W. Lalonde, appointed in place of D. Henault; Joseph Dubois, appointed in place of Jos. Julien; D. Paquette, appointed in place of André Hébert; D. Poirier, appointed in place of H. Dandurand. 8. They were recommended by persons in whom the department had confidence.

### PROPOSED PACIFIC CABLE.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I want to call the attention of the Government to an article that appears in the "Citizen" of Tuesday last, as follows :

London, May 15.—The Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, had a conference to-day on the subject of the proposed Pacific cable, with Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal, the High Commissioner of Canada, and other colonial agents-general, who presented certain modifications of the original proposals. Mr. Chamberlain promised that they should receive the best consideration.

Has the Government modified its proposals for the construction of a Pacific cable in the manner here specified, and if so, what are the reasons ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The Government have received no such information as is mentioned in the extract from the newspaper just read, nor do I believe that Lord Strathcona has authorized or suggested any modification of the plan accepted three years ago by the

Imperial committee, and the Government does not intend to depart from this plan.

Mr. SPEAKER. I am afraid I will have to call the attention of hon. members of the House again to the fact that, on Wednesday, the Orders of the Day are not called until a little later.

#### DAM ACROSS RIVER JÉSUS AND CONSTRUCTION OF FISHWAY.

Mr. THOMAS FORTIN (Laval) moved for :

Copies of all papers, plans, maps, reports of fishery officers, correspondence and other documents relating to the existence of a dam across River Jésus, near the town of Terrebonne, and the construction of a fishway therein according to the requirements of the law.

He said : Mr. Speaker, the object of this motion is to call the attention of the Government and the attention of this House to a condition of things which, in my humble opinion, should not be allowed to exist any longer. It is well known to the members of this House that the river referred to in my motion, is one of the most beautiful rivers in the vicinity of Montreal, that the town of Terrebonne and the villages above on both sides of the river constitute one of the best summer resorts of the whole district of Montreal, and that a good many of the citizens of Montreal are going out there to spend the summer season. That river has also been, for many years, considered one of the best rivers for fishing and sporting purposes. For years it has been looked upon as one of the best fishing places in the district of Montreal. Now, it appears, in the year 1891 or 1892 a dam was built across the north channel of that river near Terrebonne by the Estate Masson for the purpose of obtaining motive power for mills which belong to that estate. Such a dam existed for several years before, but it was so constructed as not to obstruct the passage of fish. The last dam that was built was placed right across the north channel of the river, at right angles, obstructing the main channel of the river between the mainland and an island. From that time up to the present the fish have greatly diminished in quantity and in species, above this dam. It is apparent to all those who used to go on that river for sporting purposes and it is apparent to those farmers and others who live along the river and who, in former years, used to take a sufficient quantity of fish for food purposes, that since the existence of that dam the quantity of fish is nothing as compared with what it was formerly. In 1892, if my memory serves me right, a fish inspector was appointed who resided in Ste. Rose. The fish inspector was specially requested to make an examination of the dam in question and of both channels of the river—because there is a south channel on the other side of the island—and to make a special report to the

Department of Marine and Fisheries. If my information is correct, he drew the attention of the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) to the dam and declared, positively, that until such dam would be either removed or until a fishway would be constructed in such a dam, no fishing could be expected in all the localities above as far as Lake of Two Mountains. The following year, in response to an official circular issued by the Department of Marine and Fisheries, the inspector made exactly a similar report calling the attention of the Department of Marine and Fisheries to the existence of the dam. His name is Mr. Damien Filiatrault, and as he was a great fisherman himself he took an interest in the matter. In 1896, when the present Government came into power I also took an interest in this matter for a very good reason. I do not believe, Mr. Speaker, that there can be any better sport than fishing and shooting. The hon. member for Terrebonne (Mr. Chauvin), who lives in my neighbourhood in Ste. Rose, can bear out my declaration that this is the main sport all along that river from Terrebonne to Lake of Two Mountains. I, also, take a great interest in all that relates to the catching of fish and the killing of game, and I hope, Mr. Speaker, that I may live some few years more to enjoy the same sport. Therefore, I came to call upon the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries early in 1896, after the present Government had come in power, and I inquired what means, if any, had been taken by the Government to have either the dam opened or constructed in such a way as to allow fish to ascend the river. After some verbal and written communication I received an answer from the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) on the 9th of June, 1897, as follows :—

Ottawa, 9th June, 1897.

Dear Sir,—Since you were here on the subject of a dam over the River Jésus, I have examined the files more closely, and I see that before the Masson Estate will permit an order to establish fishways to be carried out there will be a lawsuit, and as the question of who has jurisdiction over these inland waters, whether the Dominion or provincial governments, is now on appeal to the Privy Council, I do not feel disposed to take any steps which would involve a decision of the local courts with a great deal of expense, until the Privy Council gives judgment. The question, therefore, of the removal of the dam or the provision of proper fishways cannot prudently be approached until that judgment is delivered.

I regret the delay, but, as you will see, it would be folly to take any steps until the question of jurisdiction is determined.

Yours faithfully,

L. H. DAVIES.

I accepted this reason as a good one, and still believe that no more proper answer could have been given, but the decision of the Privy Council was given subsequently. Again I wrote and the answer came, signed by the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries, in the following terms :—

Ottawa, 20th July, 1898.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 15th ultimo, asking if this department is now in a position, under the recent decision of the Privy Council in the fisheries case, to exact the construction of a fishway in the dam belonging to the Masson Estate on River Jésus, I beg to inform you that as soon as possible the Minister will go fully into the several points affected by the Privy Council decision, with representatives from the local government, so as to arrive at a proper understanding with regard to the extent of jurisdiction held by the respective governments. The question of fishways will be one of the matters for consideration, and you will be duly advised of the decision arrived at.

Yours faithfully,

F. GOURDEAU,  
Deputy Minister.

This was on the 20th July, 1898. Since then I saw by the newspaper reports that conferences have taken place between the provincial authorities and the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Although I have had occasion to meet the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries several times and to speak of the matter to him, I have heard nothing at all about this question of constructing fishways. I cannot say that I have examined very carefully the decision of the Privy Council, but I have had an opportunity of reading a copy of the judgment, and if I understand aright that decision, it is made very clear that while the ownership of the fisheries belongs to the provinces, the Dominion Parliament has power and authority to control the exercise or the use of that ownership. In other words, the Dominion Government has the right to see to the preservation of fish, to the regulations as to the close season, and to see that licenses are not issued which will come into conflict with the powers that are to be exercised by the Dominion Government. There are other questions which have been answered by the Privy Council, but they have no reference to the subject matter at issue now. Under this decision of the Privy Council, it seems to me that it belongs to this Government to see that there shall be no obstacle in navigable waters, or in lakes or elsewhere, by which the existence of any kind of fish in these waters would be terminated. It seems to me, that such powers belong to the Government now, and it rests with the Federal Government to take the necessary steps to have these obstacles removed. There can be no more flagrant case of obstruction than the one to which I refer. Here is a river the main channel of which is undoubtedly obstructed by that dam. It may be said that there is on the south end of the dam, near the island, a vacant space of from probably ten to twelve yards, and that that is sufficient for the fish to ascend up the river. Now, that vacant space only exists in high water. There is no such vacant space when the water is low, so that this answer to the objection would only be good for a portion of the sum-

Mr. FORTIN.

mer. Another answer which may be given is, that the large species of fish, such as the catfish, maskinongé, and sturgeon only ascend these rivers in the spring, but it is well known to any one who is experienced in the matter, that these large fish always ascend the river in the main channel where the water is deepest. The channel which is obstructed by the dam is exactly the spot where such fish would ascend. I have been living in Ste. Rose, on the banks of that river since 1885, and I distinctly remember that from 1885 up to about the time that dam was constructed, which I think was in 1891, big catfish weighing some forty pounds were caught in that river. I remember also having seen big sturgeon weighing sixty pounds caught in that river, prior to the existence of that dam, but no such fish can be seen above that dam now, and not a single one of them have been seen for several years.

Mr. CHAUVIN. I would ask the hon. gentleman, in what year was the dam on this side of the river near St. François de Sales, in Laval County, constructed?

Mr. FORTIN. I cannot give the exact date, but I can tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Chauvin) that it has been ascertained by the fishery officer, Mr. Filiatreault, that the Meunier dam which exists on the south channel of the river opposite Terrebonne, is no obstruction to the fish going up that river. I think the papers when brought down will show that Mr. Filiatreault was sent there in August, 1893, or 1894, to make a special examination, and if my memory serves me right. I think there are other documents in the department which show that some other officers have been sent, and they have all reported that the Masson dam was the dam which obstructed the fish on their way up the river. Now, Mr. Speaker, if the proper authority rests with the Government, I wish the Government would take action and enforce the provisions which are to be found in the Fisheries Act, especially section 13. It is therein provided especially:

Every dam, slide, or other obstruction across or in any stream where the Minister of Marine and Fisheries determines it to be necessary for the public interest that a fish-pass should exist, shall be provided by the owner or occupier with a durable and efficient fishway, which shall be maintained in practical and effective condition, in whatever place and of whatever form and capacity will admit of the passage of fish through the same; and the place, form and capacity of the fishway may be prescribed by any fishery officer by notice in writing.

Then a penalty is enacted for the violation of this provision. Another subsection says that fishways must be kept open and unobstructed, and shall be supplied with a certain quantity of water to fulfil the purposes of this enactment. Subsection 4 says that the Minister may—he is not bound to, as will be noticed:

The Minister may authorize the payment of one-half of the expense incurred by such owner or occupier in constructing and maintaining any fishway.

Subsection 5 says :

'The Minister, in order to procure the construction of any fishway, pending proceedings against any owner or occupier for the penalty imposed by this Act, may give directions to make and complete the same forthwith, and may authorize any person to enter upon the premises with the necessary workmen, means and materials, and may recover from the owner or occupier the whole expense so incurred by action before any competent tribunal

There was objection taken, I believe, whether by this Government or a former Government I do not know, that it was not very clear as to who would bear the expense of constructing this fishway, but it seems to me that by section 5 it is made clear that the cost of constructing this fishway can be recovered entirely from the owner or occupier of the dam. Mr. Speaker, these are about all the observations that I have to make on this subject. I think I have said enough to draw the attention of the House and of the Government to this matter. It seems to me absolutely unfair and unjust, that the people living above Terrebonne should be deprived of the natural benefit to which they have a right by the existence of that river, for the sake of the benefit which may be derived by the Estate Masson. I have nothing to say against the Estate Masson, or any members of that very respectable family, but it seems to me they should have no monopoly in any navigable streams or rivers, and that they have no right to deprive the public of the benefit to which they ought to be entitled. I do not see why that dam should not be constructed as it was formerly. It may be a little more expensive to construct a dam lengthwise ascending the river, but I am told by engineers that the motive power resulting from the head of such a quantity of water, would not be diminished in any way if the dam were so constructed. This would leave a proper channel for the fish to go up, and it would remove the subject of complaint to which I am now referring. If the decision of the Privy Council is as clear as I think it to be upon the subject, I hope the Government will lose no time in taking immediate proceedings to remove this obstacle, and I trust they will not defer it for months, nor even for weeks. We who live up the river, the inhabitants of the village and parish of Ste. Rose, the inhabitants of the village and parish of Ste. Thérèse, the inhabitants of the village and parish of St. Eustache, have a legitimate right to whatever fish may ascend from the St. Lawrence and are liable to be caught in that river. It is totally unjust on the part of the Masson Estate, or of any other estate or person, that they should obstruct the navigable rivers over which this Government has

the control of as regards the fishing. I repeat the hope, that the Government will see its way to take immediate proceedings in order to have that dam either demolished, or a proper and efficient fishway constructed therein. As regards fishways, I know that a good deal of them are hardly worth anything. I dare say that the department may have in its possession such information as will enable it to have these fishways properly constructed, and prevent the construction of these mock machines which are not worthy of bearing the name of fishways.

Mr. L. A. CHAUVIN (Terrebonne). The Department of Marine and Fisheries will find its way clear to decide in favour of the people of Terrebonne on this question, because as a matter of fact, the Masson estate dam there has a fishway already constructed, and that fishway has been accepted by the Government fishery inspector. The department is in possession of the report of the inspector, Mr. Lauzon, who accepted the fishway constructed on the Masson estate dam.

Mr. FORTIN. Will the hon. gentleman tell me when that fishway was constructed?

Mr. CHAUVIN. It was constructed at the same time as the dam was, in 1891 or 1892.

Mr. FORTIN. You are misinformed.

Mr. CHAUVIN. I am well informed, and the department will see that there is a report of Fishery Inspector Lauzon establishing that the fishway is according to the regulations of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and is accepted by that department. That dam is constructed in a part of the river between the island and the shore of Terrebonne, which is the narrowest branch of the river, and on the other side of the island, between that island and St. Francis de Sales, in the county of Laval, which is the largest branch of the river, there is opposite to that dam of the Estate Masson, another dam called the Meunier dam, in which there is no fishway at all. That dam, the hon. member for Laval (Mr. Fortin) did not complain about, but as a matter of fact it has been constructed of recent date, and it obstructs the whole of the river there. One end of that dam touches the shore of Laval County, and the other end touches the island of the Masson estate. The first dam of the Masson estate was constructed in 1803 or 1804, and was without a fishway; but it was demolished, and another one was built in 1891 or 1892, and was constructed with a fishway, which, at the time, was accepted by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. The Masson estate claims that it has followed the regulations of the Department of Fisheries; and, if there is anything defective in that fishway, it is ready to make it conform with the regulations of the department. We contend that we have com-

piled with the law, and that there is nothing wrong on our side of the river. If there are any who did not comply with the law, it was those who constructed the dam on the other side of the river, the Laval side. I do not see why my hon. friend from Laval (Mr. Fortin) looks only to our side, and not to his side. We have a fishway on our side, and there is none on his side. The river is completely obstructed by that Meunier dam, which is a new one; and, as I say, that is the principal branch of the river, and the principal passage way for fish.

(Translation.) The best evidence that such was the case, namely, that the fish passed on the other side of the river is to be found in the fact that, when the people of Terrebonne wished to catch shad, for instance, they had to cross over to the other side of the island, as the fish were going up on the other side.

Let my hon. friend from Laval (Mr. Fortin) allow me to tell him that if he pretends that the fish has greatly diminished in quantity and in species, as he told us, since 1891 or 1892, the Masson estate is not to blame for it; because, as I have previously stated, they have complied with the requirements of the Act, by establishing a fishway when they built their dam over the river, thus permitting the passage of the fish up the river; while, on the other hand, at the very time when the hon. member for Laval states that the fish diminished in quantity at Ste. Rose and St. Eustache, there was another dam built, called the Meunier dam, one end of which touches the shore of Laval County and the other touches the island of the Masson estate, thus obstructing the whole stream there, which, as I said, is the largest branch of the River Jésus. That dam is still in existence there, and the owners of that dam have not built any fishway, thus failing to comply with the requirements of the Act, contrary to what we have done on our side, and so they prevent the fishermen of Ste. Rose and St. Eustache indulging in their favourite sport, as the fish do not ascend the river in sufficient numbers.

When I heard the hon. member for Laval speak on that matter, I was forcibly reminded of Cato's "delenda carthago." The hon. gentleman, as is well known, is a great fisherman before God and before men, but I think, on this occasion, he is more likely trying to fish for votes. I am even afraid he is fishing in troubled waters, because, like the man in the bible, he sees a mote in his neighbour's eye, but does not see a beam in his own. The dam which was built on the shore of the county of Terrebonne is provided with a fishway, according to the requirements of the law, whilst the dam across the other side of the river, contiguous to the county of Laval, was not built according to the law, as it was not provided with a fish-pass. Fortunately, the fish are clearer-sighted than the hon. member for Laval, and I may also say that the department is better posted on those mat-

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ters than the hon. gentleman, as it is stated by the fish Inspector Lauzon in his report that the dam alluded to was properly constructed, according to the requirements of the law, contrary to the statement of the hon. gentleman from Laval.

The hon. gentleman might well follow the example of King Xerxes who, incensed at the billows which had destroyed a portion of his fleet, ordered his soldiers to take up whips and to belabour the sea. I think the hon. gentleman might well arm himself and arm the department with whips and thrash both sides of the river, at the same time endeavouring to build a fishway on the side of St. Francis de Sales, so as to allow the fish to go up the river as was the case formerly, and snap at the bait of the great fisherman of Ste. Rose, among others; as the fish do not go up that part of the river in his county, in sufficient numbers to please the hon. gentleman.

Before resuming my seat, I wish to tell the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) that if he takes the trouble to look into the records of his department, he will find that the Masson estate has complied with the requirements of the law. But should it be shown that the fishway referred to was not built according to the requirements of the statute, we are ready to fully comply with the same.

Motion agreed to.

#### IMPROVEMENTS OF PORT COLBORNE AND PORT DALHOUSIE.

Mr. WM. McCLEARY (Welland) moved:

That inasmuch as there has been expended by the Federal Government of Canada, on the canals of the Dominion, up to the 30th June, 1898, \$73,772,622, and of this amount there has been expended for construction and enlargement of the Welland Canal, \$23,806,459, it is the opinion of this House that having regard to this large expenditure, which constitutes a heavy charge on the revenues of the country, that if the harbour of Port Colborne, on Lake Erie, at the southern end of the Welland Canal, and the harbour of Port Dalhousie, on Lake Ontario, at the northern end of same canal, were improved and sufficient elevator facilities provided so that large lake carriers could enter, it would not only give the most rapid and the cheapest route for the products of the great west to tide-water in the east, but as well utilize the water-way already provided at the large cost to the country above stated.

He said: Since I put this motion on the Order paper, Mr. Speaker, some time ago, deputations have waited on the Government, representing the various boards of trade in the towns and cities along the lines of the Welland Canal, and have set forth to the Government the objects embodied in this resolution. I ask the concurrence of the House to this motion, because I believe it is one of great importance to this country, affecting, as it does, the financial interests and the vested interests of Canada. The fact that

these deputations interviewed certain members of the Government and placed before the Government fully the views I hold with regard to this matter, relieves me from dwelling on it at any great length, and I shall, therefore, endeavour to be as brief as possible in the remarks I feel called upon to make.

The transportation question is one that for years past has been foremost in the minds of the business community of this country. Both this Government and its predecessors have given a great deal of attention to it, and spent much of the people's money in advancing and improving our transportation facilities, but at no time in the history of our country has this question been more prominently before the people than it is now. Any one who, fifty years ago, looked over the map of the then province of Ontario and the great North-west, saw that the shortest and the best connection that could be made between the great inland seas on the west and tide water in the east, was to cut a channel across the Niagara peninsula. That was done some fifty years ago, and since then the Government of our country have, from time to time, spent large amounts of money in keeping in order, repairing, rebuilding and improving this Welland Canal, until now we have fourteen feet of water in that water-way. My contention is that Port Colborne, which stands at the head of our canal system, is the only port which opens up the traffic of the great west to tide-water, as a through water route. It will not be contended, I think, by any person that an all-water route is not much cheaper than an all-rail route, or a combined rail and water route. Let me give you an example. A vessel takes on her cargo at either Port Arthur or Chicago. Say she takes on cargo at Chicago. From Chicago to Buffalo by rail is 540 miles, and via Lake Michigan is 900 miles. Yet the rate per rail average 6 cents per bushel, while the water rate averages from 1 to 1½ cents per bushel, thus giving a preference in favour of the water-way of from 4½ to 5 cents a bushel. Wheat is shipped from California by Cape Horn to Europe for one-seventh of the cost of shipment from California across the United States, to New York, although the distance is less than one-fifth from California to New York than from California to Europe.

Besides Port Colborne, which is the head of our canal system, is nearer Montreal than any port on the Georgian Bay. From Port Colborne to Montreal there are 70 miles of canal and 300 miles of open lake and river navigation. Wheat is carried from Chicago or Port Arthur just as cheaply as to a Georgian Bay point, but with this greater advantage, that whereas a vessel going from Port Arthur or Chicago to a Georgian Bay port has no return cargo, if it goes to Port Colborne or Buffalo, in nine cases out of ten, it will have a return cargo. Let us see what would be the difference in the earnings of a vessel that would go to a Georgian Bay point

and unload and a vessel that would go to Port Colborne and unload. She leaves Port Arthur, say, with 220,000 bushels of wheat, the freight is one cent per bushel, or \$2,200. She would have a return cargo, say, of 7,100 tons, at 40 cents freight, or \$2,840, making the gross earnings for the return trip, \$5,040. Deducting for expenses, \$1,000, that leaves \$4,040 as the net earnings on the round trip to Port Colborne and back. But if she went to a Georgian Bay port, with a cargo of 220,000 bushels, she would earn just \$2,200, and deducting \$800 for expenses, would have a net earning of \$1,400. Her earnings, therefore, as compared with Port Colborne trip, would be the difference between \$4,040 and \$1,400, or \$2,640. Therefore, you will see that as a matter of earning power for vessels, Port Colborne stands far superior to any harbour on the Georgian Bay. But those who are contending that Georgian Bay should be the head of deep water navigation say that to go by the Welland Canal involves the long haul and occupies several days more. But, as a matter of fact, it does not take up so much more time after all. A few days ago the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), and the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) were in Toronto, and were interviewed by the members of the board of trade and had a pleasant time. The hon. Minister of Public Works, in reply to certain intimations that were made to him by gentlemen present at their lunch, intimated that he might be favourable to what is known as the air line railway. At least, the newspapers of Toronto took it for granted that he had committed himself and the Government and the country to that, and all the papers, not the Grit papers nor the Tory papers alone, but all, took this up as something that would be a great boon for Toronto. Now, these papers, in declaring in favour of this air line railway, tell us that this long haul is going to destroy the navigation trade by the Welland Canal, that it makes a difference of 400 miles. As a matter of fact, it does not make a difference of 400 miles. The mileage from Port Arthur to Port Colborne is 852 miles, and from Port Colborne to Montreal 370, a total of 1,222. From Port Arthur to Collingwood is 538 miles. This air line railway, no matter how directly it goes, cannot be less than seventy miles to Toronto, and the distance from Toronto to Montreal is 344, or a total of 952 miles. The difference, therefore, is 270 miles, instead of 400 miles. That means about a day or a day and a half for a boat. But, when she gets to Port Colborne, if coal is not there for her to load, she has only twenty miles for to go to get it, and it is put on the boat free of cost. And so she returns, as I have shown, with a net amount to her credit of \$2,600 more than if she had unloaded at any of the Georgian Bay ports.

Now, I have nothing to say against the anxiety of these people in Toronto and the people on Georgian Bay to get the Government to spend money in their interest. All the ports of Georgian Bay, such as Midland, Collingwood, Owen Sound and Warton have railway connection. If they can get boats to come in there and unload their cargoes, and the railway take them in, well and good. But I submit that this House and this Government have no right to expend public money in developing new avenues of trade until we are satisfied that the avenues on which we have spent millions of the people's money cannot only be made the cheapest, but the best and quickest way of transporting great products of the west to tide-water in the east. They say we have lost our trade by the Welland Canal, that we have allowed the trade to go by us to Buffalo. That is simply due to the fact that the Welland Canal has not been completed and the St. Lawrence canals have not been completed. A great deal of money was spent on the Welland Canal, but knowing that canal as I do, I am here to say that that canal has never come up to the expectations of the Government that spent the money, and has certainly not fulfilled what was expected of it by the people of this country. I have not a word to say in condemnation of the work. I think that every dollar spent on the Welland Canal was well spent. But when you come to the head of the canal at Port Colborne, what do you find? You find that if the water is low in Lake Erie, instead of having fourteen feet on the mitre sills, you have only thirteen feet. A vessel comes in there drawing fourteen feet of water. She has either to stay there until the water rises in the lake to get into the canal where there is fourteen feet, or she has to go to an elevator and lighten part of her cargo of grain, to be brought to Port Dalhousie for the munificent amount of 2 cents a bushel. So, that canal has been handicapped because the harbour of Port Colborne never has been in a proper condition. Trade has gone by Port Colborne and gone to Buffalo because vessels were afraid to make Port Colborne harbour in any sort of bad weather. Port Colborne practically has no harbour. She ought to have a breakwater. And in this connection, I am very glad to see that the Government has placed in the Estimates a considerable sum for this purpose. My only object in speaking of this question now is to endeavour to have the Government proceed immediately with the expenditure of this money and put the harbour of Port Colborne in such a position that any vessel coming down the lakes drawing twenty or twenty-one feet of water may come in there. But they say to us: What is the use of going into Port Colborne with twenty feet of water when you have only fourteen feet in the Welland Canal? Well, Sir, it is proposed—and I believe that there

Mr. McCLEARY.

are business men who have got their heads together for that purpose—to construct elevators at Port Colborne. There is an elevator there at present, but it is of antediluvian date, and not at all capable of doing anything like the business required of an elevator that should be prepared to unload cargoes of 250,000 or 260,000 bushels. If elevators were built at Port Colborne, there will be no trouble whatever in getting barges that would carry from 80,000 to 90,000 bushels down the Welland Canal on fourteen feet of water and go on to Montreal—that is, as soon as the lower canals are finished. First and foremost, however, Port Colborne harbour should be put in proper condition to receive a vessel. The money that has been put in the Estimates for this purpose this year is hardly sufficient, however, I think, to do anything like what ought to be done in this regard. Then, we want an up-to-date canal; we want it to be under the right kind of management. The truth is, that our Welland Canal has become unpopular with vessel owners. I know something of the opinion of vessel men in this regard. Wherever the canal crosses a roadway, the Government have placed their swing bridges on piers right in the centre of a canal, and, if a vessel coming down, towed by a tug, sheers a little bit to one side, if she knocks a sliver off a binder or strikes the piling, why, she is either tied up until she pays the damages, or she has to pay at once whatever may be demanded of her. If she knocks a stone out of the wall, she is charged for it. I think the Government ought to be above that kind of thing; it is too small and nigardly a principle for the Government of Canada to follow. These complaints are not of recent date, but there has always been trouble of that kind. Then, the operation of the locking is not satisfactory. In shutting or opening the gates the lock tender with lever in hand has to run around in a circle, reminding you of the old horse power used on the ancient threshing machines, and it takes them as long to open and shut the gates as it does to fill a lock. If the Welland Canal was put in an up-to-date condition in the way of operating it, and if Port Colborne harbour was deepened and widened, and a breakwater placed there, so that vessels could have security in entering, there can be no doubt, in my mind at least, that much of the traffic that is now going to Buffalo would go through the Welland Canal. If we were in that position, what would be the result? There are now tied up in Buffalo in the neighbourhood of 100 boats because of the strike going on amongst the shovellers, and a great deal, if not all, of that trade would go through the Welland Canal. But we are not in a position to take it, simply because of the slowness of the locking, and because of the inadequate condition of affairs at the harbour of Port Colborne. I had a lot of

suggestions to make to the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), but, although I have had no conversation with him on this question, I think that he already sees the necessity of doing something, a necessity that must strike every one who is not interested in some local scheme. The Welland Canal is the only route by which the great traffic of the lakes to the west and to the north must be carried to tide-water in the east; there can be no question about this. Take, for instance, the conclusions that were reached by the Deep Waterways Commission appointed by the late Government in 1895 and by the United States Government. The United States Government appointed a Deep Waterway Commission, who are now investigating that question, and Congress appropriated nearly half a million dollars for that purpose. They have already agreed that the Welland Canal route, no matter whether an all-Canadian route would be taken, or a route part Canadian and part American—they have all agreed that the Welland Canal is the only route that would be feasible. Therefore, I think it becomes the imperative duty of the Government at once to direct their energies to putting this link which connects the upper lakes with Lake Ontario, in such a condition that it will gather in, as we all expected and hoped it would years ago, the bulk of the traffic of the great lakes to the west. There is an enormous traffic going through those inland seas, Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan and Lake Erie. Over 40,000,000 tons were moved last year, and that means nearly the combined tonnage of Liverpool and London, the two great commercial centres of Europe, I may say. Therefore, I repeat, that it becomes our duty, as Canadians, not to lose one hour, if possible, in putting ourselves in a position to take our share of that which nature has provided us the facilities of taking, by putting in proper shape and condition the route which nature originally intended, and letting loose the vessels that are locked up in the upper lakes on account of the Niagara Falls. Then, we have our money invested there, and that is another thing, and we ought to guard against dealing with this great question in the style of ward politicians in towns and cities, where one ward is working against another ward. I am not speaking for any locality. I am not speaking for Port Colborne because it happens to be in my constituency, but I am speaking for all the people of the Dominion of Canada, because it is the money of the whole country that is invested in the Welland Canal, as well as in all the other canals under the charge of this Government, and these latter are of little use unless the Welland Canal is put in a proper condition. I hope that the Government will at once take steps to carry out these ideas which I have placed before the House in so fragmentary

a manner, if not this summer, as early thereafter as possible.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I must apologize to my hon. friend for having been absent at the moment when he made this motion. I allowed myself to be called away, under the impression that other intervening motions would have occupied the time, and that I would have been able to return before this particular subject was reached. I am bound to say, Mr. Speaker, from my understanding of the general situation, and from the knowledge I have acquired by personal visit and examination of the Welland Canal, that I agree almost entirely with what the hon. gentleman has stated to the House. My own conclusion was, from the examination to which I refer, and which I made some months after I entered the department, that it was imperatively necessary that steps should be taken at the earliest possible date to improve the shipping facilities in order to utilize that canal to better advantage. My first feeling was, that, unless we were able to deepen the entrance at Port Colborne, we would probably accomplish very little by making any other improvements. The deepening of the entrance at that point and the construction of a breakwater, or the improvement of the harbour in some other form, seemed to me absolutely indispensable if we were to put ourselves in a position in which we could, with a prospect of success at all events, compete with Buffalo harbour. I had concluded, and presented that view to my colleagues in Council, that it was necessary to deepen the entrance to the canal and construct a breakwater as a protection from the heavy storms, from the winds and seas at the head of the canal. There seemed to me to be no reason in the world why these improvements being made and others to which the hon. gentleman has referred, following up in due course and with all reasonable despatch, we might not—I perhaps would not reasonably hope for so large a portion as he does—be able to get a substantial portion of the Buffalo trade. We would be, by securing to ourselves from eighteen to twenty-foot navigation, at the entrance of the harbour, in as good a position as they are in Buffalo. We would not only have to compete with whatever disadvantages there may be in connection with the St. Lawrence route and advantages Buffalo would possess from the fact that it is now largely in control of that business, and that the shippers and others who carry on the largest portion of the grain trade are already established at Buffalo. These would be the only disadvantages under which we would labour, and I think there is good ground for the confident hope that we would make a serious inroad upon that traffic. Now, Sir, having that view, and succeeding, as I have done in impressing my colleagues with the soundness of it, a very

substantial sum has been put in the Estimates for the current year for the purpose of deepening the entrance to the canal. I am in hopes that the work will be completed during the present year. We are to proceed with all despatch in order to attain that end. We have in course of preparation specifications for the purpose so that there may be no delay in inviting tenders and having the work entered upon. A question, however, I think does legitimately arise as to whether or not it would be wise on the part of the Government to take up the work of providing elevator facilities, or whether it might not be more wisely and prudently left to private enterprise. I have not, myself, any doubt that, if we properly equip the canals, if we provide sufficient entrance and create a good safe harbour at that point and supplement that work with improvements at various points along the canal, we will find private enterprise equal to the other undertaking and taking up the work of building elevators and furnishing the necessary shipping facilities outside of that. I do not wish, in saying that, to be understood as expressing any final or conclusive opinion on the question. But, speaking at the moment, my opinion is that we will be able to count on private enterprise taking up that portion of the necessary work. As to the building of the breakwater and providing for the harbour, hon. members know that this is not within my jurisdiction. That work would not devolve upon my department, but the question is receiving the consideration of the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) and, perhaps, before the session is over, it will appear to the House the hon. gentleman has arrived at a conclusion himself upon the subject. I can only speak at the moment in regard to the particular work which comes within my own department. I am of the opinion, Mr. Speaker, that we cannot count with any great confidence, upon obtaining a better supply of water, or, I might put it more properly, or getting a greater depth of water than we now have. We can count, when the winds are favourable on the lakes, upon fourteen feet of water upon the mitre sill, but, when the winds are unfavourable, we cannot count upon more than thirteen feet, and there are occasions, when there is not even thirteen feet of water. I believe that we will cover the ground sufficiently for many years to come, if the elevator facilities are provided at the entrance, if the channel is deepened and the style of craft which will likely become in use on the lower stretches of the St. Lawrence is adopted, as I have no doubt they will be. Vessels drawing from thirteen to fourteen feet of water will be able, when the canal routes are entirely completed, and I hope they will be sufficiently completed for the purposes of navigation within a few weeks—the larger vessels which are now carrying the tonnage of the lakes will be

Mr. BLAIR.

able to go into Port Colborne as well as to go into Buffalo; they will then transfer to small crafts which will take the tonnage to Montreal, and, if we succeed in establishing this route, with a completed 14-foot navigation and make the improvements which the hon. gentleman (Mr. McCleary) has, to some extent, indicated to-day, upon the Welland Canal, we will stand in as good a position as we can hope to stand for many years to come. The question of deepening the Welland Canal has been somewhat discussed, but I think it is not a debatable question at present. I mean to say it is not a question we can consider as a practicable question now. That would mean, in my judgment, the practical construction of a new canal. We cannot deepen the present canal; it would be impossible to get over some of the obstacles with which the hon. gentleman is familiar and provide anything more than thirteen to fourteen feet of water. It would be necessary to practically construct a new canal, at all events, a large portion of it would need to be new so that the moneys necessary to do that would run up into the millions, \$25,000,000 or \$30,000,000 perhaps, would not more than suffice for the purpose. But we will be in as good a position when we get the Port Colborne entrance deepened as Buffalo will be in—I hope a better position, and I think we will then find it possible to complete for a substantial portion, at all events, of the carrying trade of the lake. I hope, Mr. Speaker, now that the hon. gentleman has, as I think, very properly called the attention of the House to this subject, he will permit the matter to drop at this stage, or, if he desires it, the debate could be adjourned, to be resumed later, if any object would be served by it. I will act upon whichever suggestion the hon. gentleman desires, either adjourn the debate or allow it to stand.

Mr. McCLEARY. I would prefer that the debate be adjourned, because there are other gentlemen who may wish to speak on the question.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I judged that perhaps there were none that desired to speak on the subject.

Mr. W. H. BENNETT (East Simcoe). Mr. Speaker, the constituency which I have the honour to represent is to a great extent interested in the transportation question; a question which to-day is probably one of the most important before the people of Canada; and, lest the debate, if adjourned, may not be reached again this session, I have a few remarks to make on the present occasion. The people of the United States, a good while ago, decided on a principle of transportation which is now carried out at the port of Buffalo, and which seems to be that you should carry the greatest possible quantities of grain at the greatest possible speed between two lake ports, and then, that with the quickest despatch that grain should be car-

ried on to tide-water. That principle has been demonstrated in the case of Buffalo, and the capitalists of the United States, backed by the Government of that country, have directed all their energies towards concentrating the trade of the western states at that port. We have seen the handling of grain at Buffalo increase with the growth of the western grain trade, until last year it reached the enormous figure of 260,000,000 bushels. I regret to say, that some 10,000,000 bushels of that was Canadian grain, and it is not a very inspiring sight to see our Canadian products of the North-west thus pass through a foreign channel. Former Parliaments and Governments of Canada, as well, indeed, as the present Government, have dealt and are dealing with this question on an entirely different basis from that pursued in the United States. The capitalists of Canada and the Government of Canada, have, from time to time, assumed, that the route for the transportation of grain should be through the Welland Canal, thence to Kingston or Prescott, and thence by smaller barges to the seaport of Montreal. The result of that is to-day most disappointing to Canadians, and notwithstanding the immense amount of capital that has been invested by the Government in the Welland Canal and other canals, we still see, to our regret, that an immense quantity of Canadian grain is passing through the port of Buffalo, while at Kingston and Prescott there is very little grain being handled. Within the past few years the Grand Trunk Railway Company, and Mr. J. R. Booth, of this city—whose enterprise is most commendable—have marked out an entirely different mode of transportation for our grain trade, from that which has been pursued by the Canadian Government in past years. The Grand Trunk Railway Company and Mr. Booth have, to some extent, acted on the American plan. They have apparently thought, and their action in investing their capital, supported their opinion, that the day has gone by to attempt to fight the Buffalo trade by carrying grain down the Welland Canal to Prescott or Kingston, and thence in barges to Montreal. The Minister (Mr. Blair) has stated—and it is a very desirable thing to look forward to—that he hopes within a few weeks our system of canals will be deepened to 14 feet. We will then have an opportunity of seeing whether or not that new departure will be a success. As I understand it, with our canals 14 feet deep, vessels can be loaded at Port Arthur, or Duluth, or Chicago, and proceed direct to Montreal; these vessels being capable of carrying about 60,000 bushels.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). From sixty to seventy thousand bushels.

Mr. BENNETT. Yes, but not beyond that quantity. It is now contended that the day has gone by for transporting grain on the upper lakes in vessels of the capacity of

only sixty or seventy thousand bushels. I and speaking for our own port of Midland, and the same also applies to Parry Sound, when I say, that a boat coming there with a capacity of 60,000 bushels, is a rare thing nowadays. Both of these ports are capable of accommodating the largest vessels plying on the lakes, and we have had the satisfaction of seeing at Midland, boats, not of 60,000 bushels capacity, but boats 450 feet in length and carrying 250,000 bushels of grain. When one considers the immense cargo of 250,000 bushels of grain, and the large number of boats on the upper lakes to-day, it must be seen that competition is, and has been, very keen—so much so, indeed, that it is not at all unusual during the summer months, when the rates of insurance are not high, to find the rate on grain from Chicago or Port Arthur to the port of Midland sometimes as low as  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent a bushel. When you consider that a boat that carries 60,000 bushels must, of necessity, employ a crew by night as well as by day, and that the crew of a boat of 250,000 bushels capacity is practically the same, you will see that, apart from the additional amount of coal required by the larger boat, the two boats are run at pretty much the same cost. For that reason—and it is being demonstrated every day—American capitalists are bidding good-bye to the building of crafts carrying only 60,000 bushels, and are investing in vessels carrying 250,000 bushels. It was stated, at what was known as the Deep Waterways Convention, that the time would arrive in Canada when a vessel would leave Port Arthur, Duluth, or some other of the upper lake ports, and, with an unbroken load of upwards of 200,000 bushels, pass, not only to the port of Montreal, but across the Atlantic to the port of Liverpool. I remember reading an account of that convention, at which Captain McDougall, of whaleback fame, was present; and, to the great grief, I presume, of the gentlemen advocating this great through route all the way to Liverpool or other European ports, he told them at once, that they must abandon that idea—that it would be the height of folly to attempt to take boats from Port Arthur and other upper lake ports clear through to Liverpool, owing to the fact that so much money would be invested in the boats, the crews employed would be so large, and the time spent in locking through the canals would be so great as to put the project out of the question. The general public, when they see a canal marked on a map, think that it is an uninterrupted water stretch. They do not consider that a canal means an enormous detention of the vessels passing through. I venture to say, that this House, in which there are so many gentlemen conversant with matters concerning their own constituencies or their own province, will rather be surprised to know that a boat carrying 60,000 bushels is lucky to-day, if it can be locked through the Wei-

land Canal in twenty hours. I may say, that the "Algonquin," a boat which created quite a sensation when she came out some years ago, takes upwards of twenty-four hours to lock through the Welland Canal on her down trips, and on the return trip an average of twenty hours. When you consider that the trip from Chicago to Midland or Parry Sound is made in fifty-two hours by the large vessels that ply on the lakes, you can see how much time is taken up in locking through the canal.

Mr. CLARKE. What is the time to Collingwood ?

Mr. BENNETT. The time taken to Collingwood is practically the same as to Parry Sound or Midland, that is, provided the vessel can get into Collingwood harbour, which she cannot do at present. I contend, therefore, in view of the statements of Captain McDougall and other gentlemen conversant with the carrying trade, that the idea of carrying grain through from Chicago to Liverpool is out of the question. We must consider whether or not it is going to pay to carry grain down the Welland Canal, and in turn, down the Cornwall Canal, when a uniform depth of 14 feet is established. Assuming that to be the case, we are going to carry from Port Arthur clear through to Montreal boats drawing 14 feet of water over the sills; and these boats will be capable of carrying from 60,000 to 70,000 bushels of grain. I do not know how many locks intervene after leaving Kingston and before reaching Montreal. I have been over some portions of the St. Lawrence Canal system, and it does seem to me, that, with the numerous locks that exist between Kingston and Montreal, we shall be in no position to fight the Buffalo trade.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). They have about the same number below as you have above, I think.

Mr. BENNETT. We will not, then, be in a position to fight the Buffalo trade. But we shall certainly be in a better position than we would have been in past years, with a depth of only 9 feet above the sills. Be that as it may, the great amount of money invested in the St. Lawrence Canal system is an accomplished fact; and, whether it fulfils all the expectations of the people of this country, apart from politics—because this is not a matter of politics, but a matter of great interest to the general public—we shall soon be in a better position with 14 feet of water than we have been in the past with 9 feet. There are a great many propositions to-day before the public; and I am glad to say, so far as the portion of the province of Ontario from which I come is concerned, we have nothing to ask from the Government except to promote an interest that will be beneficial, not only to us locally, but to the St. Lawrence system of canals.

Mr. BENNETT.

To my mind—as the Grand Trunk Railway Company, and Mr. Booth, and the gentleman associated with him in his railway, have laid down as a principle, which they are backing up with money—the proper way to make a bid, not only for the Canadian grain-carrying trade, but also for the trade, or a portion of the trade, that issues from Chicago or Duluth, is to carry it from a point on the Georgian Bay through to Montreal at the quickest possible speed, and then transfer it to ocean-going vessels.

Mr. POUPORE. Via the Ottawa River.

Mr. BENNETT. My hon. friend from Pontiac says, "Via the Ottawa River." I have only this to say, that I do not believe private capital will be got in the old country to embark in the enterprise of building the Ottawa River canal. I hope and trust it may come to the front; but I think the Parliament of Canada will hesitate before investing in that canal the large amount of money that would be necessary to build it, after our experience with the St. Lawrence Canals and the Welland Canal. We are, and have been, handicapped at the port of Montreal, and we shall be, I fear, for a great number of years be handicapped by the fact that the tonnage that passes from New York to the old country is so much greater than the tonnage that passes from Montreal to the old country; and, consequently, ocean rates must, of necessity, be higher, as they have been, from the port of Montreal than from the port of New York.

How is this condition of things to be met? In the first place, we must take advantage of all the natural advantages which we have at the port of Montreal. We are handicapped at Montreal, first, as I have said, in the greater freight rates across the Atlantic than those from New York. We are handicapped, next, by climatic conditions which prevent the port of Montreal being maintained and kept open all the year round, as, I believe, New York is. Then, at present—the hon. Minister will correct me, if I am wrong—a boat or barge goes to Montreal with a load of grain from Kingston or from Coteau Landing; that grain has to be transferred to an elevator; it is in turn transferred to a small barge, which is taken to the side of the ocean-going ship; and it is then transferred by means of a floating elevator to the ship. I think I am correct in that.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Yes, they have to transfer it by a floating elevator from one craft to the other.

Mr. BENNETT. We can easily realize the great cost of that handling. At the port of New York, as I understand it, the means of transshipping grain is altogether different. A train-load of cars is carried into a large elevator, the grain is transferred to the hopper of the elevator, and, while a portion of the cargo is transferred to the hopper, by

means of the elevator appliances it is being raised into the elevator and transferred to the ship. So that, at the port of Montreal to-day, there are two handlings, as against one handling at the port of New York. There is the same advantage at the port of Portland, to which the Grand Trunk Railway carries from the port of Midland, owing to the fact that it controls that whole system, a large quantity of grain during the winter months, when they cannot ship from the port of Montreal.

Under these circumstances, what is to be done? Until the trade of the country increases to larger proportions, so that our outgoing ocean freights from the port of Montreal will be as low as they are from the port of New York, we can hope for nothing better than we have at the present time. As to climatic adversities, we cannot hope to overcome them. To my mind, there is only one thing to be done, and that is this: endeavour to improve the elevator facilities at the port of Montreal. How that is to be done is, and should be, a serious question for Parliament. I do not assume that the Grand Trunk Railway people are going into extensive elevator improvements at the port of Montreal, owing to the fact that to-day they can handle a large part of their trade at Portland, which, as I understand, is only some 290 or 300 miles from Montreal. From all I have gleaned on the subject, I believe that it pays the Grand Trunk to carry grain from Midland to Portland, by reason of their superior elevator facilities there, rather than to take it to Montreal, where they have the double handling which I have described.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). Because they have bigger ships at Portland—that is the reason.

Mr. BENNETT. I cannot say as to the volume of shipping that comes into Portland, or whether the Portland rates are cheaper than the Montreal rates.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I think they do not send any grain to Portland in the summer season or while the St. Lawrence is open.

Mr. BENNETT. I think the hon. Minister is correct, that the Grand Trunk are not just now shipping to Portland a great deal of grain in the summer season; but they have erected at Portland an elevator having a capacity of over 1,000,000 bushels, and it is their policy, I understand, to fill that elevator in the fall of each year with grain brought from Midland, and ship it out in the winter, and also to store grain in the two large elevators now at Midland, having a capacity of upwards of 2,000,000 bushels, and from thence take it down to Portland. But I may say in this connection that while the Minister says that to-day they are not doing their summer business at that port, I would draw attention to this fact, that

some six months ago the board of trade of the city of Portland tendered Mr. Hays, general manager of the Grand Trunk Railway, a banquet and that in the course of his address Mr. Hays made this very striking statement, which affects particularly the interests of the port of Montreal. He said that it had been a cause of complaint by the people of Portland that while the Grand Trunk Railway afforded them a certain amount of trade at certain times of the year, that trade was not continued throughout the whole year, and he went on to add that more surprising things might happen than that the people of Portland might see a continuous grain trade at that port throughout the whole year. If his language bore out correctly his ideas, he intimated to the people of Portland that the Grand Trunk Railway, in all likelihood, would carry all their grain from Midland to Portland because of the superior shipping and elevator facilities of that port.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I understood that Mr. Hays afterwards questioned the accuracy of that report, and said he was not understood by the newspapers.

Mr. BENNETT. Possibly he was misreported on that occasion, and of course I am only speaking of what I saw in the public prints. But when one considers this fact, that there is an immense amount of expense in handling the trade at the port of Montreal and that when the grain is in the car at Montreal, by carrying it on an extra 300 miles to Portland, superior facilities would be afforded, it might be a question whether it would not be better to send the grain on to that port. As far as the trade that must go down the St. Lawrence canals is concerned, if it is successfully to cope with the advantages to-day possessed by Buffalo, then it must have the advantage of a superior mode of handling at Montreal. Often in conversation and in discussion on the transportation question, we are told that we can never hope to compete with the trade of Buffalo, because all vessels calling at Buffalo have the advantage of return freights, while those that go to ports on the Georgian Bay take in return comparatively little trade.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. There is only, after all, a moderate tonnage of back freight.

Mr. BENNETT. If any gentleman will stay over a day or two at Detroit or Windsor, he will find that vessel after vessel goes back up the lakes without any cargo at all, and when one considers the immense trade done in grain at Buffalo and the immense trade done at the different points along Lake Erie and Buffalo as well, he will see it would be an utter impossibility for the back freight, which, in the main, is made up of coal, to amount to anything compared

with the down freight. He will find that seven vessels out of ten that come down go back light. So that, as far as Georgian Bay ports are concerned, we are on a par, or nearly so, with Buffalo in that respect. Keeping in view the fact that the climatic influences are against us at Montreal, and that the freight rates to the old country are against us, and likely to be for many years to come, we are forced to the conclusion that we must take advantage of everything which money can give to bring the trade to Montreal. That can be best brought about by providing superior elevator accommodation. If I am not mistaken, the Canadian Pacific Railway have to-day an elevator at Montreal, into which they can take their cars and in turn discharge the grain into the ocean-going vessels. The great thing to be done to-day at Montreal is to provide superior elevator facilities such as exist at Baltimore, New York and Portland. Let those be common to the grain carriers that come down the lakes and the canal system and to the shippers. Let those be common to the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Booth system of railways, and also to the Grand Trunk Railway; and if we should have a greater output of grain from Montreal, the chances are that the freight rates to the old country, by reason of the increased demand for tonnage, will be lessened.

There is to-day another project before the people of Ontario, and that is the construction of a line of railway from some point on the Georgian Bay to Toronto, and then, in turn, handling the grain at that point by barges. But as this scheme is not in such a mature state to-day as to call for discussion, and as the Government are not prepared to come to its support and no capitalists appear ready to put their money into the enterprise, it would be inopportune, perhaps, for me to discuss it now.

I only wish to say, in conclusion, that I believe that the principle the Grand Trunk Railway Company have established and that Mr. Booth has established to-day is the right principle on which to fight the trade of Buffalo, and that is to carry the grain in vessels capable of holding a quarter of a million bushels or even more, because I believe that on the great lakes the day is not distant when we will have vessels carrying, not only a quarter of a million of bushels of grain, but 300,000 bushels. And when these vessels are brought to a lake port, then hurrying the grain across to the nearest tide-water point.

There are so many phases to this matter that one can hardly discuss them all in an off-hand debate, but when we consider all the advantages we have on the upper lakes as against Buffalo, we will find that we are in a position to fight that trade. Why, a vessel will make three trips from Chicago to Midland as against two from Chicago to Buffalo, and that is an immense factor in the transportation question. At

Mr. BENNETT.

first blush, on looking at the map, one would assume that a boat going to Buffalo runs at her full speed all the way; but that is a great mistake, because, owing to the artificial advantages or improvements that have been made on the St. Clair Flats, it is absolutely necessary there to slow down these large freighters from their ordinary fourteen or fifteen miles an hour to four miles an hour. I have followed out the figures with captains of boats plying into the port of Midland, and have found that a boat will make three trips from Chicago to Midland as against two from Chicago to Buffalo. And when you consider that in the fall of the year that freights are up to 5 or 6 cents a bushel, and that, by reason of the large cargo, the freights will amount to \$12,000 or \$15,000 per vessel, and when you consider that the round trip is made in five days, you will find that a vessel is worth \$3,000 or \$4,000 per day to her owner, and he can make three trips to Midland as against two down the lake to Buffalo.

Another point in that connection is this. From Buffalo to New York is not a greater distance than by either Parry Sound or Midland to Montreal.

Mr. COCHRANE. How many locks on the Erie Canal?

Mr. BENNETT. I am not in a position to say, but from the statistics of all the grain entering the port of New York, the Erie Canal only carries about 10 per cent. It is only fair to say that while between Parry Sound and Montreal and Midland and Montreal there is only one line of railway, there are seven or eight between Buffalo and New York, and of course, with that immense railway competition, freights will be less between Buffalo and New York than between Midland and the port of Montreal.

But Mr. Booth has demonstrated the possibility of carrying grain between Parry Sound and Montreal. Whether that has been a paying enterprise or not, I am not in a position to say; but there is this fact to be borne in mind: that last year Mr. Booth succeeded in carrying ten million bushels of grain by Parry Sound to Montreal. I believe that that was a quantity quite equal to that which went down the St. Lawrence Canals. Last year, owing to the increase of accommodation by elevators provided at the port of Midland, we shipped some six million bushels of grain from Midland to Montreal. And I know I am within the mark when I state that this year twenty millions will be shipped by the Grand Trunk Railway from Midland to Montreal and Portland. A trade which, a few years ago, amounted to about a million bushels per year now, in the first week of the opening of navigation, has amounted to a million and a half bushels.

I do not intend to detain the House at greater length, but I am here to say that I believe the Grand Trunk and Mr. Booth have

struck the right principle, the principle that has been adopted by Buffalo—to carry by the greatest possible speed to the lake port and then convey by rail to the ocean vessel. Before I sit down I may mention a point which has just occurred to me. Last year we in the town of Midland had the satisfaction of seeing some Americans from Port Huron come along and build a million and a quarter bushel elevator. They were American born, and their sentiments and sympathies were naturally in the line of building in the United States rather than in Canada. And yet with the advantage of three trips to Midland as against two trips to Buffalo with the rate the Grand Trunk made with them, these gentlemen thought it advantageous to build this elevator at Midland rather than go to Buffalo and build it there. And I am glad to be able to say that Bradley & Co., the largest grain shippers at the port of Chicago, have acquired controlling influence in that elevator, and I believe that by acquiring that elevator they demonstrated that they preferred to have an elevator at Midland rather than at Buffalo. And, in conclusion, I can only say that if the Government introduce a well-considered measure to make superior elevator facilities at the port of Montreal, I believe that they will find in it the solution of the transportation question, and I, for one, will be pleased to support them in their proposition.

Mr. W. B. IVES (Sherbrooke). I think I can assure the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bennett), who last addressed the House that there is not the slightest danger of the Grand Trunk ever undertaking to carry grain to Portland in the summer season. Although the Grand Trunk Railway Company from Portland and the Canadian Pacific Railway from St. John, N.B., have been building up and developing the winter grain trade, yet, from the fact that they have shipped large quantities of grain from these ports during the last two winters proves neither that they would do it in the summer season nor that it is anything like as cheap to ship from these ports in the winter as it is to bring the grain to Montreal and ship it in the summer. They have done that business in the winter time because our own port was closed by ice, and they had to do the business that way or not do it at all. They have commenced now the practice of storing the grain somewhere near the field of its production during the summer season and keeping it there for winter shipment. The business grew very rapidly last year and the year before—much more rapidly last year. It, apparently, is going to become a regular business of the two railways to store the grain in elevators during the summer season and bring it in by rail and ship it from the respective ports of Portland and St. John during the winter. But I am certain that if you were to get the candid opinion of the manager of either of these railways as to the comparative cost of winter handling from Portland and St. John, even with the facilities we have in Montreal, they would tell

you that the advantages were largely in favour of summer handling from Montreal. The fact that Mr. Booth handled ten millions of grain to Montreal last summer from Parry Sound does not prove that he made money out of it. He did handle it, but I believe if the truth were known, on the conditions he handled it, the business was not particularly profitable. The great obstacle to this trade in Montreal is want of elevators, want of trackage, want of room to handle the enormous increase of business. Montreal, until the last two years or so, has not been in the habit of handling any such amount of tonnage as she has been called upon, within the last few summers, to handle. The business is entirely new. The products seeking export are rapidly increasing, not only in the way of grain, but in the way of animals, butter, cheese and products of all descriptions. Our rapidly expanding export trade tells the story and shows that this business for the port of Montreal is rapidly increasing. Our people are just learning how to raise exports suitable for export. The demand is just beginning and is rapidly increasing. Montreal has been caught napping, her facilities are entirely behind the times. It is only a year or two since the harbour commissioners began to allow tracks to be laid along the water front. I can remember—and it was only four or five years ago—when it was considered a great privilege to allow a railway to shunt a car of freight down to the front. That space was kept for cab stands and for public convenience. It was considered a nuisance to have cars down on Commissioner Street and along the water front. All this is happily changing. The commissioners are anxious now to see tracks laid, and to see facilities afforded for handling this trade.

The only matter I wish to refer to particularly is a point in the speech of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair). I gathered from what he said that he was rather inclined to think that it was not the business of the Government to provide elevators in Montreal and elsewhere. I am quite prepared to agree with him that if the interests of the Government do not compel them to take that course, it is better to avoid it. But, taking the case of the great port of Montreal, if the city itself will not undertake that expenditure, if the railway companies do not feel inclined to undertake it, I think the Government would be quite justified, under the circumstances of the case, in assisting in the construction of large elevator capacity in Montreal, that would be free to all railways on equal terms. And I believe that expenditure to increase track accommodation and facilities of all kinds would be a proper expenditure for the Government to make. Montreal is the ocean port. If the railway companies provide their elevators at the point where they take the grain from the farmers, if they provide the road to bring it to the steamships at Montreal, then, if it is necessary for the Gov-

ernment to take an interest in the construction and preparation of facilities for the cheap and rapid handling of the enormous quantity of exports at the port of Montreal, the Government would be as fully justified in making the expenditure in a wise and judicious way as they are in deepening canals or aiding in the construction of railways.

One thing is quite certain, we shall soon have fourteen feet of water in the canal system. We have already magnificent railway facilities for transporting products to Montreal. What are we behind in? What is our chief difficulty at the present moment? It is in elevator accommodation of the city of Montreal, the want of arrangements for rapid handling and cheap and rapid loading. That is what we lack, that is what the Government must give their attention to. If some arrangement could be arrived at by which the railway companies would assist, and the city itself would assist and the Government would assist, and if, at an early day, proper facilities as good as can be found in Baltimore, or New York, or anywhere else, were provided in the city of Montreal, the Government would have done the one thing which, to my mind, is more than anything else lacking to enable us to handle a large amount of freight rapidly and cheaply. My own experience as a shipper last summer showed me what the great difficulty is. In the busy season last summer you could not get a car-load of lumber within ten miles of Montreal for nearly two months, you could not reach the vessel you had chartered to load. The result was that in some cases you had to pay freight, and pay for space that you could not fill. Vessels could not wait for you, and you could not get your cars down. I could not get my lumber down to the wharfs in the busy months of last summer half the time to meet the arrangements I had made with steamship companies to load lumber. I know that Mr. Booth's great trouble and great loss last summer was occasioned by the fact that the whole place was full, it was a sort of cul-de-sac into which all the railway companies were dumping loaded cars. The accommodation along the river front was too little, cars were piled in there, and they could not even get room to shunt out the empties. The result was that on Mr. Booth's road every siding from Coteau to Montreal was full of freight. The other roads were in the same way, there was no room to get freights to the wharfs in Montreal, and there was a regular blockade. That was the chief cause of the trouble, and to that point the Government should give their early and most special attention. The railroads are sufficient, the canals will soon be sufficient, but the facilities for handling merchandise in Montreal are becoming less and less adequate as the freight increases year by year.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

Mr. IVES.

#### UNITED STATES BOATS REGISTERED AT DAWSON.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou) moved for :

Return showing the information asked for by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper respecting United States boats registered at Dawson, as contained in the question appearing on "Hansard," May 8th, 1899, page 2789.

He said: The Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) who, unfortunately, is not present, referred to-day to the ship "John C. Barr," one of the vessels concerned, and he stated practically this, that notwithstanding that it appeared in debate in this House that the "John C. Barr" had been entered from the United States registry to the Canadian registry at Dawson at a valuation upon which duty would be paid as of \$10,000, the vessel was at least worth \$60,000. The hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison) corroborated the information that I gave to the committee that this vessel was valued worth \$60,000, while the recent information involved in this return, or the subject covered by it, is that there is fraud being practiced on a wholesale scale at the suggestion of strong and influential companies, and that there is competition, which competition would be all right, if according to law, on the upper Yukon and Hootalinqua River in Canadian waters. These vessels that were plying on the Yukon River proper last season are being hurried into this new service and are being entered at a fraudulent and false valuation. They are being put in the names of British subjects in order to get the benefit of British register. When the hon. Minister of Customs said to-day, with this information corroborated in part by the statement of a gentleman who has recently been in Dawson, that he was simply sending an ordinary and formal communication, of the character he mentions, asking for a report, I would like to put it to the hon. gentleman's colleagues whether they hold that that is doing justice to the parties affected. These instructions ought to be full and complete, and if the officer in whom the Government have any confidence, is able to find that there has been a fraud practiced of that character, and if the vessels are and would be, under these circumstances, subject to being immediately seized and proceeded against for the purpose of confiscation, then I beg the hon. gentleman to see—the right hon. Prime Minister shakes his head. Does he mean that these vessels could not be confiscated?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I mean to say that the step taken by my hon. colleague (Mr. Paterson) is quite proper. He asked for information from his officer.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am amazed that the right hon. gentleman should think that this is a proper course.

Consider what the action means. These vessels can be out of Canadian waters altogether before the law can be enforced, and if the Government wants to give them an opportunity to get away there will be notice put in the hands of the officer of the Government by such a communication, and an opportunity given to these vessels to sail straight away and out of Canadian waters altogether. Consequently, the Canadian law will be violated with impunity. That does not appear to be a reasonable argument, surely.

The PRIME MINISTER. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Well, let us consider the situation a little further. The vessels are a long distance from headquarters here, and, in the ordinary course, if these vessels were within reach, these instructions are continually given by the Department of Customs when they have reason to believe that a vessel is running contrary to law. It is not contemplated, in the statute-book, that there should be a delay to allow of time to receive reports, and so on, but instructions are given, full and complete. The statutes make provision for tying up vessels so as to hold them, if there is any fraud committed or any attempt to run in contravention of any of these Acts—the Merchants' Shipping Act, or the Act relating to steamboat inspection. It is the usual course and it is an unusual and extraordinary course that has been followed under these circumstances, and the result will be that these vessels' owners or the owners of the other vessels who have attempted to practice that gross fraud on the Canadian laws will be able to have done it with impunity and get out of reach of the Canadian law. There never was a case where urgency was required more than this one. These vessels will be running while you go through the form of communicating with Dawson and that far-away country, of having a report sent back, considering it, dealing with it, and sending out official instructions. The profits and work of the season will have been secured by them. Under these circumstances an illegal and improper act will be done, damage will be inflicted upon citizens that cannot be remedied, and there will be no redress for the owners of British vessels who are complying with Canadian and British laws. The confiscation of this vessel will do them no good so far as the unfair and illegal competition of this season has gone, and consequently these people will have been injured without any means of redress, whereas, the ordinary course of sending out, under these circumstances, at a point like that, to an intelligent and able officer, full and complete instructions, would be acting according to law if these facts are found to be correct and the seizure of the vessel will prevent injury being done, and that was the object I had in bringing

the subject to the attention of the Government.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). There is no objection, of course, to the motion, but I may remark to my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) that we have a man out there who, I believe, to be an able and intelligent officer in the person of Mr. Davis, the Collector of Customs, and he has been there for several years. If Mr. Davis accepts an entry at a certain figure—he may be in error—I do not know, but for the Government, without a report to order him to seize a vessel that he has entered himself at a certain valuation because it is alleged that the vessel has been undervalued is a course that I do not think the Government should adopt. The proper course is to have a report from the officer. Surely the hon. gentleman does not want us to seize a vessel simply upon the ipsi dixit of any gentleman when there is no information in the department. We must have information in the department; we must have a report before we can adopt such a harsh proceeding as a seizure.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I merely want to draw the attention of my right hon. friend to the fact that the position that he takes is entirely untenable. The Government orders seizures every day of goods that have been accepted by customs-house officers and entered at a certain rate whenever they have evidence put before them and their attention is drawn to the fact that there has been a gross fraud committed or an undervaluation made. The very officer who admitted them to entry and took the duties at lower valuation makes the seizure and confiscates the goods unless the parties can show cause and challenge the information upon which the action is taken.

The PRIME MINISTER. If the parties can show cause.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The fact of Mr. Davis accepting the entry is no evidence that there has not been any fraud committed. There is nothing to prevent him being instructed if he found the facts to be as stated, to seize the vessel.

Motion agreed to.

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

After Recess.

LA BANQUE DU PEUPLE BILL.

Mr. PREFONTAINE (by Mr. Brodeur) moved the House into committee on Bill (No. 6) respecting La Banque du Peuple (as amended by the Select Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce).

Mr. J. G. HAGGART (South Lanark). This seems to be a peculiar bill. If I understood it aright, this Banque du Peuple was one of the old institutions established before the union of Upper and Lower Canada, and under their charter the directors of this bank were liable to the full extent of their property for any loss to the bank. I do not know whether there are any actions pending or not in reference to it; but some of the gentlemen who are on the Banking and Commerce Committee might, perhaps, explain that. One thing which the Government ought to have considered in reference to the Bill is, that the Parliament of old Canada having given this bank its entity and made these directors liable to the full extent of their property for any defalcations, or any debts or liabilities of the bank; the Government should have considered whether this Dominion Parliament has any power to interfere in this matter. This bank was given authority to enter into contracts with the community at large and when these contracts were entered into and the directors become liable to individuals, it seems to me that this Parliament has no power to interfere in any right of action that an individual has against a director of this bank. It looks to me as if it were a question of civil rights over which this Dominion Parliament has no control whatever. I would ask if the attention of the members of the Government has been drawn to the peculiar features of this Bill?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I have heard only the concluding portions of the remarks of the hon. member (Mr. Haggart), but I am bound to say there is a great deal of force in what he has said, and the same consideration has occurred to me. The Bill was sent to the Department of Justice for the express purpose of obtaining due consideration, and I am advised by them, that the parties concerned do not appear to have raised any objection to the Bill, and there does not seem, therefore, to be ground for our interference. While it is perfectly true that the House should exercise great care in this matter, I am informed that it has been very fully discussed before the shareholders at several meetings, and it appears to be their belief that their interests, and particularly those of the depositors, will be advanced by our passing this Bill.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). I beg to tell the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, that when this Bill was before the Banking and Commerce Committee there was opposition offered to it, and very strong opposition.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Then I was misinformed. I was not present at the committee, but I was told there was no opposition to it.

Mr. SPROULE. I was present at the meeting of the committee, and a gentleman who said he represented shareholders holding

\$12,000 stock in this bank, offered very strong opposition against the Bill passing in the shape it was. A few years ago, there was a law enacted which enabled the parties who were liquidating this bank to pay something like 50 cents on the dollar, which it was understood at the time should be paid in advance. In expectation, I presume, of its being so paid, the parties interested consented to the law, but this money was not paid, in advance and only a portion of it has been paid since. Application is now made to Parliament to amend this charter again, and a somewhat similar proposal is made—only the sum is smaller—that the money would be raised at the present time, and the depositors and bill holders paid off on a certain percentage on the whole. It occurs to me that the defect of the Bill is this. The directors of that bank were liable, under the old charter, to the extent of every dollar they were worth in the world, and now Parliament is asked to step in and say: We will exonerate them from that obligation; we will enable them to break faith with the people who put money in the bank, and we will give them the power to pay their debts with forty-five or fifty cents on the dollar. It does seem to me most irregular, and not a proper principle for us to follow in this House, if we pass such legislation. I opposed this Bill in the committee because I thought it was wrong, and I oppose it in the House because I still think it is wrong. The transaction appears to me to be simply this: Here are a number of men who are legally bound to pay a certain amount, and they are winding up the affairs of this bank. The assets of the bank may not realize the full obligations of the bank, but so far as they do not, these parties are individually responsible for the balance, and the parties holding claims against that bank can prosecute these claims against the directors individually. The directors say: We will pay 40 or 50 cents on the dollar and we will ask the Dominion Parliament to relieve us of any further obligation by making that a legal payment in full, and giving us a discharge. This Bill is equivalent to asking Parliament to give a discharge to debtors who are only paying 40 or 50 cents in the dollar. We have no insolvency law in this country, and there are thousands of men who become bankrupts and who have not the opportunity of starting in business again because they cannot get a discharge from their legal obligations. This bank is asking Parliament to do what the law does not do for a commercial corporation, or a private debtor, namely, to give them a discharge when they have paid a certain sum. Another feature of the Bill is this. We were told by the gentleman who opposed the Bill, that two of these men could raise the money and pay it, and it would not injure them much. I do not know whether that is correct or not, but assuming they are able to pay it, what right have we to discharge them of the obligation they en-

Mr. PREFONTAINE.

tered into with the people whom they induced to put money into that bank? There is no doubt that the obligation which bound every one of these directors individually to pay to the extent of any loss that might be sustained, was one of the inducements which made the people invest in the stock of that bank. There is no doubt that the charter had that effect. Is Parliament to say now: We will relieve them of that obligation. Some parties appeared who strongly opposed this Bill, but they were unable to work up sufficient opposition to prevent its passage in the committee. Notwithstanding that, I believe that Parliament is doing wrong in passing this law, because we are giving these men a discharge when they have only paid part of their legal obligations. It may be a very good thing for the directors. They say: "We will pay so much money, and it is a big thing for us to pay that." There is no doubt that it is a large sum of money; but it certainly is a good speculation, all the same, because, if these men are able to pay it, and are paying less than their legal obligation to pay, every dollar of the difference is a dollar in their pocket. That is what we are doing by this Bill. I think it is a vicious Bill. It is establishing a bad precedent, and dealing differently with this bank from the way we deal with private corporations, by giving them a discharge from their obligations, when they pay 25 or 30 cents on the dollar.

Mr. A. A. C. LaRIVIERE (Provencher). I am afraid my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) is under a misapprehension with regard to this Bill. Two years ago, this Parliament was asked by La Banque du Peuple to pass an Act in order to allow that corporation to wind up its affairs. Since that time the bank has managed, through liquidation, to pay 50 per cent to its creditors; and now the five directors, who are the only five that are solvent, and the only men responsible for the liabilities of the bank, come forward and say: "We are ready to give \$200,000 of our money in order to enable the bank to pay 45 per cent on the remaining liabilities, in addition to the 50 per cent already paid, provided that, upon giving this \$200,000 of our own money, we are relieved of further responsibility; and we will agree to pay this additional 45 per cent to the creditors of the bank within ninety days." These men are not millionaires, and, in order to realize this \$200,000, they have to be in a position to show the institutions who are advancing the money, that they are relieved of all further responsibility; and, if this Parliament does not come to their assistance by passing this Bill, they will not be in a position to raise that money, and they will have to abandon any further attempt to settle the liabilities of the bank. The depositors, with very few exceptions, are in favour of this legislation, because they realize that, if it is not passed, they will not get the 45 cents in the dollar upon their claims against the bank; and,

in their interest, as well as in the interest of the public at large, this Parliament is called upon to pass this legislation. I know that it is somewhat extraordinary that we should by legislation deprive certain men of their claims in the courts of justice; but, in order to avoid a greater evil, I think it is better for us to pass this legislation. It is not beyond the province of this Parliament to pass legislation of this kind. If we were to pass an insolvency law to-day, we would make provision whereby men who have paid so much in the dollar upon their liabilities, should be discharged from responsibility for the balance, as the old insolvency law did. In this case, it is a compromise between the majority of the creditors and the remaining directors—because there are only five or six directors who are actually responsible, and upon whose shoulders the responsibility of paying the debt now lies. These men now come forward and say, they are prepared to give \$200,000, not equally, but according to their means, which will provide 45 cents on the dollar on the balance due the creditors, so that the creditors will get about 70 per cent on their claims. Most of the creditors are satisfied with that arrangement. There are only a few who are dissatisfied. Therefore, I think that it is perfectly justifiable for this Parliament to pass such legislation.

Mr. DOMINIQUE MONET (Laprairie and Napierville). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, I wish to offer a few remarks in connection with the Bill now under consideration. I am sorry to say that I cannot endorse the views given expression to by the hon. gentleman who spoke before me on the matter.

The House should bear in mind the circumstances under which the "Banque du Peuple" obtained the charter under which it was conducting its operations. The charter of the bank was a special one, under which the directors were personally responsible for all the obligations of the bank.

The Bank du Peuple had its principal place of business in Montreal, but it had branches in several neighbouring districts, and amongst other places at St. Remi, in the constituency which I represent in this House. I understand that such was the confidence placed by the depositors in that institution that, out of an aggregate of \$112,000 which had been loaned in the county of Napierville and in the neighbouring parishes, only \$2,000 had come out of the coffers of the bank, the balance of \$110,000 having been supplied by the depositors themselves. This shows that the bank was realizing a profit of 8 per cent on the moneys so deposited, while paying only 3½ per 100 on the deposits. That was owing, as I just said, to the unlimited confidence placed in that institution, and that confidence was chiefly grounded upon the solvency of the board of directors and upon the absolute liability of the directors of the bank.

We are now asked under this Bill, to give an absolute discharge to the directors of the bank and to relieve them, for a small consideration, of all their obligations towards the depositors. In my opinion, in passing this Bill, we would be interfering with the law of contract and breaking faith with the people who have deposited money in the bank.

One of the inducements which made the people patronize the "Banque du Peuple" and invest so largely in its stock, was the belief that the directors were individually responsible for the management of the funds of the bank. About two years ago, they came down here and asked Parliament for a delay, in order the better to wind up the affairs of this bank. For my part, I did not offer any opposition to that demand, because I was under the impression that they were anxious to make the best arrangements possible, and such a settlement as would prove acceptable to the creditors. The Government granted their demand and what was the result? Instead of evincing any gratitude towards the depositors, they step in and say: We will pay 45 cents on the dollar and we will ask the Dominion Parliament to relieve us of any further obligation as to the balance.

Whenever a merchant, a manufacturer or any other business man becomes insolvent, he makes an assignment for the benefit of his creditors, and there is no exception to that rule. The bankrupt merchant or business man has to apply for a settlement and he is bound to make arrangements with his creditors, if he wants to get a discharge from them and have the opportunity of starting in business again.

In this case, every depositor individually was not asked his consent to the proposed settlement. That agreement was entered into with some creditors only who held a meeting and consented to accept 45 cents as a settlement of their debts.

Mr. SAVARD. (Translation.) All the depositors were notified.

Mr. MONET. (Translation.) They may have been notified through the newspapers; but, at all events, I am positive that not one of the depositors in the district of Napierville attended that meeting, called together to accept the settlement proposed by the directors of the bank.

All those who have declined to accept that settlement would be deprived of their rights, should the Bill now before the House pass into law, they are certainly entitled to raise objection and strong opposition to the Bill, and I voice the sentiment of all those who are interested in the winding up of the affairs of this bank in asking my hon. friends not to vote in favour of this Bill.

This Bill goes still further, as clause 4 overrides the judgments rendered by the courts in favour of the creditors of the bank. I may be allowed to add a few words in this connection. I hesitate not to say that search

Mr. MONET.

and pry as you might into the records of Parliament, you could not find a precedent like this clause, which overrides the judgments rendered by the Superior Court in favour of those who have appealed to the courts. I am referring here to judgments rendered by the Superior Court, which may have later on been upheld by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council of England. Now, according to this Bill, Parliament could override those judgments of the highest tribunals and declare, by a Bill, that those decisions affecting private contracts are null and void. Such legislation would be at variance with every notion of right and jurisprudence. I hold that you cannot force upon those creditors a settlement which they are unwilling to accept. They ought to be left perfectly free to take the course they like. On these several grounds, I declare that I cannot accept the Bill now under consideration.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). When the Banque du Peuple failed, my people were among the largest creditors, and I was appointed member of a committee to inquire into the situation and the financial condition of that institution. We spent several weeks investigating the affairs of the bank, and made a written report to the creditors. The Hon. Mr. Boyer, M. Kent, a very competent accountant of Montreal, and Mr. Dupuis, a business man, were on this committee, selected by all the creditors of the bank, and we came to the conclusion that although the directors had been, to a certain extent, negligent in not keeping a stricter check on the conduct of the cashier, they came out of that disastrous failure without any stain upon their honour; and from what knowledge I have of the affairs of the bank, the proposal embodied in this Bill is one which is favourable to the depositors. As I have said, the shareholders did not receive a single cent, and therefore it seems to me that their advice may be accepted as disinterested. I may say that since the bank went into liquidation, these gentlemen made every possible effort to secure all the available assets. It must be remembered that the charter of the bank was a special one, under which the directors were personally responsible to a far greater degree than those of any other financial institution, it seems to me that the proposal embodied in this Bill is one favourable to the depositors, and that Parliament would be doing the creditors an injury if it were not to pass the Bill.

Mr. TISDALE. I notice that clause 4 provides that this Act shall apply to suits pending and judgments rendered. Are those creditors, who have suits pending or have obtained judgments, consenting?

Mr. MONK. I think that provision is only fair, because it places all the creditors on the same footing. A certain number of

creditors took suits at the very inception of the difficulties; and if we are to make the same law apply to all the creditors, we must put the judgment creditors on the same footing as the others, because, under the law of the province of Quebec, all creditors are placed on the same footing. Because a man sues the bank or the trustees personally, is no reason why he should have any advantage over the creditors who, deeming it more prudent to wait, took no action. Therefore, I think, whatever disposal we now make of the assets of the banks or of the directors who are personally responsible, ought to apply to all the creditors—those who have taken suit as well as those who have not; and from what we, who made this investigation, discovered the directors are by no means very wealthy men. In fact, this liquidation, which this Bill is called upon to sanction, will leave them all very nearly penniless.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I would like to ask whether or not, under the law of the province of Quebec, the rendering of a judgment creates any lien upon the assets of the bank.

Mr. MONK. No.

Mr. D. TISDALE (South Norfolk). With regard to judgments, I quite agree in what the hon. gentleman says, because when a judgment is obtained that only decides the amount of the debt in that particular case, but I have yet to learn that a legislature ought to pass upon the rights of those who are in the courts now, and whose rights are in dispute. As a general rule, such a condition is sufficient to prevent legislation, because we have no right to take those claims out of the hands of the courts. Then, the only evidence we have that the shareholders are satisfied with this liquidation is the schedule and the hon. gentleman's statement, which, no doubt, is correct, but we have no evidence that the shareholders are assenting to this legislation. The schedule recites that at a meeting of the creditors it was unanimously agreed that this settlement should be accepted. It does not state, however, that all the creditors were represented at the meeting, but simply that at a meeting of the depositors and creditors it was unanimously resolved. It does not state the number or even the proportion present. But assuming that all were agreed, the question then arises, have we jurisdiction? In my opinion, this is purely a civil right, and it is only the legislature of the province of Quebec that can give the release asked for. Why did not the promoters of this Bill go to that legislature to get a release? It seems to me that before we pass this measure, we ought to have the assurance from the Government that the Department of Justice has been consulted, and that it has advised that we have the

right to grant this release. There are just two points. One is to be sure that the Banking and Commerce Committee had evidence before them that the creditors as a whole assented to this legislation. If this is all the evidence there is it fails to establish that point. It does not show the number of the creditors at this meeting or the share of the liabilities that they represented. If there was any evidence before the Banking and Commerce Committee, it should be made known to the House. There is nothing even to show that all the creditors were notified. It simply says "at a meeting of creditors and depositors, it was unanimously resolved" to do so and so. Now, I think that before we pass that into law we ought to be satisfied that, at all events, a large majority of the creditors were present. Then comes the second question. While the cases affected here may or may not be important, it is a very serious principle for us to say that we will terminate the rights of people who have appealed to the courts to establish those rights. As a rule, we have hesitated to do that. Unless we are certain of the amounts involved and the rights of the parties, we should hesitate before coming to this decision. I dwell more upon the second point than upon the first.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. I happened to be in the Committee on Banking and Commerce when this question was discussed, although I am not a member of that committee. All the evidence to establish the points referred to was introduced there by the promoter of the Bill, Mr. Préfontaine, who, unfortunately, being sick, cannot be present to-night. There may be members of the committee who were there and heard the evidence that was produced. I would like to ask my hon. friend (Mr. Tisdale) if he thinks that an institution like La Banque du Peuple, existing under a Dominion charter, could very well go to the provincial legislature of Quebec and ask for such an Act as he says ought to be passed there?

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. LaRivière) has spoken.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. But I was only putting the question to my hon. friend. I would like to ask him whether he thinks they could apply to the legislature for such an Act, and if they did and the Act were passed, whether that would affect the creditors in the other provinces?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The question of jurisdiction, in my judgment, can be easily settled by the consideration that this is a question of insolvency, and the Federal Parliament alone has jurisdiction on that subject. I can refer the hon. gentleman (Mr. Tisdale) to a case that was decided by the Privy Council es-

tablishing that point. It was a case of a somebody—I cannot recall the name at the moment—against L'Union St. Jacques et Belisle. This was a mutual benefit society, which had obtained an Act from the legislature of Quebec to pay its creditors, not the full amount of its obligations but a certain proportion. This Act was decided to be ultra vires by the Privy Council on the ground that this was a matter of insolvency, and, as such, should be dealt with by the Federal Parliament alone. Bearing this in mind, there can be no doubt that not only would the legislature of the province of Quebec would have no jurisdiction in this matter, but the jurisdiction remains entirely with us. The other question is a question of very serious moment and one which cannot be too carefully considered. The Federal Parliament or any legislature should always be chary of interfering with private contracts. That is a principle which we should never forget. But after all we must be practical; and in this case it has been abundantly proven, as I understand, before the Banking and Commerce Committee, that the liquidation now proposed to be sanctioned is the best that could be obtained for the creditors. If it could be shown that by ordinary process the creditors could obtain instead of 45 cents, say 55 or 60 cents, certainly Parliament should stay its hand and not pass the legislation now asked for, because there we should be directly interfering with the rights of contract to the prejudice of one who would have the right to benefit by his contract. But I understand it has been proved, and abundantly proved, that the present arrangement is the most satisfactory and beneficial to the creditors, and if they do not accept it or if Parliament does not ratify it, the creditors instead of receiving 45 cents, as here offered, will receive much less than is proposed in this agreement. Under such circumstances, it seems to me Parliament can have no hesitation in interfering with the law of contract for it would not cause prejudice to anybody; it offers benefits to everybody. It would not do to stand on the bare principle of not interfering. We should not interfere if we cause a wrong to private parties, but, instead of causing a wrong we secure benefits, not only to the greater part of the creditors, but to all of them. It seems to me that, under these circumstances, there should be no hesitation. There is a clause which seems very broad and to which my hon. friend has alluded. This Bill is not only to apply to suits pending, but even to judgments. But the answer of my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) seems conclusive. The creditors are all to be treated alike, whether they have entered suit and the suits are disposed of, or whether they have entered suit and the suits are pending or whether they have not sued. All creditors, some with suits pending, some with judgments, and some ordinary credi-

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

tors—all will be treated alike. In these considerations, it seems to me, there is cause abundant why the Bill should become law. I am sure the Bill has been very fully considered by the Committee on Banking and Commerce, and for my part I will always endeavour to maintain the decision of a committee of this House upon a matter, the office of looking into, which has been delegated to them, where it is shown, as it is in this matter, that they have given great care to the consideration of the subject.

Mr. IVES. Is there any question of the liability of directors? And does the Bill deal with that?

Mr. TISDALE. Yes.

Mr. CRAIG. I happen to be a member of the Banking and Commerce Committee, and was present when the Bill was discussed. It was proved, I think, conclusively to the satisfaction of members present, or most of them, that this Bill was desired by the great majority of the depositors. Then it was shown that the three liquidators who had been appointed to represent the depositors some years ago were unanimously in favour of it. They were present and made a statement to the committee that by the passing of this Bill the depositors would receive about 15 cents on the dollar more than if the Bill were not passed. I was perfectly convinced that the Bill was in the public interest.

Motion agreed to, and the House resolved itself into committee on the Bill.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. J. G. HAGGART (South Lanark). The right hon. leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) stated, that we had general jurisdiction over insolvency, and, if this Bill did not come under the head of banking and commerce, there is no doubt we could deal with it under the general powers respecting insolvency which were assured to us under the decision of the Privy Council. There is no doubt that we have exclusive jurisdiction over banking and commerce. We have a right to give to any bank its entity on any conditions we like; but I contend that, after we give it its entity and it enters into contracts with individuals in the community, we have no jurisdiction over those contracts in the slightest degree, they become a question of civil rights. When the right hon. gentleman says, that we have jurisdiction over the insolvency law, does he pretend that, because we have the right to pass an Insolvency Act, we can apply it in a particular case for the purpose of liquidating a bank or dissolving a contract between individuals? I contend that we have no such jurisdiction as that. The right to pass an Insolvency Act does not give us the power of interfering in that way; we have no right or jurisdiction over an indi-

vidual case, because it is individual insolvency. I never heard the proposition made before. I have not the slightest doubt that power to pass a general Insolvency Act does not give us power to interfere in individual cases. I would like the case submitted to the Minister of Justice: I would like his opinion upon the subject. Though hon. gentlemen who are interested in supporting the Bill may say, that it is in the interest both of the creditors and the shareholders, and perhaps of the note holders, and perhaps of the directors of the bank, still, that is not a question for this House at all; it is a question of jurisdiction. Hon. gentlemen who support this Bill say, that the schedule shows that the creditors are supporting it. I have looked at the schedule, and I find there that there is no such thing. This is what they say:

Extracts of the minutes of a meeting of the creditors and depositors of La Banque du Peuple, held at Montreal on the 25th of January, 1899:

It was proposed by Hon. Arthur Boyer and Rev. Messire F. L. Adam, seconded by A. P. Ritchot and J. B. Coallier, and carried unanimously:—

“Whereas, at a meeting of the creditors and depositors of La Banque du Peuple, held on the 26th of November last, it was resolved unanimously to grant to the directors as liquidators of this bank, under the law passed at the last session of the Parliament of Canada, a further delay of two years from the first May next, on condition that they pay over cash and without delay the amount of guarantee given by them to the bank.”

If I understand the schedule, that is only a petition of the creditors and depositors; then the bank proceeded to pass these resolutions on the petition. But we have no petition in favour of this Bill from the creditors, depositors or shareholders, and I contend that the Bill is entirely beyond the jurisdiction of this Parliament.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). It seems to me, that, if we pass this, we are entering on a line that will give us no end of trouble in the future; we are practically making this Parliament an insolvent court; we practically propose to give discharges to insolvent debtors whenever we see fit. It is not that the insolvent debtors here have paid all that they are able to pay, or that they have assigned all their assets to pay their debts; they have only proposed to pay a portion of them, and we take upon ourselves the responsibility of giving them a discharge. Now, it is practically turning this Parliament into an insolvent court, and that is a bad feature of this Bill. I hold that, if we do this in the case of a bank, we may, with equal propriety, be asked to-morrow to do it in the case of a commercial corporation, because they have just as good a right to ask to be relieved of their obligations as this bank has of its. Another feature of the Bill has been brought to our attention. It is a principle we have invariably followed, that we should not in-

terfere with cases that are in court. Now, these litigants have got judgments against the banks, and we deprive them of what the courts have given them, or at least a share of it, if this legislation is passed. Others have suits that are not yet finished. It is not known how much the court will allow them, whether all they claim, or a part of what they claim, or none of it. But it makes no difference; we are taking the matter out of the hands of the court, and we are dealing with it here. I think the Solicitor General ought to tell us how far this principle is sound, because, it seems to me, we should not pass this legislation in this trivial way, and say that, because we have the right to pass an insolvency law, we can interfere in individual cases of insolvency and become a court to wind up individual estates, and give a discharge to insolvent debtors who have paid a percentage of their obligations.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). There is very little for me to say on this subject. I think the whole matter is concluded by a decision given by Chief Justice Strong in a Supreme Court case, *Quirt vs. the Queen*, and also by a Privy Council case, *L'Union Saint-Jacques and Belisle*. According to those cases, this matter would be exclusively within the control of this Parliament, and, when I have said that, I have said all that can be said on the subject. I may add, perhaps, for the benefit of the House, that the same point was decided in another case which is referred to here, that is, the case of the *Merchants Bank and Smith*, in the Supreme Court Reports. Having said that, I have said all that I can say in favour of this Bill. Speaking now, not as Solicitor General, but merely as a member of Parliament, and as one having some knowledge of what has taken place in my province, I would like to add, that there are several cases pending in the courts that are going to be affected by this legislation, and I cannot really bring myself to consider that it is entirely fair that we should legislate these people out of court. The nature of the litigation pending is this: that this bank is not a bank incorporated in the ordinary way under our Banking Act; it is what is known in the province of Quebec as a ‘société en commandite’; it is a corporation brought into existence under the civil law of the province of Quebec long anterior to our Banking Act. I do not mean to say, that it is a question by any means determined or decided, but it is a question which, I think, is undecided in our province, as to whether the liability of the directors is a joint and several liability towards the shareholders and depositors. That question is now sub judice in our province, because cases have been brought by shareholders and depositors against directors. Now, it is not for me to offer any opinion as to whether this House should dispose of these cases by means of this legislation, because I must

confess to the House that I have not read the Bill; therefore, I speak with considerable diffidence concerning this matter. I have not gone beyond the question of jurisdiction, which, I think, is absolutely conclusive. But, if it should happen that, as a result of this legislation, these cases are to be concluded, and we are going to legislate these people out of court, then I say, that it is not a very correct principle in legislation, in my humble judgment. That is the difficulty with me. As I say, I cannot go any further, because I have not read the Bill and know very little of its contents.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). I must confess that I am very much disappointed with the opinion of the Solicitor General. As I understand him, he tells us that the decision of the Privy Council in the case of L'Union Saint-Jacques and Belisle is conclusive that we have jurisdiction in this matter.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think my hon. friend did not understand me or did not want to understand me. What I did say was that the decision in L'Union St. Jacques et Belisle has been considered by the Supreme Court as being conclusive.

Mr. MONK. I do not know what the decision of the Supreme Court is. My hon. friend can look very flighty and very proud, but when he is giving his opinions, and his opinions do not prove satisfactory to this House, he must expect legitimate criticism, and he will not achieve much by looking over our heads. As to the decision in the case, to which he referred as having been referred to by the Supreme Court, I understand that the decision of the Privy Council was, and I am speaking from memory only, in the case of L'Union St. Jacques et Belisle, that the Act of the local legislature by which the assets of that association, which was a benevolent association, were to be distributed in a particular way, was *intra vires*, that the Legislature had the right to decide in what way these particular assets of that association were to be distributed, and that therefore the local legislature had jurisdiction.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Why, what is the reason given by the Privy Council?

Mr. MONK. My recollection of it, although the hon. gentleman does not seem to want to know anything about it except what is thought by him to be the 'obiter dicta' of the Supreme Court, is that the decision was on a question of civil rights, and not on the question of insolvency at all. It was the question of the distribution of the assets of this particular company which was incorporated under the statute of the province of Quebec. I am speaking, of course, from memory and subject to correction, but that is my recollection of it. It seems to me that we have jurisdiction in

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

this question under that clause in the British North America Act which gives us jurisdiction in matters of banks and banking.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Not at all.

Mr. MONK. Well, perhaps the hon. gentleman will be able to explain why he says not at all. He cannot do it. We have a general Banking Act, and, under that banking Act, there are provisions applying to the insolvency of banks in general, if I mistake not. There are dispositions in that statute which apply to the insolvency of banks in general. Why, therefore, should we be shorn of jurisdiction in this question of the Banque du Peuple. The Banque du Peuple has a special statute, an old Act of incorporation which places it in a position different from other banks and if we had jurisdiction to legislate as to the insolvency of banks in general, surely we have jurisdiction over the matters relating to the insolvency of this particular bank, although it had a special charter. It seems to me that there is no doubt about our jurisdiction, not, perhaps, because of our right to legislate as to insolvency in general, but because of that other section of the British North America Act which gives us jurisdiction over banks and banking. We have legislated as to the insolvency of banks in general. Here is a bank, with a special charter, which comes to us, being in a state of insolvency, and surely we have a right to legislate as to the manner in which the liquidation of that bank shall be conducted. As to suits pending, I can only repeat what I said before, and what has been adverted to by the right hon. Prime Minister. Perhaps we should make some disposition as to the costs of these suits, but surely all creditors of the bank should be placed on the same footing. It is not one man having a suit against the directors of the bank; it is the whole scheme of the liquidation of the bank that is involved.

Mr. HAGGART. Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry to the fact that there is no petition from the creditors or the shareholders, or from the depositors, in this bank, in favour of that Bill.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). There was in the Bill.

Mr. HAGGART. It is not in the schedule. There is only a petition from the bank authorities, and they have recited a petition or any agreement by the creditors and others connected with the bank, and this Bill is not in accordance with it at all.

The PRIME MINISTER. The point may be well taken, but this Bill has been investigated by the committee, and I assume that all these things—in fact, if I had a right

to state what took place there, I have no doubt that all these matters in relation to the Bill were clearly investigated.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I suppose a large amount of costs must have been incurred in these outstanding actions. It seems to me that some provision should be made in regard to them. These actions were undertaken when there was no legislation standing in the way, and it seems to me that those who have taken them should have a right to rank for the costs they have incurred if for nothing else. It seems a hardship that costs legitimately incurred, in these suits, with nothing standing in the way, shall be lost to these people, and I think there should be a provision that these costs should be paid, or that the persons that brought the actions should be allowed to rank for these as part of their claims at least.

The PRIME MINISTER. I suggest that the Bill pass without taking the third reading to-night.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I think the Government ought to obtain the opinion of the Minister of Justice in regard to this Bill.

The PRIME MINISTER. I propose that we should not take the third reading this evening.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Will my hon. friend give us the opinion of the Minister of Justice?

The PRIME MINISTER. I will undertake to give it.

Bill reported.

#### INQUIRY FOR RETURNS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Picou). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I want to call the attention of the Government to a return which has recently been laid on the Table of the House. The reference number is 51, and it is a return to an Order of the House under date of the 24th of April, 1899, for copies of all letters and so on, with Mr. Frederick Peters, Q.C.. The return is very incomplete, and the particular portion that I call the attention of the Treasury benches to is the first portion, and they will appreciate, I am sure, my objection to the return in its present form. I find the mere statement that a private telegram in cipher had been received, but I asked in connection with it that the date of the telegram should be given, and I beg to call attention to what purports to be, and no doubt is, a copy of the reply, but the date of it is omitted, and the particular feature in connection with moving for the return in its present form is in no sense satisfactory so far as I have not this omission. Then I beg to call attention to the fact that the date of the private telegram

is not given. That is the one received and the reply is given without the date.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Will my hon. friend send me a note of this, so that I can send it at once to the department.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I will be very happy to do so. I wish to call attention to an important subject in regard to a matter that was discussed yesterday. On the 30th March, 1898, last year, there was an order of this House passed for all papers and correspondence respecting the Manitoba prosecutions for election frauds, so called. This is a matter of some urgency, and the return should be expedited. It has not yet been brought down.

I call attention to some returns of importance to the House in general, which I personally would like to have brought down at an early day. I refer to an Order passed on the 19th of April in regard to the Yukon. Nearly a month has elapsed, and although some papers were laid before the House by the Minister of the Interior, they did not cover several important returns. I shall send a memorandum to the right hon. gentleman, with the observation, that I would be very glad if special attention were given to this matter, not because I ask it, but because it is a question of transcendent importance. These returns do not involve very much labour.

Mr. BELL (Picou). I call the attention of the Government to the fact that a return ordered by the House on the 19th of April, in connection with the report of the commission appointed to inquire into the treatment of the labourers on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway has not yet been laid on the Table of the House.

#### ACCOMMODATION IN THE COMMITTEE ROOMS.

Mr. PENNY. I wish to draw the attention of the Government to a question of some importance. I refer to the manner in which the committee rooms of this House are so crowded by strangers that members are deprived of their proper seats. Lately there have been one or two very important questions before both the Railway Committee and the Banking Committee, and having to attend other committees, when I got in a little late, I found it impossible to get a seat within the space allotted to members. I noticed that a great many strangers were occupying seats which should be reserved for the members of the committee. I certainly think the Government should take some action, so that these seats may be retained exclusively for the members of the committee.

Mr. MACDONNELL. A resolution was passed by the Railway Committee last session, to be reported to this House, asking

the Government to take action to enlarge and improve the Railway Committee room. The facilities afforded there are altogether inadequate and are inferior to what some of the county councils in the province of Ontario afford for transacting business. Now that the attention of the Government has been called to this matter, I hope they will take some steps to enlarge and improve the accommodation in the committee room.

#### CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY ACT OF 1881.

Mr. McMILLAN. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask a question. In the Act respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway, passed in 1881, the company was given power to build branch lines from points on its main line to any point within the Dominion by simply depositing a plan of the same with the Department of Railways. A question has been raised as to whether this power still exists. Sir Oliver Mowat, as I understand, furnished an opinion to the Minister of the Interior on that question, and I would like to know what that opinion is.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). If the hon. gentleman will send me a memorandum of the information he wants, I will furnish the information as far as it is possible to obtain it.

#### GRIEVANCES OF YUKON MINERS.

Mr. A. F. MARCOTTE (Champlain). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to call the attention of the right hon. leader of the House to a letter I have just received from Dawson City. Some companies, it is stated, buy water grants from private individuals and the miners complain that when those companies become the owners of those water courses, they can no longer sell their claims, and they asked me to draw the attention of the Minister of the Interior upon that matter.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). (Translation.) Would the hon. gentleman repeat his question, as I did not catch it.

Mr. MARCOTTE. (Translation.) I have just received a letter from some miners in Dawson City. These miners ask me to call the attention of the Government to the fact that some companies buy water courses, and that the miners are thereby deprived of the opportunity of selling their river claims, water being a first requisite for washing the pay dirt, and they are deprived of it by those companies. They ask me to call the attention of the Government to the matter.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Selkirk).

#### SMALL FRUIT PACKAGES.

On the order being called,

Second reading Bill (No. 56) an Act to define the size of small fruit packages.—(Mr. Penny).

Mr. HENDERSON. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman if he intends to go on with that Bill at present, or if he intends to drop it?

Mr. PENNY. I intend to go on with the Bill; but at the request of the Minister of Inland Revenue, I have allowed it to stand, because the Minister has suggested that it might be incorporated in a Bill that he intends introducing to amend the Weights and Measures Act.

Mr. BERGERON. You might as well drop it, then.

Mr. PENNY. No, I will keep it on, and introduce it as an amendment to the hon. Minister's Bill.

#### THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington) moved second reading of Bill (No. 63), to amend the Act respecting the Civil Service of Canada.

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is the second occasion on which I have brought before this House the system that has been in practice for many years of granting to civil servants in the several departments of the Government, in the inside and outside service, additional amounts to their ordinary salaries for services rendered either in connection with the department to which they belong, or in connection with another department. This system was inaugurated many years ago, I find that it is growing, and I contend that it should be stopped at once. If you look over our civil service list, you will not find a single name in it which has set down opposite it as salary the sum received for extra services in addition to the regular salary. On several occasions, when in Opposition, I found fault with this system, and I hold the same opinion still, that it should be abolished. Now, I do not want to detain the House at any great length, but I want to show how long this system has been in existence and how much money has been sacrificed under it; and I want to urge on the Government an amendment to the Civil Service Act, that will provide, as this Bill does, that no civil servant shall receive any sum in addition to his ordinary salary for any duty which he performs in the department to which he belongs. If you look at the Auditor General's Report, you will find in the commencement of that report every year a list of those who have received pay for more than one service. I have gone over that report for 12 years, and I have extracted simply the names of men who

have received \$900 or over. Men who have received less than that possibly might be pardoned for urging some additional allowance for their services; but men who receive over \$900 should be fairly well content with their salary without urging for an additional allowance. In this respect the law—and I contend that it ought to be the law if it is not—has been violated in every department from top to bottom, from garret to cellar. Every civil servant is now standing at his desk every day trying with a hawk eye to find a hook on which he can hang a claim for an extra allowance for extra services. During the past year there have been 799 clerks who have received pay for more than one service. The following statement shows the number of persons who have received pay from more than one source, their regular salaries, and the extras received by those who had a salary of \$900 or over:

taken. He gets, in addition, \$800 a year as Commissioner of Standards, which is a mere sinecure—no work, no responsibility, because there is a person in charge of the weights and measures standard department. Then, there is Mr. McDougald, deputy head of the Department of Customs, who gets \$2,800 per year and \$800 in addition as chairman of the board of customs. So on, right through from the Atlantic to the Pacific, every man who has a position is trying to find out some means by which he can get an extra allowance for extra service. I notice one town, in which I think there is only one distillery, and yet there are no less than five Government officers there who get extra pay in connection with that distillery. It is high time the Civil Service Act should be changed. If the salaries of those men are not sufficient, give them salaries sufficient for their duties, pay them well, but do not keep each civil servant seeking means by which he can draw

| Fiscal Year. | Number of Persons. | Total Regular Salaries Received. |      | Average Regular Salary. |       | Total Extras Received. |      | Average Extras. |      | Total Average Salary. |      |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|------|-------------------------|-------|------------------------|------|-----------------|------|-----------------------|------|
|              |                    | \$                               | cts. | \$                      | cts.  | \$                     | cts. | \$              | cts. | \$                    | cts. |
| 1886.....    | 122                | 169,658                          | 15   | 1,390                   | 64    | 74,184                 | 21   | 608             | 96   | 1,999                 | 60   |
| 1887.....    | 201                | 273,273                          | 68   | 1,354                   | 59    | 94,338                 | 61   | 469             | 34   | 1,823                 | 93   |
| 1888.....    | 171                | 284,265                          | 31   | 1,662                   | 39    | 31,619                 | 53   | 477             | 30   | 2,139                 | 69   |
| 1889.....    | 198                | 291,499                          | 21   | 1,472                   | 21    | 65,727                 | 06   | 331             | 95   | 1,804                 | 16   |
| 1890.....    | 128                | 170,339                          | 45   | 1,330                   | 77    | 53,984                 | 59   | 421             | 75   | 1,752                 | 52   |
| 1891.....    | 154                | 222,736                          | 08   | 1,446                   | 33    | 72,300                 | 12   | 469             | 48   | 1,915                 | 81   |
| 1892.....    | 159                | 246,828                          | 47   | 1,552                   | 38    | 47,426                 | 68   | 298             | 28   | 1,850                 | 66   |
| 1893.....    | 178                | 254,704                          | 17   | 1,430                   | 92    | 61,960                 | 27   | 348             | 09   | 1,779                 | 01   |
| 1894.....    | 164                | 244,102                          | 37   | 1,488                   | 42    | 53,841                 | 54   | 328             | 30   | 1,816                 | 72   |
| 1895.....    | 195                | 276,693                          | 91   | 1,448                   | 66    | 48,902                 | 38   | 250             | 78   | 1,699                 | 44   |
| 1896.....    | 231                | 299,813                          | 86   | 1,320                   | 76    | 58,029                 | 03   | 251             | 20   | 1,571                 | 96   |
| 1897.....    | 192                | 266,239                          | 17   | 1,386                   | 66    | 48,241                 | 28   | 251             | 25   | 1,637                 | 91   |
| 1898.....    | 50                 | 78,038                           | 33   | 1,560                   | 76    | 12,033                 | 26   | 240             | 66   | 1,801                 | 42   |
|              | 2,143              | 3,078,192                        | 16   | .....                   | ..... | 772,588                | 56   |                 |      |                       |      |

Let me point out some of the cases which, I think, deserve special mention. The clerk of the Supreme Court gets \$2,600 a year salary, but, in addition, he draws \$600 per year for preparing the records of the Supreme Court for the printer, and the year before last he got \$197 commission on stamps that he sold in the discharge of his duties as clerk of the Supreme Court, bringing his salary up altogether to \$3,300 or \$3,400. The clerk of the Exchequer Court gets \$2,000 a year salary, a special vote of \$275, some \$300 allowed him for preparing the records of the court for the printers, and a commission on the stamps he sells in connection with the duties of the office. Then, take up the deputy heads in the city of Ottawa. If you turn up the civil service list, you will find that Mr. Miall, the deputy head of Inland Revenue, is down at a salary of \$3,200. People would be led to believe from this, that that is all the salary he gets, but they would be mis-

extra pay for some supposed extra service. The practice has grown to an extent that is no credit to this or any Government that will allow it to continue. Take again, the collector of customs in Victoria; he gets \$3,000 a year as collector and \$400 as assistant controller of Chinese immigration. Take the other collector of customs at Vancouver; he gets \$2,000 a year and \$400 or \$500 per year as assistant controller of Chinese immigration. I do not know whether these gentlemen understand the Chinese language or not, but I hardly think they do. They find, however, that by making a demand of this kind, they have been able to add \$400 or \$500 a year to their salary, and every clerk and Customs collector throughout the country say: If these men can do it, why cannot I? And the system has grown to such an extent that it is the duty of this House and the Government to put a stop to it. I would like to know if a bank pays its clerks anything

extra when they have to work extra hours, making up monthly and quarterly returns, and remain in their offices working on these returns until ten or eleven at night. There is no such system in any banking institution in this Dominion. Then, take wholesale clerks. We know that in the busy season men in this line very often have to work until eleven or twelve o'clock at night to finish up the day's business or to prepare the warehouse for next day. Are they paid extra for that? I think not. I have already proved to the satisfaction of this House that the civil servants are paid as well as any other class in this Dominion—yes, and better. Take bank clerks, school teachers, ministers, or any educated class, and compare their average salaries with the average of the civil service, and you will find that there is no class, taking them all in all, that are so well paid as the civil servants of Canada. That being the case, why should we be called upon to pay extra allowances for supposed little duties they may perform in connection with the every-day duties of their offices? We know that there was one clerk who received \$60 a year for winding the clock in the office. I do not blame that clerk. He found, no doubt, that the Deputy head of his department was drawing extra money for supposed duties, and he desired similar benefits for himself. And so it goes from one to another. Take the case of railway station agents. On many occasions railway trains are late, and the agents are kept up waiting for them. Do they send in a bill for extra time that they put in after eleven o'clock? I do not think so. Take the salaried postmasters throughout the Dominion. When they need to put in extra hours in the discharge of their duties, do they send in a bill for the extra services? No. There is no other service in which the clerks are allowed to charge extra for extra work, as the members of our civil service do. I contend that we should alter that system, and alter it at once. Joint stock companies—insurance companies and others—do they pay their clerks extra, when a few hours' extra work must be done? There is a striking case, exemplifying the effect of this system. When the system was inaugurated of paying the clerks extra for overtime spent in computing interest, in the first year they did the work within their office hours, and the Auditor General refused to sanction the account, on the ground that the work was not done out of hours. Next year, the clerks took good care to do it outside of the office hours, and so they draw the extra amount for counting the interest on deposits, and they have drawn it down to the present time. That system should be put a stop to. If it is deemed necessary to pay these clerks all that they are now allowed, let it be paid in the form of a salary, and, if their work takes them to twelve o'clock, let them put in that time, and not

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continue the system that, in my opinion, should never have been started. I advocated the doing away with this system, when I was in Opposition, and I intend to advocate it now. I understand that the Government intend to recast the Civil Service Act. I should be very glad, if they did, and particularly glad, if a clause is to be introduced embodying the principle I advocate. I am glad to notice that the amount paid to those drawing over \$900 has been reduced this year. But surely a great many amounts are paid that we should not pay. If the Deputy Heads, for instance, are entitled to the salaries and extras they are receiving, let it be paid as a salary, and let the public know what they are getting. When the people take up the Civil Service List, and look over the names of the men who receive these salaries, they have a right not to be deceived by that list. The list should state honestly the salaries which these men receive, which it does not do now. There is not a deputy head but is drawing some extra allowance for some supposed extra service. Then, take the clerks in the Supreme Court, and the Exchequer Court. One appears in the list as receiving a salary of \$2,600, and the other a salary of \$2,000, while in reality one receives \$3,500 and the other \$2,850 altogether. I say, that the Civil Service Act should be amended in this respect, and these men should be placed upon a salary, and let that cover all the duties that they perform. We should not continue a system that is actually producing a grasping, improper desire on the part of the civil servants to put into their pockets by some means money that is taken from the pockets of the people, in return for some supposed extra service they render. Look over the list, and you will find that a great many who draw large salaries have received extra sums for extra duty. This is my reason for moving the Bill. If the Government are prepared to give an assurance that they will recast the Civil Service Act and will incorporate a clause to do away with this system, I shall be glad to leave the matter in the hands of the Government. But I am not prepared to drop the agitation in favour of this reform, which I consider necessary in the interests of the country. We want to cut down expenses. I am prepared to support reduction, and where the Government are not making them quickly enough, I claim the right and liberty to show where they can be made. I have no feeling against civil servants, nor do I desire to find fault with them. I dare to say, we have a good class of civil servants. But I contend that they have evidenced a grasping desire to put money in their pockets by any possible means for some supposed little extra work they perform. They have been badly controlled in that respect. I hope that system will be brought to a stop. I move the second reading of the Bill, and shall be glad

to know what the Government and hon. gentlemen on either side of the House have to say with regard to it.

Mr. D. D. ROGERS (Frontenac). It is scarcely necessary for me to add anything to what has been so ably said by the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen). I heartily endorse the sentiments expressed by him, for I did not think the case was as bad as he has represented it. It is no wonder that members of the Government and other members of this House are worried out of their lives by people applying for Government positions. One of two things is evident, either civil servants are paid too much for what they do, or they do not do enough for what they get, otherwise there would not be so many people after positions. I think if the civil service of this country could be let out by tender—although I do not like the principle—it could be done for 50 per cent less than we are paying to-day, and I believe would be equally well performed after a little training. I do not believe in cutting down salaries too much; I believe in paying well for the work. I am speaking now as I would speak before an agricultural audience, for it is after all the farmers of this country who foot the bills. No member should say anything in this House that he would not be willing to say before an agricultural audience, because they are the burden bearers, it is they who pay the bills for everything. If these things were presented to an agricultural audience as well as they have been presented by the member for North Wellington, I am sure it would be quite an eye-opener to them. Civil servants no doubt often begin at a low salary, the salary is oftentimes no object to them when they are applying for a position. The late Sir John A. Macdonald said to some one who asked him what his pay would be when he got the position: "Never mind the pay, look after the pay after you have got in." No doubt that is the feeling many have in seeking for positions, and after they get in they begin to clamour for more pay. I feel that in our present circumstances economy should be the order of the day; I know that is the order of the day with the agricultural classes. I heartily support the Bill, and only wish I was able to support it in a more forcible manner.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). I could not but admire the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) to-night when I heard him dilating upon the merits of this Bill. I felt like saying, but for the fact that the Minister of Trade and Commerce was before me, "Richard is himself again." The hon. gentleman seemed to be at his old work when he was on this side of the House and was accustomed, during many years, to comment upon the Auditor General's Report. It was a proof of the fact that sometimes one gets back to his old conduct by

sheer force of habit. Now I am not criticising the hon. gentleman's Bill because it has some merit in it. The only question with me is whether the hon. gentleman is sincere. Parliamentary rules compel me to assume that he is sincere, though the invitation he gives to the Government to ask him to withdraw the Bill, rather shakes my confidence in his sincerity. But he wanted to make a show of doing something towards controlling these obnoxious civil servants. Well, there is a virtue in his contention that when civil servants are receiving pay from more than one source, it should be shown in the Estimates how much they are receiving from all sources, because Ministers are often unable to give us that information, and, therefore, when we are voting a salary to an officer we do not know how much he may be getting from other sources. I think we ought to have that information in order to enable us intelligently to judge whether we are doing our duty fairly to the country and to the civil servant. But while saying that, I cannot go the length that the hon. gentleman proposes to go in his Bill, because he says:

Any deputy head, officer or employee asking for or accepting any extra salary or additional remuneration, other than a permanent increase of his salary, shall be held to have thereby vacated his office.

I think that is going too far. There are many situations in connection with the civil service where it is desirable that the employee should receive payment from two sources, because if we were compelled to employ another man, more would be paid out of the treasury. Where one man can do two lines of work without any interference with the duties of either, so long as he is only getting a fair salary, there is no objection to his being paid from two sources. What I object to is the fact that we do not know from how many sources he is paid, and the amounts in the aggregate that he is getting. I think in looking over this Bill that it is crudely drawn, and I do not think it will answer the purpose that the hon. gentleman has in view. But if it did become law, it would work injustice to many of the civil servants employed to-day, therefore, I cannot support it.

Mr. R. HOLMES (West Huron). While I agree with the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) in general, so far as his remarks go, I also agree with the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) that the Bill goes too far. The principle advocated by the hon. member for North Wellington, I think, is not a bad one. To adopt a common saying, I think it is time for a change. I believe that the public accounts ought to show the actual salaries that all the civil servants are getting. Whether they should be paid for overtime, is another matter. But it seems to me the easiest way to obviate that would be to simply pay them a stated salary and require that they should perform certain ser-

vices therefor, and let it be understood that they may be called upon to perform any services in connection with their department. I am a little inclined to think, however, that some of these extra services are not usually performed in overtime, but I fancy they are performed during the usual hours of office. For instance, I would infer that the services of the Chinese collector, or whatever the office may be called that was mentioned in connection with the customs collector at Vancouver, were not performed after hours. I am in favour of the principle of paying a stipulated salary, and let that be recognized as the amount the civil servant shall receive, and no more. I am glad to find the hon. member for East Grey and other members of the Opposition endorsing the spirit of the Bill, because according to the figures given by the member for North Wellington, the Liberals are not responsible for originating a system that is bad in itself, and that is decidedly getting worse as it goes along. But I do think the Liberals will add honour to themselves by removing the evil when the evil is pointed out to them. I contend that it is an evil, and I am glad that a Bill has been introduced. I hope that, in some form or other, it will receive consideration at the hands of the Government, and that a measure will be brought in.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I have listened with great interest, as I always do to my hon. friend the member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen). There is no doubt that the facts that he has brought before us are well worthy of the consideration of the House and of the attention of the Government. As he is probably himself aware, the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), has it in contemplation to introduce a Bill dealing with the Civil Service Act. I have not yet had an opportunity of conferring with him on the details of this measure, and I am not in a position for assuring my hon. friend, definitely, as to the extent to which he may adopt his suggestion, but I certainly will cause the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to be brought to the proposition of my hon. friend, and to the opinions which have been expressed by various members of this House in respect to it. As one hon. gentleman has truly stated, this is not a new matter; to the best of my recollection it has been in existence, not only since confederation, but prior to confederation. The fact of the matter is that for a considerable time the higher officers in the civil service of this country, have not been paid adequately to the great importance of the duties which fall upon them, and the House will do well to remember that, if you wish to have a high grade of civil servants, particularly in the superior branches, you must be prepared to pay them something more or less equal to the sum which men of equal talent and capacity are obtaining in the ordinary walks of

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life. I am perfectly free to say that I think myself that our system should be reformed in the degree that we should boldly face the question and give to these officers the sums which the services they render appear to be worth. I have more than once, on both sides of this House, advocated that reform, and I should certainly deem it to be my duty to call the attention of the Government to the views which have been expressed. I may say, without pledging the Government, speaking individually, for I am merely repeating what I have often said before, that I think the higher officers of the Dominion of Canada on whom often depends whether hundreds of thousands of dollars are lost to this country or not, should be paid as well, at any rate, as bank managers and people of that class. I think I am within the judgment of the House in saying that it is not merely for the dignity of the country, but in the highest degree for the interest of the people of this country, that they should have men of high talent and capacity in the higher branches of the civil service. I will accept the proposition of my hon. friend and move the adjournment of the debate in order to give a full opportunity of considering it, and, I have no doubt, of incorporating some of the suggestions which my hon. friend has made.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). I just want to say, in reply to what the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) has stated, that I do not want to deprive any man of a reasonably good salary for the services that he renders to the people of this country. I am perfectly willing that he should be paid what his services are worth, but I want it entered in the civil service list of this country what each man gets. I do not want anything to be hidden. I want the people of the country to know that if a man is receiving \$4,000 a year, he is not set down in the public accounts as receiving \$3,200. That is the principle I am fighting against. I do not want it set down in the public accounts that an officer is receiving \$2,800 when he is receiving \$3,600. I do not want the Clerk of the Supreme Court to be set down in the Public Accounts as receiving \$2,600 when he is receiving over \$3,300. I want the Government to recast the Act, and remove the pernicious system of doing something in an underhand way that the people of this country do not know about. I say that the system is wrong. I want the Government to recast the Act and make the provision that I have suggested. Now, I am quite willing that the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), and I am sorry he is not here, shall have an opportunity of studying the proposition that I have made. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce has stated that he has held the view that some of the higher class of civil servants are not well enough paid. Let us compare their salaries with those received by men in similar walks of life. Take the bank managers throughout Canada to-day. Do the bank

managers of Canada, and they occupy very responsible positions, receive, man for man, such salaries as the deputy heads of the departments here receive?

Mr. WOOD. Yes.

Mr. McMULLEN. I say they do not. I am talking of bank managers throughout Canada. I do not speak of those only in cities; I include those in towns and villages, the men that are the managers of the different banks. My hon. friend from Hamilton (Mr. Wood) says "yes," I say "no." I know better. I have gone over the list; we have bank managers whom I know are not receiving over \$100 a month. Is there any deputy head of a department who is receiving as low a salary as that? I know whereof I am speaking. I know that in Hamilton, and possibly in Toronto, you have men who receive \$10,000 or \$20,000 a year; there may be a few; I do not doubt that you have some, but even putting them together, with all the bank managers throughout Canada, they will not average the salary that is received by the deputy heads of the departments. Take other responsible positions in Canada that are occupied by distinguished men and men of good ability; I say that on the average they are not receiving salaries as high as the deputy heads of departments are receiving. If it is considered that these officials are not receiving enough, I am willing that you should add to their salaries. I do not want to keep a dollar from them if they are entitled to it, but put it in the Public Accounts and in the civil service list. The public are entitled to it; the people who pay the taxes are entitled to it; every ratepayer who exercises his franchise and contributes to the revenue is entitled to it, and I say this is a system that should be carried out. We should not have men receiving a nominal sum and getting in addition perquisites and pickings in connection, for instance, with the stamps he sells; he should charge for the letters that he sends to the post office. I contend that this system should be wiped out. Do insurance companies pay their clerks when they have to keep them in for two or three hours extra to make up the quarterly returns? They do not do it; why should we?

Mr. TAYLOR. I thought this Government were going to stop all that.

Mr. McMULLEN. Well, I am anxious to stop it. I hope my hon. friend will help me to stop it, and I am prepared to advocate such a stoppage of it. If the Government will not take that question up and recast the Civil Service Act so as to put a stop to that system, I pledge my word and honour that I will give hon. gentlemen opposite an opportunity to help me to force them to do so. I do not think that there is any corporate body in Canada that pays its clerks for extra work, if they are called upon to perform an hour's work afterwards. It is a rotten

and pernicious system which should never have been inaugurated and which should be wiped out. I do hope that the Government will wipe it out. I am willing, as the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce says, if the Government come to an honest conclusion that civil servants are not paid enough to add to their salaries. I am willing to pay whatever their services are worth, but let us know it, and do not let us be kept in the dark. I want the Government to wipe out this system, and let the people know what every civil servant is really getting.

Mr. T. D. CRAIG (East Durham). I am very glad that the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) has had a chance to show a little independence, but I hardly think he has shown as much courage as we might have expected from him. One of the principles of the Liberal party was that there were too many Ministers in the Cabinet, and why does the hon. member (Mr. McMullen) start with an attack on the civil servants who are not here to defend themselves, when he has a golden opportunity to effect an economy by cutting down the number of Ministers. I was pleased to hear the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) defend the civil servants from the attacks of the hon. member for North Wellington. I myself do not know enough about the civil servants of Canada to defend them, but I do know that the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) would show more sincerity if he would start with the Ministers themselves and bring in a Bill to reduce their number. Again, Mr. Speaker, it would be somewhat refreshing if the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) would show some of this independence when we are discussing the Drummond County Railway matter and other such transactions, if he is such a great stickler for economy.

An hon. MEMBER. Oh, no, he is not.

Mr. CRAIG. Well, he used to talk a great deal about economy when he was in Opposition, but it is astonishing what extravagance on the part of the Government he lends his aid to now. I do not know whether he is asleep or not, but he seems to be when these matters are being discussed in the House. I do not remember that the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) raised the slightest objection to the money that was voted away for the Crow's Nest Pass Railway. It would not be parliamentary to question the sincerity of the hon. gentleman, but when he attacks the civil servants and is afraid to attack the Government for their extravagance, it seems to me that the country will hardly give him much credit for sincerity. Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a most absurd Bill, and I have heard nobody rise to defend it. The idea of introducing a Bill and saying: That Her Majesty by and with the advice of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada enacts as follows—

Mr. BENNETT. Her Majesty does not know anything about it.

Mr. CRAIG. Well, it is hardly a Bill that such a prefix should be put in front of. It says :

Any deputy head, officer or employee asking for or accepting any extra salary or additional remuneration, other than a permanent increase of his salary, shall be held to have thereby vacated his office.

There have been a good many crimes invented by the Government in order that they might vacate offices, but this is a new crime altogether, and it should go in the Criminal Code as a monument to the genius of the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen). Suppose an employee is asked to work overtime and to remain at night to make out returns that can not be made in the regular way, and the deputy head gives him some extra pay with or without the knowledge of the Minister, he would, under this Bill, vacate his office if he accepted that pay. Well, I never heard of such an absurd proposition. I hold that at times it is necessary for these clerks to do extra work during the session when returns have to be made out, and if they did not do extra work, more officials would have to be appointed. I do not say that is the idea of the hon. member for North Wellington, but it looks to me that he is aiming at securing a good many more vacancies to which his friends can be appointed. It is possible this Bill may be designed for that. I repeat that this Bill is most absurd and to expect this Parliament to enact it is no tribute to our intelligence. There might have been some sense in introducing a Bill saying that no employee shall receive anything but his regular salary, but that is not what this provides. With all due deference to the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), I think it is fortunate for him that the Government will not accept this Bill.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (Leeds). When the late Government was in power and the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) was in Opposition, he used to be very fond of the Auditor General's Report, he slept with it every night, and he came here loaded with complaints against the Government because civil servants received extra pay. He assured the House and the country that when the Liberals came to power this should be stopped. The first session of this Parliament he introduced a Bill which he declared he would push through this House even if he had to get the support of the Conservatives. But one of the Ministers gave him a little toffy, promised the Government would look into the matter, moved the adjournment of the debate, and so his little Bill was killed until the next session. The next session the same Bill appeared on the Order paper and the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) waxed eloquent and warm about it.

Mr. CRAIG.

Mr. McMULLEN. It is not the same Bill.

Mr. TAYLOR. Oh, we know it is a new Bill, but it amounts to the same thing.

Mr. McMULLEN. This Bill never reached the second reading last session, it was another Bill.

Mr. TAYLOR. It was a Bill bearing the same title : To amend the Civil Service Act.

Mr. McMULLEN. I challenge the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) to look at the records of the House and he will find he is wrong.

Mr. TAYLOR. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) looks up the Order paper he will find that every session since this Government came into power, the hon. member for North Wellington introduced a Bill to amend the Civil Service Act, and made a similar speech to that he delivered to-night, only he is a little more vigorous this time.

Mr. McMULLEN. This Bill never reached its second reading last year. It was an altogether different Bill.

Mr. TAYLOR. The Minister of Trade and Commerce gave the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) a little more toffy to-night, promised to consult with the Finance Minister and the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) is quite willing to accept that without a vote, knowing that the Bill is dead for this session. I was somewhat amused that my hon. friend from Frontenac (Mr. Rogers) endorsed everything the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) said, and expressed himself as quite anxious that all these extra amounts paid to civil servants should appear in the books so that they might be discussed. We remember what occurred here a few days ago, when the ex-Finance Minister was criticising the extravagance of the Government for purchasing photographs of the Prime Minister, and useless books for the Ministers, the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Rogers) gets up in his place and states that if the Government have to do these little things they should not appear before the public. He said this : "If such things have to be done, it will be well, at least, that they should not get to the ears of the public."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman knows that he cannot refer to a previous debate.

Mr. TAYLOR. I am not referring to a previous debate.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. The hon. gentleman has just referred to a previous debate.

Mr. TAYLOR. When the debate was going on, I stated to the hon. member for Frontenac, that he had made use of that language.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order. The hon. gentleman must accept the ruling of the Chair. I will ask him to confine himself to the subject of discussion.

Mr. TAYLOR. Then, Mr. Speaker, I submit to your ruling, and I will not refer to the previous debate; but I will make the statement, that in the last general elections the hon. member for Frontenac and his leaders, Mr. Haycock and Mr. Lockie Wilson, whom I met on the platform with the Auditor General's Report in their hands, used, as their whole stock-in-trade and argument, the statement, that the late Government had purchased stationery for the members, and so forth. Now, the hon. gentleman says, that, if this Government, which he now supports, have to do these things, do not let them appear in print, so that the public will know them.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order.

Mr. TAYLOR. When my hon. friend from North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) brought the same charge, year after year, against the late Government, we thought that, as soon as his friends got on the Treasury benches, they would abolish this system that was adopted by the late Government. They always believed that, if they required some extra work to be done, and had in their employ a good and faithful servant who was conversant with such work, it was better to give him some small addition to his salary and have him do it, than to appoint an extra man for the purpose. I am glad to see that the hon. gentlemen now sitting on the Treasury benches have followed the same good rule. Notwithstanding that, the hon. member for North Wellington, having made that serious charge against the late Government, is trying to have the law amended by introducing his Bill year after year; but he only gets it as far as the second reading, when some Minister moves the adjournment of the debate, and he quietly allows the Bill to remain there till the succeeding year. That is where this Bill is going now, and by next year my hon. friend will probably be transferred to the other chamber.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, I want to suggest to the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), that, when he takes this Bill and lays it—I was going to say, on the shelf,—but before the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), as he promised he would, he might amend it by inserting subsection 3, which the modesty of the member for Wellington has prevented him drafting, and which I have drafted for him. Subsection 2 of this Bill, as drafted by the hon. member for Wellington, is:

Any deputy head, officer or employee asking for or accepting any extra salary or additional remuneration, other than a permanent increase of his salary, shall be held to have thereby vacated his office.

Now, subsection 3, which the modesty of the member of Wellington has prevented him putting in print, will read as follows:—

Any member of Parliament asking for a position in the civil service, or for a seat in the Senate, shall be held to have thereby vacated his seat in the House of Commons.

Mr. D. D. ROGERS (Frontenac). Mr. Speaker, I just rise to explain what was brought up to-night by the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor). If I am reported as saying, that, if we did these things, I did not wish the fact to appear in "Hansard," I was misunderstood. I never intended to convey any such idea. I said, if the members are bound to have them, for Heaven's sake, do not aggravate the people by telling them. But I wished that it should not be. As regards these little trivial things, knives and such trash, that are paid for by the people, I think it is very humiliating for the members of this House to take them. The hon. member for South Leeds dare not stand before an agricultural audience and say what he has said here. If he did, he would be called down. It is not the amount of money that the people care for so much; but the spirit of the thing. This granting of trunks and knives is the most humiliating and contemptible thing that any honourable body of men could do.

Mr. BERGERON. Where is your trunk?

Mr. MILLS. Frank your clothes home.

Mr. ROGERS. I will tell you where my trunk is, if you want to know. It is down in the hotel, and I left strict orders with the proprietor not to give it to any one, because some of them are so greedy for trunks that they would take two, if they got a chance. To think that such miserable, petty talk should be indulged in by members of this House. The people of the country, who sent us here, expect something more statesmanlike from us, and I look with contempt on any hon. gentleman who talks in that way across the floor of the House. I think it is humiliating; it is not statesmanlike. It would not be done by gentlemen. These trivial matters should be done away with. There was some discussion here, a little while ago, about the inferior quality of the stationery. If we did away with these trunks and jack-knives, and got stationery of a better quality, the country would not object. It is not the amount of money that they object to; but they look on men who do such things as unworthy to be their representatives. I was very glad to see the Government do away with the practice of giving trunks. When I asked a gentleman what he did with the extra trunk he got

four years ago, he said one was enough to last him a lifetime, and he gave the other to some of his friends. As regards the Auditor General's Report, I think it is a God-send to the country. I do not know what would have become of the country, under the late Administration, if we had not such a man as the Auditor General to watch them; and, more than that, I say he is not well enough paid. I will go further, and say, that I have that much patriotism that I will give \$5 myself, if every other man in this House will put up \$5, which would provide another thousand dollars for the Auditor General for the good work he is doing. I say: Pay him well, for he is the salvation of the country. Those things should not be there at all, but, if you must have them there, do not aggravate the poor tax-payers of the country by showing them.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). I do not agree in the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) nor with the manner in which he made that proposal. I always had the opinion that the hon. gentleman was a straightforward, courageous fighter, who never attempted to take any undue advantage of an opponent, but now I shall have to revise my opinion. He proposes that every member of the House of Commons who asks for a senatorship or a judgeship or a lieutenant governorship or a position in the civil service shall forfeit his seat in this House. What would be the result? The hon. gentleman knows that the result would be that the boasted majority of fifty on the other side would disappear and we would walk over to that side and rule this country.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I did not think of that.

Mr. WALLACE. I think it would be taking an unfair advantage of the Government, and so I hope my hon. friend will withdraw his motion. Now, with reference to the Bill itself, I think that it is a most absurd proposal. After all the long speech the hon. gentleman has made, in which he made some good points and pointed out abuses that undoubtedly exist in the civil service, does he come down with a bill dealing with those abuses? Not a bit of it. He evades them altogether, and asks us to do what should not be done on its merits. For instance, his Bill provides that no member of the civil service who asks to have his salary increased shall thereby forfeit his position.

Mr. McMULLEN. I do not ask anything of the kind. What I ask is that any civil servant, who asks for any addition to his regular salary, unless the addition he asks be a permanent increase, should forfeit his position. He is at liberty to ask for a permanent increase, but not for extras.

Mr. ROGERS.

Mr. WALLACE. Supposing, as did happen when I was Minister, I should send a customs officer, who was receiving a regular, moderate salary, say in Ontario, out to British Columbia to open up and establish an officer there, where the expenses of living were three times what they were at home, I would not be at liberty to give him an extra allowance.

Mr. McMULLEN. Add it to his salary.

Mr. WALLACE. But as he was only sent out there temporarily, that would hardly justify a permanent increase of \$600 or \$800 to the salary of a clerk who is only getting that much. That would be, in fact, doubling his permanent salary. The most justifiable proposition, from the point of view of business and economy, the hon. gentleman proposes to make a crime. That is the proposal he made, and the only proposal in his Bill.

He has told us that officials who are paid from two sources or are paid anything in addition to their regular salary, should have their names published as being in receipt of this extra payment. But that is done in the Auditor General's Report at present. In that report, as the hon. gentleman knows, we have a list of the members of the civil service who get paid from two different sources. Therefore, what he was demanding should be done and the failure to do which he was stigmatizing as an outrage is done to-day and is found in the report of the Auditor General. In that list, the name of the officer is given and his regular salary and the extra money paid to him and the reason why that extra money is paid. I do not see, therefore, where the criticism of the hon. gentleman in that respect comes in.

Again he provides, in this precious little Bill, that if any deputy head, officer or employee asks for an additional salary or remuneration, he shall thereby vacate his position. Well, suppose that an officer is sent to a place where he must be paid an extra salary in order to live. Take, for instance, the officials sent to the Yukon. We are told that those sent to the Yukon who are on the military service, receive double pay while in that district. But if this Bill were passed such officers would have to be dismissed, or be given this increased allowance as a permanent addition to their salaries, even after their return from that district. So that these people would continue to get double pay after they had returned. Instead of effecting a saving, that Bill would establish a most extravagant and unfair condition of things.

No doubt there are reforms which can be made in the civil service. In that service there are men who perform diligent, faithful, effective service and receive very little remuneration or recognition, while others who do not perform such faithful, diligent service receive very large salaries. And we have a system adopted by this Government, which I consider most pernicious, and one

practised by the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) more than by any other Minister. That hon. gentleman said: I am going to pick out the men who do diligent and effective service and pay them. But how can he, who is here in Ottawa one day every week in his office, and who cannot supervise his staff, composed of hundreds of clerks, know who is doing this diligent service that requires extra remuneration? How is he to know the clerk who has not been diligent? The men who have been diligent, according to him, are those who got out the list that the Postmaster General himself was afraid to avow as his production. But these two men who were diligent in scouring out the private letters of members and having them published are the men whose salaries were increased.

If the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) is in earnest, let him begin with reforming these Ministers. Let him not lecture the whole country, but lecture these Ministers and point out to them where they have failed in carrying out the law and doing justice to those members of the service whose faithful work should be recognized. But these members of the Government are too busy looking out for schemes of aggrandizement for themselves. The members of Parliament on that side, some of them at any rate, are busy looking for offices for themselves and their friends. So we can not expect, and we do not expect of them, any reform in the civil service. We do not expect and we cannot therefore expect efficient and economical government. But we may expect what we see is occurring—that the civil service list is increasing rapidly, that every department of the Government—or almost every department, I will not say every department, but the departments in the aggregate—are increasing their expenses abnormally; the public funds are being squandered in every direction, and instead of practising the economy which they preached when on this side, they are indulging in the wildest extravagance—and without a word of rebuke from the hon. member for North Wellington.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

#### RETURNS ORDERED.

Copies of all papers in connection with the dismissal from office of Thomas Shannon, of Killarney.—(Mr. Richardson.)

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Copies of all letters, telegrams, cablegrams, memorials and other papers received by the Right Hon. the Prime Minister of Canada, the Hon. J. I. Tarte, the Minister of Public Works, or the hon. A. G. Blair, the Minister of Railways and Canals from the Northern Commercial Telegraph Company, Limited, the Commercial Telegraph Construction Syndicate, Limited, or the W. T. Henley Telegraph Works, Limited, or from any director or directors, person or persons on behalf of or as representing any of these companies, or from the High Commissioner for Canada in London, or from any other person or company respecting the construction by or for the Northern Commercial Telegraph Company, Limited, of a telegraph line between Skagway and Dawson, or of a submarine cable telegraph between some point in British Columbia and Skagway or Wrangel, or in any way relating to either of these subjects. Also copies of all letters from the Right Hon. the Prime Minister of Canada, or from either of said other Ministers to any of said companies or to any director or directors or other person or persons acting or purporting to act on behalf of any of said companies in any way relating to the construction of said telegraph line or cable line by, for or under the charter of the Northern Commercial Telegraph Company, Limited. Also, copies of all correspondence between the Dominion Government or any member or department thereof and the United States Government at Washington, or any department thereof, bearing upon the laying and landing of a submarine cable between some point in British Columbia and Skagway or Wrangel or any point between these places.—(Mr. Prior, by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.)

Copies of all instructions, correspondence and reports, accounts and vouchers, for expenses connected with the expedition of Chief Engineer Coste, of the Department of Public Works, referred to in the Annual Report of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, 1898, page 7, and also connected with the visit subsequently paid to England by Mr. Coste in the same year.—(Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.)

Copies of all Orders in Council respecting the appointment and dismissal of Mr. Russell, inspector of steamboats; copies of all reports and evidence touching an inquiry into his conduct; also, of all reports, papers and correspondence respecting his last appointment or reinstatement to the public service; also, all communications from, to or concerning this officer since he has been discharging duties in the Yukon district.—(Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.)

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

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 10.35 p.m.

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## FOURTH SESSION—EIGHTH PARLIAMENT, 1899.

Abbreviations of well known words and Parliamentary expressions are used in the following:—1°, 2°, 3°, First Reading, Second Reading, Third Reading; 3 m. h., 6 m. h., 6 w. h., Three Months' Hoist, Six Months' Hoist, Six Weeks' Hoist; \*, without remarks or debate; Accts., Accounts; Adjn., Adjourn; Adjd., Adjourned; Amt., Amendment; Amts., Amendments; Amalg., Amalgamation; Ans., Answer; Ass., Assurance; B., Bill; B. C., British Columbia; Can., Canada or Canadian; C.P.R., Canadian Pacific Railway; Com., Committee; Co., Company; Conc., Concur, Concurred, Concurrence; Consd., Consider; Consdn., Consideration; Cor., Correspondence; Deb., Debate; Dept., Department; Depts., Departments; Div., Division; Dom., Dominion; Govt., Government; His Ex., His Excellency the Governor General; Hse., House; H. of C., House of Commons; Incorp., Incorporation; Ins., Insurance; I.C.R., Intercolonial Railway; Man., Manitoba; Mess., Message; M., Motion; m., moved; Neg., Negatived; N.B., New Brunswick; N.W.T., North-west Territories; N.S., Nova Scotia; O.C., Order in Council; Ont., Ontario; P.E.I., Prince Edward Island; P.O., Post Office; Par., Paragraph; Prop., Proposed; Q., Quebec; Ques., Question; Recom., Recommit; Ref., Refer, Referred, Reference; Rep., Report, Reported; Reps., Reports; Res., Resolution; Ret., Return; Ry., Railway; Rys., Railways; Sel., Select; Sen., Senate; Sp., Special; Stmnt., Statement; Sup., Supply; Suppl., Supplement, Supplementary; Wthdn., Withdrawn; Wthdrl., Withdrawal; Y.N., Yeas and Nays; Names in *Italic* and parentheses are those of the mover.

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 Stock, David, Relief B. 88 (Mr. *McCarthy*) in Com., 3490 (ii).

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*Canals*: Beauharnois (steel bridge and surveys, &c.) 7450; Chambly (surveying property, &c.) 7454 (iii); (telephone lines) 5783 (ii); Cornwall (enlargement) 7298; (payment to A. P. Ross) 9176 (iii); (repairs to locks) 5784; Faran's Point (enlargement) 5779 (ii); Galops (enlargement) 7299, 7443; Lachine (Atwater Avenue wall) 9173 (iii); (deepening River St. Pierre) 5781 (ii); (enlargement) 7297; (Heny & Borthwick claim) 9173; Lake St. Louis (deepening) 7298; Murray (Landing Station) 7454 (iii); (North Channel) 5779 (ii); Rainy River (lock and dam) 9173; Rapide Plat (enlargement) 7299; Rideau (Kilmarnock Cut) 7454; Soulanges (construction) 7295; Sault Ste. Marie (construction) 7296; Sault Ste. Marie (Ryan & Co.'s claims) 9237; Trent (construction) 7299 (iii); (gratuity to W. Quinn) 5782 (ii); (rebuilding Cowan's Bridge) 9172; (Rosedale Bridge) 7318; Welland (bridges, &c.) 7454 (iii); (rebate to Forwarding Co.) 5794; (refund for damages to lock) 5792; (remission of arrears of rental) 5790 (ii); (repairs, &c.) 7463 (iii).

*Civil Government*: Railways and Canals (salaries) 2250 (i); 6383 (ii).

*Customs*: B.C. (contingencies, &c.) 8458 (iii); (suspense account, Montreal) 5592 (ii).

*Legislation*: House of Commons (voters' lists) 2296 (i).

*Lighthouse and Coast Service* (supplies, &c.) 3537 (ii).

*Mail Subsidies and S.S. Subventions* (St. John and Liverpool) 8671 (iii).

*Militia* (stores, &c.) 7096; (Yukon supplies) 7046 (iii).

*Miscellaneous* (International Commission) 5852 (ii).

*Post Office* (Mail service) 7336 (iii).

*Public Works*: Buildings, Ottawa (electric lighting) 5192 (ii); Harbours and Rivers, N.B., 7763; (Campobello breakwater) 10010; (Cape Tormentine breakwater) 10011; (Hopewell wharf) 10010; (Main River wharf) 10012; (St. John River and Belleisle wharfs) 10011; (St. Nicholas wharf) 10010; (Shippegan wharf) 10012; N.S. (wharfs) 7737; Que. (Lévis dock, enlargement) 9968; Ont. (Port Colborne) 9292; Roads and Bridges (Ottawa) 8148 (iii).

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*Railways*: C. P. R. (land damages) 7153; I. C. R. (accommodation, St. John) 7155, 7242, 7401 (iii); (A. R. McDonald's dismissal, &c.) 7276 9168; (car couplers) 9171; Miscellaneous (code of rules) 9175; (elevator, Halifax) 9172; (freight rates) 7457; (increased siding accommodation) 9156; (increased station accommodation) 9163; (Indian town Branch, Mr. Snowball's claim) 9165; (installation of Pintsch gas) 9172; (land damages) 7154; (original construction) 7155; (passenger coach) 9172; (Point Tupper improvement) 9171; (refrigerator care) 9172 (iii); (rolling stock) 5754 (ii); (rolling stock) 7432, 7461; St. John accommodation) 9164; (St. John elevator) 9163 (iii); (shops at Moncton) 5753 (ii); (telegraph service) 9171; (uniforms) 7456; miscellaneous, 7455; (expenses of Ry. Com. of P.C.) 9175; (Ottawa river) 9176 (iii); (repairs to "Victoria") 5785; (subsidies to Central Ry. Co.) 5789 (ii); P.E.I., 7462 (iii); (Mount Stewart wharf) 5754, 5771 (ii); (Murray

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*Yukon Provisional District*: Militia (clothing contract) 9111; Railways (surveys, &c.) 8700 (iii).  
Tate's Dry Dock, Montreal, Rent, Lessees, &c. (Ans.) 1832 (i).

Trent Canal, Jordan, Mr. Wm., Claims for Land Damages (Ans.) 1977 (i).

— Land Valuations, Complaints, &c. (Ans.) 5311 (ii).

— Payments to Mr. F. D. Moore by Govt. (Ans.) 5311 (ii).

— Payment of Workmen (Ans.) 1977 (i).

— Purchase of Land for Dam at Nassau (Ans.) 1857 (i).

Trueman, Mr. W. H., Appmt. to Rys. and Canals Dept. (Ans.) 4483 (ii).

Valleyfield, Lease of Land, &c. (Ans.) 1815 (i).

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Active Militia Force, Resignation of Majors (Ans.) 5488 (ii).

Ammunition, Amount issued to 7th Battalion, London (Ans.) 1957 (i).

Annapolis Public Buildings, Repairs, &c. (Ans.) 2701 (i).

Baddeck, N.S., Erection of Drill Shed (Ans.) 2111 (i).

Biggar, J. L., Appmt. by Govt., Qualifications, &c. (Ans.) 3550 (ii).

Bliiss, Maj. D. C. F., Positions held under Govt., Salary, &c. (Ans.) 3261 (i) 3335, 3552 (ii).

Boston and Alaskan Transportation Co., Contract with Can. Govt. (Ans.) 1829 (i).

Brevet Promotions, Permanent Force, Regulations, &c. (Ans.) 3550 (ii).

Can. Service Medals, Delay in issuing, Board of Claims, Remuneration, &c. (Ans.) 2699 (i).

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Domville, Lt.-Col., Charges against (Ans.) 1840, 1845 (i).

— Leave of Absence from Command of 8th Hussars (Ans.) 2898 (i).

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Fredericton Military School, Recommendations for Admission and Instruction &c. (Ans.) 3795.

General Service Medals, Date of Royal Warrant, Govtl. Action, &c. (Ans.) 8630 (iii).

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- Imperial Service and Can. Brigade and Can. Seamen, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Hughes*) 2350 (i).  
 — MacAuley Point, B.C., on Inquiry for Papers, &c., 5489 (ii).  
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 Medals, Can. Service, Notice in Can. *Gazette* re Clasps, Ribbons, &c. (Ans.) 3083 (i).  
 — Claims allowed by Commission, Distribution, &c. (Ans.) 5869 (ii).  
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 Military School, Fredericton, N.B., Admissions for Instruction, Recommendations, &c. (Ans.) 3335 (ii).  
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 — Hussars 8th, N.B., Annual Allowance (Ans.) 3073 (i).  
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 — Force, Artillery Instruction in Eng., Examinations, &c. (Ans.) 2330 (i).  
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 — Stores, 8th Hussars, Transfer, Orders from Dept., &c. (Ans.) 2898 (i).  
 Permanent Force, Appointment, Qualifications, &c. (Ans.) 3550 (ii).  
 Plains of Abraham, Expiry of Lease, Memorials, &c. (Ans.) 1835 (i).  
 Powers, Mr. Thos., Lease of Govt. Land at Lévis, Amount paid, &c. (Ans.) 3082, 3259 (i).  
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 — Clothing Contract (Ans.) 6722 (ii) 6933 (iii).  
 Samson, Mr. Pierre, Caretaker at St. Joseph de Lévis Fort, Dismissal, &c. (Ans.) 3082 (i).

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- Civil Government*: Customs (contingencies) 2984  
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*Public Works*: Buildings, (N.S.) 7614; Ont.) London drill hall) 9961; (Royal Military College) 9960; (St. Catharines drill hall) 9957; (Ottawa military store) 9942.  
*Railways*: I.C.R. (accommodation, St. John) 7157, 7177, 7179, 7188 (iii).  
*Yukon Provisional District*: Militia (food, clothing, transportation, &c.) 9066, 9092 (iii).  
 Stanley Park and Deadman's Island, O.C.'s, Cor., &c., between Can. Govt. and B.C. on M. (Mr. *Prior*) for Copies, 2335 (i).  
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 Strathy, Mr. J. A. L., Reinstatement as Lt.-Col. (Ans.) 2329 (i).  
 Sussex, N.B., Erection of Drill Shed (Ans.) 1857 (i).  
 Veterans of 1866 and 1870, Issue of Medals, &c. (Ans.) 1848, 1854, 2114 (i).  
 — Volunteers organized in Chicago, Eligibility for Medals (Ans.) 2704 (i).  
 — of 1885, Issue of Scrip and Medals, Applications, &c. (Ans.) 2701 (i).  
 Weights and Measures Act Amt. B. 128 (Sir *Henry Joly*) in Com., 3894 (ii).

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- Wolseley Barracks, London, Land purchased, Price, &c. (Ans.) 1840 (i).  
 Yukon, Freight Transportation, Guarantee by Contractors, &c. (Ans.) 2902 (i).  
 ——— Militia, Strength of Force, Cost of Supplies, &c. (Ans.) 1831 (i).  
 ——— Cost of Transportation, &c. (Ans.) 1842; 1892 (i).

**Borden, Mr. R. L., Halifax.**

- Address, on The, 885, 895 (i).  
 Atlantic Fast SS. Service, Peterson, Tate & Co.'s Bond, Payment to Govt. (Ques.) 2481 (i).  
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 ——— (M.) to place Documents, &c. on Table of Hse. for ref. to Com. on Priv. and Elections, 6723 (ii); 6821 (iii).  
 Clement, Mr. W. H. P., Restrictions and Instruction by Govt., as Legal Adviser to Yukon Council (Ques.) 2322 (i).  
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 ——— G.T.R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 4356, 4380, 4399, 4435, 4445, 4562, 4571, 4601, 4689, 4710 (ii).  
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 ——— Starr and De Wolfe's Contract, Rep. of Mr. Shanly, C.E. (M. for copy\*) 2962 (i).  
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 Ottawa City, Grant of Money Authorization B. 187 (Mr. *Fielding*) in Com., 9627 (iii).  
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 Quebec Harbour Commissioners' Consolid. Act Amt. B. 91 (Mr. *Fitzpatrick*) in Com., 3928 (ii).

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- Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) on M. for 2°, 6650 (ii).  
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*Legislation*: House of Commons (voters' lists) 2298 (i).  
*Lighthouse and Coast Service*: (salaries, &c.) 3526 (ii).  
*Militia*: (compensation to Mrs. Maxwell) 9131 (iii).  
*Ocean and River Service*: (maintenance) 3033; (masters and mates) 3059; (wreck investigations) 3064 (i).  
*Public Works*: Buildings (N.B.) 7616; N.S., 9944; (Halifax Quarantine Station) 5089; (Salmon River freight shed) 9997; Ottawa (electric lighting) 9941 (iii).  
*Railways*: I C. R. (rolling stock) 7461 (iii).  
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 Yukon District, Instructions, &c. to Mr. Ogilvie (M. for Rep.\*) 2027 (i).  
 ——— Liquor Permits to Mr. Peters (M. for cor.\*) 2027 (i).  
 ——— Liquor Permits, Cor. between Mr. Martin and Min. of Int. (M. for papers\*) 2027 (i).  
 ——— Mail Service (1898-99) Efficiency of Contractors, Reps., &c. (M. for cor.) 2705 (i).  
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 Columbia and Western Ry. Co.'s B. 26 (Mr. *Costigan*) in Com., 2646; on amt. (Mr. *Oliver*) to M. for 3°, 2938 (i).  
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 Pacific Cable between Australia and Can., Agreement B. (Mr. *Mulock*) on prop. Res., 8372 (iii).  
 Public Works (Preservation of Health) B. 105 (Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*) on M. for 2°, 7664 (iii).  
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 ——— Commissioners, Establishment of Board, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Rutherford*) 3849 (ii).  
 ——— Passes to Members and Senators (B. 37) 1°, 1073; 2° m., 2195 (i).  
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- Collection of Revenues* (telegraph lines, B. C.) 8188.  
*Customs* (salaries, &c., Yukon) 559 (ii).  
*Public Works: Harbours and Rivers* (B.C.) 8086.

**Bourassa, Mr. J. H. N., Labelle.**

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Civil Service, Attachment of Salaries B. 38 (Mr. *Richardson*) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 1932 (i).

Debates, Official, 2nd Rep., Dismissal of French Translator, on M. to conc., 1748 (i).

Fairlie, Mr., Dismissal from Rupert's Land Industrial School (Ques.) 2532 (i).

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- Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8538 (iii).  
*Public Works: Telegraphs* (Anticosti Island) 10079.  
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**Britton, Mr. B. M., Kingston.**

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Combinations in Restraint of Trade Prevention Act Amt. B. 40 (Mr. *Sproule*) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 1946 (i).

Criminal Code (1892) Seduction and Abduction B. 2 (Mr. *Charlton*) in Com., 2526 (i).

—— (1892) Act Amt. (B. 36) 1<sup>o</sup>\*, 974; 2<sup>o</sup> m., 2160; on Order for 2<sup>o</sup>, 2527 (i).

Dom. Elections Act Amt. B. 81 (voting machines) 1<sup>o</sup>, 2035 (i).

Drainage Across Ry. Lands B. 24 (Mr. *Casey*) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 1921; on M. to ref. to Sel. Com., 2932 (i).

Great North-west Central Ry. Co.'s B. 90 (Mr. *Macpherson*) on amt. (Mr. *Douglas*) to M. for 3<sup>o</sup>, 4197 (ii).

I. C. R. Extension to Montreal—G. T. R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 4568.

Joint Stock Companies Act Amt. (B. 114) 1<sup>o</sup>, 2790 (i).

Naval Brigade Reserve, &c., organized by Can. Govt., Cor., with Imp. Govt., &c. (Ques.) 6048 (ii).

Navigable Waters Protection Act Amt. (B. 19) 1<sup>o</sup>\*, 700; 2<sup>o</sup> m., 1862; in Com. (amt.) 1896 (i).

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Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Ry. Co.'s B. 69 (Mr. *Calvert*) in Com., 5354 (ii).

Pacific Cable between Australia and Can. Agreement B. (Mr. *Mulock*) in Com. on Res., 8384.

Penitentiary Act Amt. B. 173 (Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*) in Com., 8764 (iii).

Post Office Act Amt. B. 155 (Mr. *Mulock*) in Com., 6110 (ii).

Public Works (Preservation of Health) B. 105 (Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 7661 (iii).

Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9440, 9494, 9590 (iii).

Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 6715 (ii).

Revision of the Statutes, Appnmt. of Commission (Ques.) 1881 (i).

Speeches of Members, Limitation, &c., on M. (Mr. *Charlton*) for Sel. Com., 2760 (i).

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- Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (Paris Exhibition) 10144.  
*Canals—Galops* (enlargement) 7449 (iii); Welland (rebate to Forwarding Co.) 5796; (refund for damages to lock) 5793 (ii).  
*Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8572 (iii).  
*Justice, Administration of* (Additional Judge in Ont.) 10122 (iii).  
*Legislation*: (stationery supplies) 5737 (ii); (Voters' Lists) 2308 (i).  
*Militia* (arms, equipment, &c.) 9142; (clothing) 7107; (pay, allowance) 7029; (Royal Military College) 7141 (iii).  
*Post Office* (postmasters' salaries) 5808 (ii).  
*Public Works: Harbours and Rivers, Ont.* (Portsmouth Wharf) 10065 (Port Colborne) 9283 Que., 8123; (Knowlton Landing) 10020; (Montreal Harbour Improvements) 9981 (iii). Yukon District (telegraph lines) 5616 (ii).  
*Quarantine* (cattle, salaries, &c.) 5081 (ii).  
 Winding Up Act Amt. B. 31 (Mr. *Fortin*) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 1874 (i); in Com., 4317 (ii).

**Broder, Mr. A., Dundas.**

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- Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (illustration stations) 8309 (iii).

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- Public Works: Harbours and Rivers* (St. Lawrence Ship Channel) 7603 (iii).

**Calvert, Mr. W. S., West Middlesex.**

Ammunition, Amount issued to 7th Battalion, London (Ques.) 1956 (i).

Controverted Elections Act: Registrar's Fees, (remarks) 8348 (iii).

**Calvert, Mr. W. S.—*Con.***

Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Railway Co.'s incorp. (B. 69) 1<sup>o</sup>, 1949 (i); (M.) for Com., 5042; on M. for Com., 5254 (ii).

Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9441 (iii).

Wolseley Barracks, London, Land purchased, Price, &c. (Ques.) 1840 (i).

**Campbell, Mr. A., *Kent, Ont.***

Address, on The, 1061 (i).

British Yukon Mining, Trading and Transportation Co's (Change of Title)—(B. 57) 1<sup>o</sup>, 1431 (i).

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Civil Service, Attachment of Salaries B. 38 (Mr. *Richardson*) in Com., 5935 (ii).

Dom. Permanent Loan Co.'s B. 104 (Mr. *Clarke*) in Com., 6875 (iii).

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General Inspection Act Amt. B. 156 (Sir *Henry Joly*) 9637, 9644 (iii).

Grain Standards, Legislation *re* Inspection, &c., on prop. Res. (Mr. *Davin*) 3835 (ii).

Meagher, Thos., Seizure by U.S. Authorities, on M. (Mr. *Cowan*) for Ret., 2751 (i).

Montreal Island Belt Line Ry. B. 112 (Mr. *Lemieux*) in Com. (amt.) 6327, 6337 (ii).

Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9443; in Com. on Bill, 9830 (iii).

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*Quarantine* (cattle) 8339 (iii).

*Weights and Measures* (inspection) 5580 (ii).

**Cargill, Mr. H., *East Bruce.***

Bounties on Iron and Steel, prop. Res. (Mr. *Fielding*) on M. for Com., 4986 (ii).

Customs and Inland Revenue Depts. B. 182 (Mr. *Fielding*) in Com., 9681 (iii).

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*Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (illustration stations) 8318

*Militia and Defence* (military stores) 5434 (ii).

*Post Office* (Mail Service) 7378 (iii); (postmasters' salaries) 5818 (ii).

*Public Works*: Buildings (Ottawa, electric lighting) 5198 (ii).

**Carroll, Mr. H. G., *Kamouraska.***

Address, on The, 509 (i).

**Carscallen, Mr. A. W., *North Hastings.***

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— on prop. Res. (Mr. *McInnes*) 3123 (i).

**Cartwright, Hon. Sir Richard, G.C.M.G., *South Oxford.***

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**Cartwright, Hon. Sir R.—*Con.***

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— S.S. Subsidies between St. John, Halifax and London, Amount paid, &c. (Ans.) 2900 (i).

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*Legislation*: House of Commons (debates) 2280 (i); (gratuity to Lady Edgar) 10196 (iii); (voter's lists) 2281 (i).

**Cartwright, Hon. Sir R.—Con.**

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**Casey, Mr. G. E., West Elgin.**

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**Casey, Mr. G. E.—Con.**

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— Communications, &c. (M. to print papers) 2963 (i).

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*Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (cold storage) 8728; (illustration stations) 8302, 8330 (iii).

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**Casgrain, Mr. T. C., Montmorency.**

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- Labreque, Mr. C. O., Emplmt. by Govt. Amounts paid, &c. (Ques.) 1846 (i).
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- Martel, Mr. P., Postmaster at St. Prime, Dismissal, &c. (Ques.) 1964 (i).
- Mistassini and Ste. Méthode Storehouses, Construction, &c., Name of Contractor, &c. (Ques.) 1888 (i).
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- Murray Bay and Quebec Mail Service, Complaints of Delay, &c. (Ques.) 1960 (i).

**Casgrain, Mr. T. C.—Con.**

- O'Donahue, Mr. W. T., Caretaker at Roberval, Salary, &c. (Ques.) 3335 (ii).
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- Charlton, Mr. J., North Norfolk.**
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- Erie and Huron Ry. Co., and Lake Erie and Detroit Ry. Co.'s Amalgamation (B. 60) 1°, 1540 (i).
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**Charlton, Mr. J.—Con.**

- Preferential Trade with G.B., on prop Res. (Mr. *McNeill*) 8754, 8755 (iii).  
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**Chauvin, Mr. L. A., Terrebonne.**

- Address, on The, 504 (i).  
 Civil Service, Attachment of Salaries Bill (Ques.) 1852 (i).  
 ——— B. 38 (Mr. *Richardson*) on M. for 2°, 1928 (i); in Com., 5918 (ii).  
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**Christie, Mr. T., Argenteuil.**

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**Clancy, Mr. J., Bothwell.**

- Address, on The, 541 (i).  
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**Clancy, Mr. J.—Con.**

- Customs and Inland Revenue Depts. Act Amt. (B. 182) in Com. on Res., 8946 (iii).  
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 ——— on Ques. of Order (Mr. *Borden*, Halifax) 4448, 4452 (ii).  
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- Administration of Justice* (Alien Labour\* Law enforcement) 5471; (Exchequer Court) 5474 (ii); (Meagher's claim against U.S.), 10119, 10194; Yukon (living expenses) 10194 (iii).  
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*Civil Government*: Customs (contingencies) 2988; (salaries) 2092; Finance (salaries) 2091 (i) 5018 (ii); Interior (salaries) 2082 (i); Justice (salaries, &c.) 10119 (iii); Marine and Fisheries (contingencies) 5026 (ii); Militia and Defence (salaries) 2071; Privy Council (salaries) 2052 (i).  
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**Clancy, Mr. J.—Con.**

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Sydenham River, Dredging, Amount expended (Ques.) 3820 (ii).

Tuberculosis, Prevention of, on M. (Mr. Roddick) to Com. of Sup., 6317 (ii).

Weights and Measures Act Amt. B. 128 (Sir Henry Joly) in Com., 3885 (ii); 9883 (iii).

**Clarke, Mr. E. F., West Toronto.**

Address, on The, 1463 (amt.) 1499 (i).

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**Clarke, Mr. E. F.—Con.**

Companies Act Amt. B. 160 (Mr. Fielding) in Com., 8775 (iii).

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- Customs Act Amt. B. 154 (Mr. *Paterson*) in Com., 6455 (ii).  
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 — on amt. (Mr. *Bertram*) to amt. (Mr. *Clarke*) 1772 (i).  
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**Davin, Mr. N. F.—Con.**

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 — Administration of, Charges against, on M. (Sir *Charles Hibbert Tupper*) to Com. of Sup., 6262 (ii).  
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 — Bennett Hospital, Matron and Medical Supt., Naines, &c. (Ques.) 1979 (i).  
 — Bourassa, Mr., Postmaster at Dawson City (Ques.) 1833, 1958 (i).  
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 — Teslin Lake Ry. Route, Rep. of Engineer (M. for Copy\*) 2026 (i).  
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**Davis, Mr. T. O., Saskatchewan.**

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 — Amt. (Mr. *Fielding*) agreed to (Y. 68; N. 30) 2014 (i).  
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- Nisbet Academy of Prince Albert (B. 10) 1°, 618 (i); (M.) for Com., 3842 (ii).  
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**Desmarais, Mr. O., Montreal (St. James).**

Address, on The, 1245 (iii).

**Dobell, Hon. E. R., West Quebec.**

Quebec Harbour Commission Consolid. Act Amt. B. 91 (Mr. *Fitzpatrick*) in Com., 3920 (ii).

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**Domville, Mr. James, King's, N.B.**

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*Public Works*: Harbours and Rivers (Ont.) 7985.

*Railways*: I. C. R. (accommodation at St. John) 7257 (iii).

Sussex, N. B., Erection of Drill Shed (Ques.) 1857 (i).

Yukon Administration, Charges against, par. in *North British Daily Mail*, on M. (Mr. *Davin*) to Com. of Sup., 8064 (iii).

— Council, Names, Appnmt, &c. (Ques.) 1832 (i).

— Miners' Rights to cut Timber, &c. (Ques.) 1836 (i).

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— Timber Regulations, Issue of Permits, Names, &c. (Ques.) 1836 (i).

**Douglas, Mr. J. M., East Assiniboia.**

Grain Seed Indebtedness in Man. and N. W. T. Securities (B. 16) 1<sup>st</sup>, 618 (i).

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Great North-west Central Ry. Co.'s B. 90 (Mr. *Macpherson*) on M. for 3<sup>d</sup> (amt.) 4189 (ii).

North-west Territories, Expenditure on Capital Account (M. for ret. \*) 1878 (ii).

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Yukon Liquor Permits, Number, Names, &c. (Ques.) 1843 (i).

**Dugas, Mr. L. E., Montcalm.**

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**Dugas, Mr. L. E.—Con.**

I. C. R., Labelle, Mr. L. V., Emplmt. by Govt., (Ques.) 1887 (i).

— Valcouer, Octave, Emplmt. by Govt., (Ques.) 5309 (ii).

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Pariseau, Mr. C. D., Postmaster at St. Esprit, Dismissal, &c. (Ques.) 1962 (i).

Public Buildings, Ottawa, Tower Clock and Post Office Clock Lighting, Change of Method, &c. (Ques.) 6381 (ii).

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*Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (illustration stations) 8305.

*Public Works*: Harbours and Rivers, Que. (Sabrevois wharf) 10038 (iii).

Tobacco, Canadian and Foreign, Excise Duty paid since 1898, Number of Employees, &c. (Ques.) 3075 (i).

**Dyment, Mr. A. E., Algoma.**

Algoma Central Ry. Co.'s incorp. (B. 71) 1<sup>st</sup>, 1949 (i).

Ontario and Rainy River Ry. Co.'s (B. 121) 1<sup>st</sup>, 3150 (i).

Sudbury and Wahnapiatae Ry. Co.'s incorp. (B. 115) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2899 (i).

**Earle, Mr. T., Victoria, B. C.**

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*Canals* (Wharfs, &c.) 5798 (ii).

*Indians*: B. C. (reserve commission) 5727 (ii).

*Militia* (annual drill) 5067; (clothing) 5443; (military stores) 5424 (ii); (pay, &c.) 7037 (iii); Yukon Force (supplies) 6323, 6342-60 (ii); 7037, 7057 (iii).

*Post Office*: Yukon District (mail service) 6364 (ii).

*Public Works*: Yukon District (telegraph lines) 5606, 5630 (ii).

**Edwards, Mr. W. C., Russell.**

Binder Twine, Sale of by Govt., on M. (Mr. *Taylor*) to Com. of Sup., 9917 (iii).

Bounties on Iron and Steel, prop. Res. (Mr. *Fielding*) on M. for Com., 4978 (ii).

— B. 161 (Mr. *Fielding*) in Com., 7644 (iii).

Central Counties Ry. Co.'s (B. 58) 1<sup>st</sup>, 1540 (i).

Montreal, Ottawa and Georgian Bay Canal, on M. (Mr. *Poupore*) for Cor., &c., 5368 (ii).

Preferential Trade with G. B., on prop. Res. (Mr. *McNeill*) 8643 (iii).

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*Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8493 (iii).

*Public Works*: Harbours and Rivers (Ont.) 7988 (iii); Yukon District (telegraph lines) 5644, 5661.

Tuberculosis, Prevention of, on M. (Mr. *Roddick*) to Com. of Sup., 6298 (ii).

**Ellis, Mr. J. V., St. John City, N.B.**

Banking Act Amt. B. 127 (Mr. *Fielding*) in Com., 3764 (ii).

B.C. Legislation *re* Chinese and Foreign Immigration, on M. (Mr. *Prior*) to adjn., 6897 (iii).

Bounties on Iron and Steel, prop. Res. (Mr. *Fielding*) on M. for Com., 4982 (ii).

Canadian Northern Railway Co's (B. 151) 1<sup>st</sup>, 5096 (ii).

Canned Goods Act Amt. (B. 125) 1<sup>st</sup>, 3335 (ii).

Chinese Immigration Act Amt. B. 49 (Mr. *Maxwell*) on M. for 2<sup>d</sup>, Ques. of Order, 4338 (ii).

Coal Oil; on prop. Res. (Mr. *Davis*) to place on Free List, 1996 (i).

Customs Act Amt. B. 154 (Mr. *Paterson*) in Com., 6447 (ii).

Debates, Official, 2nd Rep., Dismissal of French Translator, on M. to conc., 1744 (i).

—4th Rep. (presented) 2529 (i).

Dry Docks Construction B. 177 (Mr. *Fielding*) in Com. on Res., 8474; in Com. on Bill, 8762 (iii).

Excise, Inspection of Sealed Food Packages, Legislation respecting (Ques.) 2705 (i).

Imperial Service and Can. Brigade and Can. Seamen, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Hughes*) 2349 (i).

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Ottawa City, Grant of Money Authorization B. 187 (Mr. *Fielding*) on M. for 2<sup>d</sup>, 9613 (iii).

Post Office Act Amt. B. 155 (Mr. *Mulock*) in Com., 6104, 6114 (ii).

Public Works (Preservation of Health) B. 105 (Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*) on M. for 2<sup>d</sup>, 7664 (iii).

Quebec Harbour Commissioners' Consolid. Act Amt. B. 91 (Mr. *Fitzpatrick*) in Com., 3922 (ii).

Railway Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9591 (iii).

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Safety of Ships B. 170 (Sir *Louis Davies*) on M. for 2<sup>d</sup>, 9599 (iii).

SS. Subsidies between St. John, Halifax and London, Amount paid, &c. (Ques.) 2900 (i).

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*Fisheries* (protection service) 4720 (ii).

*Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8554 (iii).

*Legislation* (stationery supplies) 5733 (ii).

*Public Works*: Dredging (plant) 8142; Harbours and Rivers (Ont.) 7997 (iii).

*Ocean and River Service* (maintenance) 2992, 3012

*Railways*: I.C.R. (accommodation, St. John) 7164, 7179; P.E.I. (Murray Harbour, &c., construction) 9221 (iii).

**Erb, Mr. D. K., South Perth.**

Tuberculosis, Prevention of, on M. (Mr. *Roddick*) to Com. of Sup., 6317 (ii).

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*Post Office* (postmasters' salaries) 5808 (ii).

**Ethier, Mr. J. A. C., Two Mountains.**

Criminal Code (Execution of Death Sentence) (B. 80) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2032 (i).

I. C. R. Extension to Montreal—G. T. R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 4665

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*Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (illustration stations) 8314 (iii).

**Featherston, Mr. J., Peel.**

Cattle Inspection, Montreal, Regulations, &c. (Ques.) 10115 (iii).

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*Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (cold storage) 8742 (iii).

*Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8605 (iii).

**Fielding, Hon. W. S., Shelburne and Queen's, N.S.**

Address, The, on amt. (Mr. *Bertram*) to amt. (Mr. *Clarke*) 1640 (i).

Annapolis Co., Port George Harbour, Pier, &c. (Ans.) 7532 (iii).

Aronsberg, Abraham, Relief B. 144 (Mr. *Landerkin*) in Com., 7575 (iii).

Atlantic Fast SS. Service, and Messrs. Petersen, Tate & Co.'s Deposit (Ans.) 1883, 2481 (i).

Aud. Gen.'s Rep. (presented) 1165, 2180 (i).

Banking Act Amt. (B. 127) 1<sup>st</sup>, 3497; in Com., 3763 (ii).

Beet Root Sugar, Bounty for Manufacture, &c., on prop. Res. (Mr. *Sproule*) 4840 (ii).

Benevolent Societies incorp. (B. 87) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2109 (i).

Bounties on Iron and Steel (prop. Res.) 4150; (M.) for Com. on Res., 4967; in Com., 4989 (ii).

—(B. 161) 1<sup>st</sup>, 5744 (ii); in Com., 7638 (iii).

Budget Speech and Estimates (remarks) 1952 (i).

—(date of delivery) remarks, 2249 (i).

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 Criminal Code (1892) Seduction and Abduction, B. 2 (Mr. *Charlton*) on M. for F., 2926 (i).  
 Customs Act Amt. B. 154 (Mr. *Paterson*) in Com., 6453 (ii).  
 Dowding, Annie Inkson, Relief (B. 136) 1<sup>st</sup>, 4147 (ii).  
 Militia Clothing, Tenders, &c., (M.) for Copies to be ref. to Pub. Accounts Com., 3874 (ii).  
 Montreal Island Belt Line Ry. Co's. B. 112 (Mr. *Lemieux*) in Com. on amt. (Mr. *Campbell*) 6332 (ii).  
 N.W.T. Rebellion Losses (1885) Claims Commission, on M. (Mr. *Davis*) for Ret., 3099 (i).  
 Nova Scotia Steel Co's. (B. 139) 1<sup>st</sup>, 4259 (ii).  
 Pacific Cable, par. in *Citizen* re Conference of Sec. of State for Colonies, and High Commissioner 3268 (i).  
 Personal Explanation, par. in *Montreal Gazette*, 2036 (i).  
 Pub. Accounts Com., Meetings (remarks) 2965 (i).  
 — Delay in Meeting (Man. Election Frauds) on M. (Sir *Charles H. Tupper*) to adjn., 3246 (i).  
 — Postponement and Hours of Meeting, &c. (remarks) 4344 (ii).  
 — 3rd Rep. of Com., conc., 4147 (ii).  
 — (M.) to refer papers re *Christie, Mr. W. J.*, to Com., 4477 (ii).  
 — Delay in Meetings (remarks) 7195 (iii).  
 — Meetings during Sittings of House (M.) 8780 (iii).  
 — 6th. Rep. of Com. (presented) 9836 (iii).  
 Public Works (Preservation of Health) B. 105 (Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*) on M. for F., 7653 (iii).  
 Ry. Act. Amt. B. 85 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 9734 (iii).  
 — Policy of Govt. re Yukon Ry. Cos., on M. (Sir *Charles Tupper*) to Com. of Sup., 4749 (ii).

**SUPPLY :**

- Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (year book) 8229 (iii).  
*Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8543; (St. Paul des Métis, seed grain, &c.) 9047 (iii).  
*Lighthouse and Coast Service* (construction, &c.) 8163 (ii).  
*Post Office* (Postmasters' salaries) 5816 (ii).  
 Victoria Co., N.S., Patronage, &c. on M. (Mr. *McDougall*) to adjn., 5386 (ii).  
 Weights and Measures Act Amt. B. 128 (Sir *Henri Joly*) in Com., 3900 (ii).

**Fraser, Mr. J., *East Lambton.***

- Address, on The, Omission of Name from Division List, 1861 (i).  
 British American Bank Note Co. vs. The Queen, Action by Govt. (Ques.) 6050 (ii).  
 Coal Oil, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Davis*) to place on Free List, 1966 (i).  
 — on prop. Res. (Mr. *Moore*) 2134 (i).  
 London Mutual Fire Ins. Co. of Canada (B. 68) 1<sup>st</sup>, 1949 (i).

**Frost, Mr. F. T., *Leeds and Grenville.***

- Address, on The, 1386 (i).  
 Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9389 (iii).

**Ganong, Mr. G. W., *Charlotte.***

- Address, on The, 1095 (i).  
 Brown, Barth, Campobello, N.B. Emplmt. by Govt. (Ques.) 4482 (ii).  
 Dick, Isaac, Fishery Guardian, N.B., Dismissal, &c. (Ques.) 7765 (iii).  
 Fishing Weirs, Charlotte Co., Licenses Issued, Dates, &c. (M. for Ret. \*) 2962 (i).  
 Gallant, W. A., Engineer Point Lepreaux Fog-alarm, Dismissal, &c. (Ques.) 4806 (ii).  
 Glass, Jas., Fishery Guardian at Charlotte, N.B., Appmt. by Govt. (Ques.) 4482 (ii).  
 Lepreaux, N. B., Customs Officer, Name, Salary, &c. (Ques.) 5313 (ii).  
 Lobster Fisheries Protection, Regulations re, on M. (Mr. *McLennan, Inverness*) for Com. of Sup., 7686 (iii).  
 Milltown, N.B. Appmt. of Fishery Guardian (Ques.) 4482 (ii).  
 SUPPLY :  
*Civil Government : Marine and Fisheries* (contingencies) 5028 (ii).  
*Public Works : Dredging* (plant) 8140; N.S. (Wharves) 7718; (Ont.) 8003 (iii).  
*Post Office* (mail service) 7373; Postmasters' salaries) 5826 (ii).  
 Weights and Measures Act Amt. (B. 143) 1<sup>st</sup>, 4477 (ii).

**Gauthier, Mr. J., *L'Assomption.***

- Tobacco (Can.) Manufacture, Number of Factories, Memorials, &c. re Duty (M. for stmt. \*) 2027 (i).

**Gauvreau, Mr. C. A., *Temiscouata.***

- Address, on The, 1336 (i).  
 Fraserville Harbour and Board of Trade Resolutions (Ques.) 1968 (i).  
 I.C.R., Addition to Workshops at Rivière du Loup (Ques.) 4480 (ii).  
 — Appmt. of Supt. W. A. Dube, Location of Headquarters (Ques.) 2533 (i).  
 — Delay in furnishing Cars, Complaints, &c. (Ques.) 1853 (i).  
 — Employees Working Hours, Complaints, &c. (Ques.) 1974 (i).

**Gauvreau, Mr. C. A.—Con.**

- I.C.R. Fraserville Accommodation, Pets. from Board of Trade, &c. (Ques.) 1972 (i).  
 ——— pets., *re* Disorderly Conduct (Ques.) 2899 (i).  
 ——— Headquarters at Lévis, Transfer, &c. (Ques.) 3551 (ii).  
 ——— Machinery at Rivière du Loup, Application by Supt. for Additions, &c. (Ques.) 4481 (ii).  
 ——— New time-table (Ques.) 4481 (ii).  
 ——— Removal of Shops from Rivière du Loup to Lévis (Ques.) 2533 (i).  
 ——— Roberge, Cyrille, Dismissal of (Ques.) 1857 (i).  
 ——— Salaries of Employees at Rivière du Loup Workshops (Ques.) 4480 (ii).  
 Legris, Mr., Postmaster at Ste. Eulalie, Investigation, Rep., &c. (Ques.) 4272 (ii).

**Gibson, Mr. W., Lincoln and Niagara.**

- Can. Life Insurance Co.'s (B. 62) 1<sup>st</sup>, 1753 (i).  
 Canadian Pacific Ry. Co.'s (B. 61) 1<sup>st</sup>, 1753 (i).  
 I. C. R. Extension to Montreal—G. T. R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. Blair) in Com. on Res. 4135 (ii).  
 Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Ry. Co.'s B. 69 (Mr. Calvert) on M. for Com. 5250, 5256 (iii).  
 Printing Com. 3rd Rep. of Com. (presented) 5745 (ii).  
 Printing of Parl. 3rd, 4th and 5th Repts. of Com., conc. (M.) 5378 (ii).  
 ——— 7th Rep. of Com., conc. (M.) 8913 (iii).  
 Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. Mulock) in Com., 6777, 6803 (ii).

**SUPPLY :**

- On M. (Mr. Foster) that Com. rise, 5482 (ii).  
 Canals : Trent (construction) 7301 (iii).  
 Immigration (agents, salaries, &c.) 8614 (iii).  
 Legislation (distribution of blue books to law associations) 5738 (ii).  
 Lighthouse and Coast Service (construction, &c.) 5130 (ii).  
 Militia (clothing) 7103; (monuments) 7152 (iii).  
 Public Works : Harbours and Rivers (Wharfs, N.S.) 7744; Ont., 8006; (Port Colborne) 9282, 9274 (iii).  
 Railways : I.C.R. (accommodation, St. John) 7157, 7180, 7189 (iii).  
 Welland Power and Supply Canal Co.'s (B. 67) 1<sup>st</sup>, 1949 (i).

**Gillies, Mr. J. A., Richmond N.S.**

- Arichat Breakwater, N.S., Repairs, Amount expended from 1891 to 1896 (Ques.) 5485 (ii).  
 Babin's Cove Wharf, Arichat, N.S., Cost, Construction, &c. (Ques.) 5486 (ii).  
 Civil Service, Attachment of Salaries B. 38 (Mr. Richardson) in Com., 5916 (ii).  
 Criminal Code (1892) Seduction and Abduction B. 2 (Mr. Charlton) on M. for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2916 (i).

**Gillies, Mr. J. A.—Con.**

- Descousse Wharf, N.S., Cost of Construction, &c. (Ques.) 5486 (ii).  
 Dredging, Richmond Co., N.S., Amount expended from 1891 to 1896 (Ques.) 5485 (ii).  
 Fourchie Harbour, N.S., Dredging, &c. (Ques.) 2904 (i).  
 I. C. R. Extension to Montreal—G. T. R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. Blair) in Com., 4680 (ii).  
 Jerome Point Lighthouse, Inquiry for Ret., 3669.  
 L'Ardoise Breakwater, Amount expended by Govt. (Ques.) 1886 (i).  
 ——— Construction by Govt. (Ques.) 2904 (i).  
 Little River, N.S., Breakwater, Construction, &c. (Ques.) 3944 (ii).  
 McNeil, Stephen, Beaver Cove, Rental charged by Govt. (Ques.) 3944 (ii).  
 ——— Lighthouse-keeper at Richmond, Papers Respecting, Inquiry for Ret., 4732 (ii).  
 Newfoundland Fisheries and French Shore, Rep. of Royal Commission, Inquiry for Ret., 3070.  
 Petit de Grat Breakwater, Amount expended by Govt., Inspection, &c. (Ques.) 1886 (i).  
 Ry. Policy of Govt. *re* Yukon Ry. Co.'s, on M. (Sir Charles Tupper) to Com. of Sup., 4752 (ii).  
 Returns, Inquiry for, 4552 (ii).  
 St. Peter's Canal, Amount expended from 1891 to 1896, &c. (Ques.) 3255 (i).

**SUPPLY :**

- Administration of Justice (Exchequer Court) 5472.  
 Fisheries (salaries of Inspectors) 4050 (ii).  
 Indians : B. C. (reserve commission) 5728; Man. and N. W. T. (implements, &c.) 5718 (ii).  
 Lighthouse and Coast Service (salaries, &c.) 3528.  
 Militia (miscellaneous and unforeseen) 5456 (ii).  
 Penitentiaries (Dorchester) 5478 (ii).  
 Post Office (Postmasters' salaries) 5820 (ii).  
 Steamboat Inspection (fog alarms) 4240 (ii).  
 Tobacco, Reduction of Duties (prop. Res.) allowed to stand, 4813 (ii).  
 Travelling Expenses, &c., Finance Minister and Private Secretary (Ques.) 1880 (i).  
 Wharfs and Piers in different Provs., Number constructed, Maintenance, &c., from 1867 to 1899 (Ques.) 5861 (ii).  
 ——— (M. for Ret. \*) 6939 (iii).  
 Victoria Co., N.S., Patronage, on M. (Mr. McDougall) to adjn., 5490 (ii).  
 Yukon District, Harper, Mr. F., Postmaster at Dawson City, Issue of Notice (Ques.) 1961 (i).

**Gilmour, Mr. J., East Middlesex.**

- Apples, Fraudulent Packing, on M. (Mr. McMillan) to adjn., 3756 (ii).  
 Binder Twine Contract, on M. (Mr. Taylor) to adjn., 7218 (iii).  
 Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. Mulock) in Com., 6999 (iii).  
 Settlers from Eastern Can. to N. W. T., Aid by Govt. (Ques.) 2534 (i).

**SUPPLY :**

- Arts, Agriculture, &c. (illustration stations) 8317.

**Graham, Mr. D., North Ontario.**

Trent Valley Canal, Land Valuations, Complaints, &c. (Ques.) 5311 (ii).

Mr. F. D. Moore, Payments to by Govt. (Ques.) 5311 (ii).

**Guillet, Mr. G., West Northumberland (O.)**

Cobourg, Northumberland and Pacific Ry. Co.'s (B. 98) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2318 (i).

Printing Bureau and Sunday Labour (remarks) 3879 (ii).

Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Pontiac, Change of Title (B. 108) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2529 (i).

**SUPPLY:**

*Immigration* (agents' salaries, &c) 8487, 8589 (iii).

*Indians* (N.S.) 7490 (iii).

*Public Works*: Harbours and Rivers (Ont.) 7933; Que. (Sabrevois wharf) 10030 (iii).

**Haggart, Hon. J. G., South Lanark.**

Banking Act Amt. B. 127 (Mr. *Fielding*) in Com., 3765 (ii).

Banque du Peuple B. 6 (Mr. *Préfontaine*) on M. for Com., 3299; in Com., 3308 (i); Sen. Amts., 7578 (iii).

Bounties on Iron and Steel B. 161 (Mr. *Fielding*) in Com., 7639 (iii).

Business of the Hse. (remarks) 3253 (i) 9177 (iii).

Civil Service, Attachment of Salaries B. 38 (Mr. *Richardson*) in Com., 5920, 5933 (ii).

Contracts let without Tender, on M. (Mr. *Davin*) for O. C's, 5335 (ii).

Convicts, Conditional Liberation B. 171 (Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*) in Com., 9607 (iii).

Dom. Lands Act Amt. B. 148 (Mr. *Sifton*) in Com., 6434 (ii).

Drainage Across Ry. Lands B. 24 (Mr. *Casey*) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 1920 (i).

Drummond County Ry. Res., Inquiry for Papers, 2249; 2973 (i).

See I.C.R.

General Inspection Act Amt. B. 156 (Sir *Henri Joly*) in Com., 9637 (iii).

Great Northern Ry. Co's B. 118 (Mr. *Savard*) in Com., 6970 (iii).

Inland Revenue Act Amt. B. 124 (Sir *Henri Joly*) in Com., 3761, 3881 (ii).

Insurance Act Amt. B. 86 (Mr. *Fielding*) in Com., 6392 (ii).

I.C.R., Extension to Montreal—Drummond Co. Ry., Acquisition B. 133 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 3345; on M. for 1<sup>o</sup>, 3771.

— on M. (Mr. *Taylor*) to adjn., 2821 (ii).

— G.T.R. Agreement; B. 138 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 4069, 4113; on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 4164; in Com., 4357, 4370, 4685, 4712 (ii); Sen. Amts., 9710 (iii).

Montreal Harbour Commissioners B. 179 (Mr. *Fielding*) in Com., 9881 (iii).

— Island Belt Line Ry. Co's B. 112 (Mr. *Lemieux*) in Com. on amt. (Mr. *Campbell*) 6336 (ii).

**Haggart, Hon. J. G.—Con.**

Navigable Waters Protection Act Amt. B. 19 (Mr. *Britton*) in Com., 1896 (i).

Ottawa City, Grant of Money Authorization B. 187 (Mr. *Fielding*) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 9612 (iii).

Penberthy Injector Co.'s Patent Relief B. 141 (Mr. *McGregor*) in Com., 6878 (iii).

P.E.I. Ry., Murray Harbour and Charlottetown Authorization B. 183 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 9758 (iii).

Prohibition Plebiscite, Ret. of Votes polled, Papers respecting, on M. (Mr. *Foster*) to adjn., 2040 (i).

Public Works (Preservation of Public Health) B. 105 (Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*) in Com., 7673 (iii).

Quebec Bridge, Tenders for Construction, Cost, &c. (Ques.) 2112 (i).

— Harbour Commissioner B. 178 (Mr. *Fielding*) in Com., 9868 (iii).

Ry. Act Amt. B. 85 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 9736 (iii).

— Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9319, 9458, 9468, 9472; in Com. on Bill, 9767 (iii).

Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 6904, 6941 (iii).

Restigouche Boom Co.'s incorp. B. 65 (Mr. *McAlister*) on Order for 2<sup>o</sup>, 2650 (i).

Returns, Inquiry for, 8076 (iii).

**SUPPLY:**

*Canals*: Chambly (telephone lines) 5784; Cornwall (repairs to locks) 5784; Farran's Point (enlargement) 5779 (ii); Galops (enlargement) 7442; Lachine (Atwater Avenue wall) 9173; (Heney & Borthwick's claim) 9173, 10153; Murray (landing stage) 7454 (iii); (North Channel) 5779 (ii); Rideau (Kilmarnock cut) 7454; Sault Ste. Marie (Ryan & Co., claims) 9235; Welland (Port Colborne) 7454 (iii); (remission of arrears of rentals) 5791 (ii); (repairs, &c.) 7463 (iii).

*Civil Govt.*: Interior (contingencies) 7468 (iii); Militia and Defence (salaries) 2073 (i); Post Office 7354 (iii); Privy Council Office (salaries) 2058; Railways and Canals (salaries) 2250 (i).

*Collection of Revenues* (Telegraph lines, B.C. 8186; (Pelee Island) 8189 (iii).

*Customs* (Suspense account, Montreal) 5593 (ii).

*Geological Survey* (Artesian borings) 7473 (iii).

*Insurance* (General expenses) 7463 (iii).

*Legislation*: House of Commons (voters' lists) 2281 (i).

*Lighthouse and Coast Service* (Construction, &c.) 5133 (ii).

*Mail Subsidies and SS. Subventions* (Margaree Cheticamp) 10157; (Murray Bay and Ouelle River) 10159 (iii).

*Militia* (rifle ranges) 9144, 9154 (iii).

*Miscellaneous* (Chas. Bremner, compensation, &c.) 10169; (refund of duties on fish. &c., P.E.I.) 10173; (Regulation Code for railways) 10155 (iii).

*Public Works*: Buildings (N.S.) 7615, 7619; Ont., 7625, 9960; (Alexandria Reformatory) 9930; (London drill hall) 9961; (Ottawa electric lighting) 9940; (furnishing, &c., Deptl. Buildings) 9969; (Ottawa, heating, &c.) 7693; Royal Military College) 9930; Harbours and Rivers

**Haggart, Hon. J. G.—Con.**

## SUPPLY—Con.

*Public Works—Con.*

(Man.) 8078; Ont. (Kaministiquia) 7612; (Port Colborne) 9252, 9277; (Wharfs, N.S.) 7700; Que. (Coteau, dredging) 10052; (Montreal Harbour improvements) 9980; (St. Lawrence Ship Channel) 7562, 7580, 7593; Roads and Bridges (Portage du Fort) 10071; Yukon-Telegraph (B.C. and and Teslin Lake) 10100; Lewes and Yukon river improvement) 8194; (telegraph lines) 10094.

*Railways* (increased station accommodation) 9163; I.C.R. (freight rates) 7458; (increased siding accommodation) 9156; (Indiantown Branch, Mr. Snowball's claim) 9165; (Halifax, elevator) 9172; (passenger coach) 9172; (rolling stock) 7432; (telegraph service) 9172; (St. John, accommodation) 7404, 7420, 9164; St. John, elevator) 9163 (miscellaneous) 7455 (iii); (repairs to "Victoria") 5784; P.E.I. (Mount Stewart wharf) 5755, 5773 (ii); (Murray Harbour, &c., construction) 9228; (removal of curves) 7398 (iii).

*Yukon District: Militia* (clothing contract) 9112 (iii); (N.W. Mounted Police) 6388 (ii).

Walker, Postmaster at Ailsa Craig, Charges against (M. for cor. \*) 3873 (ii).

Weights and Measures Act Amt. B. 128 (Sir *Henri Joly*) in Com., 9890 (iii).

Yukon Administration, Charges against, on M. (Mr. *Davin*) to adjn., 6580 (ii).

**Harwood, Mr. H. S., Vaudreuil.**

I.C.R. Extension to Montreal—G.T.R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 4653 (ii).

**Henderson, Mr. D., Halton.**

Address, on The, 1075 (i).

Aronsberg, Abraham, Relief B. 144 (Mr. *Landerkin*) in Com., 7575 (iii).

Banking Act Amt. B. 127 (Mr. *Fielding*) on M. for 1<sup>o</sup>, 3498 (ii).

Binder Twine, Tenders, &c. (Ques.) 1837 (i).

— on M. (Mr. *Taylor*) to adjn., 7208 (iii).

— on M. (Mr. *Taylor*) to Com. of Sup., 9921 (iii).

Bounties on Iron and Steel, prop. Res. (Mr. *Fielding*) on M. for Com., 4987 (i).

Consolidation of the Statutes of Can. (Ques.) 4270 (ii).

Customs Act Amt. B. 154 (Mr. *Paterson*) in Com., 6443 (ii).

Customs and Inland Revenue Depts. Act Amt. (B. 182) in Com. on Res., 8938 (iii).

Dom. Lands Act Amt. B. 148 (Mr. *Sifton*) in Com., 6437 (ii).

Dom. Permanent Loan Co.'s B. 104 (Mr. *Clarke*) in Com., 6876 (iii).

Edmonton and Saskatchewan Ry. Co.'s B. 93 (Mr. *Oliver*) in Com., 4848 (ii).

Goderich Harbour Improvements, Contracts, &c. (Ques.) 1881 (i).

Grain Exports to Germany in 1898-99, Quantity, &c. (Ques.) 8990 (iii).

**Henderson, Mr. D.—Con.**

G.T.Ry. Trackmen's Strike, &c. on M. (Mr. *Maclean*) to adjn., 4523 (ii).

Great North-west Central Ry. Co.'s B. 90 (Mr. *Macpherson*) on amt. (Mr. *Douglas*) to M. for 3<sup>o</sup>, 4198; to M. for 3<sup>o</sup>, 4780 (ii).

I.C.R. Extension to Montreal—G.T.R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 4439, 4628 (ii).

— Order, Ques. of (Sir *Charles Hibbert Tupper*) 4450 (ii).

Lindsay, Haliburton and Mattawa Ry. Co.'s Pet. (M.) to ref. to Sel. Com. on Standing Orders, 1948 (i).

Members of the Govt., Absence from Ottawa, (Ques.) 1819 (i).

Mint, Establishment by Govt. in Can., on prop. Res. (Mr. *McInnes*) 3118 (i).

Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Ry. Co.'s B. 69 (Mr. *Calvert*) on amt. (Mr. *Landerkin*) 5043 (ii).

Nisbet Academy of Prince Albert B. 10 (Mr. *Davis*) on M. for Com., 3844 (ii).

Order (Ques. of) 6778 (ii).

Ottawa Electric Ry. Co.'s B. 18 (Mr. *Belcourt*) in Com., 2152 (i).

Post Office Act Amt. B. 155 (Mr. *Mulock*) in Com., 6105 (ii).

Preferential Trade with G.B., on amt. (Sir *Charles Tupper*) to Com. of Sup., 7915 (iii).

Prohibition of Intoxicating Liquors, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Flint*) 8908 (iii).

Quebec Ry. Light and Power Co.'s B. 84 (Mr. *Carroll*) in Com., 5042 (ii).

Ry. Act Amt. B. 85 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 9741.

— Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9548; in Com., 9767 (iii).

Registered Letters, stolen off C.P.R. train (Ques.) 1829 (i).

Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) on M. for 1<sup>o</sup>, 3465 (ii); in Com., 6972, 6993 (iii).

Stock, David, Relief B. 88 (Mr. *McCarthy*) in Com., 3491 (ii).

## SUPPLY:

*Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (Experimental Farm) 8257; (illustration stations) 8256; (Paris exhibition) 10149; (year-book) 8226 (iii).

*Canals: Trent* (construction) 7314 (iii).

*Charges of Management* (printing Dom. notes) 7002 (iii).

*Civil Govt.: Post Office*, 7356 (iii).

*Customs* (suspense account, Montreal) 5595 (ii).

*Fisheries* (salaries of inspectors) 4040 (ii).

*Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8557, 8607 (iii).

*Indians: Man. and N.W.T.* (implements, &c.) 5719 (ii).

*Mail Subsidies and SS. Subventions* (St. John and Digby) 8673 (iii).

*Militia* (annual drill) 7062 (iii); (clothing) 5443 (ii); 7115 (iii); (military stores) 5426 (ii); (salaries) 7079; (Yukon supplies) 7050 (iii).

*Post Office* (postmasters' salaries) 5805 (ii).

**Henderson, Mr. D.—Con.**SUPPLY—*Con.*

*Public Works*: Buildings (Ont.) 7623; Harbours and Rivers, Ont., 8002, 8013; (Sheguiandah pier) 10069; Que., (St. Lawrence Ship Channel) 7610 (iii); Yukon District (telegraph lines) 5620 (ii).  
Weights and Measures Act Amt. B. 128 (Sir *Henri Joly*) in Com., 3896 (ii); 9885 (iii).

**Heyd, Mr. C. B., South Brant.**

Budget, The, 2682 (i).

Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mullock*) on M. for 2°, 6550 (ii).

## SUPPLY:

*Excise* (commissions on stamps) 4792 (ii).

*Immigration*: (agents, salaries, &c.) 8597, 8611 (iii).

*Indians* (Ont.) 5685 (ii).

Weights and Measures Act Amt. B. 128 (Sir *Henri Joly*) in Com., 3898 (ii).

**Hodgins, Mr. W. T., Carleton, Ont.**

Civil Service Employees, Names of Employees who have received their Statutory Increases since 1896 (M. for Ret. \*) 5943 (ii).

Iron Doors for Public Buildings, Purchase by Govt. (Ques.) 4273 (ii).

Ottawa and Cyrville Mail Service, Contract, &c. (Ques.) 8991 (iii).

Post Office Deptl. Employees, &c., Names of Employees who have not received Statutory Increases since 1896 (M. for Ret. \*) 5943 (ii).

Ry. Mail Service, Supt. and Staff, Salaries and Travelling Expenses (M. for Ret. \*) 5944 (ii).

Steel Boxes, Int. and Indian Depts., Purchased by Govt., Tenders, &c. (Ques.) 4482, 4995 (ii).

**Holmes, Mr. R. West Huron.**

Civil Service Act Amt. B. 63 (Mr. *McMullen*) on M. for 2°, 3322 (i).

Combinations in Restraint of Trade, Prevention Act Amt. B. 40 (Mr. *Sproule*) on M. for 2°, 1943 (i).

Prohibition of Intoxicating Liquors, on prop. Res. (Mr. *F'lint*) 8905 (ii).

## SUPPLY:

*Public Works*: Buildings, Ottawa (electric lighting, &c.) 5185 (ii); Harbours and Rivers (Ont.) 8011 (iii).

**Hughes, Mr. S., North Victoria, Ont.**

Address, on The, 631 (i).

Balsam Lake, Removal of Stone Piles (Ques.) 2332 (i).

Can. Troops for the Transvaal, par. in Ottawa *Citizen* (remarks) 7328 (iii).

Crow's Nest Pass Ry., Death of Mr. Thornbury (Ques.) 1976 (i).

Devlin, Mr. James, Prosecution by Dept. of Justice (remarks) 7218 (iii).

Dibblee and Dupont, Messrs., Claims against Govt. (Ques.) 2114 (i).

**Hughes, Mr. S.—Con.**

Dom. Rifle Association, Annual Grant by Govt. of Transport and Entrance Fees to Limited Number, (prop. Res.) 2358 (i).

Edmonton and Slave Lake Ry. Co.'s incorp. (B. 35) 1°, 974 (i).

— Yukon Route, Instructions to Messrs. Dibblee and Dupont (Ques.) 2114 (i).

Fenelon Falls, Construction of Slides (Ques.) 1978 (i).

G. T. R. Trackmen's Strike, Settlement, &c., on M. (Mr. *Maclean*) to adjn., 4541, 4547 (ii).

Imperial Service, and Canadian Brigade and Can. Seamen, (prop. Res.) 2335, 2352 (i).

Indian Agent at Rama, Payment of Witnesses *re* Inquiry (Ques.) 2114 (i).

McLaren's Creek, Construction of a Roadway (Ques.) 3257 (i).

McLaughlin, Mr. R. J., Amounts paid by Govt. Services, &c. (Ques.) 1976, 2321 (i).

— Farmer of Lindsay *re* Damages by Floods, &c., (Ques.) 4485 (remarks) 4486, 4499 (ii).

— Claims for Land Damages by Farmers of Lindsay, 5000 (ii).

Military Canteens and Sale of Liquor, par. in Ottawa *Citizen re* Ont. Alliance (remarks) 7326 (iii).

Permanent Corps, Pension System, (prop. Res.) on Order being called, 2487, 2706 (i).

Noble, Mr., Amounts paid to by Govt. (Ques.) 2184 (i).

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Pigeon River, Dredging, &c. (Ques.) 2191 (i).

— Swing Bridge, Construction, &c. (Ques.) 2480 (i).

Pontiac Pacific Junction Ry. Co.'s (B. 34) 1°, 974.

Pub. Accounts Com., Delay in Meetings (remarks) 7195 (iii).

Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9460, 9543, 9579 (iii).

Rama Indian Agent, Charges against, Cost of Inquiry, &c. (Ques.) 1976 (i).

Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mullock*) in Com., 6955 (iii).

Rosedale Swing Bridge, Expenditure, Amount contributed by Govt., &c. (Ques.) 2333 (i).

Scugog River, Dredging, &c. (Ques.) 2191 (i).

Stamped Envelope, 2-cent purple, Number issued and distributed, &c. (Ques.) 2187 (i).

— Number purchased in Toronto, Issue of and Distribution (Ques.) 2189 (i).

## SUPPLY:

*Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (general statistics) 8237; (year book) 8230 (iii).

*Canals*: Trent (construction) 7299, 7305; (Rosedale bridge) 7318 (iii).

*Civil Government*: Aud. Gen.'s Office (salaries) 2089; Customs (salaries) 2094; Geological Survey (salaries) 2105; Marine and Fisheries (salaries) 2103 (i); Post Office, 7331 (iii).

**Hughes, Mr. S.—Con.**

## SUPPLY—Con.

*Dominion Lands* (Chief Inspector, salary, &c.) 9022 (iii).

*Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8494, 8585, 8603, 8626; (St. Paul des Métis, seed grain, &c.) 9023, 9042 (iii).

*Militia* (annual drill) 7063; (armaments, &c.) 7153; (armouries) 9126; (arms, equipment, &c.) 9150; (clothing) 7100; (miscellaneous) 7148; (pay, allowance) 7027; (properties, &c.) 7088; (provisions) 7130; (Royal Military College) 7140; (salaries) 7078; (stores, &c.) 7098; (transport, &c.) 7131 (iii).

*Public Works: Buildings Ont.*, 7627; (Ottawa military store) 9943; Harbours and Rivers, N.S. (Gabarus breakwater) 9992; (Porter's Lake, dredging, &c.) 9993; Que., (St. Lawrence ship channel) 7579, 9986 (iii).

*Railways: I.C.R.* (accommodation, St. John) 7432; (rolling stock) 7434.

*Yukon District: Militia* (food, clothing, transportation, &c.) 9067 (iii).

Trent Canal, Jordan, Mr. Wm., Claims for Land Damages (Ques.) 1977 (i).

— Payment of Workmen (Ques.) 1977 (i).

Veterans of 1866 and 1870, Issue of Medals, &c. (Ques.) 1848 (i).

Volunteers of 1866, Granting of Medals (Ques.) 2114 (i).

Yukon District, "Bench" and "Creek" Claims, Disputes pending, &c. (Ques.) 3077 (i).

— Militia Force, Charges against *re* Misconduct: on M. for Com. of Sup. (remarks) 9963 (iii).

**Hurley, Mr. J. M., East Hastings.**

Belleville Prince Edward Bridge Co.'s Bill (M.) to extend Time for receiving Pet., 5384.

— B. (No. 162) 1<sup>o</sup>, 5945 (ii); in Com., 7480.

**Ingram, Mr. A. B., East Elgin.**

Atlas Loan Co's (B. 30) 1<sup>o</sup>, 895 (i).

Canada Southern Ry. Co's (B. 43) 1<sup>o</sup>, 1165 (i).

Dom. Elections Act Amt. (B. 142) 1<sup>o</sup> 4341 (ii).

— Request to have placed on Govt. Orders, 7218, 7322 (iii).

G. T. R. Trackmen and Alien Labour Law Enforcement, on M. (Mr. Ross Robertson) to adjn., 3982 (ii).

— on M. (Mr. Maclean) to adjn., 4519, 4544 (ii).

I. C. R. Extension to Montreal—G. T. R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. Blair) in Com., 4616 (ii).

— on Ques. of Order (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) 4453 (ii).

Knights of Labour and Mechanics Assembly, Cor., &c. (M. for copies\*) 3149 (i).

Montreal Judicial District, Additional Judges (remarks) 7241 (iii).

Ottawa City, Grant of Money Authorization B. 187 (Mr. Fielding) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 9612 (iii).

Quebec Cartridge Factory, Dismissal of Labourers &c. (Ques.) 2186 (i).

**Ingram, Mr. A. B.—Con.**

Ry. Passenger Tickets (Sale) Act. Amt. B. 32 (Mr. Beattie) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 1876 (i).

— Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. Blair) in Com. on Res. 9442, 9493, 9570, 9777 (iii).

St. Thomas and Aylmer Mail Service, Advertisements for Tenders, &c. (Ques.) 9698 (iii).

Spinks, County Court Judge, B.C., Charges against, on M. (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) to Com. of Sup., 4237 (ii).

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*Canals: Welland* (bridges &c.) 7454 (ii).

*Civil Govt.: Marine and Fisheries* (contingencies) 5026 (ii); Post Office 7332, 7347 (iii).

*Excise* (salaries of officers) 4770 (ii).

*Fisheries* (oyster culture) 4241; (salaries of Inspectors) 4014, 4045 (ii).

*Legislation: House of Commons* (voters' lists) 2302 (i).

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*Public Works—Buildings Ottawa* (electric lighting) 5186; Harbours and Rivers (Ont.) 5203 (ii); Roads and Bridges (Banff) 5204 (ii).

*Railways: I.C.R.* (accommodation, St. John) 7430; (rolling stock) 7433; (uniforms) 7459 (iii).

*Yukon District: Militia* (clothing contract) 9124.

**Ives, Hon. W. B., Sherbrooke.**

Address, on The (remarks) 1447, 1462 (i).

Adulteration Act Amt. B. 123 (Sir Henri Joly) in Com., 3992 (ii).

Agricultural and Colonization Com., 2nd. Rep., on conc., 3441 (ii).

Banque du Peuple B. 6 (Mr. Préfontaine) on M. for Com., 3308 (i).

G. T. R. Trackmen and Alien Labour Law Enforcement, on M. (Mr. Ross Robertson) to adjn. 3971 (ii).

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I. C. R. Extension to Montreal—G. T. R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. Blair) in Com., 4612, 4699 (ii).

Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Ry. Co's B. 69 (Mr. Calvert) on amt. (Mr. Landerkin) 5043 (ii).

Port Colborne and Port Dalhousie, Harbour Improvements, on prop. Res. (Mr. McCleary) 3293 (i).

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Ry. Passes to Members and Senators B. 37 (Mr. Bostock) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 2199 (i).

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*Civil Government: Trade and Commerce* (salaries) 2263 (i).

*Indians* (Ont.) 5679 (ii).

*Legislation: House of Commons* (stationery) 2278.

**Johnston, Mr. T. G., West Lambton.**

Coal Oil, on prop. Res. (Mr. Davis) to place o Free List, 2006, 2013 (i).

**Joly de Lotbinière, Hon. Sir H., K.C.M.G.,**

*Portneuf.*

- Adulteration of Food Act Amt. (B. 123) 1<sup>o</sup>, 3335; in Com., 3990 (ii).  
 Allaire, Mr. J. P. O., St. Boniface, Man., Claim against Govt. (Ans.) 1894 (i).  
 Apples, Fraudulent Packing, on M. (Mr. *McMillan*) to adjn., 3758 (ii).  
 Atlin District, Brewery Licenses issued (Ans.) 5484 (ii).  
 Buffalo and Crystal Beach Ferry Service, License and Privileges Granted, &c. (Ans.) 4994 (ii).  
 Christie, Mr. W. J., Dismissal from Inland Rev. Dept., O.C.'s, Reps., Cor., on M. (Mr. *Roche*) for Copies, 2406 (i).  
 Civil Service (Dismissal of Officials) Act Amt. B. 50 (Mr. *Monk*) on amt. (Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*) to M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 2231 (i).  
 Coal Oil, Reduction of Duty, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Moore*) 2127 (i).  
 Costigan, Hon. Mr., on Personal Explanation, 3667 (ii).  
 ——— Cor. between Dept. laid on Table, 3875 (ii).  
 Curless, Chas. H., Preventive Officer, Grand Falls, N.B., Dismissal, &c. (Ans.) 4056 (ii).  
 Excise, Inspection of Sealed Food Packages, Legislation respecting (Ans.) 2705 (i).  
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 ——— (Petroleum and Naphtha) Act Amt. (B. 131) 1<sup>o</sup>, 3749 (ii).  
 ——— (Wheat) Act Amt. (B. 132) 1<sup>o</sup>, 3751; M. to withdrw. Bill, 5098 (ii).  
 ——— (B. 156) in Com., 9636, 9651 (iii).  
 Grain Exports from Can. Harbours during 1898 (Ans.) 3075 (i).  
 Grain Standards, N.W.T., Legislation *re* Inspection, &c., on prop. Res. (Mr. *Davin*) 3837 (ii).  
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 ——— (B. 124) 1<sup>o</sup>, 3335; in Com., 3759, 3881 (ii).  
 Inspection of Wheat, Deputations, &c. (remarks) 1540 (i).  
 ——— (Wheat) Amt. (B. 156) 1<sup>o</sup>, 5099 (i).  
 Penitentiary Act Amt. B. 173 (Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*) in Com., 8769 (iii).  
 Petroleum and Naphtha Inspection (B. 131) prop. Res., 3885; in Com., 3884 (ii).  
 Potash Inspection and Montreal Board of Trade (Ans.) 1858 (i).  
 Quebec Harbour Commissioners' B. 178 (Mr. *Fielding*) in Com., 9862 (iii).

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- Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (illustration stations) 8294, 8306 (iii).  
*Civil Government*: Inland Revenue (contingencies) 2270 (i); (printing and stationery) 5013 (ii); (salaries) 2100 (i); Public Works (salaries) 7554 (iii).  
*Dominion Lands* (Chief Inspector's salary) 9026 (iii).

**Joly de Lotbinière, Hon. Sir H.—Con.**

SUPPLY—*Con.*

- Excise* (allowance to Customs Officers) 4790; (commissions on stamps) 4790; (preventive service) 4788, 5578; (salaries of officers) 4770, 4787; (special translation) 4803 (ii).  
*Inspection of Staples* (salaries, &c.) 5586 (ii).  
*Public Works*: Harbours and Rivers (Que.) 8105 (iii).  
*Weights and Measures* (inspection) 5578; (salaries, &c.) 4803 (ii).  
 Tobacco, Duties collected (Ans.) 1818 (i).  
 ——— Foreign Leaf, Percentage required under Regulations (Ans.) 2486 (i).  
 ——— Excise Duty paid since 1898, Number of Employees, &c. (Ans.) 3075 (i).  
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 ——— B. 143 (Mr. *Ganong*) on M. for 1<sup>o</sup>, 4478 (ii).  
 Yukon District, Liquor Permits issued by Mr. Ogilvie, Disallowance by Govt., 3790 (ii).

**Kaulbach, Mr. C. E., Lunenburg.**

- Commercial Treaties with British W. Indies, &c., on M. for Com. of Sup., 8077, 8172 (iii).  
 I.C.R. Extension to Montreal—Drummond Co. Ry. Acquisition B. 133 (Mr. *Blair*) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 4152 (ii).  
 License Fees for Fishing Traps, Issue of (remarks) 2046 (i).  
 Lobster Fisheries Protection, Regulations *re*, on M. (Mr. *McLennan*, Inverness) to Com. of Sup., 7687 (iii).  
 Newfoundland and Canadian Fishermen, Supply of Bait, Cor., &c. (remarks) 9465 (iii).  
 Ry. Subsidies Resolutions (remarks) 8921 (iii).  
 ——— B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9452, 9488, 9580 (iii).

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- Lighthouse and Coast Service* (salaries, &c.): 3523 (ii).  
*Ocean and River Service* (maintenance) 2996 (i).  
*Post Office* (Postmasters' salaries) 5811 (ii).  
*Public Works*: Buildings (N.S.) 7616; Dredging (plant) 8140; Harbours and Rivers (wharfs, N.S.) 7728, 7750 (iii).

**Kendry, Mr. J., West Peterborough.**

- G. T. R. Trackmen's Strike, Settlement, &c. on M. (Mr. *Maclean*) to adjn., 4543 (ii).  
 Trent Valley Canal, Purchase of Land for Dam at Nassau (Ques.) 1857 (i).

**Klock, Mr. J. B., Nipissing.**

- Montreal, Ottawa and Georgian Bay Ship Canal, on M. (Mr. *Poupore*) for Papers respecting, 4878 (ii).

**Kloepfer, Mr. C., South Wellington.**

- International Commission between Can. and U. S., Cost, &c. (Ques.) 1815 (i).  
 Medals for Long Service, Regulations respecting (Ques.) 7320 (iii).

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- Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8556 (iii).

**Landerkin, Mr. G., South Grey.**

Aronsberg, Abraham, Relief (B. 144) 1<sup>st</sup>, 4730 (ii); in Com., 7480 (iii).

Belleville Prince Edward Bridge Co.'s Bill, on M. (Mr. Hurley) to extend Time for receiving Pet., 5385 (ii).

Imperial Loan and Investment Co.'s incorp. (B. 150) 1<sup>st</sup>, 5096 (ii).

Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Ry. Co.'s B. 69 (Mr. Culvert) on M. for Com. (amt.) to ref. back to Com. on Rys., 5042 (ii).

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Private Bills, Extension of Time (M.) 2182 (i); 5378 (ii).

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Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. Mulock) on M. for 1<sup>st</sup>, 3461; on M. for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6636 (ii).

Saskatchewan Ry. and Mining Co.'s (B. 92) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2246 (i).

## SUPPLY:

*Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8608 (iii).

Van Wart, Isaac Stephen, Relief (B. 180) 1<sup>st</sup>, 8913 (iii).

Yukon Administration, Charges against, on M. (Mr. Davin) to adjn., 6577 (ii).

**Lang, Mr. J., East Peterborough.**

Havelock and Oak Lake Mail Service, Tenders, &c. (Ques.) 3824 (ii).

Lang P. O., and Ry. Station, Carriage of Mails, Tenders, &c. (Ques.) 3823 (ii).

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*Public Works*: Harbours and Rivers (Wharves, N.S.) 7703 (iii).

**LaRivière, Mr. A. A. C., Provencher.**

Allaire, J. P. O., St. Boniface, Man., Claim against Govt. (Ques.) 1894 (i).

Aronsberg, Abraham, Relief B. 144 (Mr. Landerkin) in Com., 7576 (iii).

Banque du Peuple B. 6 (Mr. Préfontaine) on M. for Com., 3301, 3306 (i); Sen. Amts., 7578 (iii).

Civil Service, Attachment of Salaries B. 38 (Mr. Richardson) on M. for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1934 (i).

Committees of the Hse., Meetings at same hour (remarks) 2320 (i).

Debates Official, 2nd Rep., Dismissal of French Translator, on M. to conc., 1746 (i).

Dom. Lands Act Amt. B. 148 (Mr. Sifton) in Com., 6405, 6435 (ii).

Edmonton and Saskatchewan Ry. Co.'s B. 93 (Mr. Oliver) in Com., 4310 (ii).

Man. Legislation, Disallowance by Dom. Govt., Pets., Memorials, &c., from Executive Council, protesting against (M. for Ret. \*) 2788 (ii).

Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Ry. Co.'s B. 69 (Mr. Culvert) in Com., 5351 (ii).

Ottawa City, Grant of Money Authorization B. 187 (Mr. Fielding) on M. for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9614 (iii).

**LaRivière, Mr. A. A. C.—Con.**

Printing Com., 3rd, 4th and 5th Reps. of Com. (stationery) on M. (Mr. Gibson) to conc., 5380 (ii).

Return, Inquiry for, 1753 (i).

— Non-production (remarks) 3071 (i).

St. Norbert, Inundations of Red River, Claims of Owners (Ques.) 1894 (i).

## SUPPLY:

*Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8514 (iii); (St. Paul des Métis, seed grain, &c.) 9036 (iii).

*Legislation*: House of Commons (distribution of blue books to Law Associations) 5742 (ii); (voters' lists) 2293 (i).

**Laurier, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid, G.C.M.G.,**

*East Quebec.*

Address, on The, 84 (i).

— consdn. (M.) 6 (i).

— Closing of Debate (remarks) 975, 1016 (i).

— Reply to, Mess. from His Ex. (presented) 2963 (i).

— to Her Maj. *re* Transvaal Question (M.) 8992 (iii).

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— Deceased Members (M.) 6; (remarks) 7 (i).

— Easter (M.) 531 (i).

— Queen's Birthday (remarks) 3340, 3379 (ii). (M.) 3440 (ii).

Agricultural and Colonization Com., 2nd Rep., on conc., 3442 (ii).

Agricultural Implements, Reduction of Duty, on prop. Res. (Mr. Davin) 5877, 5894 (ii).

Alaskan Boundary, American rumours *re* Canada's Contention on, M. (Mr. Prior) to adjn., 3846 (ii).

— *modus vivendi* (remarks) 1074, 1166 (i).

— and Pacific Cable, Announcement of Agreement (remarks) 5386 (ii).

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Alien Act, B.C., Cor. with B. C. Gov. respecting (Ans.) 8220, 8466, 8757 (iii).

— Disallowance by Dom. Govt. (Ans.) 7768 (iii).

— Labour Law, Enforcement, par. in Toronto *Star* (remarks) 2907 (i).

— Enforcement at Hamilton (remarks) 3880 (ii).

Anticosti Island, Cor. between British Govt. and Can. (Ans.) 1841 (i).

Appnmts. by late Govt., Communication from Sec. of State for Colonies, on M. (Sir Charles Trupper) for Cor., 2734 (i).

— Members to Offices, par. in Victoria *Colonist*, 6382 (ii).

Auditor General's Rep., on Inquiry for (remarks) 532, 700, 803 (i).

Ball, Mr. W. D., Postmaster at Bath, Ont., Dismissal, on M. (Mr. Wilson) 2393 (i).

Banque du Peuple, B. 6 (Mr. Préfontaine), on M. for Com., 3306; in Com., 3312 on M. for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3485 (ii).

**Laurier, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid—Con.**

- Batiscan Post Office, Charges against Postmaster, Rep. of Inspector (Ans.) 1967 (i).
- Benefit Association, Insurance and Assessments (remarks) 1353 (i).
- Binder Twine, Output of Kingston Penitentiary, Tenders, Price, &c. (Ans.), 825, 1837 (i).
- Advertisements for Tenders, &c. (Ans.) 6934 (iii).
- on M. (Mr. Taylor) to adjn., 7205 (iii).
- on M. (Mr. Taylor) to Com. of Sup., 9927.
- Bonds or Securities registered as provided by Statute, Preparation for Parliament (Ans.) 4991 (ii).
- B. C. Fishermen, Seizure of Nets, &c., by Americans, par. in *Victoria Daily Colonist* (remarks) 8634 (iii).
- Anti-Chinese and Japanese legislation, Govt. policy *re* Fourteen Statutes already in force (Ans.) 5860 (ii).
- disallowance, &c., on M. (Mr. Prior) to adjn., 6844 (iii).
- Statutes for 1899, Date of receiving by Sec. of State (Ans.) 5666 (ii).
- See "Chinese, &c."
- Brockville Election, Name, &c., of Dep. Returning Officer (Ans.) 2322 (i).
- Brockville and West Huron Elections, on M. (Mr. Borden, Halifax) to ref. Documents to Com. on Privs. and Elections, 6736 (ii); 6823 (iii).
- Burrard, Member for, Speech *re* Amounts paid Vancouver Liberals by Dom. Govt. (Ans.) 1838.
- Business of the House (remarks) 802, 2247 (i), 8217 (iii).
- Budget Speech (remarks) 2318 (i).
- Morning Sittings (M.) 7768 (iii).
- Redistribution Bill (remarks) 2535 (i) 3845, 3875 (ii).
- Senate Resolutions (remarks) 7321, 7442.
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- See "Govt. Business."
- Cabinet Ministers, Names of, &c. (Ans.) 1818 (i).
- Canadian Emigration to U.S., par. in *Montreal Star* (remarks) 1895 (i).
- Canadian Troops for the Transvaal, par. in *Ottawa Citizen* (remarks) 7329 (iii).
- Champ de Mars, Lease, &c., on M. (Mr. Monk) for Cor., 2144 (i).
- Chinese Immigration Act Amt. B. 49 (Mr. Maxwell) on Ques. of Order (Mr. Ellis) 4339 (ii).
- anti-Legislation in B.C. and Govt.'s Action (Ans.) 1837 (i).
- See "Disallowances, &c."
- Civil Service, Attachment of Salaries Bill (Ans.) 1852 (i).
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- B. 50 (Mr. Monk) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 2215 (amt.) 6 m.h., 2218 (i); agreed to (Y. 64, N. 39) 2244 (i).
- List (presented) 421 (i).

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- Colonial Securities and Imperial Tax (remarks) 1639, 1813 (i).
- Commissions under the Great Seal, Regulations respecting (Ans.) 4483 (ii).
- Companies Act Amt. B. 160 (Mr. Fielding) in Com., 8775 (iii).
- Consolidation of the Statutes of Can. (Ans.) 4270.
- Contracts let without Tender since June, 1896, on M. (Mr. Davin) for O.Cs., 5346 (ii).
- Controverted Elections Act, Registrar's Fees (remarks) 8348 (iii).
- Convicts, Conditional Liberation (B. 171) 2<sup>o</sup> m., 9599; in Com., 9600, 9726 (iii).
- Copyright Bill and Govt. Action (Ans.) 1981 (i).
- County Court Judges, Retirement, &c., Legislation respecting (Ans.) 1970 (i).
- Crow's Nest Pass Ry. Investigation, Rep. of Com. (Ans.) 1968 (i).
- Death of Mr. Thornbury (Ans.) 1976 (i).
- Customs and Inland Revenue Depts. Act Amt. (B. 182) in Com. on Res., 8925; in Com. on Bill, 9663, 9679 (iii).
- Deadman's Island, par. in *Montreal Witness re* Lease, 1353 (i).
- Debates, Official Rep., Sel. Com. (M.) 6 (i).
- 2nd Rep., Dismissal of French Translator, on M. to conc., 1744 (i).
- Devlin, Mr. James, Prosecution by Jus. Dept. (remarks) 7218 (iii).
- Disallowance of B.C. Legislation *re* Japanese and Chinese, Incomplete Ret. (remarks) 5408, 5489, 5745 (ii).
- See "Japanese, &c."
- Dom. Census and B.N.A. Act Amt., on prop Res. (Mr. McInnes) 2388 (i).
- Dom. Lands Act Amt. B. 148 (Mr. Sifton) in Com., 6407 (ii).
- Dorothy*, Seizure by U.S. Customs Authorities at Skagway, par. in *Ottawa Citizen* (Ans.) 2367.
- Doukhobors, Quarantined at Grosse Isle (remarks) 4550 (ii).
- Drainage Across Ry. Lands, B. 24 (Mr. Casey) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 1917; on M. to ref. to Sel. Com., 2933, 2952 (i).
- Dry Docks Construction B. 177 (Mr. Fielding) in Com., 8760 (iii).
- Edgar, Sir James, late Speaker, Decease of (remarks) 9060 (iii).
- Election Act Amt. B., on request (Mr. Ingram) to place on Govt. Orders, 7219, 7322 (iii).
- Electoral Lists, N.S., Printing and Distribution (Ans.) 1979 (i).
- Estate Duty, Cor. incomplete (remarks) 8221 (iii).
- Exchequer Court Act Amt. (B. 184) 1<sup>o</sup>, 9178; 1<sup>o\*</sup>, 9309; 2<sup>o</sup> m., 9835 (iii).
- Expropriation Act Amt. (B. 185) 1<sup>o\*</sup>, 9178 (iii).
- Foster, Hon. Geo. E., ex-Minister, Travelling and Living Expenses (Ans.) 1834 (i).
- Franchise Act Amt., Amendments by N.B. Govt. (Ans.) 2630.

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- Franchise Act Amt., Schedules (remarks) 1074 (i).  
 — (P.E.I.) Bill, not on Order Paper (remarks) 9309, 9464 (iii).  
 Gagne, Hon. Mr. Justice, and Connection with Lake St. John Ry., Delay and Inconvenience to Litigants (Ans.) 2190 (i).  
 Geoffrion, Hon. Mr., late M.P., Decease of (remarks) 7630 (iii).  
 Gouin, Mr. Lomer, Speech *re* Subsidies to Provs. (Ans.) 1981 (i).  
 Govt. Business, Precedence on Thursdays (M.) 2409 (i).  
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**McAlister, Mr. J., Restigouche.**

Address, on The, 1144 (i).

Canadian Mutual Benefit Advertising Co. incorp. (B. 99) 1°, 2318 (i).

Emigration to U.S., para. in Newspapers (Ques.) 2115 (i).

Manitoba and South-Eastern Ry. Co.'s (B. 157) 1°, 5205 (ii).

Penberthy Injector Co.'s Patent Relief B. 141 (Mr. *McGregor*) in Com., 6879 (iii).

Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) in Com., 6978 (iii).

Restigouche Boom Co.'s incorp. (B. 65) 1°, 1949; on Order for 2°, 2649 (i); M. to ref. to Com. on Private Bills, 6824 (iii)

## SUPPLY :

*Fisheries* (cold storage for bait, &c.) 10166 (iii).

*Post Office* (Postmasters' salaries) 5322 (ii).

*Public Works: Buildings* (Ont.) 7623; *Dredging* (plant) 8144; Harbours and Rivers, N.B., 7763; (Campbellton wharf) 10012; (Shippegan wharf) 10012; (N.S.) 9947; Que., 8104, 8123, 8133; (Carleton Pier) 10014; (New Carlisle wharf) 10014; (Newport breakwater) 10015; (St. Lawrence ship channel) 7571 (iii).

*Railways: P.E.I.* (Murray Harbour, &c., construction) 9224, 9234 (iii).

Temiscouata Ry. Co.'s (B. 166) 1°, 6120 (ii).

—— Pet. (M.) to present, 5746 (ii).

U. S. Fishing Vessels and Modus Vivendi Licenses, Concessions granted, &c. (Ques.) 2330 (i).

—— Names, &c. (M. for Ret. \*) 2788 (i).

Venner, Dr., Indian Agent, Commissioner's Expenses *re* Investigation, &c. (Ques.) 1858 (i).

**McCarthy, Mr. L. G., North Simcoe.**

Address, on The, 1002 (i).

Columbia and Western Ry. Co.'s B. 26 (Mr. *Costigan*) on amt. (Mr. *Oliver*) to M. for 3°, 2940 (i).

Contracts let without Tender since June 1896, on M. (Mr. *Davin*) for O. Ca., 5326 (ii).

G. B. and Russia, Treaty of 1825, Protocols, &c. (M. for copy\*) 6939 (iii).

Great North-west Central Ry. Co.'s B. 90, (Mr. *MacPherson*) on amt. (Mr. *Douglas*) to M. for 3°, 4785 (ii).

**McCarthy, Mr. L. G.—*Con.***

Hogg, W. A., Customs Officer at Collingwood, Charges against, Commissioner's Rep., &c. (M. for copy\*) 2788 (i).

Patent Commissioner Power of Relief of G. L. Williams (B. 12) 1<sup>o</sup>, 618 (i).

Ry. Commissioners, Establishment of a Board, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Rutherford*) 3865 (ii).

— Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9544 (iii).

Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 6690; in Com., 6811 (ii).

Returns, Inquiry for, 8076 (iii).

Stock, David, Relief (B. 88) 1<sup>o</sup>, 2604 (i); in Com., 3489 (ii).

**SUPPLY :**

*Public Works*: Harbours and Rivers, Ont., 8004; (Port Colborne) 9297 (iii).

U. S. Trade Relations Treaty of 1874 (M. for copy) 6939 (iii).

Winding Up Act Amt. B. 163 (Mr. *Fielding*) in Com., 8780 (iii).

**McCleary, Mr. W., *Welland.***

Alien Labour Law, Enforcement at Hamilton (remarks) 3879 (ii).

Buffalo and Crystal Beach Ferry Service, License and Privileges granted, &c. (Ques.) 4994 (ii).

— (B 96) 1<sup>o</sup>, 2247 (i).

G.T.R. Trackmen and Alien Labour Law Enforcement, on M. (Mr. *Ross Robertson*) to adjn., 3973 (ii).

Humberstone Post Office, Charges against James O. Rose, Dismissal, &c. (Ques.) 6562 (ii).

Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Ry. Co.'s B. 69 (Mr. *Calvert*) on amt. (Mr. *Landerkin*) 5050; on M. for Com., 5256 (ii).

Port Colborne and Port Dalhousie, Harbour Improvements (prop. Res.) 3276 (i).

Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) in Com., 6780, 6802 (ii).

Secord, Mr. T. R., Supt. of Welland Canal, Charges against (Ques.) 1833 (i).

**SUPPLY :**

*Canals*: Welland (bridges, &c.) 7455 (iii).

*Public Works*: Buildings, Ottawa (electric lighting) 5191 (ii); Harbours and Rivers (Port Colborne) 9260, 9285 (iii).

Welland Canal, Entrance at Port Colborne, Harbour Improvements on M. (Mr. *Montague*) to Com. of Sup., 4001 (ii).

**McClure, Mr. F., *Colchester.***

Address, on The, 497 (i).

Aronsberg, Abraham, Relief B. 144 (Mr. *Landerkin*) in Com., 7576 (iii).

Prohibition of Intoxicating Liquors, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Flint*) 8840; (amt.) 8850 (iii).

**SUPPLY :**

*Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8595 (iii).

*Militia* (salaries) 7085 (iii).

*Public Works*: Harbours and Rivers, N. S. (wharves) 7740, 7749; (Ont.) 7989 (iii).

**McCormick, Mr. G., *Muskoka and Parry Sound.***

Duceis Indian Reserve, Negotiations *re* Timber Limits, Removal of Indians (Ques.) 2700 (i).

James Bay Ry. Co. (B. 73) 1<sup>o</sup>\* 2029 (i).

Rama Indians and Statute Labour, Govt. Aid to Maintenance of Roads and Bridges, &c. (Ques.) 2700 (i).

Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9457, 9494 (iii).

**McDougall Mr. H. F., *Cape Breton.***

Address, on The, 1354 (i).

Bounties on Iron and Steel, prop. Res. (Mr. *Fielding*) on M. for Com., 4976 (ii).

Cabinet Ministers, Names of, &c. (Ques.) 1818 (i).

Customs and Inland Revenue Depts. Act Amt. (B. 182) in Com. on Res., 8944 (iii).

Eastern Extension Ry., Claims of N.S. Govt. (Ques.) 3551 (ii).

Fredericton Military School, Recommendations for Admission and Instruction, &c. (Ques.) 3795 (ii).

Gabarus Breakwater, Inspection, &c., by Govt. (Ques.) 2698 (i).

Hubert, Miss Annabella, Claims for Injury to Property, *re* (Ques.) 2534, 3256 (i).

I.C.R. and Sunday Traffic, par. in newspaper (remarks) 3877 (ii).

— Extension to Montreal—Drummond Co. Ry. Acquisition B. 133 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com on Res., 3743; on M. for 1<sup>o</sup>, 3765 (ii).

— G.T.R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 4415, 4692, 4710 (ii).

— Freight carried from 1867-9, Number of Tons and Receipts (Ques.) 3257 (i).

— Freight Rates on Flour, 1896-8 (Ques.) 3549 (ii).

— Gillis, Frank A., Station Agent at Tracadie, N.S., Dismissal, &c. (Ques.) 4056 (ii).

— Harris, Mr. A. H., Appnmt. by Govt. (M. for cor.) 2905 (i).

— McDougall, Mr. Bruce, Appnmt. by Govt. (Ques.) 7194 (iii).

— Rates on Flour, &c. (Ques.) 4731 (ii).

— Restaurant at Grand Narrows, Cor. *re* Contract, &c. (M. for copy\*) 5149 (i).

Lobster Fishery Regulations (remarks) 3960 (ii).

McKeen's Point, Construction of Storm Signals, Cost, &c. (Ques.) 3083 (i).

McKenzie, Mr. Francis, and Instructions at Fredericton Military School (Ques.) 2485, 2699, 2899 (i).

Margaree and Orangedale Mail Service, Changes, &c., *re* Contractors (Ques.) 3261 (i).

Marine Insurance Rates, Mar. Prova., Advancement in Price (remarks) 8922 (iii).

Military School, Fredericton, N.B., Admission for Instruction, Recommendations, &c. (Ques.) 3334 (ii).

— See "McKenzie."

**McDougall, Mr. H. P.—Con.**

- North Sydney Postmaster, Rumoured Dismissal (remarks) 4899, 4996 (ii).  
 Order (Ques. of) Unparliamentary Language, 5404 (ii).  
 Prohibition Plebiscite, Cost, &c. (Ques.) 1814 (i).  
 Returns, Inquiry for, Grand Narrows, Lease of Property, &c., 4997, 5410 (ii).  
 — Inquiry for, 4151, 6595 (ii); 7771 (iii).

**SUPPLY :**

- Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (cold storage) 8727; (dairy branch) 8275; (illustration stations) 8323; (year book) 8226 (iii).  
*Civil Government*: Marine & Fisheries (contingencies) 5024; Post Office (salaries, Dead Letter Branch) 5032 (ii).  
*Customs*: N. S. (salaries, contingencies, &c.) 8449 (iii).  
*Excise* (commissions on stamps) 4793 (ii).  
*Fisheries* (protection service) 4719; (salaries of Inspectors) 4036 (ii).  
*Immigration* (agents, &c., salaries) 8477, 8493 (iii).  
*Lighthouse and Coast Service* (construction, &c.) 5138, 5176 (ii).  
*Mail Subsidies and S.S. Subventions* (Port Mulgrave and Irish Cove) 8693 (iii).  
*Marine Hospitals* (care of sick seamen) 4012 (ii).  
*Militia* (annual drill) 5056; (miscellaneous and unforeseen) 5455; Yukon Force (transportation and supplies) 6348 (ii).  
*Ocean and River Service* (maintenance) 2992, 3025 (i); 5102 (ii); (registration) 3065 (i).  
*Post Office*: Yukon District (mail service) 6364 (ii).; *Public Works*: Harbours and Rivers. (Mar. Provs.) 5201; (N.S.) 5198 (ii); 7715, 7742; (Ont.) 7980; (Que.) 8123; Roads and Bridges (Edmonton bridge) 8200; Yukon District (river improvements) 8194 (iii).  
*Quarantine* (cattle, expenses, salaries, &c.) 5079 (ii).  
 Tobacco, Duties collected (Ques.) 1818 (i).  
 Tuberculosis, Prevention of, on M. (Mr. Roddick) to Com. of Sup., 6305 (ii).  
 Victoria County, N.S., Patronage, &c., par in North Sydney *Herald* (M. to adjn.) 5388, 5398.  
 Voters' Lists, Printing, &c. (remarks) 6827 (iii).  
 Weights and Measures Act Amt. B. 128 (Sir *Henry Joly*) in Com., 3900 (ii).  
 Yukon Mail Service, Carriage of Registered Matter (remarks) 4353 (ii).  
 — Registered Letters, &c., Policy of Govt., 3792 (ii).

**McGregor, Mr. W., North Essex.**

- Aronsberg, Abraham, Relief B. 144 (Mr. *Landerkin*) in Com., 7576 (iii).  
 Beet Root Sugar, Bounty to Manufacturers, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Sproule*) 4837 (ii).  
 B. C. Legislation *re* Chinese and Foreign Immigration, on M. (Mr. *Prior*) to adjn., 6901 (iii).  
 Dom. Lands Act Amt. B. 148 (Mr. *Sifton*) in Com., 6440 (ii).  
 G. T. R. Trackmen and Alien Labour Law Enforcement, on M. (Mr. *Ross-Robertson*) to adjn., 3981 (ii).

**McGregor, Mr. W.—Con.**

- Penberthy Injector Co.'s Patent Relief (B. 141) 1<sup>o</sup>, 4340 (ii).  
 Postage Stamps, Reproduction of Facsimilies by Bank Note Co. (Ques.) 2901 (i).  
 Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 9831 (iii).  
 Representation in the H. of C., B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) on M. for 1<sup>o</sup>, 3475 (ii).

**SUPPLY :**

- Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (illustration stations) 8300 (iii).  
*Customs*: B.C. (contingencies, &c.) 9460 (iii).  
*Collection of Revenues* (telegraph line, Pelee Island) 8189 (iii).  
*Fisheries* (Noble Bros.) 4248; (protection service) 4723 (ii).  
*Militia* (annual drill) 7071; (pay, allowance) 7021; (Yukon supplies) 7047 (iii).  
*Public Works*: Harbours and Rivers (Man.) 8080; N.S. (Chezzetcook wharf) 10004; (Ont.) 7990; Que. (Coteau, dredging) 10059 (iii).  
*Quarantine* (cattle) 8342 (iii).  
*Railways*: I.C.R. (accommodation, St. John) 7423 (iii).  
*Yukon Provisional District*: Interior (salaries, &c.) 8983 (iii).

**McHugh, Mr. G., South Victoria (O.).**

- Customs Act Amt. B. 154 (Mr. *Paterson*) in Com., 6456 (ii).  
 G. T. R. Trackmen's Strike, Settlement, &c., on M. (Mr. *Maclean*) to adjn., 4549 (ii).  
 Lindsay, Bobcaygeon and Pontypool Co's. (B. 66) 1<sup>o</sup>, 1949 (ii).  
 McLaughlin, Mr. R. J., and Claims for Land Damages by Farmers of Lindsay, 4496, 5004 (ii).  
 Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9447 (iii).

**SUPPLY :**

- Canals*: Trent (construction) 7310 (iii).  
*Public Works*: Harbours and Rivers, Ont. (Otonabee, navigation) 10065; (Sougog, dredging) 10065 (iii).

**McInerney, Mr. G. V., Kent, N.B.**

- Address, on The, 676 (i).  
 Franchise Electoral Act, Amendments by N. B. Govt. (Ques.) 2530 (i).  
 Gross, Mr. Boaz, Harbour Master at Hillsboro, Papers Respecting, Inquiry for Ret., 4732 (ii).  
 Hillsboro, N. B., Harbour Master, Charges against, Evidence and Commissioner's Rep., &c. (M. for copy\*) 2027 (i).  
 I.C.R. Steel Rails, Tenders, &c. (Ques.) 2328 (i).  
 Lachine Canal, Evidence taken before Royal Commission (M. for copies \*) 5944 (ii).  
 — Final Estimate of Section 3, Enlargement of 1875-80 (M. for copy\*) 5944 (ii).  
 — Rep. of Commission on Wellington and G. T. R. Bridges (M. for copy\*) 5944 (ii).  
 — Royal Commission of Investigation, Exhibits, &c. (M. for copies\*) 5944 (ii).  
 — Plans, Profiles, &c. (M. for copies\*) 5944.

**McInerney, Mr. G. V.—*Con.***

Lobster Commissioners' Rep. (Ques.) 2319 (i).  
 ——— (remarks) 2909 (i).

**SUPPLY :**

*Legislation*: House of Commons (voters' lists)  
 2282 (i).  
*Ocean and River Service* (maintenance) 2989 (i).

**McInnes, Mr. W. W. B., *Vancouver.***

Atlin District, Brewery Licenses issued (Ques.)  
 5484 (ii).

Beaumont, Wm., Claims for distributing Mail at  
 Maple Bay prior to Confederation, &c. (Ques.)  
 3820 (ii).

Bedlington and Nelson Ry. Co.'s (B. 107) 1<sup>st</sup>,  
 2529 (i).

Brochies Ledge, B.C., Lighthouse, Completion  
 and Operation (Ques.) 2331 (i).

Criminal Code (1892) Act Amt. (B. 111) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2696 (i).

Crow's Nest Pass Ry. and C.P.R. Rates and  
 Tolls, Revision of by Gov. in Council (Ques.)  
 2331 (i).

Dom. Census and B.N.A. Act Amt. (prop. Res.)  
 2386 (i).

Dom. Permanent Loan Co.'s B 104 (Mr. *Clarke*)  
 in Com. (amt.) 6868 (iii).

Edmonton District Ry. Co.'s Change of Title (B.  
 158) 1<sup>st</sup>, 5384 (ii).

Grey, Robert, Lighthouse-keeper at Entrance  
 Island, Resignation, &c. (Ques.) 7319 (iii).

Immigration Restriction (B. 48) 1<sup>st</sup>, 1165 (i).

Japanese Labour Exclusion Bill, B. C. Legisla-  
 tion, Disallowance by Dom. Govt. (remarks)  
 4343 (ii).

Lighthouse Service, B.C., Adjustment of Salaries,  
 &c. (Ques.) 3821 (ii).

Mint, Establishment by Govt. in Can. (prop.  
 Res.) 3106 (i).

Naturalization Act Amt. (B. 37) 1<sup>st</sup>, 974; 2<sup>nd</sup> m.,  
 2176; on resuming adjd Deb. of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2527 (i).

Oyster Bed, B.C., Claims of Esquimalt and  
 Nanaimo Ry. Co. (Ques.) 3821 (ii).

Rifle Ranges, B.C., Applications, Pets., &c.  
 (Ques.) 5484 (ii).

Rothwell's Rep. *re* Settler's Claims, Transmission  
 to B. C. Govt. (Ques.) 2531 (i).

**SUPPLY :**

*Indians* (B.C.) 5703; (salaries) 5725 (ii).

Yukon Territory Act Amt. (B. 64) 1<sup>st</sup>, 1813 (i).

**McIsaac, Mr. C. F., *Antigonish.***

Behring Sea Arbitration, Cost to Govt., &c.  
 (Ques.) 2186 (i).

Bronson and Weston Lumber Co., Change of  
 Title (B. 70) 1<sup>st</sup>, 1949 (i).

I.C.R., Extension to Montreal—Drummond Co.  
 Ry. Acquisition B. 133 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on  
 Res., 3577 (ii).

**SUPPLY :**

*Public Works*: Harbours and Rivers (Wharfs,  
 N.S.) 7732 (iii).

**McLellan, Mr. B. D., *West Prince, P.E.I.***

I. C. R., Employees, Wages, Working hours, &c.  
 (Ques.) 1860, 2332 (i).

P. E. I. Lobster Fishing, Pets. *re* Extension of  
 Season (Ques.) 6122 (ii).

—— Winter Mail Service, Contracts, &c., on  
 M. (Mr. *Martin*) for Copies, 3138 (i).

**SUPPLY :**

*Miscellaneous* (refund of duties on fish, P.E.I.)  
 10175 (iii).

**McLennan, Mr. R. R., *Glengarry.***

Address, on The, 1402 (i)

Apples, Fraudulent Packing, on M. (Mr. *Mc-*  
*Millan*) to adjn., 3758 (ii).

I. C. R., Extension to Montreal—Drummond Co.  
 Ry. Acquisition, B. 133 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on  
 Res., 3689 (ii).

—— G. T. R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. *Blair*)  
 in Com., 4357, 4372, 4418, 4589 (ii).

Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on  
 Res., 9456; in Com. on Bill, 9834 (iii).

**SUPPLY :**

*Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (illustration stations)  
 8333 (iii).

*Militia* (arms, equipment, &c.) 9148 (iii).

*Pensions* (rebellion, 1885) 8750 (iii).

*Public Works*: Buildings (Ont.) 7622; Harbours  
 and Rivers, Ont., 7992, 8006; (Kaministiquia)  
 7613 (ii).

*Railways*: I.C.R. (accommodation at St. John)  
 7429 (iii).

**McLennan, Mr. A., *Inverness.***

Adulteration Act Amt. B. 123 (Sir *Henry Joly*)  
 in Com., 3996 (ii).

I. C. R., Alba Section, Number of Employees  
 (Ques.) 5310 (ii).

—— Morrison, Hugh, Riverside, Claims for  
 Damages (Ques.) 5310 (ii).

—— Reynolds, Capt., Str. "Mulgrave," Com-  
 plaints against (Ques.) 5309 (ii).

Lobster Fisheries, Protection, Regulations *re*  
 on M. for Com. of Sup., 7675 (iii).

**SUPPLY :**

*Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (dairying commissioner)  
 8268 (iii).

*Mail Subsidies and SS. Subventions* (Magdalen  
 Islands) 8678; (Port Mulgrave and Irish Cove)  
 8694 (iii).

**McMillan, Mr. J., *South Huron.***

Apples, Fraudulent Packing, par. in Toronto  
*World* (M. to adjn.) 3753 (ii).

Binder Twine Contract, on M. (Mr. *Taylor*) to  
 adjn., 7211 (iii).

C. P. R. Act (1881) Power respecting Branch  
 Lines, &c. (remarks) 3315 (i).

Drainage Across Ry. Lands B. 24 (Mr. *Casey*) on  
 M. to ref. to Sel. Com., 2957 (i).

Preferential Trade with G. B., on amt. (Sir  
*Charles Tupper*) to Com. of Sup., 7861 (iii).

**McMillan, Mr. J.—Con.**

Ry. Commission, Appmnt. by Govt. (Ques.) 1890 (i).

— Establishment of Board, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Rutherford*) 2498 (i).

Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) in Com., 6813 (ii).

## SUPPLY :

*Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (cold storage) 8736; (dairy commissioner) 8265; (experimental farms) 8238; (illustration stations) 8285, 8299, 8326; (year book) 8233 (iii).

*Civil Government* (Post Office) 7348 (iii).

*Fisheries* (protection service) 4719 (ii).

*Quarantine* (cattle, salaries, &c.) 5082 (ii).

Tuberculosis, Prevention of, on M. (Mr. *Roddick*) to Com. of Sup., 6297 (ii).

Tupper, Sir Charles, Expenses whilst Min. and High Commissioner (Ques.) 1835, 1885 (i).

Weights and Measures Act Amt. (B. 122) 1°, 3254 (i); in Com., 3904 (ii).

**McMullen, Mr. J., North Wellington.**

Adjournment, Queen's Birthday (remarks) 3340 (ii).

Agricultural Implements, Reduction of Duty, &c., on prop. Res. (Mr. *Davin*) 5878 (ii).

Apples, Fraudulent Packing on M. (Mr. *McMillan*) to adjn., 3757 (ii).

Beet Root Sugar, Bounty for Manufacture, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Sproule*) 4841 (ii).

Binder Twine Contract, on M. (Mr. *Taylor*) to adjn., 7207 (iii).

C. P. R. Contract with A. Onderdonk, Awards by Arbitrators, *re* Value of Rolling Stock, &c. (M. for Ret. \*) 5944 (ii).

Civil Service Act Amt. Bill (Ques.) 1956 (i).

— B. 38 (Mr. *Richardson*) on M. for 2°, 1931 (i); in Com., 5901 (ii).

— (B. 63) 1°, 1753; 2° m., 3316, 3324 (i).

Coal Oil, Reduction of Duty, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Moore*) 2135 (i).

Customs and Inland Revenue Depts. Act Amt. B. 182 (Mr. *Fielding*) in Com. on Res., 8930; in Com. on Bill, 9670 (iii).

Dom. Lands Act Amt. B. 148 (Mr. *Sifton*) in Com., 6438 (ii).

Foster, Hon. Geo. E., ex-Minister, Travelling and Living Expenses (Ques.) 1834 (i).

Funeral Wreath, late Sir John Thompson, Question dropped, 1849 (i).

General Inspection Act Amt. B. 156 (Sir *Henry Joly*) in Com., 9656 (iii).

General Trust Corporation of Can. Co.'s (B. 129) 1°, 3646 (ii).

G. T. R. Trackmen's Strike, Settlement, &c., on M. (Mr. *Maclean*) to adjn., 4538 (ii).

I. C. R., Extension to Montreal—Drummond Co. Ry. Acquisition B. 133 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 4168, 4582, 4620; on M. for 3°, 4961 (ii)

— G. T. R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 4128 (ii) Sen. Amts., 9712 (iii).

**McMullen, Mr. J.—Con.**

I. C. R. M. (Mr. *Taylor*) to adjn., 2816 (i).

— on Ques. of Order (Mr. *Borden*, Hfx.) 4447 (ii).

— St. Charles Branch, Claims for Expropriation or Purchase of Land, &c., (M. for stmt. \*) 3873 (ii).

McLaughlin, Mr. R. J., and Farm Lands, Claims for Damages, &c. (remarks) 4491 (ii).

Montreal Island Belt Line Ry. Co.'s B. 112 (Mr. *Lemieux*) in Com. on amt. (Mr. *Campbell*) 6329 (ii).

Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Ry. Co.'s B. 69 (Mr. *Culvert*) on amt. (Mr. *Landerkin*) 5043; in Com., 5257 (ii).

Ogilvie, Mr., Connection with British Goldfields Co., Refusal of Min. to read Letter in ans. to Question, 3812 (ii).

Order, Ques. of (Mr. *Fielding*) "impertinent" not parliamentary language, 5610 (ii).

Ottawa City, Grant of Money Authorization B. 187 (Mr. *Fielding*) on M. for 2°, 9614 (iii).

Ottawa Electric Ry. Co.'s B. 18 (Mr. *Belcourt*) on M. to ref. to Sel. Com., 2289 (i).

Public Accounts Com., Delay in Meeting, (Man. Election Frauds) on M. (Sir *Charles Hibbert Tupper*) to adjn., 3216 (i).

— Postponment and Hours of Meeting, &c. (remarks) 4345 (ii).

Privileges and Elections Com., Absence of Ministers (remarks) 9182 (iii).

— Order, Ques. of (Mr. *Davin*) 9182 (iii).

Prohibition Plebiscite, Ret. of Votes polled, Papers respecting, on M. (Mr. *Foster*) to adjn., 2044 (i).

Ry. Act Amt. B. 85 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 9742 (iii).

— Commissioners, Establishment of a Board, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Rutherford*) 3864 (ii).

— Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9375, 9546; in Com. on Bill, 9767, 9806 (iii).

— Passes to Members and Senators B. 37 (Mr. *Bostock*) on M. for 2°, 2199 (i).

Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) on M. for 2°, 6481 (ii).

Returns, Inquiry for, 3072 (i).

## SUPPLY :

*Administration of Justice* (Alien Labour law enforcement) 10125 (iii).

*Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (illustration stations) 8834; (Paris exhibition) 10144; (year book) 8230 (iii).

*Civil Govt.*: Aud. Gen's Office (salaries) 2066; Customs (contingencies) 2977 (i); Finance (salaries, &c.) 5016 (ii); Justice (salaries) 2067; Militia and Defence (salaries) 2072 (i); Public Works (salaries) 7542 (iii).

*Dom. Lands*: (Chief Inspector salary) 9025 (iii).

*Indians*: Man. and N. W. T. (implements, &c.) 5716 (ii).

*Legislation* (distribution of blue-books to Law Associations) 5739 (ii).

**McMullen, Mr. J.—Con.**

SUPPLY—Con.

*Militia* (clothing) 5445 (ii); (pay, &c.) 7030 (iii).  
*Miscellaneous* (refund of duties on fish, &c., P.E.I.) 10178 (iii).  
*Ocean and River Service* (maintenance) 3044 (i).  
*Post Office* (postmasters' salaries) 5819 (ii).  
*Public Works*: Buildings (B.C.) conc., 6386 (ii); Harbours and Rivers, Que. (Coteau, dredging) 10047; Que. (Sabrevois wharf) 10033 (iii); Yukon District (telegraph lines) 5643 (ii).  
*Railways*: I. C. R. (accommodation, St. John) 7178; P.E.I. (Murray Harbour, construction) 9220, 9223 (iii).  
*Yukon Provisional District*: Interior (salaries, &c.) 8952 (iii).

Travelling Expenses, &c., of Hon. Geo. E. Foster, ex-Fin. Min. (Ques.) 1885 (i).

**McNeill, Mr. A., North Bruce.**

Address to Her Maj. *re* Transvaal Question (remarks) 8996 (iii).  
 Alaskan Boundary, and Pacific Cable, Announcement of Agreement (remarks) 5387 (ii).  
 Atlantic Fast SS. Service and Govtl. Action (remarks) 4740, 5410 (ii).  
 Beauharnois Canal, Dismissals, on M. (Mr. Bergeron) to Com. of Sup., 5414 (ii).  
 B. C. Legislation *re* Chinese and Foreign Immigration, on M. (Mr. Prior) to adjn., 6853, 6896 (iii).  
 Bounties on Iron and Steel, prop. Res. (Mr. Fielding) on M. for Com., 4988 (ii).  
 Civil Service, Attachment of Salaries B. 38 (Mr. Richardson) in Com., 5923, 5934 (ii).  
 Companies Act Amt. B. 160 (Mr. Fielding) in Com., 8777 (iii).  
 Criminal Code (1892) Seduction and Abduction, B. 2 (Mr. Charlton) on M. for 3<sup>o</sup>, 2915, 2926 (i).  
 G. T. R. Trackmen's Strike, &c., on M. (Mr. Maclean) to adjn., 4509 (ii).  
 Imperial Service and Can. Brigade and Can. Seamen, on prop. Res. (Mr. Hughes) 2355 (i).  
 I. C. R. Extension to Montreal—Drummond Co. Ry. Acquisition B. 133 (Mr. Blair) on M. (Mr. Taylor) to adjn., 2839 (i).  
 Order (Ques. of) member imputing motives to another *re* vote, 5881 (ii).  
 ——— Speaker's ruling asked, 7213 (iii).  
 Pacific Cable between Can. and Australia Agreement B. (Mr. Mulock) prop. Res., 8381 (iii).  
 Personal Explanation *re* Militia Expenditure, 1354 (i).  
 Port Colborne, Harbour Improvements, Contract, &c. (remarks) 9310 (iii).  
 Preferential Trade with G.B., Govtl. Intention (remarks) 8469 (iii).  
 ——— on amt. (Sir Charles Tupper) to Com. of Sup., 7809 (iii).  
 ——— (prop. Res.) 8633, 8634 (iii).  
 ——— (remarks) 8221, 8347 (iii).

**McNeill, Mr. A.—Con.**

Prohibition of Intoxicating Liquors, on prop. Res. (Mr. Flint) 8851 (iii).  
 Public Accounts Com., Delay in Meeting (Man. Election Frauds) on M. (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) to adjn., 3233 (i).  
 Ry. Act Amt. B. 85 (Mr. Blair) in Com., 9736 (iii).  
 ——— Policy of Govt. *re* Yukon Ry. Cos., on M. (Sir Charles Tupper) to Com. of Sup., 4760 (ii).  
 N. W. T., Rebellion Losses, 1885, Claims Commission, on M. (Mr. Davis) *fer* Ret., 3102 (i).  
 Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. Mulock) on M. for 1<sup>o</sup>, 3458; on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 6596; in Com., 6789, (ii), 6907, 6942, 6962 (iii).  
 ——— on M. (Mr. Wallace) to adjn. Deb., 5302.  
 Saugeen Indian Reserve, Medical Supt., Patrick Scott, Dismissal, &c. (remarks) 9699 (iii).

SUPPLY:

*Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (cold storage) 8732; (dairy commissioner) 8265; (experimental farms) 8263; (year book) 8226 (iii).  
*Civil Govt.*: Privy Council Office (salaries) 2055 (i); Public Works (salaries) 7538, 7550 (iii).  
*Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8506; (St. Paul des Metis, seed grain, &c.) 9029, 9037 (iii).  
*Legislation* (distribution of blue-books to Law Associations) 5741 (ii); House of Commons (voters' lists) 2296 (i); stationery (supplies) 5737 (ii).  
*Militia* (arms, equipment, &c.) 9141 (iii); (clothing) 5444 (ii).  
*Post Offices* (postmasters' salaries) 5805 (ii).  
*Public Works.*: Harbours and Rivers (Port Colborne) 9257; (St. Lawrence Ship Channel) 7609 (iii).  
*Railways*: I. C. R. (accommodation St. John) 7174; 7182 (iii); P. E. I. (Mount Stewart Wharf) 5772 (ii).  
*Weights and Measures* (inspection) 5583 (ii).  
 Yukon, Administration of, Charges against, on M. (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) to Com. of Sup., 6245 (ii).

**Mackie, Mr. T., North Renfrew.**

Contracts let without Tender since June, 1896, on M. (Mr. Davin) for O.C.'s., 5325 (ii).  
 Montreal, Ottawa and Georgian Bay Canal, on M. (Mr. Poupore) for Cor., &c. 5366 (ii).  
 Railway Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. Blair) in Com. on Res., 9449 (iii).

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*Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8513 (iii).  
*Public Works*: Harbours and Rivers (Ont.) 7990 (iii).

**Madore, Mr. J. A. C., Hochelaga.**

Address, on The, 666 (i).  
 Hamilton Powder Co.'s (B. 78) 1<sup>o</sup>\*, 2029 (i).  
 Montreal Judicial District, Additional Judges (remarks) 7224 (iii).

**Malouin, Mr. A., Quebec Centre.**

Quebec Steamship Co.'s (B. 14) 1<sup>o</sup>\*, 618 (i).

**Marcil, Mr. J. E., Bagot.**

- I. C. R. Extension to Montreal—G. T. R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 4409 (ii).
- Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) in Com., 6988 (iii).

**Marcotte, Mr. F. A., Champlain.**

- Address, on The, 516 (i).
- Baie des Chaleurs Ry. Co., Amounts paid by Govt. (Ques.) 1843 (i).
- Batiscan, Charges against Postmaster, Rep. of Inspector, &c. (Ques.) 1966, 2320 (i).
- Obstructions to Navigation, Pets. *re* (Ques.) 3552 (ii).
- Salary of Postmistress (Ques.) 1970 (i).
- Civil Service, Attachment of Salaries B. 38 (Mr. *Richardson*) on M. for 2<sup>d</sup>, 1933 (i).
- B. 50 (Mr. *Monk*) on M. for 2<sup>d</sup>, 2213 (i).
- Customs and Inland Revenue Depts. Act. Amt. (B. 182) in Com. on Res., 8934 (iii).
- Debates, Official, 2nd Rep., Dismissal of French Translator, on M. to conc., 1751 (i).
- Guay Post Office, Revenue, Salary paid to Postmaster Verrault, &c. (Ques.) 3260 (i).
- Immigrants, Doukhobor, Finland, &c., Number, Cost, &c. (Ques.) 2481 (i).
- I. C. R., Blanchette, Mr. Eugene, Reinstatement by Govt. (Ques.) 5859 (ii).
- Employees at Lévis, and Provincial Election, Transfer, &c., Instruction to Mr. Desjardins, &c. (Ques.) 3260 (i).
- Extension to Montreal—G. T. R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 4646 (ii).
- Lévis Station, Improvements, Amount expended, &c. (Ques.) 8220 (iii).
- Lévis Forts, Contract for Cordwood, Cost, &c. (Ques.) 3082 (i).
- Purchase of Property, Amount paid, &c. (Ques.) 8468 (iii).
- Ouellet, Mr. Agapit, par. in *Le Soleil*, Emplymt. by Govt., &c. (Ques.) 3259 (i).
- Parliament Buildings, Tower Clock, Change in Mode of Lighting, Cost, &c. (Ques.) 6121 (ii).
- Powers, Mr. Thos., Lease of Govt. Land at Lévis, Amount paid, &c. (Ques.) 3082, 3259 (i).
- Prohibition Plebiscite, Bagot Co., Unpaid Claims, &c. (Ques.) 1967 (i).
- Quebec Harbour Commission Consolid. Act Amt. B. 91 (Mr. *Fitzpatrick*) in Com., 3924 (ii).
- Repatriation of Canadians from U.S., Number, &c. (Ques.) 3078 (i).
- Samson, Mr. Pierre, Caretaker at St. Joseph de Lévis Fort, Dismissal, &c. (Ques.) 3082 (i).
- SUPPLY :
  - Militia* (salaries) 7085 (iii).
  - Yukon, Miners' Grievances against Companies buying Water Grants (remarks) 3315 (i).

**Martin, Mr. A., East Queens, P. E. I.**

- Belle River, P. E. I., Seizure of Fish Traps (M. for cor. \*) 2787 (i).

**Martin, Mr. A.—Con.**

- Brookside, P. E. I., Postmaster, Resignation, &c. (Ques.) 1969 (i).
- China Point Pier, Construction, &c. (Ques.) 2485 (i).
- Reconstruction, Amount paid, &c. (M. for Ret. \*) 3148 (i).
- Clifton Postmaster, P. E. I., Cor., Pets., &c., *re* Appmnt. (M. for copies \*) 5377 (ii).
- Cold Storage for Fish Transportation from Mar. Provs. (Ques.) 1978 (i).
- Franchise Act. Amt. (P. E. I.) Bill, not on Order Paper (remarks) 9309, 9464 (iii).
- “Illustration Stations,” Fruit, Cereals, &c., Govt. Action (Ques.) 2110 (i).
- Lobster Fishing, Extension of Season in P. E. I. (Ques.) 6561 (ii).
- Seizure of Traps, &c., on M. for Com. of Sup., 5504 (ii).
- Mount Albion, P. E. I., Mail Service, Pets. *re*, &c. (Ques.) 1969 (i).
- Pinette Harbour, P. E. I., Pets. *re* Dredging (Ques.) 2112 (i).
- Poultry Feeding Experiments, Govt. Action (Ques.) 2110 (i).
- P. E. I. and Grand View Mail Service, Proposed Change, Cor., Pets., &c. (M. for copies \*) 5377 (ii).
- Dominion Govt., Delegation *re* Questions at Issue, Claims, Stmnts., &c. (M. for copies \*) 1879 (i).
- G. B., Cold Storage and S.S. Communication, &c. (remarks) 5493 (ii).
- Grand View, Changes in Mail Services, Pets. against (Ques.) 4994 (ii).
- Lobster Fishery, Infraction of Regulations, Fines imposed, Cost of Prosecutions, &c. (M. for Ret. \*) 5377 (ii).
- Mail Service between I. C. R. and Cape Tormentine, Cost, &c. (Ques.) 2325 (i).
- Mainland Mail Service, Arrangements, &c. (Ques.) 1838 (i).
- Murray Harbour Branch, B. 183 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 9750 (iii).
- Ry. and Branch Lines, Pets., Cor., Res., &c. (M. for copy) 2364, 2368 (i).
- Straightening Curves at North Wiltshire, Cost, &c. (Ques.) 1854 (i).
- Winter Mail Service, Contracts, &c. (M. for copies) 3124 (i).
- Queen's County (P. E. I.) Appmnt. of Judge (remarks) 9000 (iii).
- Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) in Com., 6913 (iii).
- Returns, Inquiry for, Pub. Works, P. E. I., &c., 3878 (ii).
- Inquiry for, 1953 (i); 6319 (ii); 10225 (iii).
- Souris Breakwater, P. E. I., Claim for Damages by Messrs. Mellish and Wrightman (Ques.) 4270 (ii).
- Spraying Fruit Trees, Govt. Action (Ques.) 2110 (i).

**Martin, Mr. A.—Con.**

## SUPPLY:

*Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (dairy branch) 8275; (year book) 8236 (iii).

*Civil Govt.*: Post Office, 7351 (iii).

*Fisheries* (cold storage for bait) 10163 (iii).

*Mail Subsidies, &c.* (P.E.I. and G.B.) 8687; (P.E.I. and Mainland) 8683 (iii).

*Miscellaneous* (refund of duties on fish, &c. P.E.I.) 10176 (iii).

*Public Works*: Harbours and Rivers (P.E.I.) 7751, 7757; (Canoe Cove breakwater) 10007 (iii).

*Railways*: P. E. I., 7462 (iii); (Mount Stewart wharf) 5762 (ii); (Murray Harbour, &c., construction) 9212; (removal of curves, &c.) 7389. (iii).

*Yukon Provisional District*: Interior (salaries, &c.) 8956 (iii).

Wood Island Light-keeper, Dismissal of D. McMillan, Cor. Pets., &c. (M. for copies) 4813 (ii).

— Dismissal of Wm. D. McMillan, 10117 (iii).

— Light-keeper, Dismissal and Charges against, Rep. of Commissioner (Ques.) 2326 (i).

**Martineau, Mr. P. R. L., Montmagny.**

Address, The, in Ans. to His Ex.'s Speech (seconded) 21 (i).

**Maxwell, Mr. G. R., Burrard.**

Address, on The, 1016 (i).

Chinese Immigration Act Amt. (B. 49) 1<sup>st</sup>, 1165 (i); 2<sup>d</sup> m., 4323 (ii).

Klondike Mining and Ry. Co.'s (B. 103) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2409 (i).

Members' (Pictou) Mileage Allowance (Ques.) 6722 (ii).

Northern Commercial Tel. Co., and Dept. of Pub. Works (M. for cor.\*) 3873 (ii).

## SUPPLY:

*Fisheries* (salaries of Inspectors) 4030 (ii).

**Meigs, Mr. D. B., Missisquoi.**

Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. Blair) in Com. on Res., 9437 (iii).

**Mignault, Mr. R. M. S., Yamaska.**

I. C. R. Extension to Montreal—G. T. R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. Blair) in Com., 4663 (ii).

**Mills, Mr. J. B., Annapolis.**

Address, The, on amt. (Mr. Bertram) to amt. (Mr. Clarke) 1716 (i).

Annapolis and Digby Basin, Rep. re Buoys, &c. (Ques.) 4993 (ii).

— Mr. McCarthy's Contract, Expiration of, for Maintenance, &c. (Ques.) 4056 (ii).

— Port George Harbour, Pier, &c. (Ques.) 7532 (iii).

— Post Office, Irregularities, &c. (Ques.) 8989, 9179, 9697 (iii).

— Public Buildings, Repairs, &c. (Ques.) 2701 (i).

— Tenders for Painting (remarks) 2410 (i).

**Mills, Mr. J. B.—Con.**

Bounties on Iron and Steel B. 161 (Mr. Fielding) in Com., 7638 (iii).

Electoral Lists, N. S., Printing and Distribution (Ques.) 1979 (i).

I. C. R. Extension to Montreal—G. T. R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. Blair) in Com., 4678 (ii).

Port George, Annapolis Co., Postmaster, Irregularities in Office (Ques.) 9179, 9697 (iii).

Ry. Act Amt. B. 85 (Mr. Blair) in Com., 9744.

— Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. Blair) in Com., 9777 (iii).

## SUPPLY:

*Customs*: N. S. (salaries, contingencies, &c.) 8451.  
*Legislation*: House of Commons (voters' lists) 10129 (iii).

*Lighthouse and Coast Service* (construction, &c.) 5132 (ii).

*Mail Subsidies and SS. Subventions* (St. John and Digby) 8674 (iii).

*Public Works*: Buildings (Ont.) 7626; Harbours and Rivers, N. B. (Cape Tormentine breakwater) 10012; N. S. (Parker's Cove wharf) 10001 (iii).

Weights and Measures Act Amt. B. 128 (Sir Henry Joly) in Com., 3893 (ii); 9884, 9887 (iii).

**Monet, Mr. D., Laprairie and Napierville.**

Address, on The, 532 (i).

Banque du Peuple B. 6 (Mr. Préfontaine) on M. for Com., 3302 (i).

I. C. R. Extension to Montreal—G. T. R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. Blair) in Com., 4654.

Montreal Island Belt Line Ry. Co.'s B. 112 (Mr. Lemieux) on M. for Com. (amt.) 6091, 6404 (ii).

Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. Blair) in Com. on Res., 9446 (iii).

**Monk, Mr. F. D., Jacques Cartier.**

Address, on The, 241 (i).

Banque du Peuple B. 6 (Mr. Préfontaine) on M. for Com., 3304; in Com., 3311 (i).

Belœil Public Works, Total Cost, &c. (Ques.) 3827 (ii).

Canada Accident Assurance Co. (B. 3) 1<sup>st</sup>, 617.

Canada Plate Glass Insurance Co. incorp. (B. 4) 1<sup>st</sup>, 617 (i).

Canadian Coast, Survey of Currents, &c. (Ques.) 1824 (i).

Chambly Canal, Emplmt. of Geo. Peppin by Govt. (Ques.) 3821 (ii).

— Investigation (Ques.) 3553 (ii).

Champ de Mars, Lease, &c. (M. for cor.) 2141 (i).

Civil Service Act Amt. (B. 50) 1<sup>st</sup>, 1264; 2<sup>d</sup> m., 2204 (i).

Coal Oil, on M. (Mr. Davis) to place on Free List. 2010 (i).

Debates, Official, 2nd Rep., Dismissal of French Translator, on M. to conc., 1750 (i).

Insolvency Legislation and Boards of Trade, Cor. with Govt. (M. for copies\*) 5377 (ii).

**Monk, Mr. F. D.—Con.**

- I. C. R., Contracts for Ties, Names of Tenderers (Ques.) 5308 (ii).  
 Jacques Cartier County, Mail Service, Tenders, &c. (Ques.) 6934 (iii).  
 Lake St. Louis, Removal of Shoal, Representations from Shippers, &c. (Ques.) 2331 (i).  
 Lotteries (art unions) in Montreal, Legislation respecting (Ques.) 2323 (i).  
 Mail Service, Jacques Cartier County (Ques.) 6933 (iii).  
 Montreal Harbour Improvements, Plans, &c. (Ques.) 2187 (i).  
 — Post Office, Repairs, &c., Advertisement *re* Tenders (Ques.) 2112 (i).  
 — Repairs, &c., Name of Contractor (Ques.) 1974 (i).  
 Naturalization Act Amt. B. 37 (Mr. *McInnes*) on M. for 2°, 2177 (i).  
 N. W. T. Dual Language, Opinion of Min. of Jus. (Ques.) 2188 (i).  
 Penitentiaries, Printing by Convicts (Ques.) 1832 (i).  
 Point Claire Wharf, Construction, &c. (Ques.) 2111 (i); 4806 (ii).  
 — (M. for Ret. \*) 2962 (i).  
 Postage Stamp Dies, Number ordered by Govt., Cost, &c. (Ques.) 3943 (ii).  
 Postmasters, Jacques Cartier County, Salaries, &c. (Ques.) 6933 (iii).  
 Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9442, 9544, 9555, 9577 (iii).  
 Return, Inquiry for, 5747 (ii).  
 Richelieu River, Placing of Buoys, Contracts, &c. (Ques.) 3796 (i).  
 Ste. Geneviève, Land Damages, Rep. of Commissioner (Ques.) 6934 (iii).  
 St. Louis Lake, Dredging, &c. (Ques.) 8219 (iii).  
 St. Ours Lock, Dismissal of Supt. Coderre, &c. (Ques.) 3552 (ii).  
 St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary Commission, Total Cost, Claims Unpaid, &c. (Ques.) 5484 (ii).  
 Soulanges Canal Arbitration, Land Valuators, Appnmts. and Dismissal (Ques.) 2333 (i).  
 Superior Court Judges, Quebec, Sums paid for Travelling Expenses (M. for stmt.) 2145 (i).  
 — Travelling Expenses to 1899 (M. for stmt. \*) 2245 (i).

**SUPPLY:**

- Canals*: Lachine (Atwater Avenue wall) 9173 (iii).  
*Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8527, 8542 (iii).  
*Indians* (B.C.) 5708 (ii).  
*Legislation* (distribution of blue-books to Law Associations) 5742 (ii); (voters' lists) 2306 (i).  
*Militia* (arms, equipment, &c.) 9144; (compensation for injuries) 9130 (iii).  
*Railways*: Miscellaneous (Ottawa River) 9176; I. C. R. (passenger coach) 9172 (iii).  
*Yukon District*: Militia (clothing contract) 9092; 9124 (iii).  
 Tate's Dry Dock, Montreal, Rent, Lessees, &c. (Ques.) 1831 (i).

**Monk, Mr. F. D.—Con.**

- Ville Marie Bank Suspension (remarks) 9065 (iii).  
 Walmsley, Alex., Superannuation as British Mail Clerk (Ques.) 3797 (ii).  
 Yule Bridge, Richelieu River, Arbitrators' Award, &c. (Ques.) 3827 (ii).

**Montague, Hon. W. H., Haldimand.**

- Address, on The, 1037 (i).  
 Adulteration Act Amt. B. 123 (Sir *Henry Joly*) in Com., 3993 (ii).  
 Banque du Peuple B. 6 (Mr. *Préfontaine*) in Com., 3313 (i).  
 Benefit Associations, Insurance and Assessments (remarks) 1353 (i).  
 Binder Twine Contract, on M. (Mr. *Taylor*) to adjn., 7212 (iii).  
 Business of the House (remarks) 9177 (iii).  
 Cattle Embargo, Cor. between Can. and Imp. Govts. (M. for copies\*) 1877 (i).  
 Civil Service, Attachment of Salaries B. 38 (Mr. *Richardson*) in Com., 5924, 5936 (ii).  
 Colborne and Maitland Ports, Harbour Improvements, Reps., &c. (remarks) 7771, 8633 (iii).  
 Customs Act Amt. B. 154 (Mr. *Paterson*) in Com., 6443 (ii).  
 Dom. Lands Act Amt. B. 148 (Mr. *Sifton*) in Com., 6400, 6422, 6431 (ii).  
 Franchise Act Amt. (P.E.I.) Bill, not on Order Paper (remarks) 9308 (iii).  
 Friendly Society Insurance, Govt.'s Policy *re* Legislation (remarks) 3342 (ii).  
 Grand River Floods, Govt. Rep. *re* (remarks) 2536 (i).  
 G. T. R. Trackmen and Alien Labour Law Enforcement, on M. (Mr. *Ross-Robertson*) to adjn., 3970 (ii).  
 I. C. R., Extension to Montreal—G. T. R. Agreement B. 138, in Com., 4573, 4579 (ii).  
 — Order (Ques. of) "humbug" not parliamentary, 4643, 4669 (ii).  
 McLaughlin, R. J., and Farm Lands, Claims for Damages, &c. (remarks) 4486, 4498 (ii).  
 Montreal Island Belt Line Ry. Co.'s B. 112 (Mr. *Lemieux*) on amt. (Mr. *Monet*) 6097 (ii).  
 Personal Explanation (Mr. *Blair*) *re par.* in Montreal *Star* on Purchase of Wharf, St. John's, 7328 (iii).  
 Port Maitland Harbour, Inquiry for Reps., &c., 9185 (iii).  
 Preferential Trade with G. B., on amt. (Sir *Charles Tupper*) to Com. of Sup., 7946 (iii).  
 Quarantine Service, Employees, Salaries, &c. (Ques.) 3826 (ii).  
 Quebec Ry., Light and Power Co.'s B. 84 (Mr. *Carrol*) in Com., 5042 (ii).  
 Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9315 (iii).  
 Representation in the H. of C., B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) on M. for 1°, 3466 (ii).

**Montague, Mr. W. H.—Con.**

Returns, Inquiry for (Papers *re* cattle embargo) 3253 (i).

Superannuations in Agriculture Dept., Appnmts. made, &c. (M. for Ret. \*) 3873 (ii).

**SUPPLY :**

*Arts, Agriculture and Statistics* (experimental farm) 5073; (N.W.T. Exhibition) 5073; (patent record) 5074 (ii).

*Canals*: Galops (enlargement) 7299; Lake St. Louis (deepening) 7298; Sault Ste. Marie (construction) 7296 (iii).

*Civil Government*: Agriculture (salaries, contingencies, &c.) 5020; Inland Revenue (printing and stationery) 5014; Interior (clerical assistance) 5023; Militia (clerical assistance) 5013 (ii); Post Office, 7330 (iii); (salaries, Dead Letter Branch) 5033; Public Works (printing, &c.) 5072; Sec. of State (P. Mungovan's salary) 5020 (ii).

*Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8561, 8604, 8615, 8624, 8648 (iii).

*Lighthouse and Coast Service* (construction, &c.) 5129, 5139, 5165 (ii).

*Mail Subsidies and SS. Subventions* (St. John and Liverpool) 8671 (iii).

*Militia* (armouries) 9126, 9128; (clothing) 7108, 9127; (miscellaneous) 7150; (monuments) 7152; (Royal Military College) 7140; (stores, &c.) 7098 (iii).

*Miscellaneous* (*Canada Gazette*) 8703; (classification of record) 8702; (commutation of duties) 8704; (Dom. and Ont. arbitration) 8702; (extra clerks) 8705; (Paris Agency) 8705; (printing) 8703; (Printing Bureau plant) 8703; (Royal Society publications) 8705 (iii).

*Ocean and River Service* (maintenance and supplies) 5105 (ii).

*Public Works*: Harbours and Rivers, Ont., 7968, 7998; (Port Colborne) 9252, 9270 (iii).

*Quarantine* (cattle, salaries, &c.) 5075 (ii).

*Railways*: C. P. R. (land damages) 7153; I. C. R. (accommodation, St. John) 7156, 7242; (increased siding accommodation) 9157; (installation of Pintsch gas) 9172; (land damages) 7154; (telegraph service) 9171 (iii).

*Yukon District*: Militia (food, clothing, transportation, &c.) 9070, 9079, 9116; Railways (surveys, &c.) 8700 (iii).

Weights and Measures Act Amt. B. 128 (Sir *Henry Joly*) in Com., 3886 (ii).

Welland Canal, Entrance at Port Colborne, Harbour Improvements, on M. for Com. of Sup., 3997 (ii).

**Moore, Mr. A. H., Stanstead.**

Address, on The, 319 (i).

Coal Oil, Reduction of Duty (prop. Res.) 2118, 2127, 2130 (i).

Criminal Code (1892) Seduction and Abduction B. 2 (Mr. *Charlton*) on M. for 3<sup>d</sup>, 2922 (i).

Plebiscite, Speech of Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa Convention (Ques.) 1826 (i).

— Vote and Quebec Counties, Reps. asked for, 5748 (ii).

Post Office Act Amt. B. 155 (Mr. *Mulock*) in Com., 6111, 6117 (ii).

**Moore, Mr. A. H.—Con.**

Preferential Trade with G.B., on amt. (Sir *Charles Tupper*) to Com. of Sup., 7846 (iii).

Prohibition of Intoxicating Liquors, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Flint*) 8823 (iii).

— Poll Books, Voters' Lists, &c. (M. for copies) 2906 (i).

Scott Act, Repeal in Brome Co., Delay in Voting, &c. (Ques.) 3547 (ii).

**SUPPLY :**

*Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (experimental farms) 8262; (year book) 8232 (iii).

*Legislation*: House of Commons (voters' lists) 2281 (i).

*Militia* (annual drill) 7072 (iii); (clothing) 5448 (ii).

*Post Office* (postmasters' salaries) 5805, 5826 (ii).

Weights and Measures Act Amt. B. 128 (Sir *Henri Joly*) in Com., 3897 (ii).

**Morin, Mr. J. B., Dorchester.**

I. C. R. Extension to Montreal—G. T. R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 3744; in Com. on Bill, 4666 (ii).

Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9569 (iii).

**SUPPLY :**

*Dom. Lands* (Chief Inspector, salary, &c.) 9023 (iii).

*Mail Subsidies and SS. Subventions* (Murray Bay and Ouelle River) 10160 (iii).

*Militia* (miscellaneous) 7149 (iii).

**Morrison, Mr. A., New Westminster.**

Address, The, on amt. (Mr. *Bertram*) to amt. (Mr. *Clarke*) 1754 (i).

Brandon and South-western Ry. Co.'s (B. 47) 1<sup>st</sup>, 1165 (i).

Canadian Yukon Ry. Co.'s incorp. (B. 52) 1<sup>st</sup>, 1322 (i).

Domville, Lt.-Col., Leave of Absence from Command of 8th Hussars (Ques.) 2898 (i).

Glenora Ry. Co.'s incorp. (B. 101) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2409 (i).

I. C. R. Extension to Montreal—Drummond Co. Ry. Acquisition B. 133 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 3383 (ii).

Montreal Island Belt Line Ry. Co.'s B. 112 (Mr. *Lemieux*) M. for Com., 6091, 6095 (ii).

Northern Commercial Telegraph Co.'s (B. 152) 1<sup>st</sup>, 5096 (ii).

Ottawa Suburban Ry. Co.'s Incorp. (B. 117) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2966 (i).

Pacific Cable, Communication from B.C. Govt. (remarks) 2697 (i).

Spinks, County Court Judge, B.C., Charges against, on M. (Sir *Charles Hibbert Tupper*) to Com. of Sup., 4232 (ii).

**SUPPLY :**

*Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (illustration stations) 8328 (iii).

*Fisheries* (salaries of inspectors) 4048 (ii).

*Legislation* (distribution of blue-books to Law Associations) 5739 (ii).

**Morrison, Mr. A.—Con.**

## SUPPLY—Con.

- Militia* (pay allowance) 7013; (salaries) 7075; (Yukon supplies) 7050 (iii).  
*Ocean and River Service* (masters and mates) 3062 (i).  
*Public Works*: Dredging (Mar. Provs. and B.C.), 10070; Harbours and Rivers (B.C.) 8089; N.S. (Gabarouse breakwater) 9992 (iii).  
 Yukon—British Yukon Mining, Trading and Transportation Co., Claims against Govt. (Ques.) 2905 (i).  
 — Gold Commissioner, Appnmt. (Ques.) 1823 (i).  
 — Legal Adviser, Appnmt. by Govt. (Ques.) 1823 (i).  
 — Mining, Trading and Transportation (B. 94) 1<sup>o</sup>\*, 2246 (i).  
 — O.C.'s regulating Mining Claims by Officials, &c. (Ques.) 1824 (i).  
 — Officials in Gold Commissioner's Office, Nationality, &c. (Ques.) 1823 (i).  
 — salaries, cost of living, &c. (Ques.) 1824.  
 — Pacific Ry. Co.'s incorp. (B. 102) 1<sup>o</sup>\*, 2409 (i).  
 — Timber Inspector, Appnmt. by Govt. (Ques.) 1823 (i).  
 — Walsh, Maj., Emplmt. by Govt. (Ques.) 1823 (i).

**Mulock, Hon. W., North York, Ont.**

- American Bank Note Co., Plates, Dies, &c., Duties collected, on M. (Mr. Foster) for Ret., 3828 (ii).  
 Annapolis Co., Port George Post Office, Irregularities, &c. (Ans.) 8989 (iii).  
 Batiscan Post Office, Charges against Postmaster, Cor., *re* (Ans.) 2321 (i).  
 — Salary of Postmistress (Ans.) 1970 (i).  
 Beaumont, Wm., Claims for distributing Mail at Maple Bay prior to Confederation (Ans.) 3820 (ii).  
 Berthier (en haut) Postmaster and Employees, Salaries, &c. (Ans.) 2703 (i).  
 Bilodeau, Mr. Job. Postmaster at Chambord, Dismissal, &c. (Ans.) 1962 (i).  
 Bourget, P. A., Postmaster at Lévis, Increase of Salary (Ans.) 4059 (ii).  
 Brantford Postmaster, Appnmt. by Govt. (Ans.) 1968 (i).  
 — Salary, Commission, &c. (Ans.) 8465 (iii).  
 Brookside, P.E.I., Postmaster, Resignation, &c. (Ans.) 1969 (i).  
 Dargavel, Mr. J. R., Postmaster at Elgin, Dismissal, &c. (Ans.) 1955 (i).  
 Distribution of Political Speeches (remarks) 1166 (i).  
 Franking Privilege to Legislative Reps., &c. (Ans.) 3823 (ii).  
 Galt Postmaster, Salary, &c. (Ans.) 3825 (ii).  
 Gauthier, Jean, Postmaster at Metabetchouan, Dismissal, &c. (Ans.) 4059 (ii).

**Mulock, Hon. W.—Con.**

- General Inspection Act Amt. B. 156 (Sir *Henry Joly*) in Com., 9641 (iii).  
 Govt. Contracts, Prohibition of Sweating (Ans.) 1975 (i).  
 Guay Post Office, Revenue, Salary paid to Postmaster Verrault, &c. (Ans.) 3260 (i).  
 Havelock and Oak Lake, Mail Service, Tenders, &c. (Ans.) 3824 (ii).  
 Humberstone Post Office, Charges against James O. Rose, Dismissal, &c. (Ans.) 6562 (ii).  
 — (remarks) 6594 (ii).  
 Inverness Post Offices, Change of Locations, Appnmt. and Dismissals (Ans.) 3825 (ii).  
 Jacques Cartier County Mail Service, Tenders, &c. (Ans.) 6934 (iii).  
 Lang P. O. and Ry. Station, Carriage of Mails, Tenders, &c. (Ans.) 3824 (ii).  
 Larouche, Mr. Wm., Postmaster at Lake Bouchette, Dismissal, &c. (Ans.) 1962 (i).  
 Leake, Mr. J. R., Postmaster at Morton, Dismissal, &c. (Ans.) 1963 (i).  
 Legris, Mr., Postmaster at Ste. Eulalie, Investigation, Rep., &c. (Ans.) 4272 (ii).  
 Lévis Mail Service, Names of Carriers, &c. (Ans.) 3554 (ii).  
 London Letter Carriers, and Kingston Street Ry. Transportation, Salaries, &c. (Ans.) 4483, 4995 (ii).  
 Mail Bags, Contracts between Govt. and Ottawa Supply Co. (Ans.) 2185 (i).  
 Mail Service, Jacques Cartier County (Ans.) 6933 (iii).  
 — Pacific Coast, Facilities by Govt. (Ans.) 3254 (i).  
 Margaree and Orangedale Mail Service, Changes, &c. *re* Contractors (Ans.) 3261 (i).  
 Martel, Mr., Postmaster at St. Prime, Dismissal, &c. (Ans.) 1965 (i).  
 McKenzie P. O., Man., Pets. *re*, Name of Postmaster (Ans.) 2185 (i).  
 McLaughlin, Mr. R. J., and Claims for Land Damages by Farmers in Lindsay, Letter of Mr. McLaughlin (read) 4998, 5005 (ii).  
 Montreal and Labelle Mail Service, Appnmt. of Mail Conductor (Ans.) 1966  
 — Post Office, Dismissals and Appnmts., Names, &c. (Ans.) 6047 (ii).  
 Moonstone, Ont., Postmaster, Name, &c. (Ans.) 1957 (i).  
 Mount Albion, P.E.I., Mail Service, Pets. *re*, &c. (Ans.) 1969 (i).  
 Murray Bay and Quebec Mail Service, Complaints of Delay (Ans.) 1960 (i).  
 North Sydney, Rumoured Dismissal (remarks) 4899, 4996 (ii).  
 Order, Ques. of (Mr. *Bergeron*) Reading Bill in both Languages, 4649 (ii).  
 Ottawa and Cyrville Mail Service, Contract, &c. (Ans.) 8991 (iii).

**Mulock, Hon. W.—Con.**

- Ottawa Supply Co., and Contracts with Govt. (Ans.) 2185 (i).
- Ouellet, Mr. Agapit, par. in *Le Soleil*, Emplmt. by Govt., &c. (Ans.) 3259 (i).
- Pacific Cable between Australia and Can. Agreement (B. 176) prop. Res., 1950 (i); 8348; in Com. on Res., 8383 (iii).
- Pariseau, Mr. C. D., Postmaster at St. Esprit, Dismissal, &c. (Ans.) 1962 (i).
- Port George, Annapolis Co., Name of Postmaster, Charge of Irregularities, &c. (Ans.) 9179, 9697 (iii).
- Postage Stamp Dies, Number ordered by Govt., Cost., &c. (Ans.) 3943 (ii).
- Reproduction of Facsimiles by Bank Note Co. (Ans.) 2901 (i).
- Postal Notes, Contract, Cost, &c., on M. (Mr. Foster) for copy, 1982 (i).
- Lost through Transmission (remarks) 10226 (iii).
- Post Office, Jacques Cartier County, Salaries, &c. (Ans.) 6933 (iii).
- Rep. (presented) 159 (i).
- Post Office Act Amt. (B. 155) 1<sup>o</sup>, 5096; 2<sup>o</sup> m., 6102; in Com., 6104 (ii).
- Preferential Trade with G. B., on amt. (Sir Charles Tupper) to Com. of Sup., 7835 (iii).
- P. E. I., Grand View, Changes in Mail Service, Pets. against (Ans.) 4994 (ii).
- Mail Service, between I. C. R. and Cape Tormentine, Cost, &c. (Ans.) 2325 (i).
- Prohibition Plebiscite, Ret. of Votes polled, Papers respecting, on M. (Mr. Foster) to adjn., 2043 (i).
- Purple Stamped 2-cent envelopes, Error in Printing, Circulation, &c. (Ans.) 3798 (ii).
- See "Stamped Envelopes."
- Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. Blair) in Com., 9797; in Com. on Res., 9337, 9356, 9431, 9480, 9587.
- Representation in the H. of C. (B. 126) 2<sup>o</sup> m., 5207; in Com. (amt.) 6763, 6820 (ii) 6905, 6910 (iii).
- Returns, on Inquiry (Mr. Foster) 6320, 6596 (ii).
- St. Jérôme Postmaster, Dismissal, Charges against, &c. (Ans.) 2182 (i).
- St. Thomas and Aylmer Mail Service, Advertisements for Tenders, &c. (Ans.) 9698 (iii).
- Singleton, Mr. W. R., Postmaster at Delta, Dismissal, &c. (Ans.) 1956 (i).
- Sintulata, Dismissal of Postmistress, on M. for Com. of Sup. (remarks) 10119 (iii).
- Dismissal, &c. (Ans.) 8468 (iii).
- Smith, Mr. Abner, Postmaster at Rusagornis, Dismissal, &c. (Ans.) 3256 (ii).
- Sproule, R. J., Postmaster at Flesherton, Ont., Complaints against (Ans.) 9179 (iii).
- Stamped Envelopes, 2-cent Purple, Number issued and distributed, &c. (Ans.) 2187 (i).
- 2-cent Green, Number purchased in Toronto, Issue and Distribution (Ans.) 2189 (i).

**Mulock, Hon. W.—Con.****SUPPLY :**

- Canals* : Rainy River (lock and dam) 10153 (iii).
- Civil Govt.* : Post Office, 7330; conc., 10202 (iii); (contingencies) 5068 (ii); 7359 (iii); (salaries, Dead Letter Branch) 5032, 5053 (ii).
- N. W. Mounted Police* : (Yukon service) 5837 (ii).
- Post Office* (Inspectors' salaries) 5798; conc., 6387; (legal expenses) 5801 (ii); (mail service) 7366; conc., 10202; (miscellaneous) 7388 (iii); (Postmasters' salaries) 5803; (Rainy River service) 5827; (refund for stamps, &c., stolen) 5800; Yukon District (railway mail clerks) 6360; (mail service) conc., 6390 (ii); 7359 (iii).
- Public Works* : Buildings (B.C.) conc., 6385 (ii); (N.S.) 9947; Ont. (Sarnia Post Office) 9962; Harbours and Rivers, Ont. (Toronto Harbour) 10066; (Port Colborne) 9256; Que. (Sabrevois wharf) 10023 (iii).
- Railways* : I.C.R. (accommodation at St. John) 7247 (iii).
- Yukon District* : Militia (clothing contract) 9075, 9082, 9101 (iii); (N. W. Mounted Police) conc., 6388 (ii).
- Sydenham Postmaster, Irregularity in Accts. (Ans.) 6935 (iii).
- Toronto, East, Postmaster, Recommendations for Vacant Position (Ans.) 4272 (ii).
- Appnmts. by Govt., Names, Salaries, &c. (Ans.) 1981 (i).
- Vancouver Island S.S. Service, Subsidy by Govt. (Ans.) 3797 (ii).
- Verrault, Jos., Emplmt. by Govt. (Ans.) 3555 (ii).
- Victoria, B.C., Letter Carriers, Number, Salaries, &c. (Ans.) 1960 (i).
- Walmsley, Alex., Superannuation as British Mail Clerk (Ans.) 3797 (ii).
- Waltham and Chapeau, Mail Service, Pet. from Pontiac County Council (Ans.) 2330 (i).
- Yukon, Administration of, Charges against, on M. (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) to Com. of Sup., 6267 (ii).
- Bourassa, Mr., Postmaster at Dawson City (Ans.) 1958 (i).
- Harper, Mr. F., Postmaster at Dawson City, Issue of Notice (Ans.) 1961 (i).
- Mail Service between Dawson City and Vancouver, &c. (Ans.) 1966 (i).
- contracts, advertisements, &c., on M. (Sir Charles H. Tupper) for Copies, 2706 (i).
- efficiency of Contractors, Reps., &c., on M. (Mr. Borden, Halifax) for Cor., 2705 (i).
- Registered Letters, &c., Policy of Govt., 3793 (ii).
- Registered Parcels, &c., returned from Dead Letter Office (remarks) 4352 (ii).

**Oliver, Mr. F., Alberta.**

- Address, The, on amt. (Mr. Bertram) to amt. (Mr. Clarke) 1804 (i).
- Alberta Irrigation Co. Change of Title (B. 23) 1<sup>o</sup>, 803 (i).

**Oliver, Mr. F.—Con.**

- Calgary and Edmonton Ry. Co. (land subsidy), Amount selected and still due, &c. (Ques.) 2326 (i).
- C. P. R. Commission, Appnmt. by Govt., on prop. Res. (Mr. *Richardson*) 2785 (i).
- Coal Oil, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Davis*) to place on Free List, 2008 (i).
- on prop. Res. (Mr. *Moore*) 2126 (i).
- Columbia and Western Ry. Co.'s B. 26 (Mr. *Costigan*) in Com. (amt.) 2645; on M. for 3<sup>c</sup> (amt.) 2934; (Neg. Y. 14; N. 61) 2949 (i).
- Edmonton District Ry. Co.'s incorp. (B. 93) 1<sup>c</sup>\*, 2246 (i); in Com., 4303, 4847, 4852 (ii).
- General Inspection Act Amt. B. 156 (Sir *Henry Joly*) in Com., 9642 (iii).
- Great North-west Central Ry. Co. B. 90 (Mr. *Sutherland*) on amt. (Mr. *Douglas*) 4785 (ii).
- Hudson Bay and Yukon Ry. and Nav. Co.'s (B. 110) 1<sup>c</sup>\*, 2696 (i).
- Mint, Establishment by Govt. in Can., on prop. Res. (Mr. *McInnes*) 3122 (i).
- N.W.T. Seed Grain Indebtedness, Cancellation, &c., on M. (Mr. *Davin*) 2022 (i).
- Mounted Police, Issue of Scrip, Pets, &c., *•rc* (Ques.) 2484 (i).
- Rebellion (1885) Claims Commission, on M. (Mr. *Davis*) for Ret., 3096 (i).
- Public Works (Preservation of Health) B. 105 (Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*) on M. for 2<sup>c</sup>, 7655 (iii).
- Ry. Act Amt. B. 85 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 9745 (iii).
- Commissioners, Establishment of a Board, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Rutherford*) 3867 (ii).
- Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9372, 9435, 9454, 9495, 9504, 9529, 9593 (iii).

## SUPPLY :

- Dominion Lands* (scrip, &c.) 7520 (iii).
- Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8520; (St. Paul des Métis, seed grain, &c.) 9047 (iii).
- Indians* (industrial schools) 7490 (iii).
- Miscellaneous* (half-breed claims commission) 9059 (iii).

- Veterans of 1885, at Edmonton, Issue of Scrip and Medals, Applications, &c. (Ques.) 2701 (i).
- Yukon, Administration of, Charges against, on M. (Sir *Charles Hibbert Tupper*) to Com. of Sup., 6275 (ii).

**Osler, Mr. E. B., West Toronto.**

- Address, on The, 307 (i).
- Can. Permanent and Western Can. Mortgage Corporation Co.'s incorp. (B. 75) 1<sup>c</sup>\*, 2029 (i).
- I. C. R. Extension to Montreal—G. T. R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 4619 (ii).
- McLaughlin, Mr. R. J., and Farm Lands, Claims for Damages, &c. (remarks) 4501 (ii).
- Mint, Establishment by Govt. in Can., on prop. Res. (Mr. *McInnes*) 3121 (i).
- Pacific Cable between Australia and Can. Agreement B. (Mr. *Mulock*) prop. Res., 8371 (iii).

**Osler, Mr. E. B.—Con.**

- Preferential Trade with G. B., on amt. (Sir *Charles Tupper*) to Com. of Sup., 7944 (iii).
- Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9363 (iii).
- Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) on M. for 2<sup>c</sup>, 6718 (ii).

## SUPPLY :

- Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (cold storage) 8721 (iii).
- Civil Government*: Post Office 7350 (iii).
- Indians* (Ont.) 5680 (ii).
- Legislation* (stationery supplies) 5735 (ii).
- Post Office* (postmasters' salaries) 5814 (ii).
- Public Works*: Building (Rideau Hall) 7695; Harbours and Rivers, N.S. (Wharfs) 7700, 7735, 7740; Ont. Port Colborne) 9253 (iii).

**Parmalee, Mr. C. H., Shefford.**

- Prohibition of Intoxicating Liquors, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Flint*) 8852; (amt.) 8856 (iii).

**Paterson, Hon. W., North Grey.**

- Address, on The, 1167 (i).
- Agricultural Implements imported from U.S., Bases of Valuation, &c. (Ans.) 6048 (ii).
- American Bank Note Co., Dies, Plates, &c., Duties collected, on M. (Mr. *Foster*) for Ret., 3828 (ii).
- Binder Twine imported in 1899 (Ans.) 8218, 8990 (iii).
- Budget, The, 2637, 2650 (i).
- Busby, Mr., Customs Collector at Skagway, Date of Appnmt. and Salary, (Ans.) 4805 (ii).
- Chambord Customs House, Collections, Salaries, Expenses, &c. (Ans.) 1851 (i).
- Coasting Laws, Enforcement, Cor. respecting (Ans.) 3257 (i).
- Rep. of Capt. John Irving *re* Enforcement, &c. (Ans.) 3258 (i).
- Customs Act Amt. (B. 154) 1<sup>c</sup>\*, 4991; in Com., 6443 (ii).
- Customs House, Toronto, Employees, Appnmts., Dates, Salaries, &c. (Ans.) 1849 (i).
- General Inspection Act Amt. B. 156 (Sir *Henry Joly*) in Com., 9643 (iii).
- Grain exported from Can. Ports, Number of Bushels, &c. (Ans.) 3256 (i).
- to Germany in 1898-99, Quantity, &c. (Ans.) 8990 (iii).
- Indian Corn imported from 1896-99 (Ans.) 8217 (iii).
- imported for Home Consumption, &c. (Ans.) 8632, 8990 (iii).
- Iron Bounties, Quantity, &c. (Ans.) 1828 (i).
- John C. Barr*, Valuation by Customs Authorities (Ans.) 2700 (i); 8219 (iii).
- Ownership, &c. (Ans.) 8469 (iii).
- Lebel, Mr. Wenceslas, Customs Official and Revision of Electoral Lists, par. in *Le Soleil* (Ans.) 1889 (i).
- Lepreaux, N.B., Customs Officer, Name, Salary, &c. (Ans.) 5313 (ii).

**Paterson, Hon. W.—Con.**

*Pingree and Lowe Strs., Undervaluation, &c.*  
(Ans.) 8219 (iii).<sup>t</sup>

Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 9768,  
9782 (iii).

Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*)  
on M. for 2°, 5280; in Com., 6762, 6802 (ii).

Returns, on Inquiry for, 8077 (iii).

Schafheitlin & Fitzgibbon, Custom, Law Infrac-  
tion (Ans.) 1889 (i).

Scrimgeour, Mr. J. G., Grant of Bonded Ware-  
house, Date, Lease, &c. (Ans.) 2113 (i).

Sugar Imports from British W. Indies, Quantities  
and Value (Ans.) 2327 (i).

## SUPPLY :

On M. (Mr. *Foster*) that Com. rise, 5482 (ii).

*Civil Govt.* : Customs (contingencies) 2973; (sal-  
aries) 2091 (i).

*Customs* (contingencies) 5855; (B. C. and Yukon)  
stationery, &c., 5600 (ii); (contingencies, &c.)  
8453 (iii); B.C. (revenue cruisers repairs) 5602 (ii);  
Man. (contingencies, &c.) 8453; N. W. T. (con-  
tingencies, &c.) 8453; N. S. (salaries, contin-  
gencies, &c.) 8390; Ont. (contingencies, &c.) 8452  
(iii); (salaries, &c.) 5595; Que. (suspense account,  
Montreal) 5588; Yukon (salaries, &c.) 5596 (ii).

*Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8614 (iii).

*Lighthouse and Coast Service* (supplies, &c.) 3541  
(ii).

*Militia* (pay, &c.) 7037; (Yukon supplies) 7045 (iii).

*Public Works*: Harbours and Rivers (Ont.) 7979  
(iii).

*Yukon Provisional District* (customs) 8746; (sal-  
aries, &c.) 8658 (iii); (telegraph lines) 5620, 5642  
(ii).

U. S. Vessels registered at Dawson, Names, &c.  
(Ans.) 2700 (i).

Wheat exported from Montreal, St. John, Fort  
William and Winnipeg, Quantities (Ans.) 2702  
(i).

Yukon, Administration of, Charges against, on  
M. (Sir *Charles Hibbert Tupper*) to Com. of  
Sup., 6248 (ii).

— Post Office, Emplmt. of Mr. *Bourassa*  
(Ans.) 1833 (i).

— Rumours *re* Conflict between U. S. and  
Can. Customs (remarks) 975 (i).

— U. S. SS. *John C. Barr*, Undervaluation,  
&c. (Ans.) 3266 (i).

**Penny, Mr. E. G., Montreal, St. Lawrence.**

Committee Meetings, Accommodation in Rooms  
(remarks) 3314 (i).

Criminal Code, Cruelty to Animals (B. 116) 1°,  
2963 (i).

Debates, Official, 2nd Rep., Dismissal of French  
Translator, on M. to conc., 1741 (i).

Inspection (Fruit) Act Amt. (B. 56) 1°\*, 1352;  
on Order for 2°, 3316 (i); 2° m., 3872; withdn.,  
5360 (ii).

Inspection Act Amt. (B. 55) 1°\*, 1352 (i); 2° m.,  
3871; withdn., 5360 (ii).

Potash Inspection, and Montreal Board of Trade  
(Ques.) 1858 (i).

**Penny, Mr. E. G.—Con.**

## SUPPLY :

*Administration of Justice* (Exchequer Court) 5476  
(ii).

**Pettet, Mr. W. V., Prince Edward.**

Belleville Prince Edward Bridge Co.'s B. 152  
(Mr. *Hurley*) in Com., 7480 (iii).

Military Canteens and Sale of Liquor, par. in  
*Ottawa Citizen re* Ont. Alliance, 7326 (iii).

## SUPPLY :

*Canals*: Trent (construction) 7299 (iii).

*Public Works*: Buildings (Ont.) 7623 (iii).

**Pope, Mr. R. H., Compton.**

Address, on The, 398 (i).

Budget, The, 2672 (i).

I. C. R. Extension to Montreal—Drummond Co.

Ry. Acquisition B. 133 (Mr. *Blair*) on M. for  
2°, 4158 (ii).

— Govt. Rys., Cars, Locomotives, Number,  
Cost, &c. (M. for Ret. \*) 2028 (i).

— Harris, Mr., Agreement with as Traffic  
M'gr. (Ques.) 1975, 1980 (i).

— (M. for cor., &c. \*) 2961 (i).

— Tariffs, Special Rates, Reps. of Mr. Harris  
(M. for copies \*) 2961 (i).

Magdalen Island Mail Service, Terms of Con-  
tract, &c. (M. for cor. \*) 2789 (i).

Scott Act Repeal, Brome County, Applications  
for (Ques.) 2187 (i).

## SUPPLY :

*Fisheries* (salaries of inspectors) 4016 (ii).

**Poupore Mr. W. J., Pontiac.**

Canadian Pacific Ry. and Hull Electric Co.'s  
Confirmation of Agreement (B. 25) 1°\*, 895 (i).

Contracts let without Tender on M. (Mr. *Davin*)  
for O. Cs., 5326 (ii).

Davis, Edward, Slide Master at Coulonge, Dis-  
missal, &c. (Ques.) 3946 (ii).

Montreal, Ottawa and Georgian Bay Canal (prop.  
Res.) 4273, 4884 (ii).

Ottawa Electric Ry. Co.'s B. 18 (Mr. *Belcourt*) on  
M. to ref. to Sel. Com., 2289 (i).

Portage du Fort and Bristol Branch Ry. Co.'s  
(B. 42) 1°\*, 1165 (i).

Roche Fendue and Calumet Dams, Claims for  
Damages, &c. (M. for Ret. \*) 2789 (i).

— (Ques.) 1854 (i).

Waltham and Chapeau Mail Service, Pet. from  
Pontiac County Council (Ques.) 2330 (i).

Zenith Mining and Ry. Co.'s incorp. (B. 20) 1°\*,  
803 (i).

**Powell, Mr. H. A., Westmorland.**

Address, on The, 1124 (i).

Civil Service, Attachment of Salaries B. 38 (Mr.  
*Richardson*) in Com., 5906, 5914, 5942 (ii).

Criminal Code (1892) Act Amt. B. 36 (Mr. *Brit-  
ton*) on M. for 2°, 2168 (i).

**Powell, Mr. H. A.—Con.**

- Franchise Act Schedules (remarks) 1073 (i).  
 G. T. R. Trackmen's Strike, &c., on M. (Mr. *Maclean*) to adjn., 4514 (ii).  
 I. C. R., Expenditure on Capital and Revenue (Ques.) 2531 (i).  
 — Extension to Montreal—Drummond Co. Ry. Acquisition B. 133 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 3413 (ii).  
 — on M. (Mr. *Taylor*) to adjn., 2825 (i).  
 — G. T. R. Agreement B. 138 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 3600, 4077, 4123 ; in Com., 4392, 4686, 4707 (ii).  
 — Chaudière to Montreal, Revenue collected, &c. (Ques.) 1856 (i).  
 — (M. for Ret. \*) 2027 (i).  
 — Expenditure, Revenue, from 1898 to 1899 (M. for Ret. \*) 2789 (i).  
 — Leblanc, Mr. A. T., Emplmt. by Govt. (Ques.) 1964 (i).  
 — Snow Shovelling, Number of Employees, &c. (Ques.) 1964 (i).  
 Montreal Island Belt Line Ry. Co.'s B. 112 (Mr. *Lemieux*) in Com. on amt. (Mr. *Campbell*) 6334, 6405 (ii).  
 Ottawa City, Grant of Money Authorization B. 187 (Mr. *Fielding*) in Com., 9633 (iii).  
 P. E. I. Winter Mail Service, Contracts, &c., on M. (Mr. *Martin*) for Copies, 3145 (i).  
 Public Works (Preservation of Health) B. 105 (Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*) on M. for 2°, 7659, 7674 (iii).  
 Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) on M. for 2°, 6695 (ii) ; in Com., 6948, 6973 (iii).

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- Canals*: Chambly (telephone lines) 5783 (ii) ; Trent (construction) 7306 (iii). ; Welland (refund for damages to lock) 5793 (ii).  
*Fisheries*: Protection Service (repairs, &c.) 5180 (ii).  
*Insurance* (general expenses) 7464 (iii).  
*Interior*: Yukon District (general expenditure) 6373 (ii).  
*Ocean and River Service* (maintenance) 3030 (i).  
*Post Office* (mail service) 7379 (iii).  
*Public Works*: Buildings, Ottawa (electric lighting) 5196 (ii).  
*Railways*: I. C. R. (accommodation, St. John) 7409, 7424 ; (rolling stock) 7434 ; P. E. I. (Murray Harbour, &c., construction) 9220 ; (removal of curves) 7398 (iii) ; (repairs to car "Victoria") 5785 (ii).  
 Yukon, Administration of, Charges against, on M. (Sir *C. H. Tupper*) to Com of Sup., 6256 (ii).  
 — Lynch, Mr. W. H., Emplmt. by Govt., Reps., &c. (Ques.) 1847 (i).

**Prefontaine, Mr. R., *Maisonneuve*.**

- Banque du Peuple (B. 6) 1°, 618 ; (M.) for Com., 3298 (i) ; 3° m., 3485 (ii) ; Sen. Amts., 7577 (iii).  
 Montreal Island Belt Line Ry. Co.'s B. 112 (Mr. *Lemieux*) on amt. (Mr. *Monet*) 6097 (ii).

**Prefontaine, Mr. R.—Con.**

- Potash Inspection at Montreal, Board of Trade, Res., Pets., &c. (M. for cor. \*) 1878 (i).  
 Richelieu and Ontario Nav. Co.'s (B. 27) 1°, 895 (i).

**Prior, Hon. E. G., *Victoria, B.C.***

- Address, on The, 975 (i).  
 Alaska Boundary and Customs Officials, Difficulties with Mounted Police (remarks) 2193 (i).  
 — American Rumours *re* Canada's Contention (M. to adjn.) 3846 (ii).  
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 — Disallowance by Dom. Govt. (Ques.) 7768 (iii).  
 Anti-Japanese Legislation, Cor. between B. C. Govt. and Dom. (remarks) 5206 (ii).  
 — Motion dropped, 5313 (ii).  
 — Govt. Policy *re* Fourteen Statutes already in Force (Ques.) 5859 (ii).  
 Appmt. of Members to Offices, par. in *Victoria Colonist*, 6381 (ii).  
 Ashcroft, B.C., Sale of Ry. Lands, &c. (Ques.) 1855 (i).  
 — Cor. with Dom. Govt. (M. for copies \*) 2408 (i).  
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 — Lt. Gov. and Turner Administration and Can. Govt. (M. for cor.) 2362 (i).  
 — Legislation *re* Chinese and Foreign Immigration, Disallowance, &c. (M. to adjn.) 6828, 6902 (iii).  
 — Southern Ry. Co.'s (B. 28) 1°, 895 (i).  
 — Statutes for 1899, Date of receiving by Sec. of State (Ques.) 5666 (ii).  
 Bubonic Plague and Quarantine of Pacific Strs. at B. C. (remarks) 5989 (ii).  
 Burrard, Member for, Speech *re* Amounts paid to Vancouver Liberals by Dom. Govt. (Ques.) 1838 (i).  
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 Deadman's Island, par. in *Montreal Witness re Lease*, 1353 (i).  
 — Leases, Value, &c. (Ques.) 1640, 1815 (i).  
 — Cor. between Dom. Govt. and B. Haigh & Son (1880) *re* Application for use, &c. (M. for cor. \*) 2788 (i).  
 — O. Cs., Cor., &c. (M. for copies) 2334 (i).  
 — Forfeiture of Lease by Mr. Ludgate (remarks) 4739 (ii).

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- Deadman's Island and Stanley Park (M. to print papers) 3959 (ii).
- Disallowance of Anti-Japanese Legislation, Incomplete Ret. (remarks) 5408, 5491 (ii).
- Dorothy*, Seizure by U. S. Customs Authorities at Skagway, par. in *Ottawa Citizen* (Ques.) 2367 (i).
- Drill Hall, Vancouver, B.C., Contract, Cost, &c. (Ques.) 5487, 6122 (ii), 7765 (iii).
- Dry Dock, Victoria, B.C., Pets. *re* Reduction of Charges, &c. (Ques.) 7766 (iii).
- Esquimalt, B.C., Dry Dock, Reduction of Rates, &c., Pets. against, &c. (Ques.) 6122 (ii).
- Fraser and Skeena River Fish Hatcheries, Erection by Govt. (Ques.) 4058 (ii).
- Govt. Property, B.C., Lease, &c., Cor. respecting (Ques.) 8465; Rental, &c. (Ques.) 8991 (iii).
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- Indians, Yale and Cariboo, Medical Attendance, Amount paid, &c. (Ques.) 8630, 8989 (iii).
- International Commission and Alaskan Boundary, par. in *Ottawa Citizen*, 6936 (iii).
- John C. Barr*, Undervaluation, &c. (Ques.) 8218, 8469 (iii).
- Letter Carriers (B.C.), Number, Salaries, &c., from 1895 to 1899 (M. for Ret.\*) 2789 (i).
- Macaulay Point Fortifications, Claims for Compensation, &c. (M. for cor., &c.\*) 3874 (ii).
- Inquiry for Ret., 5489 (ii).
- Militia Permanent Corps, Pension System, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Hughes*) 2715 (i).
- Northern Commercial Telegraph Co. and Cor. with Mins. of the Crown, on M. for Com. of Sup., 5510 (ii).
- Non-Production of High Commissioner's Telegram, 5747 (ii).
- Privilege (Ques. of) par. in *Victoria Daily Times*, 6051 (ii).
- Pacific Cable between Can. and Australia Agreement B. (Mr. *Mulock*) prop. Res., 8373 (iii).
- Parlt. and Deptl. Buildings, Ottawa, Electric Lighting, &c. (Ques.) 5308 (ii).
- Personal Explanation *re* Vote on Kettle River Ry. Bill, 9595 (iii).
- Pingree* and *Lowe*, Strs., Undervaluation, &c., (Ques.) 8218 (iii).
- Poaching on the Pacific Coast (remarks) 8347 (iii).
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- Quadra*, Str., Payment of Crew and Officers (Ques.) 3076 (i).
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- Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9406, 9499 (iii).

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- Returns, Inquiry for (Commercial Tel. Construction Syndicate) 3752 (ii).
- Cor. between Ministers and Northern Tel. Co. (remarks) 5409, 5746 (ii).
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- Songhee, Indians (B. C.) Removal from Reserve, Settlement with B. C. Govt. (Ques.) 3797 (ii).
- Cor. between Dom. and Provl. Govt. (M. for copies) 3873 (ii).
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- Strathcona*, Str., and Relief of Destitute Miners, Arrangement with Govt. (Ques.) 9179 (iii).
- SUPPLY :
- Administration of Justice* : Yukon (maintenance of prisoners) 5468 (ii).
- Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (illustration stations) 8309 (iii).
- Canals* : Cornwall (payment to A. P. Ross) 9177 (iii); Welland (rebate to Forwarding Co.) 5795 (ii).
- Civil Govt.* : Agriculture (salaries, contingencies, &c.) 5030; Marine and Fisheries (contingencies) 5026 (ii); Post Office, 7331 (iii); (contingencies, Dead Letter Branch) 5071 (ii); Public Works (salaries) 7553 (iii).
- Collection of Revenue* (telegraph lines, B. C.) 8184 (iii).
- Customs* (contingencies) 5856 (ii).
- Fisheries* (Behring Sea legal expenses) 5181 (ii).
- Indians* (B.C.) 5704 (ii).
- Lighthouse and Coast Service* (construction, &c.) 5140 (ii).
- Militia* (annual drill) 5065 (ii); 7071 (iii); (arms, &c., accoutrements) 5466 (ii); (Macaulay Point claim) 9133; (pay, allowance) 7027; (properties, &c.) 7089 (iii); (rifle range, B.C.) conc., 6389 (ii); (salaries) 7077; (Yukon supplies) 7040 (iii).
- Miscellaneous* (half-breed claims commission) 9059 (iii); (professional services, C. J. R. Bethune) 5471 (ii); (relief of Canadians in foreign countries) 7529 (iii).
- N. W. Mounted Police* (service) 5833; (Yukon service) 5839 (ii).
- Post Office* (Inspectors' salaries) 5799; conc., 6387; (Postmasters' salaries) 5807 (ii).
- Public Works* : Buildings (B.C.) 8085, 8090; conc., 6385 (ii); (N.B.) 7764; (N.S.) 7613 (iii); (Ottawa electric lighting) 5187 (ii); (Ont.) 7994; Yukon District (Lewes and Yukon river improvements) 8192 (ii); (telegraph lines) 5622, 5658 (ii).
- Quarantine* (cattle, salaries, &c.) 5078 (ii); (salaries and contingencies) 8338; (Tracadie Lazaretto) 8338 (iii).
- Yukon Provisional District* (salaries, &c.) 8658 (iii).
- Valleyfield Customs Collectors, Charges against, on M. (Mr. *Bergeron*) to Com. of Sup., 5501 (ii).
- Vancouver Island S.S. Service, Subsidy by Govt. (Ques.) 3797 (ii).
- Victoria Harbour, Rep. of Resident Engineer, &c. (Ques.) 3828 (ii).
- Victoria, B.C., Letter Carriers, Number, Salaries, &c. (Ques.) 1960 (i).
- Post Office, Old Site, Ownership, &c. (Ques.) 4269 (ii).

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- Victoria and Montreal Harbours, Grants by Dom. Govt. (M. for Stmtt.\*) 1877 (i).  
 — P. O., Safes, Elevators, &c., Tenders for, &c. (Ques.) 1887 (i).  
 Wade, Mr. F. C., Emplmt., Amounts paid to by Govt., &c. (Ques.) 1830 (i).  
 Yukon, Alien Labourers at Lake Bennet, and Govtl. Action (Ques.) 1859 (i).  
 — Appellate Court, Establishment, &c. (Ques.) 5308 (ii).  
 — Liquor Permits issued by Mr. Ogilvie and cancelled by Govt. (remarks) 2908 (i); 3789 (ii).  
 — Skagway and Dawson Telegraph line, Construction by English Co., &c. (Ques.) 3073 (i).

**Quinn, Mr. M. J. F., Montreal, St. Ann's.**

- Convicts, Conditional Liberation B. 171 (Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*) in Com., 9729 (iii).  
 Customs Act Amt. B. 154 (Mr. *Paterson*) in Com., 6449 (ii).  
 Insolvency Legislation and Boards of Trade, Pets., &c. (M. for copies\*) 5945 (ii).  
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 — Post Office, Dismissals and Appnmts., Names, &c. (Ques.) 6047 (ii).  
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- Administration of Justice* (Exchequer Court) 5476 (ii).  
*Customs* (suspense account, Montreal) 5592 (ii).  
*Legislation*: House of Commons (voters' lists) 2308 (i).  
*Penitentiaries* (Dorchester) 5478, 5480; (Manitoba) 5479; (St. Vincent de Paul) 5477 (ii).  
 Yukon District, Messrs. Coste and Lafontaine's Instructions (Ques.) 1893 (i).

**Ratz, Mr. V., North Middlesex.**

- Coal Oil, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Davis*) to place on Free List, 2011 (i).

**Reid, Mr. J. D., South Grenville.**

- G. T. R. Trackmens' Strike, on M. (Mr. *Maclean*) to adjn., 4541 (ii).

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- Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (cold storage) 8721 (iii).  
*Pensions* (Fenian raid) 8750 (iii).

**Richardson, Mr. R. L., Lisgar.**

- Address, The, on amt. (Mr. *Bertram*) to amt. (Mr. *Clarke*) 1787 (i).  
 C. P. Ry. Commission, Appnmt. by Govt., prop. Res., 2773 (i).

**Richardson, Mr. R. L.—Con.**

- Civil Service, Attachment of Salaries (B. 38) 1<sup>st</sup>, 974; 2<sup>d</sup> m., 1923 (i) 5374; in Com., 5900, 5912, 5923, 5929, 5940 (ii).  
 Coal Oil, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Davis*) to place on Free List, 2009 (i).  
 — on prop. Res. (Mr. *Moore*) 2126 (i).  
 Columbia and Western Ry. Co.'s B. 26 (Mr. *Cos-tigan*) on amt. (Mr. *Oliver*) to M. for 3<sup>d</sup>, 2947 (i).  
 Debates, Official, 2nd Rep., Dismissal of French Translator (M.) to conc., 1738, 1739 (i).  
 — 2nd Rep., conc. (M.), 2180 (i).  
 — 5th Rep., conc. (M.) 5665 (ii).  
 — 6th Rep., conc. (M.) 8913 (iii).  
 Edmonton and Saskatchewan Ry. Co.'s B. 93 (Mr. *Oliver*) in Com., 4309, 4856 (ii).  
 Grain Transit, Man. and N.W.T. Regulation B. 15 (Mr. *Douglas*) on M. for 2<sup>d</sup>, 1912 (i).  
 Great North-west Central Ry. Co.'s (B. 90) on amt. (Mr. *Douglas*) to M. for 3<sup>d</sup>, 4528, 4771 (ii).  
 Ont. and Rainy River Co., Correction in Min. of Rys. speech (remarks) 9699 (iii).  
 Personal Explanation, par. in *Mail and Empire* re Speech at Picton, Ont., 5375 (ii).  
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 Pub. Accounts Com., Delay in Meeting (Man. Election Frauds) on M. (Sir *Charles Hibbert Tupper*) to adjn., 3219 (i).  
 Ry. Act. Amt. R. 85 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com., 9741 (iii).

- Commissioners, Establishment of Board, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Rutherford*) 2515 (i).

- Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9206, 9349 (amt.) 9363, 9425, 9531; in Com. on Bill, 9761 (iii).

- Shannon, Thos., dismissal, (M. for papers\*) 3333 (i).

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- Canals*: Trent (construction) 7308, 7315 (iii).  
*Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8552 (ii).  
 Yukon, Administration of, Charges against, on M. (Sir *Charles Hibbert Tupper*) to Com. of Sup., 6276 (ii).

**Rinfret, Mr. C. I., Lotbinière.**

- Usury (B. 174) 1<sup>st</sup>. 8217 (iii).

**Robertson, Mr. J. Ross, East Toronto.**

- Address, on The, 1013 (i).  
 Biggar, J. L., Appnmt. by Govt., Qualifications, &c. (Ques.) 3549 (ii).  
 Brevet Promotions, Permanent Force, Regulations, &c. (Ques.) 3550 (ii).  
 Columbia and Western Ry. Co.'s B. 26 (Mr. *Cos-tigan*) on amt. (Mr. *Oliver*) to M. for 3<sup>d</sup>, 2936.  
 Copyright Bill Govt. Action (Ques.) 1981 (i).

**Robertson, Mr. J. Ross—Con.**

- Costigan, Hon. Mr., on Personal Explanation, 3666 (ii).
- Customs Act Amt. B. 154 (Mr. *Paterson*) in Com., 6451 (ii).
- Dom. Lands Act Amt. B. 148 (Mr. *Sifton*) in Com., 6411 (ii).
- G.T.R. Trackmen and Alien Labour Law Enforcement (M. to adjn.) 3960, 3984 (ii).
- on M. (Mr. *Maclean*) to adjn., 4534 (ii).
- I.C.R. Extension to Montreal—Drummond Co. Ry. Acquisition B. 133 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 3423 (ii).
- International Commission, par. in London *Times* re Settlement of Questions, 3668 (ii).
- Militia Act Amt. Intention of Govt. (Ques.) 3551 (ii).
- Army Service Corps, Recommendations or Reqs. of Maj. Gen. (Ques.) 9697 (iii).
- Artillery Instruction in Eng., Examinations, &c. (Ques.) 2330 (i).
- Officer appointed in 1898, Requirements as to qualifications (Ques.) 2329 (i).
- list and certificates of Qualification (Ques.) 2329 (i).
- Regulations Presented to Parlt. (Ques.) 3550 (ii).
- Patent Commissioner Power of Relief of Thos. Robertson (B. 11) 1<sup>c</sup>\*, 618 (i).
- Permanent Force Appointments, Qualifications, &c. (Ques.) 3550 (ii).
- Post Office Act Amt. B. 155 (Mr. *Mulock*) in Com., 6107 (ii).
- Public Works (Preservation of Health) B. 105 (Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*) on M. for 2<sup>d</sup>, 7647 (iii).
- Ry. Commissioners, Establishment of Board, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Rutherford*) 2512 (i).
- Passes to Members and Senators B. 37 (Mr. *Bostock*) on M. for 2<sup>d</sup>, 2202 (i).
- Ry. Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9343 (ii).
- Regimental Establishments, Lists submitted to Parlt. (Ques.) 3550 (ii).
- Representation in the H. of C., B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) on M. for 1<sup>o</sup>, 3462; on M. for 2<sup>d</sup>, 6539.
- Royal Military College Inspection, Regulations, &c. (Ques.) 3796 (ii).
- Strathy, Mr. J. A. L., Reinstatement as Lt. Col. (Ques.) 2329 (i).

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- Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8654 (iii).
- Mail Subsidies and SS. Subventions* (G.B. and Can.) 8664 (iii).
- Militia* (Dom. Cartridge Factory) 7151; (miscellaneous) 7147; (transport, &c.) 7132 (iii).
- Miscellaneous* (Academy of Arts) 8705; (Royal Society Grant) 8706 (iii).
- Public Works*: Buildings (lighting, heating, &c.) 7694; (Ont.) 7626 (iii) (patent office, photographic establishment) 5090 (ii).
- Veterans of 1866, Volunteers organized in Chicago, Eligibility for Medals, &c. (Ques.) 2704 (i).

**Roche, Mr. W. J., Marquette.**

- Address, on The, 454 (i).
- C.P.R. and Great North-west Central Ry., Survey of Branch Line (Ques.) 2532 (i).
- Christie, Mr. W. J., Dismissal from Inland Rev. Dept., O.C's, Reqs. Cor., &c. (M. for copies) 2393 (i).
- (M.) to ref. papers to Pub. Accts. Com., 3341 (ii).
- Dickson, Mr. R., Immigration Agent, Appnmt. by Govt., &c. (Ques.) 1855 (i).
- Elkhorn Indian School, Printing Plant, Lease to W. J. Thompson, &c. (Ques.) 3076 (i).
- Govt. Lands. Man., Sale of, &c. (Ques.) 1856 (i).
- Great North-west Central Ry. Co's B. 90 (Mr. *Macpierson*) on amt. (Mr. *Douglas*) to M. for 3<sup>d</sup>, 4194 (ii).
- Hudson's Straits, Navigability, Cost of Expedition, &c. (Ques.) 3337 (ii).
- Jerome, Mr. Martin, Emplmt. by Govt. (Ques.) 6723 (ii); 7194 (iii).
- Land Transfers in Man. and Govt. Agents Speculations (remarks) 4735 (ii).
- McKenzie P.O., Man., Pets. re, &c., Name of Postmaster (Ques.) 2185 (i).
- Martin, Mr. A. F., Emplmt. by Govt. (Ques.) 7534 (iii).
- Portage La Prairie Post Office, Name and Salary of Caretaker (Ques.) 2485 (i).
- Prohibition of Intoxicating Liquors, on prop. Res. (Mr. *Flint*) 8901 (iii).
- Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) on M. for 2<sup>d</sup>, 6685 (ii).
- Virden, Man., Inland Rev. Office, M. for Cor., dropped, 5313 (ii).
- Winnipeg Electoral District and Representation (Ques.) 1830 (i).
- Issue of Writ (remarks) 8469 (iii).
- Winnipeg Grain Exchange and Fort William Harbour, Cor. with Pub. Works Dept. (M. for cor. \*) 1879 (i).

**Roddick, Mr. T. G., Montreal, St. Antoine.**

- Adulteration Act Amt. B. 123 (Sir *Henry Joly*) in Com., 3990 (ii).
- Tuberculosis, Prevention of, on M. for Com. of Sup., 6282 (ii).

**Rogers, Mr. D. D., Frontenac.**

- Bounties on Iron and Steel, prop. Res. (Mr. *Fielding*) on M. for Com., 4989 (ii).
- Calvin Co., Limited (B. 9) 1<sup>c</sup>\*, 618 (i).
- Civil Service Act Amt. B. 63 (Mr. *McMullen*) on M. for 2<sup>d</sup>, 3321, 3330 (i).
- Coal Oil, Reduction of Duty on, prop. Res. (Mr. *Moore*) 2125 (i).
- Ottawa City, Grant of Money Authorization B. 187 (Mr. *Fielding*) on M. for 2<sup>d</sup>, 9624 (iii).
- Preferential Trade with G. B., on amt. (Sir *Charles Tupper*) to Com. of Sup., 7931 (iii).

**Rogers, Mr. D. D.—Con.**

Ry. Passes to Members and Senators B. 37 (Mr. *Bostock*) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 2197 (i).

— Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9395, 9583 (iii).

Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) in Com., 6786 (ii).

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*Arts, Agriculture, &c.* (gold storage) 8723 (iii).

*Canals* : Trent (construction) 7316 (iii).

*Civil Govt.* : Customs (contingencies) 2987 (i); Post Office) 7342 (iii).

*Immigration* (agents, salaries, &c.) 8516 (iii).

*Public Works* : Harbours and Rivers, N.S., conc., 10218 (iii).

*Quarantine* (cattle, salaries, &c.) 5081 (ii).

*Weights und Measures* (inspection) 5584 (ii).

**Rosamond, Mr. B., North Lanark.**

N. W. T. Settlers, from Ont., Privileges granted by Govt. (Ques.) 2902 (i).

Ont. Settlers in N.W.T., Privileges granted by Govt. (remarks) 6051 (i).

Order, (Ques. of) member using word "insinuation," 5617 (ii).

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*Yukon District* : Militia (clothing contract) 9100 (iii).

**Russell, Mr. B., Halifax.**

I. C. R., Extension to Montreal—Drummond Co. Ry. Acquisition B. 133 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 3633, 3669, 3707 (ii).

— Order, Ques. of (Sir *C. H. Tupper*) 4453 (ii).

Lobster Fisheries, Commissioners' Report (remarks) 2249 (i).

Ottawa Electric Ry. Co.'s B. 18 (Mr. *Belcourt*) on M. to ref. to Sel. Com., 2286 (i).

Representation in the H. of C. B. 126 (Mr. *Mulock*) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 6660 (ii).

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*Lighthouse and Coast Service* (salaries, &c.) 3530 (ii).

*Ocean and River Service* (maintenance) 3028 (i).

*Public Works* : Buildings (N.S.) 9945; Harbours and Rivers, N.S. (Porter's Lake, dredging, &c.) 9995 (iii).

Tanner, John, Claims against Spanish Govt. for Detention, &c. (Ques.) 4805 (ii).

**Rutherford, Mr. J. G., Macdonald.**

C. P. R., Powers respecting Branch Lines, &c., (Ques.) 9309 (iii).

General Inspection Act Amt. B. 156 (Sir *Henri Joly*) in Com., 9641 (iii).

Grain Transit, Man. and N.W.T. Regulation B. 15 (Mr. *Douglas*) on M. for 2<sup>o</sup>, 1905 (i).

Northern Pacific and Man. Ry. Co's. (B. 83) 1<sup>o</sup>\*, 2107 (i).

Order (Ques. of) *re* the use of the word "thimble-riggers," 9655 (iii).

Ry. Commissioners, Establishment of Board, prop. Res., 2488 (i).

**Rutherford, Mr. J. G.—Con.**

Railways Subsidies B. 190 (Mr. *Blair*) in Com. on Res., 9383 (iii).

## SUPPLY :

*Yukon Provisional District* : Interior (salaries, &c.) 8987 (iii).

Tuberculosis, Prevention of, on M. (Mr. *Roddick*) to Com. of Sup., 6288 (ii).

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- DISMISSALS: M. to Com. of Sup. (Mr. *Bergeron*) 5411 (ii).
- LOCK LABOURERS, APPOINT. BY GOVT.: Ques. (Mr. *Bergeron*) 3267 (i).
- STEEL BRIDGE, & C.: in Com. of Sup., 7450 (iii).
- WATER POWER, IMPROVEMENTS, & C.: Ques. (Mr. *Bergeron*) 1883 (i).
- BEAUMONT, WM., CLAIMS FOR DISTRIBUTING MAIL AT MAPLE BAY PRIOR TO CONFEDERATION: Ques. (Mr. *McInnes*) 3820 (ii).
- Bedlington and Nelson Ry. Co.'s B. No. 107** (Mr. *Bostock*) 1<sup>o</sup>\*, 2529; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 2650 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 3996 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 53.)
- BEE TROOT SUGAR, BOUNTY FOR MANUFACTURE, & C.: prop. Res. (Mr. *Sproule*) 4823 (ii).
- BEHRING SEA ARBITRATION: in Com. of Sup., 5180 (ii).
- COST TO GOVT., & C.: Ques. (Mr. *McIsaac*) 2186 (i).
- Belleville Prince Edward Bridge Co.'s Incorp. B. No. 162** (Mr. *Hurley*). M. to introduce, 5384; 1<sup>o</sup>\*, 5945; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 6338; in Com., 7479; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 7480 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 95.)
- BELLEVILLE PRINCE EDWARD BRIDGE CO.'S BILL: M. to extend Time for receiving Pet. (Mr. *Hurley*) 5384 (ii).
- BELLE RIVER, P.E.I., SEIZURE OF FISH TRAPS, & C.: M. for Cor.\* (Mr. *Martin*) 2787 (i).
- BELLEY RIVER BRIDGE, N.W.T.: in Com. of Sup., 10070 (iii).
- BELGIL PUBLIC WORKS, TOTAL COST, & C.: Ques. (Mr. *Monk*) 3827 (ii).
- "BENCH" AND "CREEK" CLAIMS, YUKON DISTRICT, DISPUTES PENDING, & C.: Ques. (Mr. *Hughes*) 3077 (i).

- BENEFIT ASSOCIATIONS, INSURANCE AND ASSESSMENTS: Remarks (Mr. *Montague*) 1353 (i).**
- Benevolent Societies Incorp. B. No. 87 (Mr. *Fielding*) 1°, 2109 (i); withdn., 3748 (ii).**
- BENNET HOSPITAL, YUKON DISTRICT, MATRON AND MEDICAL SUPT., NAMES, &c. : Ques. (Mr. *Davin*) 1979 (i).**
- BERNIER, MR. N., DISMISSAL: in Com. of Sup., conc., 10204 (iii).**
- BERTHIER POST OFFICE: in Com. of Sup., 7619 (iii).**
- PUBLIC BUILDING, PURCHASE OF SITE, &c., POSTMASTER'S SALARY, &c. : Ques. (Mr. *Casgrain*) 1893, 2702, 2703 (i).**
- BETHUNE, MR. C. J. R., PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: in Com. of Sup., 5471 (ii).**
- BIGGAR, J. L., APPOINT. BY GOVT., QUALIFICATIONS, &c. : Ques. (Mr. *Ross-Robertson*) 3549 (ii).**
- BILODEAU, MR. JOB, POSTMASTER AT CHAMBORD, DISMISSAL, &c. : Ques. (Mr. *Casgrain*) 1962 (i).**
- BILODEAU, MR. L. P., EMPLOYT. BY GOVT. : (Mr. *Casgrain*) 3336 (ii).**
- BILLS, ROYAL ASSENT, COM. FROM GOV. GEN'S. SEC. : Notification (Mr. *Speaker*) 6928 (iii).**
- BILL (No. 1) Respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office.—(Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*.)**  
1°, 4; *pro formâ*.
- BILL (No. 2) To amend the Criminal Code, 1892, so as to make more effectual provision for the punishment of Seduction and Abduction.—(Mr. *Charlton*.)**  
1°, 421; 2°m., 1898; in Com., 2525; 3°m., 2911; agreed to (Y. 68; N. 29) 2930 (i.)
- BILL (No. 3) Respecting the Canada Accident Assurance Company.—(Mr. *Monk*.)**  
1°, 617; 2°, 933 (i); in Com. and 3°, 5042 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 98.)
- BILL (No. 4) To incorporate the Canada Plate Glass Assurance Company.—(Mr. *Monk*.)**  
1°, 617; 2°, 933 (i); in Com., 5042; 3°, 5249 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 102.)
- BILL (No. 5) To incorporate the Alaska-Yukon Railway Company.—(Mr. *Logan*.)**  
1°, 617; 2°, 933 (i).
- BILL (No. 6) Respecting La Banque du Peuple.—(Mr. *Préfontaine*.)**  
1°, 618; 2°, 934; on Order for Com., 3003; in Com., 3298 (i); 3°m., 3485 (ii); Sen. Amts., 7577 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 123.)
- BILL (No. 7) To incorporate the Yale-Kootenay Telegraph Company.—(Mr. *Bostock*.)**  
1°, 618; 2°, 934; in Com. and 3°, 3003 (i); Sen. Amts., 8822 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 131.)
- BILL (No. 8) Respecting the Atlantic and North-west Railway Company.—(Mr. *MacPherson*.)**  
1°, 618; 2°, 1113; in Com. and 3°, 2152 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 52.)
- BILL (No. 9) Respecting the Calvin Company (Limited).—(Mr. *Britton*.)**  
1°, 618; 2°, 934; withdn., 2897 (i).
- BILL (No. 10) Respecting the Nisbet Academy of Prince Albert.—(Mr. *Davis*.)**  
1°, 618; 2°, 934 (i); in Com., 3842; 3°, 3996 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 119.)
- BILL (No. 11) To confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of Thomas Robertson.—(Mr. *Ross Robertson*.)**  
1°, 618; 2°, 934; in Com. and 3°, 2644 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 127.)
- BILL (No. 12) To confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of George L. Williams.—(Mr. *McCarthy*.)**  
1°, 618; 2°, 934; in Com. and 3°, 3003 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 130.)
- BILL (No. 13) Respecting the Home Life Association of Canada.—(Mr. *Cowan*.)**  
1°, 618; 2°, 934; in Com. and 3°, 2698 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 114.)
- BILL (No. 14) Respecting the Quebec Steamship Company.—(Mr. *Malouin*.)**  
1°, 618; 2°, 934; in Com. and 3°, 2697 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 125.)
- BILL (No. 15) To regulate the trade in grain in Manitoba and the North-west Territories.—(Mr. *Douglas*.)**  
1°, 618; 2°, 1901 (i).
- BILL (No. 16) Respecting joint securities for seed grain indebtedness, Manitoba and the North-west Territories.—(Mr. *Douglas*.)**  
1°, 618; withdn., 9893 (iii).
- BILL (No. 17) Respecting the Ottawa and Gatineau Railway Company.—(Mr. *Champagne*.)**  
1°, 700; 2°, 934; in Com. and 3°, 2524 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 83.)
- BILL (No. 18) Respecting the Ottawa Electric Railway Company.—(Mr. *Belcourt*.)**  
1°, 100; 2°, 934; in Com., 2150; M. to ref. to Sel. Com., 2284 (i); in Com. and 3°, 3842 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 82.)
- BILL (No. 19) To amend the Act respecting certain works constructed in or over navigable waters.—(Mr. *Britton*.)**  
1°, 700; 2°, 1862; in Com., 1896; 3°, 2153 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 32.)
- BILL (No. 20) To incorporate the Zenith Mining and Railway Company.—(Mr. *Poupart*.)**  
1°, 803; 2°, 1113 (i); in Com., and 3°, 7577 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 92.)
- BILL (No. 21) Respecting the Canadian Railway Accident Insurance Company.—(Mr. *Belcourt*.)**  
1°, 803; 2°, 1113; in Com. and 3°, 2697 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 106.)
- BILL (No. 22) To incorporate the Ontario and Quebec Bridge Company.—(Mr. *Belcourt*.)**  
1°, 803; 2°, 1113 (i).
- BILL (No. 23) Respecting the Alberta Irrigation Company, and to change its name to "The Canadian North-west Irrigation Company."—(Mr. *Douglas*.)**  
1°, 803; 2°, 1113; in Com. and 3°, 2152 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 93.)

- BILL (No. 24)** Concerning drainage on and across the property of Railway Companies.—(Mr. *Casey*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 803; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1917; M. for Sel. Com., 2153, 2930, 2949 (i); ref. to Sel. Com., 3849 (ii.)
- BILL (No. 25)** To confirm an agreement between the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the Hull Electric Company.—(Mr. *Poupore*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 895; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1113; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 2320 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 59.)
- BILL (No. 26)** Respecting the Columbia and Western Railway Company.—(Mr. *Costigan*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 895; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1389; in Com., 2645; 3<sup>o</sup>m., 2934; agreed to (Y. 61; N. 14) 2949 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 63.)
- BILL (No. 27)** Respecting the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company.—(Mr. *Préfontaine*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 895; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1113; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 3003 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 126.)
- BILL (No. 28)** Respecting the British Columbia and Southern Railway Company.—(Mr. *Prior*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 895; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1113; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 2644 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 55.)
- BILL (No. 29)** To incorporate "Le Chemin de fer de Colonisation du Nord."—(Mr. *Bourassa*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 895; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1389; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 3072 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 62.)
- BILL (No. 30)** Respecting the Atlas Loan Company.—(Mr. *Ingram*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 895; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1113 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 5792 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 94.)
- BILL (No. 31)** To amend the Winding-Up Act.—(Mr. *Fortin*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 895; 2<sup>o</sup>m., 1867 (i), 4314; in Com., 4314; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 4859 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 42.)
- BILL (No. 32)** To amend the Act respecting the sale of railway passenger tickets.—(Mr. *Beattie*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 895; 2<sup>o</sup> m., 1875 (i); 2<sup>o</sup>\*, in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 4323 (ii); Sen. Amts., 9461 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 38.)
- BILL (No. 33)** Respecting the Nipissing and James Bay Railway Company.—(Mr. *Bertram*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 974; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1389 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 3842 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 78.)
- BILL (No. 34)** Respecting the Pontiac Pacific Junction Railway Company.—(Mr. *Poupore*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 974; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1389; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 2152 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 84.)
- BILL (No. 35)** To incorporate the Edmonton and Slave Lake Railway Company.—(Mr. *Poupore*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 974; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1389; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 3072 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 66.)
- BILL (No. 36)** To amend the Criminal Code.—(Mr. *Britton*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 974; 2<sup>o</sup>m., 2160, 2527 (i).
- BILL (No. 37)** To amend the Naturalization Act.—(Mr. *McInnes*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 974; 2<sup>o</sup>m., 2176, 2527 (i).
- BILL (No. 38)** Respecting the attachment of salaries of public officers and employees of the Government.—(Mr. *Richardson*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 974; 2<sup>o</sup>m., 1923 (i); 2<sup>o</sup>, 5374, in Com., 5898 (ii).
- BILL (No. 39)** To provide for the issuing of railway passes to members of the Senate and House of Commons.—(Mr. *Bostock*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 1073; 2<sup>o</sup> m., 2195 (i).
- BILL (No. 40)** To amend the Criminal Code, 1892, with respect to Combinations in Restraint of Trade.—(Mr. *Sproule*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 1073; 2<sup>o</sup>, 1936 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 4859 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 46.)
- BILL (No. 41)** In further amendment of the Trade Mark and Design Act.—(Mr. *Bertram*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 1073; 2<sup>o</sup>, 1947 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 3849 (ii).
- BILL (No. 42)** Respecting the Portage du Fort and Bristol Branch Railway Company.—(Mr. *Poupore*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 1165; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1389 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 4857 (ii).
- BILL (No. 43)** Respecting the Canada Southern Railway Company.—(Mr. *Ingram*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 1165; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1389; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 2152 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 56.)
- BILL (No. 44)** To incorporate the Alaska and Northwestern Railway Company.—(Mr. *Gillies*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 1165; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1389 (i).
- BILL (No. 45)** To incorporate the St. Clair and Erie Ship Canal Company.—(Mr. *Tisdale*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 1165; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1389; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 3003 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 128.)
- BILL (No. 46)** To incorporate the Arthabaska Railway Company.—(Mr. *Lavergne*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 1165; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1389; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 3072 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 51.)
- BILL (No. 47)** Respecting the Brandon and Southwestern Railway Company.—(Mr. *Morrison*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 1165; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1389; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 2290 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 54.)
- BILL (No. 48)** To impose certain restrictions on Immigration.—(Mr. *McInnes*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 1165 (i).
- BILL (No. 49)** To amend the Chinese Immigration Act.—(Mr. *Maxwell*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 1165 (i); 2<sup>o</sup> m., 4323 (ii).
- BILL (No. 50)** To amend the Civil Service Act.—(Mr. *Monk*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 1264; 2<sup>o</sup> m., 2204; Amt. (Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*) 6 m. h. agreed to (Y. 64; N. 39) 2245 (i).
- BILL (No. 51)** To incorporate the Canadian Inland Transportation Company.—(Mr. *Richardson*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 1352; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1585 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 3489 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 104.)
- BILL (No. 52)** To incorporate the Canadian Yukon Railway Company.—(Mr. *Morrison*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 1352; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1862 (i).
- BILL (No. 53)** To authorize the Bank of Nova Scotia to issue sterling notes for circulation in the Island of Jamaica.—(Mr. *Borden*, Halifax.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 1352; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1585 (i); withdn., 6047 (ii).
- BILL (No. 54)** Respecting the Eastern Trust Company.—(Mr. *Borden*, Halifax.)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 1352; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1585 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 3489 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 110.)

- BILL (No. 55)** Further to amend the General Inspection Act.—(Mr. *Penny*)  
1°\*, 1352 (i); 2°, 3871; withdn., 5360 (ii).
- BILL (No. 56)** To define the size of small fruit packages.—(Mr. *Penny*)  
1°\*, 1352; on Order for 2°, 3316 (i); 2°, 3872; withdn., 5360 (ii).
- BILL (No. 57)** Respecting the British Yukon Mining, Trading and Transportation Company, and to change its name to the British Yukon Railway Company.—(Mr. *Fraser*, Guysborough.)  
1°\*, 1431; 2°\*, 1862 (ii).
- BILL (No. 58)** Respecting the Central Counties Railway Company.—(Mr. *Edwards*.)  
1°\*, 1540; 2°\*, 1862; in Com. and 3°\*, 3072 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 60.)
- BILL (No. 59)** To incorporate the Russell, Dundas and Grenville Counties Railway Company.—(Mr. *Edwards*.)  
1°\*, 1540; 2°\*, 1862; in Com. and 3°\*, 3072 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 87.)
- BILL (No. 60)** To authorize the amalgamation of the Erie and Huron Railway Company and the Lake Erie and Detroit River Railway Company.—(Mr. *McGregor*.)  
1°\*, 1540; 2°\*, 1862 (i); in Com. and 3°\*, 3492 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 67.)
- BILL (No. 61)** Respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.—(Mr. *Gibson*.)  
1°\*, 1753; 2°\*, 1955 (i); in Com. and 3°\*, 4189 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 58.)
- BILL (No. 62)** Respecting the Canada Life Assurance Company.—(Mr. *Gibson*.)  
1°\*, 1753; 2°\*, 1955 (i); in Com. and 3°\*, 3689 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 99.)
- BILL (No. 63)** To amend the Act respecting the Civil Service of Canada.—(Mr. *McMullen*.)  
1°\*, 1753; 2°*m.*, 3316 (i).
- BILL (No. 64)** In amendment of the Yukon Territory Act.—(Mr. *McInnes*.)  
1°\*, 1813 (i).
- BILL (No. 65)** To incorporate the Restigouche Boom Company.—(Mr. *McAlister*.)  
1°\*, 1949; on Order, 2152, 2524, 2648; 2°\*, 2698 (i); ref. back to Sel. Com., 6824 (ii); withdn., 8989 (iii).
- BILL (No. 66)** Respecting the Lindsay, Bobcaygeon and Pontypool Railway Company.—(Mr. *McHugh*.)  
1°\*, 1949; 2°\*, 2290; in Com. and 3°\*, 3072 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 73.)
- BILL (No. 67)** Respecting the Welland Power and Supply Canal Company (Limited).—(Mr. *Gibson*.)  
1°\*, 1949; 2°\*, 2290; in Com. and 3°\*, 3003 (i). (22-63 *Vic.*, c. 129.)
- BILL (No. 68)** Respecting the London Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Canada.—(Mr. *Calvert*.)  
1°\*, 1949; 2°\*, 2152 (i); in Com. and 3°, 4189 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 118.)
- BILL (No. 69)** To incorporate the Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Railway Company.—(Mr. *Calvert*.)  
1°\*, 1949; 2°\*, 2152 (i); M. for Com., 5042, 5250; in Com., 5262, 5351; 3°, 5535 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 77.)
- BILL (No. 70)** Respecting the Bronsons and Weston Lumber Company, and to change its name to the Bronson Company.—(Mr. *Belcourt*.)  
1°\*, 1949; 2°\*, 2152; in Com. and 3°\*, 3003 (i); Sen. Amts., 7577 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 96.)
- BILL (No. 71)** To incorporate the Algoma Central Railway Company.—(Mr. *Dymont*.)  
1°\*, 1949; 2°\*, 2152 (i); in Com. and 3°\*, 6879 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 50.)
- BILL (No. 72)** Respecting Railways.—(Mr. *Davin*.)  
1°, 1952 (i).
- BILL (No. 73)** Respecting the James Bay Railway Company.—(Mr. *Hughes*.)  
1°\*, 2029; 2°\*, 2290 (i); in Com., and 3°\*, 3842 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 71.)
- BILL (No. 74)** Respecting the Huron and Erie Loan and Savings Company.—(Mr. *Beattie*.)  
1°\*, 2029; 2°\*, 2290 (i); in Com., 4302; 4846; 3°\*, 4846 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 115.)
- BILL (No. 75)** To incorporate the Canada Permanent and Western Canada Mortgage Corporation.—(Mr. *Oster*.)  
1°\*, 2029; 2°\*, 2320 (i); in Com., 4302, 4846; 3°\*, 4846 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 101.)
- BILL (No. 76)** Respecting the Dominion of Canada Guarantee and Accident Insurance Company.—(Mr. *Oster*.)  
1°\*, 2029; 2°\*, 2290 (i); in Com., and 3°\*, 4302 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 108.)
- BILL (No. 77)** Respecting the Canadian Power Company, and to change its name to the Ontario Power Company of Niagara Falls.—(Mr. *Bertram*.)  
1°\*, 2029; 2°\*, 2290; in Com., and 3°\*, 3996 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 105.)
- BILL (No. 78)** Respecting the Hamilton Powder Company.—(Mr. *Penny*.)  
1°\*, 2029; 2°\*, 2290 (i); in Com., and 3°\*, 3489 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 138.)
- BILL (No. 79)** To amend the Mounted Police Pensions Act, 1887.—(Mr. *Davin*.)  
1° *m.*, 2029 (ii).
- BILL (No. 80)** Further to amend the Criminal Code.—(Mr. *Ethier*.)  
1° *m.*, 2032 (i).
- BILL (No. 81)** To amend the Dominion Elections Act, by providing for the use of Macdonald voting machines.—(Mr. *Britton*.)  
1°, 2035 (i).
- BILL (No. 82)** To determine the length of the working day for workmen and labourers.—(Mr. *Beattie*.)  
1°\*, 2036 (i).
- BILL (No. 83)** Respecting the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway Company.—(Mr. *Rutherford*.)  
1°\*, 2107; 2°\*, 2524 (i); in Com. and 3°\*, 3489 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 79.)

- BILL (No. 84)** Respecting the Quebec, Montmorency and Charlevoix Railway Company, and to change its name to "The Quebec Railway, Light and Power Company.—(Mr. *Carroll*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2108; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2524 (i); in Com., 5041, 5249; 3<sup>o</sup>, 5250 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 85.)
- BILL (No. 85)** Further to amend the Railway Act.—(Mr. *Blair*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2108 (i); 2<sup>o</sup>, and ref. to Sel. Com., 3503 (ii); in Com., 9731; 3<sup>o</sup>, 9749 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 37.)
- BILL (No. 86)** To further amend the Insurance Act.—(Mr. *Fielding*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2108 (i); 2<sup>o</sup>, and ref. to Sel. Com., 3504; in Com., 6391 (ii); 7001; 3<sup>o</sup>, 7001 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 13.)
- BILL (No. 87)** Respecting the Incorporation of Benevolent Societies.—(Mr. *Fielding*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2109 (i); withdn., 3748 (ii).
- BILL (No. 88, from the Senate)** For the relief of David Stock.—(Mr. *McCarthy*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2604; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2698 (i); in Com., 3489; 3<sup>o</sup>, 3491 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 134.)
- BILL (No. 89)** Relating to the Canada Life Assurance Company.—(Mr. *Wood*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2182; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2320 (i); withdn., 4477 (ii).
- BILL (No. 90)** Respecting the Great North-west Central Railway Company.—(Mr. *Macpherson*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2182; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2320 (i); 3<sup>o</sup> m., 4189, 4524, 4771; agreed to (Y. 51; N. 21) 4786 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 69.)
- BILL (No. 91)** To amend and consolidate the Acts relating to the Harbour Commissioners of Quebec.—(Mr. *Fitzpatrick*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2182 (i); 2<sup>o</sup> m., 3914; in Com., 3915; 3<sup>o</sup> m., 3985; agreed to (Y. 80; N. 40) 3990; 3<sup>o</sup>, 3990; Sen. Amts., 6100 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 34.)
- BILL (No. 92)** Respecting the Saskatchewan Railway and Mining Company.—(Mr. *Landerkin*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2246; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2524 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 3996 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 89.)
- BILL (No. 93)** To incorporate the Edmonton and Saskatchewan Railway Company.—(Mr. *Oliver*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2246; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2524 (i); in Com., 4302, 4847; 3<sup>o</sup>, 4857 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 65.)
- BILL (No. 94)** Respecting the Yukon Mining, Trading and Transportation Company (Foreign).—(Mr. *Morrison*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2246; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2525 (i).
- BILL (No. 95)** Respecting the Lindsay, Haliburton and Mattawa Railway Company.—(Mr. *Hughes*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2246; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2525 (i); in Com., and 3<sup>o</sup>, 3489 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 74.)
- BILL (No. 96)** Respecting the Buffalo and Fort Erie Bridge Company.—(Mr. *McCleary*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2247; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2525 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 3489 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 97.)
- BILL (No. 97)** In further amendment of the Railway Act.—(Mr. *Cowan*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2247 (i).
- BILL (No. 98)** Respecting the Cobourg, Northumberland and Pacific Railway Company.—(Mr. *Guillet*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2318; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2650; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 3072 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 61.)
- BILL (No. 99)** To incorporate the Canadian Mutual Benefit Advertising Company (Limited).—(Mr. *McAlister*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2318; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2525 (i).
- BILL (No. 100)** Respecting the Guarantee and Pension Fund Society of the Dominion Bank, and to change its name to the Pension Fund Society of the Dominion Bank.—(Mr. *Bertram*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2409; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2650 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 4302 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 112.)
- BILL (No. 101)** To incorporate the Glenora Railway Company.—(Mr. *Morrison*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2409; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2650 (i).
- BILL (No. 102)** To incorporate the Yukon Pacific Railway Company.—(Mr. *Morrison*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2409; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2650 (i).
- BILL (No. 103)** To incorporate the Klondike Mines Railway Company.—(Mr. *Maxwell*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2409; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2698 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 3996 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 72.)
- BILL (No. 104)** Respecting the Dominion Permanent Loan Company.—(Mr. *Clarke*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2409; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2525 (i); in Com., 6868; 3<sup>o</sup>, 6878 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 109.)
- BILL (No. 105, from the Senate)** For the Preservation of Health on Public Works.—(Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2604 (i); 2<sup>o</sup>, 7645; in Com., 7667; 3<sup>o</sup>, 7675 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 30.)
- BILL (No. 106)** To incorporate the Canadian Birkbeck Investment and Savings Company.—(Mr. *Bertram*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2529; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2698 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 6326 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 103.)
- BILL (No. 107)** Respecting the Bedlington and Nelson Railway Company.—(Mr. *Bostock*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2529; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2650 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 3996 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 53.)
- BILL (No. 108)** Respecting the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Pontiac, and to change its name to The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Pembroke.—(Mr. *Poupore*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2529; 2<sup>o</sup>, 2698 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 3491 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 124.)
- BILL (No. 109)** To further amend the Canada Temperance Act.—(Mr. *Flint*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2604 (i).
- BILL (No. 110)** Respecting the Hudson's Bay and Yukon Railways and Navigation Company.—(Mr. *Oliver*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2696; 2<sup>o</sup>, 3003 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 4857 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 70.)
- BILL (No. 111)** In further amendment of the Criminal Code, 1892.—(Mr. *McInnes*.)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 2696 (i).

- BILL (No. 112)** Respecting the Montreal Island Belt Line Railway Company.—(Mr. *Lemieux.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 2789; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 3004 (i); on order for Com., 5897; M. to ref. back to Sel. Com., 6091; in Com., 6327, 6404; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 6405 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 76.)
- BILL (No. 113)** To incorporate the Canada Mining and Metallurgical Company (Limited).—(Mr. *Haley.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 2790; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 3004 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 5792 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.* c. 100.)
- BILL (No. 114)** To amend the Act respecting Joint Stock Companies.—(Mr. *Britton.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 2790 (i).
- BILL (No. 115)** To incorporate the Sudbury and Wahnapiatae Railway Company.—(Mr. *Dyment.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 2897; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 3004 (i); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 4857 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 90.)
- BILL (No. 116)** To amend the Criminal Code, 1892, with respect to cruelty to animals.—(Mr. *Penny.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 2963 (i).
- BILL (No. 117)** To incorporate the Ottawa Suburban Railway Company.—(Mr. *Morrison.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 2966 (i); 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 3492 (ii).
- BILL (No. 118)** Respecting the Great Northern Railway Company, and to change its name to the Great Northern Railway Company of Canada.—(Mr. *Savard.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 2966 (i); 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 3492 (ii); in Com., 6970; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 6972 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 68.)
- BILL (No. 119)** Respecting the Red Deer Valley Railway and Coal Company.—(Mr. *Frost.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 2966 (i); 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 3492; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 4189 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 86.)
- BILL (No. 120)** To incorporate the Rutland and Noyan Railway Company.—(Mr. *Brodeur.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 3149 (i); 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 3492; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 3996 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 88.)
- BILL (No. 121)** Respecting the Ontario and Rainy River Railway Company.—(Mr. *Dyment.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 3150 (i); 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 3492; in Com., 4302; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 4524 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 80.)
- BILL (No. 122)** In further amendment of the Weights and Measures Act.—(Mr. *McMillan.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 3254 (i).
- BILL (No. 123)** Further to amend "The Adulteration Act."—(Sir *Henri Joly de Lotbinière.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 3334; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, and in Com., 3990, 3996; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 3997 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 26.)
- BILL (No. 124)** To amend "The Inland Revenue Act."—(Sir *Henri Joly de Lotbinière.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 3334; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, and in Com., 3759, 3881; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 3884 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 24.)
- BILL (No. 125)** To amend the Act respecting canned goods.—(Mr. *Ellis.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 3334 (ii).
- BILL (No. 126)** Respecting representation in the House of Commons.—(Sir *Wilfrid Laurier.*)  
1<sup>o</sup> m., 3442, 3492; 2<sup>o</sup> m., 5207, 5262, 6464, 6596, 6606; agreed to (Y. 77; N. 41) 6722; in Com., 6758 (ii), 6904, 6940, 6972; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 7000 (iii).
- BILL (No. 127)** To amend "The Bank Act."—(Mr. *Fielding.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 3497; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, and in Com., 3763; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 3985 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 14.)
- BILL (No. 128)** Further to amend the Weights and Measures Act.—(Sir *Henri Joly de Lotbinière.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 3544; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, and in Com., 3885 (ii); 9883; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 9893 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 28.)
- BILL (No. 129)** Respecting "The General Trust Corporation of Canada."—(Mr. *McMullen.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 3646; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 3844; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 5792 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 111.)
- BILL (No. 130)** Respecting the "The London and Canadian Loan and Agency Company (Limited).—(Mr. *Bain.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 3647; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 5358; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 6327 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 117.)
- BILL (No. 131)** Respecting the inspection of petroleum and naphtha.—(Sir *Henri Joly de Lotbinière.*)  
Prop. Res., 3647; 1<sup>o</sup>, 3749; 2<sup>o</sup>\* and in Com., 3884; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 3990 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 27.)
- BILL (No. 132)** To amend "The General Inspection Act."—(Sir *Henri Joly de Lotbinière.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 3751; withdn., 5098 (ii).
- BILL (No. 133)** To authorize the acquisition by the Dominion of the Drummond County Railway.—(Mr. *Blair.*)  
Prop. Res., 1949, 2792; in Com. on Res., 2843 (i), 3345, 3379, 3560, 3689; 1<sup>o</sup>, 3765; 2<sup>o</sup> m., 3907, 4152; in Com., 4165, 4733; 3<sup>o</sup> m., 4899; agreed to (Y. 91; N. 40) 4966 (ii); Sen. Amts., 9726 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 6.)
- BILL (No. 134)** To amend the Temperance Act, 1864.—(Mr. *Cowan.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 3874 (ii).
- BILL (No. 135)** In further amendment of the Militia Act.—(Mr. *Domville.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 4055 (ii).
- BILL (No. 136, from the Senate)** For the relief of Annie Inkson Dowding.—(Mr. *Clarke.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 4147; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 5359; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 5792 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 133.)
- BILL (No. 137)** Further to amend the Act respecting the Protection of Navigable Waters.—(Sir *Louis Davies.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 4150; 2<sup>o</sup>, 6118; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 6119 (ii); Sen. Amts., 9597 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 31.)
- BILL (No. 138)** To confirm an agreement entered into by Her Majesty with the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada for the purpose of securing the extension of the Intercolonial Railway system to the city of Montreal.—(Mr. *Blair.*)  
Prop. Res., 3946; in Com. on Res., 4062; 1<sup>o</sup>, 4170; 2<sup>o</sup>, 4171; in Com., 4353, 4554; 3<sup>o</sup> m., 4966 (ii); Sen. Amts., 9702 (iii) (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 5.)
- BILL (No. 139)** Respecting the Nova Scotia Steel Company (Limited).—(Mr. *Fraser, Guysborough.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 4259; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 5359; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 6606 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 121.)

- BILL (No. 140)** Respecting the Canadian Railway Fire Insurance Company, and to change its name to the Dominion Fire Insurance Company.—(Mr. *Belcourt.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 4259; 2<sup>o</sup>, 5359; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 6879 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 107.)
- BILL (No. 141)** To confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of the Penberthy Injector Company.—(Mr. *McGregor.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 4340; 2<sup>o</sup>, 5359 (ii); in Com., 6878; 3<sup>o</sup>, 6879 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 122.)
- BILL (No. 142)** In further amendment of the Dominion Elections Act.—(Mr. *Ingram.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 4341 (iii).
- BILL (No. 143)** To amend the Weights and Measures Act as respects the sale of Fish.—(Mr. *Ganong.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 4477 (ii).
- BILL (No. 144, from the Senate)** For the relief of Abraham Aronsberg.—(Mr. *Landerkin.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 4730; 2<sup>o</sup>, 5359 (ii); in Com., 7480, 7575; 3<sup>o</sup>, 7809 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 132.)
- BILL (No. 145)** To amalgamate the Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound Railway Company and the Canada Atlantic Railway Company under the name of the Canada Atlantic Railway Company.—(Mr. *Belcourt.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 4804; 2<sup>o</sup>, 5359 (ii); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 7577 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 81.)
- BILL (No. 146)** Further to amend the Act respecting the Department of the Geological Survey.—(Mr. *Sifton.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 4891; 2<sup>o</sup> and in Com., 6396; 3<sup>o</sup>, 6459 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 21.)
- BILL (No. 147)** Further to amend the Act respecting the Department of the Interior.—(Mr. *Sifton.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 4892; 2<sup>o</sup> and in Com., 6397; 3<sup>o</sup>, 6459 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 15.)
- BILL (No. 148)** Further to amend the Dominion Lands Act.—(Mr. *Sifton.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 4894; 2<sup>o</sup> and in Com., 6400, 6405; 3<sup>o</sup>, 6459 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 16.)
- BILL (No. 149)** Further to amend the Land Titles Act, 1894.—(Mr. *Sifton.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 4895; 2<sup>o</sup> and in Com., 6442; 3<sup>o</sup>, 6459 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 17.)
- BILL (No. 150, from the Senate)** To incorporate the Imperial Loan Investment Company.—(Mr. *McCarthy.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 5096; 2<sup>o</sup>, 5536; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 6326 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 116.)
- BILL (No. 151, from the Senate)** Respecting the Canadian Northern Railway Company.—(Mr. *Davis.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 5096; 2<sup>o</sup>, 5536; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 6100 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 57.)
- BILL (No. 152, from the Senate)** Respecting the Northern Commercial Telegraph Company (Limited).—(Mr. *Morrison.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 5096; 2<sup>o</sup>, 5536; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 5897 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 120.)
- BILL (No. 153)** To amend the Unorganized Territories Game Preservation Act, 1894.—(Mr. *Sifton.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 4991; 2<sup>o</sup> and in Com., 6442 (ii); 3<sup>o</sup>, 6459 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 20.)
- BILL (No. 154)** Further to amend the Customs Act.—(Mr. *Paterson.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 4991; 2<sup>o</sup>, and in Com., 6443 (ii); 3<sup>o</sup>, 6939 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 22.)
- BILL (No. 155)** Further to amend the Post Office Act.—(Mr. *Mulock.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 5096; 2<sup>o</sup>, 6102; in Com., 6104; 3<sup>o</sup>, 6118 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 29.)
- BILL (No. 156)** Further to amend the General Inspection Act.—(Sir *Henri Joly de Lotbinière.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 5099 (ii); 2<sup>o</sup>, and in Com., 9636; 3<sup>o</sup>, 9660 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 25.)
- BILL (No. 157)** Respecting the Manitoba and South-Eastern Railway Company.—(Mr. *Hughes.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 5205; 2<sup>o</sup>, 5536; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 6405 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 75.)
- BILL (No. 158)** Respecting the Edmonton District Railway Company, and to change its name to the Edmonton, Yukon and Pacific Railway Company.—(Mr. *Oliver.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 5384; 2<sup>o</sup>, 5536 (ii); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 6879 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 64.)
- BILL (No. 159)** Respecting the jurisdiction of the Exchequer Court as to railway debts.—(Mr. *Fitzpatrick.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 5385; 2<sup>o</sup>, in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 6101 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 44.)
- BILL (No. 160, from the Senate)** An Act to amend the Companies Act.—(Mr. *Fitzpatrick.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 5744 (ii); 2<sup>o</sup>, 7645; in Com., 8774; 3<sup>o</sup>, 8779 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 40.)
- BILL (No. 161)** Respecting steel and iron made in Canada.—(Mr. *Fielding.*)  
Prop. Res., 4150, 4967; in Com. on Res., 4989; 1<sup>o</sup>, 5744 (ii); 2<sup>o</sup>, and in Com., 7638; 3<sup>o</sup>, 7644 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 8.)
- BILL (No. 162)** To incorporate the Belleville Prince Edward Bridge Company.—(Mr. *Hurley.*)  
M. to introduce, 5384; 1<sup>o</sup>, 5945; 2<sup>o</sup>, 6338 (ii); in Com., 7479; 3<sup>o</sup>, 7480 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 95.)
- BILL (No. 163, from the Senate)** Further to amend the Winding-Up Act.—(Mr. *Fielding.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 6120 (ii); 2<sup>o</sup>, 7001; in Com., 8780; 3<sup>o</sup>, 8781 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 43.)
- BILL (No. 164, from the Senate)** Respecting Loan Companies.—(Mr. *Fielding.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 6120; 2<sup>o</sup> and ref. to Sel. Com., 6391 (ii); in Com., 8475; 3<sup>o</sup>, 8477 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 41.)
- BILL (No. 165)** To incorporate the Yukon River and Atlin Lake Improvement Company.—(Mr. *Belcourt.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 6120; 2<sup>o</sup>, 6405 (ii); withdn., 8947 (iii).
- BILL (No. 166)** Respecting the Temiscouata Railway Company.—(Mr. *McAlister.*)  
1<sup>o</sup>, 6120; 2<sup>o</sup>, 6338 (ii); in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 6879 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 91.)

- BILL (No. 167, from the Senate) To provide for the administration of Criminal Justice in the Territory East of Manitoba and Keewatin and North of Ontario and Quebec.—(Mr. Sifton.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>, 6279 (ii) ; 2<sup>o</sup>, 8171 ; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 8172 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 47.)
- BILL (No. 168, from the Senate) Further to amend the Criminal Code, 1892.—(Sir Louis Davies.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>, 6397 (ii).
- BILL (No. 169) For granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the public service for the financial years ending respectively the 30th June, 1899, and the 30th June, 1900, and for other purposes relating to the public service.—(Mr. Fielding.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>, 6464 ; 2<sup>o</sup>\* in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 6596 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 1.)
- BILL (No. 170) Respecting the Safety of Ships.—(Sir Louis Davies.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>, 6929 ; 2<sup>o</sup>, 9598 ; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>, 9599 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 33.)
- BILL (No. 171, from the Senate) To provide for the Conditional Liberation of Penitentiary Convicts.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 7000 ; 2<sup>o</sup> and in Com., 9599, 9726 ; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 9731 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 49.)
- BILL (No. 172) To incorporate the British America Pulp and Paper Company.—(Mr. Belcourt.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 7441 ; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 7809 ; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 9250 (iii).
- BILL (No. 173, from the Senate) Further to amend the Penitentiary Act.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 7873 ; 2<sup>o</sup> and in Com., 8762 ; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 8774 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 48.)
- BILL (No. 174, from the Senate) Respecting Usury.—(Mr. Rinfret.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 8217 (iii).
- BILL (No. 175) Further to amend the Act respecting Roads and Road Allowances in the Province of Manitoba.—(Mr. Sifton.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>, 8151 ; 2<sup>o</sup> and in Com., 8470 ; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 9597 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 19.)
- BILL (No. 176) To provide for the establishment of direct submarine telegraphic communication between Canada and Australasia.—(Mr. Mulock.)**  
Prop. Res., 1950 (i) 8348 ; in Com. on Res., 8383 ; 1<sup>o</sup>\*, 8386 ; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 8475 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 3.)
- BILL (No. 177) To encourage the Construction of Dry Docks.—(Mr. Fielding.)**  
Prop. Res., 6123 (ii) ; in Com. on Res., 8472 ; 1<sup>o</sup>\*, 8474 ; 2<sup>o</sup> and in Com., 8757 ; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 8762 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 9.)
- BILL (No. 178) Respecting the Quebec Harbour Commissioners.—(Mr. Fielding.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>, 8751 ; 2<sup>o</sup>, 9683 ; in Com., 9861 ; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 9880 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 35.)
- BILL (No. 179) Respecting the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal.—(Mr. Fielding.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>, 8752 ; 2<sup>o</sup> and in Com., 9880 ; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 9963 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 36.)
- BILL (No. 180, from the Senate) Further to amend the Dominion Elections Act.**  
This Bill was not introduced in the House of Commons.
- BILL (No. 181, from the Senate) For the relief of Isaac Stephen Gerow Van Wart.—(Mr. Landerkin.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 8913 ; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 9056 ; in Com., and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 9532 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 135.)
- BILL (No. 182) Respecting the Departments of Customs and Inland Revenue.—(Mr. Fielding.)**  
Prop. Res., 8753 ; in Com. on Res., 8923 ; 1<sup>o</sup>\*, 8947 ; 2<sup>o</sup> and in Com., 9661 ; 3<sup>o</sup>, 9683 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 23.)
- BILL (No. 183) To authorize the Government of Canada to construct a branch line of Railway from Charlottetown to Murray Harbour, in the Province of Prince Edward Island, as a public work.—(Mr. Blair.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 8989 ; 2<sup>o</sup>\* and in Com., 9750 ; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 9758 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 4.)
- BILL (No. 184, from the Senate) Further to amend the Exchequer Court Act.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 9178.
- BILL (No. 185, from the Senate) To amend the Expropriation Act.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 9178 ; 2<sup>o</sup> in Com., and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 10220 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 39.)
- BILL (No. 186, from the Senate) To amend the Yukon Territory Act.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 9178 ; 2<sup>o</sup> and in Com., 9849 ; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 9861 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 11.)
- BILL (No. 187) Respecting the City of Ottawa.—(Mr. Fielding.)**  
Prop. Res., 5098 (ii) ; in Com. on Res., 9186 ; 1<sup>o</sup>\*, 9197 ; 2<sup>o</sup>, 9609 ; in Com., 9626 ; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 9636 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 10.)
- BILL (No. 188, from the Senate) To amend the Act passed at the present Session of Parliament, intitled : " An Act respecting the jurisdiction of the Exchequer Court as to Railway Debts."—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>\*, 9309 ; 2<sup>o</sup>, 9835 ; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 9835 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 45.)
- BILL (No. 189) Respecting securities for Seed Grain indebtedness.—(Mr. Sifton.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>, 9464 ; 2<sup>o</sup> and in Com., 9847 ; 3<sup>o</sup>, 9849 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 18.)
- BILL (No. 190) To authorize the granting of Subsidies in aid of the construction of the lines of railway therein mentioned.—(Mr. Blair.)**  
Prop. Res., 8914 ; in Com. on Res., 9197, 9310, 9466, 9532 ; 1<sup>o</sup>\*, 9597 ; 2<sup>o</sup>, 9758 ; in Com., 9759 ; 3<sup>o</sup>, 9893 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 7.)
- BILL (No. 191) Further to amend the Acts respecting the Senate and House of Commons.—(Mr. Fielding.)**  
1<sup>o</sup>, 9696 ; 2<sup>o</sup> and in Com., 9846 ; 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 9847 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 12.)

- BILL (No. 192)** An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the Public Service, for the financial year ending the 30th June, 1900, and for other purposes relating to the Public Service. 1<sup>o</sup>\*; 2<sup>o</sup>\*; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 10246 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 2.)
- BINDER TWINE IMPORTED IN 1899:** Ques. (Mr. *Clancy*) 8218, 8990 (iii).
- **OUTPUT OF KINGSTON PENITENTIARY, TENDERS, PRICE, &C.:** Ques. (Mr. *Taylor*) 1825 (i), 3944 (ii), 6934 (iii).
- — Ques. (Mr. *Henderson*) 1837 (i).
- **M. (Mr. *Taylor*) to Com. of Sup.,** 9898 (iii).
- BLAIS, MR. J. C., AMOUNT PAID BY GOVERNMENT:** Ques. (Mr. *Casgrain*) 3545 (ii).
- BLANCHETTE, MR. EUGENE, REINSTATEMENT BY GOVT.:** Ques. (Mr. *Marcotte*) 5859 (ii).
- BLISS, MAJ. D. C. F., POSITION UNDER GOVT., SALARY, &C.:** Ques. (Sir *Charles Hibbert Tupper*) 3261 (i), 3335, 3552 (ii).
- BOIVIN, GIDÉON, CONTRACT FOR STONE AT RIVIÈRE LA PIPE WHARF:** Ques. (Mr. *Casgrain*) 4061 (ii).
- BOLDUC, MR. A., SALARY:** in Com. of Sup., 5798; Conc., 6387 (ii).
- BONDS GIVEN BY OFFICIALS, RECORD OR LIST FOR NAMES:** Ques. (Sir *Charles Hibbert Tupper*) 5310 (ii).
- **REGISTERED UNDER R.S.C., PREPARATION FOR PARLT. re YUKON DISTRICT:** Ques. (Sir *Charles Hibbert Tupper*) 4804 (ii).
- BOSTON AND ALASKAN TRANSPORTATION CO., CONTRACT WITH CAN. GOVT.:** Ques. (Mr. *Prior*) 1828 (i).
- BOTHWELL ELECTION, SPEECH OF THE HON. MR. MILLS IN THE SENATE:** Remarks (Mr. *Clancy*) 9896 (iii).
- BOUNTIES ON IRON AND STEEL:** prop. Res. (Mr. *Fielding*) 4150 (ii).
- BOUNTIES.** See "Iron and Steel."
- BOURASSA, MR., EMPLOYMT. IN YUKON POST OFFICE:** Ques. (Mr. *Davin*) 1833, 1958 (ii).
- BOURGET, P. A., POSTMASTER AT LÉVIS, INCREASE OF SALARY:** Ques. (Mr. *Casgrain*) 4059 (ii).
- BOWMANVILLE HARBOUR:** in Com. of Sup., 7966 (iii).
- Brandon and South-western Ry. Co.'s B. No. 47** (Mr. *Morrison*) 1<sup>o</sup>\*, 1165; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 1389; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 2290 (i). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 54.)
- BRANTFORD POSTMASTER, APPOINT. BY GOVT., &C.:** Ques. (Mr. *Clancy*) 1968 (i), 8464 (iii).
- BREMNER, CHAS., INDEMNITY, &C.:** in Com. of Sup., 10113, 10167 (iii).
- BREVET PROMOTIONS, PERMANENT FORCE, REGULATIONS, &C.:** Ques. (Mr. *Ross Robertson*) 3550 (ii).
- BRIDGES, OTTAWA CITY:** in Com. of Sup., 8147 (iii).
- BRITISH AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO. vs. THE QUEEN, ACTION BY GOVT.:** Ques. (Mr. *Fraser, Lambton*) 6050 (ii).
- BRITISH AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO., CLAIMS FOR BALANCE DUE:** M. for Cor.\* (Mr. *Foster*) 2180 (i).
- British American Pulp and Paper Co. incorp. B. No. 172** (Mr. *Belcourt*) 1<sup>o</sup>\*, 7441; 2<sup>o</sup>\*, 7809; in Com. and 3<sup>o</sup>\*, 9250 (iii).
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- Customs and Inland Revenue Dept. Act**  
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- ADDRESS**: Amt. (Mr. *Bertram*) to Amt. (Mr. *Clarke*) agreed to (Y. 101; N. 48) 1811 (i).
- APPEAL TO SPEAKER AGAINST A RULING OF DEP. SPEAKER** (Sir *Charles Hibbert Tupper*) Chairman's decision agreed to (Y. 65; N. 20) 4456 (ii).
- APPEAL FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO SPEAKER** (Mr. *Foster*) Chairman's decision agreed to (Y. 39; N. 10) 5611 (ii).
- BINDER TWINE, SALE OF BY GOVT.**: on Amt. (Mr. *Taylor*) to Com. of Sup., neg. (Y. 20; N. 51) 9937 (iii).
- CIVIL SERVICE (DISMISSAL OF OFFICIALS) B. 50** (Mr. *Monk*) Amt. (Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*) 6 m. h., agreed to (Y. 64; N. 39) 2244 (i).
- COAL OIL AND FREE LIST**: prop. Res. (Mr. *Davis*) Amt. (Mr. *Fielding*) agreed to (Y. 68; N. 30) 2014 (i).
- COLUMBIA AND WESTERN RY. CO.'S B. 27** (Mr. *Costigan*) Amt. (Mr. *Oliver*) neg. (Y. 14; N. 61) 2948 (i).
- CRIMINAL CODE (1892) B. 2** (Mr. *Charlton*) 3<sup>d</sup> agreed to (Y. 69; N. 29) 2930 (i).
- DEBATES OFFICIAL, 2ND REP., DISMISSAL OF FRENCH TRANSLATOR**: on Amt. (Mr. *Beausoleil*) 1752 (i); neg. (Y. 40; N. 89).
- FINANCIAL SITUATION, REVIEW OF**: Amt. (Mr. *Foster*) to M. for Com. of Ways and Means, neg. (Y. 12; N. 30) 10244 (iii).
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- INLAND REVENUE AND CUSTOMS DEPT. B. 182** (Mr. *Fielding*) Amt. (Mr. *Sproule*) neg. (Y. 11; N. 27) 9683 (iii).
- PREFERENTIAL TRADE WITH G. B.**: Amt. (Sir *Charles Tupper*) neg. (Y. 41; N. 77) 7965 (iii).
- QUEBEC HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS B. 91** (Mr. *Fitzpatrick*) 3<sup>d</sup> m., Amt. (Mr. *Casgrain*) neg. (Y. 40; N. 80) 3989 (ii).
- RAILWAY SUBSIDIES B. 190**: Amt. (Mr. *Clancy*) neg. (Y. 12; N. 47) 9894 (ii).
- REPRESENTATION IN THE H. OF C. B. 126** (Mr. *Mulock*) M. (Mr. *Wallace*) to adjn. deb. on 2<sup>d</sup>, neg. (Y. 18; N. 23) 5336 (ii).  
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- SABEEVOIS WHARF**: Amt. (Mr. *Bergeron*) to strike out vote, neg. (Y. 25; N. 12) 10219 (iii).
- SEED GRAIN IMPURITY B. 189** (Mr. *Sifton*) Amt. (Mr. *Davin*) neg. (Y. 17; N. 56) 9848 (iii).
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- Divorce: Aronsberg, Abraham, B. No. 144** (Mr. *Landerkin*) 1<sup>st</sup>, 4730; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5359 (ii); in Com., 7480, 7575; 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7809 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 132.)
- **Dowding, Annie Inkson, B. No. 136** (Mr. *Clarke*) 1<sup>st</sup>, 4147; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5359; in Com. and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5792 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 133.)
- **Stock, David, B. No. 88** (Mr. *McCarthy*) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2604; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2698 (i); in Com., 3489; 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3491 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 134.)
- **Van Wart, Stephen Gerow, B. No. 181** (Mr. *Landerkin*) 1<sup>st</sup>, 8913; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9056; in Com., and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9532 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 135.)
- DOCKS, REDUCTION OF FEES, &c.:** in Com. of Sup., 8178 (iii).
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- **B. No. 142** (Mr. *Ingram*) 1<sup>st</sup>, 4341 (ii).
- Dom. Lands Act Amt. B. No. 148** (Mr. *Sifton*) 1<sup>st</sup>, 4894; 2<sup>nd</sup> and in Com., 6400, 6405; 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6459 (ii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 16.)
- DOM. LANDS:** in Com. of Sup., 7501 (iii).
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- **MAN., FRAUDULENT TRANSACTIONS BY OFFICIALS, PAR. IN WINNIPEG Telegram:** Remarks (Mr. *Sifton*) 4995 (ii).
- **SURVEY RETURNS, PRINTING, &c.:** in Com. of Sup., 9053 (i.i).
- DOM. NOTES, NUMBER OF SHEETS, BACK AND TINT PLATES, DELIVERED TO GOVT.:** M. for Ret.\* (Mr. *Foster*) 1878 (i).
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- DOM. AND ONTARIO ACCOUNTS, INDEBTEDNESS BY DOM., 1898:** Ques. (Mr. *Foster*) 3544 (ii).
- Dom. Permanent Loan Co.'s B. No. 104** (Mr. *Clarke*) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2409; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2525 (i); in Com., 6868; 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6878 (iii). (62-63 *Vic.*, c. 109.)
- DOMINION POLICE FORCE:** in Com. of Sup., 10127 (iii).
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- DONAHUE, W., CONTRACT FOR TIMBER FOR DREDGE AT ROBERVAL, &c.:** Ques. (Mr. *Casgrain*) 4069 (ii).
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- Drainage across Railway Co's. Lands B. No. 24** (Mr. *Casey*) 1<sup>st</sup>, 803; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1917; M. for Sel. Com., 2153, 2930, 2949 (i); ref. to Sel. Com., 3849 (ii).
- DRAWBACKS ON FREIGHT CHARGES ON N. S. PORTION I. C. R. SINCE 1898:** M. for Ret.\* (Mr. *Bell*, *Pictou*) 5945 (ii).
- **PAYMENTS ON FREIGHT CHARGES, AMOUNT PAID FOR JAN. AND FEB., 1899:** M. for Ret.\* (Mr. *Foster*) 3149 (i).
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- **FOR MINERALS, YUKON, NUMBER OF LEASES (1897) RENTALS, &c.:** Ques. (Mr. *Foster*) 3079 (i).
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